

Vol. 8 No. 61

SPRING HILL * CITYVIEW TIME

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

November-December 2008



UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2008

COMMUNITY MEETING Monday, November 3rd 7:00 PM

Board Elections
Spring Hill Elementary School
auditorium

Membership Drive:

September 1st - December 31st

Christmas Tree Lighting:

Sunday, December 7th, 7:00 PM Rockledge Street lot.

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

NEWSLETTER MAIL DELIVERY

For a yearly subscription, send \$8.00 to: Spring Hill/Cityview Times at c/o 1149 Admiral Street Pittsburgh, PA 15212

SHCL WEB SITE: www.shcl.org
Past editions of the newsletter are
available online.

FROM THE DESK OF... THE VICE PRESIDENT

The Holiday Season is upon us. This is a good time to reflect on the past year and plan positive revisions for the New Year quickly approaching.

The elections at the November meeting will bring a full board to this Civic League for the first time in way too long. We have added a few new block workers. We have had several people volunteer for old and new events. All positive change for our community.

The board had 13 surveys returned from the last newsletter. All were very positive. We would still like your input. Please let us know what events you would like to see in your community.

The Steel City Boxing League will continue to serve our community with even greater participation. Even though they have lost a large grant this year, the new board has committed to keeping this great organization running. I hope that everyone will be generous with donations. They will be taking over the responsibility for the community garden. Anyone who drives by can see what a great job they have done. Another huge positive for this community.

I hope that all of our neighbors have had a good year and that the upcoming years will continue to be positive. Merry Christmas and a Great New Year to all.

Dianne Burns Vice President Spring Hill Civic League

CIVIC LEAGE BOARD ELECTIONS COMING UP!

At the October 6th Community Meeting of the Spring Hill Civic League the following individuals were nominated for positions on the Board of Directors for 2009:

Jackie Hoffman – President Karen McLellan – Secretary Pete McQuillin – Board Member

Elections will be held at the November 3rd meeting. We hope you can join us.

SPRING HILL CIVIC LEAGUE CONTACT INFORMATION

Vice President Dianne Burns 412-231-7718 contact@shcl.org or dianne.burns@verizon.net

Treasurer Ben Soltesz 412-231-0303 contact@shcl.org_or bensoltesz@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor Joan Russell 412-322-9945 contact@shcl.org or joanrussell@aol.com



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.

2008 Board of Directors

President:

Vice President: Dianne Burns
Secretary: Jackie Hoffman
Treasurer: Ben Soltesz
Directors: Stephen Brady
Joan Russell

Eileen Back

COMMUNITY AND GARDEN CLEAN UP

On October 11th volunteers gathered at the Homer Street firehouse to clean up the garden and the community. Thank you to Chris and Tammy Waraks and their children, Mark Sachon, Rhonda Wozniak, Jill Shaheen, Ben Soltesz, Dianne Burns, Joan Russell, and other volunteers.

We would like to thank the Steel City Boxing Association and its members who have graciously agreed to care for our community garden. Their many helpful hands will greatly benefit both our community and garden.

And a special Thank You to the Urban Gardener on Brighton Road, for donating a Japanese maple and assorted perennials for our garden.

INTRODUCING... KAREN McLELLAN

Hello, my name is Karen McLellan and I have been a resident of Spring Hill since 1984. Now that my life has slowed down to a quick walk from a run, I have the time to devote to the SHCL. I am happy to be nominated to participate on the Board as Secretary.

I am also chairing the SHCL subcommittee for Public Safety. The goals of this subcommittee are:

- make our community a safer place to live,
- open the lines of communication between the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and the community,
- take full advantage of the resources available to us as a community.
- better bind the community in a common goal, the quality of life.

The Public Safety subcommittee will be discussed at future SHCL meetings. If you have any questions or want to know how you can participate email or call me.

I look forward to working with you.

Thank you, Karen McLellan 1012 Haslage Ave. 412-231-5697 kmm541@comcast.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 7th. 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 (weather permitting) 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

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 contact@shcl.org or bensoltesz@gmail.com.

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT



Chris Janssen and Jennifer Wooderson of Rockledge Street are getting married on November 1st. The wedding will be held in Louisiana, just outside of New Orleans. The couple will honeymoon in St. Croix.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy first birthday to Haley Tester, daughter of Raymond and Tiffany Berbach Tester, in November.

