

# SOUTH SIDE SLOPES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## 4/12 Candidates Night

Come meet the candidates for local elections at the Next SSSNA meeting on Tuesday April 12th. We have invited candidates for City Council, County Executive, and County Controller. The format of the evening will be an opening statement from each candidate and then questions from the audience. Audience members will be asked to sign up to ask questions before the meeting. If you have a question for the candidates, please email your name, what group of candidates you would like to question, and the nature of your question to event moderator Brad Palmisiano at [brad.palmisiano@southsideslopes.org](mailto:brad.palmisiano@southsideslopes.org) so that you can be added to the list. Most importantly, don't forget to vote in the Primary Election on May 17<sup>th</sup>. The meeting starts 7:00 pm at St Paul of the Cross Monastery Retreat Center, Main Lounge, 148 Monastery Ave.

Brad Palmisiano



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## 5/21 Garden Planting

We are seeking volunteers to help plant our two Western Pennsylvania Conservancy Gardens on Saturday, May 21st starting at 9:00am. The more volunteers we have, the faster the planting goes. We will meet at Josephine and Greeley streets at 9:00 am. There will be refreshments. If you have a favorite pair of gloves, please bring them. If not, tools and gloves will be provided. Dress in clothes that can get dirty. It will be a great day to beautify the Slopes. Welcome Spring! To volunteer, folks can email [sarah.allesio@southsideslopes.org](mailto:sarah.allesio@southsideslopes.org) or call Sarah at 412.443.9585.

Beverly Boggio

## Zoning Update

A group of board members met last month with a representative from 4<sup>th</sup> River Development and property owners to hear ideas for a residential development on a 2.75 acre parcel of land below the Monastery, between Hackstown and Magdalena Streets. The plans are still very preliminary and the developers are interested in engaging the community as soon as possible. The SSSNA will keep the community posted via website and E-blast of any community meetings.

The City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning has launched a Beta Version of its new information System, PGH SNAP. Last year, our City Planner, Justin Miller spoke to us about this informational resource. Visit the City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning website to download this Resource: <http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/snap/>

Brad Palmisiano

## Mayor's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

With the warmer weather upon us, we will have an opportunity to spend more time outdoors. As you begin to plan for your own gardens, my administration is the overall landscape of our City, and is focused on doing major spring cleaning, greening, and volunteering.

Redd Up is a great example of Pittsburgh's strong tradition of neighbors-helping-neighbors. Every year, dedicated residents volunteer their time and show their community pride by cleaning and greening their neighborhood. This year, we encourage you to continue to volunteer and support these upcoming events:

### Annual Spring Redd Up Events

On April 15, 16, and 17, community volunteers from neighborhoods across the City will be out picking up litter. The Clean Pittsburgh Commission, along with other local anti-litter groups, is once again sponsoring the annual City-wide spring clean-up. If you are interested in participating, or arranging a Redd Up for your community, please contact Boris Weinstein at 412-688-9120 or [boris.weinstein@verizon.net](mailto:boris.weinstein@verizon.net).

### Green Up Pittsburgh Program

This spring, together with the City's Green Team and the community stewards, we will continue to transfer vacant lots into urban farms, rain gardens, green palettes, and community gardens. Keep a look out this spring for a community planting day in your area at [pittsburghpa.gov/neighborhoodinitiatives/greenup](http://pittsburghpa.gov/neighborhoodinitiatives/greenup).

Throughout our City's history, volunteers have played a critical role in providing essential services to residents and building leadership and capacity among citizens to address community concerns.



We have long known that the answers to Pittsburgh's most pressing challenges cannot come from government alone. Building on this belief, I launched servePGH on March 22, a high-impact, Citywide blueprint for engaging citizens to solve local challenges. Within servePGH are a number of service initiatives that were created to meaningfully impact Pittsburgh neighborhoods and the lives of Pittsburgh youths. There are opportunities for everyone. To learn more about servePGH and to get involved please check out [servepgh.pittsburghpa.gov](http://servepgh.pittsburghpa.gov) or contact Rebecca Kottler-Wein, Chief Service Officer, at 412-255-4765 or [servepgh@city.pittsburgh.pa.us](mailto:servepgh@city.pittsburgh.pa.us).

