

SOUTH SIDE SLOPES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION March Meeting Public Safety:

29 neighbors came out for an evening filled with valuable information on our city's public safety services.

Our president, Brad Palmisiano, introduced our elected officials or their representatives attending: Chuck Half from the Mayor's office, Ken Wolfe from Councilman Bruce Kraus' office, and District Magistrate Eugene Ricciardi.

Brad outlined the Neighborhood Clean-ups for the Month of March, especially with the help of over 100 Community Service workers.

Fr. Don Ware gave a brief report on Elm Street Projects, including the patching being done on the 18th St Steps' columns, the completed Skelly and Loy environmental study of South Side Park, and moving ahead on further funding for other projects.

Misi Bielich reported on the Planning Forum, including the developers Burns and Scalo preliminary study of the Goodwill Building for 55 - 70 apartment units, and the planned development of the South Side High School Old Building into 71 apartment units.



Chief Darryl Jones

Our next three presentations were from City of Pittsburgh Public Safety Departments. Chief Darryl

Jones of the Fire Department outlined fire prevention programs which the Fire Department offers to seniors and to school children. The Fire Department also offers one free smoke detector to city families - dial 311 to request your free detector.

Chief Gerald Akrie outlined the services that the City's Animal Control Bureau offers citizens, including catching stray animals and removing dead animals. For further info call 412-255-2036.

EMS Chief Robert McCaughan described EMS services, including the 370 responses to the Slopes residents last year - lower than most Pittsburgh communities. Chief McCaughan talked about such programs as child seat safety, CPR training and fire and CO detectors. Visit the EMS at their website: www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/ems.

Thank you so much to these officials of the City of Pittsburgh for coming out to share such valuable information. We appreciate you giving up your personal time to come out to share this valuable information.

This informative meeting ended at 8:15 PM.

Fr. Don Ware, C.P.



Chief Robert McCaughan and Chief Gerald Akrie

April 14th Meeting - Greening the Slopes

Come join us at our April meeting which will focus on Spring with guest speakers, Arthur Demeo from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and Lisa Ceoffe from the City of Pittsburgh's TreeVitalize program.

Arthur and Lisa will be talking to us about gardening plans, street trees and their respective organization's efforts to keep the City beautiful.

Please join us and consider bringing a neighbor on April 14th at 7:00 pm at the St. Paul's Monastery, 148 Monastery Avenue. For more information, contact info@southsideslopes.org

Redoing an Old Landscape

By Richard Liberto

Landscaping can be an overwhelming endeavor especially when you have an old, overgrown landscape. So, how to start?

The first step is to conduct a thorough analysis of the current landscape conditions including the hardscape (walks, steps, walls, patios).

Many overgrown plantings may simply require judicious pruning or transplanting. Are the current plants attractive and

enhance the landscape? When replacing or adding new plants consider the following: Can the plantings create spaces or function as individual specimens? Will the plants offer privacy, if necessary? Will there be a variety of textures, flowering habit and flowering times? Will the new plantings be low-maintenance? What is the first impression of the landscape; is there curb appeal? Is the circulation through the property logical?

If you have made the decision for a complete "re-do" of your landscape, consider eliminating foundation plantings and reducing the size of the lawn. Perhaps incorporate a pergola, rain garden, or lighting.

A well-qualified landscape design professional will have the vision and "tools" for guiding you with your property. Before you move ahead with all your indoor and outdoor home improvement projects, get the customized advice you need from a design professional.

The Community Design Center of Pittsburgh's RenPlan[®] program offers affordable in-home design consultations. To talk to a Landscape Architect, Architect or Interior Designer about your home and garden, contact the RenPlan[®] program today! 412-391-4333 or www.cdcp.org.

RICHARD LIBERTO IS A LANDSCAPE DESIGNER AND RENPLAN[®] CONSULTANT.

Cleaning Up the Slopes

On Saturday, March 28 and Saturday, April 4, volunteers from the Slopes Association, worked together with over 100 community service workers to clean up our area. These community service workers have appeared before District Justice Ricciardi for a variety of infractions in the South Side area.



Saturday morning March 28th, brought a beautiful, warm, sunny morning and more than 100 workers concentrated on the former incline site along Brosville Street. More than 35 tires; 2 couches and 300 bags of trash were pulled from that site. In addition to the Brosville gulley, workers also cleaned up along the railroad tracks near Welsh Way, St. Martin Street, Brosville all the way to Arlington Avenue, the 10th Street Pedestrian bridge and the 15th Street Pedestrian bridge.

April 4th brought a beautiful, sunny morning but little warmth. Once again, volunteers set out with over 100 community service workers to make the Slopes a cleaner neighborhood. This Saturday, group leaders led the way to the Yard Way Steps, McCardle Roadway, the Eleanor Street Steps, Gomer, Greeley and Josephine Streets. This week workers found, plastic baby doll strollers, discarded carpeting, two dollies and over 200 bags of trash. We were also able to begin removing the vines from the fence at Winters Field.

If there is an area near your home, which needs to be cleaned, and you are willing to lead a team of volunteers, do not hesitate to contact someone on the Board so that we can help get you the resources you need.

Thank you to all of you who came out and gave up your Saturdays to make our neighborhood a better place.





South Side Slopes
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www.StepTrek.org

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**Thank you to our new
and renewing members
for 2009!**

**Join us on April 14 for our
General Meeting at 7:00
Greening the Slopes**

**Membership Renewals
now due!!**

Thank you to our Sponsors...

