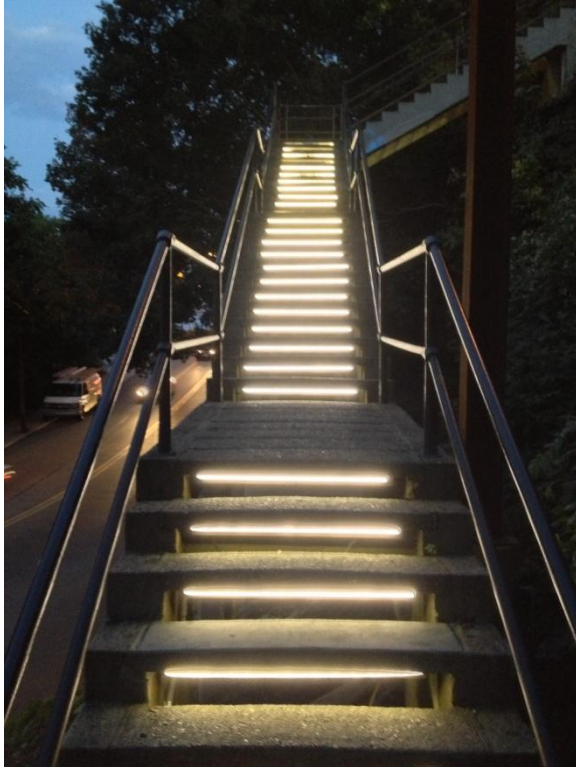


18th Street Lights Mark Gateway to the Slopes



By now you may have seen the results of our 5-year effort to refurbish and illuminate the 18th Street Steps. Projects of this scale, for a non-profit such as our own SSSNA and of course the SSLDC, require an entire hillside of committed and dedicated people. Thank you seems barely adequate, but thank you none the less.

To give you a sense of the challenges for this effort, let's wind back the calendar to 2007 and look at the steps:

1. Find funders/identify structural repairs,
2. Find more funders/make structural repairs,
3. Find volunteers/clean up the site, (this actually happens on a regular basis)

(skipping ahead a little)...

1001. Find more funders/install lights,

1002. Find more funders and more volunteers/maintain the project.

(Perhaps you can detect a pattern here. It has *everything* to do with funders and volunteers.)

The thing is, we still need both to keep the lights on and keep this neighborhood entrance looking its best. Weeds will grow. Litter will collect. Lights will burn out. The good news is: You can make a difference. If you are able to help with cleanup activities, please keep an eye out for e-blasts, the Slopes website, and this newsletter for volunteer opportunities. Help is always needed and always appreciated.

If you can help with ongoing maintenance costs, here's why it is so important: The City of Pittsburgh has graciously agreed to pay the electric bill to light up the steps every night. It's more or less of a streetlight arrangement, though the light fixtures in this case are not a city standard, (they're low-consumption LEDs).

For our part, the SSSNA has agreed to create a special fund to replace the lights as they burn out, and to keep things in working order. This is a big commitment for an all-volunteer organization and we will pursue every avenue we can to hold up our end of the bargain. So please, help support the SSSNA. We'll leave the lights on for you.

Peter Kreuthmeier



Slopes neighbors and friends gather to watch the illumination of the 18th Street steps

StepTrek A Huge Slopes Success



Photo courtesy of Andrew Hallis

On October 6, 2012 the SSSNA hosted our 12th annual Pittsburgh StepTrek. This year we were threatened with a poor weather forecast and rain as we began setting up at 7:00 AM, but as the day progressed the sun crept through the clouds and blessed us with perfect weather. This allowed 946 people to join us that day that may have otherwise stayed dry elsewhere, marking the second largest attended StepTrek attendance in history!

Our attendance combined with our strongest fund raising efforts to date, making 2012 our most financially successful StepTrek. These funds will be utilized by the SSSNA to fund further neighborhood improvement projects, as well as maintaining and repairing previous projects.

This event is no small task as we documented 1045 hours of volunteer efforts! We enjoyed many new attendees and a much wider exposure through bloggers, media, and mayoral recognition. We look forward to bigger successes for the 2013 StepTrek!

Brian Oswald

Save the Date: SSSNA Christmas Party

The annual South Side Slopes Christmas Celebration will be held on December 11th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Monastery. Hope to see you there!

