

SOUTH SIDE SLOPES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

July Picnic

Thanks to all who helped make this event a fun-filled (and delicious) time. Special thanks to our newest members for joining us, to those who brought their favorite dishes, to Johno Prascak for providing the door prize, and to our hosts, Games n' At.



Join us for StepTrek, 10/4



The StepTrek Committee is pleased to give you all an update on the Treksburgh excitement! We are excited to announce that Rudberg Law Offices, LLC, a consistent supporter of SSSNA and StepTrek, is the Presenting Sponsor. We are also very grateful to the following Sponsors: Michael Baker Corporation, Copies at Carson, United American Savings Bank, Loysen+Kreuthmeier Architects, The Healey Company, Silk & Stewart Development Group, Ripley & Sons, Carlson & McGinley Realty, SSLDC, Phillips Heating & AC, South Side Works, DMH Roofing, Custom Printed Graphics, Take Notice Graphics, and the South Pittsburgh Reporter. And, a very special thank you to UPMC Mercy South Side for the site location for all 9 StepTreks. We are also glad to have Carson Street Deli to prepare sandwiches for our very hard working volunteers. "Movin On" will once again be the band at the staging area. We will have fruit from Jordan Banana & Ayoob. There will be Realtor Open Houses.

The event is from Noon to 4pm, beginning at the parking lot at 21st & Josephine Streets, and then Trekking throughout the neighborhood. The registration area opens at 11:00am. We are pleased to have as our Honorary Chairperson Brian O'Neill, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette columnist. He has written extensively of Pittsburgh's people and neighborhoods. Brian's blend of humor and curiosity shows appreciation for the people and places that make Pittsburgh. Brian will be on hand with his new book (or the ability to order)

The Paris of Appalachia: Pittsburgh in the Twenty-First Century.

Celebrating Accomplishments

The Treksburgh theme is completely black & gold! In 2009, our city has seen such great sports successes with the six-time Super Bowl Steelers and the three-time Stanley Cup Penguins! In the spirit of all things black & gold, our book of maps and Trek tee shirts are also black & gold. We are celebrating many of our neighborhood accomplishments as well. New this year will be the Slopes Pylon at the 18th and Josephine triangle garden. It is made with the same cor-ten steel as the pedestrian footbridges and the scrim at the Brosville & Monastery Garden. It will be installed just in time. Both the Black Route & Gold Route pass by the new tribute to the Slopes neighborhood.



Please Bring a Donation!

New this year, we are collecting donations for the Brashear Association's food bank to benefit our neighbors. You can bring fruits and vegetables from your garden, or canned goods. The first 100 donors will receive an 8x10 print of Johnno Prascak's *Tomatoes*. All those donating to the food bank will receive a free special raffle ticket. Please help those having a tough time placing food on the table.

Volunteer Opportunities

Joe Ciccola is our volunteer coordinator. We need to have as many volunteers as possible to help with this endeavor. This event would never be successful without you, our

neighbors, to greet Slopes visitors from as far away as Alaska and as close as 18th Street. This is our time for this great neighborhood to shine! In the end, we help to fund the SSSNA's day to day expenses. Please contact Joe at jicicola@comcast.net or call 412-780-1253 if you would like to volunteer. There will also be several cleanups prior to StepTrek that we could use your help with, the largest being at 9:00am on October 3rd, the day before. If you volunteer at StepTrek, you will receive a free tee shirt, free bagged lunch and there is also a dinner at the end of the day. There are raffle prizes for volunteers as well. We start set up at 7:30am. If you have any other Trek related questions, please contact Bev at SSSNAPgh@aol.com or 412-488-0486. Join us at the September 8th SSSNA Meeting for more updates on StepTrek.

Welcome Back Trekkers!

