

## StepTrek 2012: Anything But Pedestrian



Artwork by Kathryn Carr [www.gocarrgo.com](http://www.gocarrgo.com)

Join us for an "urban hike" through one of Pittsburgh's most unique neighborhoods--the South Side Slopes.

Now in its 12th year, plenty of new things are in store for Pittsburgh StepTrek 2012, which takes place on Saturday, October 6th from noon until 4 p.m. Registration opens at 11 a.m. at South Side Park (21st and Josephine Streets).

StepTrek is what the Trekker makes it. Participants may choose to use this non-competitive event as a test of fitness or a leisurely stroll. The benefits of StepTrek have earned this event the heart-healthy rating of the American Heart Association.

The Trek is self-guided through route signs and a course narrative in the event program book. The course narrative also points out landmarks, gives a history of the stairs and buildings, and counts the steps along the way (approximately 2,700).

This year, the two routes differ significantly in length, though both offer breathtaking views of

the city. The Black Route, spanning 3.5 miles, explores the Hollow, walking past the historic Kollar Club and looping around some little used, but well maintained, steps off of Mary St. After some restful walking on flat ground, Trekkers will climb through the west side of the Slopes, encountering views and passageways unique to our neighborhood.

The Gold Route, which is shorter than usual at 2.1 miles, finds its way through some little-known corridors near Quarry Field after traversing over Billy Buck Hill. Breathtaking vistas greet Trekkers as they descend St. Thomas Street Stairs before meandering shortly through South Side Flats. The culmination of this route will be climbing the 18th Street Steps, which have been newly illuminated through a grant from Duquesne Light.

This family-friendly and pet-friendly event also includes the StepTrek Market Place in South Side Park, featuring live entertainment, food trucks, an artist market and raffle.

You can now buy Step Trek tickets online at Showclix:

<http://www.showclix.com/event/steptrek>

We hope to see yinz at the Pittsburgh StepTrek on Saturday October 6th!

*Brian Oswald*

## Students' Good Deeds = Good for the Slopes



CMU freshmen work on the 18<sup>th</sup> Street bend

This summer the South Side Slopes was fortunate to have been supported by the volunteerism and community spirit of several hard-working groups of students during the summer months.

The South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association's efforts in South Side Park were strengthened by the Brashear Association's Neighborhood Partnership Program. This collaboration brought volunteers from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) to build and repair trails in the interior of the park.

In August, the Slopes welcomed 40 freshmen from Carnegie Mellon University, whose good works cleared both the bend at 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Josephine Street of weeds and trash. As a result of their efforts, these areas can now be covered with plastic and mulch to create a barrier against new weed growth.

These outstanding student groups donated many hours acting as good neighbors and community stewards, though few of them reside in our Slopes community. We hope that their good deeds which have made a visible, positive change in our neighborhood inspire each of us to lend a hand and get involved.

*Maggie Buck-Cohen and Molly McClelland*

## **Community Garden at Bandi Schaum**

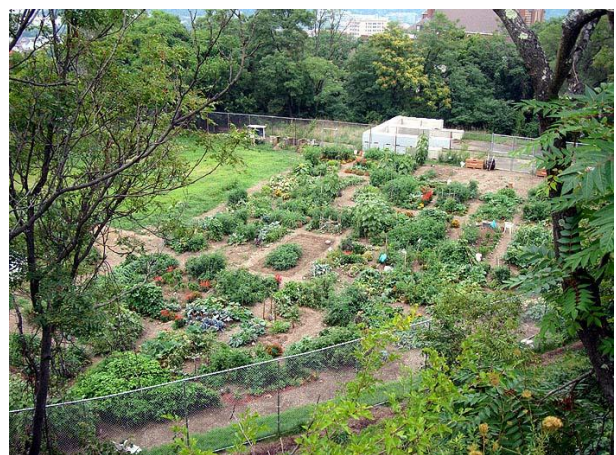


For the dozens of gardeners who tilled the soil this summer at the Community Garden at Bandi Schaum, a successful harvest was measured not in the number of tomatoes on the vine or peppers in the basket; but in the number of new friends and neighbors that grew from this communal experience.



The Bandi Schaum gardeners mixed hard work with easy conversation, laughter, friendship, and an ever-present and willing helping hand. Those who had abundance gave to those in need.

Neighbors came together, children played with new friends, and people who were once strangers now looked forward to evenings shared inside the garden gate. The garden became for all involved, a profound symbol of our community.



