

March 2017

# Highland Park

## Community Council Newsletter

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# A Letter from the President

## *Hello Neighbors!*

At the HPCC's March Community Meeting, we heard from County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, the Port Authority, and the Department of City Planning concerning the Port Authority's plans to establish a Bus Rapid Transit System servicing numerous east end neighborhoods, potentially including Highland Park. A summary of this presentation will be included in the meeting minutes in next month's newsletter, however given some upcoming opportunities to register your thoughts on the issue, I wanted to take this opportunity to share some information with you about it now.



The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) plan is aimed at increasing the frequency, reliability, and speed of bus service between east end neighborhoods and downtown. Between downtown and Oakland, buses would travel in dedicated bus only lanes, and would utilize computerized traffic signals, a smaller number of stops at new transit stations, and other infrastructure and technology improvements to travel more quickly and reliably.

Beyond Oakland, the Port Authority is considering several options for continuing the BRT system into other neighborhoods; one of these options includes a branch that would service Highland Park. The Highland Park line is proposed to follow the same route as the current 71B, which travels out 5th Avenue from Oakland, turns onto Highland Avenue in Shadyside and continues

all the way to Bryant Street, where it begins its turnaround on Bryant and Euclid. Bus only lanes would stop at Bellefield Street in Oakland, where the buses would mix back into normal traffic, but improved signalization, intersections, stations, and other technical changes would allow the buses to travel more quickly, which the Port Authority believes will allow it to increase the frequency and reliability of service.



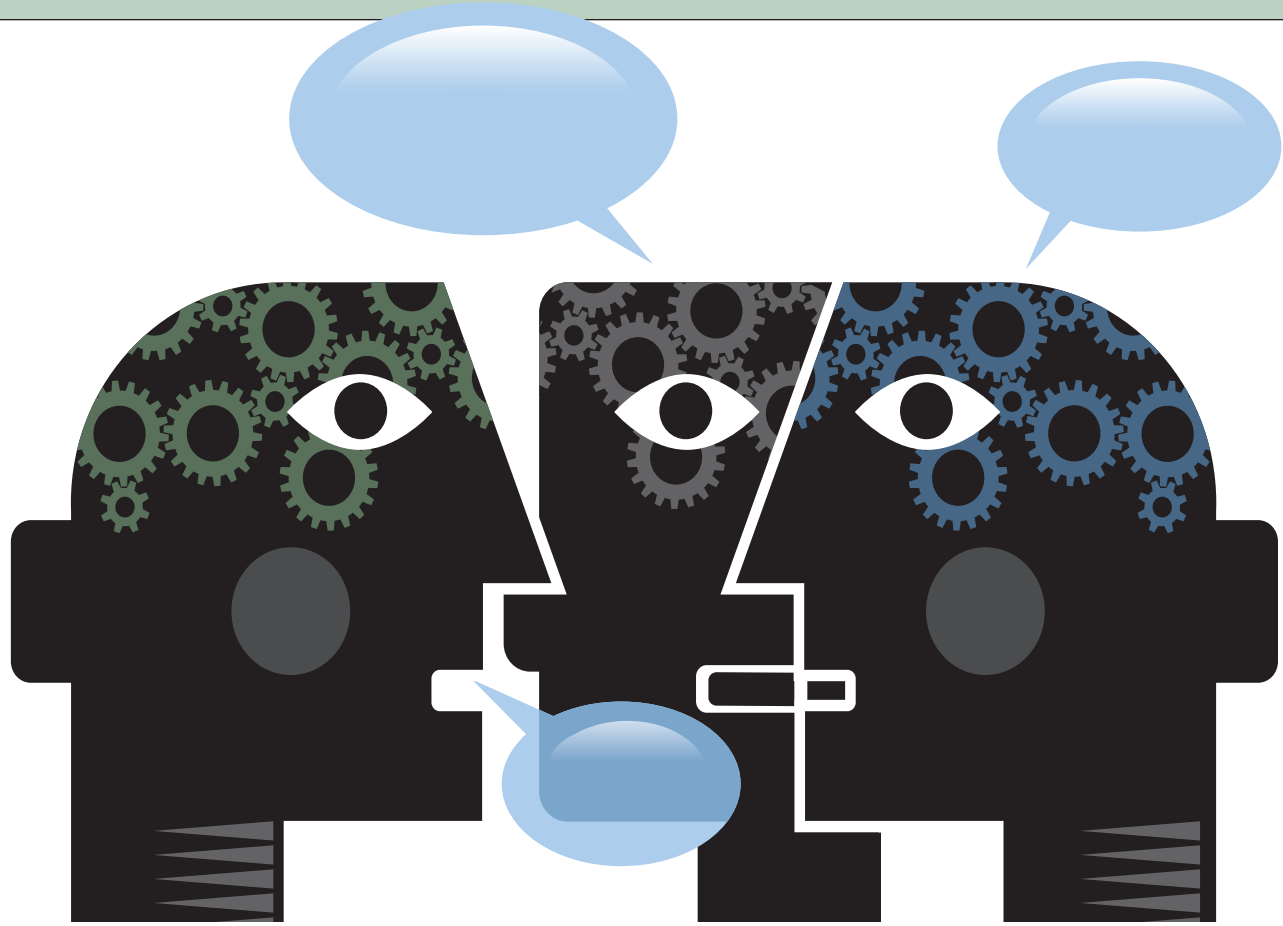
As a result of these changes to the current 71B route, the 71A, which also serves Highland Park, would no longer travel all the way to Downtown, instead turning around in Oakland. Current 71A riders who are attempting to reach Downtown would either need to catch the new BRT in Highland Park, or transfer from the 71A to the BRT in Oakland.

