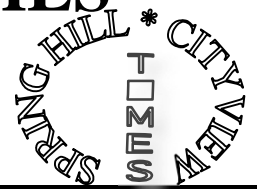


SPRING HILL * CITYVIEW TIMES

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Independence Day



Vol. 6 No. 47

July-August 2006

Spring Hill Civic League Mission Statement

With the continuing goal of community strength and enrichment, and encouraging the participation of all community residents and 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: Donna Allison
Vice President: Dianne Burns
Secretary: Diane Schmitt
Treasurer: Ben Soltesz

Directors

Stephen Brady

Newsletter Articles

Please submit articles for the September/October edition by August 15th to:
Joan Russell
2115 Rockledge Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-3533
412-322-9945
joanrussell@aol.com

Mail Delivery

For a yearly subscription, send \$6.00 to:
Spring Hill/Cityview Times at
c/o 1214 Yetta Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-3757

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT...

Summer already?!!!

I hope everyone is enjoying the weather and the flowers! By now you've probably seen the community garden at the corner of Homer and Walz and have enjoyed its beauty made possible by your neighborhood volunteers, ESB Bank, and the Western PA Conservancy.

And have you noticed the flower baskets in the Spring Garden/Deutschtown area at the entrance to Spring Hill? Our neighboring Spring Garden community through the Spring Garden Neighborhood Council, the Northside Leadership Conference, and H. J. Heinz Company installed those baskets up along Chestnut Street and Spring Garden Avenue.

I'm sure everyone agrees that these community efforts enhance our neighborhood and those that surround us. I'd also like to thank each and every neighbor for tending to your own gardens and yards and for keeping our neighborhood clean of litter and trash.

Do you notice that less and less people are littering these days? I think that we realize that litter is trash and trash just does not belong on the sidewalks and streets in our neighborhood. Thank you for not littering, and for the litter that we do

have – thank you to those who pick up after others.

I must also give recognition to some great pet owners. Sure, my cat, Rudy, runs out the front door at times, as I'm sure others can identify with. But for the most part, it seems that Spring Hill has very responsible pet owners. I'll try harder not to let Rudy sneak out or to let Chester on the back deck cause I know he sometimes jumps porches to meet with those cats that run loose in the neighborhood. If we all try to be more responsible pet owners, we won't have the problems of animal scratches and bites this summer, and everyone

Continued on page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2006

General Meetings are scheduled at the Spring Hill Elementary School auditorium at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Monday, September 11th
Monday, October 6th
Monday, November 3rd

Halloween Parade: Saturday, October 14th, 11:30 – 1:00 p.m., Rockledge Street lot

Christmas Tree Lighting: Sunday, December 3rd, 7:00 p.m., Rockledge Street lot

You can read the newsletter online by going to www.shcl.org

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



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT...

(continued from page 1)

can enjoy the outdoors without fear. Please keep your pets leashed, please pick up the do-do, and please, please, please don't let them kill the daisies...or evergreens, or whatever

You probably hear the same comments that I do about Spring Hill. I hear from many that we have a wonderful and beautiful community and that we should be proud to live here.

I am.

Have a great summer!

Donna Allison
President
Spring Hill Civic League

NORTH SIDE CELEBRATION IN THE PARK

Saturday, July 22nd

The Fourth Annual North Side Celebration in the Park is Saturday, July 22nd, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The North Side Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Riverside Center for Innovation are excited about this year's event that will feature interactive art booths, giant puppets, and puppet-making activities. There are plans for all day entertainment on the children's stage and on the main stage featuring local artists.

There will be inflatable playgrounds and trackless train

rides, a petting zoo, and many exhibitors including local vendors, food vendors, and service providers. The North Side Leadership Conference working with Allegheny General Hospital will feature wellness activities including massages and healthy living information.

As we have in the past, we plan to engage the entire North Side cultural resources to help provide children's activities throughout the day. There will also be a 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

For more information contact the North Side Chamber of Commerce at 412-231-6500.

RIVERVIEW PARK 5K RUN AND FITNESS WALK

Friday, August 18th

Riverview Park's quiet forest surrounds this hilly, winding course in Pittsburgh's North Side, so be sure to save something for that final climb! This competitive 5K features overall and age group awards. All registered runners and walkers receive a T-shirt and are eligible to win prizes and gift certificates at the post-race raffle.