I look forward to seeing you out at one of these events to celebrate and show your neighborhood pride.

Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

## The Importance of Green Space to a Healthy City

Have you ever had this experience? Someone unfamiliar with Pittsburgh, perhaps visiting from out of state or another city, upon seeing our city for the first time, comments to you, "Wow, Pittsburgh is just beautiful! I never realized you had so many trees!"

Certainly, one of our greatest assets here in Pittsburgh has to be our public green spaces. Our lush hillsides dotted with century old frame houses, is a visual we have all experienced and enjoyed, and many artists have captured in paintings and on film.

Our rivers, parks and bike trails bring countless hours of recreational enjoyment to you and me, our children and the many who visit Pittsburgh. Protecting and enhancing our invaluable green spaces, and encouraging responsible stewardship of our natural resources, has to be one of our top priorities.

Some of the ways I believe your leaders in city government, our many community groups and we, as residents, can all have a greater hand in protecting our green spaces and our natural resources are by:

- Reviewing our current environmental programs to ensure they are working properly.
- Educate the public about environmental services such as recycling and proper disposal of hazardous materials, and the benefits to all of us when they practiced regularly.
- Consulting with environmental groups like Friends of the Riverfront, Friends of Grandview Park, PA Cleanways, the Tireless Project and Bike Pittsburgh for

their input in crafting city policy regarding environmental matters.

- Work so that Pittsburgh's famous three rivers are made up of healthy water.
- And finally, to do all we can to equip our neighborhood groups and residents with the tools they need to carry out projects that improve their neighborhood environments.

Promoting Pittsburgh as a "green city" will help to attract both development and the funding needed to assist in financing those projects. Beautification, conservation, and proper recycling make for sound economic policy.

Healthy environments, well maintained public parks, green spaces, riverfronts and bike trails all contribute to our well being, and bring a higher quality of life for our residents, businesses and all who live, work, visit, play and volunteer within our wonderful city neighborhoods.

Councilman Bruce A. Kraus



## President's Message

It is written "In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love". None of us will disagree with this. The difference is what each of us loves may be totally different than our neighbors.

My loves are for a greener, cleaner, and safer SS Slopes for all of us. The cold and snow have hidden all the litter, dirt and potholes for many months. As in your our yard and mine, it is time to start cleaning up the streets, parks and green spaces in our neighborhood.

Each of us can help make the slopes the best neighborhood in the city in many simple ways. Take a bag with you when you take a walk and pick up the streets or steps around your house. Report graffiti to either the city (311) or to the SSSNA.

In the next few months many volunteers will be picking up litter, painting over graffiti and planting gardens all over the slopes. These same folks will also be engaging in the development of a community garden, and the planting of new trees along Josephine and 18th streets. Plans are being made to light the 18th St. Steps and future develop Elm Street projects on both sides of the slopes.

I hope each of you will adopt the streets and steps near your home and pick up trash, manage and report graffiti, and generally make the slopes a better place to live. We must as a whole manage, report and remedy the problems we see in the neighborhood. Always feel free to contact the SSSNA and its board members with concerns or interests. I hope to see many of you out there in the coming months.

Paul Lorincy

## You Can Help

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, the SSSNA is entirely, completely, 100% dependent on the generosity of each and every one of our supporters. Your tax-deductible contributions are put to work right here in the Slopes, making all manner of things possible. If you are already a Slopes Supporter, thank you! If you'd like to become one, it's easy:

### Online

Just click on the "donate" link on our website, [www.southsideslopes.org](http://www.southsideslopes.org). If you already have a PayPal account you can sign in and donate immediately. If you do not have a PayPal account, you can create one.

### By Mail

Checks are always welcome. Please mail your tax-deductible contribution to:  
South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box 4248  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

### In Person

Bring your tax-deductible contribution in person to any one of our meetings, and as always, thank you for your generous support.