Further information on this proposal and a survey where you can provide feedback can be found on the [BRT page of the Port Authority website](#). The Port Authority is also holding public meetings on the subject on Wednesday April 5th from 12-2 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. at Alumni Hall in Oakland (4227 5th Ave). Input gathered at these meetings and through the survey will be used by the Port Authority as they finalize planning for the BRT system and begin to seek funding.

Whether you use public transit frequently, occasionally, or not at all, this proposal has the potential to have an impact on our neighborhood, so please take this opportunity to learn more and register your opinion..

Best,

**Jake Pawlak**  
*HPCC President*



# HPCC February Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by HPCC President Jake Pawlak.

## Police Zone 5 Update by Lt. Matt Gauntner

- Reminder to keep your cars locked and it's recommended that you don't leave your car unattended to heat up. There were several thefts from automobiles last month.
- Jackson Street mugging from a few months ago was determined to be unfounded - a false report.
- Annual Zone 5 Open House has been scheduled for June 3rd.

## City of Pittsburgh Update by Corey Buckner

- A resident asked the status of the Penn Plaza development, Corey explained that the Planning Commission has sent the project back to engage in a community process.

- Legislation may be put through in March to formalize community input in projects like these.
- The City Planning website will post notices about meetings and hearings which are open to the public.

## Councilwoman Deb Gross Updates for Council District

- The Councilwoman added that she does not believe that the Penn Plaza developer will walk away from the deal and that robust community based conversations can happen without permanently stopping development.
- The city is close to finalizing its Comprehensive Plan, which will establish a proactive vision for the city in areas such as land use, recreation, transportation, and housing.
  - The Department of City Planning is also considering establishing a process by which individual neighborhood plans could be adopted by the city, allowing them to be considered by the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Planning Commission when ruling on planning and land use issues.

- Addressing affordable housing concerns.
  - Councilwoman talked about strategies for protecting and expanding affordable housing in the city.
    - Inclusionary Zoning which requires a percentage of all new housing units built to be set aside for affordable housing.
    - Pilot Community Land Trust in Lawrenceville – established to allow homeowners to build equity through modest appreciation while keeping these housing units permanently affordable.
- Addressing the PWSA and Lead issues.
  - Remember that lead accumulates and that the County Health Department is concerned about all sources of lead including paint.
    - Households with children or pregnant women should be careful when renovating homes and tearing out walls. Buy a lead kit from Home Depot before beginning renovations.
    - Have soil tested before planting gardens.
  - As for water, City is looking at short term and long term solutions.
    - Councilwoman would like the city to supply water filters to homes with small children in them.
    - Currently undergoing a search to identify affected homes.
    - Long term goal of replacing all lead lines as quickly and efficiently as possible.
    - City Council has sent a letter to the State Attorney General and Auditor General requesting a state review of PWSA.
- Addressing the state of the Highland Park Reservoir.
  - HPCC President Jake Pawlak answered a question regarding the possibility of the HP Reservoir being drained by PWSA.
    - Since the Flush and Boil Advisory, PWSA has been bypassing the Reservoir.

- This has been effective in controlling the chlorine levels and they are considering this as a permanent solution.
- The reservoir will remain full and PWSA is open to a community conversation as they plan for the future of the reservoir.
- Crosswalk upgrades at East Liberty Blvd. and Highland will resume as the weather warms, to include traffic calming features to improve pedestrian safety.
- City created the new Department of Mobility and Infrastructure, to implement the Complete Streets Policy and focus on transportation planning.