GREG BOLAR HEINZ HOUSE YOUTH OF THE YEAR

The term "Youth of the Year" sounds pretty impressive.

Meeting our Youth of the Year winner, as many of you know, is also quite inspiring. We do not just have good kids at Sarah Heinz House; we have incredible leaders.

On April 29, 2008 the Boys & Girls Clubs of America named Greg Bolar the Pennsylvania Youth of the Year. This is the highest honor that a student can receive from the Boy & Girls Clubs.

So how did Greg Bolar, of North Catholic High School, do it? Last year Greg had over 150 hours of service at the Sarah Heinz House. He has worked with the Production Club here and is always participating in leadership opportunities. Greg also puts in hours of time preparing and setting up the annual festival at his church, Holy Wisdom Parish, helping to create a great community event. He inherited this commitment from his father who died suddenly when Greg was 13. Greg took on many of his father's responsibilities, including caring for his two younger brothers, to whom he is now a strong role model.

The Youth of the Year award recognizes outstanding contributions to one's family, school, community, and Boys & Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome. There is no doubt that Greg Bolar deserves this honor and we are excited to have him as a member at Sarah

Heinz House. Greg will soon be a freshman at Duquesne University where he plans to study criminal justice.

Reprint from "heinz house happenings", Summer 2008.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

To the family and friends of Bernard D. "Bernie" Heubel, son of the late John and Alta Heubel. He passed away on September 4th... to the family and friends of Anna Marie Yangura Miller of Spring Hill, wife of the late David Miller. She passed away on September 25th... to the family and friends of Georgina A. (Barie) Deuber, wife of Harry Deuber. She passed away on September 30th... and to the family and friends of Wilma L. (Pflueger) Lersch of Spring Hill, beloved wife of Milton Lersch. She passed away on October 7th.

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.



PERRY RESERVE MEALS ON WHEELS

Volunteers are needed to deliver meals to the home bound elderly in the neighborhoods of Observatory Hill, Reserve Township, and Ross Township. This would require 1-2 hours of your time on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis. If you are looking for a way to give back to the community we would love for you to join our team!!!

Please contact Kathy Wenzig at 412-931-2010.

HIS PLACE YOUTH CENTER

The youth center, His Place, located at 1911 Rhine Street has great after school programming available to young people grades K-8th grade. The schedule is as follows:

Monday 4:00-6:00 PM
Reading Groups
Tuesday 4:00-6:00 PM
Character Development Clubs
(with a medieval theme)
Thursday 4:00-6:00 PM
Guitar and Drum lessons,
and tutoring
Saturday 6:00-8:00 PM
"Night-Before-Sunday" School

Each session includes free time in the game room (fooze ball, pool, and exercise machines) or in the computer lab, as well as a snack. For more information call the Director Debe Weiss at 412-716-1355.

Adult Volunteers are also needed.

DOWNUNDER COFFEEHOUSE

Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church

The DownUnder Coffeehouse has started its' fifth year of acoustic music.

Upcoming Shows:
November 15th - Alicia Romano and Joel Lindsey
December 20th - Ishtar

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

SPRING HILL/CITYVIEW YAHOO CHAT GROUP

If you're not already a member, you might like to join the Spring Hill/CityView Yahoo chat group. This is a place for neighbors to share information about and of interest to Spring Hill and CityView residents. This includes names and contact information for contractors and other service providers you've had good experiences with, job postings, local community event announcements, lost pets, items for sale, local clubs, or any items of interest to residents.

To join go to: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/s pring-hill/.

If you have any trouble signing up call Pete McQuillin at 412-977-2207 while at your computer and he'll walk you through the sign up.

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 has been collecting food and gift cards all year and will continue to do so. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off at the Bank during normal business hours starting November 5. Some items particularly needed: peanut butter, jelly, tuna, cereal, tea bags, coffee, 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 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.



CITY OF PITTSBURGH COUNCILWOMAN DARLENE M. HARRIS

Are animals City constituents?

Well, no. Technically, animals cannot vote. Yet they do require our attention, individually and as citizens of our city.

