



# SPRING HILL \* CITYVIEW TIMES

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Memorial Day



Vol. 10 No. 70

May-June 2010

Flowers are the poetry of earth, as stars are the poetry of heaven.

### SPRING HILL CIVIC LEAGUE 2010 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### MAY

Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> – General Meeting, 7:00 PM, Spring Hill Elementary School auditorium

Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> – 2nd Community Clean-up, 9:00 AM, Homer Street Firehouse

Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup> – Memorial Day Celebration, 11:30 AM, Brady Memorial Home

#### JUNE

Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup> – Community Flea Market, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Brady Memorial Home

#### JULY

Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup> – Community Flea Market, 8:00AM – 2:00PM

#### AUGUST

Tuesday, Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> – National Night Out

Sunday, Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> – Community Flea Market, 8:00AM – 2:00PM

#### SEPTEMBER

Monday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> – General Meeting

Sept. – Community Cleanup

#### OCTOBER

Monday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> – General Meeting

Saturday, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> – Halloween Parade

#### NOVEMBER

Monday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> – General Meeting

#### DECEMBER

Sunday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> – Tree Lighting

### FOLLOW-UP COMMUNITY CLEANUP

**Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, .9:00AM  
Homer Street Firehouse**

We had a great turnout and picked up lots of trash during our community cleanup on April 24<sup>th</sup>. However, several areas require additional attention. We need a few volunteers to join us in finishing our community clean-up. Thank you for your support!

### MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION

**Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 11:30 AM  
Brady Memorial Home  
1151 Southside Avenue**



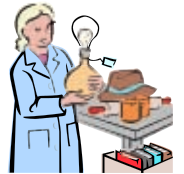
Memorial Day is a patriotic celebration of remembrance for the brave service of men and women who gave their lives for their country. At Brady Memorial Home we take the time to remember our fallen heroes.

There will be a Memorial Day Celebration on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 AM. Refreshments will be available for all to enjoy after the ceremony. Participate with us and help keep the tradition alive!

### SPRING HILL COMMUNITY FLEA MARKETS

**Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>,  
July 11<sup>th</sup>, and August 8<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
1151 Southside Avenue**

The Spring Hill Civic League is sponsoring summer flea markets for the community. The dates are June 6<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup>, and August 8<sup>th</sup> from the hours of 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM come rain or shine. They will be held in the parking lot of Brady Memorial Home at 1151 Southside Avenue.



Bring your household goods, antiques, collectibles, baked goods, and other items. Vendors bring your crafts, Avon, Tupperware, or other products.

Each space is \$10. A space with a table is \$15. We have lots of space but only 10 tables so reserve early if you would like a table!

(Continued on page 2)



### SPRING HILL COMMUNITY FLEA MARKETS

(Continued from page 1)

To register call the Spring Hill Civic League at 412-477-2124 with your name, phone number, which Sunday you are interested in, and if you would like a table for your space.

We are also looking for volunteers to donate baked goods for our bake sale, and helpers to set up and break down tables.

All proceeds will benefit the Spring Hill Civic League. Come support your community and shop for those bargains! We hope to see you there!

### NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Please submit articles for the July/August edition by June 15<sup>th</sup> to:  
Joan Russell  
2115 Rockledge Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-3533  
412-322-9945  
[joanrussell@aol.com](mailto:joanrussell@aol.com)

### NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

Newsletters are distributed in the Spring Hill community by volunteer block workers. A yearly subscription by mail for those who are not residents of Spring Hill is available by sending \$6.00 to:

*Spring Hill/Cityview Times*  
c/o 2115 Rockledge Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

**CIVIC LEAGUE WEB SITE**  
[www.shcl.org](http://www.shcl.org)

### 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: Jackie Hoffman  
Vice President: Joan Russell  
Secretary: Karen McLellan  
Treasurer: Ben Soltesz  
Directors: Eileen Back,  
Stephen Brady, Beth Herzer,  
Pete McQuillin and Mary O'Toole.

