



Morningside News - February/March 2008

A Publication of the Morningside Area Community Council

PO Box 40313, Pittsburgh, PA 15201 www.macconline.org

M'Side Goals for 2008

In January, the M.A.C.C. Executive Committee hosted its annual planning retreat to identify organizational and neighborhood goals for 2008 and establish strategies to meet those goals.

One of the most far reaching of those goals is increasing membership of the organization. With a larger base of volunteers to draw from, every committee can benefit. To that end, the Membership Committee will increase its efforts, and M.A.C.C. and its committees invite you to join (whether you're a life long resident of M'side, or a new neighbor.) If you would like to be involved but can't come to the regular M.A.C.C. meetings, you're still welcome to join a committee. The committee meeting schedules are all very different, and you can devote as little or as much as you can—it all depends on your availability and willingness! For example, you can volunteer for something as simple as folding surveys for a mailing, or you can devote more time to planning an event. Contact any committee chair if you are interested in helping.

Because the committees are essential in supporting the mission of M.A.C.C., most of the retreat was devoted to evaluation of committee performance. The past year has witnessed increased productivity from most of the committees; however, the Board recognized the need to explore some alternatives, and reinvigorate the activity of some committees.

The Youth and Special Events Committee, renamed the Special Events Committee, will be the focus of some changes in the coming year. Rather than having one committee chair to oversee everything, we are seeking volunteers to help manage individual events under the direction of a team leader. M.A.C.C. still needs helpers for the Easter Party, Movie Night, and the Halloween Party.

Currently M.A.C.C. has two vacant committee chair positions: Fundraising and Public Safety. The Fundraising Committee chair is expected to work with the Board and other committee chairs to develop and implement a fundraising initiative. The bones of a plan are in place, and we are looking for someone who can take the ball and run with it. The Public Safety chair is expected to serve as a liaison with Zone 5 police department by attending the monthly Public Safety meetings (the second Tuesday of the month, currently at the Union Project) and briefing the M.A.C.C. at the general membership meetings.

Last year the Planning and Development Committee, working closely with the Housing Committee, *continued on page 4*

From the M.A.C.C.

Ch-ch-ch-changes

This month's newsletter ushers in an exciting change. After months of anticipation (we hope, anyway!) and a lot of work, the redesigned M.A.C.C. website will be unveiled in February.

www.macconline.org

The website will be a work in progress—we hope to add new features as needed, and will update the content on a regular basis. Look to the website for information about events in and around Morningside, and news of interest to our community. If there is something you would like to see on the website, would like to contribute information about your organization or event, or simply have any suggestions or comments, please let us know.

Additionally, we're going to try something new with the newsletter. Since the website will be updated regularly, we are going to publish the newsletter every two months instead of monthly. This will lessen the burden on the small number of volunteers who deliver the Morningside News each month, and, hopefully, allow us to publish a better quality newsletter as well as keep the website updated regularly.

We're not sure this will be a permanent change; it is another experiment as we continue to discover the needs and desires of the community. Please let us know what you think.

As always, we hope to see you at the monthly M.A.C.C. meetings, on the first Wednesday of each month, at 7:00 p.m. at the Morningside VFW. You do not have to be a member to come to the meetings or to voice your opinion.

*(If the new website is not yet up when you get this newsletter, it will be soon!)**

M.A.C.C. has commissioned Jackson Clark Partners to complete a market study to assist in developing a neighborhood revitalization strategy. To maximize the quality of the study, M.A.C.C. asks that you to please take the time to complete a "customer survey" which you will find in some of the local businesses. Doing so enters you in a drawing for up to \$500 in gift certificates from Morningside businesses and the Home Depot. Please remember, one survey per person. Thank you.

Tentative Community Clean-Up Events for 2008—Mark Your Calendars

April 19, 2008

Earth Day Campaign - All sports team needed.

