

OH Journal



The Newsletter for the Friends & Neighbors of Observatory Hill

August 2001

Observatory Hill House Tour

For all of you who were around the neighborhood on May 20, it was a busy day. Mother Nature smiled upon us that day and waited until late in the day for the rains to fall on us leaving the tour to be dry and, at least, partly sunny.

Nearly 500 people from all over the region (and some not from this region) were touring our neighborhood homes. Molly's Trolleys were circling the neighborhood, wonderful new house tour and directional signs were put up with balloons attached making the day seem festive. The festive mood seemed to permeate the atmosphere, from homeowners to docents to patrons of the tour, all were enjoying themselves tremendously.

After the tour, everybody that participated as volunteers such as committee people, homeowners and docents all got together for the post-tour party. It was a lovely affair, hosted by board member, Scott Pipitone and his wife, Stella. The mood was lively and all had a great time with good food and libations. Those who didn't volunteer their time this year will have another chance next year to participate in the festivities. We already have the date for next year's tour, May 19, 2002. Mark your calendars.

The Observatory Hill House Tour is not only Observatory Hill, Inc.'s largest fundraiser, it allows us to highlight our neighborhood in a very positive way. We all know that Observatory Hill is a wonderful neighborhood with many lovely, historic homes, but you would be surprised how many people don't know about us. When we can garner newspaper articles covering the tour, many people who would never be able to locate this neighborhood can find their way to it. Some of those people may be interested in buying a home of their own in this very neighborhood. All in all, it gets people here to see what we all know, we have a great neighborhood.



From Councilwoman Barbara Burns Office

Councilwoman Burns is pleased to announce that there will be "Movies in Riverview Park" on Saturday evenings this summer, beginning June 9th. We are also trying to schedule concerts to occur immediately before the movies, however these are not yet confirmed. All Northsiders are invited to come out and join in family fun evenings in Riverview this summer.



Barbara Burns
Councilwoman, City of Pittsburgh

The schedule for Riverview Cinema in the Parks 2001

Every Saturday starting June 9th - August 25th

Time is dusk (about 9:00 p.m.)

Movie is shown on the lawn in front of the Observatory

June 9	Batman Beyond - Return of the Joker	PG
June 16	Small Time Crooks	PG
June 23	Remember the Titans	PG
June 30	Pokemon 2000	G
July 7	Digimon	PG
July 14	The Straight Story	G
July 21	Titan AE	PG
July 28	The World is not Enough	PG-13
Aug. 4	Mission to Mars	PG
Aug. 11	Shanghai Noon	PG-13
Aug. 18	The Adventures of Elmo in Grouchland	G
Aug. 25	The Cup	G
Sept. 1	Chicken Run	G

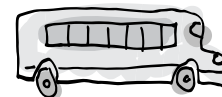


Movies in Riverview Park

Mt. Zion Vacation Bible School



Mt. Zion promises a fun and exciting "Beach Trek" this summer. Their vacation bible school is a joint effort with St. Lukes Lutheran Church of West View and is open to children from four years to sixth grade. The daily school is 9:30 to noon from July 30 through August 3. For registration call Mt. Zion at 931-0484 or St. Lukes at 931-1674.



PNC Bank Housing Assistance Programs

Mary Ellen Sullivan and Mary Lou Brkovich of PNC Bank came to our June OHI Board meeting to tell us about programs the bank has to assist middle and lower income home buyers. In preparation for buying a home are their credit repair program and financial literacy program. For people buying community developed properties, PNC's PRI can provide gap funding grants of up to \$1000. PNC also works with PHOP, the Pittsburgh Housing Outreach Program .

For more information on the programs offered by PNC, contact Mary Lou Brkovich at 412-768-8494.

Our C.O.P.

Officer Dan Dulski reminds residents that along with hot weather, summer has a higher incidence of thefts. He cautions people not to leave articles in car where they can be seen. This is the most common problem in the summer months.

Officer Dulski can be reached via his pager at 560-5463, or call 911 with any problems or concerns.



St. Nicholas Church

OHI has pledged its support for the efforts of parishioners asking City Council to designate the church as a historic site. As you may know, St. Nicholas was the first Croatian church in America. As such, OHI decided to support historic designation for the church. We wish the parishioners well in their endeavor to save St. Nicholas.

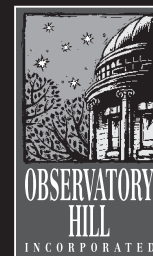
Request for Marshall Avenue Bus Route

OHI has been requested to support and facilitate a petition to the Port Authority to provide bus service along Marshall Avenue. If you have feeling for this issue and can volunteer some time to circulate petitions, please contact Bobbi Howell.



