

March 2018

Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

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A Letter from the President

Hello Neighbors!

The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) has a large presence in our neighborhood. Like most city residents, Highland Parkers get our drinking water and sewer service from PWSA, but we are unique in that our neighborhood is home to two reservoirs that together supply the majority of city's drinking water.

Because of this deep connection between Highland Park and our public drinking water system, the HPCC was very appreciative to have Bob Weimar, Interim Executive Director of PWSA, as a speaker at our February Community Meeting. You can find minutes of that meeting in this newsletter, but given the importance of, and high level of interest around this issue, I wanted to take this opportunity to cover some of the major highlights that will directly affect Highland Park residents:

Lead

On the issue of lead contamination in drinking water, Director Weimar shared that, after having paused its replacement of lead water service lines due to multiple, overlapping regulatory issues with the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), PWSA is restarting its line replacement program. Also, whereas they had previously only been replacing the portion

of the service line belonging to PWSA, now they will also replace the portion of the line belonging to the property owner, if that portion is made out of lead. PWSA is nearing completion of an online mapping tool that brings together various data sources to determine where lead service lines exist, which will help guide which lines are replaced. Director Weimar indicated that this interactive map will soon be available to the public, and also encouraged attendees to request a lead testing kit from PWSA if they haven't already had their water tested. Information for requesting a kit is available [here](#).

Temporary Pumps

Regarding the temporary pumps on Mellon Street and at the intersection of N. Negley Ave and Mellon Terrace, Director Weimar indicated that due to rate increases that went into effect at the beginning of the year, PWSA has budgeted for a complete renovation of the pump station at the Negley/Mellon Terrace location. That project, once completed, will eliminate the need for the temporary pumps currently in place. The timeline for this project depends on how long it takes for the new pump equipment to be manufactured; PWSA committed to keeping residents and the HPCC up to date on the timeline for this work, and to provide the community with an opportunity for input on the design of the new pump station building.

Reservoir

As many of you are aware, Highland Park Reservoir #1 (the uncovered reservoir in the middle of the park) has been bypassed for the past year after low chlorine results lead to a flush and boil advisory last February. In October, DEP ordered PWSA to bring Highland #1 back online, either by covering it (similar to Highland #2, the reservoir next to Mellon Terrace), or by installing an ultraviolet (UV) filtration system and making other upgrades to the Microfiltration Plant on Reservoir Drive in the park. Director Weimar confirmed that PWSA will not be covering Highland #1, and intends to have the UV system and other upgrades completed this spring, allowing Highland #1 to return to service. Longer term, Director Weimar indicated that PWSA will likely need to replace Highland #1 with a new, covered reservoir at a different location. When that occurs, he committed that PWSA will work with the community to preserve the current reservoir as a community asset.

