

SOUTH SIDE SLOPES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Holiday Party

Mark your calendars! Tuesday December 8th is our annual holiday party. As in the past, dinner will be provided by the SSSNA, and you are welcome to bring a favorite side dish or dessert. It's a great opportunity to mix and mingle with your neighbors...with the jingling beat, of course. Festivities begin 7:00pm at St. Paul of the Cross Monastery Retreat Center, 148 Monastery Avenue.

Misi Bielich



South Side Park Grant

In response to a grant request, South Side Local Development Company has been awarded \$5,000 for projects related to South Side Park. The foundation that awarded the funds put no stipulation on their use, and asks only to be provided updates as projects take place. The donor also wished to remain anonymous. The SSLDC, SSSNA, and our entire neighborhood thank this donor, and look forward to putting this gift towards its highest and best use in South Side Park. Read inside for details on our Reclaim and Revitalize South Side Park Event, a monumental success!

Judy Dyda

Membership? Everyone!

In an effort to extend greater outreach to the community, the SSSNA Board of Directors has voted to set in motion a change in the way our membership is handled. Beginning in 2010, all South Side Slopes residents and anyone in the community can be a Supporting Member by simply registering with the Association. Voting members – those members 18 years old or older who attend at least two meetings in the past year – will be extended full voting rights. Any member is welcome to receive the SSSNA E-Blasts and Slopes News via email for free. To help defray printing and mailing costs, a minimum donation of \$5 per year will be requested to receive the print edition of Slopes News. To support the Association, we will be seeking donations from community members at a number of different levels. The specifics of the contribution levels will be finalized in the coming months. The SSSNA appreciates the generous support of its members and the community.

This course of action will require a change in Association By-Laws, to be formally introduced to the membership at the December Holiday Party meeting, and voted on at the January general meeting. Anyone with questions, please contact Board President, Brad Palmisiano, at brad.palmisiano@southsideslopes.org

Brad Palmisiano

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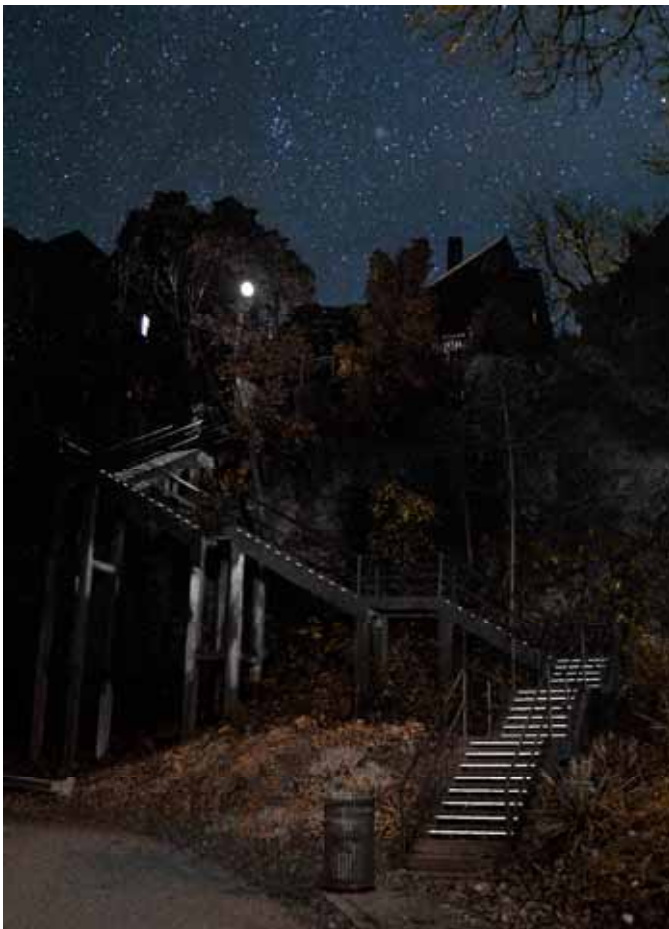
Project Updates

The SSSNA and our Elm Street Committee, together with tremendous help from the South Side Local Development Company, our funders, contractors, fabricators, and volunteers have made some exciting progress on neighborhood improvements. Some have been completed, more are on the horizon, and one just won another award.



