



Polish Hill Voice

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



3060 Brereton Street ✪ Pittsburgh, PA 15219 ✪ (412) 681-1950 ✪ phcapgh@gmail.com ✪ www.phcapgh.org

May 2009

Contents:

Things to do at the PHCA Office	2
West Penn Schedule	
Lost Keys	3
Polish Hill Portraits	
PHCA Fundraisers	
What's New at Alfred's Deli?	4
In Memory of Ann Davis	
Polish Hill Happenings	5
Kennywood Nostalgia	6
Resident's Message	7
Community Calendar	
Old Clunky	
Art 'n Garden	8
PHCA Apt Makeover	9
Tree Tenders	
Mayor's Newsletter	10
Neighbors Helping Neighbors	
Pittsburgh Business Growth Fund	11

Betting on Polish Hill



From left, Rob Levkulich and Michael Seamans in front of their future business site on the corner.

By the end of this summer, you will be able to buy more than pierogies and beer on Polish Hill. At 3101 Brereton Street (the former Jubilee Pantry storefront), Polish Hill resident Paulette Still-Khoury will open up a unique retail shop, The Urban Gypsy. She hopes to open in early summer.

"We look forward to being an active member of Polish Hill's blossoming business district, local economy and renaissance. Residents can expect a chic and eclectic shop that the neighborhood can be proud of," says Paulette.

The Urban Gypsy will sell items that will be local, handmade and/or eco-

friendly. There will not be mass-produced items typically found in the average chain or retail stores. The Urban Gypsy strives to recycle, re-purpose and reuse by offering creative, custom-designed, found objects and vintage items. In addition to art and consignment items, there will also be fresh flowers—many locally grown, featured in bouquets, arrangements and for events and weddings. To start, The Urban Gypsy will be open primarily weekends and a few weekdays. Look for events planned around the opening. Paulette can be contacted at urbangypsy3101@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, Rob Levkulich and Michael Seamans, two young Polish Hill residents and entrepreneurs are also placing their bets on Polish Hill. The anticipated coffee shop & vinyl record store are in the making on the corner of Dobson and Hancock Street in the old Jaworski Butcher Shop with the hopes of a late summer opening.

The business has been a home grown example of local businesses helping each other. Designs for the building, which was previously all residential, are being designed by Tai+Lee Architects, a long-time Polish Hill business located on Brereton Street. The general contractor for the job is Matthew Clifford and Company, a resident on Bethoven Street.

Stay tuned for more details on the grand openings of these businesses and feel free to contact the PHCA if you can offer help to these new businesses.

In Loving Memory...

A detailed account of Ann Davis and her life, her accomplishments and her dedication to Polish Hill **Page 4**



Things to Do at the Polish Hill Civic Association Office

By Leslie Clague

You might have visited the Polish Hill Civic Association office at 3060 Brereton Street—maybe you stop in regularly. Or perhaps you’ve never been in to see us, and don’t see why you would. But Polish Hill residents and friends should be aware that there are a lot of reasons to come in.

Our neighborhood doesn’t have a copy shop, but did you know that you can make copies or send a fax from our office? Here are some of the many ways in which we can be useful to you:

Check out the community bulletin board and the rack of information for seniors and other residents. We have current bus schedules, tax forms, information on city programs, non-profit organizations and more.

We have information on...

- how to buy an empty lot adjacent to your building
- request a tree for your sidewalk
- graffiti removal
- the party wall program (to get an exposed party wall repaired)
- URA programs
- home renovation loans
- LIHEAP, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

If you are considering moving to the neighborhood or have a friend who wants to be your neighbor, we can help you to find apartments for rent in the neighborhood (or post an apartment you’re renting).

You can share a concern with us (safety issues, problem properties, or graffiti), or file a 311 complaint.

If you’re interested in the

neighborhood’s history, stop in to look at the historic photos and maps of Polish Hill we have on display. By the way, we’re looking for historic photos of the neighborhood and its residents to create a Polish Hill archive. Bring in any family photos you’d like to share and we’ll scan it and return it to you.

Looking to help your neighborhood? Sign up to volunteer for a neighborhood cleanup or other event.

Saturdays are particularly lively, so it’s often a good time to visit with a neighbor, have a cup of coffee or tea and some Sun Chips.

The PHCA hosts Councilman Patrick Dowd and his staff at Council-to-Go meetings (6:30 pm, third Wednesday of odd-numbered months), where you can directly make your voice heard and get to know your local representative.

Share garden plants, tools or other items looking for a new home.

Pick up a copy of the Polish Hill

Voice newsletter or propose an article—we’re always looking for new contributors.

If you have an event that you’d like to publicize, share the details with us and we’ll help spread the word.