Each Wednesday in Council, at the very beginning of the Standing Committee meeting, we present a cat and a dog to the citizens of Pittsburgh. These animals are brought to Council by representatives of the Animal Rescue League of Western Pennsylvania and are up for adoption. Councilman Bruce Kraus and I briefly tell about them, and get to hold them and cuddle them. (Council meetings are televised and are broadcast live and rebroadcast on Comcast cable channel 13.) To date, we have seen 95% of those televised animals adopted; the ultimate goal is for 5,000 animals to be adopted this year just from the Animal Rescue League. (Other shelters have even more animals available.)

When I took office Animal Control was a subdivision of the garbage department. I led the initiative to move Animal Control to a position under Public Safety, and I continue leading toward developing the division into Animal <u>Care and</u> Control, and broadening its scope to include educating the public on dealing with both domestic and wild animals.

There are certainly more serious issues around animals –

colonies of feral cats, animals living in vacant houses, people who leave kittens in a box by the side of the road, aggressive dogs, dogs without leashes, rabies, etc.

My office has been partnering with various organizations on many of these issues - groups such as Animal Care & Welfare, Inc., Humane Options Pittsburgh (HOP), university professors, Animal Friends, Western Pennsylvania Humane Society and the Humane Society of the United States, the Animal Rescue League, and others. We are seeking to form partnerships toward creating new initiatives to supplement services that the City of Pittsburgh provides.

These partnerships include such endeavors as creating a no-kill shelter and spay-neuter-return programs.

Spay-neuter-return programs, among other things, address the feral cat issue in a proactive manner. Where feral cats have established a colony, rather than simply removing the cats and creating a space for other colonies to move in, having citizen volunteers take the animals away for neutering and then return them allows the colony to remain intact without further reproducing itself. Thus we eventually reduce the number of cats in the colonies by attrition, rather than allow new cats to come in and begin the problem all over again.

The minutiae of the various animal issues are incredible. Knowing, for instance, that a brown bat can capture over 1,000 insects per hour becomes

important when a governmental agency might have to take over that task. Understanding the spread of disease between wild and domestic animals and how to prevent it is itself a lifetime study. Teaching citizens to take errant pets to a shelter to discover whether they have identifying microchips is important, especially to pet owners.

So, yes, sometimes the dog and cat each week at the start of the Standing Committee meeting seems a bit sappy. Sometimes citizens feel Council is putting animals ahead of people. Certainly the latter is not true, but the importance of animals to our City and all their various issues – and all the love and service they can bring to us individually and as a society – does bear some attention.

If you have room in your home, and in your heart, please consider visiting one of the shelters today and adopting a pet. Meanwhile, we will continue working toward a broader focus for all the animals that live in our City.

As your elected City Council person I remain accessible to you. Please feel free to contact the office at 412-255-2135. You can also communicate with me via email at: darlene.harris@city.pittsburgh.





STATE REPRESENTATIVE DON WALKO REPORTS

Success on mandatory overtime ban that will protect patients, nurses

I strongly supported and voted for a bill, now law, that will ban mandatory overtime for nurses and many other health-care workers. The Senate passed House Bill 834. The governor signed the bill into law, making it Act 102 of 2008.

This legislation will block hospitals and other health-care facilities from routinely requiring nurses and other employees, besides doctors, who provide direct patient care to work beyond a regular shift that has already been agreed upon.

We need this change because countless health-care workers and nurses in Pennsylvania have been forced into working stressful 16-hour days and 80-hour weeks. That has driven up error rates and accidents, harming patients and raising health-care costs for everyone. It also forced many nurses into other lines of work and discouraged many people from becoming nurses.

The bill we passed prohibits hospitals and other health-care facilities from mandating overtime for nurses except in specific emergencies or when unforeseen staffing shortages could compromise patient safety.

In other states that have already taken action, the ban on mandatory overtime has not caused staffing emergencies or a health-care crisis. Instead, more nurses are entering the profession, performing well, and are more confident about their ability to provide the best care possible for their patients.

That is what nurses and patients in Pennsylvania want and deserve, and this law will give it to them.

If you have questions on a state-related issue or subject, please call my office at 412-321-5523.

CITY OF PITTSBURGH MAYOR LUKE RAVENSTAHL

During the month of September, I introduced initiatives that will strengthen the "Neighborhoods First" agenda by focusing on high priority issues in each of our neighborhoods and introducing programs to bring resolution to those issues. As the neighborhood and business district sweeps continue, I experience first hand all that you, as residents and business owners, struggle with on a daily basis. Public safety issues. including code enforcement, blight, and crime, remain at the forefront of the issues inhibiting the success of our neighborhoods. These issues are your first priorities, just as they are mine.

