



SOUTH SIDE  
S L O P E S  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION

# Slopes News

July 2007  
Volume 9 Issue 7

President: Brad Palmisiano  
Vice President: Joe Balaban

Treasurer: Claudia Hart  
Secretary: Kate Fink

## Next Meeting July 10<sup>th</sup> Picnic!

Please join us for our Summer Picnic on Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center in the Dining Room. Every year we celebrate our membership & neighbors with a free and open picnic. We feature fried chicken, kielbasa & sauerkraut, salads, desserts, and refreshments. We welcome any covered dish that you may want to bring. This year, Misi Bielich is organizing the picnic. If you would like to bring something or have a question, please contact her at 412-537-6733 or [Misi.Bielich@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:Misi.Bielich@SouthSideSlopes.org). We usually do not have a formal speaker planned so that we may enjoy each other's company. Usually there are updates given.



Remember that there is **no SSSNA meeting in August**. We give everyone a break for vacations and hot weather. We will resume meeting monthly in September and the meetings will be held on the second Tuesday. The speaker scheduled for September is Mayor Luke Ravenstahl. October is our Annual Meeting when elections are held.



## What You Missed June 19<sup>th</sup>

We were expecting to have Zone 3 Commander Larry Ross as our guest speaker, but a last minute scheduling conflict had interrupted that plan. Brad Palmisiano had stepped in to hear the concerns and comments of residents. It was a lively interactive discussion. It lasted for more than 1½ hours. There were many hot topics discussed including parking issues and South Side Park. There were some new faces in the crowd with fresh ideas. Please see the extensive coverage in the South Pittsburgh Reporter.

## **Meeting Schedule 2007!**

**July 10<sup>th</sup> – Dining Room**

**September 11<sup>th</sup>**

**October 9<sup>th</sup>**

**November 13<sup>th</sup>**

**December 11<sup>th</sup> – Dining Room**

## **Play at Veronica's Veil**

There is a summer show "Six Degrees of Separation" which will run for 2 weekends. July 19-22 & 27-28. All shows are at 8:00pm. Ticket information and show times are available at 412-431-5550 or [www.veronicasveilplayers.org](http://www.veronicasveilplayers.org). The theatre is now air conditioned. Enjoy the show!

## **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](mailto:firstname.lastname@SouthSideSlopes.org) or through the website.

## **Recycling News...**

Unfortunately, the Abitibi yellow & green paper recycling dumpster will no longer be located in the Veronica's Veil parking lot. This is a loss to the community, but there is an alternative.

At Construction Junction, 214 N. Lexington Street, there is a quite extensive recycling center. You may take even more types of recyclables! They have separate dumpsters for office paper, junk mail, hard & soft cover books, phone books, cardboard, paperboard (*i.e. cereal boxes*), and typical "City blue bag" recyclables to name a few. They have recently paved the area and it is a designated City Recycling Drop-off

center. You can find out more at [www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us](http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us) or through [www.constructionjunction.org](http://www.constructionjunction.org) or better [www.constructionjunction.org/programs/city\\_recycling.php](http://www.constructionjunction.org/programs/city_recycling.php). Please continue to recycle! If you want, you can always drop your newspapers and cardboard at Atlas Paper on the South Side at 2329 Wharton Street, 412-431-5329.

## **Committees 2007!**

The following are the 2007 SSSNA Committees and their chairpersons:

<b>Beautification</b>	Joe Ciccola
<b>Cleanups &amp; Safety</b>	Paul Lorincy
<b>Elm Street</b>	Fr. Don Ware
<b>Finance &amp; Development</b>	Joe Balaban
<b>Housing &amp; Zoning</b>	Brad Palmisiano
<b>Outreach</b>	Misi Bielich
<b>StepTrek</b>	Bev Boggio

## **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 June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Thanks, Judy for the minutes!