### SPRING HILL CIVIC LEAGUE CONTACT INFORMATION

General email address  
[contact@shcl.org](mailto:contact@shcl.org)

President Jackie Hoffman  
412-605-9362  
[jackie@shcl.org](mailto:jackie@shcl.org)

Vice President & Newsletter Editor Joan Russell  
412-322-9945  
[joanrussell@aol.com](mailto:joanrussell@aol.com)

Treasurer Ben Soltesz  
412-231-0303  
[bensoltesz@gmail.com](mailto:bensoltesz@gmail.com)

Secretary Karen McLellan  
412-231-5697  
[kmm541@comcast.net](mailto:kmm541@comcast.net)

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency	911
Mayor's Response Line	311
Allegheny County Health Department	412-687-2243
Allegheny General Hospital	412-359-3131
Animal Control	412-255-2036
City Council Dist. 1 Councilwoman Darlene Harris	412-255-2135
City Jobline	412-255-2388
Dog Licenses	412-255-2575
Duquesne Light Power Outages	1-888-393-7100 1-888-393-7000
Narcotics Division	412-323-7761
North Side Chamber of Commerce	412-231-6500
Northside Community Development Fund	412-322-0290
Northside Leadership Conference	412-330-2559
Parks & Recreation	412-255-2539
Pittsburgh Parking Authority	412-560-2511
Public Works Division 1	412-255-2790 412-323-7209
State Representative Rep. Don Walko's Office	412-321-5523
State Senator Senator Jim Ferlo	412-621-3006

**You know you're getting old when it takes too much effort to procrastinate.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



Happy birthday to Leanne Rosenberger on May 1<sup>st</sup>, to Bill Gerst, Jr. of Homer Street on May 29<sup>th</sup>, to Daniel Rosenberger on May 30<sup>th</sup>, and to Jim Rosenberger on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Happy belated birthday to Hannah Rosenberger on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Austin Ledergerber of St. Athanasius School on winning the 6<sup>th</sup> grade spelling bee. Austin also won the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade spelling bees which makes three years in a row! Good luck in the diocesan spelling bee on May 12<sup>th</sup>!

**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 announcements, obituaries, etc. We are also interested in the history of Spring Hill. See page 2 for how to submit your newsletter information.

**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY...**

To the family and friends of Chenelle M. Richard of Spring Hill, mother of Isaiah and Rachel Coleman. She passed away on March 10<sup>th</sup>... to the family and friends of John F. Kirch, Sr. of Spring Hill, husband of Margaret (Klein) Kirch. He passed away on March 21<sup>st</sup>... to the family and friends of Johanna M. Gray Gross of the Northside, wife of the late Philip R. Gross. She passed away on April 12<sup>th</sup>... to the family and friends of Dorothy (Guenther) Schmitt of Troy Hill, wife of Joseph Schmitt, mother-in-law to Dianne Schmitt former Spring Hill Civic League President. She passed away on April 16<sup>th</sup>... and to the family and friends of Jacob Ray Harangozo of the Northside, son of Nancy and Jaye Harangozo. He passed away on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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



**KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH GERT**

Gertrude Karolyi, a longtime civic league supporter and resident of Yetta Avenue and then St. Ambrose Manor, has moved. If you would like to get in touch with her you can reach her at the following address:

Mrs. Gertrude Karolyi  
c/o New Hope Assisted Living  
300 Union Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15202

**COMMUNITY E-MAIL LIST**



The SHCL occasionally sends out e-mails for important information regarding our community. If you would like to be placed on the community e-mail list, please send your e-mail address to Pete McQuillin at [p\\_mcquillin@yahoo.com](mailto:p_mcquillin@yahoo.com). This information is just for our community. Your address will not be given out or sold.

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

Congratulations to Jim and Leanne Rosenberger on their 13<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary!

**ESB BANK WILL NOW ACCEPT CIVIC LEAGUE MEMBERSHIPS**

The Spring Hill office of ESB Bank has graciously offered to accept payment of dues for the Spring Hill Civic League. If you would like to join, membership forms are available there. Just give the form and your dues to the teller!

You can also give your payment to any board member or send it in to the membership committee. (See page 13 for details.) If you would like to check your membership status contact Joan Russell at 412-322-9945 or [joanrussell@aol.com](mailto:joanrussell@aol.com).

**Computers aren't intelligent. They only think they are.**

**CHRIS & TAMMY WARAKS  
NEW NEIGHBORS**

Hello Spring Hill community, I'm Chris Waraks and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and my wife Tammy. Around 2 years ago we bought my grandfather's house. Many of you who have lived on the hill for a long time may remember **Pete Kirin** as the guy who built an airplane in his back yard. He always referred to where he lived as "on the hill."

We didn't have a real plan when we bought the house, only that I didn't want to see it picked up by some investor that would turn it into a slum rental property. We started to clean the house out and do some remodeling when we found something we never expected, a community.

