



SPRING HILL * CITYVIEW TIMES

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Vol. 7 No. 55

November-December 2007

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: Vacant
Treasurer: Ben Soltesz
Directors: Stephen Brady
Joan Russell
Eileen Back

Newsletter Articles

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

Mail Delivery

For a yearly subscription, send \$6.00 to:
Spring Hill/Cityview Times c/o
1149 Admiral Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT...

Welcome to our new Board Members!

The Spring Hill Civic League has been without a full board of directors for many months now. Vacant seats can be appointed by the seated board, and I'd like for the members of the Spring Hill Civic League to join me in welcoming two recently appointed board members:

Joan Russell spent her career working in computer software development, first as a Navy officer, later in Honeywell Federal Systems Division, and finally as a software project manager for America Online. She has an M.S. in Computer Science from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. While living in the Washington D.C. area she visited Spring Hill many times to spend the holidays with family who reside here. She moved to Spring Hill in 2002. The first several years were spent with her brother David, a historic restoration specialist, working on her home. It is one of the original houses on Spring Hill and dates to just after the Civil War. She has been volunteering many hours as the editor of the Spring Hill CityView Times for the last year and doing a fantastic job!

Eileen Back has been a resident of Spring Hill since 1960. Although retired from Mellon Bank, she still works part time at Citizens Bank on East Ohio Street. She served many years volunteering on the St. Ambrose (now Holy Wisdom) Parish Council while raising her family in the neighborhood. Eileen and her husband Ambrose "Buzz", raised their two children Brian and Kathleen on Spring Hill and are the proud grandparents of six grandchildren – five boys and one

(Continued on page 2)

STEELERS TICKET DRAWING NOVEMBER 5th!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2007

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

Monday, November 5th
Board Elections
Steelers Ticket Drawing

Christmas Tree Lighting:
Sunday, Dec. 2nd, 7:00 PM
Rockledge Street lot

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

From the Desk of the President...

(Continued from page 1)

girl. For many years Buzz has flown the flag at the Spring Hill Memorial Day Commemoration.

I personally want to thank our board – Dianne Burns, Ben Soltesz, Steve Brady, Joan Russell, and Eileen Back for the dedication and hard work that they demonstrate at all times. It is with their commitment to the community that great events like the Halloween Parade are possible and that the Spring Hill neighborhood is well represented on the North Side.

As the year draws to a close and we think of giving thanks and spending time with family and friends, please remember to thank all those who volunteer throughout the community. Enjoy the holidays and stay safe.

Sincerely,
Donna Allison
President



E-MAIL LIST

The SHCL occasionally sends out e-mails for important information regarding our community. If you would like reminders as well as important happenings in our community, please send your e-mail address to bensoltesz@gmail.com. This information is just for our community. Your e-mail address will not be given out or sold.

COMMUNITY AND GARDEN CLEAN UP

On October 13th many volunteers showed up to clean up the garden and the community. Ben Soltesz led a group who picked up tons of trash along the main streets of our community. Dianne Burns and Joan Russell welcomed volunteers to pull the weeds and clean up the garden for the winter. Debbie brought a box of Hostas from her garden to replant in ours. Joan made cookies to keep up our energy. The SHCL provided a pizza lunch for all our volunteers who included: Colleen and Bob Frederking, Linda Wallen, Pete McQuillan, Werner Krupp, Marianne Krostyne, Shawn Duggan, Earl Foster, and Kelly, Kaily, and Mary Herman.

Please consider helping us next year. It is up to the community to continue our garden. We are in desperate need of volunteers to help weed and water. We also need additional perennials that can be added in the spring. A garden steward, someone who can help co-ordinate the planting, weeding, and watering, would also be very much appreciated. Please contact Dianne Burns if you can help in any way at 412-231-7718 or Dianne.burns@verizon.net.



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING



The Spring Hill Civic League invites you and your family to welcome the Christmas Season at our annual **Christmas Tree Lighting** December 2nd. We will gather at the Rockledge Street lot at 7:00 PM. After a brief blessing and a short presentation to the Holy Wisdom Food Bank, we will sing Christmas carols and light the Christmas trees. After the ceremony cookies and hot chocolate will be served. By this time Santa will have arrived!



