Dear Members and Friends:

As most of you know, the Polish Hill Civic Association has been a way of life for me over the past 12 years. It has always come first and foremost before anything else, including myself. Thus making this letter the most difficult to write.

But there comes a time when one must change their priorities. I have now come to that road.

Effective June 5, 2007 I have retired from the position of President of the PHCA.

The years spent as President of the Polish Hill Civic Association were a learning experience and often a rewarding experience. I came in here “green” and am leaving here “golden.” No matter where I go or what I do in the future, those lessons I’ve learned will always be a part of who I am. I feel that is a great accomplishment.

I want to take this time to say “thank you” to all of you for believing in me over the years and for allowing me the opportunity of giving back to a community that I so truly love.

My best wishes to all of you,

Sharon R. Wolkiewicz

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PHCA Accomplishments 1995-2007:

Thanks to Sharon’s dedication to the PHCA’s mission, we have achieved several major milestones and written a proud new chapter in the organization’s history:

**HOUSING**

- 6 new, single-family homes on Herron Avenue; launched development of 3 more
- Active participation in PCRG’s Vacant Property Working Group assisted dozens of first-time home buyers to hold absentee-landlords responsible for their properties
- Inception of 3060-2 Brereton Street Renovation Project

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The Pool is Open!

After three “dry” years, the pool at the West Penn Recreation Center opened to a group of more than 30 anxious swimmers on July 2.

Councilman Len Bodack, who is primarily responsible for the reopening, was on hand for the grand opening.

(Continued on page 2)
The Pool is Open

(Continued from page 1)

celebration. He publicly thanked the generosity of two local businessmen, Pitt Ohio Express President Charles L. Hammel III and Consumers Produce executive Alan Siger, who committed around $20,000 to cover the cost of lifeguards for the pool for the summer swimming season.

Pool passes may be purchased at the West Penn Pool during regular hours of operation. The cost is $60 for a family of four and $10 for each additional family member; $30 for an adult (16 years and older); $15 for youth (3 – 15 years old). Children 2 and under are free. Proof of City residency is required.

For information on purchasing a tag or for hours of operation, call (412) 323-7928 or check the City of Pittsburgh website at http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us

Passing of the Gavel

Summer is here on Polish Hill. The neighborhood is buzzing with the sounds of lawn mowers, hammers and saws. The air is rich with the smells of gardens, flowers, fresh paint & cookouts. We see our neighbors out for walks, just because. It makes us remember that we have a special place to live.

As each of us strives to improve our homes, we here at the PHCA will continue to keep the opportunities for improvements coming. Please stop in to see us at the office. Remember we are the neighborhood, our projects and ideas come from you, the residents.

I would like to extend a thank you to every volunteer who cleaned the neighborhood on Earth Day — 95 bags of garbage collected was amazing! To the unsung residents who clean up every day, we are all truly grateful.

Our neighborhood is plentiful with residents who help and care; there is no price tag that can be placed on such a thing. We are more than a neighborhood, we are a true community.

And we are not alone in our efforts. The West Penn Pool has re-opened, and the person who deserves our thanks for this accomplishment is Councilman Len Bodack. Len was able to secure private donations and made a case with the City on our behalf. Job well done.

Our long-term President Sharon Wolkiewicz has retired. Sharon will still be a vital member of the organization—she will still be in charge of our public safety, Block Watch and a multitude of other projects. I would like to extend our thanks for her many years of service.

Sharon’s retirement has given me the opportunity to become President. I have accepted this opportunity and hope to bring many new ideas for community projects to our neighborhood.

Decades ago, a group of our residents took the initiative to create the Polish Hill Civic Association. We need to carry that spirit into the next century. Remember, we are one voice and now is our time to be heard.

-Terry
Neighborhood Celebrity

Congratulations to the winners of the July 7 Allegheny County Marbles Tournament: from left, **Shane Ireland, 14, of Polish Hill;** runner-up Vinnie Studeny, 14, of the South Side; girls’ runner-up Penelope Bauer, 10, of Bloomfield; and her sister, girls’ winner Alexandra Bauer, 12, also of Bloomfield.