## Volunteer Opportunities

No experience necessary! Or, if you have experience in several key areas, please flag down a board member. See our website for further information.

Please contact us by:  
Phone: 412-246-9090  
Email: [info@southsideslopes.org](mailto:info@southsideslopes.org)  
Web: [www.southsideslopes.org](http://www.southsideslopes.org)

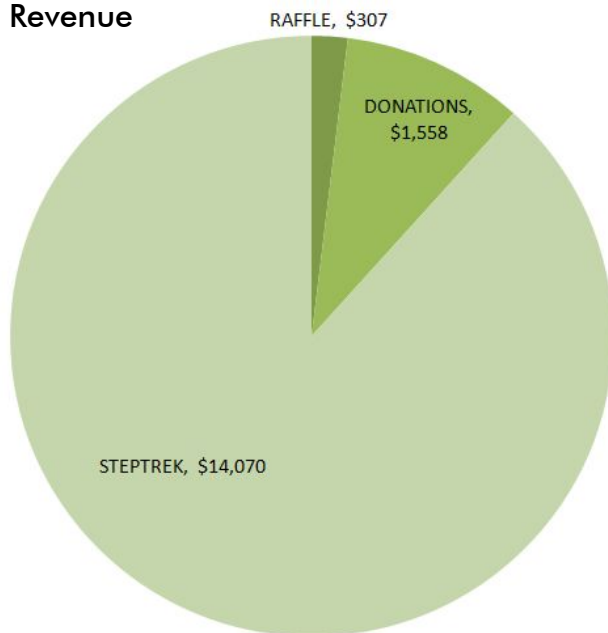


## Slopes Finances 2010

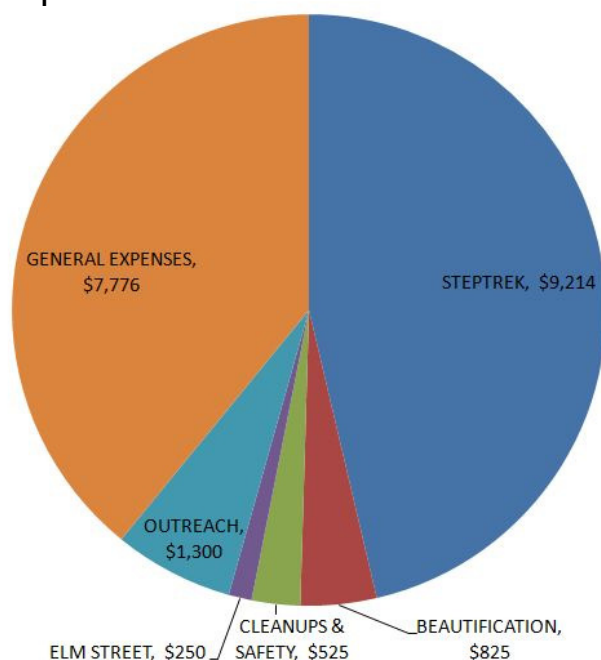
The charts below are an overview of SSSNA financial statements for 2010 in support of our mission: *Neighbors working together to make the Slopes a more livable, beautiful, and safe community.*

Pavel Yakovlev

### Revenue



### Expenses



## Elm Street Update

The Elm Street committee continues work on several ongoing projects:

- The solar-powered Gateway Pylon at Josephine and S 18<sup>th</sup> St. is just about finished. Our electrician is working with the manufacturers of several pieces of equipment that are not operating properly.
- We are continuing to look for partners to help our South Side Park project... to continue work on the Park. Present partners include the Student Conservancy, SSSNA, and Pittsburgh DPW. SSLDC has been coordinating these efforts thus far. As SSLDC ends, we will continue to work on the Park.
- A Residential Façade Grant Program is now being launched. It will make matching funds available for the renovation of building façades along high-visibility streets within the neighborhood. See further details on p.7 of this newsletter.
- Funding for the creative lighting of the South 18<sup>th</sup> Street Steps is also in the works.
- Efforts are underway to form a second Elm Street District on the east side of the Mission St. Bridge. The SSSNA Board will work with this effort.