Santa will be driving all around Spring Hill that evening distributing candy to the

children. He usually arrives in our neighborhood around 5:30 PM and drives by all the houses with good little boys and girls. By the time the cookies are being served he should be arriving at the Rockledge Street lot. All the good little boys and girls are welcome to sit with Santa in his Santa Truck. Parents are welcome to bring their cameras.

Please join us for a wonderful community event to celebrate our family values. Remember the Reason for the Season!

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

To Stanley Anick of Harbor Street

Stanley has lived on Harbor Street for three years but missed being announced in the newsletter. Welcome Stanley!

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 Ben Soltesz at bensoltesz@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy Birthday to Terry Lippert and George Reis, who celebrate November birthdays.

Happy Birthday to Wilma Reis, who celebrates a December birthday.

SNOW REMOVAL

Lawn care, trimming, snow removal, general contracting.

412-231-2009



OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

To the family and friends of Roberta "Bobbie" (Seelnacht) Rock of Spring Hill, who passed away on August 28th... to the family and friends of Lillian (Deuerling) Waldorf of City View, who passed away on September 4th... to the family and friends of Beverly Kennedy of Spring Hill, who passed away on September 8th... to the Bucek family, on the October 9th passing of James Bucek of Spring Hill... to the family and friends of William "Bill" Reid of Rhine Street. Bill passed away on October 12th... to the Allnock family on the October 15th passing of Edith Mariann (Jakovac) Allnock, formerly of Rhine Street... and to the family and friends of Clare (Ward) Behr, who passed away on June 10th.

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 for the past 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's Contributor's Choice code number is 207.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy 54th Anniversary to George and Wilma Reis on November 21st!

HOLY WISDOM FOOD BANK

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. This means that the donations you make go *directly to your neighbor*, not anywhere else in the city.

Please help your neighbors in need. **ESB Bank will be collecting food and gift cards** during November and December. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off at the Bank during normal business hours starting November 5th. Some items particularly needed are peanut butter, jelly, cereal, small boxes of tea bags, coffee, and Giant Eagle gift cards.

Monetary gifts will be collected at all SHCL meetings and can be brought to the Christmas tree lighting. Checks or gift cards can also be sent to: Holy Wisdom Food Pantry, 1025 Haslage Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

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



Join

Cub Scout Pack 24!

Most Holy Name Church, 1700 Harpster Street (Troy Hill)

Who can become a Cub Scout?

Boys in grades 1 through 5 – Invite your favorite cousin and best friend.....

What do Cub Scouts do?

- Archery
- Awards & Advancements
- BB Guns
- Blue & Gold Banquet
- Camping
- Citizenship
- Cooking
- Day Camp
- Fishing
- Games
- Picnics
- Pinewood Derby Race
- Popcorn
- Service Projects
- Skits
- Songs

HAVE LOTS OF FUN!

Contact: Dorothy Root at (412) 231-7013

Parents whatever you can do to help in the operation of our pack will be appreciated.
Each new Cub Scout will receive a free Steelers hat!

TIPS FROM THE BURGLARY SQUAD TO BETTER SECURE YOUR HOME

As simple as it sounds, make sure windows and doors are locked when away. HOWEVER, windows are easily broken and doors are easily jimmied or kicked in SO...

Consider a burglar alarm system (which is not as expensive as you would think) which immediately sounds a loud alarm when a break-in happens. The signal is then dispatched to the police. Burglars tend to run as soon as the alarm sounds.

Do not discard cartons for new electronics out in the garbage until the morning of pick up.

Hide laptops, iPods, etc. when out. A good tip is to leave an old laptop case on the floor opened up with some interface wires laying on a table or desk. This may make the burglar think the laptop is out of the house.

Burglars frequently case neighborhoods and become very familiar with them. Note strangers prowling the neighborhood and call police to report it, no matter how insignificant it looks. The response of uniformed officers is the best weapon

against catching a burglar. Patrol Officers love to catch burglars.

Consider calling a locksmith to assess your home for security hardware. Keep accurate records of your valuables, including serial numbers of electronics.

Consider motion activated night lights.

Reprint from a Citizen Alert from the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police.

PERSONAL CAREGIVER Very Affordable

Looking to care for the elderly in their homes. I am certified as a Nurses Aide and in First Aid. I have a cleared criminal background with papers.
Contact: Nancy Harrover, 412-321-8716.

Please be considerate of your neighbors if you walk your dog in public. Pick up the doggy doo doo!!!