Accomplishments

(Continued from page 1)

**COMMUNITY PLANNING**

- West Penn Recreation Center—extensive playground and indoor facility renovations, walking track, skate park
- Veteran’s Monument — renovations to facilitate annual community celebrations such as Light Up Night, Memorial Day and Independence Day
- Polish Hill Community Day
- Beautification efforts (vacant lots, litter pick-ups, graffiti removal campaigns, Floral Bed and Beautification Committees)
- Made safety top priority through inception and active participation on Polish Hill Block Watch and Zone 2 Public Safety
- Open door policy with Polish Hill seniors
- Helped seniors and low-income residents to find assistance with utilities and other City & Federal programs
- Collaboration with dozens of neighboring community groups

**ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Board of Directors recruitment, increased diversity, CTAC Core Series training
- 1st ever PHCA Policies & Procedures Manual
- Membership drives; instituted Subscription Members
- Annual Open Community Meeting; PHCA 30th Anniversary
- Increased organizational funding through ACCBO and obtained 1st time grants from DCED, CDCP, PPND
- Maintained relationships with all City and State agencies, even in lean years, so that the PHCA would not be forgotten when funding would become available
- Kept the PHCA working on a budget that was almost zero

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.
Polish Hill Remembered

Polish Hill Remembered is a remarkable Hampton High School student-generated book project that celebrates the proud heritage of Pittsburgh’s Polish community. Polish Hill Remembered offers a rare look into a period of recent history that is nearly lost, except for the recollections of those who lived through it.

The cost of Polish Hill Remembered is $20.00 (plus $3.50 for shipping, handling and tax).

All proceeds from the sale of the book will be used to benefit the After School Writers Club, the Technology Club, and other student organizations at Hampton High School. The purchase price includes a complimentary copy of Polish Hill Revisited, the companion DVD that was created by the school’s Video Club.

Contact:
Mary Lou Ellena-Wygonik
Hampton High School
2929 McCully Road
Allison Park, PA 15101
412-492-6387
PolishHillRemembered@gmail.com
$23.50/book

Hidden Treasures

Tucked away between the towering frame structures and inconspicuous alleyways are some of the city’s most beautiful assets. The politically correct call them “urban green spaces;” we call them our back yards.

Visitors to Polish Hill are lucky to catch a glimpse of these hidden treasures that reflect our community pride. But it doesn’t stop at the physical boundaries of our property lines. Polish Hill is blessed to have residents who have adopted the vacant lots next door and down the street, as well.

To you, the neighborhood’s unsung heroes, we invite you to join us at a PHCA meeting. It’s a great forum for exchanging information, as well as plants, materials and ideas to continue the neighborhood greening process. Or, just stop by and see Terry at the Wiggins Street Community Garden anytime.

YOUR COMPANY NAME AND LOGO HERE

Wouldn’t this be a great place to advertise your product or service?

Then why don’t you?

Call (412) 681-1950 or email us at phcapgh@verizon.net for our affordable advertising rates and deadlines.
**Herron Avenue Housing Project, Phase III**

Renovation of three units at 1024, 1024 1/2 and 1026 Herron Avenue has resumed.

A project that has been more than three years in the making is slated for completion in early 2008. A partnership venture between the URA’s Pittsburgh Housing Development Corporation and the PHCA, the units will be fully-remodeled single-family attached homes.

Interested buyers may contact the PHCA at (412) 681-1950 or via email at phcapgh@verizon.net.

Rendering courtesy of:

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**IMMEDIATE JOB OPENING**

The Polish Hill Civic Association of Pittsburgh (PHCA), a non-profit community-based organization, is seeking a qualified applicant to fill an immediate, part-time staff opening.

The ideal candidate should possess a community development and/or public relations background. Excellent writing and organizational skills are a must. Familiarity with Microsoft Office 2003, QuickBooks Pro and Adobe Photoshop is necessary.

Job duties include:

- Handling daily inquiries.
- Providing support to volunteer board of directors.
- Coordinating special events and activities.
- General office management.

