

Fall 2007

Inside this issue:

- Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh, Board Nominations **2**
- Message from a Polish Hill Resident (cont), WPA Humane Society **3**
- West Penn Rec. Center, 3106 Brereton Street **4**
- Redstone Candies Fundraiser, Support Local Art, Thank You Volunteers **5**
- Spotlight on Public Safety, Advertising Rates **6**
- Voice Editorial Deadlines, Neighborhood Improvements **7**
- Calendar of Events **8**
- Weatherization, Halloween **9**
- URA Programs **10**
- Survey, Membership Application **11**

Polish Hill Selected as RTP's Rebuilding Day 2008 Site

We are thrilled to report that Polish Hill has been selected as Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh's 2008 Rebuilding Day site. Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh is the nation's leading organization bringing volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of low-income and



Polish Hill 2008!

A Message from a Polish Hill Resident

Fall has arrived here on Polish Hill; fitting since this is a time of great change. As we gain recognition from all parts of the City, our image is one of "a neighborhood on the move" with real potential and success within our grasp.

We have businesses moving back to Polish Hill — a neighborhood-wide thank you goes to Tai+Lee Architects for moving their offices back to the abandoned Vet's Club building on Brereton Street. It's a great example of what is possible here, and it will also be our first "green" building on Polish Hill.

We have local residents who are asking about store fronts to open small businesses. This is a true turn in the right direction for our neighborhood — 60 cents from every dollar spent in a local business stays in the neighborhood versus being sent back to a nationwide chain. Businesses of

interest include: a coffee shop, a Polish store, a bakery, used record shop and a Laundromat. So now's your chance to ring in...in this issue of the *Polish Hill Voice* there is a survey form. What businesses do you want to see on Polish Hill? Let us know so we can share this information with the people who live here and want to open a store. The equally important part of the survey is: What kind of stores on Polish Hill would you visit/support on a daily or weekly basis? If one of our residents wants to open a store, we want them to be a success so this information will help them to know if their idea will work for Polish Hill.

Communication is a part of the new changes on Polish Hill. We have boosted contact with all of the City Departments, and we as a neighborhood are diversifying our

(Continued on page 3)

Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh (continued)

(Continued from page #1)

RTP Motto:
"Age in place
with dignity."

improve the homes and lives of low-income and elderly homeowners by providing free repair services for those with the greatest need so they can "age in place with dignity."

On **April 26, 2008**, the PHCA will partner with Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh to organize nearly 1,000 volunteers and tons of donated materials and supplies to provide **FREE** home repairs, renovations and modifications for elderly, income-eligible homeowners in Polish Hill. Free home winterization assistance may also be available through Duquesne Light and Equitable Gas.

Home Selection Application Forms are available at the PHCA office, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and West Penn Recreation Center.

To ensure consideration, be sure to return your completed applications to the PHCA office as soon as possible.

IMPORTANT: Selection of participants for Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh is limited. Submission of an application does not guarantee participation or the completion of all repair requests. Residents who are not chosen for the 2008 Rebuilding Day Event may still be eligible for repairs or modifications throughout the year.

Volunteers and donations are what make initiatives like Rebuilding Day 2008 a success. Please let us know if you would like to lend your skills and time on April 28 or on continuing projects throughout the year. We are also seeking experienced volunteers to serve as House Captains to assist as the project leader at each of the homes chosen to be renovated on April 28. Contributions of money, materials, food, bottled water or transportation may be made directly to RTP at:

Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh
 Parkway West Business Park, Bldg. 1
 110 Parkway View Drive
 Pittsburgh, PA 15205
 (412) 922-0953

Questions? Contact any PHCA Board Member at (412) 681-1950 or phcapgh@verizon.net.

Board Elections December 4

Nominations for the following positions on the PHCA Board of Directors will be accepted until October 28:

Vice President
2nd VP/Membership Chair
Treasurer
Directorship

Each position is a 3-year term. Qualified candidates must:

- Be a current PHCA member in good standing for at least one year
- Have attended at least four of the past 12 PHCA membership meetings
- Be willing to dedicate their time and effort toward serving you and the neighborhood

Could it be you?