Our steel map, the scrim at Monastery and Brosville streets, was recognized with a 2009 Award for Excellence in Architectural Detail by the American Institute of Architects, Pittsburgh. Earlier this year, it received statewide recognition for improvements to a public space, a Townie Award, by the Pennsylvania Downtown Center.

Another completed project, phase one of the Josephine/24th sidewalk, stair, and rain garden will be blooming in the spring. Future work will extend what's now in place with a new sidewalk down 24th, and further improvements on Josephine Street. In the meantime, this demonstration project channels rainwater into planting areas instead of a storm drain, a step in the right direction.



At 18th and Josephine streets, a placeholder Pylon has been installed. Fabrication of the final version is now complete, LED lighting is ready, and when the last piece of the puzzle arrives, the solar panel, all will be ready. Installation will go quickly, though it will take a little time afterwards for the cor-ten steel to weather. Our goal is to have this newest neighborhood signpost (and night-light) up and running before the end of the year.

Also in the night-light category, fundraising continues for the 18th Street Step Lighting project. Thanks to a grant from the PDC, steps, handrails, and columns have already been repaired. Still on the horizon are: evening-out the concrete finish, and finally, installing the lighting. Individual LED strips will illuminate each step, increasing pedestrian safety at night, and celebrating a Slopes icon on one of our hillside neighborhood's most visible gateways.

Peter Kreuthmeier

South Side Park Event

On behalf of South Side Local Development Company and the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association, we send grateful thanks to all of you who could join us for the Reclaim and Revitalize South Side Park event on Saturday, September 12th. We are glad you had the opportunity to become aware of this great, 64 acre neighborhood asset and appreciate all the hard work you contributed to making the event a monumental success!

The event marked the opening volley of a multi-year effort, beginning with the removal of invasive plant species and trash...and after our work, a picnic!

Final Tallies:

- 100 Tremendous Volunteers
- 2 One Ton Dump Trucks full of trash and invasive plant life
- 1 Bee Sting
- 1 Missing Pair of Loppers (if you found them, please let us know)
- 1 Extra Saw (if you lost one, please let us know)
- 1 Perfectly Beautiful Day (Thanks Fr. Don)
- 0 Cases of Poison Ivy (we hope!)

You can view more photos on the Facebook page: [South Side Pittsburgh](#)

Special Thanks to:

- Skelly & Loy
- Erin Copeland (Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy)
- Sarah Alessio (Pennsylvania Resources Council)
- Department of Public Works 4th Division (John Radcliffe, Supervisor)

Once again, we extend thanks, and hope you can join us for our next event. We'll be in touch!

Judy Dyda, Fr. Don Ware, C.P.



Successful StepTrek '09!

On October 4th from noon to 4pm, the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association had success for the 9th time. Approximately 600 Trekkers enjoyed another rain free Trek. Thanks to the generous support of **Presenting Sponsor** Rudberg Law Offices, **Publication Sponsor** Michael Baker Corporation, and **Volunteer Sponsor** Copies at Carson, Trekkers and volunteers had all that they needed to enjoy our neighborhood. We would like to thank UPMC Mercy South Side Outpatient Center for the use of the lot for the staging area. And a special "Thank You" to our sponsors: Loysen + Kreuthmeier Architects, Silk & Stewart Development Group, The Healey Company, United American Savings Bank, Carlson & McGinley, DMH Roofing, Phillips Heating and Air Conditioning, Ripley & Sons, South Side