**elm street**  
**COMMUNITY**

## **Community Gardens – Status**

**Monastery/Brosville** - Judy reported that contracts have been signed and returned by Vento. Kevin Hanley, Maria Riley (Klavon) and Judy met with Mr. Vento at the site on June 12th. Mr. Vento is comfortable with the scope and expects to begin work the first week in July. Total installation time is expected to be 3 to 4 weeks. Vento is agreeable to having volunteers assist in the planting of the ground cover which may save some money on the project. Klavon will be overseeing construction.

**South 18th Street** - A revised scope for the laser scanning of the site to include the step column was provided by Quantapoint and accepted by South Side LDC on behalf of the Elm Street Committee. Quantapoint completed the scanning on June 20th and we expect to receive their report in a week or two. Judy reported that she spoke with DPW and they were willing to consider the possibility of using the column as a support for the scrim and as a "splint" for the column.

**Pius Street Monument** – Judy reported that Pashek had been hired to provide oversight for the project. Using their specs bids were sought from three landscaping firms. Following review of the proposals, Pashek and South Side LDC recommended to the committee that Eichenlaub be awarded the contract. Judy also reported that Eichenlaub has been asked to provide a cost estimate to replace the sidewalk in front of site. We have learned that the property is owned by the Three Taxing Bodies (3TB) and therefore could possibly be sold for development. SSSNA's Board

will vote on a resolution to petition the City to transfer the property from 3TB to the Department of Parks and Recreation for permanent designation as a parklet and for SSSNA to accept all future responsibility for its maintenance. Petitions will be circulated throughout the community in support of the transfer. South Side LDC will send a letter to the City requesting a license agreement to enter the property and complete the planned improvements. Following discussion on the importance of the War Memorial to the community, its inclusion in the Elm Street five year plan, and the amount of investment planned for the site, it was moved to accept Eichenlaub's bid subject to obtaining a license agreement from the City to complete the project.

### **Updates:**

**Gateway Signage/Branding** – Engineering will move forward when Quantapoint's report is received. The goal is to have the scrim constructed and in place in time for the Step Trek on October 14th.

**Footbridge Lighting** – 10th Street lights were energized on May 17. Final inspection has been completed by Carlins and final bills for fuse boxes have been received from Matuszak Brothers. Total project cost was \$11,604. Three different funding sources - State Grant, Neighborhood Needs, and Elm Street - were used to cover the costs of the project.

**Litter Awareness Program** - Community Attitude Survey was mailed to 612 Elm Street households, 141 were returned for one reason or another by the post office, and 94 responses were received. Data was

entered and analyzed and a baseline score was determined to compare to when survey is conducted next year. Copies of the graphs of the data were distributed to the committee. The Cost Benefit Analysis has also been completed and approved by PA Resources Council, so all four components of the Litter Awareness Program are now complete.

**Sidewalk Accessories Demonstration Grant** – Catalogs of sidewalk accessories - trash cans, benches, etc., were provided to the committee. Committee will provide a list/map of desired accessories and locations to Judy. Judy will work with DPW to determine if locations are feasible.

**Year 2 Funding** - Judy reported that we have received a letter from the URA outlining Elm Street Residential Reinvestment Grant (RRG) funding requirements. There will be \$150,000 available for Year 2 funding that the URA will award on a competitive basis between the five Pittsburgh Elm Street districts. We cannot apply for additional funding until at least 70% of our current funding is expended. All funding must be spent on "bricks and mortar" type projects and must have been designated as part of our five-year Elm Street Plan. Funding cannot be used for "marketing" type activities. Judy reported that Rick Belloli, and Kevin Hanley will be reviewing the five year plan to determine which activities can be funded using the RRG funds. She will report back to the committee so these activities can be prioritized.

**Neighborhood Plan** - Neighborhood Plan Update process continues. First town meeting was held on May 23rd

and second was on June 27th, from 7 - 9 PM, at the Market House.

