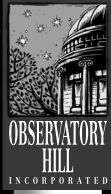


OHI Journal

Observatory Hill Incorporated



The Newsletter for the Friends & Neighbors of Observatory Hill

Fall 2015

ANGELS' PLACE PROVIDING CHILD CARE TO THOSE WITH LITTLE TO NO SUPPORT

By Jonathan Danial

An overwhelming number of babies are born each year in Allegheny County to single mothers, 19 years of age and under. In fact, according to the Allegheny County Health Department, that number topped 600 babies in 2012. Parents who choose to keep their babies often encounter numerous challenges and important, life-changing decisions, especially when trying to raise children on their own. Without support, these parents can quickly become entangled in a web of poverty driven by low-paying jobs or financial dependency.

But support does exist.

Angels' Place, Inc. has provided support, concern, and compassion to young parents since 1984. With three facilities, including a center in the North Side that opened in 1998, Angels' Place is led by a skilled team of 25 employees and more than 250 volunteers. Each center, accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, provides an array of services, including child care, tutoring, support groups, counseling, and required classes in parenting, nutrition, child safety, and life skills.

Erin Harvey, family support specialist, has worked at Angels' Place for one year. When asked what sparked her interest in the organization, she noted, "I fell in love with their mission and wanted to align myself with the great work that I saw happening to empower families."

Angels' Place's support network allows parents to focus on completing their education and achieving personal goals. "When



obstacles arise, Angels' Place is there to provide supportive assistance and encouragement," said Harvey.

To be eligible, a parent must be low-income, single, and a full-time student with a child under age 5. Given the commitment of Angels' Place to the parent and child, the organization requires that parents maintain attendance in school and achieve specific grade requirements to remain in the program.

The organization is currently planning for its annual Halo Awards Dinner at The Le Mont on Grandview Avenue in Mt. Washington. The event will happen on Thursday, October 29 and will celebrate 31 years of success. The evening will also honor Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Massaro Jr. for their contributions and support to the organization and community.

For more information, visit www.angelsplacepgh.org.

What's Inside:



From Harris' Desk-2
Homeowners-2
Neighborhood News-2
Board Elections-2

The Mayor's Office-3
Fall Clean-Up Day-3
OHI Going Green-3
Free Tours-3

Calendar of Events-3
Spotlight Mosquito Joe-4
Thanks Pat's-4
Spaghetti Dinner-5

OHI Board-5
Making a Difference-6
Commercial Space-6
Contact Info-6

FROM THE DESK OF DARLENE HARRIS



This summer, I secured passage of the Film Permitting Ordinance, which provides clear guidelines for filming movies, TV, and commercial productions in the city.

Although over 200 productions have taken place here in recent years, bringing billions of dollars in economic activity and providing jobs for city residents, the city has never had a

clear permitting process. Filming often involves closing streets, rerouting buses, and providing police to direct traffic. This ordinance will encourage filming in Pittsburgh and ensure that it does not disrupt life for our residents.

In response to the many complaints I received from communities in District 1, I put together a task force to update our noise ordinance. Currently the ordinance is difficult to enforce and requires expensive decibel readers. After years of hard work, City Council recently approved a new ordinance. The new version gives police officers more flexibility to issue citations for excessive noise, to improve the quality of life in our communities.

Paving work in Riverview Park is underway, bringing much-needed improvements to this regional asset. In addition to repaving Riverview Drive, the city will be installing a unique new water fountain at the dog park, designed to be used by people and dogs alike.

In response to the recent increase in crime throughout the city, I have challenged the administration to increase our staffing levels for the police and fire bureaus. Although the city has budgeted for 892 police officers, we only have 814 officers on the street because of a recent wave of retirements and officers leaving for jobs in other municipalities. I recently hosted a televised Post Agenda meeting in City Council to discuss possible solutions and bring awareness to this problem. We need greater protection for our residents and faster response times when incidents occur.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact my office at **412.255.2135** or online at www.pittsburghpa.gov/district1/feedback.