There’s always a different fundraiser going on, so stop in for more information and while you’re in, check out the PHCA store, where you can buy buttons, cookbooks, cards, t-shirts and neighborhood maps.

If you’re still reading this story, you might be an ideal candidate to join the PHCA (only \$5 a year), or renew your membership.

Like the neighborhood itself, the PHCA is a friendly place. We know lots of people and have access to lots of information. Stop in and see us sometime!

Office hours: Tuesday thru Saturday, 9:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m. 412.681.1950. Email phcapgh@gmail.com

Summer Programs West Penn Recreation Center 470 30th @ Paulowna Street

Junior Pirates Rookie Ball
Boys and girls (ages 4-8)
May 18 – July 22, 6 pm – 7 pm,
Mondays and Wednesdays

West Penn Summer Camp
Boys and Girls (ages 8 – 12)
June 15 – August ?, 11 am – 4 pm,
Monday thru Thursday

Summer Food Program
Boys and Girls (ages 18 and under)
June 15 – August ?,
Monday thru Friday
Lunch: 12 pm – 1:30 pm
Snacks: 3 pm – 4 pm

Hershey Track and Field Games
Boys and Girls (ages 9 – 14)
Beginning May 30, 2009

For more information about activities at the West Penn Recreation Center, call 412-622-7353.



Polish Hill Buttons



75 cents
Available at
PHCA

TAI + LEE architects PC. 

Specializing in unique solutions for your design needs.

Residential & Commercial Architecture
Planning for the past 28 years.

Visit us at: www.taipuslee.com

3106 Brereton Street Pittsburgh, PA 15219 412.880.4020



Lost Keys

By Alexis Miller

Like the classic red balloon story, the simple path of a common object often tells a bigger story.

Over the course of several weeks, a lost set of GM keys changed hands between neighbors, always with care and concern for the owner of the keys.

Found an early spring day on Dobson Street, laying all alone, one neighbor placed them on the concrete table at the Dobson/Revere lot, hoping that the owner would find them. The key and remote locker sat for at least a week on that table. I passed them frequently when walking my dog, but never really worried that they would go into the wrong hands.

Then someone else picked up the keys and walked the street, pushing the unlock button to see if the car was still in the vicinity. Sure enough, the lights flashed, the horn honked and the thoughtful neighbor delivered the keys to the Polish Hill Civic Association in an attempt to find the owner.

The PHCA then gave the keys to me, suggesting that someone in my apartment building may have lost them because the car was parked close to my building. I tucked the keys into my pocket and shrugged. How was I going to find the owner of the car? I thought I knew which cars belonged to my neighbors and couldn't figure out who might have a GM that was missing its keys.

I had the keys for about a week and was starting to give up my search, thinking to myself, how long should I keep these keys before I decide it's a lost cause? I was walking home from the busway after work, thinking that I should contact my brother to ask if his roommate was missing keys, when all of a sudden, there was his roommate walking towards me on Downing Street.

"Hey, what kind of car do you drive? I know you share it with your sister, but I can't remember what kind it is."

"It's the one parked right in front of our building on the corner there," she pointed towards our

building.

"Do you have a GM?" I asked. Her eyes got as big as saucers, as I continued. "Did you lose your keys?"

The answer of course was a resounding yes and she went on to tell me how she had torn apart her apartment looking for them and was giving up hope, so she was just about to pay for another key and remote locker.

After this amazing discovery, she turned around and followed me back to my apartment to commence the reunification.

"I can't believe I lost my keys outside so close to my car and no one stole my car," she said.

Indeed, it really was amazing. I had taken it for granted until that point, but really felt proud to live in such an honest neighborhood. Not only that, but it was amazing how many caring hands those keys passed through before they found their owner—showing the kind of concern and honesty that this neighborhood should be proud of.

PHCA Fundraisers

Thank you for helping us to make the Packzi and Redstone candy sales a success. Look for more Redstone candy around the winter holidays.

Keep your eyes peeled for a concert at Gooski's to benefit the PHCA. We also hope to hold a roller jam party to benefit Art What You Got.

Show your Polish Hill pride with a 75 cent Polish Hill button, available at the PHCA.

*Polish Hill Stomp
w/ DJ Junior*

All your favorite 50's oldies
only on 45 vinyl!

A swingin' good time.
(Every 2nd Friday of the
month at the Rock Room)
(412) 683-4418

Polish Hill Portraits

Photos by Mark Knobil

Here in Polish Hill, we know that we have some of the best neighbors, so here's our humble way of sharing their smiles.



Dan and Tina Parsons of Bethoven St.



Ed Librecht of John Paul Plaza



Photographer Mark Knobil, Bethoven St.