We lived in a very nice neighborhood in Greensburg for the past 12 years, where we experienced a sense of community we never thought we would find in any other neighborhood. But since we started to spend time on the hill, we have seen a place where people come together to clean up the neighborhood, light a community Christmas tree, and help out their neighbors in need. I grew up in the city and spent a lot of time on the hill so it has been kind of like coming home. My wife grew up in the country so this has been a real change for her.

The Spring Hill community is a community we want to be a part of, so we are now permanent residents "on the hill," and moving our business here also. Most of the work we do for our business, Mr. Renovation, has been in Westmorland County.

We are working to develop a customer base here in Pittsburgh. You can expect to see us actively involved in the neighborhood, to make it an even better place for us all and our children. We would like to thank all who have welcomed us to your community.

**THE STEEL CITY BOXING  
ASSOCIATION WINS NSLC  
SERVICE PROVIDER  
"GOOD NEIGHBOR"  
AWARD**

The Steel City Boxing Association (SCBA) has won the Northside Leadership Conference (NSLC) Service Provider of the Year "Good Neighbor" Award. This award is based on the philosophy that all organizations working within a community understand they have a responsibility to be a good neighbor.

The SCBA is a collaborative effort between private citizens, the Northside business district, and private and public funding sources. They provide a structured and safe environment within the Northside community. In addition to learning and training for the sport of boxing, students enjoy mentoring from positive, professional adult role models from their own community.

Steel City Boxing has helped the Spring Hill community in many ways. SCBA members are dependable contributors to local initiatives like the Spring Hill Flea Market and garden stewardship programs. In cooperation with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, they have revitalized two of the Northside's community gardens.

Because of these efforts, the SCBA has earned a reputation for developing honesty, integrity, and pride in self as well as in the community.

**BOB SOBOCINSKI WINS  
NSLC COMMUNITY  
AWARD**



Bob Sobocinski has won the Northside Leadership Conference Spring Hill Civic League's community award. A lifetime Northside resident, his influence on civic engagement in the Spring Hill area has revitalized interest in the community among many of its youngest members.

As President of Spring Hill's non-profit youth fitness center, Steel City Boxing Association, Bob demonstrates a contagious passion for improving the neighborhood. He motivates and inspires members to work together to improve the Northside, and promotes teamwork through ambassadorship and the coordination of community events.

As a liaison between the SCBA and the Spring Hill Civic League, Bob coordinates fundraising events and community service. His demonstrated personal commitment and engagement contributes to the realization of the Northside's civic vision

**ITIN STREET ROCK-FALL**



Following citizen reports of rocks falling, the Councilwoman pressed the Public Works Department to render their assessment that the hillside was “safe” into writing. It turns out it was not “safe.”

Just before Easter, on further investigation, Public Works saw that a large rock shaped like a nose was cracked in several places. The danger of that rock falling is apparently imminent. The stability of the rest of the hillside came into question.

Their plan as we understand it – for which they must put out an Request for Proposal for contractors – is to update and follow a remediation plan. The plan will likely propose they first bolt into place the rocks to the right of the nose boulder. Then they would likely work on the nose itself, breaking off the dangerous parts, and stabilizing the rest with appropriate means, including a large amount of gravel to bolster it.

It will likely take a few months until the work is completed. (Some of that time will be obtaining the contractor bids and contracting for the work.) We asked them this morning to consider opening the sidewalk at least, and as it turned out they were headed to the site. They are assessing that now as I write this. It may still be risky to walk there – especially if trucks come by and vibrate the rocks. Council President Harris would like to see the wall issues addressed as well, and the whole matter improved as soon as possible.

We have heard citizen concerns about public safety vehicles having to go around through Haslage Street, but apparently

Public Works could remove the concrete barriers in an extreme emergency (which might include letting the emergency vehicles out of the street after an emergency is tended). We have also heard about citizens having trouble turning cars around, and we thank those who have been helping others. A bit of patience might be in order – and hopefully will be rewarded with a lot of additional safety.

Audrey N. Glickman  
Office of Council President  
Darlene M. Harris

Dear fellow neighbors,

Please read the following letter from Councilwoman Harris’s office on April 8<sup>th</sup> regarding the barricades at the intersection of Itin and Goehring. The City is working hard to ensure the safety of all the community members. Unfortunately, the barricades have caused some traffic problems. We are aware of these problems, but it is absolutely necessary to close this road to protect any travelers from the unsecure hillside. Along with Darlene Harris’ office, we appreciate your patience and understanding as the City works to secure the hill side. If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to give me a call.