Please send resume and cover letter by **August 27, 2007** to:

Board of Directors  
Polish Hill Civic Association of Pittsburgh  
3060 Brereton Street  
Pittsburgh, PA  15219
Open Community Meeting August 7

You don’t even have to be a PHCA member to attend.

Now’s your chance to come and see what we’re all about. On Tuesday, August 7, join us at the PHCA office and meet:

- Frank Hammond, VP, Mellon Bank
- Cindy Gilch, Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh
- Kim Graziani, Director of Neighborhood Initiatives, Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl
- Councilman Len Bodack

Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact the PHCA office at (412) 681-1950.

Volunteers Making a Difference

From planting flowers to decorating public spaces to picking up litter, the PHCA would like to thank your selfless acts of kindness...

Earth Day 2007. On a beautiful spring morning, 17 volunteers from collecting 95 bags of litter from the neighborhood sidewalks.

Floral Bed Planting. Thanks to dozens of volunteers from PNC Bank and the Polish Hill community, who pitched in on June 2 to plant the Western PA Conservancy floral beds at the corner of 30th and Brereton Street. Sponsored and organized by PNC Bank’s Mike Stewart, the initiative is part of the bank’s “Promise to Children” campaign.

Veteran’s Monument. With much credit to the tree decorating committee, Polish Hill continues to commemorate holidays such as Easter, Memorial Day and Independence Day in style at the Veteran’s Monument at the corner of Brereton and Dobson Street.

ABOVE: Volunteers planted thousands of flowers and spread tons of mulch at Polish Hill’s 7th Annual Floral Bed Planting on June 2.

LEFT: Hard working volunteers collected nearly 100 bags of trash on April 22.
Your Neighborhood Resource

On a daily basis, the PHCA office receives phone calls and walk-ins from visitors looking for information on a wide variety of topics, such as housing availability, bus schedules, and of course, where to get the best pierogies.

We’d prefer to refer them to your vacant apartment or house or give them your business, but we need to know about it first!

For example, did you know that Polish Hill has its very apiary? That’s right, fresh dark spring honey and farm fresh eggs right in our own back yard.

The PHCA is your neighborhood resource — a place where you can get and share information on virtually anything from neighborhood happenings to advertising your garage sale. We’ll post it on our bulletin board, put it on our web site, write about it in our newsletter and announce it at our monthly meetings.

So don’t be shy, tell us what’s going on. We’ll be sure to pass the word around.

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 are welcome!

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

Please note the following deadlines for the next issue of the Polish Hill Voice:

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Polish Hill History Under Our Feet

Some of us may remember Polish Hill as “Herron Hill,” while others remember it as “Denny Estates.” But we recently found some early references to “Springfield,” as well as an article about a Civil War Fortification called “Fort Elly.”

Following is an excerpt from that article, entitled Fortifying Pittsburgh in 1863, taken from www.bivouacbooks.com:

“On Monday, June 15, 1863, a committee of public safety convened and met with Major General Brooks, General Bernard, and Captain Craighill in order to determine where groups of men should meet in order to work on the fortifications. It was decided that primary attention should be given to Herron’s Hill (Minersville), Mount Washington and Davis’ Hill. A number of business establishments that sent their work forces to this task were named in the newspaper accounts. Among those sent to Herron’s Hill were workers from the Soho Iron Works; Jones, Boyd & Company; Everson, Preston & Company; Smith, Park, and Company; Reese & Graff; Joseph Pennock; Girty Run Works; Novelty Works; Phillips & Best; Lloyd & Black; Reese, Graff & Dull; A. Bradley; the Pennsylvania Railroad; and Brown & Company.

At least fourteen companies donated their workforce to be used for the trenches at Mount Washington in order to fortify the south side of the Monongahela River. In addition, the committee pledged ‘to adhere to the work of erecting the fortifications for the defense of the cities of Pittsburg(h) and Allegheny until they are completed.’

At the meeting of Monday, June 15, 1863, no names for the forts were decided but it was suggested that Fort Elly be given to one on Herron Hill in honor of a prominent young woman in that area, who was connected with the treasury department.

On June 18th, the Pittsburgh Dispatch reported that the ‘enemy had reached Cumberland, the advance guard being some twelve miles west, at Rawlings Station, with General Kelly and his forces in their front.’