Spring Concerts Rock Room 1054 Herron Ave

May 9 | 10 pm | Dark Lingo, Modern Creatures, Twin Crystals (Canada)
May 22 | 10 pm | Bowhunter, The Sunflower Spectacle, February Fourteenth, The Upstairs

What's New at

Alfred's Deli

By Leslie Clague

We've been talking up Alfred's Deli since they re-opened because we're so glad that a business has returned to Polish Hill—and because Alfred's is worth a visit.

Since their opening in the fall, Alfred's continues to expand their selection of Polish specialties and general grocery items. Proprietor Anna Misiaszek has responded to suggestions from residents--adding a cooler with soft drinks and juice, a wider variety of items, extended hours on Fridays (open til 7 pm), and offering Saturday delivery service to John Paul Plaza.

Anna offers several kinds of homemade pierogies, including potato, potato sauerkraut, sauerkraut, and jalapeno in addition to sweet strawberry and blueberry pierogies. The deli counter presents a selection of cheeses, bratwurst, kielbasa, spicy sausage, and much more. Even if you're not an adventurous eater, you can also pick up milk, butter, eggs, or various other everyday items, saving a trip to the grocery store. Alfred's also offers a contractor's sandwich (which is very popular around the PHCA office). And, of course, there are Polish packaged foods: fruit juices, jars of colorful mixed pickles, soup mixes, soft shortbread cookies with fruit filling and other Polish sweets.



In Memory of Ann J. Davis (1916-2009)

By Janice Heagy

Everyone knew Ann Davis! Most people remember Ann as the crossing guard in our Polish Hill community for many years, but she was much more than that -- she was a remarkable woman,



ahead of her time, who was faith-filled, loved her family and friends, was patriotic and thrived working within the local political scene. She was on a first-name basis with many of the politicians and kept up-to-date on current

events. In January she called Jim Roddey to discuss the U.S. presidential election of Barack Obama.

Ann was a pillar of our community, in partnership with Fr. John Jendzura, C.S.Sp., who was pastor at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church for 32 years.

Ann loved to travel and marveled at being able to walk on a glacier in Alaska. She enjoyed the Pittsburgh Symphony and the Mendelson Choir. No matter when you saw Ann, she was always dressed to the nines. She was a wife to Fred and mother to Michaleen (Henry) Platek, Dana (Janice) Davis, and Deborah Davis.

Her neighbor and lifetime friend, Lil Helwich, remembers Ann as "a confidant, mentor and teacher; someone who was always there when needed. Ann's love of life and family was a beautiful lesson for all. She worked tirelessly for her church, the community and in government. Ann was loved by many and will always be remembered."

Yoko Tai remembers Ann as a big part of their lives beginning when they first moved to Polish Hill over 30 years ago. A favorite memory of the Tai family is the blessed Easter basket Ann would deliver to them every year.

Ann's daughter, Sr. Deborah André, recounts her mother's life...

Mom's entire life was devoted to God, family, church and community. She was born on Polish Hill on January 27, 1916. She was the middle child of Joseph and Irene Struzynski, who were immigrants from Galicia (Polish part of Austria). After graduating from Schenley High School, she worked at H.J. Heinz Co.

She loved ballroom dancing and met

Frederick S. Davis at one of these dances. When Ann discussed her marriage proposal with her mother, she said, "you will want to settle down one day, you can't dance forever." On June 5, 1943, they married. They honeymooned in New York, where they said farewell for a time as Fred shoved off to serve in active duty in the Navy.

During the war (WWII), Ann was a member of the Memorial Gold Cross and Ambulance Corps, an auxiliary organization. She wore a uniform, was involved in charitable works, and sent correspondence and care packages to the service men abroad. As part of this organization, she also sold war bonds and stamps in the Pittsburgh theaters to aid the war effort. She was also active with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary.

Ann was very actively involved in Little League and the Parent/Teachers Guild while her children attended Immaculate Heart of Mary Elementary School.

From January 1955 to June 1978, Ann was a fixture at the intersection of Brereton and Dobson Streets as a City of Pittsburgh School Crossing Guard. She organized and established the union for the School Crossing Guards and served as president for many years.

In 1969, Ann was instrumental in creating the Polish Hill Civic Association. She served as president of the PHCA during the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's. She worked tirelessly to improve services within the community, improve and increase affordable housing, and beautify the neighborhood. She and then councilman, James Ferlo, preserved the West Penn Recreation Center when it was threatened with closure due to citywide cutbacks. Ann put Polish Hill on the map and had an admirable working relationship with all the city and county department heads.