Fr. Don Ware, C.P.



## Community Garden

The SSSNA and the South Side Community Council are working together to launch a community garden in the South Side. Locations have been scouted and at the present time, the top contender is in the area of Bandi Schaum Field off of Mission Street.

The goal is to set a location and iron-out the basics this year, with plans for a full-fledged garden next spring. Many community members voiced an interest in having a place to grow fruits and vegetables in the neighborhood, since many homeowners and renters have limited areas available to garden.

The SSSNA and the Community Council will be working closely with the City of Pittsburgh on the implementation and the beginning steps of creating the garden. If you are interested in helping out, and/or are interested in a plot once the garden is up and running, please email [sarah@southsideslopes.org](mailto:sarah@southsideslopes.org)

Sarah Alessio Shea

## Tree Tenders

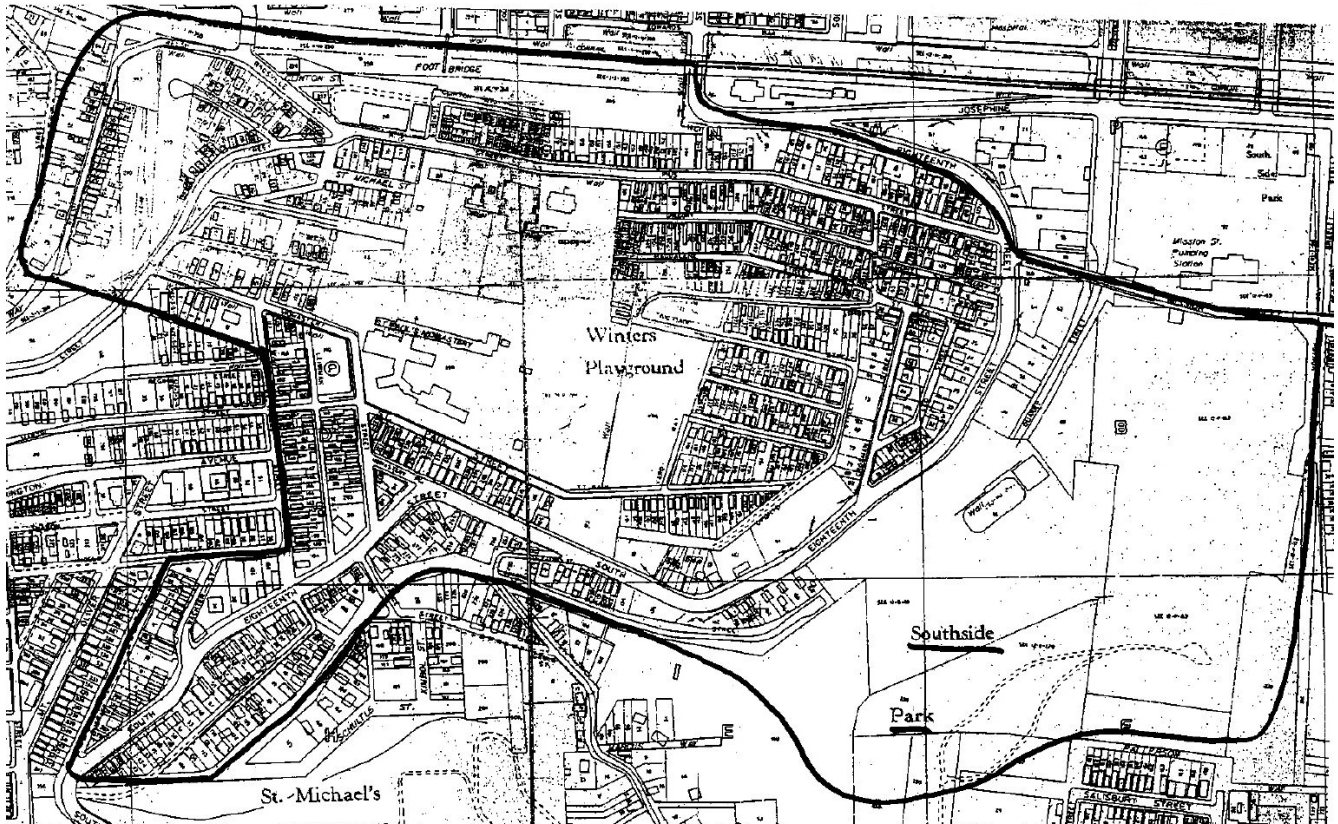
The SSSNA is applying to the TreeVitalize Program for fall 2011 planting. We hope to plant trees along the 18th Street corridor and in various locations around South Side Park. If successful, we will be seeking volunteers for an organized planting this fall. While no experience is necessary, having trained Tree Tenders will be useful and may add to the strength of future Tree Vitalize applications. If you are interested in becoming a Tree Tender please visit Tree Pittsburgh's website <http://www.treepittsburgh.org/> where you can complete an on-line application and register for one of their Tree Tender training courses.