Works, South Side Local Development Company, Carson Street Deli, Custom Printed Graphics, Take Notice Graphics, and the South Pittsburgh Reporter for their support. StepTrek was fortunate to have author and Pittsburgh Post-Gazette columnist Brian O'Neill as Honorary Chairperson. Once again, Movin' On provided the musical background. The Slopes neighborhood has so much to offer with unexpected vistas, unique housing stock, quirky public stairways, and plenty of green spaces including the 64 acre South Side Park. Each year has a new feature, but this year we had two. At the staging area, there was a 'marketplace' for Trekkers to shop which was successful. Johno Prascak, who has opened his studio to Trekkers for years, had the idea to collect food to benefit the Brashear Association's food bank. Brashear



collected a good bit of fruits, vegetables, and non-perishable foods. Johnno donated his 8x10 "Tomatoes" prints to those who brought food. We will continue the collection at future Treks to benefit those in need in our area. This was also the first year to have black and gold Trek tee shirts. If you did not get one and would like to, contact Bev Boggio at 412-488-0486.

The StepTrek Committee works tirelessly for ~11 months a year to prepare for the next Trek. The committee is very excited for next year's Trek! It will be the 10th and there are already ideas to make it the largest and most special yet! There are more than 100 volunteers involved throughout the year. Bob Kripp is to be commended for his tireless graphics work, and Joe Balaban for his

extensive writing to make the book of maps so enjoyable to read and follow. When StepTrek began in 2000, the maps were printed on 8.5x11 papers, stapled and given to Trekkers. In 2005, the book of maps was born. Next year, we plan to include more color and photos of past Treks and the neighborhood. StepTrek is a labor of love for those volunteers who enjoy sharing the neighborhood with everyone that we can! We are grateful for their time, and the success of the event depends upon it.

Bev Boggio



Everybody Wins!

Pittsburgh Phillips K-5 School, 1901 Sarah Street, is seeking 30 volunteers from the community to read one-on-one with 2nd and 3rd graders during lunchtime through Everybody Wins! The program, offered through Beginning with Books, is scheduled to begin in early January 2010. Volunteers will read each week, or they have the option to alternate with another volunteer. Phillips' reading times will be on Thursdays from 11:50 until 12:18 (2nd graders) and 12:20 to 12:50 (3rd graders). "Everybody Wins! is a wonderful opportunity for volunteers to come into the school and share their love of reading with our students," said Rodney Necciai, Phillips' principal. A one-hour orientation will be held from 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 8th at Pittsburgh Phillips. Volunteers will also be asked to complete an application and a PA Child Abuse History Clearance form. (Beginning with Books will pay for clearance form processing.)

For more information or to apply, please contact Kate Porigow, Beginning with Books, 412-361-8560 or porigowk@mybwb.org.

Kate Porigow

Pitt Cares Day

On October 17th, forty four students from the University of Pittsburgh, associated with Pitt Cares Day, came to the Slopes. These student volunteers as well as Paul and Dawn Lorincy and Matt Schaefer spent three hours cleaning up the slopes. At least 100 bags of trash and debris was collected by this hard working group. The Slopes want to thank Pitt and the volunteers for all of their hard work.

Paul Lorincy

General Meetings

Our general meetings give us the opportunity to connect with neighbors and public officials, and to provide a forum for the people and events that shape our community.

In **September**, discussion covered planning for StepTrek, the Reclaim and Revitalize South Side Park event, and updates from the South Side Planning Forum.

October brought our annual elections; see Board Update on P.7, and committee reports, also throughout this newsletter. President Brad Palmisiano thanked Joe Balaban, who stepped down from the board after ten years of service to the community. Joe remarked that he has enjoyed serving the residents of the Slopes over the past ten years following his move into our neighborhood. We thank Joe for his indelible contributions in improving the Slopes.

Our **November** meeting brought Justin Miller, our Neighborhood Planner from the City Planning Department, to explain Pittsburgh's development of a Comprehensive Plan. This Plan deals with the long term vision for the City. It will provide data to be used in developing or updating various neighborhood plans, like our own, www.southsidepgh.com and follow the link to neighborhood plan. Ultimately, this Comprehensive Plan will provide data on such topics as transportation, housing, infrastructure, community services, employment, land use, urban design, education, public art, historic assets, etc. This massive undertaking is in process now, and hopefully will be available within a year. Much useful data will then be accessible by neighborhood planning projects, developers, URA and other agencies. Questions and Answers followed Justin's presentation, mostly centered on zoning issues and variances.