While president of the PHCA, mom negotiated with Christian Housing to erect John Paul Plaza, a residence for senior citizens on Herron Ave. She served on the Plaza's Board of Directors for 12 years.

Ann was an active member of the Polish Women's Alliance of America for more than 50 years, including serving as president of a local group for the last 20 years. She always advocated and upheld great respect for her Polish heritage.

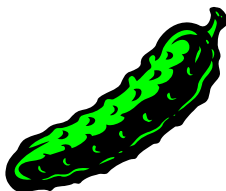
Ann was **cont'd on page 6** **cont'd**

Polish Hill Happenings

Summer Festival Season Approaches

By Leslie Clague

Art What You Got is Polish Hill's art festival, the second summer street fair in this small neighborhood. The main intersection of Polish Hill, Brereton and Dobson streets is closed for an entire weekend each July when the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church holds a church community festival. The church event is on Saturday only, but tents, tables, chairs and lighting would stay in place until Monday morning. The Polish Hill Civic Association saw an opportunity to create a new tradition for the neighborhood and utilize the second day of the street closing.



With the assistance and cooperation of the church, the West Penn Recreation Center, and a squad of volunteers, the PHCA presented the first Art What You Got in July of 2008. Despite a fierce storm that blew through in the afternoon, the bands kept playing, people kept eating pierogis, kielbasa and pickles-on-a-stick. The sun eventually came out again, and the festival was counted as a rousing success.

This year, this new tradition continues with the second Art What You Got festival, on Sunday, July 19th from noon to 8 pm. Attractions will include an artist's market for vendors selling their own artwork and craft items; food including traditional Polish favorites like kielbasa and pierogies, as well as traditional American items such as hamburgers; musical performances, hands-on art activities, and demonstrations. And we are determined that it will not rain this year.



Festival goes from the 2008 Art What You Got festival on Brereton Street.

Community Bread Oven

By Leah Durand

Polish Hill residents have been exploring the possibility of a community bread oven. Encouraged by Braddock's community bread oven, the Polish Hill Civic Association has been exploring possible locations, reaching out to city officials to make it happen, and working with community members to generate ideas.

We are excited to create a space for the community to come together, bake bread, pizzas, traditional Polish recipes, and to gather around a (controlled) fire and share stories.

Right now, we are thinking that there would be designated "fire-tenders" who would volunteer for weekend shifts for a monthly bread baking. If there is enough interest perhaps the baking could happen every other or every weekend.

This project is still in the beginning stages. We are currently trying to nail down a location and then go from there. Currently, we are looking at a lot on Dobson and some other vacant lots around the neighborhood. If you have any location suggestions or would like to be a part of making this happen for our neighborhood, please contact the PHCA.

Council to Go in Polish Hill Polish Hill Civic Association 3060 Brereton St.

Wednesday, May 20, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, July 15, 6:30 pm

City Council is in session on Polish Hill. Council to Go is the mobile district office for Patrick Dowd of City Council. Council District 7 staff will be available to hear your concerns, offer avenues of support, and respond to questions about city services. Future dates for Council to Go will be the third Wednesday of every other month starting January 2009 (March, May, July, etc). For more information and the full schedule of sessions across the district, visit www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/district7



Braddock's community bread oven



Carousel horses at Kennywood Park.

Kennywood Nostalgia

By Susan Constance

It must be spring that is making me remember all of those Kennywood trips. The anticipation of the school picnic was almost as high as for Christmas. Maybe because the build-up was longer; a month before the picnic, the school would have a day for buying books of tickets. Each class would line up in turn and file down to the gym, all of us so excited.

My mother would make matching outfits for me and my sister—white shorts with a brightly-patterned sleeveless shirt, hers in yellow and mine in pink. We left the house at nine in the morning, beach bags and picnic hampers filling the trunk, sharing the long backseat with kids. The first part of the day would be spent at the pool, that wide blue water shimmering sun onto the back of our heads.

Dad would meet us after work and we would spend an hour in the deep shade of the picnic grove, eating potato salad and grilling burgers. We danced around my parents, begging them to hurry. After all, there were a lot of rides to visit, old favorites and new ones to try.

Once out of grade school, my sister and I spent more time with our friends, wandering the park in groups. My favorite rides were the Roto and the roller coasters. The scariest roller coaster ride I ever took happened when I was twelve. I wanted to ride the Racer, but I couldn't convince anyone to ride with me. I thought, well, I'll get in line and once I am on the platform I will probably find someone to ride with. I ended up in a car by myself, hanging on for dear life. It was scary, but I would definitely do it again.