Darlene M. Harris
Councilwoman

THANK YOU HOMEOWNERS

Thank you to all the homeowners who graciously opened up their homes and participated in this year's house tour. Here is what one homeowner, Autumn Williams, had to say about her experience: *"Being new to the neighborhood, the House Tour allowed us the chance to meet a lot of our neighbors. We also learned a few things about the house that we now call home."*

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

- OHI began meeting with the Urban Redevelopment Authority in January 2014 to develop a plan for the abandoned church located on Bonvue Street. The building has been vacant for some time and the blighted property was becoming a concern to residents. Several factors were considered in the decision-making process: the extensive cost to repair the building, the fact that two prior businesses failed at this location, and the lack of available parking should a new business move in. In the end, it was decided to demolish the building. We are hopeful that it will be the site of future new construction.
- Plans to revitalize our business district are continuing. Our architect is working with our Business District Committee to draft designs for the three buildings that we purchased. If you or someone you know wants to open a business in our neighborhood, please contact us at 412-736-2489 or via email at ohipgh@gmail.com. This is an exciting time to live in Observatory Hill.
- OHI has applied for grant money from the city, made available from Councilwoman Darlene Harris, for the purchase of a second set of cameras for our business district. They will be placed on 3917 Perrysville Ave. (formerly known as Mr. Bill's Tap & Grill). We already have one set of cameras placed on Dr. Uhler's office.
- We are working to purchase blighted properties and have acquired several this year. Once a contractor is selected, the rehab process will begin. These 1920s-era homes will be updated with first-floor powder rooms and will be a great buy – and don't forget the short commute into the city!

Board Elections Held This Fall

We are collecting applications for those interested in being on the board of OHI. This is a two-year term which involves: attending the monthly board meetings held the 3rd Wednesday of the month (no meeting is held in December); helping with the annual house tour and/or the annual Heritage Festival, and participating in one of the various committees which make up the board. Choices of committees are: House Tour, Communications and Marketing, Membership, Community Development, Neighborhood Improvements, Public Safety, Riverview Park, and Northside Leadership Conference. If you are interested in being on the board, please contact Leslee for an application: 412-231-1650 or send an email to: ohipgh@gmail.com and an application will be emailed to you. Deadline for submissions is October 30.

A Word From The Mayor's Office

The summer has gotten off to an exciting start for the city of Pittsburgh! We would like to share with you some news out of the Mayor's Office from the first few weeks of the season.

The Pittsburgh manufacturing industry received a boost on July 8 when U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker announced that Pittsburgh was one of 12 cities named this year to the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership. Cities in the Partnership receive unique federal support for long-term economic development growth in regional manufacturing.

In an effort to ensure that Pittsburgh's taxpayers receive their fair share of the funds generated by Rivers Casino, the city filed legal action on July 2 to force the Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority to release \$11.4 million that is owed. The city is due a total of \$20 million by the end of this year, but not one penny has been delivered despite ICA approval of city budgets.



At the end of June, Mayor Peduto released the comprehensive Welcoming Pittsburgh Plan, which will serve as a road map to build a more welcoming experience for Pittsburgh's immigrant community and a more livable city for all residents. The plan can be found by visiting the Welcoming Pittsburgh web page at <http://pittsburghpa.gov/welcoming-pittsburgh/>.

On June 19, Pittsburgh welcomed Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China Liu Yandong for a broad-ranging discussion with Mayor Peduto. Vice Premier Liu is the highest ranking government official to visit the City-County Building since former Vice President Walter Mondale.

A very exciting program started this summer called GrubUp, which is a Citiparks program that provided free breakfasts and lunches to children throughout the city during the summer months. GrubUp served food at more than 125 locations and the program ran through August 14. More details can be found at www.GrubUpPGH.com.

FALL CLEAN-UP DAY SCHEDULED

Join us on Saturday, October 10 as we gather to pick up trash and to clean up the business district and as many side streets as time allows. Tools and trash bags will be provided. We will meet at 10am in the parking lot across from Schorr's Bakery on Perrysville Avenue and we will work until noon.

OHI GOING GREEN

If you would like to receive the OHI Journal via email, please email us at ohipgh@gmail.com and let us know. We will still mail the paper versions of our newsletter but in an effort to help the environment and to cut costs, we are now offering you another way to stay updated on the latest OHI happenings.

