



MORNINGSIDE NEWS – April 2007

a publication of the *Morningside Area Community Council*
P.O. Box 40313 Pittsburgh, PA 15201 www.macconline.org

From the M.A.C.C.

In celebration of Earth Day this month, we urge you to consider ways that you can help clean up our neighborhood. Once again, the M.A.C.C. is sponsoring a community litter clean up on April 21st—and we certainly invite you join your neighbors for that big event. But there are other small ways that you can make a difference every day.

Now that spring has sprung, maybe you will consider *Redding Up* the alley behind your property that was neglected during the winter. Remember that the city now picks up two bulk items with the regular weekly trash collection.

Did you know that St. Raphael's now has *paper retriever* in its back lot? You can drop off newspaper, magazines, catalogues, mail, envelopes, folders, colored paper, shredded paper in a bag, and gift wrap; proceeds of the recycling effort benefit the school. (While phone books are not accepted in the St. Raphael's paper retrievers, there is a phone book recycling dumpster nearby in the Home Depot parking lot.) The St. Raphael's parish office also accepts eyeglasses, cell phones, and empty ink cartridges for recycling. You can clean out your office while supporting a major organization in our community.

Beginning May 1st, you can drop off broken or unwanted appliances at The Appliance Warehouse on the South Side for free. They will also arrange pick-up for a small fee. More details in next month's Morningside news. If we all pitch in to do one thing, imagine the difference we can make!

KEEP M-SIDE BEAUTIFUL

JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY LITTER CLEAN UP
AND PAINTING EVENT!

WHAT: MORNINGSIDE LITTER CLEAN UP
In connection with Earth Day and the Great PA Clean Up

WHEN: SATURDAY - APRIL 21, 2007

WHERE: SIGN IN AT NATOLI FIELD
or at HETH'S FIELD

TIME: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Areas of clean up include:

- Natoli Field
- Heth's Field
- Baker Street
- Stanton Avenue
- Business District



We are seeking sports teams, youth groups, students, and more to join us. Community service hours are available. All volunteers should sign in the day of event to receive trash bags, gloves, instruction, etc. Pre-volunteer sign up is encouraged. All interested volunteers/groups should call **Amy Ervin at 412-362-0132**.

After the clean up, join us at Schenley Park to celebrate Earth Day and the Great PA Clean Up. Enjoy free food, drinks, music and more. This is a family friendly day, so the more the merrier! More info about the Schenley event will be available at sign-in.

Reminder

April 16th is the last day to register to vote in the spring primary! Please contact the Division of Elections for details: 412-350-4520

TAX SEASON!

Low income seniors can again get help filing their taxes for 2006. Thanks to Jann Chirdon, Legislature Director for Representative Lisa Bennington, for compiling the following information for our neighbors most in need.

Allegheny County ACORN

5907 Penn Avenue,
Suite 300
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
paacornpiho@acorn.org
Phone: 412-441-6551
Fax: 412-441-6317

IRS—VITA Centers for 2007

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
4400 Forbes Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-4007
Monday, Thursday & Saturday
By Appointment only
412-622-3113

Carnegie Library of Squirrel Hill

5810 Forbes Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15217-1601
By Appointment only
412-422-9844

**M.A.C.C. Meets at the Morningside V.F.W. Hall 1st Wednesday of Month @ 7:00 P.M.
2007 Dates: Apr 4, May 2, Jun 6**

Community Design Forum at
April M.A.C.C. Meeting

Earlier this year, the Morningside Area Community Council made finding an alternative use for the vacant elementary school building an organizational priority. This goal is only part of a broader effort to improve the overall condition of our neighborhood's existing business, residential and recreational corridors. Though we have just begun, we have already made significant strides in developing both financial and administrative support for our efforts.

Please join us at on the Wednesday, April 4th at 7PM at the Morningside VFW for our monthly meeting for a special presentation by the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh [www.cdcp.org].

The CDCP is a non-profit organization that seeks to educate and assist communities, business and individuals understand the significance of good design in neighborhood planning and community building. Representatives from the CDCP will be on hand to help explain the process of designing a dynamic town center and to discuss some of their programs, which may be of interest to you.

We hope you will be part of the discussion to develop a vision for Morningside, and partner with us as we put our plans into place.

REMINDER: Raffle tickets to raise funds for the Mastromatteo Memorial will be sold until April 30th. If all tickets are sold, the winner will split \$20,000 with the Memorial Fund. Please contact any M.A.C.C. officer for details. The donation is \$20.00.

Councilman Bodak Awards Grant

Last month, Councilman Len Bodak secured grant funding to supplement MACC's 2007 operating budget. This grant and future commitments from the councilman will allow the organization to focus its annual fundraising efforts on growing the MACC Development Fund. We thank Councilman Bodak for his continued support.

