

April 2020

Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

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A Letter from the President

Hello Neighbors,

I hope this newsletter finds you as well as can be. We encourage everyone to follow the stay-at-home order as much as possible and to wear masks when you do have to go out and social distancing is difficult (such as at a grocery store). Unsurprisingly, folks in our lovely neighborhood are coming together to support one another in myriad and creative ways - in part through the HPCC Facebook page Highland Park Helping Hands (coronavirus response).

People in need of groceries and cleaning supplies have connected with those who can share;

One neighbor hosted a live virtual happy hour concert;

Another neighbor organized a neighborhood "museum" walk (see photos);

Many of the neighborhood restaurants and the Bryant Street Market are still open and offering take-out service;

and

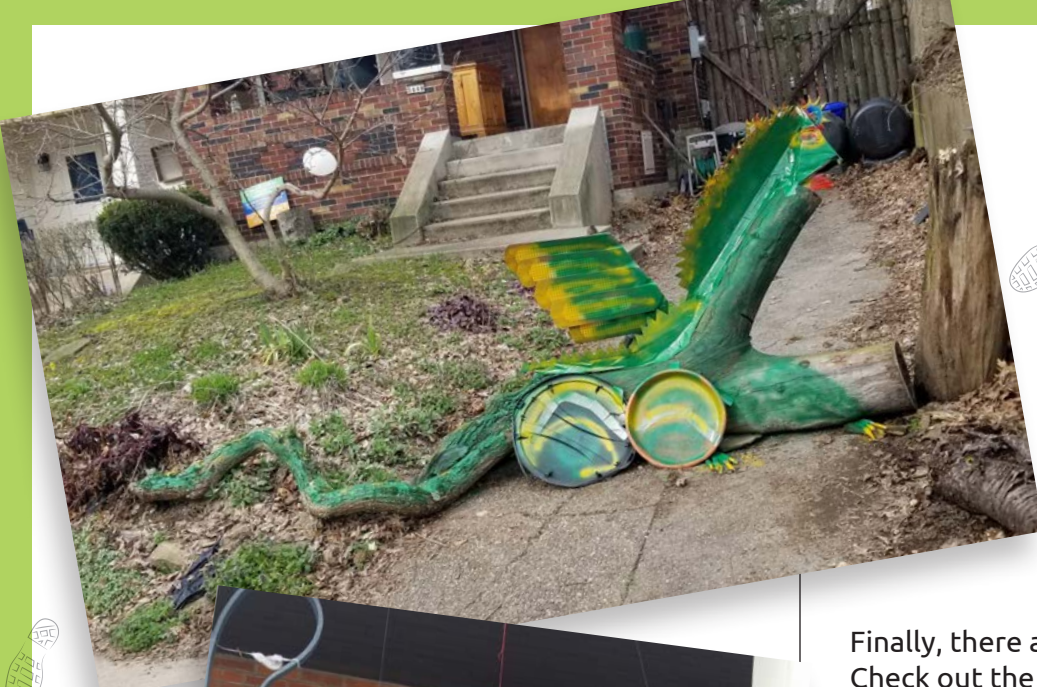
Jigsaw puzzles are being shared left and right!

While some Spring and Summer HPCC events may be recrafted, rescheduled, or cancelled, the HPCC is creating safe community events. The Spring Paper Egg Hunt is underway - decorate and hang a paper egg in your window and then see



how many you can find in the neighborhood! (see photo) And we will soon be sponsoring Sidewalk Chalk-a-Palooza and Zoom Community Meetings - watch the ListServ, and HPCC website and Facebook pages for details.

