



Polish Hill Voice

We are the community...we are one voice!



3060 Brereton Street ✨ Pittsburgh, PA 15219 ✨ (412) 681-1950 ✨ phcapgh@gmail.com ✨ www.phcapgh.org

November 2009

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Big Effort, Little Park, Mały Park!

by Myra Falisz

Since landing in Polish Hill a few short months ago, I have been mesmerized by this sense of place that binds us together. It's like a crazy quilt of random patterns, shapes and pieces, strung together with the strongest of threads. I witness this interlocking technique as it weaves through every community project every day.

I'm one of the newer pieces of our village's quilt, arriving from Southern California just as spring unfolded into summer. And living in one of the apartment's above the PHCA is like having a front-row seat at a quilting bee called "It Takes a Village."

Magically, and at times, mysteriously, the most incredible series of events takes place. A seemingly random cast of characters finds that common thread and a new chapter is woven. The latest one is something I fondly refer to as Big Effort, Little Park.

It began earlier this year and has grown into an intricate collaboration involving exceptional resources and community volunteers. It seems like that's how things often happen here on Polish Hill.

Bolstered by The Mayor's office, the City of



Members of the Polish Hill green team spent a day in late August putting in new plantings at the lot on Dobson and Herron, now called Mały Park.

Pittsburgh's Green Team and Penn State Extension, the PHCA's own Green Team began creating plans for what is now called Mały Park. What was once a lot in need of some care at the intersection of Dobson and Herron is now becoming our little urban oasis -- that visual respite to happen upon whether you are dropping off mail, waiting for a bus or simply strolling by.

The first stitch was taken when community members Josie Ramsey and Debbie Jozwiak paired up with Lauren Byrne of the Mayor's office to submit a Green Up application. Joining in next was Joe McCarthy, the Urban Greening Coordinator from Penn State Extension. His soil testing revealed excellent conditions for

plants to survive and thrive. The blanket of textures and colors Josie and Debbie envisioned now features butterfly bushes, roses, decorative grasses and an additional weeping cherry tree. The selections were planted by community volunteers one Saturday morning in late August.

Our foundation fabric was shored up by Kevin Quigley and Rick DeCarlo of the City of Pittsburgh's Green Team. Not only did they bring our green lot into shape, they also added great touches. Just like a crazy quilt is created from scraps of everyday clothing, they added a retaining-wall border using stones from the recently demolished Davis Avenue Bridge.

(Continued on page 8)

You Can Get There From Here: Saving the 54C

By Patrick Singleton and Jennifer Kirk

Although we are relatively new residents to this neighborhood, we know the sounds well by now: the machine-like hydraulic noises, several shrill warning beeps in a row, the distinctive whoosh of a large vehicle going by the front door. Whether they put you to sleep or usher you out of a pleasant dream, these are the sounds of the 54C bus traveling Herron, Dobson, or Brereton, taking workers, shoppers, and other riders to and from their jobs, chores, and recreations. Although not as reliable as clockwork, like potato salad at a summer picnic, the passing of a 54C through the heart of Polish Hill is considered an expected occurrence. However, just as the nicest neighborhood picnic can be ruined by rain, there was a time this summer when the future of the 54C through our neighborhood was in jeopardy. But thanks to the mobilization and public comments of our concerned residents, the threat has passed and we can enjoy the benefits of good transit service for many more years.

As some of you may be aware, the Port Authority of Allegheny County is concluding a multi-year Transit Development Plan to comprehensively evaluate their entire transit system, simplifying bus routes and improving overall service while attempting to keep system costs in check. As a part of this process, Port Authority and its consulting firm looked into each route in-depth, evaluating ridership trends, schedules, costs, and overall role in the system. Released in December 2008, the 54C's route evaluation noted its unique role as an effective cross-town route, its high number of route variations, and its lower-than-average operating cost. Recommendations for



The 54C at the intersection of Brereton and Dobson streets.

improvement of the 54C included truncating the route at 18th and Carson Streets, eliminating one in every four bus stops, and operating with a more regular frequency. No mention was made of Polish Hill, except to say that there were relatively fewer people getting on and off the bus in the neighborhood as compared to the rest of the route.

