

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Saturday, April 7, 10am-12pm: **PCIA Monthly Meeting**, Pittman Park Recreation Center, 950 Garibaldi St. Avenue Research Library, 101 Auburn Avenue, Third Floor
- Monday, April 16: **Newsletter Deadline**
- Monday, April 9 7-9pm: **NPU-V Meeting**  
Call NPU President Micah Rowland at 404-418-8301 for the location;
- Tuesday, April 17, 5:30pm: **PCIA Public Safety Meeting**, 942 McDaniel Street
- Tuesday, April 10: **APS School Board votes** on Superintendent proposal to close Parks Middle School; *Contact your school board!*
- Monday, April 23, 2012, 6:30pm–7:45pm: **“Protecting Yourself from Home Repair Contractor Fraud & Scams” FREE WORKSHOP**, Mechanicsville Library, 400 Formwalt St.
- Saturday, April 14, 3pm: **Pittsburgh: A Sense of Community—Let the People speak.** Dr. Moriba Kelsey presents oral histories of Pittsburgh residents at Auburn Tuesdays & Fridays, 7pm: **Community Choir Rehearsal**, Ariel Bowen United Methodist Church, 384 Arthur Street.

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

The Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Community Center: 967 Dewey Street, 404-638-7195	Police Zone 3 (non-emergency): 404-624-0674
Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association (PCIA): 942 McDaniel Street, 404-522-9331	Atlanta Citizen Review Board (police oversight): 404-865-8622
Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU-V): President Micah Rowland, 404-418-8301	Sanitation Services: 404-330-6333
Atlanta City Councilmember: Cleta Winslow, 404-330-6047	Department of Watershed: 404-330-6081
Pittsburgh Ministerial Alliance: Executive Secretary Martha Hutchins, 678-760-9325	Sewer Operations: 404-604-0750
United Way services: 211	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 next edition due April 16, please call 678-607-5436**

Volume 6 Issue 6

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PITTSBURGH Neighborhood Master Plan News

## Pittsburgh Neighborhood Master Plan Draft Review and Input Session

The opportunity to review and share input on the Pittsburgh Neighborhood Master Plan Draft was available at Ariel Bowen United Methodist Church on March 16, 2012. Green stickers were used to vote on the most important ideas to residents and additional suggestions were accepted. Discussions on the Preservation of Pittsburgh enlightened many on the positive activities that are in abundance in the neighborhood. It was inspiring to hear of the good deeds done by so many unsung heroes residing in an area where the negative strives to override the positive. However, with faith, hope, and perseverance, Pittsburgh will be revitalized.

The Master Plan review brought out residents with high anticipation of getting a safe, clean, green, affordable, attractive place to live. Housing seems to be attracting more residents and comments were made on more emphasis on the homeless being included in the plan. Many good things have happened in the Pittsburgh neighborhood and many more things are going to happen, if we believe, trust and do our best to remember: “All things are possible,” and “Yes, we can.”

**-James W. Bridges**

## Reflections on the Master Plan

The master plan has some good ideas and I hope people get access and read it, but even if we pass it, it is still just a plan that will take a lot of work to come to life.

My main concerns are for the youth, seniors, and those who struggle most financially. Single people on SSI cannot pay rent and utilities for an apartment or house. \$350 a month for a room in a rooming house is the best they can do and we need to make that possible. Banning rooming houses is an attempt to drive the poor from the community. We can talk about how to make such housing work better, but there are a lot of people who miss Mr. Warren.

Speaking of Mr. Warren, his granddaughter, Toni Miller, inherited the big red building at the corner of McDaniel and Mary. She would like to see a Benjamin Center with our history on the walls and opportunity in the house – a place where people can find help and a chance to do better in life – where youth and seniors could have positive interaction. She would like to have a restaurant like the one her family ran when she was a child. We expected that to be in the plan along with ideas of funding. For me that was the most important single concept in the plan. I am disappointed that it is not there.

**-William “Mr. Bill” King**

## Do You Remember?

Pittman Park was built in 1950, but prior to that it was land with trees and undergrowth. Many a day my schoolmates and I would leave Crogman School in the afternoon and come across that wooded area to the flat area that had the tadpole pond. If we were lucky someone would have sneaked a Mason jar from home and dropped it off that morning and we would have something to put them in. We had great fun doing this until the powers that be decided that they were going to build a park. Black folk only had one park (Washington) that was a zillion miles away on the Westside.

Well, they finished the park and paved the street and built some cinderblock apartments across the street. Oh, yes the park was on Windsor Street back then. There was a round concrete skating rink out front. . The pool was just about where the recreation building is now. There was a concession stand that was the thing 'cause you know how hungry you get after swimming. Now, the pool was a large venue with two one-meter diving boards and one three-meter board. The pool area was surrounded by a chain-link fence which allowed keeping an eye on your kids quite unlike the current surrounding that looks like it was built to keep someone from escaping. Enough of this, see you later.

**-John "Bull" Whitaker**

## Pittsburgh Neighborhood Musicians Unite

David Smith, popular organist for the Ariel Bowen United Methodist Church, has organized a Community Choir. Are you a musician or instrumentalist and would like to use your talent and learn techniques from skilled and accomplished instructors? This is your opportunity to join in and "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord," in fellowship and performances at different churches in the Pittsburgh Community and other areas. "Music is a universal language," it can lift

your spirit and put more joy in your life. Instructions on breathing techniques for singers, along with warm-ups to help with deliver superb selections, will be directed in rehearsals on **Tuesday and Friday evenings at 7pm at Ariel Bowen United Methodist Church, 384 Arthur Street.**

Use your talent, Let's come together in unity and celebrate progress in the Pittsburgh Community with MUSIC.

**-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, New Hope Church of God in Christ, 440 Gardner 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.

## Tsunami on Dry Land

Six weeks ago, a small group of residents decided to challenge the very hazardous problem of dumped tires in NPU-V and NPU-L, communities. It was decided that the challenge was doable, and a plan was set to identify those vacant lots and abandoned places known only to residents and those which would violate our safety, and health.

The coalition of residents began to grow immediately, with the collaboration of Eco-Act (Environmental Action), GSU-IPH (Ga. State University-Institute of Public Health) and Liberty Tires. The planned ride through these communities revealed not only a thousand dumped tires but other debris that would contribute to health problems if not removed.

The most disturbing identified sites were near Gideons Elementary School, and the site near South-Side Medical Center. The dumped tires near the school was identified to contain 300 to 500 with out considering the natural land mass, which we found to be sinking, revealing instead 2000 -2500 tires, along with other indescribable trash.

Near the South-Side Medical Center tires were found to be half buried in the ground. While surveying this site we notice other activities on this dead-end street.

These South West communities are a breeding ground for repeated law breakers: the contractors are paid to deliver these tires to a proper disposal site, instead they are keeping their pay and using OUR communities for their ill fated gains, creating a Tsunami on Dry Land--

The illegally dumped tires, insulation, wooden door frames, were to ignite I fear the evacuations of these Historical Communities would in deed be a tragedy.

How do you help? Please call 911, record the Tag, Make, Model of the vehicles used to create these health hazards, the Tire Removal Team is soliciting funding to reward those that aide in the capture of these criminals.

**- Travie Leslie**

**Pittsburgh Newsletter is looking for volunteers.**

**Want to help write, design, and publish this free monthly newsletter for the Pittsburgh community?**

**Call 678-607-5436 to find out when we meet!**