PUC

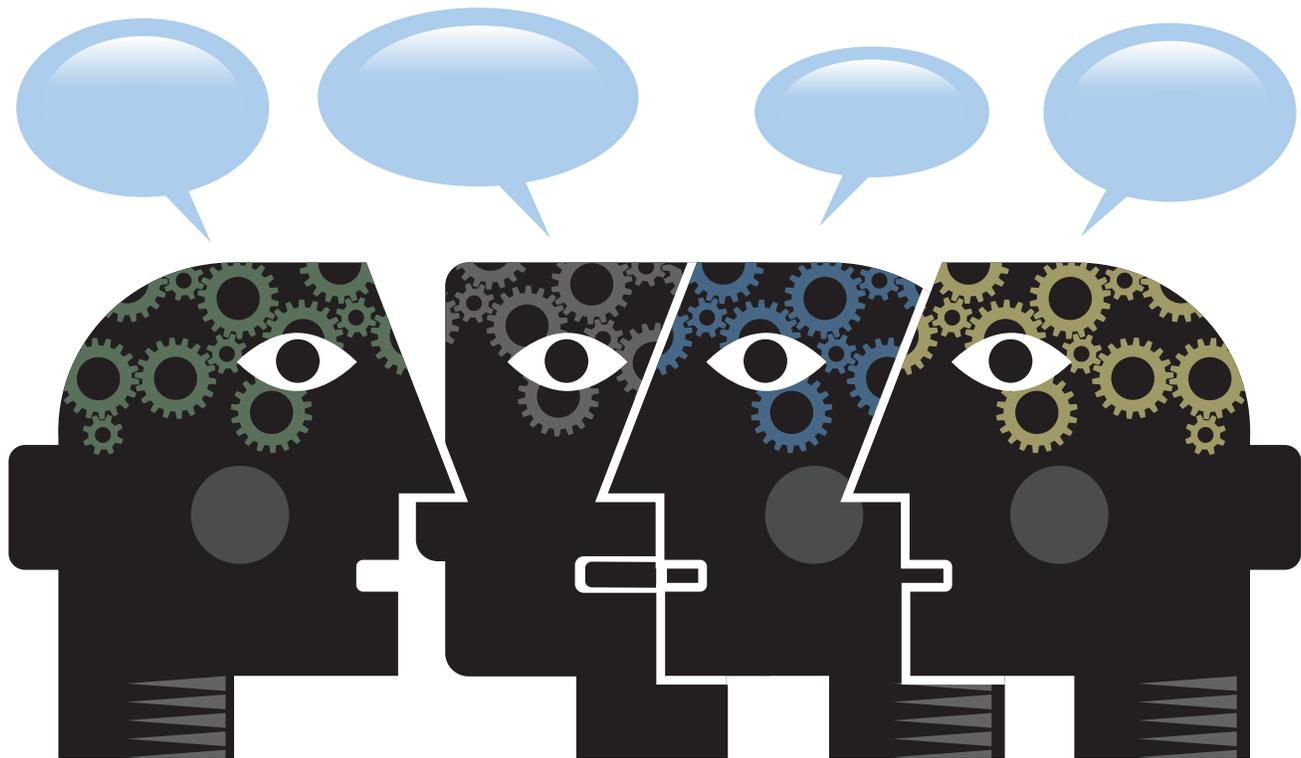
Due to a new law passed by the PA General Assembly last year, PWSA will fall under the regulatory oversight of the PA Public Utility Commission (PUC) beginning on April 1st. This will mean that PWSA's rates and long-term infrastructure improvement plans will have to be approved by the PUC. The PUC will also decide disputes between customers and PWSA beginning April 2nd. Information on filing a complaint with the PUC is available on its [website](#).

On behalf of the HPCC, I'd like to thank Director Weimar and his team for participating in our meeting. The HPCC is committed to providing residents with opportunities to remain informed about this and other important issues in our community.

Best,

Jake Pawlak
HPCC President





HPCC February Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2018
St. Andrew's Church

Meeting Called to order at 7:05 p.m.
by Jake Pawlak

Police Zone 5 Update - Det. Bob Smolinski

Although it is a slow time of year for crime, car break-ins continue to occur in Highland Park. In particular, cars parked near the reservoir by joggers and others have become a target when any valuables or bags are left in plain sight. Neighbors are urged to not leave anything visible. Residents reported speed issues by buses on Euclid Ave. between Callowhill and Bunkerhill Streets.