**Melvin El from Representative Ed Gainey's office was present and apologized for the Representative Gainey's absence due to personal reasons.**

**Green Rocks Fitness presentation by Melissa Jenkins**

- Offers personal training with a holistic approach, lifestyle management based on physiology.
- Melissa reminds us that we must be healthy to lose weight, not lose weight to be healthy.
- Join Green Rocks Fitness for their free Nutrition & Health Sessions, Food Talk.
- More information can be found on their website [Greenrocksfitness.com](http://Greenrocksfitness.com).

**Announcements**

- HPCC Board Member, Jessica Acrie, shared that the Marathon Kick-off Party will be held Friday, May 5th and the Cheering Section will be gathering on Bryant St. the morning of the Marathon.
- Stephanie Walsh was introduced by Jake Pawlak. Stephanie is interested in joining the board of the HPCC.





PICT Classic Theatre will be back in Union Project from March 23 - April 8 with a classic play, Oedipus Rex, by Sophocles and directed by Alan Stanford.

Plague has struck the city of Thebes. Good King Oedipus sends for a prophet who determines that an unsolved murder is the cause of the gods' displeasure — and Oedipus is the killer. What follows is an unsettling investigation of the past, which begins at a three-way

crossroad and ends in a moment of horrifying self-discovery. It's the age-old tale of the dangers of hubris, told by one of history's original playwrights, and its theme continues to resonate with audiences today: you cannot change your fate. Appropriate for all ages.

**PICT**  
Pittsburgh's Classic Theatre  
EXPECT MORE.

You can find out more information and buy tickets on PICT's website.  
<http://www.picttheatre.org/>



## LANDMARKS PRESERVATION RESOURCE CENTER EVENTS

**J**oin us at the Landmarks Preservation Resource Center for our ongoing programs on house restoration, architecture, history, and other aspects of historic preservation, community development, and urban planning.

### Lecture: Economic Change in Pittsburgh Since the 1980s

Speaker: Christopher Briem,  
Regional Economist, University of Pittsburgh  
Thursday, March 30  
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

This overview of economic and demographic change that has taken place across the Pittsburgh region since the 1980s will focus on the impact of the decline in heavy industry, the resulting population and workforce trends, and the evolution of economic development strategies at the state and local level.

All events are **FREE** to PHLF members.

Non-members: \$10.

RSVPs are appreciated: [marylu@phlf.org](mailto:marylu@phlf.org)  
or 412-471-5808, ext 527.

Landmarks Preservation Resource Center  
744 Rebecca Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221

About the presenter: Christopher Briem is a regional economist at the University of Pittsburgh's University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR). His work at the center's Program in Urban and Regional Analysis focuses on economic and demographic forecasting, industry analysis, and competitiveness of the Pittsburgh region. His ongoing work includes economic forecasts for Allegheny County and the Pittsburgh region, analysis of migration trends in the Pittsburgh region, analysis of local government finances and fragmentation, and the impact of demographic changes on the regional economy.

## Hints from the Highland Park Garden Club

Greetings from the Highland Park Garden Club (HPGC). We are a small group of garden hobbyists who meet to learn about gardens, flowers, landscapes, etc. With spring around the corner, it is a good time to start preparing our gardens for the 2017 growing season. Nothing is more important than the foundation of our gardens - soil. We'd like to share what we learned during our last meeting. Spoiler alert, good compost is key.

Soil is a combination of sand, silt and clay. If there is too much clay, roots have a difficult time growing, and sandy soil doesn't retain water. While changing a soil's basic texture is very difficult, you can improve its structure making clay more porous and sand more water retentive by adding amendments, such as compost.

The same goes for the pH value of your soil. pH value determines if your soil is alkaline or acidic. Garden centers have home tests where you can determine the pH level of your soil, but you can also perform an easy test on your own. Get a cup of soil from your garden and put 1/2 in each of two containers. Add 1/2 cup of vinegar to the first container. If it fizzes your soil is alkaline. If it doesn't fizz add distilled water to the second container until the soil is muddy and then add about 1/2 cup baking soda. If that cup fizzes you have acidic soil. If neither container fizzes you have balanced soil and are very lucky. Whether your soil is alkaline or acidic, adding compost will help it move towards neutral.

Want to learn more? The HPGC meets the third Saturday of every month at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and membership is only \$15 per year. If you are interested in attending a meeting email [jcontis@gmail.com](mailto:jcontis@gmail.com) for details.

