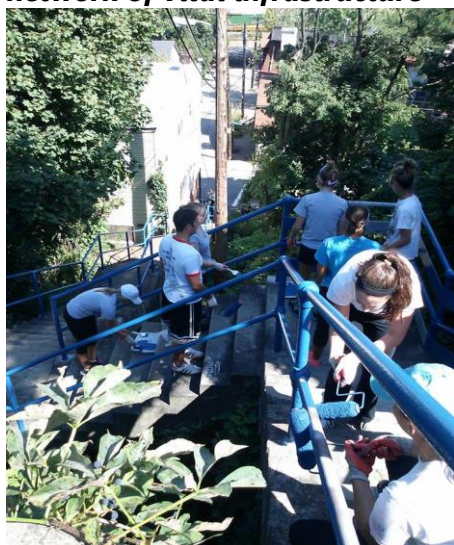


## **SOUTH SIDE SLOPES RECEIVES \$100K TO EVALUATE, REPAIR PUBLIC STEPS**

***Allegheny County grant will strengthen  
network of vital infrastructure***



Pittsburgh, PA—On June 20, 2014, the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association (SSSNA) was awarded \$100,000 from Allegheny County's Community Infrastructure and Tourism Fund for the rehabilitation of public steps in the neighborhood. The grant will allow the SSSNA to complete an engineering study of the neighborhood's stairways, prioritize repairs, and rehabilitate some sets of steps. The South Side Slopes has 68 sets of public steps, the most of any neighborhood in Pittsburgh.

"The steps are the bones of the Slopes," said Brian Oswald, association President. "They connect the thousands of residents in the Slopes to the East Carson business district, to bus lines, and to the parks throughout the neighborhood. Life would be a lot harder in the Slopes without these steps."

Oswald added, "Walk-able neighborhoods are highly coveted, across the country. Keeping our walking infrastructure in good repair means our

neighborhood will hold and grow its value. This grant is good for our neighbors, good for business, and good for the city."

Over the last few years, the SSSNA has secured hundreds of thousands of dollars in private and municipal grants for improvements to the public steps. Volunteers have spent countless hours painting handrails, cutting back overgrowth, and picking up litter along the stairways. Proof that the community values these steps is given each year during StepTrek, a self-guided tour of the neighborhood that attracts around one thousand participants. StepTrek 2014 is scheduled for Saturday October 4



Work will start soon, with the study of the eastern Slopes. All studies and funded repairs will be completed by June 2016.

The South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association works to "maintain, foster and improve the quality of life, safety and unity of our Slopes neighborhood."

The Community Infrastructure and Tourism Fund provides "financial assistance to entities to facilitate economic development through infrastructure assistance, stabilize or correct existing infrastructure problems, or plan and prepare sites and buildings for future use."

## Nextdoor.com Connects Slopes Residents



Nextdoor.com is a free, private social media site that is localized to the neighborhood in which you live in, in this case the South Side Slopes. The premise of the website is to build safer, stronger communities by connecting people who live in the same neighborhood as each other.

Today, only about 25% of people actually know who lives directly next door to them. With technology filling our lives, people have become much more comfortable socializing in front of computer screens. I am guilty of it as well; we all have our online identities. Nextdoor was built with that in mind and the idea is to start an online connection with the hopes of the relationship building into a personal, ever-lasting human connection.

On our Nextdoor site, in the Slopes, people are posting things like organizing walks through South Side Park, creating gardening and wine groups, posting information about missing pets in the area as well as houses that are for sale. I have personally used it to borrow my neighbor's extension cord and to help a neighbor look for his lost dog.

Our neighborhood is growing quite quickly on the site, too, a few weeks ago we hit fifty users and now we are on the cusp of one hundred!

This may have happened due to the fact that a few weeks ago Nextdoor launched an official partnership with the city of Pittsburgh. This connected the Mayor's office, the Public Works department and the Pittsburgh Police to the site. They will each be able to post information to your feed regarding crime alerts, weather alerts, or just general information that would be important for residents of Pittsburgh to know about.



Since privacy is a huge part of the Nextdoor experience these departments will not be able to see the content being posted in your own neighborhood, in fact, only people who live in the Slopes can see what is being posted in the Slopes. There is a secure verification process that you must go through to sign up for the site. This involves giving your name, email address as well as your home address when signing up. Nextdoor then verifies that you live in your given neighborhood by asking you to supply proof. Something like a credit card bill that is tied to your address, or perhaps a landline, they will call you for free to have you verify your address. My personal favorite is Nextdoor will mail you a postcard to your address with a verification code for you to prove your residency within a neighborhood, how old school!