House Tour Committee Update - Monica Watt, Co-Chair

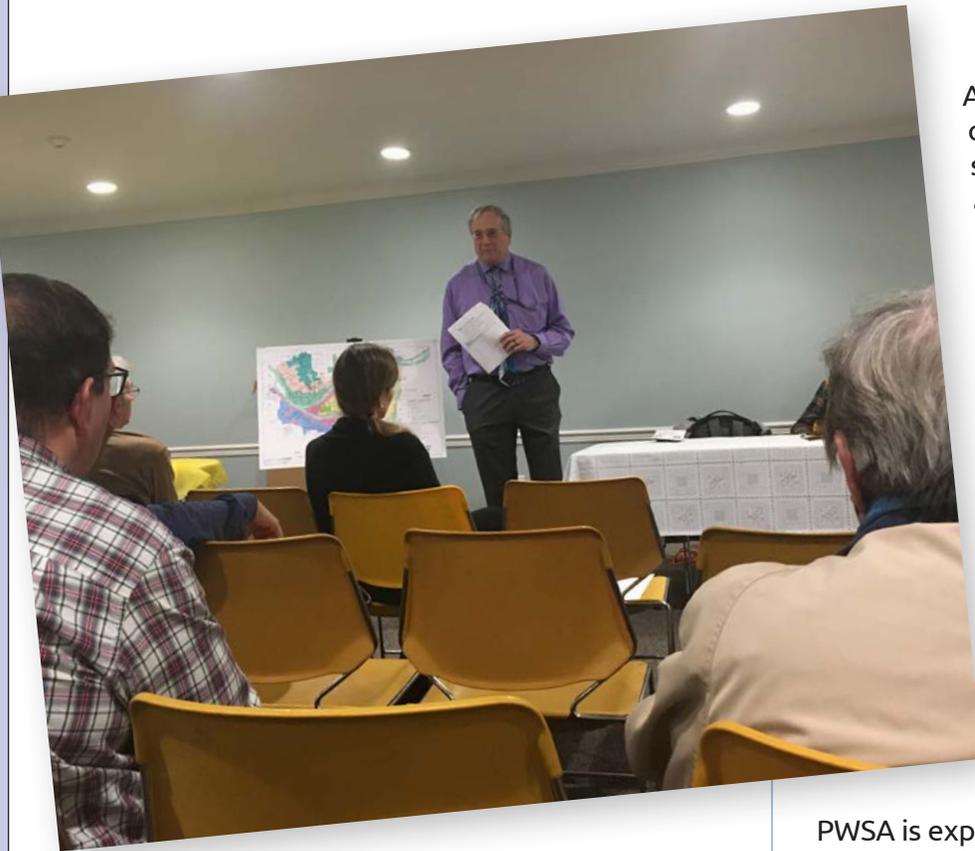
The House Tour is scheduled for Saturday, May 12, 2018 (Mothers' Day Weekend) from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The committee is seeking volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to karin.manovich@gmail.com or call Karin at 937-620-9734. It's never too early to sign up!

Highland Park Community Development Corporation (HPCDC) - David Hance, President
An overview of HPCDC's history in residential and commercial development was provided. The organization takes on strategic projects that private investors cannot do, with the goal of stabilizing an area until the private market can take over.

The development of Park Bruges represented Phase I of Bryant Street's revitalization. Phase II includes the adjacent mixed-use development, which has six occupied apartments and six ground floor commercial spaces. Three of the spaces are currently rented, with the remaining spaces available.

The property located at 5800 Bryant St. is next to be restored by HPCDC with plans for a small restaurant (ground floor), second floor offices, and a two-story town home in the rear. Building permits and contractors are ready, and work will begin work as soon as the construction loan closes. The work will include the restoration of the exterior and build-out.

The lots owned by HPCDC on the 900 block of Mellon St. will soon be transferred to architect Laura Nettleton. She intends to construct three "passive" homes on the lots.



A temporary pump station is currently operating at Highland 2. A new pump station will be built and a new cover and line replacement are also planned. An ultraviolet disinfection system will be installed at Highland 1 to bring it online again. Installation should begin in six weeks. Additional security such as cameras and significant fencing has been requested by the DEP. The costs, complexity, and manpower needed to operate Highland 1 are significant. Highland 1 won't be covered, but a new covered, underground reservoir will be likely be built somewhere else in the future (5-10 years) to replace it. The community will then be able to weigh in on keeping Highland 1 as an amenity.

PWSA - Bob Weimar, Interim Executive Director

The main goal of PWSA at this time is to recover from problems associated with failing equipment and systems in order to always provide water and sewer services to the City of Pittsburgh. Twenty years with no significant capital investment has left the organization cannibalizing equipment as it fails since many parts are no longer available and, in many cases, cannot be manufactured.

The combined sewer and water system will remain, as separating the two is cost prohibitive and highly disruptive. PWSA is working on plans to hold back storm water and gradually release it to reduce sewer back-ups during heavy rainfall.

