



SPRING HILL * CITYVIEW TIMES

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Vol. 6 No. 49

November-December 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 January/February edition by December 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...

With the winter holidays around the corner (and the cold weather) it will be a busy time for everyone. Please don't leave us out in the cold at the November Community Meeting. There will be surprises for those who attend, so if you have not joined us before, this it would be a good time to begin! There will be door prizes, and the 50/50 raffle will be back to benefit the Holy Wisdom Food Pantry and St. Michael's Meals on Wheels. If anyone would like to make a special holiday donation to either of these fine organizations, you can do so at our meetings.

And then there is the annual Spring Hill Civic League Christmas Tree Lighting on December 3rd. Please join us for this holiday get-together with the Spring Hill Community.

But most importantly, I want to wish everyone a joyous and healthy holiday! Enjoy family, friends, home, and wherever else you may be at this time of year. What begins with you and yours will extend to the Spring Hill Community because you are what makes this a neighborhood that we all enjoy!

See you around the neighborhood,
Donna Allison

Thank You for Your Service

To the neighbors who worked as civic league volunteers and sold ride tickets during the 4-day Holy Wisdom Festival last August. A big Thank You to Dianne Burns, Lisa Freiss, Liz Freiss, and Diane Schmitt.

To the gardening volunteers who came out to help un-plant the community flower garden on Saturday, October 7th. A big Thank You to Donna Allison, Colleen Frederking, Elizabeth Grady, Mary, Kelly, and Kallie Herman, Ed Kunz, Heather McDonald, Joan Russell, Diane Schmitt, Ben and Char Soltesz, Mae and Moni Taylor, Emma Wilson, Dee Witsch, and Joyce Welsh.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2006

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

Monday, November 6th

Christmas Tree Lighting:
Sunday, December 3rd, 7:00 PM, Rockledge Street lot

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

WE GET LETTERS

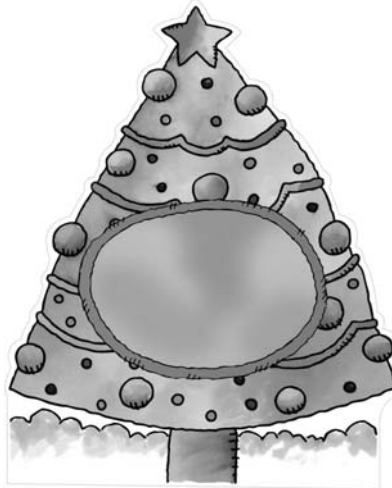
Dear Editor-

Hi- My name is Sophie Korn, and I would like to receive the Spring Hill/Cityview Times. I would also like one for my brother-in-law, Ambrose. We are old-timers that left "the hill" 35 years ago and certainly like to read all about the olden days! I do look forward to getting the paper.

Thanks-
Sophie

PS- What a great paper!

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING



The Santa truck will be driving around the community between 5:30 and 7:00 PM on Sunday, December 3rd. So be watching, and follow along to join us at the Rockledge Street lot that evening at 7:00 PM for the community's annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony. After the ceremony, cookies and hot chocolate will be served. Parents, bring your camera as kids will have a chance to visit with you-know-who!

DOWNUNDER COFFEEHOUSE

Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church

The DownUnder Coffeehouse will host national recording artist Erika Lockett (www.erikalockett.com) on Saturday, November 18th, at 7:30 PM. Born in Mexico and raised in Venezuela and Brazil, she made her way to France as a teenager, playing in the subways where her own style of Folk/Latin/Jazz/Pop echoed in

the underground. Named Female Artist of the Year 2004 by Just Plain Folks, her music radiates life and the wisdom culled from meeting the world head-on with openness and an exuberant spirit. Whether singing in English, Spanish, French, or Portuguese, Erika Lockett's music reminds us that beauty and a luminous heart transcend any boundary.

The DownUnder Coffeehouse is open the third Saturday each month in Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church, 416 West North Avenue on the North Side. Suggested donation for this month's show is \$10. Desserts and coffee will be available. Call 412-322-4261 or go to www.alleghenyuu.org for more details.