No matter what my age, the last ride of the night was on the Carousel. It was an obvious meeting point, with its music and lights and never-changing location. The horses were the most sought perches when I was really young. Gradually, the high-backed benches became more appealing. The Carousel was the best ride to wind down from the day's chaos.



from page 4 appointed by the late Mayor Richard Caliguri to serve as a board member on the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority. She was the only female to occupy this seat, which she held for approximately 20 years.

Ann served on the board of directors for Community Action Pittsburgh, Inc., Lawrenceville Economic Action Program and the Employment Project, which all provided support services to Polish Hill. In 1987, she was named and honored with an award as Pittsburgh's Senior Citizen of the Year for her tireless service. In 1988, she was honored as the Eastsider of the Year.

Ann was very talented in arts and crafts, needlepoint, crocheting, ceramics and knitting. She never had a bad word to say about anyone. She was loving, giving, kind, generous and magnanimous.

She loved to travel and had an adventurous spirit. She braved the rapids down the Mendenhall in Alaska and was dropped off by helicopter onto a glacier. She vacationed abroad in Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France, England, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, and Rome, and cruised to Central America. With few exceptions, she saw most of the 50 states in the USA.

In short, Ann was a humble, splendid gift to this world, who can never be replaced. She lived life to its fullest, lovingly gave of herself without counting the cost, and never asked or expected anything in return. We were blessed to have known and walked with her on this earthly journey.

Simply put, Ann was cherished by family and friends. A chapter of Polish Hill history has closed with her passing. No one person can ever take her place. We miss you Ann

Polish Hill Voice Editorial and Advertising Timeline

Submission Deadline	Publication Date	Months Covered
July 10	Beginning August	August, September, October

The *Polish Hill Voice* is published quarterly.

Advertisers/Photographers: Acceptable formats include:

- Black & white camera-ready art
- PC-based JPG, TIF or PDF (300 dpi or higher)

Editorial: Contributing writers, artists, poets and historians welcome! Please submit all content to the Editor via email at phcapgh@gmail.com or send to the PHCA office at 3060 Brereton Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

Resident's Message

We all volunteer in different ways to help Polish Hill. All of our unique talents and abilities may not always be available at the same time; however we have found a way to work around time.

Polish Hill has an abundance of virtual volunteers; you can find us out there working the midnights and the dawns getting things done. Everyone has such different lives, but we bring all of that vast experience to the team of the PHCA. When we do get a chance to meet, a big bowl of Sun Chips will keep us planning for hours. We have the benefit of everyone having some time somewhere in their day where we can exchange creative thoughts, and respond to requests from neighbors.

Word spreads fast on the web. I have to admit that I open my e-mail with fascination every time. There is always a surprise to be found—a fresh new thought freshly formed. I have to admit I often enjoy having four chat windows open at once while updating Facebook, MySpace, and seeing what is happening on Blogski. Sometimes all the wtf will make me lol rotf, lmao... :}

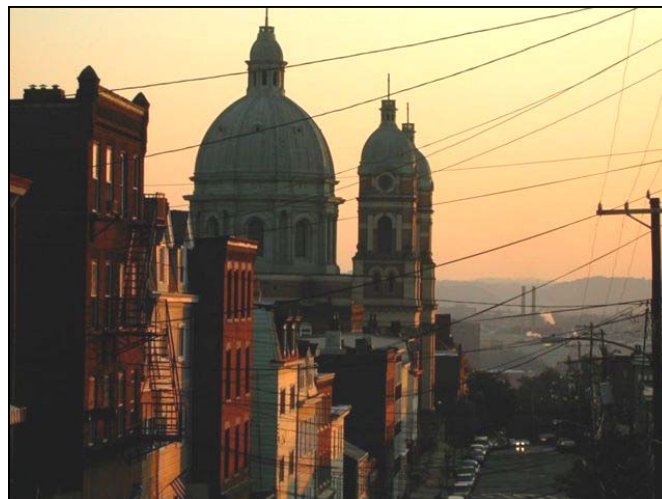
All volunteers of every capacity know the value of a good cup of black coffee, but we mix that up with a healthy dose of Wifi, supported by well worn keyboards and mice with more miles on them than cars.

We have a double benefit at the PHCA though, because we have volunteers that show up all the time in the physical world too. I must tip my hat to the volunteers who work hard every day. We have residents who care enough to do mini neighborhood clean ups each week, take care of the older neighbors, spread the word about safety issues and care about all of us. We have our volunteers to thank for everything we have and all the ideas that come out of the PHCA.

In short I am moved every day by how selfless our volunteers are, how they care, and the fact that while they may blog about it, they actually do something about it in the real world too.

So whether your communication style is talking over the garden gate, Twitter, e-mail, flyers or just doing it yourself, I wanted to say him much it is appreciated. I will see all of you out there on the web, in the street, at the office. Wherever you go, there you are, Polish Hill is a voluntary state of mind.