I would say give it a try, meet the people who help build our community, invite them over for a BBQ, because really, neighborhoods were the original social network. Hope to see you around the 'hood!

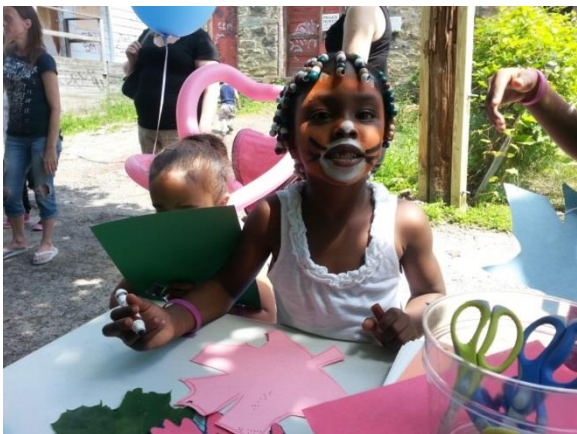


## SSSNA Participates in 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hilltop Community Day Block Party



On Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hilltop Community Day Block Party was held in the 400 block of Brownsville Road. The SSSNA joined other community organizations to include the Hilltop YMCA, the Pittsburgh Christian Fellowship, the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the Beltzhoover Civic Association and the Allentown Community Development Corporation, among others to show support for the Hilltop communities and their residents.

SSSNA Board Member, Molly McClelland, spoke to neighbors about efforts and events in South Side Park, while crafting leaf necklaces with Hilltop children. Volunteers were solicited to participate in upcoming events and work days in the park.



## Interested In Advertising?

Each edition of the *Slopes Quarterly* reaches nearly 2,000 residents and businesses. If you are interested in advertising with us, please contact Molly McClelland at [mmcclelland2414@gmail.com](mailto:mmcclelland2414@gmail.com)

## 2014 Day of Giving



The SSSNA would like to extend a special thank you to Bob and Betty Kripp, Cara Jette, Jonathan Growell, Kristin Raup, Lee Ann Draud, and Margaret Sullivan who donated to us during the Pittsburgh Foundation's May 6th Day of Giving. Their donations along with matching funds from the Pittsburgh Foundation raised \$255 for the Association. This money allows us to continue to work on such projects as trail building in South Side Park, the community garden at Bandi Schaum Field, litter and illegal dump cleanups and much more.

If you would like to make a donation to the Slopes Association visit [www.southsideslopes.org](http://www.southsideslopes.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." You can also access our website via the QR code above.

*Dear Fellow South Side Slopes Residents...*



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**Mark Your Calendar: South Side Slopes Annual Summer Picnic, July 8<sup>th</sup> at Quarry Field, South Side Park, 6:30-9 p.m.**



Please join us for this fun, community building, annual event. Hot dogs and burgers will be provided. Please bring a favorite dish, snack, desert, or beverage to share with your neighbors.

**President's Message:  
 Welcome to Summer in the Slopes!**



Summer in the Slopes is my favorite time of year. The deep freeze is a distant memory, spring chores are finishing up, and the neighborhood is coming to full life. I encourage all of you to get out and enjoy our unique neighborhood this summer with our many amenities. Take a walk on any of our historic staircases, visit the community garden on Bandi Schaum Field, explore South Side Park, take a bike ride down to the Riverfront Trails, or just get to know your neighbors.

Our neighborhood is a diverse population of people sharing the streets, sidewalks, and stairs; take advantage of getting to know some of these people and you will be amazed at what you learn. In getting to know each other we will gain respect that will make interacting so much more enjoyable.

If you are concerned with the new batch of students that have moved in down the street, take the opportunity to meet with them now and have a positive interaction. Remember these are our neighbors for at least the next year, educating them on when trash day is, how to park without losing your mirror, and letting them know there are neighbors involved in the area will go a long way to make good neighbors.



Last but not least, come enjoy the Slopes annual Summer Picnic on July 8 at Quarry Field... and invite your neighbors.