Maggie Buck



sign-up and get cool Tree Tender stuff!





Current South Side Slopes Elm Street District

## Façade Grant Program

The City of Pittsburgh's Urban Redevelopment Authority, (URA) is sponsoring a residential façade grant program, which offers matching grants up to 50% of the cost of eligible improvements, with a maximum grant of \$5000. Income contingent households can receive up to 90% of the cost of eligible improvements.

The program specifically targets improving the physical appearance of homes within our current Elm Street district, (see map above). Preference will be given to properties along major corridors, and to owner-occupied properties. Eligible improvements include: restoration of architectural details, replacement of deteriorated or inefficient windows, cleaning and repointing brick, repainting brick, removing or repairing

awnings, replacement or upgrades to porches, gutter and downspout repair/replacement, lighting, and other façade improvements.

If you would like to take advantage of this program, please review the guidelines on the following pages first. Applications are available from the SSSNA's Elm Street Committee: [elmstreet@southsideslopes.org](mailto:elmstreet@southsideslopes.org) or you may call us at 412-246-9090. From there, we will work with you to finalize any details before forwarding your application to the URA.

Peter Kreuthmeier

## ELM STREET RESIDENTIAL FAÇADE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

### I. Statement of Purpose

The Elm Street Residential Façade Program (ESRFP) is intended to improve the physical appearance of the homes in the participating Elm Street Pittsburgh neighborhoods including Lawrenceville, South Side, East Liberty and East Allegheny which are located within walking distance from their Mainstreet business districts.

### II. Program Funding

ESRFP may be funded in part through the City of Pittsburgh, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and the Urban Redevelopment Authority.

### III. Eligibility

All of the following criteria must be met in order to be eligible for an ESRFP grant:

#### A. Eligibility Requirements

1. The property owner must be the person applying for the grant,;
2. The project must be located in the Elm Street Target Area (See attached map);
3. A project must be feasible, as determined by the Committee in its sole discretion;
4. A Project must enhance the façade visible from the public way;
5. The total cost for the Project must be at least \$500.00;
6. The property at issue, whether residential or mixed use residential/commercial, may not have any outstanding municipal debt, including but not limited to city taxes, utilities, or other municipal liens;
7. The Property Owner must submit a completed Application to the Committee and complete the approval process prior to beginning the Project. **Any Project begun before the application and approval process is completed will not be eligible for a Grant;**



8. The proposed Project must seek to improve the physical appearance of the structure(s) in accordance with the residential façade design guidelines established by each participating neighborhood (see attached). In City-designated historic districts, a Certificate of Appropriateness which approves the proposed renovations, must be received before the commencement of any exterior work can take place.

B. Types of Eligible Homes

1. Solely residential property owned by a single family;
2. Mixed residential/commercial property;
3. Residential rental property.

Community halls, fire stations, hospitals, colleges or universities, properties used solely for commercial purposes, and properties owned by the city, state or federal government are not eligible.

