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East Allegheny News

The Newsletter of
the East Allegheny
Community
Council
May/June 2009

NORTHSIDE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

The Northside Leadership Conference, a coalition of fifteen neighborhood organizations, invites you to attend its Twenty-Sixth Annual Awards Dinner on **Thursday, June 11th**, 6 pm, at the **Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**.

The purpose of the dinner is to honor those who have contributed to the success of their North Side neighborhoods. The East Allegheny Community Council is proud to honor Cynthia Shea, who has served as Recording Secretary for the EACC for several years, obtained grants, and helped with many of our neighborhood projects. Congratulations and thank you, Cynthia!

There will be a buffet dinner before the awards program. Tickets can be purchased for \$40. For more information, please contact Kelly MacKay at the Conference office: kelly@pittsburghnorthside.com or 412-330-2562.

EACC ELECTIONS—SEPTEMBER 2009

Membership in the EACC is open to all who have an "interest in East Allegheny." Voting members must be 18 years of age, pay dues of \$5 per person or \$8 per family, and attend at least two consecutive meetings. To maintain good standing (and be able to vote) in the Community Council after the first year of membership, the member must attend at least three out of the EACC's eleven regular monthly meetings. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) at 7 pm.

The following officers were elected in September 2008 to serve two-year terms: Bernie Beck (president), Nicholas Kyriazi (vice president), Lynn Glorieux (secretary), Fred Workman (treasurer) and Cynthia Shea (recorder). Four directors were elected in September 2008 to serve one-year terms: Edward Graf, Nikki Heckman, Kevin Kemery, and David Stacy.

The four one-year term positions of the EACC's Board of Directors will be open to election at the General Membership meeting on September 8, 2009. Any member of the EACC may run for a position on the Board of Directors. To make a nomination, please call the EACC office at 412-321-1204, or speak with any EACC board member.

The next meeting of the EACC will be held on Tuesday, May 12th at 7 pm at the Pressley High-rise, 601 Pressley Street. All are welcome to attend.

FLEA MARKETS IN THE PARK

The East Allegheny Community Council will be holding its Flea Markets in the Park at the corner of East Ohio Street and Cedar Avenue every Saturday from 9 am to 3 pm beginning on May 2nd.

Spaces (approximately 15' x 15') are \$10, and there is no need to pre-register. The flea markets raise funds for neighborhood projects.

If you are interested in helping, or would like more information, please call the EACC office, 412-321-1204.

Planting Flowers

The EACC is in charge of planting the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy garden at the Sue Murray Pool on Saturday, May 16th beginning at 9 am. Allegheny General Hospital is graciously donating box lunches for our volunteer planters/mulch spreaders. To help, please call the EACC office at 412-321-1204.

EACC GENERAL MEETINGS

All residents and business people are cordially invited.

Pressley High-Rise
601 Pressley Street
(Accessible)

2nd Tues. of each month - 7 pm

Tuesday, May 12th

Tuesday, June 9th

Tuesday, July 14th

Tuesday, August 11th

Tuesday, September 8th
Annual Board Elections

Allegheny Commons Garden Society

Do you like to dig in the dirt? Would you like to learn more about gardening from experts, without having to maintain a big yard or garden yourself? The Allegheny Commons Garden Society needs you! As part of the ongoing renovation of Allegheny Commons Park, we are organizing the Allegheny Commons Garden Society to manage the planting and maintenance of the garden beds in the park.

We have identified "captains" who are responsible for organizing the work needed for each garden bed. We are now looking for volunteers to assist with weeding, planting, mulching, trimming, and other maintenance activities with the coordination of the captains. The time commitment and expertise required can be as little or as much as you have to offer. But if you are a frequent user of the park, or simply enjoy it from afar, we need you! For further information on the Allegheny Commons Garden Society please contact Laurie Charlton, 412-586-7658, at any time.

Weekly Stroke Group at Allegheny General Hospital

Stroke Survivor Connection (SSC) offers FREE therapy support to stroke survivors and their caregivers at AGH on Mondays from 11 am to 2 pm. The SSC program can assist in a stroke survivor's transition from being homebound and restricted in their activities to being active and comfortable interacting in their community. Sponsored by **Health Hope Network**, this unique program helps to strengthen body, mind, and spirit through physical exercise, mental exercise, and socialization. In addition to the three-hour weekly meetings, there are also free inter-group activities. Contact Health Hope Network at 412-904-3036 or visit their website at www.healthhopenetwork.org and get connected today!