The PWSA board voted in November to increase rates to fund capital improvements necessary for the renewal of the water and sewer system. Some of the planned improvements will take place in Highland Park. Highland 1 (open reservoir) supplies 1/3 of the City's water when operational. Highland 2 (covered reservoir) supplies 25% of the City's water.

PWSA is exploring the use of a new chemical treatment (an orthophosphate) to reduce and eliminate lead corrosion. This treatment has been successful in other cities and takes 3-6 months to reduce lead levels.

Lead service line replacement is underway, with 2,100 service lines to be replaced by the end of the calendar year. Both public and private lines will be replaced, as there will be no partial line replacement. Private lines may be replaced free of charge this year. Priority will be given to those customers with the highest lead levels and those with partial line replacements that were completed in 2016. Residents are urged to get their water tested to qualify.

State funds have been set aside to assist customers who cannot afford to replace their private lines (\$1.8 M) and who cannot afford the new rates (\$2.6M).

The PUC will have regulatory oversight of PWSA's operations going forward.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 15, 2018 at St. Andrews at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Join us for the

Highland Park

House Tour



Saturday, May 12th, 2018 • 10am - 3pm

For more information, visit www.hpccpgh.org

Tour starts at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 5801 Hampton Street, Pittsburgh, 15206

Proceeds benefit the Highland Park Community Council, a neighborhood, non-profit organization

Chim chiminey, Chim chiminey!

By Karin Manovich

Walking around Highland Park, one can't help but notice the architectural eye-candy everywhere: turrets, round doors, leaded and stained-glass windows, expansive porches, stone facades, and a vast array of architectural styles. All that beauty likely distracts for the more utilitarian items like the chimney.

The chimney is something I never paid attention to until one came tumbling down on an investment property that I owned. It was a frightening and expensive event! A few years later, I experienced the terror of a family of raccoons entering the living space of my home via the chimney. I remember covering in the bathroom, frantically dialing a trapper, as I listened to the vermin frolicking and growling outside the door.

My experience expanded to include a blocked chimney at another property that destroyed a furnace, and required replacing a gas hot water heater with an electric one due to the inability to replace or repair the venting chimney in the dead of winter. This was another expensive event with the added drama of carbon monoxide infiltrating the home.

When I purchased my Highland Park home two years ago, I didn't challenge the insurance company when they refused to insure the house unless I "took care of" the chimney. I know now that the chimney needs to be respected, inspected, and maintained.

I have always been diligent about annual furnace inspections, but they do not necessarily catch a chimney problem. Previously, I thought that chimney sweeps were mythical figures from Mary Poppins. Now I have added them to my stable of "must have" contractors.

The potential issue with old brick chimneys is the crumbling and decaying from within due to moisture and combustion materials over time. Eventually, the chimney can become blocked with crumbling bricks and mortar and will not vent carbon monoxide from your furnace and hot water heater. You won't necessarily notice it from the outside. Or, the chimney could simply collapse on the exterior due to the weakening from within.

The good news is that there are relatively inexpensive steps you can take to prevent deterioration (or slow it down). Chimney rain caps and chimney crowns are vital to keeping water and critters out of the chimney. My furnace technician informed me that birds frequently perch on chimneys to stay warm in the winter. The vented carbon monoxide can kill them, and they fall into the chimney. He reported a stack of them in one chimney that completely blocked the airflow.

Tuckpointing a chimney with missing or deteriorating mortar and adding a chimney liner are other actions commonly needed to maintain a safe venting system.

The *Chimney Safety Institute of America's* website (www.csia.org) provides detailed information and homeowner resources for keeping your chimney operational and safe.

I am always looking up on my walks around Highland Park. While admiring the tile and slate roofs, I have noted an ominous quantity of capless and crownless brick chimneys. Respect your chimney!





Spring Break Camp at UP

Spring Break Camp

5 days

Monday, March 26 - Friday, March 30, 2018

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$325 per child (6-10 years old)

At this spring break camp, your child will spend an exciting week being creative with paint, clay, recycled materials, paper, fabric, and more! Each day, campers will get their hands messy creating with clay in Union project's ceramics studio, as well as exploring drawing, painting, building, storytelling, and sculpting in a range of media.