- Paint ing at Hess & Natoli fields
- Litter pick up in both Fields
- Litter pick up on Baker Street
- Litter pick up in M-Side business district
- Litter pick up in Stairways
- Seeking 50+ volunteers
- Seeking support from all sports teams & St. Raphaels School students

June 28, 2008

- Litter pick up both Fields
- Litter pick up on Baker Street
- Litter pick up in M-Side business district
- Litter pick up in Stairways
- Seeking 30+ volunteers

September 6, 2008

- Litter pick up both Fields
- Litter pick up on Baker Street

- Litter pick up in M-Side business district
- Litter pick up in Stairways

- Seeking 30+ volunteers

November 15, 2008 –

End of year clean up & close up. All sports team needed.

- Litter pick up both Fields
- Paint touch up
- Tree and bulb planting
- Litter pick up on Baker Street
- Litter pick up in M-Side business district
- Litter pick up in Stairways
- Seeking 40+ volunteers.

Volunteers Hours Are Available!

In celebration of Earth Day, the April 19th is confirmed. All other dates are subject to change to accommodate other community events and activities.

Mark your calendars now, and look for motr details in the coming months.

Hope to see you there!

MORNINGSIDE GARDENS Protecting Perennials and Shrubs in Winter

by Amanda Haney

There are some simple steps you can take to protect your perennials and shrubs from winter damage. Cold, alone, does not usually kill your plants. If your evergreen shrubs turn brown in spring, wind burn is the culprit. Cover them with burlap until temperatures rise in March.

If your perennials are rated hardy to zone 5 or 6, frost heave or wet soil are more likely to kill them than cold temperatures. The warm weather we get in January or February is harder on plants than steady cold. When the ground warms and freezes repeatedly, some plants get pushed out of the soil and roots become exposed. Ironically, soil rich in compost is more susceptible to frost heave than heavy clay since it has more air pockets.

Use a warm winter day to do some cleanup in your garden. Avoid damage from frost heave by recovering any exposed roots. Columbines are especially affected by frost heave since they have thick carrot-like roots. Remove dead foliage of iris and daylilies to prevent disease. Do not cut back mums until late March. Many plants such as daisies, butterfly bush, and roses as well as chrysanthemums are more likely to survive if cut back in spring. Compost the waste from your vegetable garden. Please do not put yard waste out with your trash, except for diseased plant foliage. (City regulations prohibit pickup of yard waste with your trash.) Either compost it, or take to the yard waste drop-off site on Dallas Avenue.

Some plants, particularly chrysanthemums, hate wet soil in winter. While some mums are not hardy, more often soggy winter soil is the cause of loss. Next year, take action and move these plants to a well drained spot or add compost and granite grit to increase drainage.

Mulch does not keep plants warm: it keeps them frozen, reducing the freeze-thaw cycle. Add a 2 to 4 inch layer of mulch to your beds after daytime temperatures drop below freezing, usually in late December. Leaves can be used as mulch. Oak leaves do not usually mat and can be used unshredded. Shred other leaves with a lawnmower. Straw, pine needles or wood chips make good mulch or use branches cut from your Christmas tree. Be sure to remove mulch in March when temperatures warm. A heavy layer of mulch may cause growing plants to rot. If your plants usually survive the winter, mulch is not necessary.

When spring bulbs finally bloom, don't panic if snow falls on them. The earliest bulbs such as crocus and snow drops

Girls Softball

The Morningside Girls Softball Association will be having 2008 player registrations Friday, Feb 8th 6 - 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb 9th 9 - 11 a.m., Friday, Feb 15th 6 - 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb 16th 9 - 11 a.m. Registration will be held in the multi-purpose room at St Raphael School. Contact Jim Maynard at 441-2163 or email morningsidesoftball@yahoo.com for details.

are extremely hardy and will be unharmed. Larger flowers such as daffodils and tulips will survive snow and frost, unless the temperature dips below 30° for several days. In cases of extended cold, pick fully opened flowers and enjoy them in your house. Unopened buds should survive late cold snaps with little or no damage.



Snow won't hurt spring bulbs.

For specific garden questions, please contact Penn State Cooperative Extension: <http://allegheny.extension.psu.edu> 412-473-2540

For future column ideas, email me at a.haney@verizon.net or contact the MACC editor.

In Appreciation

A Special thanks to Messiah Lutheran Church for hosting the Community Christmas Concert on Friday, December 7th.