Port Authority used this past spring to gather public comments and develop conceptual plans for transit service in the Pittsburgh region. In June, the two concepts, both of which worked off of the current system's strengths, were presented at public open houses. Concept 1 focused on improving direct radial transit service to Downtown and Oakland, whereas Concept 2 did even more radial improvements through priority corridors and higher-frequency distinctive rapid bus routes. Both concepts changed bus patterns downtown, decreased the concentration of bus stops system-wide, and eliminated many route variations and numbering systems. The idea was that a simpler, faster, and easier-to-understand system would attract more riders.

Unfortunately, when these methodologies were applied to craft a

simpler and easier 54C, Concept 2 proposed the complete elimination of Polish Hill from the 54C's route, having it instead run only via Penn and Main. Concept 1 proposed retaining the existing split, but it was an overall less ambitious plan with fewer possible system benefits than Concept 2. In June, when the citizens of Polish Hill found out about the proposed loss of our community's transit lifeline, they rallied the collective Polish Hill voice and made their concerns known. Many residents wrote to Port Authority expressing how the loss of the 54C would hinder their ability to travel to the Strip District, Bloomfield, Oakland, and other neighborhoods for groceries, school, and work. The Mayor's office and Councilman Dowd's office were made aware how much the loss of the 54C would hurt Polish Hill's elderly and transit-dependent population, and harm the survival of our budding business district. With alternative transit service only on the periphery along Bigelow Boulevard and the East Busway, and growing public support for the proposals of Concept 2, losing the 54C was a serious issue, and a serious possibility.

Many people in Polish Hill waited anxiously until the end of summer for Port Authority to release their final proposed system. When the final draft came out in the last days of August, we residents were shocked. Not only would the 54C remain in Polish Hill but it would provide more frequent service! It seems that citizen response assured that we will still have bus service through the heart of Polish Hill. Indeed, at a public hearing in mid-September, two Port Authority planners noted the surprise-

(continued on page 3)

Help with heating: LIHEAP Opens Nov 2

Pennsylvania's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance program will open for the 2009-10 heating season on Nov. 2. The Crisis program will open Jan. 4, 2010.

LIHEAP provides cash grants to help low-income households pay for home heating fuel and crisis grants to address heating emergencies. While the Department of Public Welfare originally considered opening LIHEAP on Dec. 1 due to funding concerns, a recent increase in federal funding will allow it to open Nov. 2.

During the 2008-09 LIHEAP season, approximately 547,000 families were helped through cash grants and more than 202,000 families received crisis assistance. For the upcoming heating season, the crisis portion of the program will open on Jan. 4, not simultaneously with the cash grant program.

Cash grants are based on income, family size, type of heating fuel and region. Crisis grants are provided to resolve heating emergencies, such as furnace failures or unexpected fuel shortages. In addition to proof of income and household size, applicants must provide a recent bill or a statement from their fuel dealer verifying their customer status and the type of fuel they use.

After the program opens for the season, applications will be available at county assistance offices, local utility companies and community service agencies, such as Area Agencies on Aging or community action agencies. Applications for LIHEAP cash grants will also be available online at www.compass.state.pa.us.

Residents of Allegheny County are encouraged to contact the Allegheny County Department of Human Services at 1-800-851-3838, which operates the crisis component in the area. To ensure they have the resources

to heat their homes the entire winter, LIHEAP consumers are urged to keep their thermostats at 65 degrees – unless they have young children or older adults living in the home. Visit www.turnsealsave.org to learn about available assistance programs, energy conservation and home weatherization tips.

Household sizes and income limits for LIHEAP's 2009-10 season:

- 1 -- \$16,245
- 2 -- \$21,855
- 3 -- \$27,465
- 4 -- \$33,075
- 5 -- \$38,685
- 6 -- \$44,295
- 7 -- \$49,905
- 8 -- \$55,515

(For each additional person add \$5,610).

(LIHEAP information provided by the office of Sen. Jim Ferlo)

(Saving the 54C, continued from page 2)

ingly strong support for the 54C coming from our neighborhood, and remembered specific comments and emails they received. They also said that it was only the numerous public comments that convinced the consultant to not recommend eliminating the 54C from Polish Hill. A big thank you to each and every person that helped to keep the 54C on our streets!

Now that the public comment period on the final draft has ended, all that remains is for the Port Authority Board to give its final approval to the recommended transit system. Some route changes may go into effect as soon as March 2010. Thankfully, Polish Hill residents can sleep well, knowing that our bus, the 54C, will be there to pick us up for many mornings (and afternoons, and evenings) to come. Wherever you're going, you can still get there from here...on the 54C.



