And the Winner Is...

In March, PHCA members looked over several very nice submissions for the PHCA logo contest.

Hats off to Jake Peterson whose eagle logo was a hit! Watch for appearances of the new falcon logo, coming to websites and flyers near you!

Be Prepared

By Terry Doloughty

We have had two tragedies this winter, the Brereton Street fire and the Dobson Street fire. These are reminders to all of us how quickly events can change our lives. Gratefully, there was no loss of life. The remains of these buildings still stand to remind us that it could have happened to any one of us.

Being prepared is the best defense for both your home and your family. Having a plan is critical. The most important things to save in a fire or any other disaster are your loved ones and yourself — everything else can be replaced.

Having a safe place to gather in the event of an emergency is the first step. Pick out a place a safe distance away from your home, and make sure everyone in your family knows where this gathering point is. If you have young children, practice going to this place, always making sure the exits of your home or apartment are clear of obstructions. In an emergency, every second saved is a second to get to safety.

Knowledge is also part of a good defense. Make sure your home or apartment is safe: any open flame is the opportunity for a fire to start. Keep your heaters and furnaces in good working order and free of obstructions. Candles, the cook top of your stove, cigarettes and electric heaters can all be possible ignition sources for a fire; therefore, they should not be left unattended. If young children are in your home make sure all lighters and matches are kept out of reach. The U.S. Fire Administration is one of many good sources for fire safety information. Check out their website at http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/.

Part of your emergency plan should include having insurance, whether you are a homeowner or renter. Just ask yourself, “What would it cost to replace everything I own and my home?” Just as important as having a plan during an emergency is having a plan after an emergency. In the event of a fire or any other disaster, insurance can be the key to starting over.

(Continued on page 3)
Water Feature at 3040 Brereton Street

By Pam Buchner

I was sitting in my backyard one day and thought to myself that a small water feature would look great in the upper terrace of the yard. I don’t have much of a backyard, but the way it was terraced lends itself very well to a small waterfall and pond. I searched the internet for ideas and read as many books as I could get from the library. I learned all that I could. After my initial investigation I decided what I wanted to do and followed the process I listed below. It is conglomeration of various processes and things I learned as I constructed the waterfall and pond.

1. Decide on the style of pond / waterfall you want.
2. Identify the area you will be using. Make sure that it is accessible for easy maintenance.
3. Decide on the size of the pond and how many waterfalls you want. I decided on two small ponds and two small waterfalls.
4. Map out the area about 12 inches in circumference larger than the size of the pond you want to end up with. The depth will depend on if you want to have live fish or not. I decided not to have any fish.
5. Purchase a black pond/ pool liner, tubing and pump from your local hardware store. Home Depot and Lowe’s both have a variety of pond and waterfall accessories. The size of the pump will depend on how much water you intend to move. I decided on two pumps. (One small and one medium).
6. You will need some kind of stones to line the pond and for the waterfall. I gathered as many larger stones as I could. I used approximately one hundred stones of varying sizes.
7. Dig the hole to the depth you want and use sand as a base. Mine was twelve inches deep. Taper the walls or the pond outward so that you can stagger the stones you will place around the outer wall. You can use the dirt from the hole to build up the sides of the pool and as fill between the stones you will use.
8. Measure the pool liner and cut to length. Line the pond so that it overlaps the ground at least eight inches.
9. Start placing some of the small flat stones around the bottom of the pond. Start building them up until they reach the top of the pond.
10. Start placing the larger flat stones around the edges of the pond until you get to where you want to start the waterfall.
11. Start building up the larger stones for the waterfall. Position the pump somewhere near where the waterfall will flow into the pond. Connect the plastic tubing to the pump and place it behind the rocks as you are building them up. Place a cap stone on top of the plastic tubing. Connect the cord to an external power supply. Make sure that the power is off.
12. I used small gravel to line the bottom of the pond.
13. Fill the pond with water. Turn on the pump and adjust the water flow at the top of the waterfall. This can be done by using a small plastic valve or pinching the tubing.
14. I added some low voltage lighting so that it accentuated the waterfall in the evening. It looks great. It is definitely something to think about.
15. To keep the pond clear I use Pool Shock. You can purchase it at Home Depot for $2.00 per bag. Depending on the volume of water you have one bag lasts most of the summer. I put a little in each a week. It keeps the water clear and kills any insects.

