



SOUTH SIDE
S L O P E S
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Slopes News

May 2007
Volume 9 Issue 5

President: Brad Palmisiano
Vice President: Joe Balaban

Treasurer: Claudia Hart
Secretary: Kate Fink

May is a very busy month, please join us!

SSSNA is getting in to the swing of Spring! We have many outside volunteer opportunities this month. SSSNA had several volunteers helping the Elm Street committee rate 5 sections of the Slopes using a Keep America Beautiful tool called a "Litter Index" on Saturday, April 28th. SSSNA volunteers will be cleaning up or gardening nearly every Saturday this month. Here is what we need your help with...

Saturday, May 5th at 9am Slopes Clean Up

meet at Veronica's Veil Lot 66 Pius Street

**Saturday, May 12th at 9am
Plant the WPC Barry Street Garden
at Josephine & Barry Streets**

Saturday, May 19th at 9am Slopes Clean Up

meet at Veronica's Veil Lot 66 Pius Street

**Saturday, May 26th at 9am
Plant the WPC Greeley Street Garden
at Josephine & Greeley Streets**

A group of volunteers celebrated Earth Day by cleaning up the Slopes on Saturday, April 21st and collected a great deal of recycle and regular trash which Division 4 Public works disposed of.

Next Meeting May 8th

As we begin the Clean Up season, we have an exciting group of speakers for the May meeting. The City of Pittsburgh has a Police Division called the Graffiti Task Force. These three officers handle the ugly problem of graffiti city-wide. Graffiti is not only an eyesore, but it is a financial, as well as resource burden to home, property and business owners. As detailed in the February 2007 Slopes News, Paul Lorincy, John Schaefer and Bev Boggio met with the officers at their Police Headquarters on the North Side. The intent for the meeting was to combat the growing problem of graffiti vandalism in the Slopes. We as an organization and community want to partner with the police and Graffiti Busters to clean up our neighborhood.

The following is the information that Officers Alphonso Sloan, Frank Rende and Dan Sullivan shared with us.

***Bottom line, call 911 to report graffiti vandalism & start the process!**

"The Pittsburgh Police Department has implemented a Graffiti database to assist officers in identifying and tracking graffiti activities. With the assistance of the community a high tech weapon is now being utilized to fight against graffiti taggers.

The community's responsibility is just as important as the officer's. All graffiti must be reported in a timely manner to the local police. Sometimes the victims of

graffiti are reluctant to press charges after violators are caught. After reporting the graffiti, make sure that pictures have been taken by the local police zone designated graffiti officer, or by a member of the Graffiti Task Force. If you are unsure if the pictures have been taken or not call 412-323-7818 or 412-323-7800 to inquire. Please request that pictures are taken prior to removing the graffiti.

After pictures are taken the graffiti should be removed as soon as possible. Assistance is given through Graffiti Busters 412-255-2872. If the victim removes the graffiti privately please retain receipts for all of the costs involved. Properties that are spray painted frequently may be used as "Bait" locations by the Graffiti Task Force (with the permission of the owners).

Please report suspicious individuals or possible taggers to the local police. Any help will assist the Graffiti Task Force in identifying taggers. Please encourage neighbors to report all graffiti to the police. The Graffiti Task Force can speak to local community groups upon request. Start an information sharing network with neighbors to help combat this problem. The sharing of information via email has shown to be efficient and easy.

Stay vigilant and keep dark areas lit. Encourage your neighbors to report and clean graffiti from their properties. Utilize the Graffiti Task Force officers. We are typically in the office on weekdays and are available to speak to you. Please forward all information that you feel is graffiti related to us. We will work along with Zone police and the community to apprehend graffiti violators."

Please join us to hear more. You need not be a member to attend. See page 7.

Meeting Schedule 2007!

May 8th

*June 19th (3rd Tuesday)

July 10th – Dining Room

September 11th

October 9th

November 13th

December 11th – Dining Room

April 11th Meeting

Our SSSNA Candidates Night on April 11th at St. Paul's Retreat Center proved an interesting and insightful evening. More than 50 neighbors attended, along with 13 Candidates for various offices in the upcoming May election. A number of the Candidates had an associate with them. The total participants in the evening numbered over 70.

