



Polish Hill Voice

We are the community...we are one voice!



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A Polish Hill Civic Association of Pittsburgh Publication

Fall/Winter 2006-2007

Inside this issue:

3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11

Board Election Seeks to Fill Four Vacancies

Do you have a passion for Polish Hill? Could you spare a few hours each month working to strengthen the sustainability of the neighborhood and ensuring the safety of our residents?

We could use you on our team.

Nominations are now open for the following positions on the PHCA Board of Directors which will expire at the end of 2006:

Vice President

Mike Duray is currently fulfilling the remainder of the previous term. Mike is eligible for re-election.

Directorship #4

Currently held by Debbie Jozwiak for the past three years. Debbie is eligible for re-election.

Directorship #5

Terry Doloughty is currently fulfilling the remainder of the previous term. Terry is eligible for re-election.

Directorship #6

Currently held by Colleen Helwich for the past three years. Colleen is eligible for re-election.

All positions are a three-year term.

You may nominate your neighbors through one of the PHCA Board Members, in person or via email, or by returning the enclosed Nomination Form (on page 3) to the PHCA office.

Remember the eligibility requirements, as per the PHCA By-laws:

- ◆ Polish Hill resident
- ◆ PHCA member in good standing (paid dues as of September 1, 2006)
- ◆ Must have attended at least two of the past 12 PHCA Membership Meetings

Nominations will be closed and voted on at the November 3 Membership Meeting. Election will take place at the December 5 Membership Meeting.

"You will learn more about the people you work with in three minutes by asking them what they do for nothing, than by working with them for three years on the same team."

Patrick Dixon - *Building a Better Business* 2005

DCED Funding Provides Much-Needed Face Lift

On June 30, the PHCA drew down the remainder of a \$5,000 grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

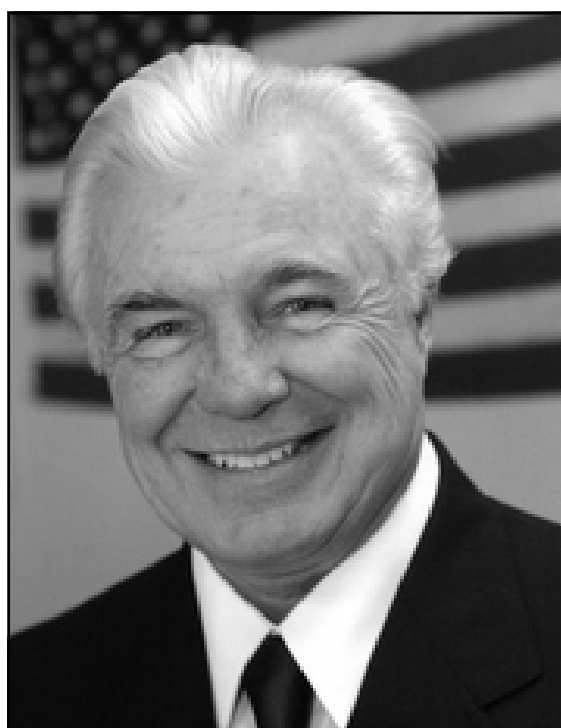
The funding will enable us to make some long overdue updates to the PHCA of-

face, including: shoring up the front corner of the office floor, installation of new tile flooring, replacement of drywall in the rear kitchen area, installation of a glass block window, lighting improve-

(Continued on page 3)

In Memoriam

Mayor Bob O'Connor



1944-2006

*Thank you, Bob.
You will be missed.*

Face Lift (cont.)

ments and a fresh coat of paint throughout.

PHCA Board members Mike Duray and Terry Doloughty are spearheading the project, as well as donating most of the labor. If you're adept with a paint brush, Mike and Terry are looking for a few good volunteers to put the finishing touches on the project!

Work is scheduled to begin the week of September 18.



Remember the PHCA in your Charitable Giving

As the 2006 United Way Campaign kicks off this fall, remember 258. When your employer asks you to donate to the United Way, say "YES!", and designate your gift to the PHCA through Contributor Choice.

If you so choose, your contribution will be deducted from your paycheck each week.

Polish Hill Civic Association

258

UNITED WAY CONTRIBUTOR CHOICE

2006 Nomination Form PHCA Board of Directors

Deadline: November 3, 2006

I hereby nominate the following individual/s for the position of:

Vice President

Directorship #4

Directorship #5

Directorship #6

The PHCA Membership Chair will determine eligibility of each candidate.

Nominations will be approved by the PHCA Membership at the monthly meeting on November 1.

Membership Votes to Pursue Feasibility of Redevelopment at 3101-3 Brereton Street (former site of Jerry's Market)

Members attending the September 6 membership meeting never thought the day would come when they would be asked to vote on the fate of Jerry's building.

But following a lengthy discussion, they finally agreed to submit a sales agreement for the purchase of 3101-3 Brereton Street. The sales agreement, which will be for an undisclosed amount, will be contingent upon the inspection of an engineer.