Message from a Polish Hill Resident (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

communications efforts with an e-mail notification initiative and information-sharing with the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and the West Penn Recreation Center. After all, we're all on the same team — here to do good works for our residents and our neighborhood — and I sincerely hope we are able to continue and expand our cooperation.

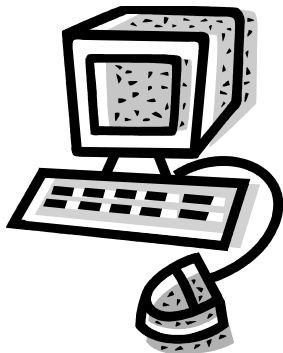
With so much good news to spread and much work to do, I am putting forth a "Call for Champions." There are many projects left this year and bigger projects on the way (like Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh), and we need people to volunteer for action. Attendance has been outstanding at our monthly meetings, and we still need to find some creative, hard-working people to add to our "Green Team" to help keep Polish Hill looking good.

We're still in search of a blogger to chronicle Polish Hill events. And it's also a good time for a neighborhood historian to step up to preserve and tell the stories of the intriguing history here beneath our feet.

There may be other projects that we have not thought of yet...do you have one? Would you like to bring your idea to a meeting and present it to the members?

If so, let us know. You never know who else may have the same project in mind. And they just might need a Champion to lead the charge.

*Terry Doloughty
PHCA President*



**Polish Hill
Blog-ski?**

Not All Polish Hill Residents Are Two-Legged!



Thinking of adopting a pet? Consider the Western Pennsylvania Humane Society.

Assistant Director of Customer Services Matt Record says the organization's adoptees are ready to go to their new forever home...yours! Humane Society adoptees have been spayed/neutered and micro-chipped, received all of their shots, and they have been tested for parvo, heartworm and other common diseases.



**Western
Pennsylvania
Humane Society**

1101 Western Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA
15233
(412) 321-4625
www.wpahumane.org

Support our advertisers!

	CATHERINE McCONNELL, CNRS, CNMS Salesperson (412) 363-4000 EXT 760 BUSINESS (412) 363-7551 FAX (412) 621-6674 HOME (412) 874-3074 CELL catherine.mcconnell@pittsburghmoves.com	
		 
	REAL ESTATE, INC. 5857 Ellsworth Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15232	
		
<p>Owned And Operated By NRT Incorporated.</p> <p>www.pittsburghmoves.com</p>		

Something for Everyone at the WPRC

The West Penn Recreation Center located at 450 30th Street offers programs and activities for kids of all ages. Call (412) 622-7353 for registration and information.



CLASS	DAY	AGES	COST	TIME
Beginners Upholstering Class	Saturday	Adults	Free	Noon-2 p.m.
Arts & Crafts	Tuesday & Thursday	9-13	Free	4:30-5:30 p.m.
Movie Night	Wednesday	All	Free	5-7 p.m.
Cheerleading	Tuesday	4-15 Boys & Girls	\$7 registration fee; \$7 per week	6 p.m.
Hill Dance Academy Theatre	Call (412) 508-9574 for class and fee information.			



It required the long arm of a crane to remove this International Scout from the basement of the building. A few minutes later, a late-model Mercury Cougar was also extracted.

Polish Hill's First "Green" Building on Brereton Street

After years of neglect, new life is being borne at 3106 Brereton Street.

Known by most as the "Old Vet's Club," this vacant structure will soon be the home of TAI+LEE, architects. Polish Hill resident Yoko Tai is the owner and principal of TAI+LEE, architects. With the help of husband and co-founder Steve Lee, who is a tenured professor in the School of Architecture at CMU, the demolition and re-structuring process has begun.

Demolition and the removal of debris is nearly complete,

including the extraction of two vehicles (which had sunken through the floor into the sub-basement) and an enormous Heckler Boiler. Part of the floor has been rebuilt to stabilize the building, and after a new roof, windows and doors are installed, the structure will be weather-tight so work can continue through the winter. Yoko and Steve are also working to design the company's new storefront.