Spring Home Improvements

For information about low interest loans for home improvements, please contact the URA Program Officer, Sharon Taylor @ 412-255-6677 or visit www.ura.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**April 1
Street Cleaning Resumes**

**Wed, April 4
M.A.C.C. Meeting**

**Sat, April 21
Morningside Clean-Up Event**

**Tues, May 15
Primary Election**



RSPN
Buying & Selling Coins & Currency

Rich Scuro
Professional Numismatist

6840 Greenwood Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

412-715-2836

Store Hours:
Monday thru Thursday 10:00 to 4:00

"PA ONE CALL" MOVING TO "8-1-1"

Electric, natural gas, telephone, water and cable television lines frequently are buried underground. Starting in **April 2007**, those involved in a project that requires digging will be able to contact the "PA One Call" notification system by dialing "8-1-1," instead of the current toll-free number, 1-800-242-1776, which will remain in effect until April.

State law requires that residents, contractors and excavators call at least 3 business days before digging. On the 3rd business day, you'll receive a message that there are no lines nearby, or that lines have been marked with colored flags or paint on the ground.

BE SAFE THIS CONTRACT SEASON!



CONTRACTOR SEASON BEGINS SOON

We encourage you to do your homework before allowing anyone to work on your home. You can avoid costly mistakes by first checking with the state Bureau of Consumer Protection (1-800-441-2555) or the Better Business Bureau @ 412-456-2700. You'll find that most contractors are reputable and talented. Watch for these signs to avoid unscrupulous contractors:

- A contractor who comes to your door to point out a problem, has materials left over from another job or just happens to be in the neighborhood.
- Be aware of high pressure sales with a special "today only" or "limited pricing."
- Avoid anyone without a business card, local phone number and address.

Drop by their business to check it out and work with only those who you directly contact for a bid. Once you make a decision to contract, be sure that the contract includes all work to be performed, materials, warranties, payments and debris removal. When completely satisfied with the work, and not before, promptly make the final payment on the contract. We wish you all the best on your *Spring Home Improvements*.

“Visitability” and Age-in-Place Remodeling

What if you or one of your family members were no longer ambulatory? Could you continue to live in your house? Would you be able to get up and down those stairs and into and out of the tub or shower? These are some of the questions your designer or contractor should be asking when building or remodeling your home, and the ones trained Certified Age-In-Place Specialists (CAPS) do ask. This program by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) teaches its graduates to design with the future in mind, allowing owners to live in their homes longer by making them more accessible to themselves, friends and family. This could prolong or eliminate a move to a more accessible home or to a care home. It’s about keeping your friends and family close, and in a familiar environment.

Remodeling projects are perfect opportunities to improve the accessibility in and to your home. One of the first steps is designing a home so that all necessary rooms are on the first floor. This allows you to live longer in your own home or during a temporary or permanent disability. It may mean adding a bathroom to the first floor, including no-curb or low-curb showers, backing for grab bars and cabinets allowing greater access. Easy access to light switches and greater amounts of lighting can also make a big difference.

Visitability means anyone could access your home’s first floor with an accessible bathroom, even if they have a disability. New laws being written today would make this a requirement for all new construction and many major

remodeling projects. So, as you consider your next remodeling project, keep in mind who might be visiting your home.

As we age our circulation becomes more restrictive and we are less active therefore we feel colder in winter and need more cooling in summer. Improvement to the house’s envelope (insulation, windows, doors) and the heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) systems will not only increase your comfort it will reduce your utility bills. If the HVAC system is integrated with improvement to the envelope, you will need a much smaller heating and cooling system and more ventilation, because the envelope has been sealed up. A way to compound your investment is through the use of radiant heating. This is the most efficient and most comfortable type of heating and will allow you to tear up the carpet and refinish your hardwood floors now that you will have warm floors. This also allows better access as carpets are difficult for those in walkers and wheelchairs.

All of this can be built without looking institutional even if you don’t need it today. You can have it all; style comfort and convenience in an age-in-place home.

IT'S SO EASY!

Tuesdays 6:00 PM

SPRING

WALKING PROGRAM

WALK 1 to 5 miles INDOORS



Stanton Heights

United Methodist Church

Weight Watchers meetings on Wednesday
4721 Stanton Avenue – Side Entrance

Contact us: 412-654-5476

Lifecycles Unlimited

The Holidays and Football are Over. Let’s get ready for summer!



Cris Tadesse
General Manager

930 Butler Street
Etna, PA 15223
(412) 486-1555

A member of Eat'n Park Hospitality Group

Thank you Eat'n Park!

M.A.C.C. thanks Cris Tadesse for her generous support of our community. One lucky resident wins a gift card by attending our monthly meetings. Please join us!