### SSSNA Board of Directors

*Brian Oswald, President*  
*Maggie Buck, Vice President*  
*Pavel Yakovlev, Treasurer*  
*Jamin Bogi, Secretary*  
*Cara Jette*  
*Denise Fillip*  
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*Peter Kreuthmeier*  
*Molly McClelland*  
*Brad Palmisiano*  
*Sarah Shea*



[www.facebook.com/SouthSideSlopes](http://www.facebook.com/SouthSideSlopes)



[twitter.com/sssna](https://twitter.com/sssna)

### National Trails Day Marked in South Side Park

On Saturday, June 7th, over 25 volunteers gathered to celebrate National Trails Day in South Side Park. The event, led by Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy in partnership with Mount Washington CDC, Student Conservation Association, and the SSSNA worked to remove weeds, beautify the Quarry Field trailhead and begin clearing for trail re-routes. Beginning in July, Emerald Trail Corps will begin 3 weeks of work to stabilize and improve the trail system between Quarry Field and the Bandi Shaum Community Garden.



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### Call for Submissions

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).

## The People in Our Neighborhood

### Jamie Earl and Sue Banks



Jamie Earl and Sue Banks moved to the Slopes from S. 12th St. on the Flats in October of 2013, lucky to get the last house on Cobden Street bordering on South Side Park. Everyone they know from across the country is very envious of the view (of which they post pictures to Facebook constantly).

They moved to Pittsburgh in September of 2012 from Portland, OR for Sue's awesome job – that of Deputy Director of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. In Portland, she was the Director of the Central Library of Multnomah County Library and Jamie worked, as he works now, remotely in Tech Support for Car-Part.com, a software company based in Northern Kentucky that puts the inventory of auto salvage yards on the web for businesses and consumers.

Sue and Jamie met at a program at the Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Public Library in KY and married in 2008. Jamie is a native of the Binghamton, NY area and Sue of the greater Cincinnati area, although she lived in a number of cities across the US over the course of her checkered careers in professional theatre, the community arts and libraries. Both are so happy to have finally found their forever home in Pittsburgh and the South Side Slopes.

### Antoinette Palmieri and Ben G Wilczynski



Antoinette Palmieri and Ben G Wilczynski moved from Arlington, VA to Pittsburgh, and the South Side, in January 2013. They currently live on Gregory Street, not far from UUBU 6. They are both avid restaurant- and theater-goers, and love how much there is to do and see in Pittsburgh.

Antoinette grew up in Irwin, in Westmoreland County. She has fond memories of Christmas shopping in downtown Pittsburgh in the late '80s and early '90s, meeting under the Kaufmann's Clock, and watching the lighting of the Horne's Christmas Tree.

Antoinette, or "Nettie", attended California University of Pennsylvania for both her Bachelor's degree in History and her Master's degree in Multimedia Technology. During her time at Cal U, she enjoyed researching local history at the Heinz History Museum.

Nettie worked in Alexandria, VA as the sommelier (wine director) for a French bistro. Currently, she tweets for the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, and loves exploring the restaurants and theaters of Pittsburgh.

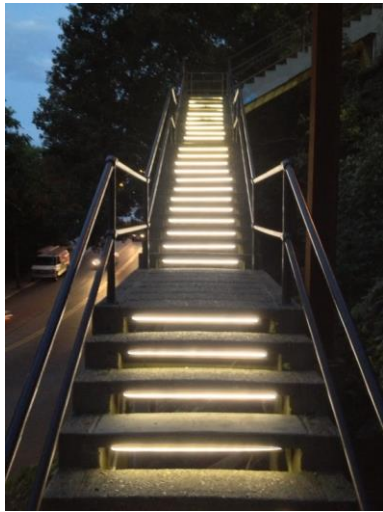
Ben G Wilczynski spent ten years in Arlington, VA, but is originally from the Detroit area. He graduated from Michigan State University's James

Madison College with a degree in International Relations, which he has never used, not even to win arguments.

Ben works in real estate and title insurance consulting, but has a difficult time describing his job, because it is rather complicated and extremely boring. Suffice to say that he works from home most of the time, so if you're misbehaving on Gregory Street, he's probably got an eye on you.





Ben is passionate about public transit, smart development, the future of America's cities, and drinking really good booze.

## Slopes' Stairways Make Front Page of Wall Street Journal




On June 9<sup>th</sup>, the Wall Street Journal ran a front page story which gave our neighborhood's steps a piece of the national media spotlight. In an article titled, "In Pittsburgh, Residents Are Divided on What to Do About Famous Staircases," SSSNA Board President and steps advocate, Brian Oswald, weighs in on the benefits of this unique Slopes fixture. In case you missed it, you can find the article online at the following link:

<http://m.us.wsj.com/articles/in-pittsburgh-residents-are-divided-on-what-to-do-about-famous-staircases-1402366559?mobile=y>

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**Mark your calendars:**

7/8-Annual Picnic-Quarry Field; 6:30-9:00 p.m.