SSSNA Outreach Committee Responds to Survey, Gets Results



Refuse collection and storage was a topic of discussion at our October 9th general meeting. Some residents met with two employees of the Pittsburgh Department of Public Works to clarify the City's refuse violations. Here's what they learned:

1. All refuse must be stored in cans with snug lids. It does not matter if the garbage is on private property or not, it must be stored in cans with lids.
2. If the house does not have outside access from the back to the front, residents are permitted to keep cans in front of the house.
3. Bags are permitted to be placed outside for pickup but only after 6pm the day before collection. However, if an animal chews through the bag and garbage is spread, the resident is responsible for cleanup.
4. The DPW tries very hard to respond to legitimate complaints through 311 that day or the next. If you have a problem with refuse storage on your street, trash bags not in cans or in cans without lids, please call or e-mail 311. ***It will be completely anonymous.***

Allowing violations to continue can create health and safety issues as well as presenting an image of a neglected neighborhood. Do your part. Dial 311!

Congratulations to the New SSSNA Board Officers

The SSSNA Board of Directors elected new officers at its October 30th meeting.

- President – Brian Oswald
- Vice President – Maggie Buck
- Secretary – Jamin Bogi
- Treasurer – Pavel Yokovlev

Congratulations to all the officers, especially Jamin, who was just elected to the board on October. Thank you for your service to our neighborhood.

President's Message

The South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association's board of directors elected me, Brian Oswald, as the new president at our October meeting, and I have some big shoes to fill.

Dr. Paul Lorincy has stepped down from our board after many years of service, and with innumerable successes. We were blessed with his commitment to our neighborhood and I personally am grateful to have learned from his efforts.

I hope to build on the momentum of our last few years to continue improving our neighborhood. In those years I have watched as our active membership group has become larger and younger as we all learn how the SSSNA functions and effects change.

And with the increasing number of young children in the Slopes it will serve us well to continue this progression to ensure that we can keep our youth safe and protected from the ugly side of city life. We can only do this working together for our OWN good.

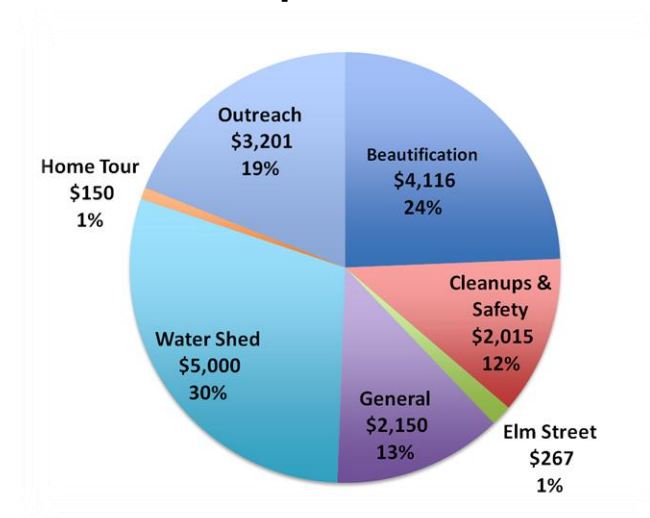
I ask you to familiarize yourself with the City's 311 program and report (repeatedly if needed) any issues within the neighborhood that you wish were not here. It is only through this documenting of unpleasantness that we will shine the light upon it, and the more calls we

neighbors make the brighter that light will be to expose and bring change to our wonderful hillside.

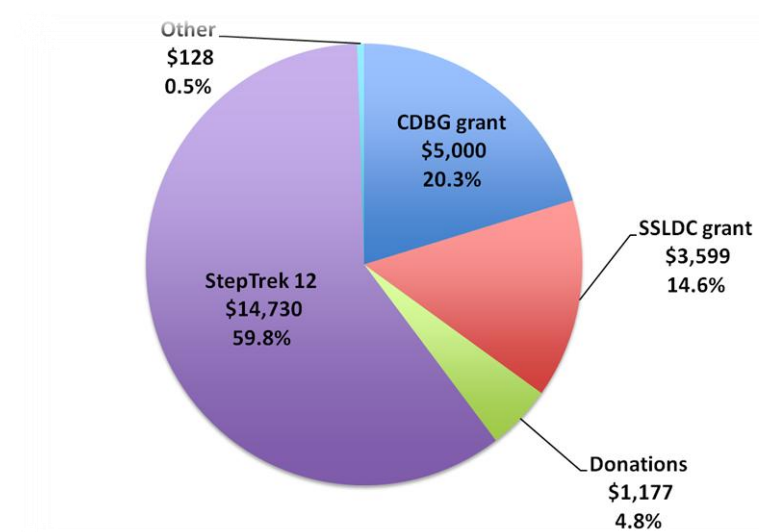
311 is safe and anonymous, nobody will be told who made the call. But by providing your name and contact information it will help the city to pinpoint what you are submitting the claim about.