SSSNA Board President Brad Palmisiano began the meeting promptly at 7:00 PM. After brief opening remarks Brad welcomed State Representative Harry Readshaw who presented SSSNA with a check for \$10,000 for neighborhood safety enhancement.

The Candidate presentations then began.

- The two candidates for our City Council District 3, Jeff Koch and Bruce Kraus, presented their goals and their positions on several issues of concern. The questions that followed focused on the issue of bars on the South Side and possible solutions.
- All five candidates for City Controller were present, although two came later. The candidates present for the discussion were: DaMon Macklin, Tony Pokora and Douglas Shields. After giving some of their background, each candidate presented some of their goals if elected. One of the questions following these presentations focused on performance audits for the

management skills of middle management of the City. Michael Dawida and Michael Lamb were late due to other commitments. They each briefly presented their backgrounds and their goals if elected to the office of City Controller.

- Brenda Frazier was the only County Council candidate present. She presented her accomplishments as Council member, especially regarding the Kane Hospital services to the community.
- County Chief Executive candidates Dan Onorato and Richard Swartz gave the next presentations, and then took questions. Each gave their backgrounds, and addressed issues facing the County. The questions included the problems of Mass Transit funding and assessments.
- Three of the four candidates for Sheriff gave the final presentations. Damon Brown, Edward Kress and Bill Mullen outlined their backgrounds, and addressed some of the issues facing the Sheriff's Office. One of the questions following their presentations dealt with updating the Sheriff's website and making it more user friendly. Another question focused on the Sheriff's Office being more service oriented to the County residents.

The overall tenor of the evening was very positive. Many of the candidates voiced their vision of elected officials as serving the community, being more accountable to the community and more responsive to the community's needs.

The evening ended at 9:00 PM.

Fr. Don Ware, C.P.

**Please enjoy this photo from the April meeting. To the right is the Honorable Harry Readshaw with Brad Palmisiano.

Board of Directors!

The 2007 Board Members are...

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Joe Balaban | 1999-present |
| Misi Bielich | 2006-present |
| Beverly Boggio | 1998-present |
| Joe Ciccola | 2002-present |
| Kate Fink | 2005-present |
| Claudia Hart | 2002-present |
| Paul Lorincy | 2005-present |
| Brad Palmisiano | 2004-present |
| Matt Schaefer | 2006-present |
| Janice Serra | 2000-present |
| Donald Ware | 2005-present |

Each can be reached at their email address firstname.lastname@SouthSideSlopes.org or through the website.

Committees 2007!

The following are the 2007 SSSNA Committees and their chairpersons:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Beautification | Joe Ciccola |
| Cleanups & Safety | Paul Lorincy |
| Elm Street | Fr. Don Ware |
| Finance & Development | Joe Balaban |
| Housing & Zoning | Brad Palmisiano |
| Outreach | Misi Bielich |
| StepTrek | Bev Boggio |



SSSNA receives \$10,000 grant funds from the PA House of Representatives, the Honorable Harry Readshaw

www.SouthSideSlopes.org

SSSNA has been working on upgrades to our website. We now have a new look with more real-time updates. It is very exciting and full of photos!

Committee Reports:

Elm Street Committee

The committee meets the first Wednesday of every month at the SSLDC offices. The following information is what happened at the April 4th meeting. Thanks, Judy for the minutes!

Oxbridge Development – Guests from Oxbridge Development presented a request for the Elm Street Committee to support and fund a street banner project adjacent to the Oxbridge Development Project between Josephine and South 18th Street. Following committee discussion, Judy was instructed to inform Oxbridge that due to the ongoing branding design project, and because all Elm Street funds are currently committed to other projects, the Committee cannot support the proposed project at this time.

Community Gardens – Review of Bids

Monastery/Brosville – Following a review and discussion of the bids received, it was decided to award the contract to lowest bidder Vento.

South 18th Street – Following a review of bids, and discussion of related costs associated with this site (including the possibility of ongoing PWSA hillside water seepage), it was decided to: Delay the award of the construction contract; to go out for an RFP for the repair of the steps; and to contact PWSA regarding the water leakage. Vote was unanimous.

Gateway Signage/Branding – Design continues. Next step is engineering the construction of the scrim which requires an existing conditions report. Following discussion, it was decided

to delay the survey until more is known about the water leakage and the cost of the step repairs.

