



# SPRING HILL \* CITYVIEW TIMES

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

November/ December 2005

Vol. 5 No. 44



*Joy is not in things; it is in us! ... Benjamin Franklin*

### SPRING HILL CIVIC LEAGUE MISSION STATEMENT

With the continuing goal of community strength & enrichment, and encouraging the participation of all community residents & business leaders, the Spring Hill Civic League accepts as its defining mission the responsibility to serve its neighborhood by assisting in the achievement of its many common goals

#### Board of Directors

President: Diane Schmitt  
Vice President: Dianne Burns  
Secretary: Vacant  
Treasurer: Mary Herman

#### Directors

Donna Allison Stephen Brady  
Megan Soltesz

### COMING EVENTS FOR 2005

**General Meetings** are scheduled at the Spring Hill Elementary School auditorium at 7 PM on the following dates:

**Monday, November 7 (Election mtg.)**

### Christmas Tree Lighting

Watch for the Santa truck to be driving around the community between 5:30 & 7 PM on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Follow along to join us at the Rockledge St. lot that evening at 7 PM for the community's annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony. Cookies and drinks will follow the ceremony.



In conjunction with the Christmas Tree Lighting, the Spring Hill Civic League will hold a Matching Funds donation to benefit the Holy Wisdom Foodbank and Tri-Hill Valley Meals on Wheels. The collection will begin at the November General Meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup>, and will conclude at the Lighting ceremony. Donations will be presented to both organizations that evening.

Mark your calendar to join us in this annual event, and parents, bring your camera, as kids will have a chance to visit with **"you know who"**!

### FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT...

December 31<sup>st</sup> marks the final day of my tenure as President of the Spring Hill Civic League. During these ten years, many dedicated neighbors have joined in the effort of preserving our urban community. As new officers and board directors continue this work, I urge you to become involved. Our degree of involvement can only better this place we call home.

Too often, we presume that public safety and public works services will automatically be delivered to our community, but the sad reality is that we live in a city that has fallen victim to myopic leadership and poor management of resources. The red tape and political favoritism that has been a mainstay in Pittsburgh for decades has rendered city agencies impotent in carrying out routine tasks for city neighborhoods. The importance of finding new ways to acquire these services and holding local leadership accountable for delivering them is a priority today.

As well, preserving the integrity of our community and attracting new neighbors are perpetual goals in order to maintain the stable, home-owned environment that is healthy for any neighborhood.

*Continued on page 2*

### Newsletter Articles

Please submit articles for the January/February edition by December 15<sup>th</sup> to:

Diane Schmitt  
1214 Yetta Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
412-231-7948  
schmittdl@stargate.net

You can access the newsletter online by going to [www.shcl.org](http://www.shcl.org)

### Mail Delivery

At this time, we are not accepting subscriptions. Please watch future editions for updates.

**... A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL FOR PRINTING OUR NEWSLETTER ...**



...DESK OF THE PRESIDENT (con't)

If neglected, we fall prey to real estate speculators who are concerned with their bottom line, not our community. We see examples of that in neighborhoods around us, and recovery of those communities will be difficult and take many years.

So, it I really does benefit each of us to work toward these goals. Spring Hill-Cityview has amenities that attract younger families as they look to purchase a home. With effort and involvement, we insure that our community continues to be an attraction and one of the best places to live in Pittsburgh!

In Service to God & the Community-

*Diane Schmitt,*  
President

**IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN,  
BUT NOW IT'S FREE!!!**

After a brief break this summer, the **Ladies Exercise Group** from the Firehouse Gym began its fall program on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The group meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. and exercises to videotapes. It's free - it's fun - so why not come?  
Call Mary Herman at 321-3824 for more information



# NOVEMBER HISTORY LESSON

Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846.  
John F. Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946.

Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860.  
John F. Kennedy was elected President in 1960.

Both were particularly concerned with civil rights.  
Both wives lost their children while living in the White House.

Both Presidents were shot on a Friday.  
Both Presidents were shot in the head.

*Now it gets really weird...*

Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy.  
Kennedy's Secretary was named Lincoln.

Both were assassinated by Southerners.  
Both were succeeded by Southerners named Johnson.

Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln, was born in 1808.  
Lyndon Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy, was born in 1908.

John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Lincoln, was born in 1839.  
Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated Kennedy, was born in 1939.

Both assassins were known by their three names.  
Both names are composed of fifteen letters.

*Now hang on to your seat...*

Lincoln was shot at the theater named 'Ford.'  
Kennedy was shot in a car called 'Lincoln' made by 'Ford.'

Lincoln was shot in a theater and his assassin ran and hid in a warehouse.  
Kennedy was shot from a warehouse and his assassin ran and hid in a theater.

Booth and Oswald were assassinated before their trials.

And here's the kicker...

A week before Lincoln was shot; he was in Monroe, Maryland.  
A week before Kennedy was shot; he was with Marilyn Monroe.

*This is one history lesson people don't mind reading.*

**Submitted by Liz Freiss**

*Welcome New Neighbors*

Terry Pegues & Cathy Davis of Essen St.... Brandon Badamo of Nettie St.... Stanley & Wendy Simpson of Lappe Lane... Cain & LaDeen Davis of Overbeck St.... Benjamin Kaiser & Amy Bender of Rhine St.... Christopher Janssen & Jennifer Wooderson of Rockledge Ave... Bill & Tammy Breanna and their children, Nicholas and Berry, of Bader St....