TOURS THROUGH NOVEMBER 1

Did you know the Allegheny Observatory is owned and managed by the University of Pittsburgh? Free tours will run through November 1 and last about two hours – from 8pm to 10pm. Call **412-321-2400** between 1pm and 5pm, Monday through Friday, to make a reservation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 16: Monthly OHI board meeting at 7pm at the Byzantine Seminary, 3605 Perrysville Ave.

OCTOBER 10: OHI neighborhood clean-up from 10am to noon. Meet in the parking lot across the street from Schorr's Bakery.

OCTOBER 16: Spaghetti Dinner and Family Night Out. Held from 5pm to 8pm in the Activities Building near the playground at Riverview Park. Take-out available.

OCTOBER 21: Monthly OHI board meeting at 7pm at the Byzantine Seminary, 3605 Perrysville Ave.

OCTOBER 30: Deadline to submit OHI board member application.

NOVEMBER 18: Monthly OHI board meeting at 7pm at the Byzantine Seminary, 3605 Perrysville Ave.

Business Spotlight on Mosquito Joe

by Leslee Schaffer

When Joanna Patterson wanted to take on a new venture, she looked to provide a service and to make a difference. Opening a Mosquito Joe franchise provided her with that opportunity earlier this year. It came in handy when a family friend was bitten by a tick and then contracted Lyme disease. "Some people are targeted more than others because of their body chemistry," said Joanna. Allegheny County Health Department records show that Lyme disease is on the rise and it is a concern. In addition, the county has sprayed several residential areas to reduce the mosquito population in an effort to lower the risk of West Nile Virus, which is also on the rise.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Joanna received her MBA from the University of Pittsburgh. She dropped out of the workforce when she had children but, as they got older, she was ready to take on new challenges. After research, she discovered Mosquito Joe. She likes the company's model and the opportunity it gives her to provide a service to others. Certified by the state as a commercial applicator of pest control products, Joanna learned what attracts both ticks and mosquitoes. She says to reduce mosquitoes, be sure to empty any water-holding vessels. Have a barrier around the yard if possible – many flying insects will look for foliage as a place to land.

So that you can fully enjoy your yard in our limited summer season, Mosquito Joe offers several services to reduce these pests – from treating clogged gutters where larvae can grow to spraying the barrier around your home. Treatments last for 21 days, after which the weather and heat will break it down. A technician will then return for another application. All-natural treatments are also available. For more information, call 412-444-8828 or visit their website at <http://mosquitojoe.com>.



A big **THANK YOU** to Pat and Johnny of Pat's Landscaping and Tree Service for helping us clean up our vacant lot. 412-327-9899



OHI Annual Fall Spaghetti Dinner & More By Dorrie Smith

Friday, October 16, 2015 • 5pm to 8pm • Riverview Park Activities Building

Join the OHI Board as we come together to celebrate our investments and impact in Observatory Hill. Bring your families, catch up with your neighbors, and meet new friends. Dust off those dancing shoes and enjoy an evening with live music, door prizes, 50/50 raffle, and fun activities for all ages. Or just sit back, relax, and enjoy a delicious, hearty meal. *We hope to see everyone there.*

Menu for the evening: Spaghetti with meatballs or marinara sauce, salad, dinner rolls, dessert, and beverage.

Tickets prices: \$8.00 at the door, advance tickets \$7.00, children ages 4 – 11 \$5.00, children under 4 free.

Tickets go on sale September 10, 2015.

For updated details and ticket sales, follow us and check out our Facebook page volunteering information or visit our website at

www.observatoryhill.net

Or contact: Dorrie Smith at 412-877-4828 for additional ticket sales information.