Fr. Don Ware, C.P.

Board Update

October was elections month, and a slate of new and returning board members was voted in with unanimous approval for two-year terms. New board members are Brian Oswald and Pavel Yakovlev. Returning are: Peter Kreuthmeier, Fr. Donald Ware, and Mark Zalenchak. At the subsequent meeting of the new board, Pavel was nominated as treasurer and Denise Burkhart as new board member for a one year post. We are pleased to announce both have accepted. Please welcome our newest board members:

Denise Burkhart

A lifelong resident of the Slopes, Dee is 53 years old and currently employed at UPMC Shadyside-Presbyterian as a Lead Quality Analyst. She has more than 25 years of service within the UPMC Health System. She writes, "I am married to a wonderful man named Mike. We have no children, 3 cats which are our children, very family oriented, and also living in the house, my elderly mother and aunt. It's a Pittsburgh thing; you have to be family oriented to live in the city. This is the only home I have known, the home that I was raised in. It is a large two story structure at the corner of Eleanor and Berg. It has some history; it was once a doctor's office and residence more than 60+ years ago. I also serve as a part-time caretaker for my elderly mother and my aunt. I totally enjoy gardening and landscaping, my escape, and would never live anywhere else but here on the South Side Slopes."

Dee has generously offered to chair our Beautification Committee, focusing on our numerous community gardens as well as the Josephine Street shade trees. Please keep an eye out for upcoming gardening volunteer opportunities, posted here in the newsletter or online, as we'll want to give Dee our full support in this tremendous labor of love.

Brian Oswald

A 29 year-old physician assistant at UPMC Presbyterian, Brian purchased his home on Mission Street last spring. He is a native of Huntingdon, in the central part of the state. After receiving his Master's Degree from Lock Haven University in 2004, he relocated to Pittsburgh to pursue his career in health care. Initially living in Shadyside, he quickly realized that the Slopes were for him, as he rented here for a few years prior to becoming a home owner. Brian is an active young man with a special interest in maintaining and improving the legendary steps that cover our hillside community. Stay tuned for details on the upcoming Adopt-A-Step program, which Brian will spearhead.

Pavel Yakovlev

A professor of economics at Duquesne University, Pavel was born in Siberia and went to high school, college, and graduate school in West Virginia. Pavel became a first-time homeowner when he bought a house on the Slopes two years ago. He settled here for the great views, and to be minutes away from work and social life. We are honored to have an economics professor now in charge of our neighborhood association's treasury.

Current SSSNA Board Officers:

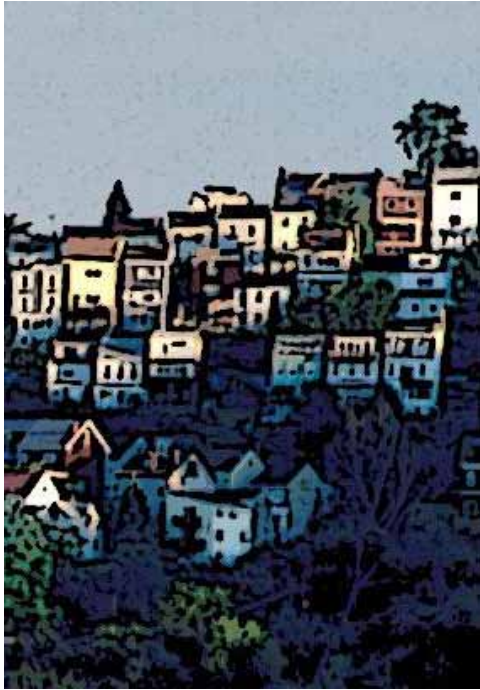
Brad Palmisiano – President
Misi Bielich – Vice President
Pavel Yakovlev – Treasurer
Paul Lorincy – Secretary

Board Members:

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

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www.SouthSideSlopes.org

Thank you to our Sponsors...



Mark your calendars:

Holiday Party
December 8, 2009

General Meeting
January 12, 2010