In May 2006, Jerry Helwick closed his market and sold the building to a private developer, Gregory Reis, who recently expressed a desire to put the property back on the market.

Members voting in favor of the motion expressed concerns that the building would sit vacant and deteriorate beyond repair or, worse, an absentee landlord might buy the property. Discussion centered around the community potential for the building, such as opening a community meeting hall, a coffee shop and a Polish Hill "general store," all with the objective of stimulating further development of key properties in the neighborhood.

With a little help from our friends

If pursued, the scope of this project could span years and millions of dollars. Realizing that the PHCA lacks the resources, staff and technical expertise to go it alone, members voted to seek assistance from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC). The



Above: The Brereton Street side of the building has two storefronts, as does the Dobson Street side (pictured below). There are potentially four rental units on top.



BGC is an experienced community development corporation that would act in a consulting capacity on the redevelopment project.

The partnership could potentially benefit the PHCA in its pursuit of general operating dollars, as many funders look favorably on collaboration efforts.

The PHCA Board of Directors met with BGC Executive Director Rick Swartz who voiced his interest in pursuing the venture.

"The PHCA Board of Directors will do the due diligence and make subsequent recommendations to the members," said Sharon Wolkiewicz, PHCA President. "But

ultimately, the PHCA membership will be the final decision-making body on this issue."

The issue will be on the agenda at the October 3 meeting.



It was a sad day in Polish Hill when Jerry Helwick decided to close his doors for good. Many customers remember the store as Chester's Market. A young Jerry Helwick is pictured left with mentor Chester Galda.



REPRESENTATIVE WALKO REPORTS FROM HARRISBURG

State Rep. Don Walko, D-Allegheny, said the Bush administration's newest claim about the safety of imported medications is actually a strong argument in favor of Pennsylvania joining a multi-state program that safely imports drugs from Canada, Britain, Australia and New Zealand.

"The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is claiming that some medications bought online from Canada were counterfeit or contained lower amounts of the active ingredients, although the pharmacies' supplier disputes that," said Walko, a leader on prescription-drug issues in the legislature.

"Whether or not those particular allegations turn out to be true, Pennsylvania should join the five states that are already helping their residents and taxpayers to save 25 to 80 percent on prescriptions while also having strong safety guarantees. As long as there are high prices for some name-brand drugs, Americans are going to try to save money. Under I-SaveRx, there are regular inspections of the Canadian and overseas pharmacies, with quality controls and multiple safety checks."

Walko introduced a resolution (H.R. 51) in March 2005 urging the Rendell administration to join I-SaveRx, which was founded by Illinois and now includes Wisconsin, Missouri, Kansas and Vermont. More information about the program is available online at www.i-saverx.net.

"I recently received an update from Illinois officials, who informed me that the program has saved \$2 million in the two years that I-SaveRx has been up and running," Walko said.

"The high cost of many prescription drugs isn't just an issue for people 65 and older. Plenty of young or middle-aged people are coping with problems like breast cancer, high blood pressure or cholesterol, depression or diabetes. To give another example, birth control often isn't covered at all by insurance. So Pennsylvania needs to go beyond our successes with PACE and join I-SaveRx," Walko said. "I would even be open to trying a pilot program for the 20th Legislative District that I represent."

Walko said he was proud to support Gov. Ed Rendell's recently enacted PACE Plus Medicare initiative that will allow about 120,000 more senior citizens in Pennsylvania to obtain high-quality, low-cost prescription-drug coverage. The state initiative fills in the gaps in the new Medicare Part D program.

Walko noted that Minnesota offers its residents a resource similar to I-SaveRx. The state-operated Web site www.MinnesotaRxConnect.com lets consumers compare prices on medications from Canadian and British pharmacies that allow inspections by Minnesota officials.

If you have questions about the above or any other state-related matter, please call one of my district offices:

Northside Office:

3880 Perrysville Avenue (Observatory Hill)
Pittsburgh, PA 15214
(412) 321-5523

Lawrenceville Office:

204 37th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15201
(412) 621-2818
Hours by appointment.

Who to call

Please return completed form with dues to:
Membership Chair, PHCA, 3060 Brereton Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Polish Hill Civic Association of Pittsburgh
2007 Membership Application
Dues: \$5.00

NAME: _____

(Street Address) (City) (State) (ZIP)

PHONE (optional): _____

EMAIL (optional): _____

_____ REGULAR MEMBER? Or _____ SUBSCRIPTION MEMBER?
(Polish Hill residents only) (Non-residents; entitled to newsletter only)

_____ New Member? Or _____ Renewal?

For office use only:

REC'D BY: _____ **DATE:** _____ **GOT CARD?** _____ **LOGGED?** _____

PHCA Membership Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the PHCA office.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

October 3

November 3

December 5

Remember PHCA's Contributor Choice Code: 258

PH
CA Polish Hill Voice

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