When it's finished, the structure will be the newest environmentally-

friendly building in the neighborhood. Renovation plans include the employment of renewable materials, such as paint with low levels of chemicals and additives, and low-consumption plumbing fixtures, etc.

A few years ago, Yoko and Steve moved the office from their home on Brereton Street to its current location in the Strip District. And we're thrilled to welcome them back to Polish Hill!



Order Redstone Candies for the Holiday

Raise money for the PHCA

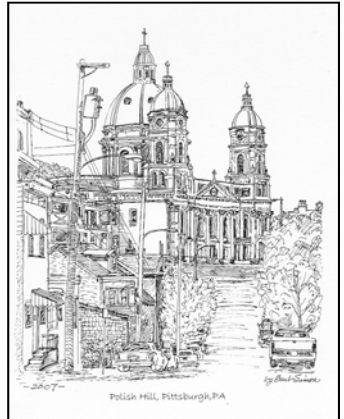
Coconut clusters, peanut clusters and chocolate covered marshmallows, graham crackers, and Oreos...

Help the PHCA as you treat your holiday guests to a unique assortment of delicious milk chocolate candies made right here in Republic, PA. Orders are due November 16.

Stop by the PHCA office or see Julia Sinicki for a list of items and order forms.

Barbara C. Simon
artist-pen, paint, fabric
(412) 683-4392

Wouldn't this rendering of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church make a lovely greeting card? Well, it is! Local artist **Barbara C. Simon** will be in attendance at the Nov. 6 Membership Meeting...please let us know if you would like to place an order so Barbara can bring them with her to the meeting for you. You may also work directly with Barbara to order



additional copies of this or other custom renderings.

The PHCA is dedicated to promoting local art. If you have an exhibit, installation or show scheduled, let us know so we can help to pass it on!

Muchas Gracias!

Our thanks to all of the volunteers who pitch in to help keep Polish Hill beautiful, especially the following who helped on Oct. 6 to clean up the Floral Bed at 30th and Paulowna and "Redd Up Polish Hill" on Oct. 13-14:

Deb Jozwiak

Rob Levkulich

Stephanie Mauro

Josie Ramsey

Ellie Tecza

Leah Tecza

Stephanie Tecza

Terry Doloughty



"We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give."

~ Winston Churchill





Spotlight on Public Safety

Crimes of Fraud: How to Protect Yourself

We can all be potential victims of the con artist: Business and professional people, average citizens, clubs, church groups, young and old.

Fraud artists frequently rely on the same old tricks. You'll find that you may even be familiar with some of them. Whether or not you suspect a fraud, here are good rules to follow all the time:

- Don't believe in something for nothing or too good to be true offers. You only get what you pay for.
- Be suspicious of high-pressure sales efforts, especially if they say you must act today or miss out on the deal.
- Take your time. Be suspicious and think about the deal before you part with your money.
- Get all agreements in writing. Insist that agreements are in plain English not legalese.
- Read all contracts and agreements before signing. Have a lawyer examine all major contracts. Never sign a contract as a mere formality.
- Compare services, prices, and credit offers before agreeing to a deal.
- Check on the company or service in question for customer satisfaction. This can be done through friends with personal knowledge or consult your Consumer Affairs Office or local Better Business Bureau.
- Don't provide strangers with information on friends.
- Don't reveal personal or financial matters to survey teams.
- Be cautious in prepaying for goods or services.
- Before contributing to charities, check to see if they are legitimate.
- Never withdraw your money at the urging of strangers. Contact your bank officials if anyone, purporting to be bank examiners, F.B.I. Agents, etc., requests that you withdraw your money as part of an investigation.
- Never give out personal information and credit card numbers over the phone unless you are the one who made the call. Some Cons call and claim to be from your credit company when, in fact, they are not. Tell them you will call back and call the company to check on them.