I would like to welcome our new neighbors on Shreve St., Mike & Karen Bauer and their son Henry. The Bauers moved here last year, and Mike's mom lives on Leister St.

Elizabeth Kraft

If you would like to welcome a neighbor on your street, submit the announcement to Diane Schmitt using the contact information found on the front page of the newsletter.

**New neighbors**, if you would like to be informed of meetings and other community information via e-mail, please contact Diane Schmitt, President at [schmittdl@stargate.net](mailto:schmittdl@stargate.net). We look forward to hearing from you!

*A Happy Belated Birthday*

To Grant Bolar of Yetta Ave, Liz Freiss of Lappe Lane, Joe Seskey of Overbeck St., Cookie Beatty of Zoller St., and Alex & Charlotte Soltesz of Haslage Ave., all October babies!

Also to Melanie Freiss who turned 21 on September 15<sup>th</sup>!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To November babies: Bernie Saputski of Goehring St.... Dennis Schmitt of Yetta Ave.... Terry Lippert of Leister St.... George Reis of St. Ambrose Manor



To December babies: Mary Ann Krupa of Serene St.... Wilma Reis of St. Ambrose Manor... Diane Schmitt of Yetta Ave.... Derek King of Itin St.... Olive Traupman of St. Ambrose Manor

*OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY...*



To the family and friends of Robert Brittner of Yetta Ave. as they mourn his

July passing... the family and friends of Marlane "Shorty" Messmer, a longtime neighbor of Yetta Ave., who passed away in late August... the family and friends of Dorothy Gsell, a longtime neighbor of Sophia St., as they mourn her late August passing... the family and friends of Tom Bannerman, of the North Hills, as they mourn his early September passing. Tom is the son of George Bannerman and the late Vera Bannerman of Haslage Ave. and is the nephew of Dorothy Feitl of St. Ambrose Hi-Rise and Betty Tate of Bader St.... to Jan & Chuck Lenz of Sophia St. as they mourn the passing of Jan's mother in early October

Also to Charles & Iline Macey of Solar St. on the loss of their beloved pet in August

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of mourning...*

WEDDING BELLS



Congratulations to Joseph Frankovich of Haslage Ave. and Dianne Bertullo who were married in St. Boniface Church on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Joe is the son of Joe & Barb Frankovich of Haslage Ave. and is the grandson of Mary Frankovich, all life-long neighbors of our community. The happy couple honeymooned in Aruba and is making their home in Cranberry Twp.

Congratulations to Josie Zawojski of Rescue St. and Harry Collins who were married in Cecil, PA on August 25th. They are making their home on Spring Hill and have delayed their honeymoon until May 2006 as they plan to attend the Kentucky Derby.

*Blessings to you all for long and loving marriages!*

**AS YOU ARE CONFIRMED...**



Congratulations to the following young people from our community & Holy Wisdom Parish who were confirmed at St. Peter Church on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>: Ryan Dailey, R. Tyler Feith, Zachary Feith, Elizabeth Freiss, Elizabeth Juracko, Antonio Keag, Joshua Keag, Sean McNulty, Brittany Morgan, Michael Preskar, Benjamin Ramsden, Brittany Schloer, Alexander Soltesz, Jamie Witsch and Aaron Zarko.

*May you continue to grow in wisdom, age, and grace!*

**PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY**

During the last few months, our community crime statistics have shown a sharp increase in vehicle thefts and thefts from vehicles. In many cases, there were no anti-theft devices on the vehicles or items were in plain view in the vehicle. As well, with the holiday season approaching there will be people who canvass rubbish piles in search of boxes suggesting that people have purchased home items that are attractions to thieves.

It bears repeating that in this day and age, people must be proactive in protecting property. Placing purchases in a trunk or other unobservable area of your vehicle, using a club or another anti-theft device on your vehicle, being wise about discarding gift packaging in your trash are all suggestions to spare you the grief and aggravation that comes with property crime.

The extra minute or two that it takes are well worth the added security to your property.



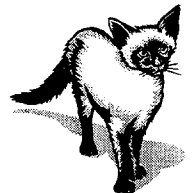
**FIREHOUSE ARTISTS 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE**

The Firehouse Studio will host the Firehouse Artists' Holiday Sale on Saturday and Sunday, December 4 & 5 from 12 Noon to 4 PM. Browse among the works of Northside artists at this festive event. The Firehouse Studio is located at 1416 Arch Street, in the historic Mexican War Streets neighborhood of Pittsburgh. Call Matthew Grebner at 412-231-8598 for more information or visit the Firehouse Studio website at [www.firehousestudios.org](http://www.firehousestudios.org).