# UP Spring Break Camp: Elementally Artful

**Spring Break Camp: Elementally Artful**  
**5 days, Monday, April 10 - Friday, April 14, 2017**  
**9:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
**Cost: \$325/person (8-12 years old)**

**A**t this spring break camp, your child will spend an exciting week being creative with paint, clay, recycled materials, and more! Campers will explore the Elements of Art, including color, line, shape, texture, and space.

In the mornings, campers will get their hands messy creating with clay in Union Project's ceramics studio. In the afternoons, your child will paint, print, draw, and build with artist-educator Alison Babusci. The week will be packed with art-making, story-telling, art games, and even a bit of fun art history.

This camp runs from 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Campers should bring a lunch each day.

To register for this camp, you must complete the registration form and submit payment online using a credit card. Your registration is not complete until payment is received. If you have questions, please contact Milo Berezin (412-363-4550 x242).





# First Time Flyers: From Booking to Boarding

Flying for the first time can be an overwhelming experience. Pittsburgh International Airport offers a course to help make your first-time flyer journey pleasant and enjoyable. First Time Flyers: From Booking to Boarding is a comprehensive, on-site course that walks first time or inexperienced flyers through Pittsburgh International Airport's travel process.

## WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

- How to Book Your Flight
- Packing Guidelines
- Best Ways to Get to Pittsburgh International Airport
- Parking Options
- Ticketing & Check-In
- TSA Security Screening
- Getting Around Pittsburgh International Airport

## DATES:

April 26 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
April 29 from Noon to 2:00 p.m.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM?

Please contact:  
Elise Farris  
Customer Relations Administrator  
P: 412-472-5674  
E: [efarris@flypittsburgh.com](mailto:efarris@flypittsburgh.com)

The course will be conducted in Conference Room A, 4th Floor, Landside Terminal at Pittsburgh International Airport.

Learn more about flying in our [guide](#).

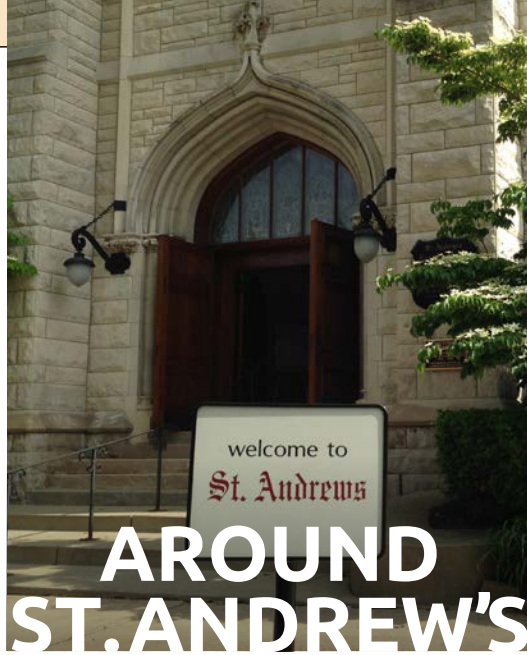


*Winter gives way to Spring - and we move on here in Highland Park and at St. Andrew's and in the Church Calendar from Lent to Eastertide. Blessings in the season!*

**CHORAL EVENSONG AT ST. ANDREW'S:** On Thursday evening, April 6, at 8 p.m., the St. Andrew's Parish Choir will sing Evensong for Thursday in the Fifth Week of Lent. That service will be followed by a piano recital featuring our good friend and "former Highland Park'er" Betty Rieley. On Thursday evening, May 4, at 8 p.m., the Parish Choir will sing an Eastertide service of Choral Evensong, and the recital on that evening will be presented by Barbara Lowenstein, violin. All are invited!

In a special musical program at the beginning of Holy Week, on the afternoon of Palm Sunday, April 9th, at 4:30 p.m., the St. Andrew's Parish Choir, special soloists, and the Pittsburgh Festival Orchestra, under the direction of Tom Octave, will offer a performance of Part II of G.F. Handel's beloved oratorio, Messiah. Not to be missed...

The Great Three Hours of Good Friday, April 14, will be observed at St. Andrew's with the devotion of the Stations of the Cross at 12 noon; the Liturgy for Good Friday at 1 p.m., including hymns, homily, and the reading of the Passion Gospel of St. John; and, in the Third Hour, beginning at 2 p.m., an offering of Passiontide Motets by St. Andrew's Parish Choir. At the conclusion of the service, at 3 p.m., the Great Bell of St. Andrew's will toll 33 times, to mark the traditional number of years of Our Lord's earthly life.