Jackie Hoffman  
Spring Hill Civic League  
President  
412-605-9362

**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. Checks or gift cards can be sent to Holy Wisdom Food Pantry, 1025 Haslage Avenue, 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.*



**SPRING HILL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Finally, we are able to be outside. It is the perfect time to take a security inventory of your residence. Is your property lit well enough? Are you keeping up the exterior so that it looks lived in? Are your locks secure enough? These are a few of the questions to ask. If you answer no to any of these questions, you may want to remedy the issue to protect your home, property, and person.

**We are looking into putting up security cameras in the high traffic/crime areas. If you are interested in participating in having a camera mounted on your house contact me.** I can be reached by phone at 412-231-5697 or via email at [kmm541@comcast.net](mailto:kmm541@comcast.net).

On April 21<sup>st</sup> I attended the City Wide Public Safety meeting. One of the guest speakers was from the Center for Victims of Violent Crimes. This is an organization that can help you through guidance, counseling, and much more if you find that you or a loved one has become a victim. You can find out more information about them at [www.CVVC.org](http://www.CVVC.org).

Also at this meeting the city showed us their new interactive community website, <http://communitysafety.pittsburghpa.gov>. At this site you can look at your police zone and find out what has been going on in your neighborhood. You can submit tips to the police department, read police reports, and see crime alerts specific to your Zone.

Deputy Chief Paul Donaldson spoke about overall crime rates in the city. Crime for the first quarter of this year has just about stayed the same when compared to the first quarter of 2009. But the exciting news is that crime last year went down which makes 2009 the safest in 42 years.

*Remember: It is you, not someone else, that helps to make your community a better place to live.*

Karen McLellan  
412-979-9524

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**CHILDREN'S MUSEUM EVENTS INFORMATION**

**May/June**

**Irony City Improv Troupe**  
Saturday, May 1, 1:30 - 3:30 PM  
Join in the improvisational fun with this comedy act inspired by everyday Pittsburgh life!

**Burgh Blast**  
Friday, May 7, 7:00 - 11:00 PM  
Celebrate the unique features and quirks of our lovable city in this event where adults get to come out and play! Featuring great food and libations, great music from local band "No Bad Ju Ju" and much more.  
*Tickets are \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door. Visit [www.pittsburghkids.org/tickets](http://www.pittsburghkids.org/tickets) or call (412) 322-5058 x 241. 21 and over please.*

**Motor Workshop**  
Saturday May 8, 2:00 - 4:00 PM  
Learn how motors work by building your own using a battery, some wires and a small magnet! Makers from DIY/tech collective Hack Pittsburgh will help YOU construct a simple electric motor to take home.  
*Recommended for ages 6 and up.*

**Enviro-Friend**

Part of Pittsburgh's World Environment Day Celebration Saturday, May 16, 12 - 4:00 PM  
Join us for hands-on workshops led by local green organizations that will show parents and children how they can lend the environment a helping hand and be an Enviro-friend! The event is free to attend, Museum admission is not included.  
*Sponsored by the Three Rivers Community Foundation (TRCF).*

**Curious George: Let's Get Curious!**

June 19 – October 3, 2010  
This hands-on exhibit environment takes place where Curious George and The Man with the Yellow Hat live and leads visitors on a fun, meaningful interactive math, science, and engineering-based adventure while emphasizing the central role that parents and caregivers play.

**Get Curious: Power Flower with Robot Friends**

Sunday, June 27, 12 - 4:00 PM  
Artist and inventor David Edwards demonstrates the inner workings of Pittsburgh's first wind and solar energy harnessing sculpture "Power Flower." Check out this 14' tall, light and energy producing sculpture and its sidekick interactive bug sculptures, each made from recycled household items, for hands-on play.

*The Children's Museum is located at 10 Children's Way, Allegheny Square, North Side*

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**Only some of us can learn by other people's mistakes. The rest of us have to be the other people.**



## HEARTS IN THE PARK REGISTER NOW!

**Seventh Annual  
James A. Magovern, MD,  
Hearts in the Park Walk**

**Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM**

You can help support the memory of James A. Magovern, MD, and those who support medical researchers in Western Pennsylvania by taking part in the Hearts in the Park Walk, Saturday, May 15, at 9:00 AM, rain or shine, on Pittsburgh's Northside.