It was a lot of work but it was all worth it. If anyone is interested in seeing it first hand or would like more information, please stop over.
Be Prepared (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

I would like to extend our thanks to all the men and women of the City of Pittsburgh’s Fire Department, Police and Paramedics. Thanks to their efforts and bravery, the two recent tragic fires were contained quickly and our residents were kept safe. After the fires, the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross provided immediate help to our residents. And to all of the residents who have helped the fire victims, an extra thank you for being involved and for keeping the community spirit of Polish Hill alive and growing.

Support our advertisers!

U Night
In
Polish Hill

28North
Local Honey
@
Gooski's

May 22
8pm

$5 Donation
to
Polish Hill
Civic Association
Two Great Events, One Great Weekend

The summer festivals planned in Polish Hill are sure to be the envy of the City!

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Bazaar
Saturday, July 19
Noon until 11pm

Food! Music! Games for all ages! The IHM festival has a long tradition in Polish Hill and is always a neighborhood favorite. Join your neighbors for a street spectacular on Brereton and Dobson. There will be BINGO in the afternoon. In the evening, join us for Polkas and dancing. And of course, there will be food! All day and evening the IHM will be serving up neighborhood favorites like pierogies, kielbasa, czerwona and funnel cakes. IHM will have dart games and raffles as well as games for the kids. Bingo will begin at 2pm.

Art What You Got
Sunday, July 20
Noon until 6pm

Music! Art! Demonstrations! Raffles and Auctions! Many people are unaware that Polish Hill is home to many talented individuals working in dance, theater, music, visual and literary arts. The PHCA wants to take a moment to celebrate the arts of our neighbors, in Polish Hill and beyond. Art What You Got is Polish Hill’s first arts festival, a newcomer to the neighborhood. DJ Dan is the sound man for the day, with guest appearances by neighborhood and other Pittsburgh performers. Artists from the neighborhood and all over the city will be setting up tables to show you their latest creations. Special guests from the Andy Warhol Museum and other organizations will be in Polish Hill for hands-on activities for children and adults.

Dear Neighbors:

May Newsletter from the Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

Pittsburgh is a city of 90 unique neighborhoods. The character of our neighborhoods is often defined by the business districts within. Neighborhood business districts are at the heart of many communities, providing a place for the exchange of goods and services, as well as a place for neighbors to meet and socialize.

As neighborhood revitalization and reinvestment remains one of my top priorities and we are focused on creating and maintaining vibrant neighborhood business districts. We want to maintain the long-time businesses that have served our communities for years, while also attracting new businesses. We want residents to see their business districts as assets, and not as things of the past. In addition to implementing programs to make the business district safer, cleaner, and more attractive, we are also crafting initiatives to attract and help small businesses grow and succeed. City living is convenient and enjoyable, and our reinvestment in neighborhood business districts ensures those benefits continue on into the future.

My administration is currently putting together a plan to clean up our business districts. This multi-faceted approach will include working with the numerous business districts in the city to find out

(Continued on page 5)
Mayor’s May Newsletter (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

exactly what they need, providing direction and consultation in terms of planning and redevelopment, and making neighborhood business districts a priority for City services and government. My staff has been working with business owners and community leaders in our neighborhoods to discuss this initiative and to find out what each business district needs.

Business districts will be given a menu of resources to choose from, such as garbage cans, benches, and bike racks to help clean up and make the streetscape more attractive and appealing. We will also mobilize City teams to focus efforts on business districts in regard to graffiti removal, line/curb painting, sidewalk repairs, and code enforcement. Finally, we will be competitively selecting a number of business districts to receive professional design and planning consultation to implement comprehensive redevelopment.

In addition to cleaning and revamping our business districts, we continue to implement programs that will attract residents and businesses. We are keeping our business districts safe through the beat cop program. Bicycle patrols as well as beat cops are working in our neighborhood business districts. Through the Storefront Renovation Program, we offer small business owners grants for façade improvements. This program sparks investment in neighborhoods, attracts positive attention to businesses and spurs other businesses to undertake needed improvements. Contact the Urban Redevelopment Authority for more information about this and other incentives, loans, and grants to small business owners looking to open up shop or complete renovations at 412-255-2566.

Please call my Office of Neighborhood Initiatives at 412-255-2566 with any questions regarding these programs. As the weather warms up, I encourage you to visit your neighborhood business districts, and to get out and enjoy all that your neighborhood and our great City has to offer.

Sprout Fund Mural

By Alexis Miller

This summer, Polish Hill will look a little brighter. No sunscreen required. A new mural will be painted on the exterior wall of 3106 Brereton Street. Most residents know this building as the old vet’s club. Prior to that, it was also an old movie house. This historical structure is finding new life, not only with the renovations of the building and its new tenants, but also with a community-oriented, permanent mural on the wall facing the empty lot next door. This building is currently under construction and will soon house Tai + Lee Architects. We are grateful to Steve Lee and Yoko Tai for their support of this mural by agreeing to have it painted on their building.