We are addressing public safety by investing in 21st century tools that will increase the effectiveness and efficiency of our Public Safety departments. During one of my recent business district sweeps, I unveiled new technology that improves the code-enforcement process by giving neighborhood inspectors tools to better

respond to eye-level code violations such as graffiti, hazardous sidewalks, and overgrown lots.

Councilman Ricky Burgess, community stakeholders, and I announced a new public safety plan - a crime reduction strategy that will decrease youth violence in the City of Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh Initiative to Reduce Crime (PIRC) is a problem-oriented policing plan aimed at reducing homicide victimization among young people in Pittsburgh. Our children deserve a safe place to live, study, play, and eventually work and raise their own families. I want this for all of vour children, as well as my own.

The 2009 Budget provides funding for more than 900 police officers. We expect more of these officers to be in our neighborhoods next year as we begin efforts to redeploy uniformed officers by hiring qualified civilians to perform administrative functions. Today, major crimes are at a 40 year historic low in the City of Pittsburgh - but I believe that we can do better.

Thank you as always for your help. We rely on you to assist us in our fight against crime and blight. I encourage you to call 311 with requests and reports. Together we can keep Pittsburgh and each of our neighborhoods safe and clean. Together, we are getting the job done.

For more information please contact my Office of Neighborhood Initiatives at 412-255-4765.





Steel City Boxing Association

www.steelcityboxing.com 1907 Rockledge Street Pittsburgh, PA 15212 412.759.6680

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in the firehouse at the corner of Homer and Damas Streets in Spring Hill.

Dear Neighbor,

Steel City Boxing Association (SCBA) of Spring Hill is dedicated to the emotional and physical growth of atrisk youth ages 12-21 by providing adult mentorship and the study, practice, and competitive participation in amateur boxing. Neighbors are also encouraged to use our co-ed facilities for general workouts with our mentors and trainers.

The Association and its mentors focus on:

- · Education and health
- Discipline of the mind and body
- Respect for self and others
- Self-esteem building and motivation
- Responsibility to family and community

Participants are exposed to personal relationships that may promote opportunities outside of the facility such as counseling, employment, and career development. Please visit us at the gym to see our facilities and let us answer your questions.

This year, SCBA has been passed over for a crucial government grant. Please help us stay functional and support the youth of the community by making a donation today.

We appreciate the support of our neighbors! Thank you,

Robert Sobocinski - President bob@steelcityboxing.com 1907 Rockledge St Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Donation Form - Please return to 1907 Rockledge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Please accept my tax-deductible gift of:
\$5 \$10 \$25 Other \$
Email Address
Business Name Website (We may feature your business on steelcityboxing.com)
First Name Last Name
Street Address
City/State/7in



2008 HALLOWEEN PARADE

A beautiful autumn day with blue sky and brisk temperatures was the perfect backdrop for this year's Halloween Parade and celebration. 115 children registered for the event with the majority of them attending.

There were many colorful and creative costumes. Congratulations to the winners and to all who attended! Great job on the costumes! Thanks to our judges Jill Shaheen, Mary Jo Vogel, Pete McQuillin, Beth Miller and Councilwoman Darlene Harris.

We had so many volunteers come help us out. It was nice to see everyone pitching in to make a nice, fun event for the children. In addition to the judges thanks to Pittsburgh Cares volunteers, Mary O'Toole, Karen McLellan, Mark Schreibeis, Anita Bartolowitz, Steve Brady, Dianne Burns, Jackie Hoffman, Eileen Back, Ben Soltesz, and Joan Russell. Thank you to Darlene Harris for bringing crackers to give to all the kids. As always a BIG 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.

Balesteire Produce – donated the delicious fresh fruit.

Guy Schutzeus - Team Construction

Waltmire Pharmacy - donated chips.

The Pittsburgh Steelers, Carnegie Science Center, National Aviary, 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. So we would like to say a big "Thank You" to all.







2008 HALLOWEEN PARADE

(Continued from page 8)



















PITTSBURGH CITY CHICKEN

If you don't know what City Chicken is, here's a hint: It ain't chicken...