Footbridge Lighting – There are still issues around approval to energize the lights at the 10th footbridge that now also involve the 15th footbridge. Judy reported that she gave Joe Balaban authorization to take whatever steps necessary to finally resolve the issue.

Litter Awareness Program – Litter Attitude survey was re-formatted based on suggestions of statistical analyst. It was mailed by the end of the April. **Please fill out & return your survey!** Next step was to conduct the Litter Index. Paul and Judy made arrangements to receive training on how to conduct the Litter Index. Volunteers were trained and to conduct the index on April 28th, before the first Slopes clean-up in early May.

Pius Street Monument – Judy, Bev and Carl Walsack (who lives next to the monument) met with Mike Kotyk to review his proposed designs for the monument. Mike made suggested changes which were shared with the committee. Paul and Judy will visit DPW to look at available fencing. Judy will find a contractor to do stone work.

Sidewalk Accessories Demonstration Grant – Judy hand delivered the application at Elm Street Training (Image and Identity) on March 19-20 in Harrisburg.

Neighborhood Plan – Neighborhood Plan Update process is continuing. Surveys are being tabulated. Results will be used to set agenda for public meetings.

Judy Dyda

***Litter Attitude Survey – PLEASE fill it out and send it back!!!!**

Let there be light: 10th Street pedestrian bridge passes city inspection

Crossing at night from South Side to German Square on the Slopes should be easier now that the lighting installation on the 10th Street pedestrian bridge has passed the city's electrical inspection process. Duquesne Light confirmed that they had received notice of the inspection at the beginning of the month, and expected to have the lights energized by the time of this newsletter.

Matuszak Brothers, the electrical contractor, had completed installation of a fused disconnect switch, clearing the way for the inspection. The switch resolved concerns the city had of a vandal causing damage to the electrical wiring, which could energize the steel bridge and cause injury to pedestrians.

In addition, Matuszak Brothers had moved the lighting to the side and installed vandal resistant fixtures, as originally planned. Engineering consultant Tom Carlins will review the complete wiring installation to confirm that it was constructed as specified.

Next up will be the installation of a fused disconnect switch on the 15th St. pedestrian bridge. Work should be completed by mid-May. Unfortunately, vandals have again broken the light at the uphill side of the bridge, and pulled a railing from its anchors. We ask that neighbors in the vicinities of both bridges keep a watch and report vandals to the police.

Joe Balaban

We welcome anyone who wants to volunteer as a greeter who will help folks find their way to the meeting. You should arrive at ~6:45pm. Call or email Bev.

***Mayor Ravenstahl & the firefighters are offering a free smoke detector to any City resident (owners or renters). Call 311 to request a free smoke detector. They contain a lithium battery which will last for at least 10 years! Be safe!**

Garden Planting!

Mark your calendar's now! SSSNA's two Western Pennsylvania Conservancy gardens will be planted this month. We need all of the volunteers that we can get.

Josephine and Barry Street Garden
Saturday, May 12th at 9am
then

Josephine and Greeley Street Garden
Saturday, May 26th at 9am

Please join us! We need your help to beautify the Slopes.

StepTrek Committee

The StepTrek Committee is meeting monthly. We have a date...**October 14th, 2007 from Noon to 4pm!** The committee is ready to organize StepTrek 2007. We are doing well and getting a lot of work done at the meetings. Sponsors, theme, and Honorary Chairperson are yet to be chosen. This once a year event will be our seventh. There will be new routes and features. We are working with the Glass Celebration happening this year and Pittsburgh's 250th Anniversary next year.

We consider ourselves as celebrating the most livable neighborhood in "the Most Livable City", as Pittsburgh recently received that honor for the second time (1985 & 2007). The May meeting should prove to be fruitful in choosing a theme and sponsors.

As the time draws nearer, we will be asking for your help as volunteers. If you have any suggestions or ideas, contact us.

Thank You!

Membership News...

Everyone's membership is due January 1st! With your donations, we are able to keep neighbors informed and connected.

SSSNA Membership is \$5 for the 12 months that run from January 1st to December 31st. Thank you, so very much, for your support! As always, we welcome any additional donations. Please mail in your membership dues or bring them to the meeting. **April was last Newsletter, if you haven't renewed.**

We appreciate your support & hope that you enjoy our Newsletter and website.

