



## Next 3 Days (in Troy Hill)

October 2, 3, 4, 2015

Troy Hill is the pilot neighborhood for the new Next 3 Days program. What exactly is Next 3 Days? Sponsored jointly by Mayor Peduto's Office, the Urban Redevelopment Authority, and NEXTpittsburgh, it is a weekend filled with activities for all ages that aims to promote the livelihood of a 'less than well known' Pittsburgh community. Bloomfield has Little Italy Days, Lawrenceville has Art All Night, Shadyside has the Arts Festival, Sewickley has the Harvest Festival, Millvale puts on a Brewfest, but what, exactly, does Troy Hill have to offer? Next 3 Days in Troy Hill is exploring just that.

Troy Hill Citizens, Inc. and many of our neighbors and residents, Most Holy Name and Grace Lutheran Church, are participating in this Next 3 Days pilot project. We are hoping that the weekend, scheduled from Friday evening, October 2 to Sunday October 4, 2015 in and around Troy Hill, entices 'outsiders' to explore, no, to interface, to become part of, a little slice of Pittsburgh; that maybe, just maybe, they will fall in love with our community and come on' back soon.

Consider this. Friday night you enjoy an Organic Pennsylvania Deep Cut Rye Whiskey at Wigle

Whiskey's Barrelhouse on Spring Garden Avenue, outside, in the Whiskey Garden, catching some of that autumn fresh air. Oh, and you learn that American whiskey was born in Pittsburgh, and that Western Pennsylvania was the epicenter of American Whiskey production in the 1700 & 1800's. Didn't know that, did ya? On Saturday morning, you head out to indulge on pancakes with Bavarian cream toppings at Grace Lutheran Church. \$5.00? and sausage, fruit & a bev too? Yep, you have some change to spare as you drift into The Red Door thrift shop. Then, there's art, art, and more art in the Troy Hill Citizens Park, bring the family. You're listening to a live performance by local talent, and begin to wonder why you never finished those guitar lessons. You get a chance to talk to the artist, and ask him where he gets his/her inspiration. Your visual and auditory senses are stimulated. You no longer feel awkward about your own stiff dance moves. You now worked up a hunger and mosey over to Most Holy Names' Oktoberfest where you run into Aunt Martha's sister-in-law who knows your cousin Fred, and have a beer reminiscing about Thanksgiving dinner ten years ago. You slowly embrace the vibe of physicality and autonomy bouncing out from this little community of Troy Hill, and picture yourself living here. You check the activities for Sunday. You see that there are Open Houses, and the sales prices are within reach. You call a friend and see if they can try on a few houses with you, ask them how you look in one. You find out that you have lived and love Troy Hill. This relationship thing with a neighborhood doesn't quite intimidate you anymore. You have interfaced quite gracefully.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.nextpittsburgh.com/city-design/next-3-days-in-troy-hill/>



[www.facebook.com/TroyHillCitizens](http://www.facebook.com/TroyHillCitizens)

### NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday  
September 9, 2015 7:00PM  
Most Holy Name  
School Building

#### Board Member List:

**Anthony Benvin, President**  
**Penny Barrett, V. President**  
**Patrick Campbell,**  
Treasurer  
**Janet Koch, Secretary**  
**Jeff Anesin**  
**Cathy Baysek**  
**Don Mahaney**  
**Brian Schimmel**  
**Tom Tortella**  
**Kathy Turner**

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## A Troy Hill Street With More Than A Name, *by Patrick Campbell*

Prior to the annexation of Allegheny City by Pittsburgh in 1907, Rialto Street was known as Ravine Street. The Troy Hill incline was, in fact, located several hundred feet south of the Ravine/Rialto Street corridor. On August 31, 1850 the Duquesne Borough Council appropriated \$50 “for opening a road from the Butler Pike [S.R. 28] to Troy Hill . . . called Ravine Street”.<sup>1</sup> Three weeks later, an additional \$25 was appropriated toward the construction of Ravine/Rialto Street.<sup>2</sup>

In December of 1884 the first tracts of land on Herr’s Island, (present day Washington’s Landing) were purchased for stockyards. By December 18, 1884, construction on the stockyards had commenced, and by 1885 the Pittsburgh and Allegheny Drove Yard opened its operations, commencing what would become 100 years of industrial commerce along the Allegheny River.