Help is Available to Get Your Kids in Shape

KidShape is a family-based pediatric weight management program for families with overweight children, ages 6-14. Sponsored by Highmark and Allegheny General Hospital, KidShape classes are held once a week for eight consecutive weeks and feature food demonstrations and prizes. Each class is two-hours long (6:30-8:30pm) and has separate components with an exercise specialist, registered dietician and mental health professional. All classes are held in 4 Allegheny Center on the 8th floor. There is a \$10 fee for the program which is returned at graduation - so it's FREE! Call 412-330-4074 to get more information and an information packet.

A Service for Pet Owners

If you are planning a vacation, business trip, or a family reunion in a far away place, pet sitting is one alternative to boarding. Paula Rutkowski, a bonded and insured pet sitter, runs Faithful Friends Pet Sitting Service, Inc., a professional pet service for your domesticated animals. For more information and rates, please contact Paula at faithfulfriendsinc@verizon.net or call 412-613-9773. Ms. Rutkowski is a member of Pet Sitters International.

The Black and Gold City Goes Green

A Project of the Pittsburgh Climate Initiative, coordinated by Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture)

You can help make Pittsburgh a leader in the movement to get greener and stop wasting energy. Here are some actions you can take to make Pittsburgh an even cooler place to live. For each month there is one main action, with additional actions for those who want to do more. These hints are: **1)Green 2)Greener 3)Greenest**

- May**
- 1) Check your tire pressure and drive at the speed limit
 - 2) Don't use your car one day a week - carpool, walk, bike, sign up for rideshare, or take the bus
 - 3) Dump your gas guzzler and buy a bus pass or a hybrid vehicle, upgrade your bike, or use ZipCar
- June**
- 1) Recycle everything you can
 - 2) Cancel your junk mail and sign up for paperless e-billing
 - 3) Join Freecycle or pick a resale shop and start donating things you don't want/need
- July**
- 1) Turn the air conditioner thermostat up 2 degrees
 - 2) Air dry your clothes whenever possible, instead of using a clothes dryer
 - 3) Buy green energy and reduce your peak energy use
- August**
- 1) Shop local - especially at our farmer's markets and farm stands
 - 2) Compost at home
 - 3) Install a tankless water heater and/or install a rain barrel

Let's all make Pittsburgh greenest!

Pressley Street Fire Fund – *neighbors helping neighbors*

Shortly after the January 4 fire that destroyed the apartment building at 608-610 Pressley Street, a group of EACC board members and neighbors, along with webmaster Cindy Cassell, met to determine how to respond to this neighborhood tragedy. With five families homeless – 21 individuals and about half of them children - the need was great. Jen Saffron, whose son is in the same class as one of the children from the Pressley Street fire, shares, “Many other neighbors were concerned about what was going to happen to these families who had lost everything, and that is how the Pressley Street Fire Fund came to be – neighbors helping neighbors.”

From January to March, donations were collected online at www.deutschtown.org and in collection boxes placed in Sweet Time, Priory Fine Pastries, Legends of the North Shore, Max’s Allegheny Tavern, Amani Coffeeshop, and Bistro to Go. **Neighbors, friends, and businesses donated \$5,092.25 - well exceeding the expectations. A thousand thanks to those who were able to contribute – each dollar has made a difference!** Contributions ranged from spare change to \$250 – amazing and touching gestures.

A Priory Hotel guest who herself was evacuated from the fire donated a significant donation, as did Kerry Kennedy, the florist on Western Avenue whose *own business* was ravaged by fire on January 1. Allegheny Traditional Academy and Martin Luther King, Jr. schools donated uniforms and funds – the ATA children actually donated change from their piggy banks, as a school-wide effort. People came from throughout the city to donate boxes and bags of gently used clothing, toys, food, and diapers. And, the East Allegheny Community Council managed and administered the fund.

Initially, the Red Cross served as liaison to the families, and interviews with each family helped assess their situations and needs. (Since the fire, each family has successfully found housing, either on the North Side or in Lawrenceville.) Jen Saffron stayed in contact with each family from January until March, referring them to services as they became available, and in March the families met at Community House Presbyterian Church to “shop” – selecting from a truckload of free clothing and toys. Each family was then presented with a Master Card gift card, a Giant Eagle gift card, and a letter. Donations were distributed evenly, per person.

