

Welcome to



## Our Story

Early Beginnings

Neighborhood Association Affairs

Recent Activities and Outreach

Presented to Morgantown City Council  
Tuesday November 29, 2011 – updated October 22, 2012

## Suncrest Early Beginnings



The photographer caught a threshing crew on the farm of James L. Krepps at the Flatts near Morgantown. The site is now part of the Evansdale Campus of the university. Little evidence of this area's farming past is visible today. (West Virginia and Regional History Collection, West Virginia University Libraries.)

In 2000, the White House Millennium Council designated Suncrest as a Millennium Community. The Suncrest community of a century ago consisted of country homes on picturesque farmland.

Threshing crew on Suncrest Flatts. This is on the James Krepps farm, later to become Evansdale Campus and the flood plain and ravine is Krepps Park.

History included: Prehistoric Indians

History: Suncrest is the original site of Fort Burris 1774 (Windsor and Burroughs Streets). In later part of 1800's, Suncrest became the site of six or more large farms (Dilley, Evans, Krepps, Jacobs, Anderson and Van Voorhis). In 1923, the eight person Monongahela Development Company (became Suncrest Homes in 1927) first bought part of the Anderson Farm, in 1927 the entire Krepps Farm, and then others were later purchased by other interests. After Suncrest Homes had financial problems in the early 1930's, Suncrest became incorporated in 1937 to deal with water, sewage and paving issues. In 1949 Suncrest became part of the City of Morgantown.

# Early Beginnings

- **1910s** Area was primarily pasture land for Krepps Farm and Anderson Farm. Homes were picturesque, such as English Cottage style.
- **1920s** Suncrest was developed about two miles north of Morgantown on University Avenue near Star City. Suncrest Primary School was started in 1925; current brick building dedicated in 1940.
- **1930s** Suncrest was incorporated as separate town for twelve years. Suncrest survived and actually thrived during the depression.
- **1940s** One hundred houses were built for employees of DuPont Works. Residents worried this made Suncrest look like a 'company town'. Suncrest was annexed into Morgantown in 1949.
- **1950s** More mass construction as many 'Gunnison' houses were built. This area along University Avenue was called "Gunnison Gulch".

# Suncrest

## A Walking Tour



MONONGALIA COUNTY MILLENNIUM COMMUNITY

WHITE HOUSE  
MILLENNIUM COUNCIL

Prepared by Molly Schmitt-Keane  
Morgantown, WV  
Summer 2000

### 1910s House



#### **2. 305 ROTARY STREET**

Picturesque English Cottage style popular from 1910 through 1940s. Identifying features are the stone facade, prominent chimney, arched doorways, and steep roofline with multiple cross gables.

### 1920s House



#### **11. 372 LAUREL STREET**

This English Cottage was built in the late 1920s for John V. Sanders, who served 4 terms as a Monongalia County prosecuting attorney. Its plan appeared in the *Morgantown Post* on August 31, 1926, and was advertised as "an inviting haven to return to from the heat and bustle of the city." Among its many deed restrictions was an allowance for two Shetland ponies.

### 1930s House

#### **8. 452 REBECCA STREET**

Built in 1936 for Dr. Justus C. Pickett, a prominent orthopedic surgeon, this house is a historically accurate reproduction of a Cape Cod, one of the Colonial Revival styles. It features a symmetrical facade with shingle siding, pediment dormers, working shutters, and a large central chimney.



### Neighborhood School



#### **5. SUNCREST PRIMARY**

Suncrest's first community building dedicated in 1940. The original deed, written in 1925, stipulates that the property be used as a public park if and when the school is closed. It remains one of the area's few neighborhood schools.

### 1940s Houses for DuPont Works Employee

#### **3. 340 MULBERRY STREET AND 1264 OXFORD PLACE**

Just two examples of the small homes built by the Defense Homes Corporation in 1941 for employees of the Dupont ammonia plant in Westover. One notable feature is the integral garage, just beginning to gain popularity.



### 1950s House Craftsman Bungalow

#### **4. 472 JUNIOR AVENUE**



Junior Avenue was one of the first streets to be developed. This one-story house is a perfect example of a Craftsman Bungalow with its low roof, wide eaves with brackets, and shingle siding.





# Restoration and Renovation



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# Learn and Volunteer

## Help Your Community

The SNA Meetings provide an opportunity to learn about the current status of several efforts to improve our community.



# Renaissance Morgantown

## Photo Exhibit

Sue Amos (photographer) and Frank Scafella former mayor, instigator and photographer) after the recent opening of the renaissance Morgantown photo exhibit--the history of waterfront redevelopment.

Cat in the warehouse window, look closely at the photo.