The competition is scheduled for Friday, August 18th, at 7:00 p.m. Participants will meet at the Activities Building. Please call 412-255-2493 or visit riverview5k.com for more information.

STARS AT RIVERVIEW JAZZ SERIES

Sponsored by Mellon Jazz, DUQ 90.5 FM, and the Pittsburgh Courier, the Stars At Riverview Jazz series features Pittsburgh's premier jazz musicians. So bring a lawn chair or spread a blanket on Observatory Hill for an entire summer of incredible musical entertainment! After the concerts, stay for the Comcast Cinema in the Park, movies the whole family can enjoy, beginning at dusk. Performances run June 3rd through August 26th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

July 1- Nateli Project, with movie Polar Express following

July 8- Lee Robinson, with movie Zathura following

July 15- Robbie Klein, with movie Ice Age II following

July 22- The New Alcindors, with movie Robots following

July 29- Jazz Giants featuring Spider Rondinelli, with movie Raiders of the Lost Ark following

August 5- Craig King and surprise guest, with movie Yours, Mine, and Ours following

August 12- Henry Shapiro, with movie Cats and Dogs following

August 19- Clair Ascani, with movie Hoodwinked following

August 26- Chuck Austin, with movie Nanny McPhee following

For information, call 412-255-8975

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

If you would like to welcome a neighbor on your street, submit the announcement to joanrussell@aol.com.

New neighbors, if you would like to be informed of meetings and other community information via e-mail, please contact the SHCL secretary, Diane Schmitt, at schmittdl@stargate.net. We look forward to hearing from you!

GET WELL WISHES

To Bob Gerst of Haslage Avenue...to Debe Weiss, director of His Place on Rhine Street...and to Marlene Staples of Haslage Avenue, all as they recover from recent surgeries.

Our prayers are with you for a speedy recovery!



THANK YOU...

The family of Raymond J. Gerst, Sr., wish to express sincere gratitude to all of their friends and neighbors of Spring Hill for the outpouring of beautiful flowers, cards, and prayers during their time of loss.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July/August Birthdays

Ken Lippert, July 6th; Carol Hamm, July 18th; Betty Kraft, July 21st; Helen Gerst, July 26th; Shawn Felsing, July 30th; Doug Lippert, August 21st; Dave Brown, August 29th; Ron Hamm and Terry Snyder, August 9th; Johanna Leonard, August 31st.



Belated May Birthdays

Ron Mohr, May 7th; Jan Kufner, May 13th; Lynn Kufner, May 31st.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Lynn Kufner of Bader Street, for finishing her freshmen year at Kent State University on the Dean's List. Lynn is the daughter of Janice and the late George Kufner.

To Marlene Stecklein and the Holy Wisdom Food Bank on receiving the 2006 North Side Leadership Conference Neighbor Volunteer Award at the North Side Leadership Conference Awards Dinner on June 9th. We thank you for your hard work and dedication in serving our neighbors throughout the year!

To Ken Lippert and Angela Tucker, on their confirmation on June 3rd.

To Jake and Kate Bourquin-Self of Rockledge Street on their graduation from Perry Traditional Academy on June 17th.

IT'S A BOY

Congratulations to Tracey Guzowski of Haslage Avenue on the birth of her first grandson, Robert J. Guzowski, III, born on April 21st to Tracey's son Robert.



OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY...

To Helen Gerst of Homer Street and the Gerst family, on the May passing of husband, father, grand-pap, and great grand-pap Ray ...to the family and friends of Ron Powers formerly of Rockledge Street, on his sudden passing in May...to the family and friends of Jim Conway formerly of Walz Street, on his passing...to the family and friends of Lil McFadden, on her passing in late May ...to the family and friends of Grace Richter Sands, on her passing in early June...to the family and friends of Alice Lippert on her passing on May 8th.

Although your grief is profound and there are no adequate words to express our sympathy, may you find comfort and peace in the knowledge that God holds your loved ones in His eternal care.

Thanks to everyone who helped place flags at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery.