The Pittsburgh and Allegheny Drove Yard Company continued to acquire several more tracts of land on Herr’s Island, and by 1891, they owned a majority of the middle of the island.<sup>3</sup> While the principals of the stockyards company were building their stockyards, Allegheny City butcher and byproducts dealer Emil Winter, in 1887, purchased property, and built a substantial slaughterhouse, locally known as “Emil Winter’s Abattoir”. By the turn of the twentieth century, Herr’s Island’s entire 41 acres consisted of livestock yards, a slaughterhouse and soap making facility.

Linked to the Pennsylvania and the Baltimore and Ohio railroads by the Pittsburgh Junction Railroad, the Herr’s Island stockyards became a significant point of sale and resting place for livestock in transit between the Midwest (Chicago) and eastern markets (Philadelphia and New York City). Livestock sold at the stockyards was driven up Ravine/Rialto Street at midnight and through the Troy Hill community and into the Spring Garden valley to several large slaughterhouses.

Over the years, stories and memories about the cattle drives have been documented by writers interested in preserving its history: pulling the few of us old enough to remember Herr’s Island, (along with the heavy stench disseminated from it on a hot summer day), into reminiscing, and encouraging us to pass along those stories about Pig Hill to the next generation.

Historian and journalist William Rimmel wrote: “Long lines of workers could be seen every night climbing the steep steps leading from Herr’s Island to Troy Hill after a 12-hour day in the stockyards. Others hiked up and down Troy Hill en route to and from the tanneries, packing houses, soap factories and the H.J. Heinz plant (Rimmel 1981:103).<sup>4</sup>

Walter Mall, who worked for the Northside Packing Company (located on Spring Garden Avenue) for 67 years, began his career on the companies’ shipping floor, working up the ladder to credit manager. Part of his early responsibilities with the company was driving livestock from the stockyards on Herr’s Island



A view of Rialto Street in Troy Hill, where a sewer line is visible through the dirt down the center of the road. Photo (C. April 1914) Source: Pittsburgh City Photographer Collection - Archives Service Center, University of Pittsburgh

up Ravine/Rialto Street. “We went up from the stock yards up Ravine Street. We called it ‘Pig Hill’. And that went down into Spring Garden Avenue. And we drove them up there at night,” said Mall in a 1996 interview.<sup>4</sup>

(continued on Page 2)

## A Troy Hill Street With More Than A Name (Continued)



Photo (ca 1920s) courtesy of Joan "Josie" Rouda nee Berger

"My grandfather worked for Pittsburgh Pro (Pitts Provision and Packing Co) which was on the island" says Mary Wohleber in a 1990 Post Gazette article...."He was a salesman and was always aware that his appearance reflected his position as a representative of the company... My daddy worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad and was foreman at the 28th Street Yards. He would walk down the Ravine Street steps and across the 31st Street Bridge to work. So he was always walking over the island and if any unusual excitement occurred it was recounted at the dinner table.

It was years before I knew its name, as in conversation it was

just "the island". . . One day daddy said he would take me for a surprise walk. I guess I was about 8 at the time. We walked to the island and visited the pens; as a city child, it was my first encounter with steers, pigs calves and sheep. Daddy told me to be careful where I walked, but I was so enthralled with all the activity, braying and mooing, I slipped and fell. I brought home some of the stockyard with me, but I had a wonderful time.

As I grew older I paid more attention to what was said at dinner tie. As daddy worked the "trick," daddy and the drovers became friendly because all cattle drivers from the island to the meat-packing plants in Spring Garden were made at night.