**ALLEGHENY CITY
SOCIETY
COMMEMORATES
ANNEXATION
ANNIVERSARY**

On June 12, 1906, Allegheny City was forced in a referendum vote by the legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be annexed to the City of Pittsburgh. After a U.S. Supreme Court case that upheld the State order, Allegheny City was formally annexed on December 7, 1907. Allegheny City Society, a nonprofit organization that preserves the history of the former Allegheny City, will commemorate this historic centennial year with a banquet and reenactment event.

A centennial commemoration banquet will be held on Thursday, December 6th at the Grand Hall at the Priory from 6:00-10:00 PM. In addition to a three-course dinner, attendees will be treated to a brief program and entertainment by Tom Roberts, master of early jazz piano whose film and television credentials include *The Aviator*, *A Prairie Home Companion*, and *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson*. It is expected that Miss Allegheny and Pa Pitt will be in attendance to mingle with the guests. The cost per person will be \$30, and a cash bar will be available.

On Friday, December 7, 2007, at 12:00 noon on the Roberto Clemente (former Sixth Street) Bridge there will be a reenactment of the historic 1907 meeting between the Honorable George W. Guthrie, Mayor of Pittsburgh, with the Honorable Charles F. Kirschler, Mayor of Allegheny City. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend this free event.

To register for the commemoration banquet send a check (payable to ACS) for \$30 per person to: Allegheny City Society, P.O. Box 100255, Pittsburgh, PA 15233. For additional information, visit www.alleghenycity.org.

**DOWNUNDER
COFFEEHOUSE**

After an extra long summer vacation, the DownUnder Coffeehouse will emerge from its hibernation with a series of wonderful shows.

Upcoming DownUnder Concerts:

Nov. 17, 2007 - Brad Yoder Duo
 Dec. 15, 2007 - BJ Searcy & Davy Sturtevant
 Jan. 19, 2008 - Ishtar
 Feb. 16, 2008 - Keith Hershberger & Mark Williams

The DownUnder Coffeehouse is open the third Saturday each month in Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church, 416 West North Ave, North Side. Call 412-322-4261 or see www.alleghenyuu.org for more details.

THE MATTRESS FACTORY

**India: Below the Surface
(Panel Discussion)**

Thursday, November 15, 2007
 7:00 PM (guided tour at 6PM)
 Admission: \$10.00 (\$5.00 Students/MF Members)
 How do religion and the arts interact on the classical and popular levels in India? What does Radha, a primary deity in Hinduism, have to do with Mother Meera and Bhakti Poets? What is the significance of Sufism in Indian Culture?

Family Day at the MF

Friday, November 23, 2007
 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 FREE with Regular Museum Admission. Enjoy ARTLab activities from 11:00 AM - 4:30 PM, a live music performance at 2:00 PM, and a guided tour at 3:00 PM.

**MF Shop Presents: Glass
Artist Trunk Show**

Drew Hine of Vessel Studio
 Saturday, November 24, 2007
 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 Sunday, November 25, 2007
 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

**MF Shop Presents: Felt
Making Workshop and
Trunk Show**

Fiber Artist Karen Page
 Saturday, December 8, 2007
 11:00 AM

The **Mattress Factory** is a museum of contemporary art that presents art you can get into — room-sized environments, created by in-residence artists. It is located in the historic Mexican War Streets of Pittsburgh's North Side. For more information go to <http://www.mattress.org>.



CHILDREN'S MUSEUM EVENTS INFORMATION

Circus for Social Change

A Project of the Zany Umbrella Circus

Through January 21, 2008

Set off on an adventure to learn the circus arts of walking a tight rope, balancing on a giant ball, mastering tin-can stilts, and spinning plates in this fun exhibit. See the places Zany Umbrella Circus' founder, Ben Sota, has journeyed with his circus outreach efforts over the last two years in a series of photos and video by Renee Rosensteel. You can also play with musical instruments, toys, and clothing from the different cultures Ben experienced. During his trips to post-Katrina Mississippi and Louisiana, Afghanistan, and Jordan you'll see how Ben not only brought circus arts into children's lives, but hope and inspiration as well.