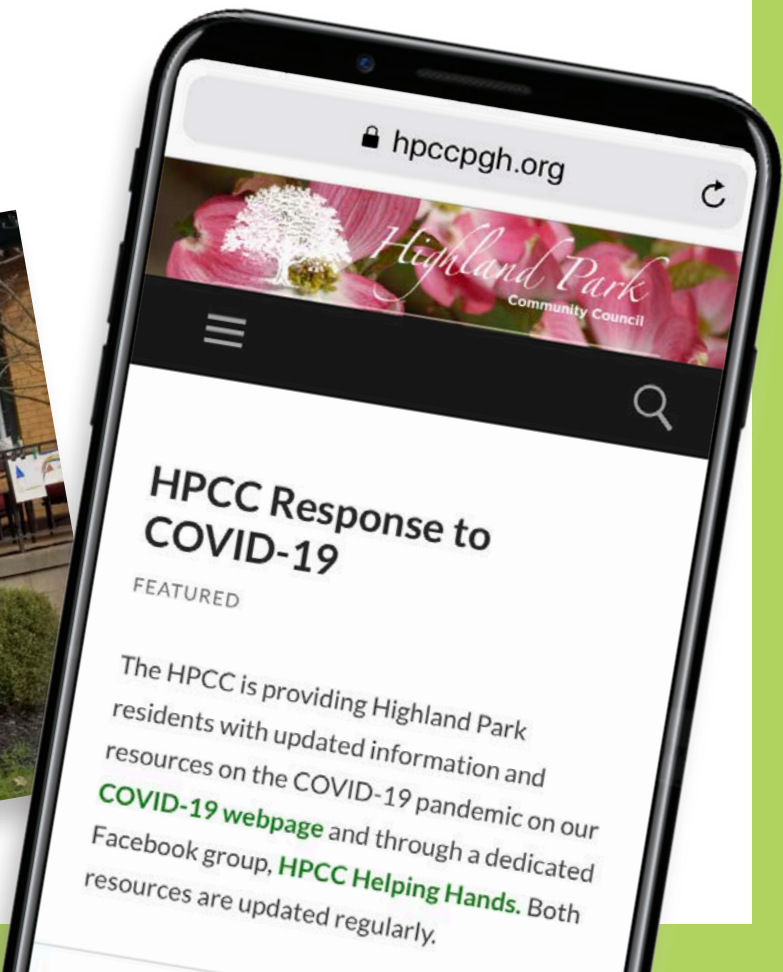


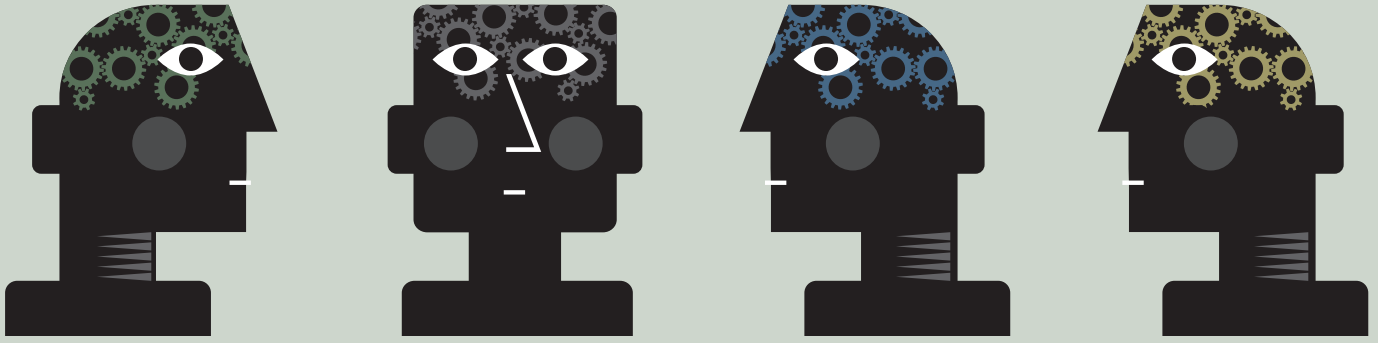


Finally, there are additional resources available. Check out the new COVID-19 tab on our website, HPCCPgh.org. There are links on social distancing & things to do; health information; state and local news; updates on elections & taxes; resources for those in need of financial, food, and other types of assistance; and resources for parents. We will keep updating the page, so check back regularly.

Remember to look for the helpers.

Warm regards,
Stephanie Walsh





HPCC Meeting Minutes

Due to the COVID-19 local and state recommendations on gatherings, there was no March meeting. Meetings may be held via Zoom during this time. Watch the ListServ, HPCC website and HPCC Facebook page for details.

THE PRIMARIES

The primary elections in Pennsylvania have been rescheduled and are now planned for June 2. The last day to register to vote with a political party is May 18. PA law now allows all voters to request a mail-in ballot. For information on registering or requesting a mail-in ballot, visit <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov>, or call **1.877.VOTESPA (1.877.868.3772)**. It is possible that voting locations may be consolidated due to building closures. The HPCC will post information on its website and the ListServ as we know more.



G THE URBAN Gardener



By Diana Pelletier, Highland Park Garden Club

It is not by accident that Fool's Day is in April. It is a tricky month. Many of us have felt that after a long week of warm weather, that the danger of frost is long gone. We planted delicate flowers - impatiens and pansies for me - and then were blindsided by a late frost that killed everything in its path. Wiser gardeners knew to wait until mid-May to plant.

If the colder days of March kept you indoors away from your garden, then the warmer days in April will allow you to get back out there and continue clearing out those dead leaves and branches. Daffodils and other spring bulbs are blooming, adding color to the still mostly brown landscape. This is a great time to weed young vulnerable weeds such as buttercups, dandelions and garlic mustard.