**WESTERN PA HUMANE SOCIETY FUND-RAISER  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Request)**

Would you be interested in helping the WPHS raise money to support the animals in our shelter with our gift wrapping fund-raiser at the Mall in Robinson? This initiative begins November 25<sup>th</sup> and will continue daily through December 24<sup>th</sup>. We would need at least 3 people per shift (morning, afternoon, and evening). The holidays are a festive, wonderful time of year, and this a great opportunity to meet new people, enjoy the holiday season, and help the many homeless animals who will be spending the holidays in the shelter. We **really need** your help to succeed with this worthwhile project. Please contact:

Beverly Matthews  
 Director of Volunteer and Foster Services  
 Western PA Humane Society  
 1101 Western Avenue  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15233  
 412/321-4625  
[beverly.matthews@wpahumane.org](mailto:beverly.matthews@wpahumane.org)  
[www.wpahumane.org](http://www.wpahumane.org)



*Thank You*

On 9-11-05, Bobby Lindenfelser of Rhine St. and his family donated a new American flag to fly above the Rhine St. Memorial. The flag replaced our old one, which was beginning to shred after two years in the weather. What a wonderful way to give to the community and to remember those who died in the 2001 WTC attack as well as our fallen military. Thank you for your kind donation!

***A Thanksgiving Table Grace***

For health and food,  
 For love and friends,  
 For everything  
 Thy goodness sends,  
 Father in Heaven  
 We thank Thee

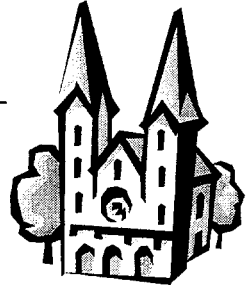
R.W.Emerson

Reprinted from: Thunderqueen's Thanksgiving website



## ANOTHER DAY AT ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL

I hope you get a few chuckles out of my school days at St. Ambrose. Lord knows, we need a few laughs today! As I have said before, St. Ambrose was someplace special- just as growing up on Spring Hill was.



Well, I'm in the sixth grade now, and we had an elderly nun (at least I thought so) who I really did like. She loved our spring water and asked "Who would be so kind to bring me a jug of water every day?" Of course, being the busybody that I was, my hand shot up. I would be delighted to do this, and so I did, until one day.

We were sitting in class one morning when she announced, "Jean, go to the blackboard and put this problem on the board- 42 divided by 6". If God lets me live to be 100, I will never forget this problem. I did what I was told. Now, just being in front of the whole class all by myself left beads of sweat on my forehead. I stared at that problem and all I saw was a big black hole. I probably learned this math in fourth grade, but my mind went totally blank. Maybe I would be lucky and the earth would open up and swallow me. I'm sure I had a mini-stroke! In my mind, there was no answer to this problem in a million years.

By now, the whole class is snickering and laughing. Totally disgusted with me, she said, "Go over and ask the fifth grade sister". I did as I was told. I relayed my problem to her (who by the way, wasn't very fond of me to begin with as she had me the year before). She had huge brown eyes and bosoms that heaved up and down when she was irritated, and she sure was irritated! She said, "I can't be bothered with this nonsense. Go down and ask the fourth grade sister". As I left the room, I could hear the whole fifth grade snickering. I thought, "Great! I'll have the whole school in stitches before I'm through with this mess".

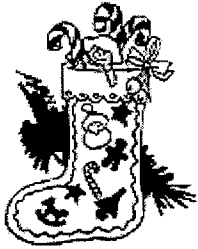
If I had the sense that I was born with, I would have marched down those steps, out the front door, and home to my mother to throw myself on her mercy, but being the obedient child that I was, I went to the fourth grade and told sister of my plight. She obviously took pity on me, probably because she saw two pools of water where my eyes should have been, about to run down my cheeks. She put her arm around my shoulder, wrote the problem on the board, along with the answer (Thank God) and said, "You know how to do this, Jean. Now go back to your class". The fourth grade is now snickering.



In my eyes, sister was headed for sainthood (probably to be beatified within the week). I'm not sure about this, but I think I genuflected in front of her before I left the room. I went back to my class, walked in, slapped that problem up on the board, along with the answer, threw dirty looks at my sister and the class, and took my seat with one thought in my mind- revenge!

The bell rang and we went home for lunch. I didn't tell my mother; I decided to suffer my martyrdom in silence. I started back to school, jug in my hand, to get sister's springwater and all of the sudden, like a bolt of lightning, it hit me - the answer to my "payback". I pranced into the classroom, plunked the jug down on her desk, looked her straight in the eye, and announced, "I cannot bring you any more springwater. My mother is afraid I might fall, break the jug, and cut myself good and proper". I took my seat gloating at my great inspiration. I didn't even have a twinge of guilt at this bold-faced lie! (Well, maybe a small twinge because I thought, "Oh well, there's always confession on Saturday") Come to think of it, I was in that box so often that the priest and I were on a first-name basis. I loved St. Ambrose!

## Support The Veterans Leadership Program



Just in time for the 2005 holidays, we have begun selling the 2006 Entertainment Book. 100% of the proceeds will go to our Veteran Programs. The

book contains hundreds of discount coupons for our area's restaurants, fast food chains, retail stores, sports activities, hardware stores, theaters, car repairs, etc. The cost is \$23.00, which is easily recouped using 2 or 3 coupons from the book.

Buy one for yourself and for family and friends as birthday, anniversary, or holiday gifts. They can be purchased at our offices located at 2417 East Carson Street, South Side.