Tough Art

Through January 21, 2008

Check out the interactive art works of four emerging artists who got the chance to make their art "tough" enough to withstand kid handling, during a three-month summer residency at the Museum. Matt Barton's "Drum Machine" lets you stomp your feet and pull/push levers to activate drums and other percussion. Eileen Maxson's piece provides a podium, props, and costumes for kids to stage their own speeches and press conferences, and see them broadcast on a large screen. Kids can use their own strength to create renewable energy and power mini wind turbines in a piece by Joey Hayes. Gregory Witt's robotic table allows you to create a movement sequence through touch that makes the table tilt, move, and bend at the knees.

With support from the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Tough Art program will bring new artists to the Museum to toughen up their work for the next three years.

From Illustration to Animation:

Through December 31, 2007

Books Come Alive Through the Art of Animation

In the new ToonSeum Gallery

Featuring original art from classic books, editorial cartoons, and well-loved comic books and comic strips spanning over 100 years. You can also see original cels, backgrounds, and sketches from the animated versions of *The Cat in the Hat*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Madeline*, *Horton Hears a Who*, *Lord of the Rings*, *Babar The Elephant* and much more.

Fairy Tales of the World

October 19 - November 26, 2007

Told by children who are innocent victims of warfare

See a collection of beautifully illustrated traditional folk tales from across the globe, as told by children from areas such as Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Cambodia. You can even learn a few words of the language of each country. The Museum presents this exhibit in partnership with Emergency, a non-profit organization that has provided free, quality medical and surgical care for civilians in war-torn regions since 1994.

World Children's Weekend Featuring Atzilut: Concerts for Peace

November 17 – 18, 2007

The Children's Museum joins UNESCO in observing Universal Children's Day with two days of activities in dance, music, art, and food from many cultures, such as Spanish dancing, German music, Italian cooking, Chinese games, Russian toys, and Japanese calligraphy, presented by the Institute of International Arts and Languages. The weekend's highlight is a stirring concert by **Atzilut: Concerts for Peace**, an ensemble of Arab and Jewish musicians exploring the shared roots of their musical traditions, on Sunday, November 18th, at the New Hazlett Theater.

The Children's Museum is located at 10 Children's Way, Allegheny Square, North Side - Visit www.pittsburghkids.org for more details and ticket information.

TELEPHONE BOOK RECYCLING

The City of Pittsburgh's Department of Public Works – Recycling Division, along with several local businesses, have all joined together again to sponsor a telephone book recycling drop-off program from October 2007 to May 2008. The City of Pittsburgh sincerely congratulates Giant Eagle, Home Depot, Construction Junction, and Whole Foods for making telephone book recycling more convenient. The City encourages all residents and patrons of these businesses to bring their old telephone books to any of the drop-off sites listed below:

- The Home Depot, East Liberty at the corner of Penn Circle North and Highland Avenue.
- Giant Eagle in Lawrenceville at 4701 Plummer Street.
- Giant Eagle in Shadyside at 5550 Center Avenue.
- Giant Eagle in Squirrel Hill at 1901 Murray Avenue.
- Giant Eagle on the South Side at 2021 Wharton Street.
- Giant Eagle on the North Side at 318-320 Cedar Avenue.
- Giant Eagle at the Crafton-Ingram Shopping Center.
- Giant Eagle at the Waterworks at Mall at 910 Freeport Road.
- Whole Foods in East Liberty at 5880 Center Avenue.
- Construction Junction in North Point Breeze at 214 North Lexington Avenue.
- The Environmental Services Drop-Off Sites at:
 2nd Division, P.W. – West Homewood/East Liberty near North Point Breeze on Dallas at Hamilton Avenue.
 3rd Division, P.W. – Melancton Avenue, off the 5200 block of 2nd Avenue in Hazelwood.
 5th Division, P.W. – Hassler Street, off Herschel Street next to Herschel Field in the West End off Steuben Street.
 Environmental Services – At Railroad Street and 30th Street in the Strip District.

Please contact the Recycling Division at 412-255-2631 is you need more information or details on recycling.

Reprint from www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us

WiFi DOWNTOWN PITTSBURGH

Right now, Downtown is the best place for free wireless access! It is available for public Internet access anywhere outdoors within the Downtown vicinity and is valid for any WiFi-enabled computer, portable or hand-held device* for up to two hours a day.

Surf as much as you want for free for your first two hours per day. If you need more time after that, a prompt will pop up, telling you that your free two hours are about to expire and asking you if you'd like to purchase more time. If you choose to purchase more time, you will be prompted to provide credit card information via a secure connection.

Connecting is easy.