The Cemetery Committee

WE GET LETTERS

Dear Editor-

Your Spring Hill/ Cityview Times is a wonderful and lengthy production.

As a grade school (St. Ambrose) and Allegheny High School student, I delivered the Pittsburgh Press and Sun-Tele newspapers all over Spring Hill. I managed to go up the porch steps of hundreds of homes. After returning home from serving in Europe and the South Pacific as an Army soldier in World War II, I ended up working as an engineer for the Pittsburgh Press and Post-Gazette for about 32 years.

Now, I read your well organized Spring Hill/Cityview Times. I enjoy the warmth of reminiscing, which has become a great sport for an 85-year-old senior citizen!

Keep up the good work and God bless-

Joe Lamping

(an old Overbeck Street boy)

THANK YOU

The Spring Hill Civic League has been a United Way Contributor's Choice for several years. Your generosity has helped to fund community activities and defrays routine overhead expenses. A grateful Thank You to all who support the community through the United Way. The Civic League Contributor's Choice code number is 207.

CONGRATULATIONS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

To Abby Hamm of Rescue Street on being awarded the prestigious Youthtowne Scholarship. The scholarship will provide her with four years of fully paid Catholic high school education and an additional 4 years to any Catholic college in the U.S. Abby plans on attending Our Lady Sacred Heart High School in Moon Township. As part of the scholarship package, she will be attending the World Youth Day in Sidney, Australia, where Pope Benedict will appear.

To Mia King on the scholastic award of a 4-year scholarship to Cheyney University, outside of Philadelphia, PA. Mia graduated 5th in her class this year from David B. Oliver High School. She is the daughter of Derrick and Faith King of Itin Street.

To Elizabeth Rettger of Yetta Avenue on receiving a \$1,000 H.J. Heinz scholarship. She received the award at the North Side Leadership Conference Neighborhood Volunteer Awards Dinner on June 9th.

SPRING HILL SENIOR CITIZENS

The Spring Hill Senior Citizens holds its meeting every third Wednesday of the month except for January. The group meets at St. Ambrose School on Haslage Avenue. Meetings begin at noon.

Anyone can grab a Tiger by the tail, but it takes a real hero to hang on... Anonymous

SUMMER SAFETY

With the warm weather upon us, please make safety a priority. When you have your doors open, keep your screen doors locked. In addition, with more people moving around in warm weather sensor lights placed strategically on your property, anti-theft devices in place on your vehicle, and keeping valuables out of sight help to discourage theft.

HELP US SPREAD YOUR NEWS!

To the neighbors of the community...

We are interested in announcing the names of new neighbors who have moved into the community in the past year, as well as weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, special achievements, recipes, garden hints, household hints, church announcements, birth announcement, obituaries, etc.

Don't be shy; all are welcome!

2006 ROVING ART CART SCHEDULE

June 20th - East Commons (Sue Murray pool entrance)

June 30th and July 28th - Riverview Park (Observatory entrance)

August 2nd - West Commons (National Aviary entrance)



HOLY WISDOM NORTH SIDE SUMMER CELEBRATION

August 23rd to August 26th

Holy Wisdom Parish will present the North Side Summer Celebration, 2208 East Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, from Wednesday, August 23 to Saturday, August 26, 2006.

Special events each night:

Wednesday: Steelers Night features include cheerleader demonstrations and activities for Steelers fans.

Thursday: Oldies Night features include Classic Car Cruise and entertainment by "The Vogues"

Friday: features include Skydiver Lottery and entertainment by "Corbin/Hanner" sponsored by Think First National Injury Prevention Programs.

Saturday: features include 4:00 p.m. Festival Mass, spaghetti dinner served from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and entertainment by "Mahajibee Rockin' Blues Band" and "Johnny Angel and The Halos" sponsored by ESB Bank.

Other fun includes bingo, games, and amusement rides by C & L Shows, church tours, a great variety of food, a bakery, and a DJ nightly. Check out this year's 1973 white Classic Corvette Convertible. An ATM is available on site.

There is something for everyone! Come and enjoy "the biggest thing to come through

the East Street Valley since I-279!"