As the summer growing season winds down, the Garden Committee is currently identifying dates for an end of the year gathering and one final work day. They will also be determining how to best use the infield next year.

*Sarah Shea and Molly McClelland*

## SSSNA Annual Summer Picnic



We had an enjoyable neighborhood picnic at Quarry Field in South Side Park on a beautiful summer evening in July. More than 60 neighbors enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers, side dishes – and good fellowship.



A number of new Slopes residents joined us, several with their babies. Representatives from the South Side Young Football team *Sabers* were a welcome addition to this year's festivities.



A good time was had by neighbors new and old--that's part of being a good neighbor in the Slopes.

*Fr. Don Ware, C.P.*

## President's Message



It seems like only yesterday that I was complaining about the heat and how difficult it was living in the un-air conditioned world of the South Side. Last night we closed the windows turned off the fans and pulled up the extra covers.

As the seasons change all the positives of our neighborhood stay the same. We have wonderful neighbors, beautiful views and the good that comes from living in the city on the slopes.

In the last few months we have seen a beautiful community garden at Bandi Schaum field that



If you would like to get involved with the Outreach Committee, please contact Cara Jette: [cara.jette@southsideslopes.org](mailto:cara.jette@southsideslopes.org).

## What is the SSSNA?



SSSNA is **NOT** a government organization! SSSNA – South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association – is a group of neighbors from the Slopes who work together to make our Slopes a flourishing, safe and clean neighborhood.

We want to attract people to live in our Slopes. As good neighbors we want to help each other keep our Slopes attractive and livable. As neighbors we want to help each other with problems that arise like litter and unkempt ugly looking property. That's what good neighbors do.

All those living in the Slopes are members of SSSNA. Our Neighborhood Association is mainly funded by our yearly StepTrek event and by donations from neighbors like you.

For more info on our Association see: [www.southsideslopes.org](http://www.southsideslopes.org).

## Public Relations Volunteer Needed for SSSNA

From the results of our summer survey, it turns out that many neighbors don't fully understand

what the SSSNA is and does. We'd like to change that!

The SSSNA Is looking for a volunteer with public relations experience to work with our Outreach Committee to help get the word out to the Slopes community who we are and what we do.

If anyone can help or know of someone who would be willing to help, please contact: [info@southsideslopes.org](mailto:info@southsideslopes.org)

## Are You Ready for Some Sabers Football?



The Southside Sabers Youth Football and Cheerleading Organization established in 1997, is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization serving nearly 300 youths ages 6-14 from the Hilltop communities: South Side, South Side Slopes, Arlington, Mt. Oliver, Mt. Washington, Carrick and Knoxville. The Sabers are members of the South Suburban Youth Football League (SSYFL).

The Sabers organization includes youths from varied cultures, religions, and economical backgrounds; and is a vital organization to the youth of our high-risk, delinquency involvement communities. Through participation in our organization our youth are taught respect, sportsmanship, discipline, and have the opportunity for personal and social growth.

Our organization consists of six football teams, and five division cheer squads.

Our volunteer staff consists of a board of directors, athletic directors, football and cheer coaches, student coaches and cheer trainers. Coaching and training staff consists of semi-professional, college or high school football players and cheerleaders. It is the dedication of our volunteers that keeps our organization running.

*Nicole Shekell Cole, South Side Sabers*

## **Board of Directors Elections - Tuesday, October 9th**

Elections to the SSSNA Board of Directors will be held at the SSSNA Annual Meeting on Tuesday October 9th. Six of the eleven board positions will be elected at the meeting.

According to SSSNA By-Laws, voting members of the Slopes Association who have attended two (2) meetings in the past year are eligible for nomination to the two year term. Current board members are allowed to seek re-election.

The Officers of the Board must unanimously approve all nominees to be placed on the ballot. (See By-Laws, Article VI, Section 5) If you are interested, please contact current Board President, Paul Lorincy at: paul.lorincy@southsideslopes.org for more information.

### **SSSNA Board of Directors**

*Paul Lorincy, President*

*Brian Oswald, Vice President*

*Pavel Yakovlev, Treasurer*

*Maggie Buck, Secretary*

*Denise Fillip*

*Peter Kreuthmeier*

*Molly McClelland*

*Brad Palmisiano*

*Sarah Shea*

*Fr. Don Ware*

*Mark Zalenchak*

## **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

Need to contact the city about something that's been bothering you, like potholes and graffiti? Call the 311 Response line (alternate number is 412-255-2621). Your request will be logged and sent to the proper department.