- Locate the wireless icon on your desktop toolbar and right click.
- Click on "Viewable Wireless Networks."
- Select "WiFi Pittsburgh" and click "Connect."
- Once connected, click on your Internet browser (you will receive the WiFi Downtown Pittsburgh page).
- If not already registered, click on the "Register Now" box and follow the instructions.
- Once registered, you can surf the Internet anywhere outdoors Downtown for two hours free.
- Next time you use the network, just type in your password and go!

US Wireless Online Subscription Packages:

- Single-day Connect (24 hours) \$7.99
- Mobile Connect (1 month) \$14.99
- Annual Connect (1 year) \$119.99

To register for WiFi Downtown Pittsburgh go to: www.WiFiPittsburgh.com.

Reprint from www.downtownpittsburgh.com.



2007 HALLOWEEN PARADE

Once again we had a successful Halloween Parade! A beautiful autumn day with blue sky and warm temperatures was the perfect backdrop for the celebration. 104 children registered for the event with the vast majority of them attending.

There were many colorful and creative costumes. Winners of the costume contest were Kailey Herman of Hunnel Street in the “prettiest” category, Erin Bartolowits of Hetzel Street in the “funniest” category, Lindsay Felsing of Rockledge Street in the “cutest” category, Madison Lorenz of Yetta Avenue in the “most original” category, and Tommy Gerst of Haslage Avenue in the “scariest” category. Congratulations to the winners and to all who attended! Great job on the costumes! Thanks to our judges Beth Gloff, Joanna Leonard, Joan Sterritt, Alxes Soltesz, and Councilwoman Darlene Harris. And thanks to our photographer, Jim Hurray.

The SHCL Board would also like to thank all of our corporate sponsors. We could not have this event without the help of:

ESB BANK – packed the bags as well as donated chips and candy.

Sky View Terrace – donated chips and coloring books.

Hamm’s Market – donated chips and drinks.

Balesteire Produce – donated the delicious fresh fruit.

Waltmire Pharmacy – donated chips.

Dianne Burns – donated the crayons.

Carnegie Science Center, National Aviary, Pittsburgh Zoo, and Pittsburgh Children’s Museum – donated passes for the costume contest prizes.

Brady’s Memorial Home – Steve donated chips and drinks. He and his staff donated their time, energy, and building for this event.

Your generosity of money, goods, and services provided a wonderful Halloween event for the children of our community. This event takes many hours of preparation and many volunteers. A big “Thank You” to all.







November is a time of reflection and thanks. The SHCL Board would like to thank all of our many volunteers who give their time all year. Our Board and all of our activities are made possible by **VOLUNTEERS**. These volunteer activities include: newsletter contributors; cookie donations; plants donated for our garden; weed and trash pickers; Halloween, Christmas, and Memorial Day workers and planers; ticket sellers at the Holy Wisdom Festival; and donations and volunteers for the Food Bank. None of these events would happen if we didn't have volunteers! A special "Thanks" to our Block Workers. These volunteers deliver the newsletter to your door six times a year. They help to collect for Halloween and yearly membership dues. And "Kudos" to our wonderful newsletter editor, who devotes hours and hours every other month to produce this newsletter.

Sincerely,
Dianne Burns
Vice President



THE TURKEY

Benjamin Franklin

"I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen as the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral Character... Like those among Men who live by Sharping & Robbing, he is generally poor and very often lousy.

The Turkey is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird and withal a true original Native of North America".

BOURBON-RAISIN PECAN PIE

Prep: 25 min.
Bake: 50 min.

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup raisins
- 2 tablespoons bourbon
- 1 cup dark-color corn syrup
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1/3 cup butter, melted
- 3/4 cup coarsely broken pecans
- 1 unbaked 9-inch pastry shell
- Whipped cream (optional)
- Ground nutmeg (optional)

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350F. In a small saucepan, combine raisins and bourbon. Bring mixture just to boiling over medium heat; reduce heat. Simmer, uncovered, for 2 minutes. Remove from heat. Cover and let stand for 10 minutes. Do not drain.
2. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, combine corn syrup, sugar, cinnamon, the 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg, and cloves. Add eggs and melted butter; beat well. Stir in pecans and raisin mixture. Spoon pecan mixture into pastry shell. Bake for 50 to 55 minutes or until center is set.
3. Cool on a wire rack. Refrigerate pie within 2 hours; cover for longer storage. If desired, top pie with whipped cream and sprinkle with additional nutmeg. Makes 8 servings.
4. Make-Ahead Tip: Prepare and bake pie as directed; cool. Cover and chill for up to 24 hours. If desired, top with whipped cream and sprinkle with additional nutmeg.