For more information on this event, call 412-231-1116 or visit our website at www.holywisdomparish.org

VOLUNTEER FUN AT THE NORTH SIDE SUMMER CELEBRATION

The Civic League will be assisting with the Holy Wisdom Summer Festival in August from Wednesday, August 23rd through Saturday, August 26th. We will sell tickets for the kiddy rides each weeknight evening from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m., and on Saturday until 11:00 p.m. It's a great way to see people from the parish and community and to give a hand at the same time! If you can help one evening or part of an evening, call Diane Schmitt at 231-7948 or e-mail at schmittdl@stargate.net.

Volunteer spaces fill quickly, so please don't delay!

RUNNING CLINIC

Saturday, August 19th

Whether you are an experienced runner or just beginning a running program, you will want to make plans to attend this year's Running Clinic sponsored by Allegheny General Hospital's Sports Medicine Division.

The AGH Sports Medicine Team has developed an individualized screening program designed for runners of

all levels. As you visit each of the assessment/information stations, you will receive feedback tailored to your own running needs.

Learn about the following at the clinic:

- Choosing and maintaining the correct running shoe
- Flexibility assessment
- Beating the heat
- Foods/fluids as fuel
- Strength assessment
- Chronic injury assessment and prevention
- Designing a training program to fill your needs.

The free clinic will be held on August 19, 2006 at the Federal North Building, 1307 Federal Street. The clinic is held from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is free to all runners and walkers. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (412) 856-0874. Registration is limited so call today!

ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR BOAT!

One day, the Captain of the 40-oared royal Nile barge goes down to speak to the oarsmen in the hold of his ship. "Men, I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is, the Queen will be joining us today for a trip up the Nile." The men cheered and sang the praises of the Queen. The captain then continued, "The bad news is, she wants to go water skiing".



FARMERS MARKET

An array of fresh fruits, vegetables, cheeses, and flowers are available at the North Side Farmers Market every Friday from 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. on the East Commons (by Allegheny General Hospital and Cedar Avenue).

HOLY WISDOM FOODBANK

The food bank at Holy Wisdom (St. Ambrose School) is held every third Tuesday of the month, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. This vital ministry serves many in our community who are having hard times. The food bank is not government-funded and depends upon donations and volunteers within Holy Wisdom parish and our community, especially over the winter months.

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

LOOKING FOR HALLOWEEN TREATS

Although Halloween is 4 months away, the community begins planning for the kids' treat bags early. If you work for a company that might help us with a treat donation for this year's event, please call Donna Allison at 231-8626.

FLEA MARKET

East Allegheny holds a Flea Market every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. until October 9th on the East Commons (East Ohio Street and Cedar Avenue). New and used items as well as

refreshments are available. A 15x15 table space is only \$10.00! Come to browse and take advantage of the bargains! For more information call 412-321-1204.

ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Summer Worship Schedule

Wednesday 7:00 p.m. @
Church-Spring Garden Avenue.

Saturday 4:00 p.m. @ Church-
Spring Garden Avenue.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. @ Chapel-
Corner of Rhine and Walz
Street.

Vacation Bible School

Hey kids, don't get stuck being bored this summer, come to the Fiesta!! For sizzling fun...join us for hot Bible adventures, awesome crafts, tasty treats, cool songs, and amazing games! The adventure begins July 24th to 28th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Please contact the Parish office at 412-231-2183 for further information and a registration form.

Family Fun Night

Come join us for "FAMILY FUN NIGHT" on Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the Fuhr Center, corner of High Street, next to the church on Spring Garden Avenue. There is fun for all ages.

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 31st to August 4th

ALL ABOARD THE GOSPEL EXPRESS at 600 East North Avenue! St. Matthew Lutheran Church is planning an exciting VBS this year called Gospel Express: "All Aboard" God's Celebration Train! This fun-filled Vacation Bible School is for everyone between the ages of 3 years to sixth grade. The adventure begins on Monday, July 31st and continues through August 4th. Sessions run from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each day.

Set in a fast-paced and fun train atmosphere, this lively VBS program will engage the children in discovering that everyone is invited into the community of Christ where we celebrate Jesus' love. Through kid-friendly Bible stories that emphasize community, coupled with a train-load of hands-on, fun-filled activities, at Gospel Express kids will learn that it is fun and faithful to celebrate Jesus' love with everyone!