Starting a compost pile is an excellent spring project. You can buy a compost bin relatively cheaply or you can use a 32-gallon garbage can with a lid. The lid is important regardless whether you use a bin or garbage can if you intend to add vegetable and fruit food scraps to the pile. It keeps out animals. If you decide to try a garbage can, drill ten half-inch holes in the bottom so that moisture can get out and valuable bugs and worms can enter. They help to break down the vegetable matter that you add, and leave behind their waste, which enriches the compost.





Some gardeners add weeds to their compost pile but I advise against it unless you know that the internal temperature of the pile is hot enough to kill seeds. I bag up my weeds and branches that are too large for compost and take them to the East End Center on North Dallas Avenue in Homewood. The City composts huge piles of sticks and leaves and apply it to our city gardens. In November, I will talk about composting and straw bale gardening at our Highland Park Garden Club meeting.

Many of us will plant vegetable gardens this year, as a way to feel safe against the disquiet of the virus we are battling. We till the land, and then watch planted seeds take root and sprout into healthy plants that will nourish those we love. This is the goal of a victory garden. We are not coping with a shortage of food as people did during World War II. Our enemy is invisible. Staying at home and plunging our hands into the soil will be healing to our spirit and will produce physical evidence of the abundance that we once took for granted.



RECYCLE THIS



SHELTER-AT-HOME WASTE TIPS

By Sabrina Culyba, sabrina@recyclethispgh.com

It's strange times in Pittsburgh as we all shelter-at-home. As a result many of us are ordering more stuff than ever online, getting take-out from places where we'd normally eat in, reworking our grocery shopping approach, and wearing PPE (an acronym I didn't even know a month ago.) Here are a few ideas to manage waste and recyclables during this social-distancing time.

DELIVERY RECYCLING GUIDE

We're all buying what we can online for home right now but what do you do with the packaging waste? Here's a quick guide on the recycling prospects for a few of the most common package materials:



CARDBOARD BOXES

Flatten and put out for curbside recycling.



AIR PILLOWS

Re-use or Drop-off at bag recycling (pop first).

DELIVERY RECYCLING GUIDE *Continued*



PAPER/ PLASTIC COMBO BUBBLE MAILER

Reuse or throw away -
these can't be recycled.



ALL-PLASTIC BUBBLE MAILERS

Drop-off these off at a bag
recycling locations* (remove or
cut off labels first).



TAKE-OUT CONTAINERS

None are recyclable
in Pittsburgh. Most
compostable items
require commercial
composting. Reuse,
or throw in trash.

**Plastic bag recycling bins can be found at Target and Giant Eagle. The PlasticFilmRecycling.org website has more information about what these bins accept.*

GETTING TAKE-OUT OR DELIVERY

It's tough times for local businesses, especially restaurants who have had to convert their dine-in locations to take-out or delivery service. Unfortunately, there are no take-out containers that are accepted in Pittsburgh's curbside recycling program and most compostable containers really need to go to a commercial composter to truly biodegrade. This was a problem in need of solving long before COVID-19 but the current economic and health situation makes it difficult to address with strategies such as more sustainable (but typically more expensive) single-use containers, or reusable containers. So right now, let's support our local restaurants and accept that we'll need to throw those take-out containers into the trash or find creative ways to reuse them.

That said, there are a couple small things you can do when ordering for home: Make sure to mention that **you DON'T need plastic utensils or disposable plates** included in your order. You can also **decline extra sauces** that you don't need or want as these typically come in small single-use plastic dishes. Not only does this cut back on the plastic waste you'll get with your order, it also saves the restaurant a small amount of money.



GROCERY SHOPPING



If you were previously using reusable shopping bags, you've probably noticed that some places are asking customers *not* to bring their own bags into their stores. If you're willing and able, you can avoid disposable bags by leaving your reusable bags in your car, not bagging your items at all in the store, taking your items to your car by cart, and bagging yourself at your car. This becomes even easier at Giant Eagle if you use their "Scan Pay & Go" system (<https://www.gianteagle.com/scan-pay-go>), allowing you to scan your items as you shop and then checkout without taking the items back out of your cart at the register. (Scan Pay & Go is

available at both the Shadyside and Waterworks Market District Giant Eagle stores.)

If you're getting groceries delivered, there's probably no way to avoid single-use paper or plastic bags. Paper bags can be recycled with your curbside recyclables and plastic bags can be dropped off at plastic bag recycling bins at Target or Giant Eagle.