Neighbors put out the call

Does your weedwacker have separation anxiety? Does your wheelbarrow feel left out? Bring them along and join us! Polish Hill has more green lots and little parks than ever—more helpers are needed to keep them looking good. Please contact the PHCA office and leave your contact information for Green Team Chair Josie Ramsey.

The Neighborhood Academy in Garfield, a non-profit charter school serving 74 under-privileged youth, boasts a 100% college placement rate, on-site sports and electives and extended service hours for their students. They also serve three meals a day and among their many needs (listed on their website), is help with providing meals. I plan to cook dinner in my Polish Hill kitchen and deliver it to the school once a month. If you are interested in cooking or offering other help, please email emoulinier@yahoo.com.

The PHCA Monument Committee seeks additional volunteers to help with the year-round care and decorating of the monument at the intersection of Brereton and Dobson. They particularly hope to find tall, strong people to help with decorating the tree. If interested, call the PHCA office 412-681-1950 and leave your name and contact info for Committee Chair Mrs. Ruth Rizner.

KNIT! PURL! KNIT! PURL! In conjunction with the grand opening of our neighborhood craft haven, Urban Gypsy, there will be a Sunday knitting class from 2-3pm. Classes are \$8 per person, and include basic and intermediate knitting techniques. Class size is limited, so don't hesitate. For more information, email emoulinier@yahoo.com. For more information about the classes and services to be held at Urban Gypsy, please email Paulette Still-Khoury at urbangypsy3101@gmail.com.

Light Up Night



December 4th is Light-Up Night on Polish Hill, a time when our neighborhood has the opportunity to gather as a community to celebrate and enjoy all the sights and sounds of the holiday season. A joint effort of the Monument Committee, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and choir, and Polish Hill volunteers, Light-Up Night ushers in the holiday season for all.

We hope that everyone who is able will come out on December 4th at 6:30. Brereton street will be closed in front of the PHCA office for a few hours for the official count-down and lighting of the monument tree. The church and priest's house will be decorated. The PHCA Monument Committee will have the intersection of Brereton and Dobson all dressed up. The monument trees will become a spectacle to behold. Sarney's bar will have their lights up. Members of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Choir will sing Christmas carols. There will be light snacks and beverages at the PHCA office. Young residents will have the opportunity to meet Santa, who stops by every year to make sure his PHCA membership is up-to-date, say hello to everyone, and grab a hot mulled cider.



The PHCA Turns 40!

On September 19, a beautiful sunny Saturday, the PHCA celebrated its 40th anniversary with a potluck cookout. Residents sat on the sidewalk, visiting in the sunshine, and sprawled under canopies in the PHCA side yard.



Members of the IHM Rosary Society and others had a chance to visit and talk during the party.

Neighbors contributed an impressive spread of salads and baked goods, and the PHCA grilled burgers of the meat and veggie variety. After eating and talking and eating some more, attendees were treated to a delightful musical performance by Joy Toujours and the Toys du Jour. There were no speeches, no ceremonies, no brass bands, just neighbors sharing a Saturday, celebrating the power of community. Here's to another 40 years!



Lawrenceville United's Tony Ceoffe and PHCA President Terry Doloughty show off their Polish Hill t-shirts.



Brady Alan and Erica Moulinier lounge in the PHCA side yard.



Red and Joy regaled partygoers with original songs on the accordion and violin.



The steps to the PHCA office were a natural spot to watch the performance.

GIFTS, FOR YOU, YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR BUBCI AND DZADZA

Available at the Polish Hill Civic Association



Everybody needs a Polish Hill T-shirt.
Available in red and black, children's and adult sizes. \$12 each



Mr. D's Pierogi Pins and Pierogi Ornaments

Created by Pittsburgh artist David Watts, these unique items make great gifts. Pictured: pierogi pin. The pierogi ornament is the same, with a ribbon the color of sautéed onion.

Pierogi pin or ornament \$5.00 each

Polish Hill and PHCA 40th Anniversary 1.5" Buttons 75 cents



Beautiful sunset view of the neighborhood by Polish Hill's Mark Knobil.

\$1.25 ea, 3 /\$3.50, 5/\$5.50, 10/\$11.25



A lovely winter scene of Bethoven Street by Pittsburgh favorite, Ron Donoughe \$2 ea



From our home to yours—Polish Hill's best home cooking.

