

SOUTH SIDE SLOPES TODAY

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE SOUTH SIDE SLOPES
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Meetings & Events 2022

May 10 - Community Meeting

@ Bandi Schaum Garden

July 12 - Picnic @ Bandi Schaum

Oct. 5 - StepTrek

Oct. 12 - Community Meeting

Dec. 14 - Holiday Party

All Slopes residents welcome!

Visit southsideslopes.org
for times and updates.

Hello neighbors!

As the warm weather returns, we hope to see you out and about whether in South Side Park, at StepTrek, during a neighborhood cleanup event or just walking down the street. We look forward to connecting with you very soon! -SSSNA

Do have kids in the Slopes? You need to be a part of South Side Kids!

SUBMITTED BY CLAIRE PRO, SOUTH SIDE KIDS

Launched in 2018 by a local, new parent, South Side Kids is a social group located in Pittsburgh's South Side neighborhoods that serves as a resource for parents and caregivers to stay connected. It works as a support system bringing awareness to the growing number of families raising little yinzers dahn sahside.



Since its inception, South Side Kids has created a variety of activities for kids and caregivers to enjoy. From free pumpkins to Santa Claus visits to rock art to the Trick or Treat Map, this group works to attract and retain families in our area.

The group received media attention in early 2020 for the South Side Bear Hunt. Adapted from the book *We're Going on A Bear Hunt*, residents around every corner adorned stuffed animals to their windows and doors giving the kids something to "hunt" for while walking around the neighborhood. Following the success of the Bear Hunt, South Side Kids launched the Art Rock Snake at the base of the Iron Workers sculpture by the river, the successful art installation attracted Pittsburghers from all over. The snake was recently adopted by Pittsburgh Phillips Elementary and is on display in their kids garden.

South Side Kids is continually working to provide new and fun opportunities to our community. To learn more about the group or to get involved follow along at <http://www.facebook.com/SouthSideKidsPGH> or email southsidekidspgh@gmail.com. Here are some weekly events for South Side families:

- **Paintastic** @ Ormsby Recreation Center for kids ages 9-12 every Tuesday from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.
- **Kids Club** @ South Side Library for kids in grades K-5 every 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 4:30 to 5 p.m.
- **Story Time** @ South Side Library every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to noon.
- **Kindersports** @ Ormsby Recreation Center for kids age 5 and under every Friday from noon to 1 p.m.
- **PeeWee Basketball** @ Ormsby Recreation Center for kids ages 3-6 every Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon.

Get outside! South Side Park is waiting for you

SUBMITTED BY KITTY VAGLEY, MEMBER OF FRIENDS OF SOUTH SIDE PARK (FOSSPark)



This time of year is a perfect time to explore South Side Park. If you're not sure where it is, Google it....it's closer than you think! (and, there is a lot to see and enjoy). Read on to find out what is happening in the park.

- **Trail development** - An accessible, ADA trail near Bandi Schaum Community Garden is currently going through City approval process. LaQuatra Bonci Associates designed the trail and is guiding FOSSPark through the process. Friends of South Side Park is currently fundraising to construct the trail. To donate, visit FOSSPark.org/donate.
- **Park reforestation** - In Jurassic Valley and in the wooded area to the west of the Valley is ongoing. There has been considerable tree loss in the wooded area in recent years. To counter that, since 2018, 467 trees and shrubs have been planted in the park. Your help is needed to help manage the areas that have been previously cleared of invasive plants. Could you be a weekly volunteer? Email us at info@FOSSPark.org for more information.
- **Tree planting** - TreeVitalize awarded the park 20 landscape-size trees for planting this spring, including five redbuds for Bandi Schaum Drive. Planting day is Saturday, April 30. To help with.
- **GOAT FEST 2022** - This year's event is happening Saturday, July 30 at the Arlington Ballfield behind the Arlington Fire Station, from noon to 4 p.m. Live music, food trucks, youth activities and the not-to-be-missed Allegheny GoatScape goats are part of the fun. Please consider helping make this event a success by donating dollars and/or time! Find out more at FOSSPark.org/goatfest. Email us at info@FOSSPark.org.
- **Tree News** - Visual artists Erin Mallea and Paper Buck moved to Pittsburgh in 2016 to attend Carnegie Mellon's MFA in Visual Art Program. As artists, their individual and collaborative work is rooted in site-specific research approaching land, ecology and place as social sculptures and archives of relation. In 2020, they began Tree News, a newsletter focused on tree and forest stories as entry points to conversations about climate change adaptation, ecological orientations in art practice and environmental justice. South Side Park became their neighborhood park while in the studio at the Brewhouse Association. Read the Tree News article inspired by South Side Park:
 - <http://treenews.info/issues/Tree-News-Issue-2-Feb-2022.pdf>.