Terry Doloughty
Polish Hill Civic Association President



Reborn

Some may consider it a heap of trash, while others may see it more for its inner beauty, but Old Clunky has risen from the dead to serve Polish Hill residents again.

A collaborative work between Leslie Clague and Brian Seklecki, two of our hardest working Polish Hill residents, recycled a crashed computer into a re-functioning computer. Old Clunky now

has a loving home again and receives regular visits and care.

Polish Hill Civic Association Community & Event Calendar

May—June—July

- May 5 | 6:30 PM | West Penn Recreation Center**
PHCA Membership Meeting
- May 20 | 6:30 PM | PHCA**
Council to Go with Councilman Patrick Dowd
- June 2 | by 6:00 PM | PHCA Office**
PHCA Membership Meeting
- July 7 | 6:30 PM | West Penn Recreation Center**
PHCA Membership Meeting
- July 15 | 6:30 PM | PHCA**
Council to Go with Councilman Patrick Dowd
- July 18 | 12:00 PM | Brereton & Dobson Streets**
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Festival
- July 19 | 12:00 PM—8:00 PM | Brereton & Dobson Streets**
Art What You Got Arts Festival
- Aug 4 | 6:30 PM | West Penn Recreation Center**
PHCA Membership Meeting

Polish Hill's Art 'n Garden

What's All the Stink About?

By Josie Ramsey

Have you noticed in the past ten years a new bug that is starting to cause hysteria? It is the "stink bug." The stink bug, or shield bug gets its name from giving off a stink when it is squished, or the fact that it looks as though it has a shield on its back.

This bug has only been in the United States for the past ten years, presumed to have immigrated to the United States in shipping containers from Asia.

There is some question about whether or not these bugs can bite. Mostly these stink bugs are just a nuisance. One problem with the stink bug is that adults can live for a very long time (up to 5 years). They are attracted to come into our homes by the lights shining from the windows, so one way to curb them is to make sure you pull your blinds.

Did you notice during the winter that they seemed to come alive? That is because they go into a dormant state, a type of hibernation, and when we disturb them getting out decorations for example, they stir to find a new spot.

It's important to know that using pesticides to kill these bugs is not effective. What are effective are preventative measures. Research indicates that sealing cracks and small openings decreases the numbers that can make it into your home. Make sure that screens and air conditioners do not have gaps that give access. Also, there are some experts, (www.asktheexterminator.com) that suggests that stink bugs can be repelled by marigolds, mint, catnip, garlic and radishes. As tempting as it may seem to just suck these critters up with the Shop Vac - reconsider it. The bug will emit its stink, a stink that does not go away easily or quickly. Studies have shown that the stink can linger for up to six months.



The stink is also thought to attract other stink bugs. There is some good news, though. These stink bugs cannot reproduce inside. They must be outside to lay their eggs on the underside of leaves on plants. Over the years there have been efforts to stem the invasion of various insects; the current "hot" bug is the stink bug, so keep alert for updates.

Learn more about stink bugs:
www.asktheexterminator.com
www.bugspray.com/article/stinkbug.html

Reworking an Old, Overgrown Landscape

By Richard Liberto

Landscaping can be an overwhelming endeavor especially when you have an old, overgrown landscape. So, how to start?

The first step is to conduct a thorough analysis of the current landscape conditions including the hardscape (walks, steps, walls, patios).

Many overgrown plantings may simply require judicious pruning or transplanting. Are the current plants attractive and enhance the landscape? When replacing or adding new plants consider the following: Can the plantings create spaces or function as individual specimens? Will the plants offer privacy, if necessary? Will there be a variety of textures, flowering habit and flowering times? Will the new plantings be low-maintenance? What is the first impression of the landscape; is there curb appeal? Is the circulation through the property logical?

If you have made the decision for a complete "re-do" of your landscape, consider eliminating foundation plantings and reducing the size of the lawn. Perhaps incorporate a pergola, rain garden, or lighting.

A well-qualified landscape design professional will have the vision and "tools" for guiding you with your property. Before you move ahead with all your indoor and outdoor home improvement projects, get the customized advice you need from a design professional.

The Community Design Center of Pittsburgh's RenPlan® program offers affordable in-home design consultations. To talk to a landscape architect, architect or interior designer about your home and garden, contact the RenPlan® program today at 412-391-4333 or www.cdcp.org.

Richard Liberto is a landscape designer and RenPlan® consultant for the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh (a non-profit organization offering affordable resources for Pittsburgh).