The drovers would drive the cattle up Ravine Street, down Cowley Street and Wickline Lane to Spring Garden Avenue. The drovers kept a sharp lookout, but sometimes they would lose a pig, calf or sheep. Daddy would always tell this with laughter: the houses along the way of the drive would carelessly leave their gates or shed doors open. The next day, upon returning the animal, the honest person would receive perhaps a ham, a roast or sack of sausages, so everyone got something, even the drovers – a bawling out."<sup>5</sup>

Although the stockyards faded out over 50 years ago, and no one can pinpoint exactly when the last herd was driven through Troy Hill, "Pig Hill" or "Pig Alley" is still synonymous with Rialto Street. To this day, those midnight livestock drives up Ravine/Rialto Street, define the street's cultural landscape. And now with so many pedestrians using Rialto to get to the strip district, town and Lawrenceville, Rialto Street is here to stay.

1 Duquesne Borough Council Minutes August 31, 1850

2 Duquesne Borough Council Minutes September 21, 1850

3 Allegheny County Deed Books 548:149, 697:301

4 Sourced from the writings of David S. Rotenstein, Ph.D in an interview with, Danny, Mickey Zeidler, Ray Zeidler and Sam Santini....May 21, 1997.

5 Pittsburgh Post Gazette; Dec 25, 1990

## Personal Safety Tips

- \*When shopping have your key ready to enter your vehicle rather than searching through your purse
- \*Be alert when shopping, criminals know you have cash, credit cards, cell phones and other valuables
- \* Avoid stairwells in parking garages
- \*Always look around your car before you enter it and lock doors when you get in
- \*Before getting out of car, check the surroundings—if it is dark get to a well lit area
- \*When giving keys to a valet or mechanics have a 2 piece key ring and only give the car keys
- \*Avoid talking on cell phone when driving, concentrate on the driving
- \*Report suspicious activity or persons to Police at 911
- \*Always keep valuables out of sight in your vehicle
- \*GPS –take it with you rather than leaving on dashboard
- \*Keep doors and windows locked at all times

## Councilwoman Darlene Harris

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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 in economic activity and providing jobs for city residents, the city has never had a clear permitting process. Filming often involves closing streets, rerouting busses, and 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.

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 <http://pittsburghpa.gov/district1/feedback>.

## Sprucing Up the Neighborhood

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Ryan Ritenour, one of the community service volunteers working in Troy Hill



We are surely hoping that you have noticed a marked improvement to several of our communities lots, parks, streets and public places. This summer, under the leadership of board member Pat Campbell, the Troy Hill Citizens Park, Rialto Street, Most Holy Name Parish, the lot at Tours & Sundeman, Troy Hill Road and many of the streets have been maintained, weeded and cleaned up by volunteers.

Many of the days, temperatures were well over 90 degrees, and quite humid. These 3 gentlemen set an example of what dedication and commitment mean.

Thank you Bernie Heinlein, Ryan Ritenour and Pat Campbell for Sprucing Up the Neighborhood. Troy Hill is a better place because of you.

A BIG "Thank You" to the North Side Block Party for their donation of \$500 to Troy Hill Citizens. We thank them for their continuing generosity to Troy Hill Citizens.

Congratulations to the new NSLC Sandwich King, Chef Chris Biondo of Troy Hill's Scratch Food & Beverage! Way to go Chris.



<b>IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS</b>	
Troy Hill Citizens Office	412-321-2852
Troy Hill Citizens Email	troyhillpittsburgh@gmail.com
Troy Hill Citizens Web	www.troyhillpittsburgh.com

Call **911** for any crime, fire, or serious medical problem in progress or suspected to be in progress.

Mayor's Service Center call **311** or **412-255-2521**

Pot holes-trash-abandoned cars- junk cars on private property-missed trash pickup- overgrown weeds; abandoned houses that need to be boarded up and suspicious drug activity.

**211** is a **FREE** accessible 3 digit telephone number available to everyone providing easy access to customized health, housing & human services information.