The walk through Allegheny Commons Park, the "heart" of Pittsburgh's historic Northside, is open to everyone. Your registration fee will support the Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute's Center for Research and Innovation at Allegheny General Hospital. This research may lead to new treatments and medical devices that will help heart patients have more productive lives after surgery. A portion of the money raised also goes to the Allegheny Commons Steering Committee of the Northside Leadership Conference to support the restoration and rehabilitation efforts of Allegheny Commons.

During this year's Hearts in the Park Walk you will also have the opportunity to learn about a heart-healthy lifestyle with the Prescription for a Healthy Heart Expo. The expo is free for all registered walkers and will provide education on achieving a heart-healthy lifestyle, including diet, weight control, and exercise. The importance of blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol management with medications will also be featured.

Registration must be completed by May 7. Cost is \$20 per person and includes a Hearts in the Park T-shirt and a free admission pass to the Pittsburgh Children's Museum. Individual and team registration opportunities are available. For more information, or to receive a registration brochure please call 412-359-5026.

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## SHARRY EVERETT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Keeping the dreams of youth alive! is the motto of the Sharry Everett Scholarship Fund, a Northside tradition for 13 years. The annual awards celebration just might be the best-kept secret in the neighborhood!

The Sharry Everett Scholarship Fund awards a monthly stipend or book money to Northside students pursuing a post-high school education. Since its inception in 1997, **85 Northside students** have been awarded **\$95,000**. The scholarship is a given as a monthly stipend directly to the students throughout the academic year. This year's application window closed May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Every year, the SESF honors the scholarship winners by hosting a party at the Mattress Factory Museum. This year's theme is *Just Desserts!* In addition, there is a silent auction with artwork by local artists, desserts, gift certificates to local restaurants and retailers, entertainment, and a chance to meet the students of the SESF one-on-one. Make plans to attend Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM.

Tickets to the party are just \$15 per person. To reserve a ticket,

donate to the SESF, give an item or service for the auction, or to find out how sponsor a student, contact Jennifer Russell, Director of Operations, at 412-535-0480 or by e-mail, [jennifer@sesf.org](mailto:jennifer@sesf.org). Further information can be found at [www.sesf.org](http://www.sesf.org).

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## WALK NOW FOR AUTISM SPEAKS

**Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>  
Mellon Arena**

Autism Speaks is dedicated to increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders, to funding research into the causes, prevention and treatments for autism, and to advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. Walk for Autism Speaks is their signature fundraising event which brings together hundreds of thousands of participants annually across the United States and Canada with a common goal of supporting Autism Speaks. Registration opens at 8:00 AM. The walk kicks off at 10:00 AM.

Leanne Rosenberger is doing the walk. If you would like to sponsor her you can make your donation by going to <https://www.kintera.org/faf/donorReg/donorPledge.asp?ievent=328429&supld=275092744See>

If you don't have a computer you can contact Leanne at 924 Haslage Ave. All donations are tax deductible. It's a great cause and great exercise!

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**If your nose runs and your feet smell, then  
you're built upside down.**



**Spring Hill 1910**  
**Taken from Tell Street, Looking up at Homer Street**





## A VIEW OF SPRING HILL

Submitted by Ed and Jim Yanosko

You can easily gain a wonderful perspective on how life in Pittsburgh was structured a hundred years ago, after just a quick glance at the photograph on the previous page. The businesses and social halls were in the valley and the houses were on the hills. Connecting the two areas were carless roads and city steps. People got up in the morning and walked down the hill to the furniture store, the tannery, or the slaughterhouse. At the end of the day they trudged back up the steps and found a brief relief before the whole process started over again. For six days a week, this was it. On the seventh day they went to church.

Progress necessarily dictates that certain things get replaced with new and improved things. Most of the structures in this photograph are gone. Some were torn down decades ago and some were torn down just recently. Some of these buildings were new and improved back in 1910 and some were already showing signs of decay. To the countless people who passed through this neighborhood, this frozen image of a bygone era is a reminder that life keeps moving forward.

This photograph was taken in 1910. The photographer stood on Tell Street and the view is looking up Homer Street. In addition to the mention of the location, someone also wrote "The owner of the original picture lived at 1338 Spring Garden Avenue." Chances are strong that the photographer would have also known Homer Street by another name. When this area was a part of Allegheny City this street was called Humbolt Street. Additionally, just 5 years before this photograph was taken, this major connector between Spring Garden and Spring Hill was a dirt road. Imagine the men with their muddy boots walking up the hill after a 12 hour day at work.