Polish Hill Cookbook \$5

Mail your order to:
Polish Hill Civic Association
3060 Brereton Street
Pittsburgh PA 15219
Allow 10 business days for delivery

Shipping address	
Name	
Address	
Address	
City, State, Zip Code	

Item	Child sizes			Adult Sizes					Quantity	Cost	Total/Item
		S	M	S	M	L	XL	XXL			
Red Polish Hill T-shirt										\$12 each	
Black Polish Hill T-shirt										\$12 each	
Polish Hill Button										\$0.75 each	
PHCA Anniversary Button										\$0.75 each	
Mr. D's Pierogie Pin										\$5 each	
Mr. D's Pierogie Ornament										\$5 each	
Mark Knobil Postcards	\$1.25 ea, 3/\$3.50, 5/\$5.50, 10/\$11.25										
Ron Donoughe Greeting Cards										\$2 each	
Polish Hill Cookbook										\$5 each	
										Sub total	
										Plus \$5 Shipping handling	\$5.00
										Total	

Check or Money Order payable to: Polish Hill Civic Association

Preparing for flu season is even more important this year

by Rep. Don Walko

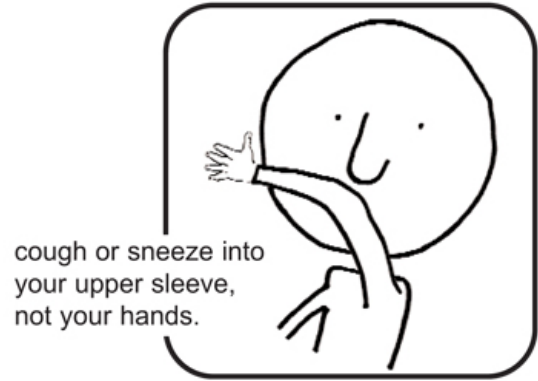
Before winter arrives, all of us need to prepare in case someone gets the flu. This year, we have to plan for a new version of seasonal influenza, and another potentially serious strain, the 2009 H1N1 virus or swine flu.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate so far we've had more than 1 million cases of H1N1 in the United States. As of early October, Pennsylvania had 2,758 confirmed cases of swine flu, including 340 cases in Allegheny County, according to the state Department of Health.

Like seasonal flu, with H1N1 you'll get a fever, cough, sore throat, stuffy nose, achiness, headache, chills and fatigue. It can cause diarrhea and vomiting. For some people, it can be severe and potentially deadly.

H1N1 can be dangerous for a person with an underlying medical condition -- such as asthma or diabetes -- or if you're pregnant. So far, it's been most contagious among children and young adults age 6 months to 24 years. Health-care workers, emergency responders and people caring for infants should be on guard.

So prepare yourself. Some precautions are simple: make it routine to wash your hands often with soap and water; cough into your elbow or into a tissue, not in your hands. Make an effort to stay home if you're sick, and start planning now in the event that one of your kids gets the flu. And ask yourself these questions: If you work, have you made arrangements for child care? Have you talked with your employer about what to do in case you need to be out?



If you're an employer, now is the time to plan to meet your objectives with a reduced staff. You do not want an employee who is ill to spread flu in the workplace.

If you would like to learn more, please visit my Web site -- www.pahouse.com/Walko -- which has a link to frequently updated information from the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

For questions about other state-related issues, please visit my Web site or call my office at 412-321-5523.

BUILDING PITTSBURGH WITH
URA
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY OF PITTSBURGH

The Urban Redevelopment Authority has programs to help low and moderate income residents buy, rehabilitate, renovate, or improve homes

Check out the new URA programs and income guidelines on their website
http://www.ura.org/pittsburgh_residents/pittsburgh_residents.php

Polish Hill Voice Editorial and Advertising Timeline

Submission Deadline	Publication Date	Months Covered
December 31	Early February	February, March, April

The *Polish Hill Voice* is published quarterly.

Advertisers/Photographers: Acceptable formats include:

- Black & white camera-ready art
- PC-based JPG, TIF or PDF (300 dpi or higher)

Editorial: Contributing writers, artists, poets and historians welcome! Please submit content via email at phcapgh@gmail.com, or send to the PHCA office at 3060 Brereton Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

Polish Hill Block Watch

Polish Hill has always had a tradition of neighbor watching out for neighbor. We have the best form of a block watch: residents who know and care for one another. This tradition benefits all of our residents, old and new. We should all make it a point to know our neighbors—and we are all each other’s neighbors, no matter which street we live on. We can share our experiences and knowledge to help one another.