At Gospel Express kids will hear stories of Jesus, make cool crafts, learn catchy train tunes, play zany games, eat yummy snacks, and make lots of new friends.

Registration is going on now. Sign up today! Call the church office at 412-321-7720 to enroll.

CRIME REPORTING

If you are a regular attendee at Spring Hill Civic League community meetings, then you've met Officer Forrest Hodges, the Zone One Community Relations Officer. Officer Hodges attends as many meetings as possible to provide the Spring Hill and North Side community residents with crime updates and to let it be known that he is accessible to discuss crime related problems.

With so many busy schedules, you may not have been to a community meeting lately, so let me tell you a little more about Officer Hodges.

First, and foremost, Officer Hodges and I cannot stress enough that **if the police are needed for an emergency – Call 9-1-1 immediately.** Police cars cannot be dispatched from the Zone One Police Station.

However, if you have on-going concerns such as an abandoned vehicle, drug activity, or suspicious illegal activity to report, please call Officer Hodges at 412-323-7300. His work hours are 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., but the best time to reach him is between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Explain your concerns to Officer Hodges and if he can help, he will.

Of course, you can and should still keep your connection with Diane Schmitt, Spring Hill's own crime reporter. Diane keeps in regular contact with Officer Hodges and forwards all your concerns to him. In some cases you may also want to speak to Officer Hodges yourself, so

please know that he is accessible to the community.

Donna Allison
President
Spring Hill Civic League

Oven-Glazed Caribbean Chicken

A little work but you'll be rewarded with every bite you take of this succulent chicken, highly seasoned and glazed with rum and coffee.

Estimated Times:

Preparation Time: 15 mins

Cook Time: 15 mins

Servings: 4

Ingredients:

1/3 cup packed dark brown sugar

2 tablespoons ketchup

2 tablespoons dark rum

1 lime juiced

1 tablespoon butter

2 teaspoons finely chopped ginger

1 teaspoon NESCAFÉ TASTER'S CHOICE 100% Pure Instant Coffee Granules

1/8 teaspoon ground allspice

4 (about 1 lb. total) boneless, skinless chicken breast halves

2 large cloves garlic crushed

1 teaspoon olive oil

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper

Directions:

COMBINE sugar, ketchup, rum, lime juice, butter, ginger, coffee granules and allspice in small saucepan. Bring to a gentle boil; stir until coffee and sugar are dissolved. Remove from heat; set aside.

TRIM chicken of any visible fat. With sharp knife, make two diagonal slits about 1/2-inch deep on the top side of each breast.

COMBINE garlic, oil, salt and pepper. Rub mixture all over chicken. Arrange slit side up on rack in shallow baking pan. Brush chicken with glaze; reserve remaining glaze. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

PREHEAT broiler. BROIL chicken for 5 minutes. Turn chicken over; coat with reserved glaze. Broil for an additional 4 to 5 minutes. Turn chicken over again; coat with glaze. Broil for an additional 2 minutes or until tops are sizzling and brown.

Fettuccine Tomato Basil Salad

Here's a dish using Buitoni pasta that's a breeze to prepare! Serve with crunchy breadsticks and a frosty glass of Nestea.

Estimated Times:

Preparation Time: 15 mins

Cook Time: 5 mins

Ingredients:

1 (9 ounces) package BUITONI Refrigerated Fettuccine

1/4 (1 ounce) cup BUITONI Refrigerated Freshly Shredded Parmesan Cheese

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 tablespoon red wine vinegar

1 pound fresh tomatoes chopped

1/4 cup chopped fresh basil or 1 tablespoon dried basil, crushed

Directions:

PREPARE pasta according to package directions.

TOSS pasta with cheese, oil and vinegar. Add tomatoes and basil. Season with salt and ground black pepper.

Serves 4

CARNATION® Key Lime Pie

This no-fail recipe makes the best Key Lime Pie you'll ever taste. Keep a few cans of Carnation Sweetened Condensed Milk on hand for quick baking projects.