**HOLY WISDOM
FOODBANK**

The food bank at Holy Wisdom (St. Ambrose School) is held every third Tuesday of the month, from 10:00 AM 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 for the holidays.

To register for the food bank or to volunteer, call 412-231-1116

**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*



**SNOW REMOVAL
SERVICES**

With winter weather right around the corner, snow removal is a chore with which some older residents have difficulty. If you find yourself in need of someone to shovel your walkway, please contact Diane Schmitt at 412-231-7948 or schmittdl@stargate.net.

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

To Bill and Sarah Mocker on their July move into the Spring Hill community. The Mockers are residing on Bader Street and have a one year old son, Ian... to Adam and Meagan Mosko of Yetta Avenue... to Heather McDonald and Gavin Strauss of Sophia Street... and to Mary Elizabeth Grady, massage therapist, of Itin Street.

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

Get Well Wishes to Bernie Strahler of Goehring Street, Lee Kimble of St. Ambrose Manor, and Jean Snyder of List Street, as they recover from recent surgeries... and to Clair Weis as she rehabilitates at Kane Regional in the North Hills. Clair would love to hear from you. Her address is:

Kane Regional
110 McIntyre Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Our prayers are with you for a speedy recovery!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary to Ernie and Mary Roman on October 17th!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Janice Kufner on November 13th... Dee Russ on November 15th... Duane Herman of Hunnell Street... Terry Lippert of Leister Street... George Reis of St. Ambrose Manor... Bernie Saputski of Goehring Street... Dennis Schmitt of Yetta Avenue... and Clark Soltesz of Haslage Avenue.

December Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Lisa Kufner on December 26th... Derek King of Itin Street... Mary Ann Krupa of Serene Street... Monica Morrissey of Rockledge Street... Wilma Reis and Olive Traupman of St. Ambrose Manor... Lenny Schloer of Luella Street... and Diane Schmitt of Yetta Avenue.



Belated October Birthdays

A belated Happy Birthday to Jerry Snyder of Sophia Street!

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY...

To the family and friends of Lucille Hays, formerly of Leister Street, on her late September passing... to the family and friends of Jean Cislou, formerly of Serene Street, on her recent passing. Jean was a life-long supporter of Heinz House... to the family and friends of Ron Seiler of Haslage Avenue on his sudden passing in early October... and to the family and friends of Jim Ritson of St. Ambrose Manor on his sudden passing in early October.

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

UNITED WAY GIVING

The Spring Hill Civic League has been a United Way's Contributor's Choice group for the past several years. Your generosity has helped to fund community activities and defrays routine overhead expenses. Our deepest thanks to all of you who choose to support the community through the United Way. The Civic League's Contributor's Choice code number is **207**.



I REMEMBER WHEN...

The first Spring Hill firehouse was located where the present-day Rhine Street Memorial is situated. It operated from pre-1909 to 1929, when the war memorial was built. The building faced Haslage Avenue and extended to Zang Way. The rear of the building, facing Zang, had a storage pit for horse manure, which many neighbors used for gardening.

Four horses were stabled on the street level, one pair to pull a hose carriage and the other to pull a hook and ladder. When the alarm sounded, the doors opened automatically, the horses came out, and habitually got into formation to be hitched to their wagon.

In 1909 firemen worked six days a week, 24 hours a day. They had three hours off each day for meals and could go home if they desired. There was a standing joke at the time that children of these firemen would say: "Hey mommy, that man who eats here is back again!"

Around 1890 an incline carried passengers up to Spring Hill from Madison Avenue to Haslage Avenue.

A drugstore was located where the present-day ESB Bank stands. Frank Pail and later Bob Arbogast operated the store. The teens of the '50's enjoyed its soda fountain and swivel-seat stools.

The Spring Hill Elementary School of old had two towers. A small, round one housed a clock and faced Damas Street. A higher tower, which faced Noster Street, housed the school bell which rang at 6:00 AM, Noon, and 6:00 PM.

Submitted by Sue Stalter
Reprinted from the March-April 1986 Spring Hill Gazette

OLDSTERS SAY THE DARNEST THINGS!

Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, "How old was your husband?" "98," she replied, "two years older than me". "So you're 96," the undertaker commented. She wryly responded, "Hardly worth going home, is it?"

Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked. She simply replied, "No peer pressure".

It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffeemaker.

These days about half the stuff in my shopping cart says, "For fast relief."

Remember: You don't stop laughing because you grow old, You grow old because you stop laughing.

HOUSEHOLD TIPS

Reheat Pizza

Heat up leftover pizza in a non-stick skillet on top of the stove. Set the heat to medium-low and heat until warm. This keeps the crust crispy; no soggy micro pizza. I saw this on the cooking channel and it really works.

Easy Deviled Eggs

Put the cooked egg yolks in a zip lock bag. Seal the bag and mash it until they are all broken up. Add the remainder of the ingredients, reseal the bag, and keep mashing it up, mixing thoroughly. Cut the tip of the baggy and squeeze the mixture into the eggs. Just throw the bag away when you're done, an easy clean up!

Reducing Static Cling

Pin a small safety pin to the seam of your slip and you will not have a clingy skirt or dress. The same thing works with slacks that cling when wearing them with panty hose. Place the pin in a seam of the slacks and - Voila - the static is gone!

Measuring Cups

Before you pour sticky substances into a measuring cup, fill it with hot water, dump out the hot water, but don't dry the cup. Then, add the ingredient, such as peanut butter, and watch how easily it comes right out.



REMEMBERING SPRING HILL

“Boundaries and Sidewalks”

During the 1940's, Spring Hill and the city of Pittsburgh had a budding population. The city had about 800 thousand inhabitants, and almost every street on Spring Hill and the other neighborhoods on the North Side had a wealth of children. There were few, if any, empty desks in the schools on Spring Hill.

Official boundary lines were drawn by both the Pittsburgh Board of Education for public schools and by the Pittsburgh Diocese for Catholic schools. The golden jubilee booklet published for Saint Ambrose Parish anniversary (on page seventy six) spells out the parish boundary lines street by street. For the area close to where my family lived on Spring Hill it states... “from the intersection of Overbeck Street and Buente Street, along the brow of the hill, etc., belong to Saint Ambrose Parish.” It goes on to state “all below the brow of the aforementioned streets belong to Saint Boniface Parish.” The public schools were similarly divided between Spring Hill Elementary and East Street Public Elementary.

The divide of the community by areas for educational responsibilities, along with the great open space for the dead acting as a natural barrier, that being Saint John's Lutheran Cemetery, became a boundary line for the neighbors of that time. In a sense, two separate Spring Hill neighborhoods developed. Children living on Brahm, List, parts of Buente, Solar, and some other streets were fated to attend either Saint Boniface or East Street Public Elementary School, while the rest of Spring Hill children went off to Saint Ambrose or Spring Hill Elementary. My family lived on Overbeck, very near where it intersected with Buente, sending me and my brother and sister to Saint Ambrose School, while many of my friends went to Saint Boniface.

Back then it was no big deal, and few people openly fussed about it, but there was an undercurrent of discontent on the Boniface side of Spring Hill. After all, they had no streetcars or buses on the Boniface slope of the hillside and had only two small general stores. Boniface side people had no meat market, bakery, drycleaners, barber shop, or shoe repair shop, as the populace had on the Ambrose side. Why, once I even overheard an old lady remark that they had a savings and loan on the “other side of the hill”. Boniface Spring Hillers walked off the hillside and shopped along the East Street valley, buying meat and other provisions weekly. Walking off the hill and shopping was the easy part, carrying the heavy bags up hilly streets or taking the steep city steps was tough.

I can honestly proclaim that my family never uttered any remarks about being shortchanged because of where we lived and going without the conveniences that the Ambrose side of the hill took for granted. However, I myself developed a grievance watching my mother and other mothers hauling their foodstuffs up roads without sidewalks. Lugging bags with both hands, keeping small kids close to their side, and watching out for cars was hard and troublesome. It was all that more difficult without sidewalks. There were no sidewalks on the Boniface side of Spring Hill.

