Polish Hill Selected as RTP’s Rebuilding Day 2008 Site

We are thrilled to report that Polish Hill has been selected as Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh’s 2008 Rebuilding Day site. Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh is the nation’s leading organization bringing volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of low-income and

A Message from a Polish Hill Resident

Fall has arrived here on Polish Hill; fitting since this is a time of great change. As we gain recognition from all parts of the City, our image is one of “a neighborhood on the move” with real potential and success within our grasp.

We have businesses moving back to Polish Hill — a neighborhood-wide thank you goes to Tai+Lee Architects for moving their offices back to the abandoned Vet’s Club building on Brereton Street. It’s a great example of what is possible here, and it will also be our first “green” building on Polish Hill.

We have local residents who are asking about store fronts to open small businesses. This is a true turn in the right direction for our neighborhood — 60 cents from every dollar spent in a local business stays in the neighborhood versus being sent back to a nationwide chain. Businesses of interest include: a coffee shop, a Polish store, a bakery, used record shop and a Laundromat. So now’s your chance to ring in...in this issue of the Polish Hill Voice there is a survey form. What businesses do you want to see on Polish Hill? Let us know so we can share this information with the people who live here and want to open a store.

The equally important part of the survey is: What kind of stores on Polish Hill would you visit/support on a daily or weekly basis? If one of our residents wants to open a store, we want them to be a success so this information will help them to know if their idea will work for Polish Hill.

Communication is a part of the new changes on Polish Hill. We have boosted contact with all of the City Departments, and we as a neighborhood are diversifying our
Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh (continued)

(Continued from page #1)

improve the homes and lives of low-income and elderly homeowners by providing free repair services for those with the greatest need so they can “age in place with dignity.”

On April 26, 2008, the PHCA will partner with Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh to organize nearly 1,000 volunteers and tons of donated materials and supplies to provide FREE home repairs, renovations and modifications for elderly, income-eligible homeowners in Polish Hill. Free home winterization assistance may also be available through Duquesne Light and Equitable Gas.

Home Selection Application Forms are available at the PHCA office, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and West Penn Recreation Center.

To ensure consideration, be sure to return your completed applications to the PHCA office as soon as possible.

IMPORTANT: Selection of participants for Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh is limited. Submission of an application does not guarantee participation or the completion of all repair requests. Residents who are not chosen for the 2008 Rebuilding Day Event may still be eligible for repairs or modifications throughout the year.

Volunteers and donations are what make initiatives like Rebuilding Day 2008 a success. Please let us know if you would like to lend your skills and time on April 28 or on continuing projects throughout the year. We are also seeking experienced volunteers to serve as House Captains to assist as the project leader at each of the homes chosen to be renovated on April 28.

Contributions of money, materials, food, bottled water or transportation may be made directly to RTP at:

Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh Parkway West Business Park, Bldg. 1 110 Parkway View Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15205 (412) 922-0953

Questions? Contact any PHCA Board Member at (412) 681-1950 or phcapgh@verizon.net.

Board Elections December 4

Nominations for the following positions on the PHCA Board of Directors will be accepted until October 28:

- Vice President
- 2nd VP/Membership Chair
- Treasurer
- Directorship

Each position is a 3-year term. Qualified candidates must:

- Be a current PHCA member in good standing for at least one year
- Have attended at least four of the past 12 PHCA membership meetings
- Be willing to dedicate their time and effort toward serving you and the neighborhood

Could it be you?
Message from a Polish Hill Resident (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

communications efforts with an e-mail notification initiative and information-sharing with the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and the West Penn Recreation Center. After all, we’re all on the same team — here to do good works for our residents and our neighborhood — and I sincerely hope we are able to continue and expand our cooperation.

With so much good news to spread and much work to do, I am putting forth a “Call for Champions.” There are many projects left this year and bigger projects on the way (like Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh), and we need people to volunteer for action. Attendance has been outstanding at our monthly meetings, and we still need to find some creative, hard-working people to add to our “Green Team” to help keep Polish Hill looking good.