Taking inspiration from the changing seasons and world around them, campers will exercise their imaginations and express themselves creatively while learning a range of artistic techniques in this fun, art-filled week.

This camp runs from 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Campers should bring a lunch each day.

If you have questions, please contact Milo Berezin (412-363-4550 x242).

With Easter coming, how do I know if my eggs are **FRESH?**

Courtesy of bonappetit.com

Drop an egg into water.

- If it sinks to the bottom, it's fresh, perfect for poaching and soft-boiling and making soufflés.
- If it stays submerged with its wide end up, it's older but still good for most uses, especially hard-boiling (where the egg is cooked all the way through).
- If it floats, toss it. That's a bad egg.



OLD ALLEGHENY COUNTY JAIL MUSEUM

FREE TOURS

February through October
Open Mondays for self-guided tours (except for government holidays)
Visit between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Located in the Court of Common Pleas, Family Division
(formerly the Allegheny County Jail)
440 Ross Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

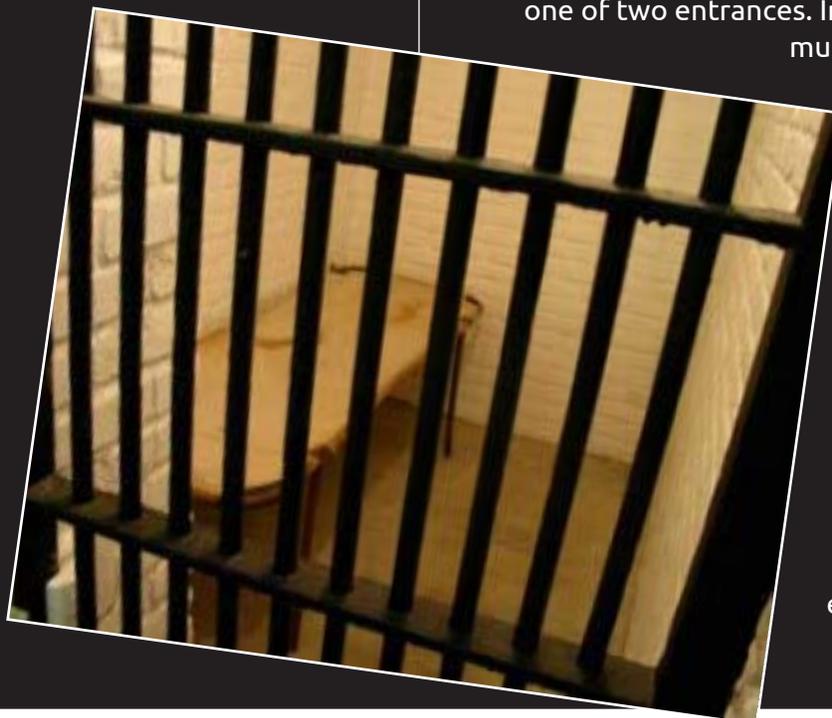
A PHLF docent is on hand to tell you the story of the place. Completed in 1886 to the designs of Boston architect H. H. Richardson and in use until July 27, 1995, the former Allegheny County Jail was renovated between 1999 and 2001 to house the Family Division of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas.

A portion of one of the cell blocks has been preserved as the "Old Allegheny County Jail Museum."

The Jail Museum was created through a grant from the Drue Heinz Trust to PHLF, in cooperation with the Allegheny County Juvenile Court and Curator Ed Urban, former Deputy Warden. The Jail Museum opened in 2005. Enter the Family Court Facility through one of two entrances. In both cases, you

must go through security and NO cameras are permitted. Enter through the main Ross Street entrance or through the great courtyard arch on Fifth Avenue.