Polish Hill has not had an active block watch in recent years, but that is now changing. When the PHCA put out a call to start a new block watch, residents old and new responded, signing up at a membership meeting, by e-mail, on Facebook, or by walking into the PHCA office. At the first meeting of the new block watch in late October, volunteers discussed ways to patrol and protect our neighborhood, identify possible problems, and ways to get information out into the community. Recent events, including the small crime wave in June and the flurry of rumors surrounding the G-20 summit, showed us how quickly incorrect information can make the rounds. We will be working closely with Zone 2 Police to make sure that factual information is distributed, so rumors can be put to rest. Remember, rumors build walls, we choose to build community.

In order to allow block watch volunteers to have easy communication we have established a PHCA block watch e-mail, phcablockwatch@gmail.com. Facebook users will also find a new group, Polish Hill Block Watch.

The block watch won’t just focus on crime. We encourage all of our residents to use the City of Pittsburgh 311 line and on-line forms to report situations that require City crews, such as potholes, maintenance on City steps, water main breaks, and other repair and maintenance issues. This service is highly effective; we have had great success having neighborhood issues addressed with these new tools.

As always we will be more than happy to address resident concerns by telephone and office visit. If we all take some responsibility to make our neighborhood a safer place, it will be a simple matter. Thank you to all of our neighbors and friends who keep Polish Hill a safe and great place to live for us all.

President’s Message

Times are changing as fall unfolds. The trees we planted together over the last two years are giving us a final colorful treat before winter settles in. The yellows and reds of the trees echo the red and yellow brick sidewalks around our neighborhood. Flowerbeds have been cleared for the next plantings in the spring, the gardens are nearly ready for the long winters sleep; but pumpkin, squash, and greens galore are still to be found.

This past summer, along with flowers and vegetables, we had the opportunity to actually grow our gardens. Harmar street welcomed a new community garden and new volunteers who really made a difference. With the help of Pitt volunteers, City crews, and neighborhood volunteers, Mały Park has been cleared, re-graded, and planted with butterfly bushes, roses, decorative grasses and perennials. The PHCA yard has been transformed by the addition of a vegetable garden, and revitalized flower beds.

I am always impressed by the dedication and creativity of our volunteers. This is probably the best crop we grow on Polish Hill, volunteers. I would need several pages to thank all the people who make our neighborhood a little better each day, new residents working side by side with our long-term residents. If you are fortunate enough to have new neighbors, introduce yourself. You might just find that you both call Polish Hill “home” for the same reasons.

Terry Doloughty

Community & Event Calendar November/December/January

Nov 3 | Election Day | IHM Church Rosary Hall

Nov 4 | 6:30 PM | West Penn Recreation Center
PHCA Monthly Community/Membership Meeting

Nov 18 | 6:30 PM | PHCA office
Council to Go w/ Councilman Patrick Dowd

Dec 1 | 6:30 PM | West Penn Recreation Center
PHCA Monthly Community/Membership Meeting

Dec 4 | 6:30 PM | PHCA office
Polish Hill Light-Up Night

Jan 5 | 6:30 PM | West Penn Recreation Center
PHCA Monthly Community/Membership Meeting

Jan 20 | 6:30 PM | PHCA office
Council to Go with Councilman Patrick Dowd

*Polish Hill Stomp
w/ DJ Junior*

All your favorite 50's oldies only on 45 vinyl!
A swingin' good time.

(Every 2nd Friday of the month at the Rock Room)
(412) 683-4418

(Mały Park, continued from front page)

In the same spirit, old curb stones are being transformed into benches for our residents. And these threads of historic preservation and adaptive reuse are infectious. The 100-year-old bricks salvaged from the sidewalks around the park are making their way to a future bread-oven project. A conversation about these same bricks would lead to a last-minute design suggestion for our little park. Rick DeCarlo and Tom Samstag from the City crew recommended that we replicate the color and texture of the original sidewalk within the new concrete being installed. The team had just started to work with sidewalk patterning at Frick Park and wanted to create a nod to our neighborhood's history. That thread of an idea made its way from conversation to reality almost overnight. Truly incredible, since the city was set to pour the sidewalks in two days. Remember -- the PHCA coordinators are almost all volunteers. Everyone rallied to help pause and adjust the project's scope and schedule.