Paul Stalter was the first to show me this photograph. His family has been in business at the same location since 1946. Artcraft Wood Products currently takes up a pretty good portion of the lower third of the photograph. According to Paul the photograph was purchased at a flea market by his sister. Apparently she recognized the neighborhood and the significance of how things used to look.

Some of the buildings are easy to distinguish. Sanger Hall is prominently featured in almost the center of the photograph. Spear & Co Furniture and Fried & Reineman Packing Company are also visible. To the right of Sanger Hall is another building with wording. According to the city records of 1907 this property was owned by Fred Falck and the description indicated a soap factory. At the turn of the century soap was generally made from animal fat, so its location next to a slaughter house makes sense. The Spring Hill School was constructed in 1908 and is visible in the upper right hand corner of the photograph. This building is situated on Damas Street and is still in use as a functioning K-5 school.

The building with the steeple just to the left of the Spring Hill School is a bit of a mystery. Public records from 1907 indicate that this is where the 7<sup>th</sup> ward school was located. But there are two different structures. Other records from 1910 indicate there may have been a pair of structures possibly situated with some kind of breezeway. It is possible that a second structure was built and then torn down. **Does anyone out there have any information regarding these buildings?**

Just above Sanger Hall is a set of city steps that connect Homer Street with Diana Street. People who worked in Spring Garden and lived on Ives Way or Itin Street would have used these steps. Again, walking was the main mode of transportation.

I would be interested in hearing from anyone who may have any information regarding this photograph. I grew up in the area from the 1930s to '50s. Stories that go along with dates and maps always make history that much more fascinating. **I'm also working on a project with my son Jim about the area and would be interested in any photographs and/or stories you would care to share.** I can be reached at 412-321-1338 or via email at [eyanosko@comcast.net](mailto:eyanosko@comcast.net).



# CITY OF PITTSBURGH

“America’s Most Livable City”

## *Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl*

May 2010

Dear Neighbors,

With the smell of spring flowers filling the air these days, many of us are focusing on what we can do to help improve the environment. We celebrated Earth Day and Arbor Day with festivals, clean-up events and by planting trees. But with these yearly events over for another year, we must continue to “think green.”

With that in mind, the City of Pittsburgh has created our first *Green Guide*, a tool to help you take advantage of the environmental resources that are available in our community all year long. This directory-style guide provides information on how to live more sustainably. The *Green Guide* includes information on:

- How to properly dispose of paint, household chemicals and motor oil;
- How to get an energy audit of your home;
- How to obtain a permit to install a solar panel;
- How to purchase and install a rain barrel; and
- How to get involved in volunteer activities like tree planting, litter clean ups and river trail maintenance.

To save on resources, the *Guide* has been made available electronically at <http://green.pittsburghpa.gov>. Citizens who do not have internet access can call 311 to obtain a copy.

Pittsburgh has been chosen as the North American host city for the United Nation’s World Environment Day (WED) on June 5<sup>th</sup>. This honor is a testament as to how far our City has come in terms of environmental protection, and the continuing efforts to become a more sustainable city. More than 65 events are already planned and I encourage all residents, especially those in the inner city, to take advantage of the events during the weeks leading up to WED.

Many of the events planned will be one-of-a-kind. *ORSANCO* will bring its 200 gallon fish tank, filled with water and fish from our three rivers. In an attempt to break the world record for the largest flotilla of kayaks and canoes, downtown Point State Park will highlight the final WED event, “Paddle at the Point.” To date, the record is 1,105 canoes and kayaks. Imagine, if you can, this flotilla rowing on the Allegheny, the Monongahela and meeting at the Ohio.

For more information on World Environment Day, please visit [www.pittsburghwed.com](http://www.pittsburghwed.com) for the complete list of events as well as contact information for getting involved. Once known as the “Smoky City” - filled with black soot and bad air, Pittsburgh now the Black and Gold and GREEN City - boasting showcase lawns, clean, fresh water and air and is a national leader in green building. Pittsburgh continues to exceed all expectations - and we’re just getting started.