Thank you for Trekking in the Slopes in the past! This is our 9th StepTrek and many of you have been with us all along. We intend to recognize each person and their number of StepTreks taken. There is a Black & Gold theme in Treksburgh! We will have black & gold tees for you this year, something new for us. If you have photos of past Treks, please email them to Bev at SSSNAPgh@aol.com. We would love to post, display and have them for the archives.

Also new This Year...

Please bring money with you, as we are having a Marketplace at the staging area. Trekkers requested more activity, so we are trying it. Brian O'Neill's new book will be on hand or able to be ordered. Local South Side merchants will also have wares. Past Trek tees are always available. Refreshments remain free. Also, along the route, professional massage for \$1/minute is back.

Bev Boggio

Grant Funding Request

As of August 28th 2009, the South Side Slopes officially submitted its grant application for Fall 2009 CITF funding. The Allegheny County Department of Economic Development's Community Infrastructure and Tourism Fund (CITF) is a new program which the South Side Slopes' public staircases are uniquely qualified for. As stated in the grant application, "the Public Staircases make living in the South Side Slopes possible and unique. Safer steps, better lighting and better signage will all increase the quality of life for current residents, and make the neighborhood more desirable to potential buyers". That covers the community infrastructure requirement. "StepTrek, held every fall, invites people from all over the region to take a self-guided tour of the South Side Slopes' network of stairs, celebrating this unique and valuable infrastructure". StepTrek covers the tourism requirement.

Our grant application has requested \$250,000. The project will include an assessment of all the public staircases in the neighborhood and a prioritization of repairs. It is estimated that 35 sets of steps that are highest priority will be repaired, if this allocation is approved first by the City's URA, then by the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development. We are keeping our fingers crossed!

In the near future, the SSSNA is hoping to launch the StepSteward program, where interested residents that utilize a certain case of steps can take on the seasonal maintenance of them, such as raking leaves, shoveling snow, and trimming encroaching plant species. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting pilot program, please email aaronsukenik@hotmail.com.

Aaron Sukenik

South Side Park Event

Reclaim and Revitalize South Side Park
Saturday, September 12, 2009 9AM-1PM

The SSLDC, Elm Street Committee, and SSSNA will host the first event in the Reclaim and Revitalize South Side Park plan. Based on a six-year program prepared by the environmental engineering firm, Skelly & Loy, this initial effort will begin to eradicate invasive species that have been taking over the park. These invasive plants endanger the vitality of plants and wildlife native to the park.

Call for Volunteers

Day of Event: Help to identify and remove invasive species or any trash and debris found. No previous environmental or biology experience necessary. Time commitment: 6 hours including lunch. All volunteers will be supplied with the appropriate tools needed to complete tasks. A picnic lunch reception will immediately follow. An email with more detail will be sent to volunteers prior to the event, so please register as soon as possible.

South Side Park Facts:

65 acres spanning three neighborhoods, South Side Flats, South Side Slopes, and Arlington

Home to Quarry Field, Bandi Schaum Field, the former Neville Ice Arena, an extensive trail network, and amazing views of Oakland and Downtown

Little used and little appreciated over the years, South Side Park has been overrun with invasive species that threaten the survival of native plants and wildlife

To register to volunteer, please contact info@southsidpepgh.com

or call 412-481-0651 x 32

Judy Dyda

Board Update

After many years of service, countless cleanups, and beautiful gardens, Joseph Ciccola has moved to Scott Township and has vacated his position on the board. Joe will continue his involvement in the SSSNA as circumstances permit, and will be the volunteer coordinator for this year's StepTrek. Thank you Joe!

With heavy hearts, we also announce that one of our founding board members, Joe Balaban, will also be moving on after our October 2009 elections...but not out of the neighborhood though. His 10+ years of service, dedication, and leadership have been marked by numerous and ongoing improvements to the neighborhood, and we look forward to his continuing involvement in the SSSNA. Thank you Joe!