You can feel free to contact me for purchases:

Mary Ann McQuillan  
Veterans Leadership Program  
2417 East Carson Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
Phone: 412-481-8200  
Fax: 412-481-8202  
[mcquillanm@vlpwpa.org](mailto:mcquillanm@vlpwpa.org)

### HOLY WISDOM FOODBANK

The foodbank at Holy Wisdom (St. Ambrose School) is held every third Tuesday of the month, from 10AM to 12Noon. This vital ministry serves many in our community who are having hard times. The foodbank is not government-funded and depends upon donations and volunteers within Holy Wisdom parish and our community, especially for the holidays.

To register for the foodbank or to volunteer, call 231-1116.

## REPORT FROM COUNCILMAN LUKE RAVENSTAHL *Clean Pittsburgh Commission*

Sidewalks strewn with litter and city lots covered with debris continue to be a challenge to the quality of life on the North Side and throughout the City of Pittsburgh. Residents deserve to live in an attractive and sanitary environment, and many citizens and community groups have coordinated clean-ups and have made an effort to promote recycling. I believe it is important for our neighborhoods, community groups and city departments to have the resources necessary to continue and improve their efforts, which is why I recently co-sponsored legislation establishing the *Clean Pittsburgh Commission* and the *Clean Pittsburgh Trust Fund*.

*The Clean Pittsburgh Commission* is a 15-member panel designed to educate and assist community groups and city departments with neighborhood clean-ups, maintain a database of resource information, and work with city departments to coordinate recycling initiatives. *The Clean Pittsburgh Trust Fund* was created to financially support *Clean Pittsburgh* projects and programs.

The fine for littering in the City of Pittsburgh will be raised from \$15 to \$25, with the extra \$10 going into the *Clean Pittsburgh Trust Fund*. The city also receives performance grants from the state based on the amount of recycling it generates. The more Pittsburgh recycles, the higher the performance grant. Any performance grant money raised that exceeds the city's projections will be deposited into the *Clean Pittsburgh Trust Fund*.

I am confident that this legislation will enable the *Clean Pittsburgh Commission* to further assist Pittsburgh's communities in clean-up and recycling efforts in order to keep our residential and business districts attractive and promote recycling.

**If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding any city-related matter, please feel free to call my office at 412-255-2135.**

## Kids Say The Darndest Things!

At the Boeing Museum of Flight in Seattle, there is a full size mockup of an F/A-18 fighter. A ramp allows visitors to climb into the cockpit and get a sense of what the pilot sees and feels. A guide at the top of the ramp points out the various controls and gauges in the cockpit and gives information about the aircraft's capabilities to each visitor who gets in. When my two-year-old son sat down in the plane, he seemed fascinated by all he saw and heard. Then, he looked out at us and said, "Gamma, could I have a quarter?"



### SPRING GARDEN SHOP N SAVE



The Spring Garden Valley Shop 'n Save opened on September 1, 2005 to a neighborhood eagerly awaiting access to fresh food, convenient shopping, and the social interaction so missed since the previous owners closed their doors over two years ago. The Spring Garden Valley Shop 'n Save is operated by Inner City Grocers, a for-profit subsidiary of Neighborhood Enterprises. Located at 1930 Spring Garden Avenue, just one mile from the East Street/I-279 interchange, it's easy to get to from any Northside neighborhood, and the store makes a point to support other Northside businesses by carrying such Northside favorites like Breadworks Bread and Sabio Springs water, along with Pittsburgh-based Reinhold's Ice Cream and Arbuckles Coffee. In the spring, the store will carry hanging baskets from the Urban Gardener and it is looking to partner with additional local Northside and Pittsburgh-based businesses. Perhaps the most impressive and innovative aspect of the store's business model is that, as part of Neighborhood Enterprises, it plans to reinvest all profits into the greater Northside community.

Neighborhood Enterprises is a Northside-based nonprofit that promotes sustainable urban neighborhoods through public and private investment and through the creation of social enterprises whose profits and services are reinvested into these communities. In addition to supporting the activities and programs of the Spring Garden Neighborhood Council, such as the Spring Garden Food Bank and Meals on Wheels, Neighborhood Enterprises, headed by North Side native Jeff Dzamko, has supported numerous community events including the Fineview Step-a-thon, the North Side Celebration In The Park, the Reserve Athletic Association scoreboard, Central Northside Neighborhood Council's Harvest Festival, Troy Hill Citizens' Picnic In The Park, East Allegheny Neighborhood Council's Pumpkifest, and Spring Hill Civic League's Halloween Parade to name a few. Neighborhood Enterprises also acquires blighted houses for rehab & resale and clears & maintains abandoned lots. Working partners include Sarah Heinz House, the North Side Chamber of Commerce, and the Northside Leadership Conference including the Allegheny Commons Restoration Project.



Major financing for the Spring Garden Valley Shop 'n Save was obtained through the Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative, an innovative new program designed to increase the number grocery stores in underserved communities across the state. Together with the Food Trust and the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition, The Reinvestment Fund (TRF) formed a public-private partnership to support this initiative, and the Spring Garden Valley Shop 'n Save is the initiative's first Pittsburgh-area project.