Estimated Times:

Preparation Time: 5 mins

Cook Time: 0 mins

Ingredients:

1 prepared 9-inch (6 oz.) graham cracker crust

1 (14 oz.) can CARNATION Sweetened Condensed Milk

1/2 (about 3 medium limes) cup fresh lime juice

1 teaspoon grated lime peel

2 cups frozen whipped topping thawed

8 thin lime slices (optional)

Directions:

BEAT sweetened condensed milk and lime juice in small mixer bowl until combined; stir in lime peel. Pour into crust; spread with whipped topping. Refrigerate for 2 hours or until set. Garnish with lime slices.

Serves 8



REPORT FROM COUNCILMAN LUKE RAVENSTAHL

Summer is here and once more the City will offer an array of fun and enjoyable programs. Be sure to get your 2006 Citiparks Summer Magazine to rediscover the treasures of Pittsburgh.

The following North Side pools will be opening as of June 16th:

Jack Stack:	600 Brighton Woods Rd	Brighton Heights	412-766-4577
Fowler:	2438 Wilson Avenue	Perry South	412-323-7910
Riverview:	400 Riverview Avenue	Perry North	412-323-7223
Sue Murray:	301 Cedar Avenue	North Side	412-323-7914

Swimming Pools General Telephone # 412-323-7928
Monday – Friday from 1:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.
Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays from 1:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

POOL TAGS

Beginning June 1, you can purchase a pool tag at the Oliver Bath House or the City-County Building (Fourth Floor). For information concerning purchasing a tag at a pool location, call 412-323-7928.

City of Pittsburgh residents	(proof of residency required)
\$60 – family of four	\$10 – each additional family member
\$30 – adult (16 years and older)	\$15 – youth (3 – 15 years old)
	free – child (2 and under)

City of Pittsburgh residents who receive welfare benefits can buy tags at a 50% discount. A case print-out and proof of identity is required to receive the discount.

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

BIG CHANGES TO LOCAL “AT HOME” PROGRAM

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently approved significant changes to Healthy Home Resources Asthma Trigger Home Evaluation (AT HOME Program). These changes included enlarging the eligibility list of communities from the City of Pittsburgh to include other Allegheny County communities such as Homestead, Wilkinsburg, Mckeesport, Swissvale, and many more.

In addition, HUD approved a shortening of the program from 18 months to 6 months. This has allowed HHR to spend more resources on interventions in the home to include air duct cleaning and carpet cleaning. Along with the cleaning services you will also receive a HEPA vacuum, a HEPA Air Purifier, non-toxic cleaning products, safety products, and much more. Participants will now receive over \$2500 in supplies and services for their home to create a healthier environment for their child with asthma.

HUD also approved a request to expand the eligibility age of participants. Now the AT HOME Program can serve children between the ages of 4 and 18.

If you are interested in learning more about the AT HOME Program, please call 412-965-8119.



SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

By Patrick Dowd

Last month, Superintendent Roosevelt announced his comprehensive education reform agenda. "Excellence for All" is a comprehensive four-year plan for improving the performance of the Pittsburgh Public Schools at all levels. This plan will advance our goals of reforming not just the performance of the district, but also its culture. This is a data-driven plan focused on performance and accountability. There are clearly articulated targets and very high expectations. I urge you to take a few minutes to review the plan, which is available on my website (www.patrickdowd.org). This is the most important development we have seen recently in the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

The four-year plan is impressive because it sets high expectations for all students, teachers, and parents. At the same time, however, the expectations are realistic and the goals attainable. Again, there is much in this plan and I encourage you to review it fully, but I wanted to highlight some of the goals. The Superintendent's plan "Excellence for All" calls for very specific and targeted increases in math and reading scores for students at specific grade levels. These require careful review and can be found in the presentation. In addition, Superintendent Roosevelt calls on the district to

- Increase the percentage of students proficient in reading at the end of 3rd grade from 49% to 80%
- Reduce our drop-out rate by ten percentage points and increase the graduation rate by ten percentage points
- Increase the percentage of graduating senior taking the SAT from 54% to 80%
- Double the number of student taking Advanced Placement exams from 318 to 636
- Quadruple the number of African American students taking Advanced Placement courses from 37 to 148
- Increase by 50% the number of students scoring 3-5 on the Advanced Placement exams