EVERY third Saturday, park volunteers are in the park working from 9 a.m. to noon. Consider joining us! Email for details: info@FOSSPark.org.

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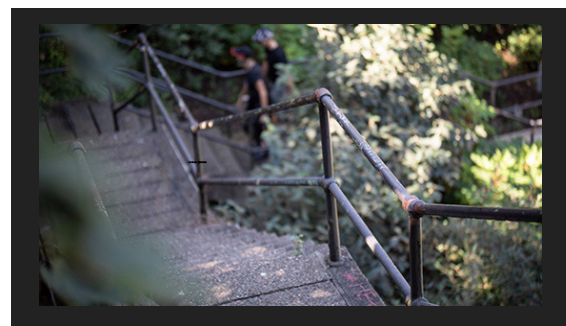


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Adopt-a-Step in 2022

SUBMITTED BY LUCIA SANCHEZ MADRIGAL, SSSNA VICE PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Would you like to help with cleanups but seem to always be busy when they're scheduled?**
- **Would you prefer to help with trash pickups closer to your home?**



We got you covered! The Adopt-A-Step program debuted in Summer 2020 and organizes neighbors who would like to adopt a set of steps by committing to keeping a set of steps clean and free of trash and weeds through the spring-summer-fall season.

If you are interested, please email Lucia Sanchez at lucia.sanchez@southsideslopes.org. Include your contact information and set of steps you would like to adopt. You can also sign up here: southsideslopes.org/adoptstep2022

Gathering to garden: Register for a plot

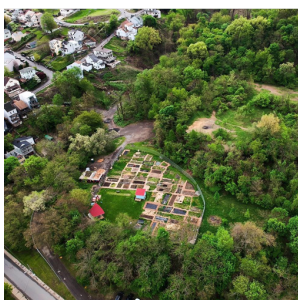
*SUBMITTED BY DONNA TARKETT,
SLOPES RESIDENT AND BANDI SCHAUM
COMMUNITY GARDEN STEWARD*

Another season is starting at the Bandi Schaum Community Garden in the heart of South Side! Our garden has 84 plots and is on the site of the old Bandi Schaum baseball field. The gardeners are excited to get their hands in the dirt! It's the start of a new 3-yr cycle for those who are licensed to have a plot at the garden.

We've lost some old friends and are gaining new ones! We're happy for the people who have been on the waiting list and now will get a chance to be a part of this great community of gardeners. This year's season opens with a general meeting in April and then the planting will begin! You still have a chance to get a plot since sometimes gardeners decide not to stay. If you are interested in being a part of the community, fill out the application form at <https://pittsburghpa.gov/dpw/garden-plots-form> and get on the waiting list!

Even if you're not a gardener, visit our beautiful gardens and sit and relax for a while this summer! There's almost always someone there to welcome you in.

Please reach out to Donna at bandischaum@gmail.com with any questions.



Get active! Join Pittsburgh Sports League

*SUBMITTED BY GREG MITRIK, PSL DIRECTOR,
PITTSBURGH SPORTS LEAGUE*



The Pittsburgh Sports League, better known as the PSL, is an adult, co-gender sports league housed within the nonprofit organization PUMP. The PSL offers many ways for residents to get involved including sports leagues ranging from indoor sports like basketball and volleyball to outdoor sports like softball and kickball and bar sports like cornhole and bowling.

Additionally, we host stand-alone events and tournaments as well. With a wide range of activities to get involved with, the PSL welcomes all adults 18 and older to sign up.

Current and upcoming opportunities:

- PSL spring/summer leagues.
- Service projects.
- Play solo pick-up nights.
- Tournaments and golf outings.
- Advocacy events.

For more information and to sign up, go to our website at www.pump.org. Or send an email to greg@pump.org with any questions.



SEPTREK 2022
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5
SEPTREK.ORG

Check out 350° Bakery: Your sweet tooth will thank you!



You've probably spotted 350° Bakery while driving up 18th, but did you know their shop is now open 5 days a week? This small business has been part of the Slopes community for years (both owners are residents!), and they specialize in amazing scratch-made sweet and savory baked goods.