That's right. City Chicken is actually pork and sometimes even veal and/or beef, but never chicken. A popular dish in Pittsburgh and the surrounding region, this mock-chicken dinner has been handed down for generations over the past century. In the early 1900s, chicken was much more expensive than pork. Immigrants would try to replicate the flavor of the swanky fried chicken using more accessible meats like pork and veal. The familiar "on-a-stick" preparation was an effort to make the meat resemble a chicken drumstick. Today we still eat City Chicken because it's a Pittsburgh family tradition, plus it's delicious!

(Makes 4 to 6 skewers)

1 lb. pork shoulder, cut into 1-1/2 inch uniform cubes

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

1/2 tsp salt

1/2 tsp pepper

6 sprigs fresh thyme, plus more for garnish (or $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4}$ tsp dried)

4-6 six-inch wooden skewers

1 garlic clove, cut in half

1/4 cup olive oil

1 10-oz can low sodium chicken stock





Preheat oven to 350 F.

In a medium bowl, combine flour, salt and pepper, and the leaves of four thyme sprigs (or ½ tsp dried). Stir until well blended. Roll pork pieces in flour mixture until completely covered, gently shake off excess flour, and remove to a dry plate.

Pierce the meat onto skewers evenly. You should fit 3-4 meat cubes on each stick.

Rub the bottom of an enameled cast iron pot or pan with the cut side of the clove of garlic. Set garlic aside until ready to bake. Heat 1/4 cup olive oil over medium high heat. When the oil is hot but not smoking, add the pork skewers to the oil and allow to brown until golden and crispy on all four sides, about 4 minutes per side. Add a little more oil to the pan if it all gets soaked up early.

Leave the pork in the pan and pour in the chicken stock and drop in two sprigs of thyme (or ¼ tsp dried) with the reserved garlic. Bring to a simmer and transfer pan to the oven, uncovered. Let simmer for one half hour, turn skewers over and continue cooking for another half hour. Remove pan to stovetop. If the juices are still thin, let simmer on stovetop until reduced to desired consistency.

Serve City Chicken with the pan juices and a side of Haluski.

Submitted by Jilll Shaheen.





Are you interested in joining Scouting?



Cub Scouting is for boys in the first grade to fifth grade. Cub Scouting is FUN with a purpose. It is full of fun grade-specific activities and projects designed to help boys grow by learning new skills like how to interact with others, set goals and achieve them, and the importance of service to others, and responsibility.

Boy Scouting is for boys between the ages of 11 to 18. Boy Scouts learn values of leadership, responsibility, and character development. Scouting teaches young men to become self reliant and more confident. The Boy Scout program centers on outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, canoeing, and other exciting adventures.

For more information on how to join Scouting, call the Greater Pittsburgh Council, Boy Scouts of America. Ask for Naudain T. Radcliff at 412-471-2927 or visit our website at www.gpc-bsa.org



Have Fun with Your Son! Join Cub Scouts!



2009 SPRING HILL CIVIC LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE September 1 – December 31, 2008

Please join the Spring Hill Civic League! Your membership helps to fund the activities that benefit families in the community throughout the year. If you are interested in renewing your membership or joining the league, please fill out the membership application below.

You may turn in your form with your dues to your block worker. In some, but not all neighborhoods block workers will be collecting. You can turn them into any Board member, you can bring them to one of the community meetings, or mail it to:

Spring Hill Civic League c/o 1149 Admiral St. Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212

Checks should be made payable to the Spring Hill Civic League.

Be advised that the annual dues for the Spring Hill Civic League are two dollars (\$2.00) per adult in the household. Residents of Spring Hill/Cityview who are 18 years or older are eligible for membership.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of the community. Call 412-231-7718 or e-mail contact@shcl.org or Dianne.burns@verizon.net with any questions.

Sincerely, Dianne Burns Vice President

SPRING HILL CIVIC LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME	DATE
ADDRESS	
PHONE	
СНІІ	DREN (PLEASE LIST NAMES AND AGES)

ANY INFORMATION SUBMITTED IS CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL NOT BE USED OR SOLD TO THIRD PARTY INTERESTS. CHILDREN'S INFORMATION IS USED SOLELY TO HELP PLAN COMMUNITY EVENTS (CANDY, PRIZES, ETC.)