Gateway Art Project

By Alexis Miller

Sarah Cunniff, a local mosaic artist is raising money for creating an artistic welcome to Polish Hill on Brereton Street across from the 28th Street Bridge. She plans to create a Polish falcon mosaic and would also involve children in Polish Hill. The kids would help to create stepping stones that will go up the hillside. She plans to hold a class where she would help kids to lay out glass pieces and then bond the design to the stepping stones.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car has donated \$1,000 towards this project already and funds are being sought from other sources for this project. If you or your company would like to donate, please contact the PHCA.

PHCA Apartments Get Makeover

By Alexis Miller



There's a lot happening in and above the PHCA. Starting with a new roof on the building in the fall, the three apartments at 3060 Breerton have received a major face lift. Apartment 3 received a brand new furnace, complete kitchen with new counter tops and new sink, and new lighting. Apartment 2 got a new furnace, sink, vanity, toilet, complete kitchen makeover, and new lighting. Apartment 1 required the biggest effort of all. It

needed a complete renovation. The entire bathroom was replaced, including parts of the wall and the floor. The apartment has also been insulated. The old suspended ceilings have been removed and restored to their original height. A custom walk-in closet has been added, the hallway has been widened and the kitchen will be completely renovated, including new flooring.

Thanks to some of the donations we have received from the PCRG Vacant Property Working Group. A very big thank you to the Urban Redevelopment Authority and Senator Ferlo for funds to do many of the repairs. Our long term goal is to have a permanent source of funding for the PHCA and as Polish Hill improves, we wish to set a good example with some pretty cool apartments.



The completed kitchen renovations in apartment 2.

Become a Tree Tender

Tree Tenders receive special training in tree planting, biology, pruning, care and maintenance, and improve our neighborhoods one tree at a time. In order to become a tree tender, you must attend four classes and volunteer with tree plantings or care in other neighborhoods. Polish Hill currently has five official Tree Tenders. The number of trees that a neighborhood may receive from the City is directly correlated to the number of tree tenders in that neighborhood, so by becoming a Tree Tender, you are not only befriending Mother Nature, you are also helping your neighbors.

May 13, 20, 27 in Homewood
June 21 in Uptown
July 16, 23, 30 in South Side
September 15, 22, 29 in Lawrenceville

Courses are open to all City of Pittsburgh residents!

Courses are filling up fast! Register at www.pittsburghforest.org/treetenders



CATHERINE McCONNELL, CNRS, CNMS
 Salesperson
 (412) 363-4000 EXT 760 BUSINESS
 (412) 363-7551 FAX
 (412) 621-6674 HOME
 (412) 874-3074 CELL
catherine.mcconnell@pittsburghmoves.com



REAL ESTATE, INC.
 5857 Ellsworth Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15232



www.pittsburghmoves.com

Owned And Operated
By NRT Incorporated.





From the Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

Dear Neighbors,

As Mayor, I have the honor and privilege of telling the story of each of our neighborhoods. On April 4th the story of Stanton Heights took an unexpected turn. We lost three Pittsburgh Police Officers who worked to protect our families and neighborhoods. As we endure and overcome these challenges and misfortune, we find consolation and support within our community.

We watched as the entire City came together to mourn with the families and the police to remember those that they lost, and to support them. As difficult as it is, they continue to find the strength to come to terms with this tragedy, while never forgetting what happened on that day and the sacrifices that were made. As a City, we are hurt but not broken.

The sea of blue lights and flags present on every block and street across the City has been just one

illustration of the unwavering support present in each of our communities. What the lives of Officer Kelly, Officer Mayhle and Officer Sciullo have taught us, what allows us to go on, is that there can be no higher calling than doing all that we can, even at the risk of our own lives, to care for each other. To provide for our neighbors' welfare. To "Protect and Serve" one another.

Every day thousands of men and women wake up, put on their uniforms, and report for duty. Day in and day out, they patrol our streets to keep neighborhoods safe. It is a calling they have devoted their lives to. To protect and serve. Our three fallen heroes, their actions, and their sacrifice define what it means to be an officer. I encourage all of you to remember these brave men, and all of our Officers for the sacrifices they make on a daily basis.

The Fraternal Order of Police has set up a fund for the families of three officers. To contribute, please send a check, made out to the Pittsburgh Fallen Heroes Fund, to Greater Pittsburgh Police Federal Credit Union, 1338 Chartiers Ave., Pittsburgh 15220.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors By Terry Dolouhty

As always, Polish Hill is different than everywhere else. As we make our way in uncertain economic times, Polish Hill has taken a different path again.

Businesses are starting to bloom this spring. We have had the pleasure to welcome Alfred's Deli back to Polish Hill last fall. The Urban Gypsy will be born on Brereton Street this summer. A coffee shop will soon grace the corner of Hancock and Dobson. Spinning about on the second floor will be a vinyl haven for cool sounds.