Reprinted from Better Homes and Garden recipes.bhg.com.



FRUITCAKE

Fruitcake is for many families the giving and receiving of a favorite, though often ridiculed, traditional food. Fruitcake is considered to be a part of many families' Christmas traditions just as important as having a Christmas tree.

Like many Christmas traditions, the idea of giving fruitcakes as gifts is thought to have originated in ancient times. No one ever recorded who took the first cake and added fruit, honey, nuts, and alcohol to make an edible gift for their family, but records indicate that this tradition was occurring in Rome prior to the birth of Jesus.

One of the main reasons fruitcakes were given as gifts in early times is that the ingredients combined in such a way as to greatly reduce the spoiling of this food. This was a huge advantage when the average family had very little control over their food supply, and allowed people to travel longer distances since they could carry a food supply with them that would not spoil.

The fruitcake as we know it today evolved from plum cake recipes in England. It became a natural food to have for holiday celebrations, since it could be made in advance (sometimes many months in advance) and then families could be prepared to give their visitors a treat.

After trying to eat a piece of fruitcake, I have joined the list of people who believe that fruitcakes are never consumed, just created and given as gifts to others. One day, our planet will be overwhelmed with fruitcakes and they will all need to be dumped into an ocean, possibly creating the new continent of 'fruitkacia'. Or, maybe they will just be used as bricks in the building of skyscrapers.

Reprint from www.merry-christmas.com

CHRISTMAS BELLS

This poem was written on a Christmas morning during the American Civil War by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The references to this war were later removed when the poem was rearranged and set to music.

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
 Their old familiar carols play,
 And wild and sweet
 The words repeat
 Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
 The belfries of all Christendom
 Had rolled along
 The unbroken song
 Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
 The world revolved from night to day,
 A voice, a chime,
 A chant sublime
 Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
 The cannon thundered in the South,
 And with the sound
 The carols drowned
 Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
 The hearth-stones of a continent,
 And made forlorn
 The households born
 Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
 "There is no peace on earth," I said:
 "For hate is strong,
 And mocks the song
 Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
 "God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
 The Wrong shall fail,
 The Right prevail,
 With peace on earth, good-will to men!"



**STATE
REPRESENTATIVE
DON WALKO REPORTS
FROM HARRISBURG**

**Walko bill would help
nonprofits raise money
through bingo,
and other games**

I have introduced a bill that would update laws that limit how much nonprofit organizations in Pennsylvania can earn from bingo games, raffles and pull-tab games.

This legislation would modernize the way nonprofits raise funds in our state and update restrictions that have held them back. These changes would enable nonprofits such as volunteer fire companies and churches to expand their fund-raising capacity. With expanded gaming in Pennsylvania, these changes are more important than ever before.

My bill (H.B. 1857) would make several changes to reflect current technology and monetary inflation:

- allow for the use of handheld electronic bingo cards;
- allow for progressive jackpots;
- increase the payout per day from \$4,000 to \$10,000;
- allow for leasing of bingo halls and compensation for professionals to run the game of bingo;
- remove limits on advertising;
- eliminate limits on pull-tab games and raffles.

The bill has been referred to the House Gaming Oversight Committee for consideration.

**Law backed by Walko
expands Property Tax/Rent
Rebate Program**

Speaking of gaming, the state lottery funds many worthwhile services for seniors. One of those, the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, has been expanded massively thanks to a law I supported. However, many people who could qualify for rebates of up to \$650 are still not aware of this program.

The income limit for this program has been raised to \$35,000 – that’s more than double the old limit. And many people with household incomes of about \$40,000 can qualify because only half of a person’s Social Security or railroad retirement income counts toward the limit.

The maximum rebate amount has also been raised – it’s now \$650. So I strongly encourage people who may qualify to look into this helpful program. It can make a huge difference for seniors on fixed incomes who are at risk of losing their family homes.

To qualify, a person must be 65 or older, a widow or widower 50 or older, or 18 or older with a permanent disability. Rebates issued this year are based on property taxes or rent paid in 2006. The deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2007.