Brian Oswald, SSSNA President

SSSNA 2012 Expenditures



SSSNA 2012 Income



Snow Angels Volunteers Needed

The time has come, again, to grab your shovels, pull on your boots and lend a helping hand to residents in need! Your service as a Snow Angel last year made a tremendous impact in the lives of your neighbors and residents across the City!

In Winter 2011, Mayor Ravenstahl's call for Snow Angels and recipients was answered with overwhelming enthusiasm. During the initial launch, 187 seniors and disabled residents in need were matched with 81 individual and group volunteers throughout the City. Many volunteers took on multiple houses to ensure that needy residents received help. In just one winter season, Snow Angels volunteers removed over 27,000 square feet of snow!

With the snow season quickly approaching we are in great need of dedicated Snow Angel volunteers! Your continued time and effort will make a great impact in the lives of seniors and disabled residents in need.

To sign up to volunteer as a Snow Angel, to receive Snow Angels services, or to learn more about the program, visit pittsburghpa.gov/snowangels or call 412-255-2280.

If you have any questions or concerns or want to receive a hard copy of the application please call (412) 255 - 2280. Thank you for your service and my team and I look forward to receiving your volunteer application!

Melanie Pfeifferberger, Snow Angel Coordinator

Community Garden at Bandi Schaum Winds Down for the Season



The November 3rd Harvest Party marked the end of the first growing season at the Community Garden at Bandi Schaum. Gardeners came together to eat, chat, and start looking forward to the next year!

If you are a gardener who had a plot for the first year and would like to renew for a second year, contact Sarah at sarah.shea@southsideslopes.org. Sarah has the City Plot agreements that need to be signed in order to renew one's plot for another year! Also, the garden committee is looking for some folks to help with projects at the garden in the coming year! If you are interested in helping please contact Sarah as well!

If you did not garden but are interested in signing up for a plot for 2013, visit www.pittsburghpa.gov/publicworks/gardenplots and fill out the short application.

Sarah Shea

South Side Slopes Playwright Actress

Come out and Support a local artist in her work. Neighbor Tami Dixon lives on the south side Slopes with her husband, Jeffrey Carpenter. They are both stage actors and playwrights who together built the Bricolage Theater Co., best known for the Midnight Radio Series. Tami received a grant and spent the last two years writing her latest offering, "South Side Stories", a play about life in the South Side. The play will be at City Theater starting Saturday Nov. 10 and run through December 16th.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh Invites Veterans to Apply for Outdoor Repairs/Maintenance



With the successful launch of Habitat's Veteran Housing Initiative in March, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh continues to serve those who served our country. Since June 2012, Community Outreach Coordinator and Program Leader Jeremy Martin has raised over \$43,000 for Veterans in our community.

As the program has developed, the word has spread about this first-of-its-kind program in Allegheny County offering Veterans permanent home ownership, exterior home repairs, interior critical home repairs, volunteer opportunities and community reintegration.

Now, with an increase in Veteran volunteer groups interested in a "Veterans Helping Veterans" program, Habitat is seeking Veterans in need of outdoor maintenance work and exterior repairs which include:

- Mowing lawn for Veterans physically unable to
- Brush and debris removal
- Minor painting touchups
- Trimming of bushes and trees
- Minor landscaping

Veterans must follow Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh guidelines including:

- The house must be owned by Veteran or a family member and the Veteran must be occupying the residence as his/her primary residence

- Meet income guidelines (Family of two gross income should be \$13,450-26,880)
- Willing to partner with Habitat including media

On behalf of our staff, partner families, and volunteers, thank you.

Jeremy Martin

Community Outreach & Faith Relations Coordinator

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)

The People in Our Neighborhood



New SSSNA Board member and Secretary, Jamin Bogi, and his wife Ivy

Jamin Bogi, new SSSNA Board Member and Secretary, grew up east of Pittsburgh and left for college, bouncing around the country for a decade until meeting and marrying Ivy Steinberg, who was herself a vagabond of the Mideast.