Sincerely,

Luke Ravenstahl  
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh



**CITY OF PITTSBURGH  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
DARLENE M. HARRIS**

**Pensions and Parking**

We have been hearing constituents' questions about the Mayor's plan to have the Parking Authority find a private lessor for up to 50 years for the City's parking garages and parking spaces, in return for a quick 200-million-dollar injection to the City's pension fund.

Members of Council have suggested alternative plans. City Controller Michael Lamb and Councilman Patrick Dowd devised a plan to look into transferring the garages themselves to the Pension Fund, thus increasing its assets, shoring it up more directly.

My own opinion is that the City should never give away (nor lease) any assets when we could be reaping the benefits ourselves. My potential plan might include keeping the garages and raising rates (after all, we can expect any private lessor to do the same, and at least we would be able to control how high they would go), and maybe floating a bond – I am still collecting information to formulate a solid, well-founded plan.

Say you own a very valuable car, one you inherited, one you love. It is your pride and joy, and you drive it carefully and take care of it, to maintain its beauty and its value. But then one day you find that the cost of living has increased while your income has not, and right now you will need more money every month, maybe for some

time to come, but maybe not forever. Should you sell that car? Could you get enough money for it to cover your increased cost of living? Should you rent that car to someone? But what if, even though that renter pays you enough to cover your expenses, he is driving that car way too hard? What if the value of the car would begin to decrease? What if gasoline became suddenly unavailable, and thus the car is no longer worth renting? What if the car itself becomes obsolete? Should you find some other means of earning or borrowing money?

Council has had much ongoing discussion, and has held a post-agenda hearing on this matter. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, Council was surprised by a visit from representatives of a certain financial services firm, wishing to influence our decisions, telling us that if we even looked at any other possibilities, if we even collected more facts, it could be detrimental to the City.

My overall plan is that Council initiate an independent investigation, to bring back all the facts and figures we need to truly analyze the possibilities. It is of little use to Council when representatives from a brokerage house come before us and assure us that the Mayor's plan is sound, when their motivation is that they could receive upwards of \$3 million as a part of the deal. We need a truly independent study.

So we introduced 2010-0220, a bill "authorizing and directing the City Clerk to enter into an agreement or agreements with

the Comprehensive Municipal Pension Trust Fund Board (CMPTF), the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), and the Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority (ICA) and/or other entities for the purpose of providing an independent examination of the value of the assets of the Pittsburgh Parking Authority."

We realized that private operators – especially those not based in Pittsburgh – know what the going market rates are for parking. If, for example, the rates of just the Downtown Parking Authority garages were increased to match the nearby private garages, the City could realize \$23 million in revenue annually.

We also realized that Chicago has had some difficulty with the privatization of its parking facilities. The on-street meter rates alone went up between 100% and 300%. Also, Anchorage, Alaska, privatized its parking facilities and enforcement, and the citizens were so displeased with the rate increases and the unfair enforcement practices that they voted to unprivitize them immediately, even if it meant rate increases *and* tax increases.

Denver has fewer parking meters than Pittsburgh does, yet its fine collections for on-street violations are nearly double what we are

(Continued on page 12)

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**From our ancestors come our names, but from  
our virtues our honor.**



## STATE SENATOR JIM FERLO

### Take Advantage of the Pennsylvania Home Heating Equipment Rebate Program

Almost half of your home energy consumption goes toward heating and water heating — more than any other appliance or fixture. The Department of Environmental Protection is offering a new incentive program to upgrade your heating equipment for energy cost savings.

Starting April 21, 2010, residents of Pennsylvania will be eligible to receive rebates for the purchase of qualifying high efficiency home heating equipment. Funded by \$11 million from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the Pennsylvania Home Heating Equipment Rebate Program offers rebates to Pennsylvania residents in existing single-family homes to encourage energy efficient product purchases and save energy throughout the state.

Qualifying products will be non-electric ENERGY STAR-qualified water heaters, furnaces, and boilers. You may be eligible to combine your Home Heating Equipment Program rebate with federal tax credits, non-electric utility rebates, and/or manufacturer rebates to enhance your energy and cost savings.

The state estimates 30,000 households stand to benefit from this rebate. Your home could be one of them. Weatherization and energy efficiency initiatives provide valuable cost savings to

homes and promote job growth and creation in a rapidly growing sector.

To learn more or to reserve your rebate, visit [www.paheatingrebates.com](http://www.paheatingrebates.com). Customers without internet access may call the customer service line to obtain a reservation by phone at: 1-877-592-2061. Information will also be available at [www.senatorferlo.com](http://www.senatorferlo.com) or by contacting my office at 412-621-3006.