Neighborhood Enterprises is also part of the Pittsburgh Social Enterprise Accelerator portfolio, an organization dedicated to helping non-profits develop successful earned income streams in support of core mission.

With its 67 newly hired employees, projected first year sales of \$6.5 million, and countless community reinvestment projects scheduled for 2006, the Spring Garden Valley Shop 'n Save serves as a great example of how social enterprise can help some in the nonprofit sector achieve greater independence and financial stability, while increasing social impact.

### SENIORS- PLEASE NOTE

Effective January 1, 2006, the Medicare part B premium will increase from \$78.20 a month to \$88.50.

**A to Z Home Improvement**  
 No Job Too Small, Free Estimates  
 Call Harry Collins at 412-322-9941 or 412-216-8808



## COMMUNITY FLOWERGARDEN REMOVAL

For the fourth straight year, a group of volunteers from the Allegheny Center Alliance Church came into our community on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> to put our community flowergarden to bed for the winter. Supervised by Joyce Welsh and Eileen Day, the Faith Fellowship Alliance youth group from Butler worked quickly and efficiently to accomplish their Global Impact community service project that, each fall, provides needed services to the neighboring North Side communities.



Special thanks to this hardworking group and their Youth Pastor, Jeff Smith, for assisting in this task. To learn more about Faith Fellowship Alliance Youth Group, go to [www.thejourneyyouth.org](http://www.thejourneyyouth.org).

Give from your heart.  
Give your heart a happy smile,  
Give from your heart.  
You will find it turns upside down  
when you give from your heart.  
Others will love the gift  
when it comes from your heart.  
Unconditionally give your love  
away; it will return a new way.  
Your open heart will be filled with  
joy when you open the gate and  
love absolutely and completely  
without reservation

Submitted by Kim Fleming

 WE GET LETTERS! 

Recently as I was reading the Pgh. Post-Gazette obituaries (which I do several times/week as a former Pittsburgh-er), and saw that Jean Vogel, recently deceased, was with the Spring Hill Newsletter. I was not aware of this newsletter, but was excited to come across it. I have not yet viewed the many issues listed on the website, but decided to start with the "oldest" one - Sept. 2003 and found articles about "living on Spring Hill in the '40s". It brought back **many memories** from when my parents & I lived there through the WWII era. We lived on Itin St. and as an elementary student at Spring Hill School, we all **walked to school**, past the corner grocery store, & across the adjoining St. (I believe might have been Rhine St.) was the local Drugstore/Pharmacy and **most memorable - Meyers(sp) family Bakery. Anyone still remember those stores?**

We moved from Spring Hill to Shaler Twp. in late 1945, but I still have the fond memories of Spring Hill.

L. Lang (maiden name)

Hi Diane,  
Our Air Force daughter, Tina, was deployed again (3 years ago she was in Kandahar, Afghanistan). People in the military love to receive mail. If anyone wishes to write to her, the address is:  
Tina Lippert, SRA  
8 EAMS/AMCC  
APO AE  
09309



She will be there until mid-January, and I hope no longer than that. In addition, please keep her and all of our military in your prayers. We know that Freedom isn't free.

Thanks,  
Sue Lippert  
Harbor St.

Hi-  
I loved the story by Jean Miller about the horse trough. I wonder if anyone has an old picture of it, maybe with a horse drinking from it?

Thanks-  
Don Killmeyer

*Editor's note- if anyone has a picture like this, please contact us & we will put you in touch with Don.*




**HOLIDAY RECIPES**

**PUMPKIN PIE FUDGE**

2 Tbs. butter or margarine, plus more for greasing the pan.  
 1½ C sugar  
 ⅔ C evaporated milk  
 ½ C mashed canned pumpkin  
 2 Tbs. butter or margarine  
 ¼ tsp. salt  
 1½ tsp. pumpkin pie spice  
 1 (12-oz) pack of vanilla flavored baking chips  
 2 C miniature marshmallows  
 ⅓ C chopped nuts (optional)  
 1¼ tsp. vanilla

Line 8-inch square pan with foil and grease with butter or margarine. Using butter or margarine, lightly grease sides and bottom of a medium size saucepan. Place the sugar, evaporated milk, pumpkin, 2 Tbs. butter, salt, and pumpkin pie spice in saucepan. Stirring constantly over medium heat, bring mixture to a boil and boil for 12 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in baking chips and marshmallows until melted. Stir in nuts, if desired, and vanilla. Turn into prepared baking pan. Chill until set. Cut into small squares. Cover and store in refrigerator. Makes 60 small pieces.

*Pumpkin Pie Fudge & Old Fashioned Raisin Bars are reprinted from the Pittsburgh Tribune Review*


**OLD FASHIONED RAISIN BARS**

1C raisins  
 1C water  
 ½ C veg. shortening or oil  
 1C sugar  
 1 large egg, slightly beaten  
 1¾ C sifted all-purpose flour  
 ¼ tsp. salt  
 1 tsp. baking soda  
 1 tsp. Ground cinnamon  
 ½ tsp. ground nutmeg  
 ½ tsp. ground allspice  
 ¼ tsp. ground cloves  
 ½C chopped nuts (optional)  
 Confectioner's sugar for dusting or glaze (optional, recipe follows)

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Grease a 15½-10½-1 inch pan. Combine raisins and water in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Remove from heat and stir in shortening or oil. Cool to lukewarm and stir in sugar and egg. Sift together the flour, salt, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, and cloves. Mix into raisin mixture. Stir in nuts and turn into prepared baking pan. Bake for 12 minutes or until done. When cool, cut into bars (size is your preference). Dust lightly with confectioner's sugar or frost with glaze while warm.