Contact:
Mary Lu Denny,
marylu@phlf.org
or 412-471-5808,
ext 527



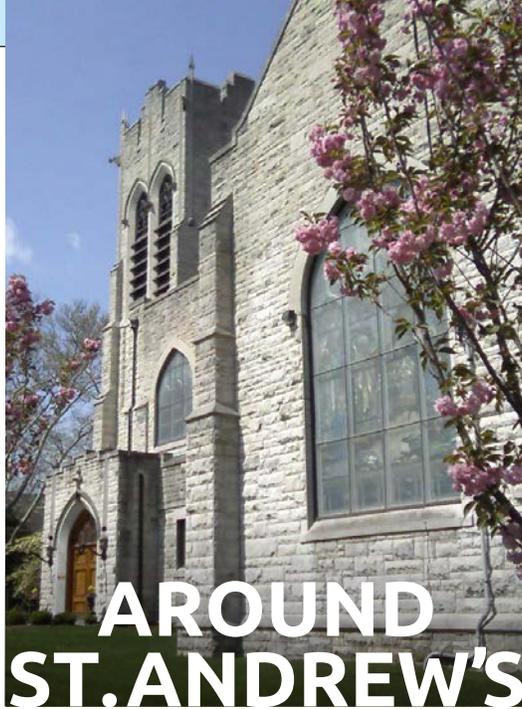
March is always a great month for early hints of spring around our Highland Park neighborhood.

Around St. Andrew's on the Church Calendar Mid-Lent moves on toward Holy Week and Easter and very much the richest season of the year. Always our prayer that for all our friends and neighbors this will be a season of refreshment and renewal.

Friends in the neighborhood may be interested in some of the wonderful music of the season. Our Parish Choir will be singing Choral Evensong on Thursday, March 1, at 8 p.m., and the musical recital following will feature two great trumpet players--David Anderson and Steven Groba, from the McKeesport Symphony Orchestra. Then on Sunday afternoon, March 17, at 4:30 p.m., our Schola Cantorum will sing Choral Evensong, observing the Feast of St. Joseph and our Guest Preacher will be our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell.

As we look to March as well we see all the way to the end and to Holy Week, with the note that in the 2 p.m. Third Hour of the 12 noon - 3 p.m. observance of the Great Three Hours on Good Friday, March 30th, our Parish Choir will present a Passiontide Choral Service of Anthems and Motets.

The Family Movie Night this month, on March 2nd at 6 p.m., will feature the 1984 epic fantasy, "The Neverending Story." Pizza, popcorn and fun! All welcome, but children are to be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian.



By Bruce Robison, Rector

And families in the neighborhood are invited to join us this year for an all-Highland Park EASTER EGG COLORING PARTY on Saturday, March 24, from 2-4 p.m. in Brooks Hall and for THE GREAT EASTER EGG HUNT on Saturday, March 31, at 2 p.m., in the St. Andrew's



Churchyard (arrive early for instructions!). All are welcome, but, again, children are to be accompanied by parent or adult guardian.

All are invited as well, of course, to the annual festival celebration of Easter Morning, Sunday, April 1st, with festival services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. and a Parish Easter Party for all ages in the Churchyard after the 11 a.m. service.

St. Andrew's has been on the corner of Hampton Street and North Euclid Avenue and at the heart of our Highland Park neighborhood for over a century. If there is a pastoral need that we can help with - a baby to be baptized, a wedding to celebrate, a sick or shut-in friend or neighbor to be visited, a family to support at the time of a death - please feel free to be in touch. Or if you just need to find some space for a meeting or a family gathering, or to borrow a few chairs, we'll be glad to help if we can. Call us at 412.661.1245, e-mail office@standrewspgh.org, visit our website www.standrewspgh.org, and "Like" our Facebook Page. We're always glad to hear from you!



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
5801 Hampton Street
Highland Park, Pittsburgh
412-661-1245
www.standrewspgh.org

*The Rev. Dr. Bruce Monroe Robison, Rector
The Rev. Jean D. Chess, Deacon
Peter J. Luley, Organist & Choirmaster*

KITCHEN NOW OPEN!



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MONDAY-THURSDAY 4-11PM, FRIDAY 4-12PM,
SATURDAY 12AM-12PM

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Finance – Glen Schultz

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Welcoming – Todd Shirley

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SHORT FILM ABOUT HIGHLAND PARK

[View it here.](#)



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DE-CLUTTER

DE-PERSONALIZE

NEUTRALIZE with warm paint colors

GET NATURAL LIGHT in

SCALE DOWN furniture



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