IV. Eligible Activities

Exterior improvements which can include: restoration of architectural details, replacement of deteriorated or in-efficient windows, cleaning and repointing brick, repainting brick, removing or repairing awnings, replacement or upgrades to porches, gutter and downspout repair/replacement, lighting, etc. "Façade" shall not be deemed to include roof or interior repairs.

V. Parameters of Grant

A. Grant Size

1. Up to 50% of the total project costs with a \$5,000 maximum for eligible improvements.
2. Income contingent households can receive Up to 90% of the total project costs with a \$5,000 maximum for eligible improvements for property owner of a single-family home (that is not used for rental property), with annual household earnings below 80% of the median household income for Allegheny County.

B. Other:

1. Projects greater than \$25,000 may require the State's prevailing wage rates.
2. Historic homes or homes located in historic districts shall be subject to additional historic design and review standards administered by the Department of City Planning.

VI. Waiver of Provisions

The Board of Directors of the URA may waive certain provisions of these guidelines based on a determination of the private and public benefits of the project.

VII. Notification

URA reserves the right to:

- A. Reject any and all applications.
- B. Announce all grant commitments publicly.

VIII. Additional Information

For additional information, please contact the Urban Redevelopment Authority, Business Development Center at 412-255-6550 or via our web site at [www.ura.org](http://www.ura.org). Our TDD number for the hearing impaired is 412-255-6644.

The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, marital status, disability, age, sexual orientation or national origin. No person, solely on the basis of any of the above factors, shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under the loan and grant programs operated by the Business Development Center of the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh.

EFFECTIVE 11/10

## ELM STREET RESIDENTIAL FAÇADE PROGRAM BASIC PROCEDURES

- STEP 1: Property owner (applicant) submits application to the Elm Street neighborhood organization with all required additional information as requested on the application, including a description of requested improvements and contractor bid(s). All applications will be reviewed in the order received.
- STEP 2: The Elm Street neighborhood organization and its design committee will review the submitted requested improvements (work plan). Such review may include a design consultation with URA staff.
- STEP 3: The Elm street neighborhood organization will schedule a pre-construction meeting with the property owner and the contractor where both parties will sign a final contract. *Any changes to the project once the contract is signed, will require a written change order.* Once the project is approved and the construction contract is signed, a grant commitment letter is sent to the property owner.
- STEP 4: Before the work begins, the Elm street neighborhood organization must have a copy of: (1) the contractor's Comprehensive General Liability Insurance certificate with a minimum of \$400,000 coverage of liability insurance, (2) a certificate verifying that the contractor carries Workers' Compensation Insurance and (3) proof that the contractor is registered with the City of Pittsburgh as a general contractor by supplying a copy of their License card/number.
- STEP 5: A copy of any applicable permits and/or approvals must be given to the Elm Street neighborhood organization and also displayed on the site as deemed necessary by the City of Pittsburgh.
- STEP 6: The Elm Street neighborhood will send the application to the URA for construction monitoring.
- NOTE: WORK THAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED PRIOR TO A ESRFP COMMITMENT LETTER BEING EXECUTED CAN NOT BE PAID FOR WITH GRANT PROCEEDS
- STEP 6: Applicant and/or contractor must submit to the Elm Street organization invoices as proof that costs have been paid when the project is completed. The owner must pay their portion of the project costs before the URA will release its funds. Payment from the URA will be in the form of a two party check to the property owner and the contractor.
- STEP 7: Once work is completed, the URA will schedule a final inspection of the completed project. Final disbursement of grant funds is contingent upon applicant providing receipts for completed improvements. Work must be completed within six months.
- NOTE: *Grant disbursement will occur within thirty (30) days following the written request for payment submitted by either the property owner of the contractor.*



South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box 4248  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

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**Spring Fundraising Campaign:**

Your generosity will help us to get the neighborhood gardens going! Please mail your tax-deductible contribution to the address above, donate via our website, or bring it in person to our next meeting. Thank You!



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

Thank you to our Sponsors...



Mark your calendars:

**Candidates Night**

4/12/11

7:00pm

**Garden Planting**

5/21/11

9:00am