**GLAZE:**

2 C confectioner's sugar  
 2 Tbs. hot water, more if needed  
 1 tsp. vanilla

Combine all ingredients until smooth, adding more water to thin to a glazing consistency.

**ALMOST HEAVEN FRUIT BALLS**

2- 8oz. packs of cream cheese  
 1- 8oz. can of crushed pineapple (drained)  
 1- small box of instant French vanilla pudding (dry)

Mix the three ingredients together and roll into small balls using a melon ball scoop. Chill overnight, then roll in ½ cup of chopped pecans. Serve with cinnamon graham crackers. Enjoy!

*Reprinted from the Undercover Club newsletter*

**Holiday Baking Hints:**

- Divide cut-out cookie dough into recommended portions, then shape into round ball & flatten. Wrap in plastic food wrap or place in appropriately sized plastic food storage bag. Chill dough until firm.
- Keep unrolled dough refrigerated.
- To prevent sticking, use a pastry cloth and stockinet-covered rolling pin, lightly dusted with flour, to roll out dough.

**Cookie Packing Hints:**

- Choose slice & bake, bar, or drop type cookies when mailing. Avoid frosted or glazed varieties, as they do not tolerate temperature change well.
- Only pack cookies after they are completely cool.
- Use bubble wrap, foam packing pieces, and/or crumbled tissue paper as cushions when packing cookies for mailing.

*For more tips, visit [landolakes.com](http://landolakes.com)*

**SANTA'S PRAYER**

The sleigh was all packed, the reindeer were fed, but Santa still knelt by the side of his bed.

"Dear Father," he prayed, "be with me tonight. There's much work to do and my schedule is tight."

"I must jump in my sleigh and streak through the sky, knowing full well that a reindeer can't fly. I will visit each household before the first light. I'll cover the world and all in one night".

"With sleigh bells a-ringing, I'll land on each roof. Amid the soft clatter of each little hoof. To get in the house is the difficult part, so I'll slide down the chimney of each child's heart".

"My sack will hold toys to grant all their wishes; the supply will be endless like the loaves and the fishes. I'll fill all the stockings and not leave a track. I'll eat every cookie that's left for my snack".

"I can do all these things, Lord, only through YOU. I just need your blessing; then it's easy to do. All of this is to honor the birth of the One that was sent to redeem us, Your most holy Son. So to all of my friends, lest Your glory I rob, please, Lord, remind them who gave me this job".

*Reprinted from the Undercover Club newsletter*

**Saturday Programs at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Allegheny Regional Children's Room**

**Saturday, November 5:** 1:30 to 2:30. The Mattress Factory's Art Lab on the North Side will present a drop-in art program in the Children's Room. No registration required.

**Saturday, November 19:** 1:30. Meet children's author Sara Weeks in Allegheny's Children's Room. Two of Sara Week's many picture books are *Mrs. Nosh Hangs Out Her Wash* and *Paper Parade*. She has also written chapter books for older children. There will be a drawing for copies of her books at the end of the program. Registration is required. Call (412) 237-1892

**Saturday December 3.** 1:30. Tri-Wizard Tournament. Test your wizarding skill and your knowledge of the Harry Potter books at the Tri-Wizard Tournament. Hogwarts Castle Library (Allegheny Regional Branch Children's Room) Registration required. Call (412) 237-1892

**Saturday, December 17.** 1:30. Holiday Party. Stories, sweet treats, and holiday crafts. A program for the whole family. Registration required. Call (412) 237-1892

**I REMEMBER WHEN...**

Joe Hamm, who ran Hamm's Market in the 1940's along with his brother, Fran, wants to know if you remember any of the following businesses that once operated in the Spring Hill/Cityview community:

- Eichelman's Grocery on upper Rhine
- Sukitch's Tavern on upper Rhine
- Conrad Miller Meats on upper Rhine
- Fred Buehler on Itin (became Hamm's Market in 1941)
- Al Boehm's corner store on Solar
- Spring Hill Savings & Loan (now ESB Bank)
- Kaib Grocery on Rhine & Woessner
- AJ Nimpfer Hardware on Rhine
- Esther Suelze, Piano Teacher on Rhine
- AM Diel Grocer on Itin at High
- Basehak grocer on Itin (only operated for a couple months)
- Balsimo Fruits & Vegetables on Rhine & Itin
- John Koller Grocery on Rhine & Itin
- Kohn Dry Goods on Rhine
- Lou Biehl Florist on Itin
- Beauty Shop on upper Rhine
- Bill Sukitch Beer Distributor on Rhine at Woessner
- Doctor's office above Beckfield
- And last, but not least,
- Shenkeis Grove Miniature Golf on Yetta