# Suncrest Works

- Community Schools: Suncrest Primary, Suncrest Middle: Top in state rankings: Exemplary 11 years, High scores
- Highly prepared and educated members of Boards, Commissions, Committees in the City
- Tradition of Civic Engagement: Local, national, International
- Suncrest pride: Gardens, Scout involvement



# Local Schools



## Suncrest Primary

Located at the Junior Avenue intersection, this school anchors the neighborhood and unites parents, seniors, and scout troops to help establish the walkable community so essential to Morgantown.

# Local Schools



## Suncrest Middle School

Rated a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, Suncrest Middle School is ranked the top middle school in the state of West Virginia.



## BOPARC CONCERTS IN THE PARK 2011





Krepps Park includes: Youth Baseball, WVU Day Care Center, Community Pool, Hiking trails, dog park, Tennis Courts, Basketball Courts, WVU soccer practice field, Family Playground



# WE Are Suncrest

- All of 7<sup>th</sup> Ward: Size: Seventh Ward Voters: 1,986.
- Fourth Ward population: 2,680.
- In City of Morgantown: VanVoorhis to Collins Ferry, to University Avenue, to 705 and Patteson, to Star City and Bordering County
- Retirees, University staff and faculty, Educators, Employees of NETL, NIOSH, Mylan, Students, Frackers, Miners, Bar Owners, Landlords, Bankers, Doctors, Dentists, Health care Providers, Nurses, Business Owners, Lawyers, Performers, Pastors, Musicians, Politicians, Insurance Agents, Consultants, Realtors.....

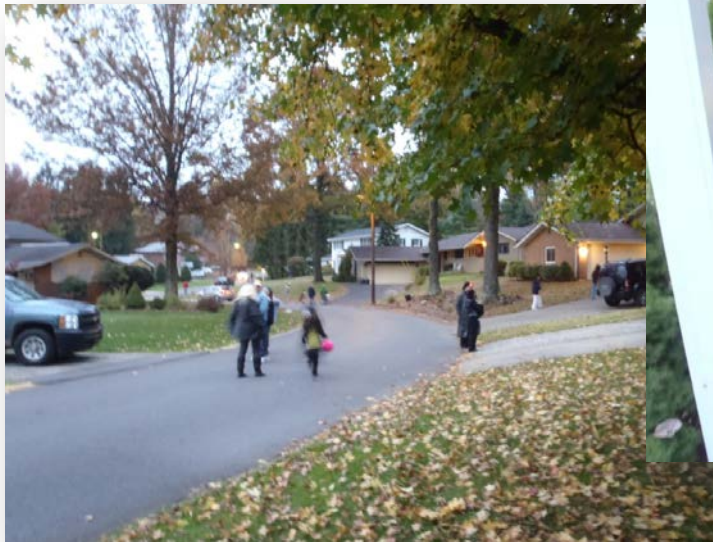


# Fantastic

Fun  
Family  
Friendly



Garden Tour



Halloween 2011



# Bandtastic

## Suncrest Enjoys the MHS Band



Marching down Colonial Drive



Funtastic

# Picnic in Krepps Park



Good food, friends, and fun!



Funtastic

# Picnic in Krepps Park



Bouncing, Socializing,  
and Eating...what could  
be better!



## Dancing in Krepps Park



Put on those dancing shoes and move to the grove!



## Dancing in Krepps Park



Music...sweet music... Dancing in the streets!

# Neighborhood Association Affairs

## **Sections of Suncrest Neighborhood.**

Old Suncrest, New Suncrest, Suncrest Addition, Flatts and Virginia Manor  
The names of some streets reflected the community's participation in various service organizations, such as Civitan, Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary.

## **Suncrest Neighborhood Association (SNA).**

Incorporated: 9-10-97. By-Laws: Proposed 5-29-97, Amended 4-29-99.

Board of Directors: Judith Stitzel, President  
James Paul, Vice President  
Charlotte Taylor, Recording Secretary  
Don Trevorrow, Treasurer

## **Locations for SNA Meetings.**

Much Appreciation to Suncrest Middle School, St. Paul Lutheran Church and Calvary Baptist Church

## **Website.**

[www.suncrestna.org](http://www.suncrestna.org)



State of the  
certify that  
West Virginia Code, the  
ES, INC.  
organization to be a Corporation  
existence  
ATION  
incorporation  
Given under my hand and the  
Great Seal of the State of  
West Virginia on this day of  
Tenth day of  
September 1997  
Joe Manchin  
Secretary of State





# Recent Activities and Outreach

**Suncrest and Our Neighborhood Association.**  
Welcome Page from SNA Website.

- Located in Morgantown, West Virginia, Suncrest is a great place to live.
- We have it all because we have the people making it great!
- Tree-lined streets, green parks and play areas, quiet neighborhoods, outstanding schools, world-renowned health care and plenty of cultural amenities. The Suncrest Neighborhood has this and more, including the Suncrest Neighborhood Association. We were founded on the belief that friendly neighborhoods and responsible community development are key.
- We are your liaison, your watchdog and your resource. We provide a link to city government. We fight to protect neighborhoods. And we can provide you with support, friendship and advice on neighborhood issues.
- We welcome you to Morgantown, the Suncrest Neighborhood and to our association. Your input on our community and its wellbeing and your participation in the association are encouraged. Please join us in our mission to provide the best our neighborhood can offer.