Organizations who generously contributed their resources, services, and caring attitude: Northside Public Safety Committee (NSLC), Allegheny Center Alliance Church, Jane Miller of Mercy Behavioral Health, Community House, and the Red Cross. These businesses donated counseling services, storage space, Giant Eagle gift cards, utilities assistance, and cash donations. A heartfelt THANK YOU goes out to those East Allegheny businesses that gave of their time and space by sponsoring a collection box. Thank you to the Northside Chronicle and everyone who promoted this common cause.

Individuals who initiated or helped to lead this effort: Bernie Beck (EACC President), Cindy Cassell (our web designer), Ed Graf (of the Priory), Beau Gray, Jen Saffron and Bob Baumbach, David Stacey (EACC Board member), Randy Strothman, Becky Rodgers, Joey-Linn Ulrich and Fred Workman (EACC Treasurer).



Patricia Clark, former Pressley Street resident, "shops" at Community House with her grandson.

THE EACC'S ADOPT-A-BLOCK

Adopt - a - Block volunteers pick up the litter in a street or alley near their home on a regular basis.

Whether you pick up once a month, once a week, or as part of your daily routine, you are making a difference.

Thanks to everyone who has been helping with this effort. We encourage other residents, who are willing and able, to sign up for a block of your own.

If you would like to help, or if you wish to be removed from this list, please call the EACC office at 412-321-1204.

ABOVE E. Ohio Street:

Dan Bartow (Legends of the North Shore Restaurant)-500 block of E. North Ave.

Lance Chimka-500 Foreland

John Grguras - Linden

RJ Hezlep - 900 Middle

Diane Hilldorfer-400 Tripoli

Kim Hyde-400 block Suismon

Ann Imes – 400 Avery

Viola Kammersell - 600 block of Suismon

Kevin Kemery-James at Knoll

Keith Muschick-900 block of Moravian Way

Northside Christian Health Center-800 block Middle St.

Dave Polkis - 900 Cedar

David Stacy-400 E. North

Randy Strothman-600

Thropp and 900 Middle

Melissa and Ron Taylor-500 block of Tripoli

Brent, Brittany and Sharon Watkins-Linden Place

BELOW E. Ohio Street:

Bob, Leo and Eli

Baumbach - 500 Lockhart

Peg Cammarata - 500

Cedar

Lynn Glorieux –Moravian Way and 400 Lockhart

Carl Jenkins - 500 and 600 blocks of Pressley (south side)

Nick Kyriazi - planted areas along swimming pool and tennis courts; park on Stockton

Paul McArdle-500 and

600 Avery; lower Middle

Bette McDevitt-500 and

600 blocks of Pressley

(north side of street)

Odell Merryman - 400

Avery

Frank Moone-500 Virgin

Way

Bob, Melody, Ashley,

Karissa and Valerie

Phelps-Nash from Avery to

E. Ohio

Agnes Riley - behind

Pressley Hi-Rise, and Nash

bus shelter

Cynthia Shea-400 Pressley

Fred Workman-600 Cedar

Michael Yolch – 500 &

600 blocks of Lockhart

Wayne, Leeann, Shaw

and Isaiah Younger –

Nash, Avery to E. Ohio

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency	911
Mayor's Response Line	311
Allegheny County Health Department	412-578-8026
Allegheny General Hospital-Helicopter	412-359-3131 412-359-3555
Animal Control	412-255-2036
After 3 p.m.	412-255-2935
Bureau of Building Inspection, Code Enforcement	412-255-2177
City Council Dist. 1 Councilwoman Darlene Harris	412-255-2135
City Jobline	412-255-2388
Dog Licenses	412-255-2967
Duquesne Light Power Outages	1-888-393-7100 1-888-393-7000
East Allegheny Community Council	412-321-1204
www.deutschtown.org	
Environmental Services (of Public Works)	412-255-2779
Narcotics Division	412-323-7800
North Side Chamber of Commerce-Robin Miller	412-231-6500
Northside Community Development Fund	412-322-0290
Northside Leadership Conference	412-330-2559
Parks & Recreation	412-255-2362
Pittsburgh Parking Authority	412-560-2511
Public Works Division 1	412-255-2726 412-323-7209
State Representative Rep. Don Walko	412-734-9740