**HOUSE FOR SALE- SPRING HILL. SECLUDED WITH COUNTRY SETTING AND PICTURESQUE VIEW OF THE CITY. 2 BEDROOM; CENTRAL AIR; NEW FURNACE, WINDOWS AND ROOF, MANY EXTRAS. \$45,900. CONTACT MIKE AT 412-400-1524**

*Editor's Note: We would love to hear YOUR memories of the past!*

## SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

By Patrick Dowd



Three weeks ago Mark Roosevelt took his oath of office as the new Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

As his first action, Superintendent Roosevelt asked the board to join him in taking an "Oath of Commitment to the Children of the Pittsburgh Public Schools". For the first time ever, nine board members and Superintendent Roosevelt vowed "to put the interest of children first in every decision" and "to work cooperatively and respectfully with all members of the Pittsburgh Public School Community". We also affirmed our belief that all children can meet the highest standards of achievement and conduct.

Superintendent Roosevelt has been honest about the academic challenges facing the district. With the return of the 2005 PSSA data in September, the district once again fell short of expectations. Pittsburgh is now classified as a district in the School Improvement II category. This status signifies that we are not meeting performance standards and face a possible state take-over next year. Our achievement gaps are not closing. We also see that from school to school there are extremely wide fluctuations in performance. For example, from school to school the percentage of students proficient in mathematics varied from 5% to 95%. In reading that variation was slightly less: they varied from 17% to 85% proficient. Clearly, this unevenness is not acceptable.

Superintendent Roosevelt has been honest about some of the problems of the past. Dr. John Young, the Acting Deputy Superintendent, informed the board about the lack of communication between the central office and building principals. He told us about the lack of a comprehensive system of evaluating the performance of principals. He also discussed early plans for addressing these old and critical problems. Superintendent Roosevelt and his team are also looking closely at the curriculum and its alignment as well as auditing our compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The board anticipates further updates in the coming months.

With his oath in mind and facing these very real academic challenges, Superintendent Roosevelt is working diligently to craft a school realignment plan. Working closely with a team of experts, the Superintendent is asking tough questions. How are schools performing after accounting for differences in student background? How do student academic growth rates differ across schools? What are the graduation rates of each high school? (A report can be found on my website [www.patrickdowd.org](http://www.patrickdowd.org)) His plan is being driven entirely by the belief that we can close schools and deliver more effective and efficient education services to all children in Pittsburgh. This student-centered approach to school closings is a new and very welcomed approach.

As we shape the 2006 budget, Superintendent Roosevelt is steadfastly focused on his oath to the students. To be honest, the budgetary issues are serious. For 2006, the Pittsburgh Public Schools face a budget gap of approximately \$47 million. The state legislature has contributed significantly to the budget deficit by shifting tens of millions of dollars in tax revenue from the school district to the financially strapped City of Pittsburgh. Salary increases and the rising cost of healthcare contribute to the projected deficit.

Regardless of the causes, the board and Superintendent know taxes cannot increase and that expenditures must decrease. For the last few years the board has operated with the belief that we could hold taxes down and reduce expenditures responsibly over the long-term. The actions of the state make that extremely difficult. Still, the board and superintendent remain committed to the belief that we can deliver higher quality education services for few dollars.

In the coming days, Superintendent Roosevelt will be calling upon elected officials and citizens of this region to participate in improving the quality of education for our students. It is my hope that we will all be guided by the same oath as the superintendent. Improving education is not just about the public schools; it is about the future generations of Pittsburghers.

### 2005 HALLOWEEN PARADE

A sunny autumn day provided the perfect backdrop to this year's Halloween Parade. 132 children registered for the event with the vast majority of them attending in many beautiful and creative costumes. The parade lined up at Brady's Memorial Home where Steve provided snacks & drinks for the kids, then proceeded to the Rockledge St. lot where judges chose winners for 5 costume categories. Judges commented that the decision was difficult, as there were so many striking costumes!

Winners of the costume judging were Tessa Bender in the Prettiest category, Katrina Morrissey in the Funniest category, Haven Eisenberg in the Cutest category, Lindsay Felsing in the Most Original category, and Brendan Berbach in the Scariest category. Congratulations to the winners and to all who attended, great job on the costumes!

Special thanks to the many volunteers who gave time and effort in lending their assistance to the event, among them: Donna Allison, Steve Brady, Dianne Burns, Eileen Day, the staff of ESB Bank, Liz Freiss, Mel Freiss, Mindy Gawlas, Mary Herman, Jim Hurray, Lois Hurray, Chris McCloskey, Tina Prom, Katie Self, Diane Schmitt, Ruth Vance, Joyce Welsh, and Jennifer Wooderson.

We certainly could not hold this event with out the generous support of the many neighbors who donated money to purchase treats and the local businesses that kindly donated money or goods for the treat bags or provided a service in preparation of the event. Businesses or patrons that sponsored our event are: Brady's Memorial Home, ESB Bank, Ham's Market, Sky-Vue Terrace, Carnegie Science Center, Children's Museum, National Aviary, PA Representative Don Walko, Pittsburgh Zoo, Prime Stage Theatre, Spring Garden Shop & Save, Team Properties, Three Rivers Apartments, Balestreire's Produce, and Waltmire's Pharmacy.