City Mayor Ron Justice and several MUB Staff persons met at an SNA meeting to discuss the latest technical aspects of storm water projects that will mitigate runoff problems for so-called 100 year storms.

**Thank you Dr. Schneckenberger for your efforts to make improvements in Suncrest.**

Poponoe Run, seen here, and Burroughs Run often overflowed their flow channels when excessive amounts of storm water would runoff from upstream water basin.

Considerable vehicle traffic as well as too many homes, businesses and churches were often impacted.





# Suncrest Challenges

- ◉ Maintaining Community Schools
- ◉ Zoning, development, rentals, and Enforcement
- ◉ Traffic from short cutting commutes and Parking for University events, storage of excess vehicles
- ◉ Noise from University events, county emergencies
- ◉ Dumpsters in and adjoining R1: pick up times, locations, outdated trucks, lack of screening
- ◉ Lighting and Safety on streets, walkways, crosswalks
- ◉ Stormwater Management (working with MUB and City now to fill in needed Codes) non-permeable surfaces

# Recent Doings

Thanks to these and many others not mentioned.

- **Ruth Donaldson** was recently recognized for her community involvement by the Dominion Post. For example, Ruth has made a difference in the safety of children who exit school buses on Van Voorhis Road. **Alan Donaldson**, Ward commission chair and co-authored our 1980 Master plan, which is still viable today.
- **Nancy Ganz, current SNA President**, was recognized by Dominion Post as residential leader who exemplified to the City the numerous challenges of rental property in neighborhoods. City Council has passed Article 528 that now prohibits a Nuisance Party.
- **Matt Cross** and **Jim Culberson** were vocal promoters of the need for the City Planning Office to better publicize requests for changes and variances in the zoning of property. Matt was also the publisher of several timely Letters to the Editor of the Dominion Post.
- **Linda Herbst**, a concerned neighbor, whose inquiry prompted her to run for City Council woman and represent the best interests of our Suncrest Community in terms of meeting with neighbors, city employees. She has hit the ground running, caring for her people.
- **Alan Hood** led Neighborhood Watch Programs for the City for 18 years.
- **Scott Pruett** organized the cleanup of the Suncrest Lake Wetlands. Proposals are being developed for walks around the Lake, as well as other outdoor type of uses for these wetlands. Other neighbors planted a rain garden .

# Recent Doings

## Thanks to these and many others not mentioned.

- **Roy Nutter** and **Chris Gluck** are leaders on the City Traffic Commission that promoted traffic calming be used to improve pedestrian safety on Laurel Street and on Junior Avenue.
- **Ron Gillis** is the key contact with Calvary Baptist Church who made a home for SNA meetings during recent years.
- **Don Spencer** tirelessly encouraged neighborhood representation in all city gov't.
- **Jenny Selin** efforts to promote Suncrest through various challenges from within and from outside were many as well as much appreciated.
- **Ed Sneckenberger and Scottie**, past SNA President, is an advocate for community causes. Ed with Ron Justice provided the City leadership for the Burroughs-PoPONoe Run storm water control project. (Honored by The Dominion Post as one of the "100 Top Influential People" in our city to contribute to our neighborhood)
- **Lynn and Marty Dombrowski** designed our first website and maintains our updates.
- **Bill Graham** trains emergency responders and leads our Suncrest Master planning efforts.
- **Michael Oliverio** is a voice for Suncrest in Charleston as well as an aware resident of Suncrest. Promoted such efforts as better crosswalks between Suncrest and the WVU campuses.
- **Jim Dobbs, Jennifer Bell**, and many other interested neighbors pulled together necessary support to represent the compelling education and neighborhood reasons to keep both Suncrest Schools in our Community. Probably the most moving experience was to see the Suncrest community members stand at University High School Auditorium to Support the Primary School remaining at the heart of our neighborhood.

## Impressive Legacies of Don Spencer

### City Government Leadership

- Visionary for Neighborhood Coordinating Council, Pedestrian Board
- Leader for Safe Sidewalks, Better Streets, Neighborhood City Parks
- Promoter of Better Airport Service, Emergency Responder Equipment
- Campaigner for Better Roads, More Bike Paths, City Code Enforcement

### Neighborhood Development

- Encourager of Citizen Memberships on City Commissions, Boards
- Facilitator of City Support for New and Improved Community Services
- Motivator for State Offices to Seek and Secure Funds for Local Needs
- Inspirer for Enhanced Local, Regional and State Legislation for all Citizens

***Thank You Very Much, Don***