Since we're all being asked to limit the frequency of our shopping trips, now might also be a good time to experiment with buying items in larger sizes. Often this can reduce the ratio of packaging to the item, cutting down on waste. And keep in mind that "overwrap" (the plastic wrapping around products like paper towels or toilet paper) is also recyclable at plastic bag recycling bins.

PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT (PPE)



Right now, many of us are finding that we need to use masks, gloves, and wipes to keep ourselves safe and healthy. Most of the single-use versions of these items contain plastic, can't be recycled locally, and will not fully biodegrade. If you need to use them during this time, properly dispose of them in the trash so they don't end up in our environment.

You can reduce how many of these items you use by consolidating outings like grocery trips or using reusable versions that you wash at home. This also keeps more of the single-use items in the market for our health care and essential businesses workers to use in their important work.

A lot has changed over the past month as we attempt to find ways to flatten the curve and prevent the spread of COVID-19. While we must do what we can to stay safe and healthy as well as support our community, that doesn't mean there aren't also compatible ways to continue to reduce unnecessary single-use waste and to recycle what we can.

RECYCLE THIS

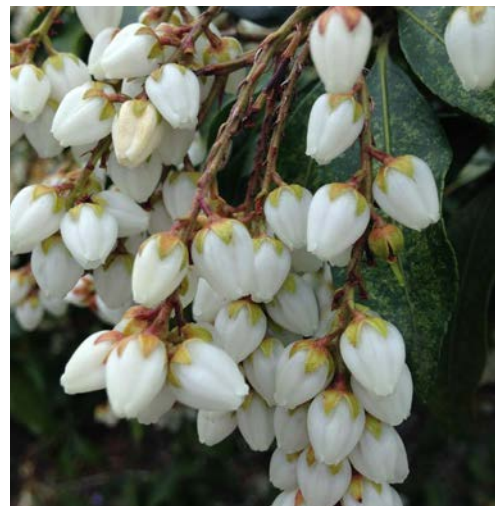
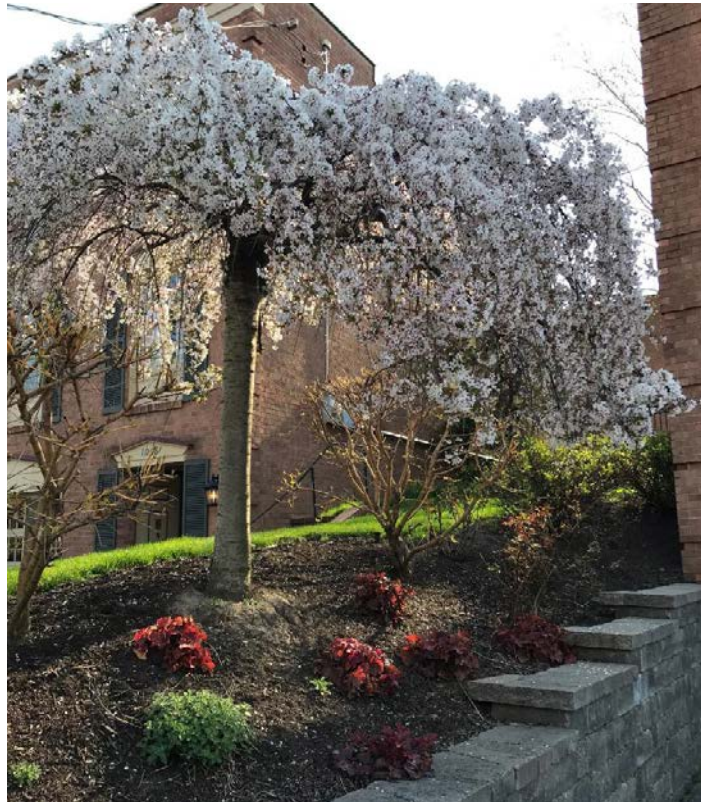
Recycle This is a column to share useful and practical info on recycling and other sustainable living practices here in Highland Park. Have something you want to share or a question you'd like to ask? Send to sabrina@recyclethispgh.com.

Springtime

in
HIGHLAND PARK

Richard Krepski, our neighborhood nature lover and resident expert, recently asked Highland Parkers to send in photos depicting spring for inclusion in this newsletter. As you can see, the response was overwhelming. We hope you enjoy them.