Rick DeCarlo and crew stamped a brick pattern for the new sidewalks alongside Mały Park.

Coincidentally, PHCA president Terry Doloughty had just spoken with Senator Jim Ferlo about the rich architectural elements still evident throughout Polish Hill. The senator mentioned his appreciation for the brick sidewalks and how they add a unique spirit to our business district.

Somewhere along the way, I humbly submitted a name for the park via Blogski. I had been talking with my father about the word "little" in Czech, which is my heritage. I soon discovered that mały (pronounced mah-lee in Czech) is similar in Polish: mały. It's just pronounced a bit differently (mahl-wee). Those phonetic markings often distinguish the way Eastern European dialects diverge or converge. And isn't that what a crazy quilt is all about? The variety of people, patterns and pieces of language stitched together to create something new for this village I now call home. Big effort. Little park. Mały Park.



Polish Hill Green Team members planted butterfly bushes, roses, decorative grasses and perennials.

Signs of ME!

Kids create new neighborhood landmarks

Signs of ME!, a free afterschool arts initiative for kids ages 5-8, started in mid-August. The program was funded by **SPARK!**, a new Sprout Fund initiative, and the project was focused on Polish Hill. The program director, Carley Parrish, lives in the neighborhood and all the kids participating are residents as well. The program was hosted by West Penn Recreation Center (many thanks to Ms. Willa & Mr. Dan!).



Left: Gaia Parrish and Lucha Reichenbacher work on paintings of their streets.

Below: Genly Pierce-Weaver

Meeting Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5:30 – 7 pm, the **Signs of ME!** kids used creative methods to learn about our community; where each of us live within that community and what is important to us in our neighborhood. Using maps of the neighborhood provided by The Civic Association, each kid created their own street sign referencing a landmark that is important to them. These signs will be made from vinyl and acrylic sheeting, and will be installed at the appropriate locations with the help of neighborhood volunteers.



The signs range from the best place to see the night sky, to where you can find the best skateboarding. Produced using Computer Aided Drawing (CAD) programs and high-color, long lasting materials, these signs are sure to bring a child's eye view to some of the things that make Polish Hill a great place to live!



Above: Lauren shows off her painting.



There was a Treasure Hunt Saturday, October 31st that began at The Civic Association, where maps of the neighborhood were provided with the sign locations highlighted. Prizes were given out at each location as well as free trick o' treat bags! This was a fun project for everyone involved and we look forward to seeing the signs go up around the neighborhood. The **Signs of ME!** team sends out thanks for all of your support!

Progress report on Polish Hill's coffee shop-to-be

By Catherine McConnell and Mark Knobil



The project to open a cafe on the corner of Dobson and Hancock is moving forward at long last, and rapid progress is being made. Matthew Clifford, the Prime Contractor, is not promising a completion date at this early stage, even though nearly everyone he meets on the street asks him when they can get a cup of coffee. I hope everyone will keep up the pressure on him!



Matt Clifford, Prime Contractor.

Rob Levkulich, who will be running the café, has all the equipment in storage. ready to go. He has settled on the name Lili, after his daughter.



Rob Levkulich, Catherine McConnell, Matt Clifford, and Yoko Tai hold a kitchen table discussion over the plans for the coffee shop.



On the first floor, in the future coffee shop space.

Demolition of the interior is complete, and framing is just about finished. You can really get a feeling of what the place will be like. The upstairs spaces are coming along as well. Electric panel boxes are in place, bathrooms are framed, and the ceiling joists are exposed. The exposed ceiling joists will be part of the finished decor.

Bill Dell, the mason, has removed two crumbling chimneys from the roof and is re-setting the bricks around the crown



Bill Dell, and details of the masonry renovations on the building.



of the building. Next he will break through the doorway for the fire escape stairs on the 3rd floor.

It seem ages ago (it was ages ago!) that we first started planning this project. It has been much more complex than we had ever imagined, but each day brings us closer to our dream of a bustling, warm, and welcoming place in the heart of Polish Hill.