2009 has been kind to Polish Hill and her residents. Polish Hill businesses support each other in a true village fashion, helping each other with the talents they have. Tai+Lee Architects have been especially instrumental in sharing their expertise to help other businesses sprout on Polish Hill. This tradition of neighbors helping neighbors we hope to foster long into the future.

We have long heard the question, when will something happen here? Now is the time and 2009 is the beginning. We have been a place of unity where residents and our local representatives have been able to work together for a common goal—the rebirth of Polish Hill. We know that our home is a special place.

We should all take the time to introduce ourselves to our neighbors, new and old, so we can all move forward into the future as friends.

Which leads me to share some sad news. A young Polish Hill resident, father, husband and firefighter has recently been diagnosed with leukemia. Doug Weaver, from Melwood, and his family are in a challenging time helping him battle his illness. I am asking all Polish Hill residents to band together and help in the true traditions of our neighborhood. Let's show the Weaver family what it means to be a Polish Hill neighbor.

P.S. Additional news from the Mayor's office...

This spring we will be continuing with new plantings as part of our Green Up Pittsburgh Program. Together with Penn State Cooperative Extension, the City's Green Team and the community stewards we will have successfully transformed more than 100 vacant lots into urban farms, green palettes, and community gardens. If you are interested in greening up your neighborhood or becoming a community steward, please contact my Office of Neighborhood Initiatives at 412-255-4765.

(Editor's note: the vacant lot at the corner of Dobson and Herron has been selected as part of this Green Up Pittsburgh Program. This lot will be re-garaged, cleaned up and receive new plantings. It will feature roses, butterfly bushes and decorative grasses. There will also be a water hookup and a bench made from old curbstone that has been recycled from streets that have been repaired.)

Along with cleaning up our neighborhoods, I want to invite you to come out and show your community pride by joining with me in celebrating the return of the Pittsburgh Marathon on May 3. Come out and cheer on your neighbors and celebrate your community along the race course.

PHCA Membership Application 2009 (only \$5.00)

NAME: _____

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

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

_____ 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? _____

FREE NOTARY SERVICE (with proof of current paid membership)

FREE subscription

Free classified listings at www.phcapgh.org

Help build the neighborhood that you want to live in

DISCOUNTED CAR RENTAL through Enterprise Rent-A-Car

A VOICE on community issues

Clip and return above membership application to:

Colleen Helwich, 2nd Vice President & Membership Chair

PHCA, 3060 Brereton Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Pittsburgh Business Growth Fund By Alexis Miller

I might be getting a little ahead of myself here, but with all these new businesses coming to Polish Hill, I thought it was time to share some information about a loan from the Urban Redevelopment Authority for local businesses.

The Pittsburgh Business Growth Fund provides gap financing for machinery and equipment, leasehold improvements, façade renovations and working capital. Manufacturing, commercial, industrial, advanced technology, service and retail businesses are eligible for a loan that is up to 40% of the total project cost. The maximum loan amount is \$150,000, while the minimum amount is \$10,000.

Interest rates may be reduced in target areas, but generally the interest rate is fixed at the market rate. There is a list of general conditions that the URA requires for the project, such as the requirement that one job is created and/or retained for every \$30,000 borrowed and that the business must be located in the City of Pittsburgh. For more information, visit www.ura.org or call 412-255-6669.

TELL EVERYONE IN POLISH HILL ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS

HERE!

**Call (412) 681-1950
or email phcapgh@gmail.com**

POLISH HILL VOICE

3060 Brereton Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone: 412-681-1950
E-mail: phcapgh@gmail.com
www.phcapgh.org
blogski.phcapgh.org

The Polish Hill Voice is
underwritten by PNC.

Photos contributed by:
Terry Doloughty
Mark Knobil
Staffski

Edited by
Alexis Miller

The PHCA's mission is to: 1.) Serve as a referral resource for the residents of Polish Hill by accurately responding to questions, comments and concerns on topics such as housing, safety, beautification, and public image; 2.) Participate in initiatives to provide decent single-family housing that is affordable to low and moderate income persons, including the rehabilitation of existing properties as owner-occupied and support for prospective developers of such properties; 3.) Promote the beautification of the Polish Hill neighborhood, the viability of the community and the health, well-being and safety of the residents. Through its membership, the PHCA solicits resident input and follows a democratic process to take action on all matters affecting the welfare of the community.

Upcoming PHCA Membership Meetings:

**PHCA Membership Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
Meetings are held at the West Penn Recreation Center, 470 30TH @ Paulowna Street**

May 5

June 2

July 7