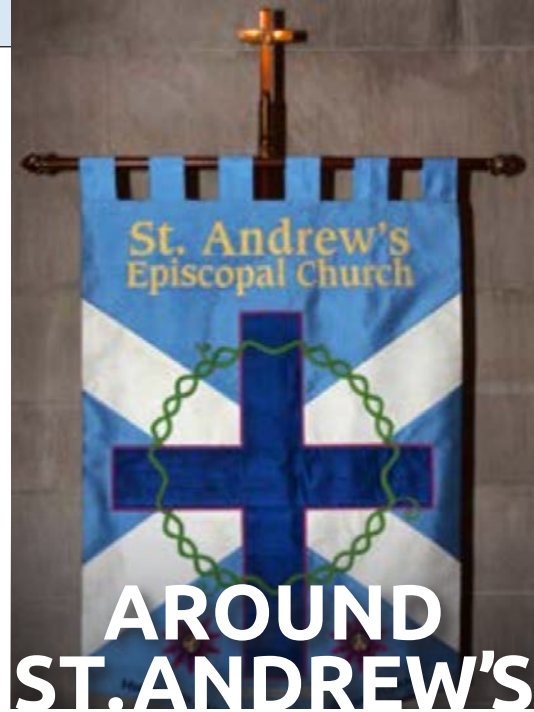




St. Andrew's remains committed to being your good neighbor here in Highland Park. As things continue to change amid COVID-19 we want you to know we are here for you.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you need help in anyway. And please continue to check our website, standrewspgh.org, our Facebook page and our outgoing phone message for the latest information about what is going on here.

Having you ever been walking your dog on Hampton street or picking up your child from Fulton School and wondered about St. Andrew's Church. We are the second oldest Episcopal Church in the city. Founded in 1837, we were first located down town at the corner of Fort Duquesne Boulevard and Ninth Avenue. By 1903 the congregation decided to move to the east end of the city. Two years later the cornerstone was laid at the corner of Hampton and North St. Clair Streets. And four years after that on November 30, 1909 our building was consecrated.



By Becky Marinov

Since then we have been a bustling parish of people from all over the city and all walks of life.

Several years ago we raised funds through a capitol campaign that has allowed us to become more handicap accessible and updated. Our first floor parish hall and kitchen were given a much needed make-over. A second banquet room was created in the basement. Our former rectory now houses our offices and conferences rooms. We have also benefited from several benefactors, which have given us the opportunity to paint the exterior of the

building, fix some of the masonry and deal with ongoing flooding issues in the basement.

We invite you to stop in some Sunday and meet us. Typically from September through May we have two Sunday morning services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. There is nursery care available for both services but children are always welcome in Church. June through August we have one service at 10:00 a.m. Godly Play for children ages 4 to 8 runs from September through May. Please check our [Facebook page](#), website at standrewspgh.org or our outgoing phone message for the very latest information.



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
5801 Hampton Street
Highland Park, Pittsburgh

The Rev. Dr. Moni McIntyre,
Bridge Priest

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Justin Sandherr

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Chris Worley

HPCC Contacts

HPCC Email: HPCCPgh@gmail.com

Website: hpccpgh.org

Mailing Address:

PO Box 5036

Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Finance Committee: Glen Schultz

Membership Committee: Chris Worley

Nominating Committee: Stephanie Walsh

Welcoming Committee: Todd Shirley

Zoning Committee: Jake Pawlak

Bryant Street Festival: Bob Staresinic

Newsletter: Monica Watt, editor@highlandpark.com

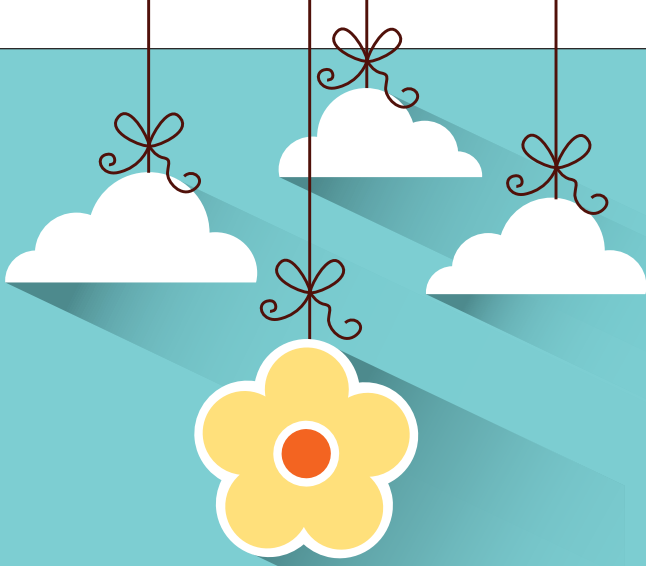
Reservoir of Jazz: Tonia Grubbs

Yard Sale: Jake Pawlak




Highland Park
Community Council

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Cell: 412-337-4081
jessicaallen@howardhanna.com

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