Ribbon Cutting for Observatory Hill Sign

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, August 7, 2001 for the new sign in the Observatory Hill parking lot. The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. with city officials presiding. Light refreshments will be provided. Come out and join us in celebrating our new sign which identifies this community for all who pass through.



Call For Volunteers

Observatory Hill is on the move! The annual House Tour, Riverview Park overhaul, Housing Projects and rebuilding the Business District are leading the way. Observatory Hill, Inc. is involved and we need your help. We are seeking community members who are willing to contribute a little of their time and talent to improving the quality of life on Observatory Hill.

We have a great neighborhood and we are committed to making it even better. Join, get your neighbors to join, phone us or e-mail or best of all, come to our meetings to give us your input. We meet the third Wednesday of every month at the Byzantine Seminary (enter from the parking lot at the rear of the building) at 7:00 PM. The meetings are open to everyone. Each month we get the latest news from our C.O.P., officer Dan Dulski, review the activities of all the OHI committees, and we especially want to hear the ideas and concerns of everyone in the Observatory Hill area.

The whole community should be represented and we need your participation as members, board members, House Tour volunteers for varied jobs, and other projects that serve the community. If you can spare a little time and have a desire to keep Observatory Hill one of the best places to live, contact us.

Observatory Hill, Inc.'s Housing Plan

The last issue of our newsletter unveiled OHI's housing initiative, however this editor was a bit confused on the dates for availability of the housing. I had told you that the houses would be finished and ready for sale by this fall. That is actually when we will be having our groundbreaking, the houses won't be available for sale until sometime next spring. I apologize for the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

For more information on any of the houses or to learn about special financing options available to buyers, contact Shemariah Waggoner at the Northside Leadership Conference at 231-4714.



Calendar

July

OHI Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 25 at 7 p.m.
 Byzantine Seminary
 3605 Perrysville Ave.

(please note that this is a departure from the ordinary 3rd Wednesday for this month's meeting due to scheduling difficulties)

August

Ribbon Cutting for the New OHI Sign
Tuesday, August 7 at 11 a.m.
 Observatory Hill Parking Lot
 Corner of Perrysville and Mairdale

National Night Out
Tuesday, August 7 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
 All households are encouraged to participate

OHI Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 15 at 7 p.m.
 Byzantine Seminary
 3605 Perrysville Ave.

Annual Registration Form for Membership to Observatory Hill Inc.

Mail to: Observatory Hill Inc.
P.O. Box 7651, Pittsburgh, PA 15214

Members Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Date Paid _____

e-mail address _____

Interests _____

Annual Membership Dues (check one)

☐ Community Member - \$5.00/household (adults over 18)

☐ Business Member - \$50.00

Make Checks Payable to: Observatory Hill Inc.

About OHI

Observatory Hill, Inc. serves our neighborhood as a member of the Northside Leadership Conference and of the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group. Call one of the Officers if you'd like more information or to get involved in your community. There are open board meetings the third Wednesday of every month at the Byzantine Seminary at 3605 Perrysville Avenue at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to listen and participate!

The OHI Board

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bobbi.howell@verizon.net	Scott Pipitone	321-0879
Susan Rooney	Lynn Schraf	321-5043
Vice President	lschraf@earthlink.net	
Dave Gilbreath		
Treasurer		
Jeff Howell		
Secretary		

Committees

House Tour

Bobbi Howell – co-chair
Susan Rooney – co-chair
Lynn Schraf – co-chair
Andy Balint
Mary Ellen Burdick
Rich & Sherrie Fischer
Linda LeFever
Mark Masterson
Skip McCrea
Scott Pipitone

Neighborhood & Business Development

Dave Gilbreath*
Scott Pipitone

Public Safety

Bobbi Howell *
Susan Rooney

Parks

Skip McCrea *

Membership

Mary Ellen Burdick*

Nominating

Bobbi Howell*
Mary Ellen Burdick

Newsletter

Bobbi Howell
Jeff Howell
Scott Pipitone
Dave Gilbreath

Entertainment

Susan Rooney*
Jeff Howell

North Side Leadership Conference (NSLC)

Bobbi Howell
Skip McCrea

Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group [PCRG]

Bobbi Howell
Susan Rooney

Housing

Lynn Schraf*
Dave Gilbreath
Bobbi Howell
Jeff Howell
Susan Rooney
Stacey Regan
Denise Colbert
Barbara Pace

*(Chairperson)

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