Affordable Advertising Rates in the *Polish Hill Voice*

PUT YOUR COMPANY
NAME AND LOGO HERE!

Call (412) 681-1950 or email us at
phcapgh@verizon.net.

Ad Size	Per Issue
Business Card	\$ 95
Quarter Page	\$ 199
Half Page	\$ 399
Full Page	\$ 500
Inside Front Cover or Inside Back Cover	\$ 650
Half Page/Back Mailer	\$ 450

Discounts available for multi-issue contracts.

Polish Hill Voice Editorial and Advertising Timeline

The *Polish Hill Voice* is published quarterly.

Advertisers. Acceptable formats include:

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

Editorial. Contributing writers, designers and researchers welcome!

Please submit all content to Editor Chris O'Shell via email at phcapgh@verizon.net or send to the PHCA office at 3060 Brereton Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.



	Advertising Deadline	Editorial Deadline	Publication Date	Months covered
Winter 2008	December 2	December 16	January 21	January, February, March

Neighborhood Improvements

Besides the leaves, have you noticed the changes happening around Polish Hill?

Thanks to the efforts of Councilman Len Bodack and Mayor Luke Ravenstahl's Office, Polish Hill is enjoying the benefits of new sidewalks, a major clean up on Gold Way at the end of Melwood Avenue, and the trimming of enormous trees on Phelan Way. Our thanks also to the Department of Public Works for quickly picking up hundreds of bags of

trash collected during our two-day neighborhood clean up.

Improvements on the list for spring include the City steps, new trash receptacles, and a thorough cleaning and fresh coat of paint on the Veterans Monument on Brereton Street. Plans for the West Penn Recreation Center include a walking trail around the ball field and major improvements to the parking lots.



New sidewalk on Brereton at 28th Street

Thank you to all who volunteer your time, effort, energy, ideas and resources to keep the PHCA strong.

October 2007

Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Halloween Party
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Tastefully Simple Fund-raiser	30	31			



PHCA Office
6-9 p.m.



PHCA Office
6:30 p.m.
25% benefits PHCA
Beautification Committee

November 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 PHCA Membership Meeting	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Candy orders due	17 Jenny Lee Bake Sale
18 Jenny Lee Bake Sale	19	20 Multi- Community Pre-Holiday Party	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



PHCA Office
Immediately following
each IHM Mass
Pre-order today!



Iron City Brewery
5-7 p.m.
Multi-Community
Celebration!
Hosted by
Neighbors in the Strip
More details to follow...

And Coming in December...



Bring your family, friends
and co-workers for the
easiest (and tastiest) PHCA
fundraiser ever!
More details to follow...

Annual PHCA Meeting, Elections and Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 4

Spaghetti Warehouse Fundraiser Night

Thursday, December 6

Light Up Night

Friday, December 7

Winter is on its way...be prepared!

Energy Assistance. The 2007-2008 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is scheduled to open to the public on November 5. The cash and crisis components will close on March 21, 2008 or when the funds are depleted, whichever occurs first.

Apply as soon as possible. Please stop by the PHCA office or visit the PA Department of Public Welfare website at www.dpw.state.pa.us for an application and guidelines.

Weatherization. Free weath-

erization improvements are available through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County residents who were not previously "weatherized" at their current address may be eligible if you meet the income guidelines.

City residents call (412) 227-5700, x102; Allegheny County residents call (412) 227-3700, x106. Operated by ACTION-Housing, Inc.



Halloween in Polish Hill

On October 20, more than two dozen children turned out in their best costumes and make-up to celebrate the holiday with games, pumpkin decorating, candy and a special visit by Eat 'n Park's very own Smiley who brought Halloween Smiley Cookies for everyone.

Our thanks to everyone who helped

to make it a memorable night for the kids:

Anonymous (2), Susan Atkinson, Kim & David Bakaj, Best Service Co., Terry Doloughty, Mike Duray, Eat 'n Park, Marsha Hayden, Kathy Immler, Loraine Poslusny, Ruth Rizner, Eileen Roczko and Kim Titus.



