

President's Message

Hi neighbors,

A few months into 2017 and it's time to start thinking about the warm weather that's just around the corner. Mother Nature has been teasing us, for sure! Cleaning up, planting a garden, getting out and about to see neighbors and friends again are just some of the things we can look forward to in the coming weeks and months.

Many in our community have been keeping busy through the winter and planning for the coming year. There are some exciting things happening.....residents of Cobden Street have been awarded a "Love Your Block" (Resilient) Grant (see p. 3) that will fund improvements to the Cobden Street Park and jump start other projects including a community garden.; a yummy new addition to the Slopes is ThreeFifty° Bakery (see p. 4) has taken residence on 18th Street for their wholesale bakery venture and is planning to open to the public (retail) later this year; and, neighbors are organizing to work with city officials and others to identify and track code violations through the South Watch initiative (see p. 7).

To help keep the momentum going, we'll be holding a South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association (SSSNA) general meeting on Tuesday, March 14 at 7 p.m. at the Henry Kaufmann House (2201 Salisbury St.). In an effort to hold our meetings in the Slopes, we're testing out this new location due to scheduling conflicts at St. Paul's Monastery. It's open to all Slopes residents. I look forward to seeing you there!



Thanks and Happy Spring!

Kristin Raup

President, South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association



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General Meeting

Tuesday, March 14 at 7 p.m.

**HENRY KAUFMANN HOUSE
2201 Salisbury Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15210**

"Neighbors working together to make the Slopes a more livable, beautiful, and safe community."

SOUTH SIDE SLOPES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

www.southsideslopes.org

OpenStreetsPGH comes to the South Side on May 28

The Open Streets movement is sweeping the globe and is entering its third year here in Pittsburgh! In its first year, OpenStreetsPGH included the neighborhoods of Downtown, the Strip District and Lawrenceville. Last year it expanded again into the Northside and the West End. And, this year it will include a loop in Uptown and the South Side on Sunday, May 28!

Haven't been to an OpenStreetsPGH? Organized by BikePGH, OpenStreetsPGH is an all-inclusive, family-friendly event, in which a few miles of streets are closed for good, healthy fun. While businesses bring their food and fares to the sidewalks, friends from near and far use the street to walk, run, skate, bike, dance and exercise in a car-free environment!

The South Side Chamber of Commerce and South Side Smart Streets have made it their mission to bring this fun and exciting event to E. Carson Street this year. In 2016, the Memorial Day weekend event drew over 20,000 people to the streets of Lawrenceville. This year, we are bringing them to the South Side to check out our businesses and our historic district, and experience our neighborhood from a whole new perspective.

During the event, E. Carson St. will be closed to cars from 4 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., however, key intersections will remain open. Check out the map at openstreetspgh.org. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the event, you may contact SSSNA board member, Elizabeth Heidenreich, at SSSmartStreets@gmail.com.

Save the date — May 28, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. — to bring your running shoes, bicycles, skates, yoga mats, etc. down the hillside for OpenStreetsPGH! If you want to get involved or learn more, go to: openstreetspgh.org.



Left and above: OpenStreets-goers enjoying previous events in Downtown and the Strip District.

What is the Pittsburgh Land Bank? Attend March 20 Meeting to Find Out

Want to learn more about the Pittsburgh Land Bank and review the policies and procedures that will guide how it works? Mark your calendar and RSVP for the upcoming meeting **Monday, March 20** from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at St. Paul AME Church, 400 Orchard Pl., Pittsburgh, PA 15210.

The input from this meeting will be collected for the PLB Board to review as they finalize the policies and procedures posted at pghlandbank.org. If you cannot make this meeting, visit pghlandbank.org for additional dates and locations, or to leave comments.

PITTSBURGH LAND BANK COMMUNITY MEETING

Date: Monday, March 20 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Location: St. Paul AME Church, 400 Orchard Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15210

“Love Your (Resilient) Block” Grant Awarded

Members of the Cobden Street Block Watch submitted and were awarded a “Love Your Resilient Block” grant from the City of Pittsburgh in February. The plan includes creating a crushed limestone area with two picnic tables and a post grill in the Cobden Street Park - between Cologne and Sumner Streets at the east end of Cobden.

Cobden Street residents Jessica Benham and Karl Norman and Jamie Earl and Susan Banks wrote the project proposal and plan to donate time and resources for the creation of a community vegetable garden in the space.