Your generosity of money, goods, and services provided a wonderful Halloween event for the children of our community, and once again, points to the teamwork and commitment that makes the Spring Hill/Cityview neighborhood one of the best places to live in Pittsburgh!



The Big, Bad Wolf!



The Witch & a Large Baby Girl



Costume Winners pose for the Camera



Pippy Longstocking & Her Monkey



Andy Buchman & Liz Freiss as 2 Hippies from the 60's



The Princess & The Ghost

## JOHN HENRY LYON / EDITOR OF THE NORTHSIDE CHRONICLE, BELIEVER IN NEIGHBORHOODS

John Henry Lyon, retired city worker and editor of The Northside Chronicle community newspaper, died of cancer October 17, 2005 at age 66.

Mr. Lyon worked in the city's offices in the Strip District until his retirement in November, but his son said editing The Northside Chronicle was his passion. For more than 20 years, the monthly paper has detailed happenings on the North Side, often running 16 to 24 pages with a printing of 7,000 copies.



Mr. Lyon was a well-known figure in his North Side neighborhood and served as president of the Allegheny City Society, which works to preserve the history of the North Side. "He was a real believer in the revitalization of the city and city neighborhoods," said his son, John, of Dallas, Texas.

Earlier this month, Mayor Tom Murphy issued a public proclamation thanking Mr. Lyon "for his dedicated service to The Northside Chronicle and the City of Pittsburgh".

Mr. Lyon had lived in the Mexican War Streets since the early 1980s, when he bought a house there for \$100 in the Great House Sale.

"He spent the rest of his life working on it," said his son. "Piece by piece, molding by molding, wall by wall, he took it from an abandoned house to a very nice home."

In addition to his son, Mr. Lyon is survived by a brother, Bill, of Las Vegas, Nev., and one grandson.

While The Northside Chronicle has not been published in the last few months, there are plans to keep the publication going. Executive Director Linda LeFever of the Northside Community Development Fund said it invested in the paper last year but "our job is to stabilize it and pass it on to the next generation, to someone who will do it the way John would want it to be done."

Should the newspaper survive, said Mr. Lyon's son, "that would be an excellent legacy for him".

*Editor's Note: John was a fixture at our annual Memorial Day Commemoration. He understood the importance of honoring our brave vets and made it a priority to photograph & headline that event in the North Side Chronicle every year. We will miss him greatly.*



### A NEW YEARS POEM

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
 Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
 The year is going, let him go;  
 Ring out the false, ring in the true.



*by Lord Tennyson*

**Get Well Wishes** – We send Get Well Wishes to Steve Brady & to Ivan Grenier as they both recuperate after recent hospitalizations!

### DID YOU KNOW?

The world's population is 6.3 billion with 1.3 billion (or 20%) living in poverty.

## State Representative Don Walko reports from Harrisburg:

### **PENNSYLVANIANS SHOULD ORDER FREE CREDIT REPORTS**

*Regular monitoring will help reduce identity theft; verify accuracy of credit histories*

Pennsylvanians can protect themselves from identity theft and safeguard their personal finances if they take advantage of a new law that allows them to obtain free copies of their credit reports.

Last year over 7,500 Pennsylvanians were the victims of identity theft. Credit reports are now available for free so that consumers can arm themselves with the information they need to protect their identity and report any unauthorized credit card charges as soon as possible.

As a result of a new amendment to the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), all three nationwide consumer reporting companies – Equifax, Experian and TransUnion – are now required to provide consumers with a free credit report once a year. The Federal Trade Commission recommends that consumers request a credit report from each of the companies, since not every company collects the same information. Consumers can order all three credit reports at once, or they can space their requests throughout the year to monitor any changes that may occur in their credit history.

Pennsylvanians should check their credit reports for accuracy because negative, inaccurate information may determine whether a consumer qualifies for a loan or credit card, and at what interest rate. Under the FCRA, businesses providing the credit information to the three reporting companies, as well as the companies themselves, must correct any inaccurate or incomplete information found in a credit report.

Equifax, Experian and TransUnion have set up a shared Web site, toll-free phone number, and mailing address for credit report requests. Consumers may order a free credit report online at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com), call toll-free 877-322-8228, or print a request form from the shared Web site and mail the form to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, Georgia, 30348-5281. The Pennsylvania Treasury Department will also mail credit report request forms to those who call 717-787-2991.

If my office can be of further assistance on this or any other issue pertaining to state government, please don't hesitate to call my district office at (412) 321-5523.



### *How Smart is Your Right Foot?*



This is so funny that it will boggle your mind, and you will keep trying at least 50 more times to see if you can outsmart your foot, but you can't.

1. While sitting, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles.
2. Now, while doing this, draw the number "6" in the air with your right hand. Your foot will change direction.

See, I told you!! And there's nothing you can do about it!

Each evening a bird lover, Tom, stood in his backyard, hooting like an owl. One night an owl called back to him. For a year, Tom and his feathered friend hooted back and forth. He even kept a log of the "conversation". Just as he thought he was on the verge of a breakthrough in inter-species communication, his wife had a chat with her neighbor. "My husband spends his nights calling out to owls," she said.



"That's odd," the neighbor replied, "so does mine."