2007 Memberships – Thank You!

The Antonelli Family

Linda Bugle

Marlene Bugle

Mary Burres

Kay Comini

Kate Fink

Ryan & Amy Gavatorra

Chuck Gehring

Ed Jacob, Jr.

Steve & Suzanne Kasunich

Bruce Kraus

Peter Kreuthmeier & Mark Zalenchak

Nancy & Anthony Lardo

Dolores Nowakowski

Toni Gorenc & David Oster

Harry Readshaw

Maureen Rottschaefer

Jim & Diane Sample

Candace Stockey

If we don't have your email address, (you'll know as this newsletter will be attached to an email on 5/3) please email Bev at SSSNAPgh@aol.com so that you can receive our updates. SSSNA does not share the eblast list, nor do we email jokes!

SSSNA Membership 2007

Please mail \$5 to:

SSSNA P.O.Box 4248, Pgh., PA 15203

Or bring it to the next meeting

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Slopes Interests _____

Amount enclosed _____

Save a stamp, please just email me the newsletter each month. Check here _____

Mark Your Calendar!

All of the meetings are at 7:00pm located in the Main Lounge, upstairs, unless otherwise noted.

Typically, the meetings are held on the second Tuesday. There are two meetings that do not follow this pattern due to a scheduling conflict at the St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center noted below.

May 8th, 7:00pm

!!June 19th, 7:00pm – 3rd Tuesday

July 10th, 7:00pm**

August – No meeting

September 11th, 7:00pm

October 9th, 7:00pm

November 13th, 7:00pm

Dec. 11th, 7:00pm – *Christmas Party***

** denotes meeting in the Dining Room

!! denotes not on the second Tuesday

StepTrek Noon to 4pm

October 14th, 2007

SSSNA Tee shirts!



SOUTH SIDE
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We are selling SSSNA logo shirts for \$8 each or 2 for \$15 donation. They are great! We will have them at the meetings and they are available all year round. They come in S-M-L-XL white cotton preshrunk tees (adult “man” sizes). You can call Bev at 412-488-0486 to make arrangements for pick up.

Thank You Sponsors!

STOREXPRESS.

Thank you, StoreXpress!

SSSNA moved all its archives, Trek supplies, possessions, equipment & tools to 200 South 22nd Street at StoreXpress, who donated space to SSSNA at its building. The facility storage spaces are clean, large and accommodating. We recommend them!

Rudberg Law Offices

The safety green volunteer shirts donated by Rudberg Law Offices are a big hit! Volunteers will be given a shirt for helping with any clean up or garden weeding. We will have them available at our May clean up and planting events. Thank you, Rudberg Law Offices, very much!

For detailed coverage of SSSNA meetings, please read Margie Smykla’s article in the South Pittsburgh Reporter a free weekly paper available throughout South Side and South Pittsburgh.

For more details, call Bev at 412-488-0486.

Or contact us in writing:

PO Box 4248, Pittsburgh, PA 15203 or

Visit us on the web: www.StepTrek.org

www.SouthSideSlopes.org

Or email us at info@SouthSideSlopes.org

Thanks!

South Side News Courtesy of SSLDC...

Historic South Side Home Tour

Spring’s arrival means that summer is right around the corner, and with summer comes one of the South Side’s favorite events: the Historic South Side Home Tour. We are pleased to be celebrating our 16th annual tour this year on Saturday, June 2, 2007. Each year we aim to expand the tour and bring even more people into the area to see all that the South Side has to offer. Historically, the tour attracts nearly 1,000 attendees who often plan to make a day of it and visit the area’s many unique shops and restaurants. Please feel free to contact Jennifer Strang, Marketing & Communications Manager with any questions or to **volunteer** at (412) 481-0651, ext. 17 or jennifer@southsidepgh.com.]Volunteers needed!

More May 8th!

We have an additional Speaker for the May 8th meeting. The Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA) of Allegheny County is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to find safe, permanent, supportive homes for abused and neglected children by advocating in their best interests in court.

**Please join us on
Tuesday, May 8th at
7:00pm at the St. Paul of
the Cross Retreat Center,
148 Monastery
[enter from St. Paul St.]
See inside for details!**

Thank you to our Sponsors...