For help with the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program or other state-related concerns, please call my office at 412-321-5523.

**MAYOR TACKLES VACANT
HOUSES**

**Doubles Demolition
Budget, Increases Fire
Prevention**

After October 10th, a drug-ridden, vacant structure will no longer impose social, economic, and environmental harm to the neighbors surrounding 75 Strauss Street in the City’s North Side. In 2008, thanks to a doubling of the City’s demolition budget by Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, bringing down such problem structures will no longer be such a rare occurrence.

After listening to the outcry from communities throughout the City who were riddled with decaying structures, the Mayor took a hard look at this issue and discovered an inherited backlog of 1,400 condemned vacant buildings.

As a result, he instituted a program that will result in a dramatic increase in City wide demolition efforts. This announcement comes as the pinnacle of the City’s National Fire Prevention Week activities, because vacant structures pose a major fire hazard due to delayed detection.

“By increasing efficiencies and remaining fiscally prudent, we can commit more City resources to keep our neighborhoods clean and safe,” Mayor Ravenstahl said. “We are turning the tide on neglect by eliminating the inherited backlog of vacant structures and abandoned vehicles, and

(Continued on page 13)



SKYVUE TERRACE AND HEARTLAND HOSPICE RECOGNIZE NOVEMBER AS NATIONAL HOSPICE MONTH

Throughout November, Pittsburgh based Heartland Home Health Care & Hospice joins thousands of hospice agencies across America in celebrating National Hospice Month. The theme selected for this year's campaign is "It must be LOVE...It's called hospice" to honor the health care professionals and volunteers who work together with patients and families, and to educate the public about the special service hospice provides to the community. This is a nation wide event sponsored by the National Hospice Organization and the Hospice Association of America.

Established in 1978, National Hospice Month honors the principles of hospice care, to help terminally ill patients recapture the spirit of living and make the most of their remaining time with family and friends. Through treatment primarily based in the home, hospice professionals and volunteers provide physical, spiritual, and emotional support for thousands of the nation's terminally ill patients and their families. Hospice care moves beyond treatment for the physical pain terminally ill patients may be experiencing. The hospice team helps people cope with one of life's most challenging transitions. Through comprehensive, compassionate, and skillful caring, they make life more meaningful for individuals

traveling their final journey home.

Skyvue Terrace plans on scheduling a variety of events and activities throughout the month of November to showcase the benefits of hospice, share information on searching for quality care, and determine when it is the right time to consider hospice care for a loved one.

Heartland Home Health Care and Hospice is owned and operated by Toledo-based HCR Manor Care, an integrated health care provider with broad capabilities in long term care, assisted living, Alzheimer's care, specialty, subacute, rehabilitation, home health, and hospice services.

Janelle Meyers
Skyvue Terrace Nursing and Rehabilitation
2170 Rhine Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Mayor Tackles Vacant Houses

(continued from page 12)

focusing on keeping our citizens safe with initiatives such as the free smoke detector program."

Vacant structures also contribute to blight and crime. The Mayor's commitment to public safety is reflected in his fiscal year 2008 capital budget. Not only will the demolition budget double, there will be a significant increase in dollars for the purchasing of fire safety equipment.

"Doubling the demolition budget for 2008 demonstrates the Mayor's grasp of the serious

problem of abandoned housing in the City's poorer neighborhoods," said Jim Richter, Executive Director of Hazelwood Initiative, Inc. "Tearing down buildings that can't be rehabilitated creates a number of opportunities, among them land assembly for new housing development and side lots for adjacent homeowners."

With over 1,400 condemned vacant structures breeding illegal activity across the City, families in nearby homes are put in danger when fires spread from such structures.

"Taking down these structures will prevent fires and save lives," Public Safety Director Michael Huss said. "Not only is this a major quality-of-life issue, but we need to ensure that somebody's occupied home isn't compromised by nearby vacant structures."

Last spring, Mayor Ravenstahl instituted the "Free Smoke Detector" program. Every City resident, homeowner, and renter, can request a free smoke detector to be installed in their home, free of charge, by calling or e-mailing the 3-1-1 Response Line.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, an estimated 890 American lives could be saved each year if every home had a smoke detector.

To date, fire personnel have installed over 2,000 smoke detectors. The Mayor hopes to double this number by next year, and ensured that the 2008 fiscal year budget would provide for increased dollars to continue this program's success.