This project addresses the chronic stresses outlined in the Preliminary Resilience Assessment conducted by the City: mobility and transportation access, food



Above: Residents a enjoy a picnic at the Cobden Street Park last summer.

insecurity, economic and racial inequity, environmental degradation. In the economically and racially diverse community of Cobden Street and environs, this community gathering place and garden will put those resources within walking distance of the neighborhood’s seniors and people with mobility challenges. Other local parks and gardening resources are difficult to reach from this part of the Slopes, via any mode of transportation.

The opportunities for engagement among the residents — around the high-intensity community garden plot as well as the picnic space and park grill — will allow for informal learning about food self-sufficiency and preparation. Food and food traditions provide a platform from which to bridge socioeconomic, cultural and racial gaps. The creation of the space and ongoing use and maintenance of the garden should serve as a concrete and accessible way for the diverse members of the community to interact in constructive ways.

Residents of Cobden Street, Berg Street, and other neighbors enjoy gathering for potlucks during the summer, but the park is ill-equipped to handle such events. Residents have also expressed a desire for a community vegetable garden, and the Block Watch hopes to build community connections through this part of the project.

You’re invited to join us for our first volunteer day to begin work on the picnic area and community garden on Saturday, May 20 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Rain date is Saturday, May 27 at the same time.

If you would like more information about the Cobden Street Park improvements, please contact Jamie Earl at Jamie.earl@outlook.com 412.709.6731 or Jess Benham at jessicalbenham@gmail.com.

The Slopes: A Welcoming Neighborhood to All

In light of the current social and political climate, the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association (SSSNA) board wanted to take a moment and talk about our community and how we perceive our role in it. Our association, with the help of many residents and volunteers over the years, has been able to accomplish a number of projects that have added to the South Side's rich history. A smattering of these include:

- Lobbying to acquire new, smaller fire engines to fit on our streets,
- Creating and maintaining beautiful gardens at Barry and Greeley Streets,
- Creating and running the yearly "StepTrek" - showcasing our neighborhood through a unique walking tour of the Slopes, and
- Working with multiple organizations to create the South Side Park.

These were possible because of the support and collaboration of SSSNA's members, neighbors, and local government officials. We could not be more proud of the number of beautification, advocacy, and public

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: THREEFIFTY° BAKERY



L to R: Jane Crawford and Barbara Reale, and Barb's son and helper, Jake!

THREEFIFTY° BAKERY has moved to the Slopes! After a extensive build out process, owners Jane Crawford and Barbara Reale (both Slopes residents) have converted the garage space at 2427 S. 18th St. into a commercial kitchen with a storefront that they plan to open in Fall 2017.

Threefifty° specializes in classic comforts that range from scones to cookies to triple layer cakes, and all of their treats are made with locally sourced and organic ingredients whenever possible. Started as a wholesale bakery, Threefifty° currently serves several coffee shops and restaurants in the Pittsburgh area including these local businesses: Piper's Pub, Big Dog Coffee, Carson St. Deli, Urban Tap and Black Forge Coffeehouse.

Thankfully, they also take retail orders through their website and cater local events! Contact them today.

ThreeFifty° Bakery | 2427 S. 18th Street, Pittsburgh, PA | 412-390-1940 | www.threefiftypgh.com

Do you have or know of a Slopes-based business OR a Slopes resident with a business in Flats that we could feature in a future newsletter? Email us: newsletter@southsideslopes.org.

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safety projects we have completed and are gearing up for more in 2017!

That being said, at a recent board meeting we reflected on the best way to use our platform to ensure that SSSNA is welcoming and reflective of all of our neighbors - including all races, genders and gender identities, religions, nationalities, sexual orientation and political ideology.

If you go back far enough, as Pittsburgh started into an industrial boom, the South Side and the Slopes were home to immigrants who were working at the J&L Steel Company, which employed more than 15,000 workers. Many of them came from European nations, such as Poland, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Ukraine, Greece, and Italy - in addition to China and beyond. Our rich history was fostered, and remains in place today, thanks in large part to the immigrants who wanted to preserve and share their native cultures and languages. We have them to thank for the wonderful bounty of bars and churches that dot our South Side skyline.