**URA Training Opportunity** - The URA brought Ken Culp, from the University of Kentucky, to conduct a workshop on volunteer recruitment & development and running effective meetings. Committee members who took advantage of this opportunity along with Judy were Fr. Don, Misi, Dawn, and Paul. Bev had attended in the spring. South Side Slopes Elm Street Committee was the only Elm Street district in the City to attend.

**PDC Annual Conference** - Judy reported that she had attended the conference in Bethlehem on June 3-6.

*Judy Dyda*

## *StepTrek Committee*



We are working hard preparing for the 2007 Trek! We plan to list our event on Active.com as a new means of online registration and getting new Trekkers. The sponsorship requests are out and we are waiting to hear back. Watch the Slopes News and our website for details. We have the routes chosen and are working on the book of maps.

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!

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!**

### *Membership News...*

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

SSSNA Membership is \$5 for the 12 months that run from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. 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.**

#### **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 \_\_\_\_\_*

If we don't have your email address, (you'll know as this newsletter will be attached to an email on 7/5) please email Bev at [SSSNAPgh@aol.com](mailto:SSSNAPgh@aol.com) so that you can receive our updates.

*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](http://www.StepTrek.org)*

*[www.SouthSideSlopes.org](http://www.SouthSideSlopes.org)*

*Or email us at [info@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:info@SouthSideSlopes.org)*

*Thanks!*

### **Mark Your Calendar!**

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

**July 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm\*\***

**August – No meeting**

**September 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm**

**October 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm**

**November 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm**

**Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm – *Christmas Party\*\****

**\*\* denotes meeting in the Dining Room**

### *SSSNA Tee shirts!*



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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.**

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

## ***Volunteers clean 18<sup>th</sup> Street Bend Garden...***

The following are photos from Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, when seven volunteers worked to remove weeds and poison ivy from our community garden. There was a noticeable difference at the end of the morning. Thanks, crew!



**Dennis Berry and his pitch fork**



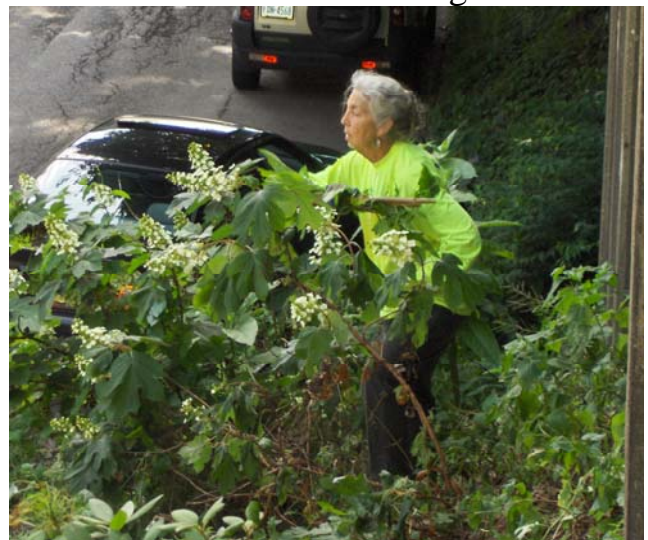
**Joe Ciccola, Neil Palmisiano & Dennis**



**DeAnn Berry & Brad Palmisiano**



**Matt Schaefer & Joe freeing the roses**



**DeAnn with the Oak Leaf Hydrangea**

How great the volunteer shirts look!



Many weeds were attacking the plants.



Don't laugh; the pants stop poison ivy according to Bev Boggio. It works!



See what we uncovered!



Yucca in full bloom.

**Thank You Sponsors!**

**STORE XPRESS.**

**Thank you, StoreXpress!**

SSSNA moved all its archives, Trek supplies, possessions, equipment & tools to 200 South 22<sup>nd</sup> 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, as you can see in the preceding photos! Volunteers are given a shirt for helping with any clean up or garden weeding. We will have them available at our clean up, weeding, and planting events. Thank you, Rudberg Law Offices, very much!

**Please join us for our free  
annual picnic on  
Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> 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...