The selection of Polish Hill to receive a mural is a great accomplishment. Seventeen community organizations applied for the 2008 Sprout Fund Public Art program. This is the first year that any applications from Polish Hill have been selected. The application was organized and completed by members of the Polish Hill Civic Association, headed by myself.

Over 60 artists applied this year to paint the seven murals for 2008. Around 34 have been selected to compete for those murals. Members of the Polish Hill community participated in a brainstorming meeting on April 17, which included viewing art samples from all the artists and ranking them based on which artists we would prefer to paint Polish Hill’s mural. The next steps will involve matching seven artists with the seven
Affordable Advertising Rates in the *Polish Hill Voice*

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<td>Inside Front Cover or Inside Back Cover</td>
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<td>Half Page/Back Mailer</td>
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Discounts available for multi-issue contracts.

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**Call for Artists**

Our first ever arts festival! The festival will take place on Sunday July 20, 12-6pm. We are looking for crafters and artists that would like to display and sell their work at the Art What You Got festival. Contact the PHCA at 412-681-1950 or email phcapgh@gmail.com for an application.

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**Sprout Fund Mural**

(Continued from page 5)

community groups and collaborating to create a mural that the building owners and the community can be proud of. To have your opinion count, please contact the PHCA to find out when the community meetings will be held in May and/or June.

The mural will be funded by the Sprout Fund. The Sprout Fund is a local nonprofit organization that supports innovative and grassroots community projects that are catalyzing change in Pittsburgh. The Sprout Fund was founded in 2001 and is designed to facilitate community-led solutions to regional challenges. They are one of Southwestern Pennsylvania’s leading agencies on issues related to civic engagement, talent attraction and retention, public art, and catalytic small-scale funding.

The Sprout Fund Public Art program is only one of their programs, but perhaps their most famous, as so many of us have seen their murals on walls in neighboring communities, such as Lawrenceville, Downtown, East Liberty, Bloomfield and the Strip District. We look forward to having this mural help put Polish Hill on the map.
**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 via email at phcapgh@gmail.com or send to the PHCA office at 3060 Brereton Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

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<th>Summer 2008</th>
<th>Advertising Deadline</th>
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<td>June 1</td>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>End of July</td>
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**Community Collaboration**

Just by reading *The Polish Hill Voice*, you are helping hundreds of people with disabilities to earn a paycheck. That’s because the Voice is printed and mailed by Life’sWork of Western PA, a not-for-profit organization located on Forbes Avenue in Uptown.

At Life’sWork, the paycheck is worth much more than the dollar amount printed on it. For many Southwestern Pennsylvanians with disabilities or other employment barriers, having an opportunity to work means independence, dignity and self-sufficiency.

To learn more about Life’sWork or to take a tour of our facilities, please visit www.lifesworkwpa.org.

**What makes Polish Hill so special?**

We will have visitors on Polish Hill from Duquesne University.

The Journalism class of Dr. Mike Dillon has chosen Polish Hill as a class project. They want to learn about the unique character of both Polish Hill & our residents. What makes Polish Hill such a special place? Why do we love our community so much? This is your chance to let Pittsburgh know. If you happen to meet one of these future Journalism stars, take a moment to welcome our visitors & share what you know about the best little neighborhood in Pittsburgh. Know someone on Polish Hill who should have their story told? Pass it on.
## Calendar of Events

**May 2008**

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<td>PHCA Office 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>PHCA Membership Meeting</td>
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<td>Floral Bed Planting</td>
<td>Gooski’s 8 p.m.</td>
<td>West Penn Recreation Center, 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>PHCA Office 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Pirates vs. Diamondbucks</td>
<td>PHCA Office 2-3:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Polish Hill Day at PNC Park</td>
<td>PHCA Membership Meeting</td>
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<td>Youth Summer Camp</td>
<td>Council To Go with Patrick Dowd</td>
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**And Coming in July...**

IHM Festival

Art What You Got

July 19

July 20
Susan Atkinson is an Avid Gardener

Susan Atkinson is an avid gardener, planting and cultivating everything from decorative plants and flowers to vegetables in her backyard and in Polish Hill's Community Garden. The Voice talked to her about what she is doing in her garden in the Spring and to get some helpful hints for the novice gardener. We found that gardening is a year-round process. And with everything that goes into it, it might be wise for the novice gardener to start a journal!