**From the
Office of
Mayor Luke
Ravenstahl**

Dear Residents,

More than one million American students drop out of high school every year. That's one student every 26 seconds, nearly 7,000 students every school day. Dropping out of high school affects not only the student's future but the future of our families and community as well. To those who drop-out of school, the range of employment or advancement in employment is limited. Most lack health insurance or affordable health insurance and, quite often, find themselves in need of public programs or social services.

The Pittsburgh Promise was developed as a commitment to help City students and families plan, prepare and pay for higher education and keep them in school. By joining forces with the Pittsburgh schools, universities and foundations in implementing the Pittsburgh Promise, the City of Pittsburgh continues to remain invested in its student's education beyond the limits of high school.

As part of the national America's Promise Alliance *Dropout Prevention* campaign and in a continuing effort to develop a localized action plan to increase graduation rates and improve college readiness in our communities, the City of Pittsburgh is sponsoring a free one-day summit at the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh on November 12, 2009. The summit will be an opportunity for both School Superintendent Mark Roosevelt and myself to discuss the progress of the Pittsburgh Promise and the importance of being Promise

Ready. Together we will present a "Community-wide Strategy to Combat the Drop-out Crisis" featuring a dropout data presentation from the Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board

The summit is a starting point in the process of re-engaging dropouts and retaining youth through graduation. We can't do it without you. To register for the Graduate Pittsburgh Summit, please call 412-225-2258/2637 or visit www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/graduatepittsburgh. I hope to see you there!

**Programs at
West Penn Recreation Center
470 30th @ Paulowna Street**

Food Program for kids 18 & under
Monday through Friday, September through June.

Snacks 3:00 – 4:00 pm
Sit-down dinner 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Mixed martial arts (ages 5-11)
Tuesdays 7:00–8:30

Mixed martial arts (for adults)
Thursdays 7:00 – 8:30

Ballet II (ages 13 and up)
Mondays 5:30 – 7:00
(there is a fee for this class)

Tap II (ages 13-17)
Wednesdays 5:00 – 7:00
(there is a fee for this class)

Arts and Crafts (ages 7-14)
Mondays & Wednesdays 4:00–5:30

Movie Night
Wed 5:00–7:00

For more information about activities at the West Penn Recreation Center, call 412-622-7353.

Government at ground level

One way to get your voice heard about neighborhood concerns is to attend Council-to-Go, an innovative initiative that brings city government into the neighborhoods it serves. On the third Wednesday of every other month, District 7 Councilman Patrick Dowd and a member of his staff come to Polish Hill to hear your concerns, offer avenues of support, and respond to questions about city services.



At the Sept. 16 Council-to-Go session, Councilman Dowd and Council staff Elaine Zelmanov discussed water issues and concerns about the upcoming G-20 summit with Polish Hill residents.



Councilman Dowd visits with resident Ruth Rizner.

**Council to Go
in Polish Hill
at the
Polish Hill
Civic Association
3060 Brereton St.**

Upcoming sessions:

Wed, Nov 18, 6:30 pm

Wed, Jan 20, 6:30 pm

PHCA Membership Application 2010 (still only \$5.00)

Memberships are on an individual basis. Please include names and \$5 for each person in your household who wishes to become a member of the PHCA.

NAME: _____

(Street Address) (City) (State) (ZIP)

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

_____ REGULAR MEMBER (Polish Hill residents only) Or _____ SUBSCRIPTION MEMBER (Non-residents; entitled to newsletter only)

_____ New Member Or _____ Renewal

For office use only:

REC'D BY: _____ DATE: _____ GOT CARD? _____ LOGGED? _____

FREE NOTARY SERVICE (with proof of current paid membership)

FREE subscription

Free classified listings at www.phcapgh.org

Help build the neighborhood that you want to live in

DISCOUNTED CAR RENTAL through Enterprise Rent-A-Car

A VOICE on community issues

A chance to make a DIFFERENCE

Make checks out the Polish Hill Civic Association and mail with the above membership application to:

PHCA, 3060 Brereton Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219



CATHERINE McCONNELL, CNRS, CNMS
Salesperson
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The PHCA's mission is to respect and preserve the sense of community in Polish Hill while promoting economic and housing development opportunities, and improving the quality of life for our community.

Upcoming PHCA Membership Meetings:

PHCA Membership Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held in the Senior Center on the lower level of the West Penn Recreation Center, 470 30TH @ Paulowna Street.

Nov 4

Dec 1

Annual meeting and potluck dinner

Jan 5