The Superintendent's plan aligns with Board's goals, which were legislated in March of 2006 and which include improving student achievement, establishing safe learning environments, efficiently and effectively supporting operations, equitably distributing resources, and improving parent and community confidence in our school system. There is, in other words, a solid alignment between the Board's goals and the Superintendent's action plans. Additionally, "Excellence for All" has very clearly articulated goals for which the Superintendent will be held accountable. It is likely that as we move into Year 2 of Superintendent Roosevelt's Accountability Contract, subsets of the "Excellence for All" plan will be incorporated into the performance priorities by which his work will be evaluated. At long last, the Board and Superintendent are moving in the same direction.

The announcement of "Excellence for All" is an historic moment in the educational reform of the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Now, our reforms begin to make a real difference in the lives and learning of our students. This plan is based on solid research done in partnership with the RAND Corporation. It has been forged with an eye not only to the particular situation here in Pittsburgh, but also with an eye to the success of districts around the country. This is our framework, our road map for improving the quality of education in Pittsburgh.

As always, I welcome your comments. Please do not hesitate to write or to share your comments at public hearings. I can be reached through my email patrick@patrickdowd.org or by regular mail at 341 South Bellefield Avenue; Pittsburgh, PA 15206.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE DON WALKO REPORTS FROM HARRISBURG

Walko Votes for Property Tax Relief, Governor Signs It

I voted for a landmark property tax reduction bill that Gov. Ed Rendell will have signed into law by the time you read this.

The legislation provides the largest property tax cut for homeowners in Pennsylvania history. Without raising any state taxes, this plan will provide help first to the homeowners who need it the most – senior citizens on fixed or limited incomes. Under this plan, more than 400,000 additional seniors will be eligible for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, and the maximum rebate will increase from \$500 to \$650.

In the 20th Legislative District that I represent, 5,901 senior households will qualify for a rebate under the new guidelines. That's about 50 percent higher than the average House district – this plan will definitely benefit many of the homeowners I represent.

The new law is especially helpful to homeowners in the 20th District since all three school districts I represent – Pittsburgh, North Hills, and the Shaler Area -- opted out of Act 72, our first attempt to deliver a gaming-funded property tax cut to homeowners.

The expanded rebate program will be available Jan. 1. The income limit for homeowners to qualify for the program will more than double to \$35,000 from the

current \$15,000. The program will continue to cover the same categories of homeowners: residents 65 or older, widows and widowers age 50 or older, and permanently disabled people who are 18 or older. The expansion will be covered by a surplus in the Lottery Fund, which will be repaid over five years using slots gaming revenue.

The program also will maintain the current rule that allows people to exclude half of their Social Security or railroad retirement benefits from counting toward the income limit.

The new law will provide a tax cut to all homeowners once sufficient slots gaming proceeds become available in 2008 or 2009.

It also will require school boards to seek voter approval for property tax increases that exceed the rate of inflation. It will allow exemptions for situations such as recovery from an emergency or disaster, or complying with a court order.

I will continue working to provide additional property tax cuts to homeowners, but this new law is a good start.

If you have questions about the above or any other state-related matter, please call my North Side office at (412) 321-5523.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH Allegheny Regional Update

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh closed its Allegheny Regional location at 5 Allegheny Square indefinitely in April after

a lightning strike caused extensive damage to the building.

The Library continues to work with the City of Pittsburgh to obtain estimates and a scope of work in order to begin exterior building repairs.

The Hazlett Theater, which is located in the same building as the Library, is undergoing scheduled construction. The Theater did not sustain damage during the April storm and the current construction is unrelated to roof or system repair.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is actively looking for interim library space. While an interim space is being sought, the Library's Woods Run location located on Woods Run Avenue in the City's Brighton Heights area will reopen later in June after an extensive renovation.

Registrations for the Library's Summer Reading Program are available online at www.carnegielibrary.org and children's librarians will visit several area day camps and neighborhood libraries throughout the summer until an interim library space is found. Summer reading activities will go on as planned via neighborhood camp groups and other library locations.