In May and June, Susan has several tasks lined up for her gardens. She starts by digging in the mulch that she laid out last Fall that has been seasoning during the cold winter months. Her mulch is organic, made up of leaves, dead plants and mushroom manure. She digs this layer of seasoned mulch into her plots to aerate the soil with rich nutrients for new and existing plants that she will begin planting in early Spring.

After the garden has been properly prepared, Susan concentrates on splitting plants that have gotten too large to bloom properly in their spaces. She refers back to her own journal about which plants seemed to thrive and which needed more, or in some cases less, direct light. Most times, the plants are moved to more beneficial plots but sometimes the plants won’t thrive and Susan makes a practice of distributing those to friends and neighbors.

Susan’s garden has perennials, annuals and a variety of vegetables. Often, she intersperses her vegetable among the perennials, which helps to divert marauding pests from the tender shoots of lettuces and other edibles. She also fills in between the perennials with annuals. Generally, more tender vegetables, like lettuces and spinach, are planted early since they aren’t the best at surviving high heat. In fact, Susan plants her spinach as early as April to make sure that she will have a good harvest in June. In May, Susan begins to harvest her asparagus, not only for the tenderness of the new shoots but to guarantee that the plants will come back again next year. Asparagus season generally runs through June. When the frost is over for sure, never before Memorial Day, Susan begins to plant her heartier vegetable, like zucchini, eggplant peppers and butternut squash.

For the novice gardener, Susan recommends beginning with a variety of annuals until you can get to know your plot, with its light quality and special needs. Kits for testing your soil and you can always talk to other gardeners in the neighborhood and at local plant nurseries about your results and what you might need to do to help you garden thrive. Containers are also a good way for a novice gardener to experiment with annuals, since they can be moved to accommodate the right amount of light and to give your garden a new look each year.
Teamwork, Communication, Knowledge... Priceless!

The results have been compiled, and we would like to say thank you to all of our neighbors who took the time to respond to our Neighborhood Survey. We had 110 surveys returned to us with much-needed information. The hand-written comments and suggestions were wonderful. The quantity of additional comments and suggestions our friends and neighbors gave were a true testament that we are an involved community taking the chance to be heard.

We would also like extend our continued thanks to the efforts of The Heinz Team from Carnegie Mellon’s Heinz School of Public Policy & Management. As the project continues, Professor Laks Iyengar will be passing on his considerable knowledge to the students who have chosen our neighborhood to be part of their education. We are fortunate to have the chance to learn together. The Heinz Team will also play a vital role in helping the PHCA Board of Directors to write the Strategic Plan for our community.

Two of our residents deserve recognition for their work on our Polish Hill Survey. PHCA Secretary Susan Atkinson served as the Chair of our Survey Committee and worked with The Heinz Team on the data entry...and on some very cold days, made sure surveys were delivered to as many people as possible. Polish Hill resident Tom Ogden is the person who provided the contacts necessary for us to meet Professor Iyengar and facilitated the opportunity for us to attend and speak at one of his evening classes at CMU.

Q 14. What type of businesses would you most like to see open on MAIN STREET?

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Grocery store, produce</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>71%</td>
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<td>Restaurant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coffee shop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bakery</td>
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<td>49%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pharmacy/Drug store</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laundry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hair salon/barber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ice cream shop</td>
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<td>Hardware store</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clothing store</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q 3. How satisfied are you with your neighborhood?

- Very satisfied: 22%
- Somewhat satisfied: 64%
- Not satisfied: 12%
- Unsatisfied: 2%

These are the compiled results to two of the questions asked on the Neighborhood Survey. To review the results of the Winter 2007 Neighborhood Survey in its entirety, please call or stop by the PHCA Office.
A Community of Green Thumbs

Thank you for lending us your green thumbs to plant the Polish Hill Flower Gardens at 30th and Brereton Street on Saturday, May 17. Your hard work and dedication has made one of the neighborhood’s most visible intersections a beautiful sight for commuters and visitors through Polish Hill.

The 8th Annual Garden Promise is sponsored by PNC Bank.

They’re Back!

The PHCA will be taking orders for a variety of Jenny Lee baked goods on a weekly basis. You can order cookies, donuts and a variety of breads and rolls. Place your orders by end of day any Wednesday to pick up on Saturdays at the PHCA office. Contact us at 412-681-1950 or at phcapgh@gmail.com for more details.

PHCA Membership Application 2008 (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? _______

Clip and return above membership application to:
Darlene Hennen, 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.

May 6

June 3