OHI Journal

P.O. Box 100247
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 3666
Pittsburgh, PA

The OHI Board

Glenn Miller
President
412-352-7095
glenn.miller@stantec.com
Jason Wrona
Treasurer
724-322-0198
jason.wrona@bipc.com

Stephen Connell
Business District
412-481-8204
sconnell@aol.com

Chris Cruz
Communications & Marketing
215-431-6014
ultracruz@mac.com

Walt Nalducci
Vice President
412-322-6478
wnalducci@msn.com
Northside Leadership Conference

Leslee Schaffer
Property Concerns/ Inspection, Heritage Day
412-231-1650
lesleek1@earthlink.net

Doug Deckert
Dinner Events
doug.deckert@gmail.com

Dorrie Smith
Secretary
412-877-4828
opnthedoor@hotmail.com
Housing, Heritage Day Riverview Park, Dinners

Jasun Stanton
Public Safety
412-323-2531
jasunstanton@hotmail.com

Jeffrey Wagner
House Tour, Riverview Park
412-225-2298
jeffreywagner2@gmail.com

Annual Registration Form for Membership to Observatory Hill Inc.

Mail to: Observatory Hill Incorporated.
P.O. Box 100247, Pittsburgh, PA 15233
412-736-2489

Member's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Date Paid _____

E-mail address _____

Membership Contribution: (check one)

☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$15 ☐ Other ☐ \$50 (Business Member)

☐ Please include me on the email list that provides information on local activities and important community notices.

☐ Do not include me on any email notifications

Make Checks Payable to: Observatory Hill Inc.

Observatory Hill Journal Credits

Fall 2015

Design and Layout: Scott Pipitone, courtesy Pipitone Group – 412-321-0879
Printing: Dave Gilbreath, courtesy Knepper Press – 412-241-1189

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Leslee Schaffer

All you have to do is look around to see what makes Observatory Hill a great place to live: its distinctive historical character, great neighbors with a sense of community, a beautiful park to relax and play in – just to name a few. While our list of assets is long, we also know there is room for improvement. We can build on what is good and continue to make it even better.

Over the past months, OHI has worked with Councilwoman Darlene Harris, to make improvements to our business district with new lighting and additional security cameras. We have planted flowers, hosted neighborhood clean-ups, and put in a community garden. We are in partnership with community leaders, the Northside Leadership Conference, and the Urban Redevelopment Authority to continue to make much-needed improvements which are already underway. We are teaming up to reduce blight and to acquire properties. We attend housing court to keep on top of neighborhood issues. We continue to plant the seeds of positive change and look forward to seeing what will grow.

What volunteer opportunities are available? The list of choices is long. Just making a phone call can make a difference. At an OHI meeting, 311 Manager Wendy Urbanic spoke on this very topic. The city leaders cannot be everywhere. They depend on us to report neighborhood concerns. By calling or emailing the 311 center, we let them know what issues need to be addressed. She was excited to announce upcoming changes in their process and in their software which will make their system (and our concerns) a lot easier to track and to address.

In the days ahead, OHI will continue to work to make our neighborhood an even better place to live and to do business. We invite you to attend a meeting, consider a membership, get involved, and help plant the seeds. Our neighborhood is filled with bright and talented people with fresh ideas and a volunteering spirit. What can you do to make a difference?

COMMERCIAL SPACE AVAILABLE

At the very heart of Observatory Hill's business district lies a unique opportunity for commercial investment. The storefront at 3923 Perrysville Ave. is now available to be transformed into another neighborhood staple. At 850 square feet, the space can be designed to suit the vision of the new tenant. If interested, please contact Jonathan Huck at jonathan@pittsburghnorthside.com for more details.

CONTACT INFO AT A GLANCE

Observatory Hill, Inc:

Phone: 412-736-2489

E-Mail: ohipgh@gmail.com

Web Site: www.observatoryhill.net

ALCOSAN 412-766-4810

Animal Care & Control 412-255-2036 (before 3pm)
412-255-2935 (after 3pm)

Auto Squad 412-255-2911

Building Inspection 412-255-2175

Burglary Squad 412-323-7155

Burned out street light 412-255-5483

Crime Stoppers 412-255-8477

Darlene Harris 412-255-2135

Environmental Services Recycling 412-255-2631

Solid Waste 412-255-2790

Firearms Tracking 412-323-7768

Graffiti:

You have been a victim 911

Graffiti in the neighborhood 311

Graffiti Busters for removal 412-255-2872

Mayor's Office 412-255-2626

Mayor's Response Line for non-emergencies 311

Narcotics 412-323-7761

Parking Authority 412-560-7275

Public Safety 412-255-2270

Zone One Police Dept. 412-323-7201