

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Ms. Betty Butler's family has owned a home in Pittsburgh for thirty years — but may lose it in less than 30 days, unless they raise the money to pay for much needed repairs.

Ms. Betty Butler and her siblings live in the Mechanicsville neighborhood, just five minutes away from their parents' home at 810 Welch Street in the Pittsburgh community. However, when their mother passed away in March 2010, the house started to fall in disrepair. All three siblings have vision problems and are on fixed incomes, but they did the best they could to keep the house up—until a winter storm knocked a tree over onto the roof and also damaged a neighbors' house.

Since then, the family has struggled in the courts to hold onto their family home (which is paid off and could make a good home for another family someday if they can get the needed repairs done).

The Butler family needs to raise \$800 to remove the tree from the house and stop the city from putting a lien on the property. If you attend NPU-V meetings, you probably are familiar with the powerful and humble way Ms. Butler (our NPU Chaplain) opens and closes each meeting in prayer. Now Ms. Butler has asked that you pray with her for a solution to this problem facing her family. "I helped build my house with Habitat," Ms. Betty Butler says. "We don't use any excuse. We do what we can do and we are willing to do what we can do. We will come over there and work!"

The family is accepting donations or help of any kind. Please call Ms. Betty Butler at 404-659-5186 if you can help out your neighbor!

Have an idea for neighbors helping neighbors? Join the new Pittsburgh News Board by calling 678-607-5436. We are looking for contributors!

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

The Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Community Center: 967 Dewey Street, 404-638-7195

Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association (PCIA): 942 McDaniel Street, 404-522-9331

Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU-V): President Micah Rowland, 404-418-8301

Atlanta City Councilmember: Cleta Winslow, 404-330-6047

Pittsburgh Ministerial Alliance: Executive Secretary Martha Hutchins, 678-760-9325

United Way services: 211

Police Zone 3 (non-emergency): 404-624-0674

Atlanta Citizen Review Board (police oversight): 404-865-8622

Sanitation Services: 404-330-6333

Department of Watershed: 404-330-6081

Sewer Operations: 404-604-0750

Atlanta Fire Department Smoke Detector Hotline: 404-546-2733

Code Enforcement: Nicholas Shearer, 404-330-6784

Norfolk Southern Railroad: 404-529-1251

This newsletter is a publication of the Preservation of Pittsburgh Master Planning Resident Leadership Team: Phyllis Moore Daviss, Stephanie Flowers, Queen La'Rosa Harden Green, Katrina Monroe Green, William King, Tamacia Leeks-Sadler, Deacon Michael Nelms, Tina Perrin, Thomas Redding, Regina Upchurch, C.T. Watson, John "Bull" Whitaker

Masthead design by John "Bull" Whitaker, Newsletter design by Queen La'Rosa Green and Moki Macias.

Contributions to the March edition due March 12, please call 678-607-5436

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PITTSBURGH Neighborhood Master Plan News

Pittsburgh Master Plan Updates

The new deadline for the full draft of the Pittsburgh Master Plan is Monday, February 27th. Because the draft report is 250 pages long, hard copies of the report will be available to review only at central locations: Room 220 of the Salvation Army Kroc Center (967 Dewey Street) Monday through Friday 9-5pm; the PCIA office (942 McDaniel Street) Tuesday through Thursday 10-5pm; and at Ariel Bowen United Methodist Church (284 Arthur Street) during PMA breakfasts (Tuesday 8am-10am) and by request. There will be comment forms at each location, please fill out and leave in envelope provided. The report will also be posted online at www.sndsi.org.

The POP Resident Leadership Team will host small group meetings to discuss sections of the plan from March 5-March 18. We need your input on issues such as: Housing, Transportation; Social Services; Economic Development; Health, Environment & Sustainability; Education; Youth issues; and Parks & Recreation. Call Moki at 678-607-5436 for the meetings schedule and locations.

MLK, Jr. Community Clean-Up

In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, the Pittsburgh community (volunteers, residents and friends, including children) gave two days of service on January 14th and 16th 2012. This outstanding participation showed dedication, hard work and much satisfaction in helping somebody.

Now, we must keep it clean. It is a continuous task. Don't just throw trash, cans, bottles, paper and waste all over the community. Use proper disposal containers. Take time to think about the appearance of our community. Let's make it attractive and motivate others to move in.

Volunteers are to be commended for being so patient and giving of their best to make the clean-up such a huge success. By the way, the refreshment team did a super job and councilmember Cleta Winslow is highly commended for putting together a dynamic event that we really appreciate.

Special thanks to other sponsors: Mayor Kasim Reed, Former State Representative Douglas Dean, Mayor's Office of Constituent Services, Department of Public Affairs, Atlanta Fire Rescue, Pittsburgh Ministerial Alliance, and the Atlanta Tool Bank.

-James W. Bridges



Do You Remember?