URA Programs Promote Consumer Home Financing



The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) has several programs for single-family homeowners who want to purchase

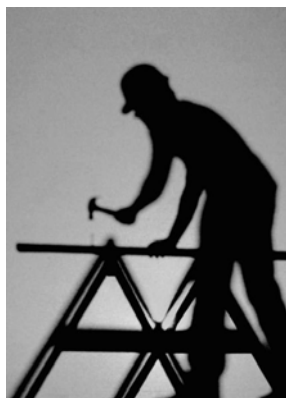
or rehab their homes.

A brief description of each program is listed below. For additional information, please contact the URA directly at 412-255—

6666 or at

www.ura.org.

Complete guidelines are also available at the PHCA office.



Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP)

Interest	5.99%
Terms	10, 15, or 20 years
Income Limits per Household Size	1-2 persons=\$55,350; 3 or more=\$63,650

Pittsburgh Home Rehabilitation Program (PHRP)

Interest	0%
Terms	Up to 20 years
Income Limits per Household Size	1 person=\$32,150; 2=\$36,700; 3=\$41,300; 4=\$45,900; 5=\$49,550; 6=\$53,250

Pittsburgh Home Ownership Program (PHOP)

Interest	5.25%
Terms	Fixed, 30-year mortgage
Purchase Price Limits by Property Size (within Program Area)	1 unit=\$216,000; 2=\$261,701; 3=\$316,327; 4=\$393,120

Housing Recovery Program (HRP)

Interest	6%
Terms	30 years
Maximum Purchase & Rehab Amounts (based on program map)	1 unit=\$216,000; 2=\$261,701; 3=\$316,327; 4=\$393,120

We're Listening

The PHCA Board of Directors is in the process of writing the organization's Three Year Strategic Plan (2008-2010). But we can't do it without your input.

In the coming months, you will receive a neighborhood survey asking for your opinions, feedback and comments on a variety of community issues, much like these. We would appreciate it if you will take a moment to complete this short questionnaire and return it to the PHCA office by **December 1** so we can incorporate the issues into the survey that are most near and dear to you. Thank you.

1.) What type of businesses would you like to see open in Polish Hill?

2.) What type of businesses would you support in Polish Hill?

3.) What programs or services would you like the PHCA to provide?

4.) There is adequate housing in Polish Hill. (circle one and explain) Agree Disagree

If you would like to be contacted by the PHCA via email, please write your email address below.

PHCA Membership Application 2007-8 (only \$7.50)

NAME: _____

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

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

_____ REGULAR MEMBER? Or _____ SUBSCRIPTION MEMBER?
(Polish Hill residents only) (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 EMAIL
subscription

A chance to
become a part
of the FUTURE
of Polish Hill

DISCOUNTED CAR
RENTAL through
Enterprise Rent-A-
Car

A VOICE on
community
issues

A chance to
make a
DIFFERENCE

Clip and return above membership application to:

Jim Stawski, 2nd Vice President & Membership Chair
PHCA, 3060 Brereton Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

POLISH HILL VOICE

3060 Brereton Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone: 412-681-1950
E-mail: phcapgh@verizon.net
<http://phca.pghfree.net>

The PHCA's mission is to: 1.) Serve as a referral resource for the residents of Polish Hill by accurately responding to questions, comments and concerns on topics such as housing, safety, beautification, and public image; 2.) Participate in initiatives to provide decent single-family housing that is affordable to low and moderate income persons, including the rehabilitation of existing properties as owner-occupied and support for prospective developers of such properties; 3.) Promote the beautification of the Polish Hill neighborhood, the viability of the community and the health, well-being and safety of the residents. Through its membership, the PHCA solicits resident input and follows a democratic process to take action on all matters affecting the welfare of the community.

Upcoming PHCA Membership Meetings:

**PHCA Membership Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month
(except in July and August) at 6:30 p.m.**



November 6

December 4

(Annual Meeting and Board Elections)