Our thanks to The First Commonwealth Bank, Eddie's Pizza Haus, Hairstyles by Lisa, Morningside Market, Shear Sensations, and Stagno's for participating by serving light refreshments and offering chances on gift baskets.

The music provided by folks of the community, were: Mark Flaherty, John Maione, Ellen Sorce, St. Raphael's Folk Group, and Barbara and Allison Corcoran.

The children of the Play School presented a Nativity Pageant, Directed by Cris Josephson. A sing-along concluded the Program. Crafts for the children and a bake sale held in the social hall were sponsored by the Playschool Parents and helpers. Santa and Mrs. Claus presented candy bag treats to the children, provided by the Morningside Senior Center. Fun was had by all, young and old.

It was a perfect start to the Christmas Season. Thanks to all who had a part in making this a great event.

-Sally Love



INDOOR WALKING PROGRAM

2 DAYS A WEEK
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY
3:30-7:00 p.m.

1-mile sessions approx. every 30 min.

St. Matthew's Church
5322 Carnegie Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15201
(Lawrenceville)

Sponsored by:



Lifecycles Unlimited
Life Training and Business Development Center

Call 412-654-5476 for information.

Rich Hoff
General Manager



930 Butler Street
Etna, PA 15223
T 412-486-1555
www.eatnpark.com

A member of the Eat'n Park Hospitality Group

Buying or
Selling



"Go with
the leader!"

ROBERT J. CORTEZ
Sales Associate

Proud to be a third generation
Morningside resident

Shadyside Office
Office: (412) 361-4000
5501 Baum Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15232
Email: rcortez@howardhanna.com



RSPN

Buying, Selling & Appraising Coins & Currency

Rich Scuro

Professional Numismatist, NGC & PCGS
Authorized Dealer

6840 Greenwood Street, 1st Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-715-2836



M.A.C.C. Membership Application

\$10 per family _____ \$5 singles _____

Please make checks payable to M.A.C.C.

Name: _____

Mail check and application to Membership Chair:

Address: _____

Leslie Kass

1706 Jancey Street

City, State, Zip: _____

Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Phone: _____

*Only 3 family members over the age of 18 can

vote in annual elections with family memberships

Email: _____

M.A.C.C. OFFICERS

President

Dom Costa, 412-277-4453

s72890@verizon.net

Vice-President

Joe Kramer, 412-363-5845

josephrkramer@yahoo.com

Secretary & Public Safety

Corinne Antoszewski, 412-441-8475

corinatoz1234@aol.com

Treasurer & Newsletter co-editor

Mary Ann Merranko, 412-362-7407

maryamerran@aol.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Beautification

Amy Ervin, 412-362-0132

Communication & Newsletter Editor

Janeen LaForce, 412-287-0262

janeen@santore.com

Fundraising

seat vacant

Housing

Grant Ervin, 412-362-0132

macchousing@yahoo.com

Membership

Leslie Kass, 412-441-7978

Nomination

John Santore, 412-292-5356

john@santore.com

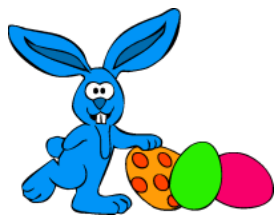
Planning and Development

Dom Costa, 412-277-4453s72890@

verizon.net

Special Events

seat vacant



Meet the Easter Bunny

Wednesday, March 19th, 2008

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Morningside VFW party room

Please enter through parking lot entrance but remember that the lot is for the members only.

Children under 12 are welcome, and should bring a basket for treats.

Please make reservations by calling Corinne at 412-441-8475 or Mary Ann at 412-362-7407, leaving a message indicating the number of children attending with their names and ages.

continued from page 1

were among the most visible, bringing in grant money for neighborhood revitalization. These initiatives will continue. Likewise, the Beautification Committee was also quite active last year, and will be even more aggressive in the coming year. See page two for tentative dates of 2008 clean up events. Finally, the Communications Committee has been focusing its efforts on launching a new website, the results of which will be visible soon. The goal for 2008 is to vastly improve the distribution process for the newsletters.

Overall, the work of all our committee members and volunteers has been integral in the progress M.A.C.C. has made and will continue to make. Remember, volunteers are crucial to our mission, so please consider