More recently, the population of our community has begun to decline since 1940. It's important, now more than ever, that we continue our mission of working together as neighbors to make the Slopes a more livable, beautiful and welcoming community. This includes actively reaching out to potential new neighbors and helping them transition to our neighborhood. It also means that we need to make sure we're taking care of the neighbors who already live here, and that we're doing our best to ensure that everyone benefits from the high quality of life and opportunities offered in the Slopes.

So what does this look like? In addition to continuing our work in many of the areas identified above, we also going to be embarking on a "Back to Basics" approach in the SSSNA. This could range from "Welcome to the Neighborhood" packages for new arrivals to the Slopes - to community meetings that help neighbors prepare for the unexpected (ex: PWSA water pipes bursting).

We're open to suggestions and welcome your input! Pittsburgh was built, quite literally, on the backs of people who wanted to better their lives and the lives of their families - each with a different story, experience and background. Critical to our success is the principle to begin all of our work from a place of inclusion and commitment to help each other. Our strength lies in our differences, not our similarities.

Thank you for being a valued member of our community.

Contributed by Blake McLaren, SSSNA Board Member

SOUTH SIDE SLOPES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 7 p.m.

Henry Kaufmann House [2201 Salisbury Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15210]

All residents of the South Side Slopes are invited!

Scenes from the South Side Slopes Holiday Party...

On a snowy December 13, 2016, neighbors and friends came together to celebrate the season at St. Paul's of the Cross Monastery.

Here are some snapshots of the enjoyable evening:



South Watch: A New Initiative

Over the last year, residents from the South Side Flats and Slopes have been working on a public safety/code compliance initiative that is patterned after Oakwatch (in the Oakland neighborhood) whose mission is to improve the quality of life by bringing people and institutions together to identify code violations, advocate for their remediation and monitor the outcomes.

Oakwatch suggested to the South Side group that what worked for them was monthly meetings where city officials, university representatives and residents work together in an organized way and made progress in achieving positive results in their neighborhood.

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The meeting agendas will include property progress reports (those that have been referred via 311 for code violations), as well as reports from Pittsburgh Parking Authority, Zone 3 police officers, and city representatives from Environmental Services and Permits, Licenses and Inspections (PLI) who will provide updates on the properties listed in violation. Additionally, representatives from Duquesne University, the Mayor's office, city council and state offices will also be in attendance and share pertinent information.

South Side (Flats and Slopes) residents are invited to attend to stay informed of the process on Wednesday of each month at the Brashear Association located at 2005 Sarah Street. The meetings will alternate monthly between noon and 6p.m.

Members of the South Watch initiative will present information about the program at the next SSSNA meeting on Tuesday, March 14 at 7 p.m. at the Henry Kaufmann House (2201 Salisbury Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15210).

Portions of this article have been reprinted from the South Pittsburgh Reporter.

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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."

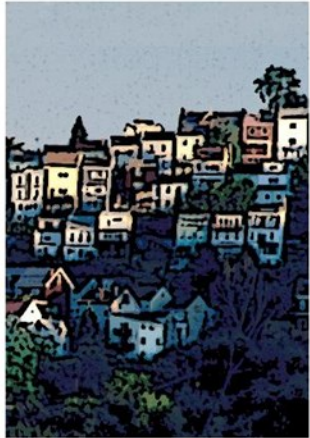
Donations are accepted through our website: southsideslopes.org (click on the PayPal link).

To donate with a check, please make it out to SSSNA, and mail it to: SSSNA, P.O. Box 4248, Pittsburgh, PA 15203.

Access our website with your smartphone using the QR code to the right.



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



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS—2017

- Tuesday, March 14 — General Meeting at 7p.m. (Henry Kaufmann House, 2201 Salisbury St.) *NEW LOCATION!
- Monday, March 20 — Pittsburgh Land Bank Meeting at 6:30p.m. (Paul AME Church, 400 Orchard Pl.)
- Saturday, April 1 - South Side Spring Social from 5-9p.m. (Steel Cactus, 19th & Carson Sts., 2nd floor) Benefits South Side Park
- Sunday, April 2 — South Side Park Clean-up at 10a.m. (Bandi Schaum Community Garden, South Side Park)
- Tuesday, May 8 — General Meeting (Location: TBD)

To stay informed on these and all upcoming events, please sign up to receive our eblast by visiting:

www.southsideslopes.org/contact

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