We’re still in search of a blogger to chronicle Polish Hill events. And it’s also a good time for a neighborhood historian to step up to preserve and tell the stories of the intriguing history here beneath our feet.

There may be other projects that we have not thought of yet...do you have one? Would you like to bring your idea to a meeting and present it to the members?

If so, let us know. You never know who else may have the same project in mind. And they just might need a Champion to lead the charge.

_Terry Doloughty_  
PHCA President

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Not All Polish Hill Residents Are Two-Legged!

Thinking of adopting a pet? Consider the Western Pennsylvania Humane Society.

Assistant Director of Customer Services Matt Record says the organization’s adoptees are ready to go to their new forever home...yours! Humane Society adoptees have been spayed/neutered and micro-chipped, received all of their shots, and they have been tested for parvo, heartworm and other common diseases.

**Western Pennsylvania Humane Society**  
1101 Western Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233  
(412) 321-4625  
www.wpahumane.org

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Support our advertisers!

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Polish Hill Blog-ski?

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Catherine McConnell, CNRS, CNMS  
Salesperson  
(412) 363-4000 EXT 760 BUSINESS  
(412) 363-7331 FAX  
(412) 621-6674 HOME  
(412) 574-3074 CELL  
catherine.mcconnell@pittsburghmoves.com

Coldwell Banker  
REAL ESTATE, INC.  
9557 Ellsworth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15232  
www.pittsburghmoves.com

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Polish Hill Blog-ski?
Something for Everyone at the WPRC

The West Penn Recreation Center located at 450 30th Street offers programs and activities for kids of all ages. Call (412) 622-7353 for registration and information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>AGES</th>
<th>COST</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beginners Upholstering Class</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Noon-2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Crafts</td>
<td>Tuesday &amp; Thursday</td>
<td>9-13</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>4:30-5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Movie Night</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>5-7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheerleading</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>4-15 Boys &amp; Girls</td>
<td>$7 registration fee; $7 per week</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill Dance Academy Theatre</td>
<td>Call (412) 508-9574</td>
<td>for class and fee information.</td>
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Polish Hill’s First “Green” Building on Brereton Street

After years of neglect, new life is being borne at 3106 Brereton Street.

Known by most as the “Old Vet’s Club,” this vacant structure will soon be the home of TAI+LEE, architects. Polish Hill resident Yoko Tai is the owner and principal of TAI+LEE, architects. With the help of husband and co-founder Steve Lee, who is a tenured professor in the School of Architecture at CMU, the demolition and restructuring process has begun.

Demolition and the removal of debris is nearly complete, including the extraction of two vehicles (which had sunken through the floor into the sub-basement) and an enormous Heckler Boiler. Part of the floor has been rebuilt to stabilize the building, and after a new roof, windows and doors are installed, the structure will be weather-tight so work can continue through the winter. Yoko and Steve are also working to design the company’s new storefront.

When it’s finished, the structure will be the newest environmentally-friendly building in the neighborhood. Renovation plans include the employment of renewable materials, such as paint with low levels of chemicals and additives, and low-consumption plumbing fixtures, etc.

A few years ago, Yoko and Steve moved the office from their home on Brereton Street to its current location in the Strip District. And we’re thrilled to welcome them back to Polish Hill!
Order Redstone Candies for the Holiday  
*Raise money for the PHCA*

Coconut clusters, peanut clusters and chocolate covered marshmallows, graham crackers, and Oreos...

Help the PHCA as you treat your holiday guests to a unique assortment of delicious milk chocolate candies made right here in Republic, PA. Orders are due November 16.

Stop by the PHCA office or see Julia Sinicki for a list of items and order forms.

Muchas Gracias!

Our thanks to all of the volunteers who pitch in to help keep Polish Hill beautiful, especially the following who helped on Oct. 6 to clean up the Floral Bed at 30th and Paulowna and “Redd Up Polish Hill” on Oct. 13-14:

Deb Jozwiak  
Rob Levkulich  
Stephanie Mauro  
Josie Ramsey  
Ellie Tecza  
Leah Tecza  
Stephanie Tecza  
Terry Doloughty

Barbara C. Simon  
artist-pen, paint, fabric  
(412) 683-4392

Wouldn’t this rendering of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church make a lovely greeting card? Well, it is! Local artist **Barbara C. Simon** will be in attendance at the Nov. 6 Membership Meeting...please let us know if you would like to place an order so Barbara can bring them with her to the meeting for you. You may also work directly with Barbara to order additional copies of this or other custom renderings.