I did not see my first sidewalk until I was six years old! I was shocked! I never knew they existed until I started the first grade at Saint Ambrose. I walked the length of Overbeck with my older sister, climbed to the top of Solar, turned onto Lappe Lane, and after a very short distance reached Yetta and Haslage where I saw my first sidewalks. Young girls were playing on them, writing on them with chalk, while smaller kids peddled three wheelers. Automobiles traveled up and down these side-walked streets without any of the children looking up from their play or pausing for a moment. For awhile I thought only avenues had sidewalks. Yetta and Haslage were avenues and they both had sidewalks.

As I grew older and bigger and began to explore more of Spring Hill, I was amazed to notice that most of the streets on the Ambrose side of the hill had sidewalks. Whatever the cause for the Boniface side of Spring Hill not having sidewalks remains unknown. It was never given much thought nor seemed to bother others.

(Continued on page 6)



REMEMBERING SPRING HILL (continued from page 5)

It never really bothered me as much as I now pretend it did. But, it is a mystery why one part of the same hilly community had so many sidewalks while the other part had none!

In a misty way, I remember them all. When I was away from Pittsburgh as a man, sometimes in places I would have rather not been, those twisty streets of Spring Hill and many of the people that lived on them sustained me, and I walked them everyday in my mind's eye.

Submitted by Ambrose Korn

EASY HOLIDAY RECIPES

Microwave Peanut Brittle

For a holiday treat that takes minutes to make, you can try this easy peanut brittle recipe.

- Combine 1 cup of sugar and ½ cup of white corn syrup in a microwave bowl and microwave for 4 minutes.
- Stir in 1 cup of peanuts or any other nut you like and microwave for 3 more minutes.
- Stir in 1 tsp. of butter and 1 tsp. of vanilla and microwave for 2 more minutes.
- Stir in 1 tsp. of baking soda (it will foam up), then spread quickly onto an ungreased cookie sheet.
- Cool for 1 hour and break into small pieces.
- Store in a zip lock bag or airtight container.

Enjoy!!

Submitted by: Marlene Stecklein

Candy Trifles

- 2 six oz. packages semisweet chocolate, butterscotch, or caramel pieces
- 1 cup Spanish peanuts
- 2 1 or 2 cups chow mien noodles

In the top of a double-boiler over hot water, melt the candy pieces. Stir in the peanuts and chow mien noodles until well-coated. Drop mixture by teaspoonfuls onto waxed paper. Chill until firm. Makes about 3 dozen candies.

Reprinted from the Betty Crocker Cookbook

Fantastic Creamy-Hot Chicken Dip

- 2 Chicken breasts, boiled and shredded
- 1 8oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 6 oz. Frank's Hot sauce
- 1/2 cup Ranch dressing
- 1 cup shredded colby/monterey jack cheese

Melt the cream cheese in a skillet, and mix all ingredients. Serve warm with crackers or celery. Yum!

Reprinted from kraft.com



THANKSGIVING

The year has turned its circle,
 the seasons come and go.
 The harvest all is gathered in
 and chilly north winds blow.
 Orchards have shared
 their treasures,
 the fields, their yellow grain,
 so open wide the doorway
 Thanksgiving comes again!

Old Rhyme

*Reprinted from: There's No
 Page Like Home for the
 Holidays website © 1996-2002*

THE LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS ROSE

On that Holy Night when Baby
 Jesus was born, the angels
 filled the heavens with shining
 stars and placed a very special
 one over the stable. It was so
 brilliant that its rays would light
 the way for all to find the
 newborn Savior in Bethlehem.
 The rays were seen from afar by
 a poor little shepherdess.
 Shepherds, told of the Christ
 Child by angels, gathered gifts
 and hastened to the manger.
 The little shepherdess saw them
 pass by and wept because she
 had no gift to take. As her tears
 fell to the ground, flowers
 sprang up and blossomed. With
 a gladdened heart, she
 gathered them and hurried to
 the stable. In adoration, she

knelt and placed the flowers in
 the crib. When the Christ-
 Child's tiny hands touched
 them, the center of each
 blossom became a delicate
 pink. Thus, the Christmas Rose
 was born.