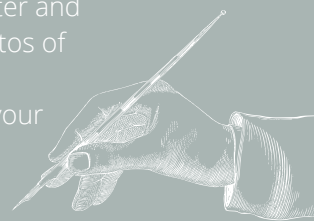
350° Bakery began over 10 years ago as a small venture between two friends. Over the decade it has transformed into a multi-faceted business with a busy retail store, 25 local wholesale customers, and 10 full-time employees (several are hilltop residents!) They understand the importance of quality and use only the best ingredients, many from local farms and other small businesses. Bestsellers include their cinnamon rolls, biscuit sandwiches, savory handpies and strawberry puff tarts; but they also pride themselves on their cakes, pies and classic cookies. Everything is scratch-made with real ingredients, so you really can't go wrong with whatever you choose.

350° Bakery is open Wednesday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturday - Sunday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Stop in for breakfast or some sweet treats, or call to preorder a cake for your next celebration!

Do you like to write, take photos or have mad graphic design skills?

The South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association is looking for help with this newsletter and website content development. If you're interested in writing stories and/or taking photos of people, events and interesting sites in the neighborhood, we'd love to chat with you. Although this is an unpaid, volunteer opportunity, please consider donating some of your time and skills to helping connect our community!

Email us at newsletter@southsideslopes.org for more information.



Greetings from State Representative Jessica Benham



Hello South Side Slopes residents! If we haven't met, my name is Jessica Benham and I have the honor of serving as your state representative in Harrisburg. Additionally, I have the greater honor of being your neighbor as this May will mark my 6th as a Slopes resident. If you see me out and about don't be afraid to say hello! Especially if it's at a neighborhood cleanup event, the summer picnic or (my favorite) Step Trek. My office also hosts a variety of events, so keep an eye out for upcoming shredding events, health fairs, blood drives and more.

If you or a loved one need help with any state-related matters, my office is here for you. Just some of these include: car registrations, unemployment compensation problems, birth certificate issues, PennDOT problems or questions, programs like LIHEAP, LIWHAP, and PACE, disability placards, issues with any state agencies, property tax/rent rebates, information on higher education financial assistance, and much more.

My office is located in nearby Carrick at 1810 Brownsville Rd. (across from the Carrick Library) and is open weekdays 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., except Wednesday when we offer later hours from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. We can be reached by phone at 412-881-4208, and my email is always open at **repbenham@pahouse.net**.

Long-time board member steps down

SUBMITTED BY BRIAN OSWALD, FORMER BOARD MEMBER OF SSSNA

It's more of a see you soon than a goodbye. After 12 (and a half) years serving on the board of the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association, and five years as president, I will be stepping off the board to allow for fresh minds, ideas, and energy to be brought to the table. I will remain significantly involved with StepTrek and clean ups moving forward. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on this board over the years, making many close friends along the way. We have completed and improved upon many of our legacy projects and have created a recognizable presence that brings us sway with our elected officials. Our community has benefited beyond measure by what the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association has provided and shepherded over its 20+ years of existence, it is time for others to bring their energy and ideas to fruition in order to allow our organization to continue to grow and be a source of good in our community.

I encourage any of you reading this newsletter to invest yourself into this neighborhood. The Slopes army can accomplish all of our goals if we can continue to work together to make the Slopes a more clean, green and safe neighborhood.

To see how to get involved, attend the next community meeting on May 10 (at Bandi Schaum Community Garden) or reach out via email to: **info@southsideslopes.org**.

Looking back at 2021: Treasurer's recap

SUBMITTED BY CARA JETTE, TREASURER OF SSSNA

After a rough 2020, we managed to hold two successful parties in 2021 as well as return to an in-person StepTrek. Highlights of our 2021 budget were:

- To celebrate the 21st Anniversary of StepTrek, the SSSNA paid for 7 bands to perform along the routes. Our biggest fundraiser was still very successful for the neighborhood association!
- SSSNA received a \$2,500 grant from the CDBG for communications with neighbors.
- After StepTrek, our biggest expense is Outreach. That category includes 3 mailings to all neighbors in the Slopes, our summer picnic catered by La Palapa, our holiday party hosted by The Zenith, and 100 calendars to sell as a fundraiser and give away to new neighbors.
- Finally, we paid for a Wetlands study in South Side Park to allow for the design of an ADA trail behind Bandi Schaum community garden.

We hope to spend more money in 2022 with more volunteer days and in-person meetings! Here is an overview of our deposits and debits for 2021:

	Deposits	Debits
StepTrek	\$21,962	\$12,335
Grants	\$2,500	\$0
Outreach	\$2,036	\$8,264
Operating	\$0	\$1,975
Friends of SS Park	\$1,000	\$1,500
DEPOSITS TOTAL	\$27,498	\$24,075

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Neighborhood Association
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