The PHCA is dedicated to promoting local art. If you have an exhibit, installation or show scheduled, let us know so we can help to pass it on!

"We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.”

~ Winston Churchill
Spotlight on Public Safety

Crimes of Fraud: How to Protect Yourself

We can all be potential victims of the con artist: Business and professional people, average citizens, clubs, church groups, young and old.

Fraud artists frequently rely on the same old tricks. You’ll find that you may even be familiar with some of them. Whether or not you suspect a fraud, here are good rules to follow all the time:

- Don’t believe in something for nothing or too good to be true offers. You only get what you pay for.
- Be suspicious of high-pressure sales efforts, especially if they say you must act today or miss out on the deal.
- Take your time. Be suspicious and think about the deal before you part with your money.
- Get all agreements in writing. Insist that agreements are in plain English not legalese.
- Read all contracts and agreements before signing. Have a lawyer examine all major contracts. Never sign a contract as a mere formality.
- Compare services, prices, and credit offers before agreeing to a deal.
- Check on the company or service in question for customer satisfaction. This can be done through friends with personal knowledge or consult your Consumer Affairs Office or local Better Business Bureau.
- Don’t provide strangers with information on friends.
- Don’t reveal personal or financial matters to survey teams.
- Be cautious in prepaying for goods or services.
- Before contributing to charities, check to see if they are legitimate.
- Never withdraw your money at the urging of strangers. Contact your bank officials if anyone, purporting to be bank examiners, F.B.I. Agents, etc., requests that you withdraw your money as part of an investigation.
- Never give out personal information and credit card numbers over the phone unless you are the one who made the call. Some Cons call and claim to be from your credit company when, in fact, they are not. Tell them you will call back and call the company to check on them.

Affordable Advertising Rates in the Polish Hill Voice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ad Size</th>
<th>Per Issue</th>
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<tr>
<td>Business Card</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quarter Page</td>
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<td>Half Page</td>
<td>$ 399</td>
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<td>Full Page</td>
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<td>Inside Front Cover or Inside</td>
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<tr>
<td>Back Cover</td>
<td>$ 650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Half Page/Back Mailer</td>
<td>$ 450</td>
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Discounts available for multi-issue contracts.
Polish Hill Voice Editorial and Advertising Timeline

The Polish Hill Voice is published quarterly. 
**Advertisers.** Acceptable formats include:
- Black & white camera-ready art
- PC-based JPG, TIF or PDF (300 dpi or higher)

**Editorial.** Contributing writers, designers and researchers welcome!

Please submit all content to Editor Chris O’Shell via email at phcapgh@verizon.net or send to the PHCA office at 3060 Brereton Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Advertising Deadline</th>
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<th>Publication Date</th>
<th>Months covered</th>
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<tr>
<td>Winter 2008</td>
<td>December 2</td>
<td>December 16</td>
<td>January 21</td>
<td>January, February, March</td>
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Neighborhood Improvements

Besides the leaves, have you noticed the changes happening around Polish Hill?

Thanks to the efforts of Councilman Len Bodack and Mayor Luke Ravenstahl’s Office, Polish Hill is enjoying the benefits of new sidewalks, a major clean up on Gold Way at the end of Melwood Avenue, and the trimming of enormous trees on Phelan Way. Our thanks also to the Department of Public Works for quickly picking up hundreds of bags of trash collected during our two-day neighborhood clean up.

Improvements on the list for spring include the City steps, new trash receptacles, and a thorough cleaning and fresh coat of paint on the Veterans Monument on Brereton Street. Plans for the West Penn Recreation Center include a walking trail around the ball field and major improvements to the parking lots.