The rumors that circulated the city prompted a considerable number of merchants and businessmen to meet at Lafayette Hall the previous day at 3 p.m., and called for a further suspension of business…”

The Story of Your Life

Would you like to preserve your life story for generations to come?

Contact:

Barry Chad, Assistant Head
Pennsylvania Department
The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
4400 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
(412) 622-3154 or chadb@carnegielibrary.org.

Polish Hill “Blogski”

Bloggers wanted! Here’s a creative way to tell the world about our community...start a Polish Hill Blog. The PHCA would welcome a volunteer who is willing to maintain a customized “blogski” to keep members, residents, friends and constituents informed about what’s going on in our neighborhood or just to share ideas.

Interested volunteers please contact us at phcapgh@verizon.net.
MAP Pittsburgh Examines Current Land Use

Map Pittsburgh is a comprehensive effort initiated by the City of Pittsburgh’s Department of City Planning to analyze the zoning of each neighborhood to make sure it is appropriate in light of the new Urban Zoning Code. The rezoning effort is based on current land-use patterns and community input in each of Pittsburgh’s 88 neighborhoods.

In June, Polish Hill’s City Planner Lena Andrews met with a group of residents at the West Penn Recreation Center to obtain our community’s input on the proposed changes.

Some of the issues discussed at the meeting included:

- Zoning that would reduce the number of units per building, deterring further development of federally-funded Section 8 properties and enhancing opportunities for single-family home ownership

- Designating Polish Hill’s many steep slope areas as such, making the neighborhood eligible for federal funding in the case of catastrophic landslides

- Correcting outdated zoning designations. For example, Brereton, Dobson and Paulowna Streets will be changed to a Residential and Light Commercial

Both the current and proposed zoning for Polish Hill is posted on the Department of City Planning’s page of the City of Pittsburgh’s website at www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us.

Continued public hearings will be held to obtain further resident input...we’ll keep you posted on the dates and times as we learn them.

In the meantime, if you have any questions at all about the Map Pittsburgh Project, please contact Lena Andrews at (412) 255-2287 or lena.andrews@city.pittsburgh.pa.us.

Fundraising Made Easy

To keep the doors of opportunity open for our residents, the PHCA needs your support. We’ve made it as easy as 1-2-3:

1.) Heading out to see the Bucs? Buy your tickets from the PHCA and help us to earn money in return. For every $20 ticket sold, the PHCA will receive $5 back and $2 for every $9 ticket sold.

2.) Start using GoodSearch to surf the web. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and choose the Polish Hill Civic Association of Pittsburgh as your charity. Then every time you search, the PHCA earns money. Add the GoodSearch button to your homepage, and send it to your friends, co-workers and family members. The more people that use GoodSearch on behalf of the PHCA, the more money we will raise.

3.) Remember #258. Designate your United Way gift to the PHCA. Our Contributor Choice Code number is 258.
In Search of...

...historical photos and documents for the PHCA’s neighborhood library. Do you have family photos like these tucked away in shoe boxes and photo albums? Would you be willing to share them for posterity? If so, let us know. We promise to scan and return them in the same condition in which we received them.
**SUMMER SPECIAL! Pay now and get 1/2 off. That’s 2 years for only $7.50!**

**Polish Hill Civic Association of Pittsburgh**  
2007-8 Membership Application  
*Dues: 2 years for only $7.50*

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*Clip and return above membership application to:*  
Jim Stawski, 2nd Vice President & Membership Chair, PHCA, 3060 Brereton Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**PHCA Board of Directors**

Interim President: Terry Doloughty  
Vice President: Vacant  
Second VP/Membership Chair: Jim Stawski  
Treasurer: Marsha Hayden  
Secretary: Susan Atkinson  
Board Members:  
Linda Chuderewicz  
Maurice Davis  
Michael Duray  
Eileen Roczko  
Sylvia Tully

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

**FREE Notary Service for PHCA Members!**

Contact the office to make an appointment.

(412) 681-1950  
phcapgh@verizon.net
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.

September 4
October 2

November 6
December 4