Mayor's Office **412-255-2626**

Councilwoman Darlene Harris.....**412-255-2135**

State Rep. Adam Ravenstahl .....**412-321--5523**

Zone One Pittsburgh Police.....**412-323-7201**

Street Lights..... **412-255-5483**

Animal Control ....**412-255-2036**.....Barking dogs, dogs running loose and stray.

Animal Friends.....**412-456-5687**..... abused or neglected animals

Bureau of Building Inspection...**412-255-2175**  
 Questions about building permits & occupancy permits  
 200 Ross Street 3rd floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Allegheny County-pot hole complaints **412-350-2513**

Pittsburgh Public Schools school safety.. **412-622-3520**

Duquesne Light.....**1-888-393-7100**

Power Outages.....**1-888-393-7000**

Allegheny County Health Dept...**412-578-8026**

United States Attorney's Office, Western District of PA, Pittsburgh Office..... **412-644-3500**

Better Business Bureau..... **877-267-5222**

Benefit Helpline (cash assistance, SNAP, MA, etc.)  
**1-800-692-7462**

Childline (State Child Abuse Registry) **1-800-932-0313**

Children's Health Helpline **1-800-986-KIDS**

Crime Stoppers Tip Line **412-255-8477**

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 possibly cheering them up:**

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**600 W New Castle Road, Zelienople, PA 16063**

**Helen Sperandeo**

**1211 Harvest Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146**

**Eva Nicotra**

**1801 Lowrie Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212**

**Sister Margaret Haring, Convent of Mercy,  
 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213**

## THC General Membership Meeting – Open to the Public

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

7pm @ Most Holy Name

Agenda: Next 3 Days, Buhl/Sprout Fund Grant

## Most Holy Name Important Dates:

### September 12:

Hidden Treasures Rummage Sale 8am - 2pm

### September 27:

CCD Begins

### October 3:

Oktoberfest - Noon - 8 pm  
Hidden Treasures Rummage Sale  
8am - 2pm

### November 3:

Election Day in the School Hall

### November 7:

Oldies Dance

### December 5:

Hidden Treasures Rummage Sale  
8am - 2pm

### December 19:

Christmas Cookie Walk and Soup Sale

**Grace Lutheran will have an indoor flea market on October 3 starting at 9 am**

**No Blockwatch Meeting in September**

**Oct 2, 3 & 4: Next 3 Days in Troy Hill**  
**Check our website for forthcoming details**  
**See Article on Page 1**

## Miller - Brady Funeral Home

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*LeAnn Sherman, Supervisor*

*Garrett Gale, Counselor*

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1607 Lowrie Street  
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t: 412-321-9088

**Local Sponsors:**

**Troy Hill Garage**

1500 Lowrie Street  
412-322-0781

**VFW Post 7090**

1902 Sundeman Street  
412-231-9457

**American Legion Post 565**

1548 Hatteras Street  
(412) 231-4111

**Kuntz Construction**

1621 Lowrie Street  
412-322-3382

**Northside Auto**

835 Spring Garden Avenue  
412-231-7321

**Franks Pizza & Chicken**

1442 Lowrie Street  
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Marie Wohlgenuth, L.F.D.

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website at:

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# Troy Hill Citizens Membership Form

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City & State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership 2015:  Membership Renewal 2015:  Each membership is \$10.<sup>00</sup>

Please do not send cash and make checks payable to: "Troy Hill Citizens Inc."

**SEND TO:**

Membership is also available online at our website, dues are payable through PayPal. <http://troyhillpittsburgh.com/member->

*We hope you enjoy our newly designed newsletter! Are you renewing your membership for 2015 and need to update your contact information for our newsletter? Email us at troyhillcitizens@gmail.com with your contact info and indicate if you would like a return phone call in your message.*

**Troy Hill Citizens Inc.**  
**1619 Lowrie St.**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15212**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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1619 LOWRIE STREET  
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