A teen librarian will also make routine visits to Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – downtown, throughout the summer to register teens and provide programming for the Summer Reading Program. Customers are encouraged to call 412-237-1890 or 412-237-1982 for details.

FLOWER GARDEN PLANTING

On a mild Saturday morning in May, 14 volunteers turned out to help plant the community flower garden at Homer and Walz Street and to weed and mulch the sunken area at the firehouse. The exciting news is that 4 of those were various age children. We all worked hard and efficiently to complete the project in 3 hours and at noon, enjoyed delicious pizza for a luncheon to top off our efforts!

A huge "Thank You" and "Job Well Done!" to Donna Allison, Jim, Gail, and Andy Buchman, Lois Hurray, Adam Ledergerber, Diane Schmitt, Emoni and Malizia Taylor, Barb and Joyce Welsh, and Mark and Rhonda Wozniak. The Western PA Conservancy Flowergarden overseer commented that although we were a small group, we were the best organized group that she worked with so far this spring!

A special "Thank You" to Don Friedman, Rhoda Sommers, and Ben, Alex, and Charlotte Soltesz for their litter pick-up and to Jim Hurray for photographing our efforts for posterity!

Our beautiful community flower garden is made possible through funding provided by ESB Bank and the City of Pittsburgh, as well as Western PA Conservancy supplies and plants, and the efforts of Spring Hill volunteers!

As a side note, we need people who can spend an hour or two weeding the flowerbed over the summer. If you can help out in this way, please contact Rhonda Wozniak at 412-322-7021 or wozniakr3@hotmail.com.



2006 MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION

With hot and humid weather as a backdrop, the community turned out at Brady's Memorial Home on Southside Avenue to commemorate our veterans at the annual Memorial Day Commemoration. This year, we presented Senior Airman Tina Marie Lippert of Harbor Street with a special commendation for her dedicated service to our country. Tina has served in the Air Force since 2000. She is currently stationed at Andrews Air Force Base outside of Washington D.C., working at the Command Post on base. She has done 2 tours of duty in the desert--June '02 through September '02 in Kandahar, Afghanistan and October '05 through January '06 in Qatar. We are proud to count her as a neighbor!

Pastor John Cochran of Trinity Lutheran Church opened the ceremony with an invocation, and Johanna Leonard led us in singing The Star Spangled Banner. Donna Allison made brief remarks before introducing Doug and Sue Lippert, parents of Tina, who received the plaque that was presented by Charles Strahler of Goehring Street. Bob Lynch laid the wreath at the monument, and the Color Guard and Firing Squad of American Legion Post 565, led by Commander Edwin Smith and VFW Post 7090, led by Commander Ed Ambrose honored our deceased veterans by firing a 21 gun salute and playing Taps. After Bob made closing remarks, we ended with a benediction and the singing of America The Beautiful. After the ceremony concluded, the gathering enjoyed grilled hotdogs and cold drinks before dispersing.

Thank you to the volunteers who assisted with set-up, food, and clean-up that day. They are: Steve Brady, his son, Steve, Jr., and the staff of Brady's Memorial Home: Leeann, Ivan, and John; Donna Allison, Dianne Burns, Lisa and Liz Freiss, Mary O'Toole, Diane Schmitt, Bernie Strahler, Robert Taylor, and Ruth Vance. A special thanks to Jim Hurray who photographed the event for posterity. A very special Thank You to the men and women of American Legion Post 565 and VFW post 7090 for their faithful participation in our annual commemoration. They truly make our ceremony as special as it is and go to each of the 4 war monuments in our community every Memorial Day to properly commemorate their fallen comrades.

Thank you to the businesses and organizations who partnered with the Spring Hill Civic League to provide goods and services for this event. They are:

- Brady's Memorial Home- Hosting the commemoration and small flags for guests, as well as the hot dog buns.
- ESB Bank- Funding for Commemoration programs
- Holy Wisdom Food Bank- Condiments
- Sky-Vue Manor- Hot dogs
- American Legion Post 565 and VFW Post 7090- Color Guard, Firing Squad, and Bugler
- Spring Hill Civic League- beverages, table decorations, paper supplies