THE POINSETTIA

The Poinsettia was discovered
 in Mexico in 1928 by Dr. Joel
 Poinsett, the first U.S.
 ambassador to Mexico.
 Cuttings were sent to Robert
 Buist, a botanist in Philadelphia.
 He, in turn, sent specimens to
 the Botanical Gardens in
 Edinburg, Scotland. The people
 of Mexico and Central America
 call the plant Flor De La Noche
 Buena (Flower of the Holy
 Night) because in its natural
 habitat, the plant blooms at
 Christmas time.

*Reprinted from the Undercover
 Club newsletter*



CHRISTMAS ...

Is more than a day at the end of
 the year
 More than a day of joy and good
 cheer
 Christmas is really God's pattern
 for living
 To be followed each day by
 unselfish giving
 Then peace on earth will come
 to stay
 When we live Christmas every
 day.

Author Unknown

NEW YEAR TRADITIONS

There are numerous traditions
 to help make the year ahead
 lucky and financially successful.
 Many are related to what one is
 doing, eating, or experiencing
 when the New Year began.

- Among some folks, the first
 person coming into a home
 after midnight on New Years
 morning must be a tall, dark-
 haired man...
- Others put silver coins on a
 windowsill before midnight
 and recover them after
 midnight. Bringing in silver
 as the new year begins will
 supposedly help to bring it in
 throughout the year...
- Being together with loved
 ones is important to some
 celebrants. They hope that
 togetherness will continue
 during the year ahead...
- Traditional New Year foods
 are designed to bring luck
 and success. Pork is
 frequently served because
 pigs root for their food
 forward, while chicken is not
 preferred because they root
 for their food backward.
 Circular food, such as
 doughnuts, symbolizes life
 coming full circle or
 completing the new year
 cycle successfully. Some
 homes serve a pretzel-
 shaped coffeecake, hoping
 that it will bring the person
 consuming it luck in the new
 year...
- The song "Auld Lang Syne"
 is sung at the stroke of
 midnight in almost every
 English-speaking country
 worldwide. Translated, Auld
 Lang Syne means "old long
 ago" or "the good old days"!

*Reprinted from the Undercover
 Club newsletter*

2006 HALLOWEEN PARADE

A sunny, but brisk autumn day provided the ideal backdrop to this year's Halloween Parade. 125 children registered for the event, with all but six attending, in many beautiful and creative costumes. The parade lined up at Brady's Memorial Home where snacks and drinks were provided, then proceeded to the Rockledge Street lot where judges chose winners for five costume categories. Judges commented that the decision was difficult, as there were so many unique costumes!

Winners of the costume judging were Charlotte Soltesz in the "prettiest" category, Kali Morrissey in the "funniest" category, Marcus Gerst in the "cutest" category, Erin Bartolowitz in the "most original" category, and Earl Foster 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; Kristen, apprentice to Steve Brady; Dianne Burns; the staff of ESB Bank; Liz Freiss; Kristen Gray; Darlene Harris; Katie Heiles; Jim Hurray; Kim Schmitt; Dennis and Diane Schmitt; Ben Soltesz; Ruth Vance; and Joyce Welsh.

We certainly could not hold this event without the generous support of the many, 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. A special Thank You to the residents of St. Ambrose Manor who generously donated \$152.00 to this event. This annual parade provides an outlet for our neighbors who wish to participate in Halloween events, but who do not have the opportunity to hand out treats personally. In addition, we give a special Thank You to the staff of ESB Bank who packed our treat bags for the second year in a row.

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, 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 demonstrates the teamwork and commitment that makes the Spring Hill/CityView neighborhood one of the best places to live in Pittsburgh!



Winners of the Costume Judging Contest.
From left to right: Charlotte Soltesz, Kali Morrissey, Erin Bartolowitz, Marcus Gerst, and Earl Foster.



The Cat and a Superhero!



The Littlest Lion



May and Monni Have Their Treats



Warmest Costume of the Day!