Thank you to all who volunteer your time, effort, energy, ideas and resources to keep the PHCA strong.
## Calendar of Events

### October 2007

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
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**28th**

**Tastefully Simple Fundraiser**

### November 2007

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<td><strong>PHCA Membership Meeting</strong></td>
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**4th**

**Jenny Lee Bake Sale**

**18th**

**Jenny Lee Bake Sale**

### And Coming in December...

- **Annual PHCA Meeting, Elections and Holiday Party**
  - Tuesday, December 4
- **Spaghetti Warehouse Fundraiser Night**
  - Thursday, December 6
- **Light Up Night**
  - Friday, December 7
Winter is on its way...be prepared!

Energy Assistance. The 2007-2008 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is scheduled to open to the public on November 5. The cash and crisis components will close on March 21, 2008 or when the funds are depleted, whichever occurs first.

Apply as soon as possible. Please stop by the PHCA office or visit the PA Department of Public Welfare website at www.dpw.state.pa.us for an application and guidelines.

Weatherization. Free weatherization improvements are available through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County residents who were not previously “weatherized” at their current address may be eligible if you meet the income guidelines.

City residents call (412) 227-5700, x102; Allegheny County residents call (412) 227-3700, x106. Operated by ACTION-Housing, Inc.

Halloween in Polish Hill

On October 20, more than two dozen children turned out in their best costumes and make-up to celebrate the holiday with games, pumpkin decorating, candy and a special visit by Eat ‘n Park’s very own Smiley who brought Halloween Smiley Cookies for everyone.

Our thanks to everyone who helped to make it a memorable night for the kids:

The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) has several programs for single-family homeowners who want to purchase or rehab their homes. A brief description of each program is listed below. For additional information, please contact the URA directly at 412-255-6666 or at www.ura.org. Complete guidelines are also available at the PHCA office.

### Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interest</th>
<th>5.99%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terms</td>
<td>10, 15, or 20 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income Limits per Household Size</td>
<td>1-2 persons=$55,350; 3 or more=$63,650</td>
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### Pittsburgh Home Rehabilitation Program (PHRP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interest</th>
<th>0%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terms</td>
<td>Up to 20 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income Limits per Household Size</td>
<td>1 person=$32,150; 2=$36,700; 3=$41,300; 4=$45,900; 5=$49,550; 6=$53,250</td>
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</table>

### Pittsburgh Home Ownership Program (PHOP)

<table>
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<th>Interest</th>
<th>5.25%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terms</td>
<td>Fixed, 30-year mortgage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchase Price Limits by Property Size (within Program Area)</td>
<td>1 unit=$216,000; 2=$261,701; 3=$316,327; 4=$393,120</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Housing Recovery Program (HRP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interest</th>
<th>6%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terms</td>
<td>30 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximum Purchase &amp; Rehab Amounts (based on program map)</td>
<td>1 unit=$216,000; 2=$261,701; 3=$316,327; 4=$393,120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We’re Listening

The PHCA Board of Directors is in the process of writing the organization’s Three Year Strategic Plan (2008-2010). But we can’t do it without your input.

In the coming months, you will receive a neighborhood survey asking for your opinions, feedback and comments on a variety of community issues, much like these. We would appreciate it if you will take a moment to complete this short questionnaire and return it to the PHCA office by December 1 so we can incorporate the issues into the survey that are most near and dear to you. Thank you.

1.) What type of businesses would you like to see open in Polish Hill?

2.) What type of businesses would you support in Polish Hill?

3.) What programs or services would you like the PHCA to provide?

4.) There is adequate housing in Polish Hill. (circle one and explain)

   Agree  Disagree

If you would like to be contacted by the PHCA via email, please write your email address below.

PHCA Membership Application 2007-8 (only $7.50)

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?

Clip and return above membership application to:
Jim Stawski, 2nd Vice President & Membership Chair
PHCA, 3060 Brereton Street, Pittsburgh, PA  15219
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 (except in July and August) at 6:30 p.m.

- **November 6**
- **December 4**
  *(Annual Meeting and Board Elections)*