## AROUND ST. ANDREW'S

*By Bruce Robison, Rector*

Easter morning festival services of the Holy Communion will be held at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., and an Easter Egg Hunt will follow the later service in the Churchyard (weather permitting).

And a reminder - looking ahead - that Sunday, May 7, will be the annual Pittsburgh Marathon. For those of the parish and neighborhood who may be running in one of the Marathon Day events, or volunteering, or cheering

for friends and family, or simply hoping to avoid Sunday morning traffic adventures, a simple service of Holy Communion will be offered that weekend at 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 6. (Sunday morning services for non-runners who can find their way to Highland Park will continue at the usual times of 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.)

St. Andrew's, in the 5800 block of Hampton Street, has been at the heart of this neighborhood of Highland Park for over a century. If you have a pastoral concern we can help with - a baby to be baptized, a marriage to celebrate, a sick or shut-in family member or neighbor who would appreciate a visit and a blessing, a family to comfort at the time of the death of a loved one - or if you simply would like to borrow a table or find some space for a family gathering too large for your living room, please feel free to give our Church Office a call at 412 661-1245 - or check us on the web, [www.standrewspgh.org](http://www.standrewspgh.org). And don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook!

We're always glad to hear from you.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
5801 Hampton Street, Highland Park, Pittsburgh  
412-661-1245 • [www.standrewspgh.org](http://www.standrewspgh.org)

*The Rev. Dr. Bruce Monroe Robison, Rector*  
*The Rev. Jean D. Chess, Deacon*  
*Peter J. Luley, Organist & Choirmaster*



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# Check us Out!

# www. hpcc pgh .org



## HPCC Officers

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### Vice President

Scott Dietrich

### Treasurer

Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

### Secretary

Christine Adams

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Dave Atkinson  
Jessica Bowser  
Karin Manovich  
James McAdams  
Amber Quick  
Janine Seale  
Todd Shirley  
Kelly Vitti  
Monica Watt

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**Children's Events** – Teri Rucker  
(412) 482-2533

**Education** – Dave Atkinson

**House Tour** –  
[housetour@highlandparkpa.com](mailto:housetour@highlandparkpa.com)

**Finance** – Glen Schultz

**Membership** – Kelly Meade (412) 362-0331  
[membership@highlandparkpa.com](mailto:membership@highlandparkpa.com)

**Newsletter** – Monica Watt (412) 980-4208  
[editor@highlandparkpa.com](mailto:editor@highlandparkpa.com)

**Nominating** – Bob Staresinic  
(412) 441-8972

**OLEA** – Todd Shirley

**Public Safety** –  
Lynn Banker-Burns (412) 361-8863  
[public-safety@highlandparkpa.com](mailto:public-safety@highlandparkpa.com)

**Reservoir of Jazz** – Tania Grubbs

**Super Playground** –  
Monica Watt (412) 980-4208 &  
Vernon Simmons (412) 661-1366

**Yard Sale** – Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

**Welcoming** – Todd Shirley

**Zoning** – Jake Pawlak



# Gardening Classes

on Wednesday evenings!

A class for both beginners and experienced gardeners, From Planning to Canning meets Wednesday nights, 6:30-8:30 p.m. It is set up as a come-as-you-wish class, with topics ranging from tree pruning to tomato canning, rain gardens to composting, and pest management to simple hydroponics.

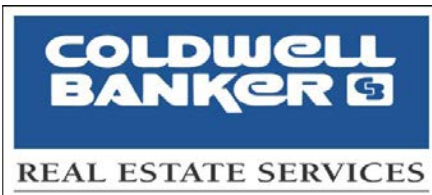
Cost is \$10/class with anyone on a fixed income or any kind of assistance invited to attend for free. Members of a garden club (any garden club) receive a 10% discount.

For more information, and location of meetings, please contact Rachel Kudrick: [rkudrick@live.com](mailto:rkudrick@live.com) or 412-251-9759 and reference "Gardening Classes."



412-363-4000 ext 205

[lisa.solomon@pittsburghmoves.com](mailto:lisa.solomon@pittsburghmoves.com)



5996 Penn Circle South  
Suite 301  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

**LISA SOLOMON & JESSICA ALLEN**



412-363-4000 ext 206

[jessica.allen@pittsburghmoves.com](mailto:jessica.allen@pittsburghmoves.com)

**We Get Homes Sold!  
2 Heads are Better than 1  
Contact Us...We Are Available!!**