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## PENSIONS AND PARKING

### (Continued from page 11)

accomplishing here, due to better enforcement and higher fines. This sort of improvement could net Pittsburgh an additional \$5 million annually.

Thus, we looked into parking fines. We soon realized that the fines for illegally parking have not been increased in two decades. So my first thought was to increase them! After all, we might as well get the extra six months' worth of revenue this would provide before any lease might occur. People have been leaving their cars to get tickets because the fines are less expensive than all-day parking can be.

So on March 23<sup>rd</sup> we introduced Bill 2010-0248, legislation amending the Pittsburgh Code at various places in Title Five: Traffic, Article VII: Parking, so as to increase the fines for illegal parking. Council will be holding a Post-Agenda Hearing and a Public Hearing on this bill on Monday May 10<sup>th</sup>

at 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM, respectively. Post-agenda hearings inform council and the public, and public hearings are meant for the public to speak. Citizens may sign up ahead to speak for three minutes or just show up to speak for one minute.

Enacting this legislation could provide an additional \$2 million in revenue this year, and another \$5 million next year. The Act 47 Plan required raising fees and fines to increase revenue, since the City is facing a \$15 million shortfall in 2011. And Pittsburgh's fines would still be lower than most comparable cities. An average violation in Pittsburgh would be \$25, less than Cincinnati (\$50), Seattle (\$42), Baltimore (\$50), Buffalo (\$35), Cleveland (\$40), Newark (\$45), New York City (\$65), and others.

Of course, folks can avoid the consequences of this fine simply by obeying parking laws.

As always, if you have any questions about this or anything else in the City, please call my office at 412-255-2135.

## 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.



**2010 SPRING HILL CIVIC LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP**

Throughout the years, one thing that has remained constant is the care and concern that the Spring Hill Civic League gives the community. Some of the same issues that the current board addresses are the same issues that people cared about 35 years ago. The preservation of the community's integrity, the improvement of the community, providing annual events for neighbors to attend, all of these are goals to which the League aspires. As set forth in its Charter, "the Spring Hill Civic League exists to serve the people and businesses of the Spring Hill community". May we be blessed with the perseverance and insight to continue the important work of being a community of neighbors caring for neighbors.

**WHAT DO WE DO?**

The Spring Hill Civic League interacts with city government to maintain the community and organizes year-round activities for the families of the community. We

- coordinate with the Northside Leadership Conference and liaison with City Council on community issues such as public safety;
- organize events such as community clean-ups, the Memorial Day celebration, community flea markets, the Halloween parade, and Christmas tree lighting;
- maintain the Rockledge Street lot and Homer Street firehouse;
- communicate with the neighborhood through regular meetings, email, and the community newsletter;
- address community issues of interest;
- and plan for the future of the Spring Hill neighborhood.

**PLEASE JOIN IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO**

Thank You to those of you who have become 2010 members! If you have not yet joined for 2010 please consider doing so. The annual dues are only two dollars (\$2.00) per adult in the household. Residents of Spring Hill/Cityview who are 18 years or older are eligible for membership. Checks should be made payable to the Spring Hill Civic League. Fill out the application below and turn in your form with your dues to any SHCL Board member, the Spring Hill Office of ESB Bank, or mail your form and dues to either of the following board members on the membership committee:

Mary O'Toole  
1949 Rockledge Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Eileen Back  
1243 Haslage Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

**SPRING HILL CIVIC LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE NOTE IF UNLISTED)

CHILDREN (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.)




**SPRING HILL**  
Community  
**Flea Market**



**June, July and August!**

**Brady Memorial Home**  
Parking Lot  
1151 Southside Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Sunday, June 6  Sunday, July 11  
Sunday, August 8  
8 AM to 2 PM Rain or Shine

Treasures, Antiques, Household Items  
Vendors, Crafts, Candles  
Home Made Baked Goods!!!

\$10.00 space only. \$15 we provide a table.  
Call the Spring Hill Civic League at 412-477-2124  
to reserve your space.

**Directions:** I-279 to East Ohio Street exit, to Spring Garden Ave. ½ mile to left onto Homer St. Right at 1<sup>st</sup> stop sign onto Damas. Left at 1<sup>st</sup> stop onto Rockledge. Left at 2<sup>nd</sup> stop onto Romanhoff St. Brady's is approx. 1/10 of mile on the left. Follow the Signs!