Peter Kreuthmeier

Current SSSNA Board Officers:

Brad Palmisiano – President
Misi Bielich – Vice President
Joseph Balaban – Treasurer
Paul Lorincy – Secretary

Board Members:

Denise Fillip
Peter Kreuthmeier
Aaron Sukenik
Fr. Donald Ware
Mark Zalenchak

Up for Election October 2009

Peter Kreuthmeier
Fr. Donald Ware
Mark Zalenchak
Open Position
Open Position

SSSNA Board Retreat

On the evenings of August 11th and 12th SSSNA Board Members and several invited Slopes members attended training sessions facilitated by Professor Michael Kumer of the Non-profit Leadership Institute, a part of Duquesne School of Leadership and Professional Development. Professor Kumer assisted the participants in future planning for the SSSNA and continuing development of board leadership skills. SSSNA received a Grant to pay for these evenings. The Morning Glory Inn, 2119 Sarah St., hosted the event. www.gloryinn.com

Brad Palmisiano

October Elections

Call for Nominations

Two positions are open on the SSSNA Board for two-year terms. If you are interested in a position or in nominating, please email: info@southsideslopes.org

Volunteer Opportunities

South Side Park Event

StepTrek

Clean-Up Volunteers

No experience necessary!

Additional information is on our website

Please contact us by:

Phone: 412-488-0486

Email: info@southsideslopes.org

Web: www.southsideslopes.org

Upcoming Events

General Meeting

Tuesday September 8, 2009

7:00pm

St. Paul of the Cross Monastery

Retreat Center

148 Monastery Avenue

Reclaim and Revitalize South Side Park

Saturday September 12, 2009

9:00am – 1:00pm

South Side Park, Bandi Schaum Field

Invasive species cleanup

Picnic Lunch

StepTrek

Sunday October 4, 2009

Noon – 4:00pm

UPMC South Side Parking Lot

Josephine and 21st Streets

Please Join for 2009

With your donations, we are able to keep neighbors informed and connected.

SSSNA Membership is \$5 and runs from January 2009 to December 2009.

Thank you for joining us!

SSSNA Membership

Please mail \$5 to:

South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 4248

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

or bring to our next meeting

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Slopes Interest

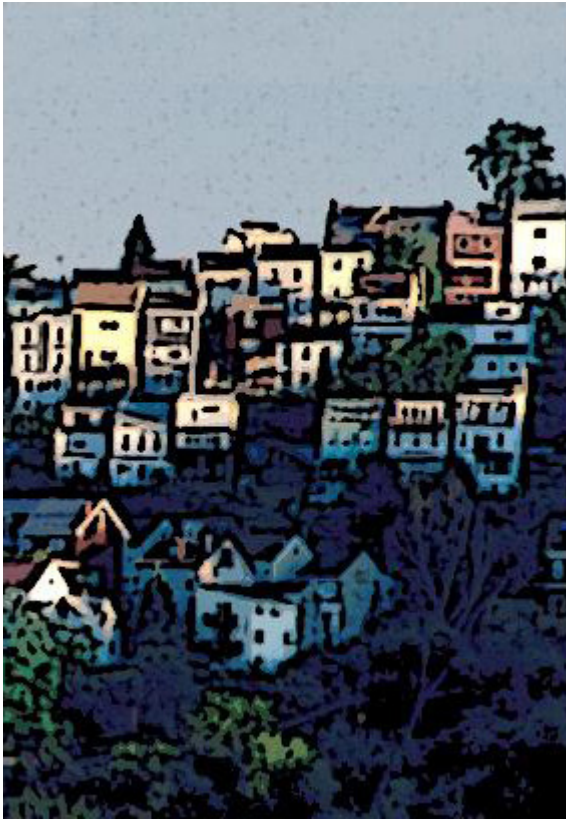
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NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
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Thank you to our Sponsors...



Mark your calendars:

General Meeting
September 8, 2009

South Side Park Event
September 12, 2009

StepTrek
October 4, 2009