That big empty area on University Avenue at the end of McDaniel Street has a unique history. Way back when it was a city dump. I remember plenty of Saturdays going down there just to rummage through that stuff. Got plenty of treasure that would appeal to a young boy. Maybe it was divine providence but that dump gave me my first shot at being an entrepreneur when I found a vein of white dirt halfway up the hill towards the tracks. I sold plenty of white dirt. Maybe some of you senior ladies can tell me what it is about white dirt. Later on in the early fifties Ryder Trucking built their terminal down there and provided some helluva job opportunities. This lasted quite a few years, then they moved. Brown Transport moved in (a few jobs), they stayed there fewer years and moved out. What you see down there now has been like this for many years. Next: the land where Pittman Park is now and before the park was built.

-John "Bull" Whitaker

Memories Over Sixty Years Ago in the Pittsburgh Community of Surviving Trees

After the cows, mules, hogs, gardens, and abundance of trees, including fruit trees. Pecan trees, peach, plum, fig, pomegranate, apple, lemon, chinaberry and mulberry and more. Development and neglect brought a change. However, the pecan trees which bear fruit every two years, have survived and this year there is a bumper crop.

Its good to see neighbors and visitors in the community harvesting and profiting from them. Many are generous and sharing pecans with neighbors and friends as gifts. Pecans are nutritious and ideal for pies, cakes, beans and other dishes. Trees Atlanta continues to plant a variety of trees in Pittsburgh and there are restrictions on tree removal. Many trees in the community are over one-hundred years old. A poet wrote: "I think I shall never see; a poem so lovely as a tree." Over sixty years ago, dogwood and crepe myrtles in various

shades of color graced the Pittsburgh community and I can see that returning in the Preservation of Pittsburgh. More gardens will appear as the PCIA Welch Street garden, Smith Arthur and Fletcher street gardens, Mayland Circle and others.

Working with most successful developers, Dover Kohl and partners researched the past and involved residents to help bring a "green" magnificent historical city to the Pittsburgh neighborhood. Our pioneers are smiling from Heaven as we preserve what they worked so hard for and are making it the BEST for future generations through the grace of God. May the five P's remind us: Pecan Trees = Productivity = Bring Prosperity = Pittsburgh with Prayer.

-James W. Bridges

Free meals in the Pittsburgh Neighborhood for those in need

Monday through Friday at 12pm: Salvation Army snack packs, 967 Dewey St.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday at 3pm: Pittsburgh Resurrection, 1074 Welch St.

Tuesday at 7:30-9:00am: PMA breakfast, Ariel Bowen Fellowship Hall, 284 Arthur St.

Wednesday at 11:00am: Overcoming Church of God Faith Temple, Smith St. & Gardner St.

Sunday Breakfast at 8:00am: Community Ministry Christian Church, 1055 Windsor St.

What's the Difference?

I know everyone knows about the beating of the 20-year-old man that occurred in our own Pittsburgh community on February 4, 2012 just because of his sexual preference. When I saw the video of this brutal beating, it made me have flashbacks of the brutal beating Martin Luther King Jr., and a whole list of African-Americans endured during the segregated times just because of the color of their skins.

The only difference between the two is that the violence is black-on-black crime and the young man has an interest that others don't approve of. I'm not a homosexual man neither am I homophobic because I feel like everyone has the will power that

God gave them to do and be who they want to be no matter how the world judges them.

I believe if Martin Luther King, Jr. was alive he wouldn't approve of the way the world treats people who have different sexual preferences and I honestly believe that he would do whatever it takes to help them get equal rights as everyone else. Well sorry, Martin Luther King Jr., isn't here to help us with this new segregation. We as a community have to come together and stop violence, hate crimes and judging people because of their sexual orientation.

-Oscar Cain

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, March 3, 10am-12pm: PCIA Monthly Meeting, Pittman Park Recreation Center

Monday, March 12, 7-9pm: NPU-V Meeting. Call NPU President Micah Rowland at 404-418-8301 for the location; *DEADLINE FOR MARCH PITTSBURGH NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS.*

Tuesday, March 20, 5:30pm: PCIA Public Safety Meeting, 942 McDaniel Street

Saturday, March 10th 10am-2pm: *Our Youth are Our Future*— A community meeting for parents, grandparents and concerned residents. Ariel Bowen United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall at 284 Arthur Street. Call Moki at 678-607-5436 for more info.

Saturday, March 24: Ryan Cameron Foundation Youth Anti-Violence Summit, Salvation Army Kroc Center, 967 Dewey Street

Saturday, March 31st: Weed & Seed Neighborhood Leadership Summit. Call PCIA at 404-522-9331 for more information.

Do you enjoy reading the *Pittsburgh News*? Do you want to be a part of creating this free monthly newsletter for our community? Then join the new *Pittsburgh News Board*!

**Editorial meetings starting in March 2012.
To get involved call 678-607-5436.**