Want to contact someone directly? The following list may help.

- \* Mayor's Office (412-255-2626)
- \* Littering (412-255-2621)
- \* State Littering Hotline (1-888-548-8372)
- \* Abandoned Houses (412-255-2175)
- \* Abandoned Cars (412-255-4776)
- \* Weeds/Litter/Bad Sidewalks (412-255-4155)
- \* Building Inspection (412-255-2176)
- \* Public Works Main # (412-255-2790)
- \* Refuse/Recycling (412-255-2773)
- \* Potholes (412-255-2720)
- \* Graffiti Watch (412-496-2272)
- \* Graffiti Busters ((412-255-2872))
- \* Report Graffiti Happening to You (9-1-1)
- \* Report Graffiti in Neighborhood (3-1-1)
- \* Report Mail Box Graffiti (412-359-7845)
- \* City Planning (412-255-2200)
- \* Parking Authority (412-560-7275)
- \* City Council (412-255-2142)
- \* Environmental Services (412-255-2780)
- \* Allegheny County Health Dept. (412-578-8390)
- \* Police, Zone 2 (412-255-2827)
- \* Police, Zone 4 (412-422-6520)
- \* Police, Zone 5 (412-665-3605)

## **Fair Housing Partnership of Greater Pittsburgh**

"Sorry! That unit was just rented." "We prefer not to have kids in this building." "We charge an extra deposit for an emotional support animal." Housing discrimination happens in Pittsburgh, and it is rarely black and white. Do you know your Fair Housing rights?

The Fair Housing Partnership of Greater Pittsburgh (FHP) is reaching out to the South Side

Slopes Neighborhood Association to help us in promoting equal housing choice and opportunity in our community.

FHP is the only organization in Pittsburgh that works as an equal opportunity housing counseling agency, fair housing advocate, and enforcer of federal, state, and local fair housing laws. We work to ensure that our city is a welcoming and equitable home for all—regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Interested in learning more? Schedule an outreach session! FHP outreach sessions provide an overview of fair housing, with emphasis on protected classes, rental rights, and our civil rights enforcement program. Any community group interested in scheduling an FHP outreach session should contact Kaleigh at: 412-391-2535 ext. 213 or by email: [Kaleigh@pittsburghfairhousing.org](mailto:Kaleigh@pittsburghfairhousing.org).

## Help Support the SSSNA

Please help to Support the SSSNA and its mission of *neighbors working together to make the Slopes a more livable, beautiful, and safe community*. Donations are accepted through our website [www.southsideslopes.org](http://www.southsideslopes.org) on the PayPal link on the right side) or you can mail a check to "SSSNA, PO Box 4248, Pittsburgh, PA 15203."

## Slopes in the News

In case you missed the good press our neighborhood is receiving, check out the following:

Diana Nelson Jones, PG, Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> - ***Urban gardeners wanted to make unused plots bloom:***

<http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/neighborhoods-city/urban-gardeners-wanted-to-make-unused-plots-bloom-649302/#ixzz26wsIN0OU>

Diana Nelson-Jones, PG, Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> - ***Walkabout: Stepping right up to celebrate the city's ascenders***

<http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/morning-file/walkabout-stepping-right-up-to-celebrate-the-citys-ascenders-650826/>

## People in our Neighborhood



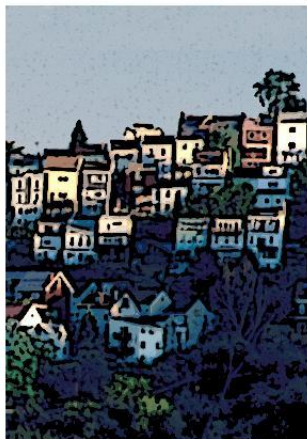
As residents of the Slopes, we know that our best kept secrets are the incredible people we call our own.

We'd like to share the stories of our neighbors in our newsletter and are asking for submissions for the next publication.

Know someone on your block whose story needs to be shared? Contact Molly McClelland at [mmcclelland2414@gmail.com](mailto:mmcclelland2414@gmail.com).



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



SOUTH SIDE  
S L O P E S  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
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PITTSBURGH PA  
PERMIT NO 603

**Mark your calendars:**

October 6<sup>th</sup> StepTrek

October 9<sup>th</sup> General Meeting