From South Carolina to Seattle they traveled and were considering living in the Emerald City. Their budget, however, could only procure them a yurt in that expensive market. So before buying llamas, raising wild mushrooms, and disappearing into the woods, Jamin looked at home prices in Pittsburgh, where his father and brother still lived near. They soon decided that Pittsburgh was calling them and a few short months later they were on their way.

They chose the South Side Slopes because it has it all: a quiet neighborhood that is only a ten minute walk from the most bustling business district in the city, the views of Mount Washington, rich history, and the price of a yurt.

Jamin and Ivy bought a home on the eastern side of the Slopes and have spent the last three years messing with it. From uncovering and restoring original heart pine flooring to turning

dirt in an ever-expanding garden, they're using sweat equity to tinker with (and hopefully improve) their property.

They both work at nonprofits in the city. In the evening, Ivy can be seen on stages across the region, performing in Shakespearean tragedies, dinner murder mysteries, and everything in between. Jamin sips whiskey, smokes cigars, and reads as much as he can before his wife gets home from rehearsal. Catch them at Big Dog Coffee, the Beehive, or Carson Street Deli, and say howdy!

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 on the PayPal link on the right side) or you can mail a check to "SSSNA, PO Box 4248, Pittsburgh, PA 15203." You can also access our website via the QR code below:



SSSNA Board of Directors

Brian Oswald, President
Maggie Buck, Vice President
Pavel Yakovlev, Treasurer
Jamin Bogi, Secretary
Denise Fillip
Peter Kreuthmeier
Molly McClelland
Brad Palmisiano
Sarah Shea
Fr. Don Ware
Mark Zalenchak

South Side Slopes Neighborhood

Association: Who Are We and What Do We Do?

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 Step Trek event and by donations from neighbors like you.

What are some of the accomplishments of our Association?

- Newly repaired and lighted steps at the S 18th Street bend at Josephine Street
- Widely praised gateway signage at Brosville/Monastery Streets and the corner garden at Josephine and 18th Streets
- The new public gardens in the South Side Park at Bandi-Schaum Field
- Beautiful flower gardens-The larger gardens are found at Josephine and Greeley Streets, Josephine and Barry Streets (these are Western Conservancy Gardens), Josephine and 18th Streets, Brosville and Monastery Streets, and the 18th Street Steps.
- An ecological study of South Side Park which has yielded results in new footpaths being built and old footpaths being repaired, and work begun on invasive species removal
- Frequent litter pickups, especially on Josephine St, 18th Street and Brosville Street
- A yearly StepTrek event – This year over 900 people participated. They toured our lovely neighborhoods, enjoyed our views of Pittsburgh and met our friendly neighbors.
- Keeping an eye on new developments on our Slopes along with zoning and parking issues.
- Logged over 3,000 volunteer hours in 2012

Why not come to one of our meetings – our next gathering will be our Christmas Party at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center on Tuesday, December 11th, at 7:00 PM... Food and refreshments will be available. Meet the neighbors and enjoy some good time together.

For more info on our Association see:

www.southsideslopes.org.

Fr. Don Ware, C.P.



Slopes in the News

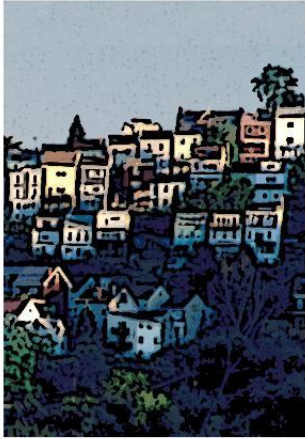
In case you missed the good press our neighborhood is receiving, check out the following:

Tory N. Parrish, Trib, October 5, 2012 - ***South Side staircase comes alive with light***
<http://triblive.com/news/allegHENY/2718100-74/south-slopes-street-lighting-project-steps-dyda-neighborhood-steel-development#axzz2CszQAc4r>

Joe Smydo, PG, October 7, 2012 - ***Pittsburgh StepTrek provides a different view of city***
<http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/neighborhoods-city/pittsburgh-steptrek-provides-a-different-view-of-city-656542/>

Bill O'Driscoll, City Paper, November 7, 2012 ***Tami Dixon's "South Side Stories" honors a neighborhood's survivors***
<http://www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/tami-dixons-south-side-stories-honors-a-neighborhoods-survivors/Content?oid=158549>

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



SOUTH SIDE
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NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

www.SouthSideSlopes.org

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Mark your calendars:

December 11th Christmas Celebration