

## SOUTH SIDE SLOPES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## Mouse On Over...

You can now help support the SSSNA through PayPal. Just click on the "donate" link from our website: [www.southsideslopes.org](http://www.southsideslopes.org). If you already have a PayPal account you can sign in and donate immediately. If you do not have a PayPal account, you can create one.

All contributions are tax-deductible, and used to help support our mission of *Neighbors working together to make the Slopes a more livable, beautiful, and safe community*, and as always, thank you for your generous support.

Reminder – StepTrek 2010 registrations will still be accepted via active.com. PayPal should not be used to register for StepTrek.

Brad Palmisiano

### Current SSSNA Board Officers:

Brad Palmisiano – President  
Misi Bielich – Vice President  
Pavel Yakovlev – Treasurer  
Paul Lorincy – Secretary

### Board Members:

Denise Burkhart  
Denise Fillip  
Peter Kreuthmeier  
Brian Oswald  
Aaron Sukenik  
Fr. Donald Ware  
Mark Zalenchak

### Inside:

General Meetings	P.2
StepTrek	P.4
Garden Update News	P.4
South Side Park Event	P.5
Sponsor Spotlight	P.6

## Project Updates

### Slopes Pylon:

Originally, this project at Josephine and 18th was funded by Pennsylvania's Elm Street program. Elm Street funding has since been directed elsewhere, with the pylon caught mid-stream. Most of the fabrication work has been completed, and we are now seeking alternative means to complete the remaining efforts.



### Monastery/Brosville:

As many of you know, the winter snows claimed our Hawthorn tree at the corner of Monastery and Brosville streets. Thanks to our garden volunteers Bev Boggio and Dennis Berry for providing an interim solution, but rest assured, work will continue. We are sourcing a more robust replacement tree; though do not have the funds in place to take this on immediately. We are pursuing several options. In the interim, your support by check or PayPal will be a great help.



Peter Kreuthmeier

## General Meetings

### December Christmas Party:

Over 40 neighbors attended a wonderful Christmas Party at St. Paul's Retreat Center's dining room. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and delicious food and desserts. Pat Joyce at 17<sup>th</sup> St. Café catered the party. Everyone liked the chicken pasquale and pasta. Thanks to the many neighbors who brought hors d'oeuvres, salads and desserts.

Our president Brad Palmisiano introduced City Councilman Bruce Kraus who attended the party and donated one of the prizes for our party raffle. Johno Prascak donated a beautiful print for another raffle prize. Brad also thanked Misi Bielich, Board vice-president, for planning and coordinating our party.



For 2009, our Neighborhood Association awarded three neighbors for their volunteer work: Matt Schaefer for his help with gardening and clean-up, Bob Kripp for his work on Step Trek, and Denise Filip for her work on our Board and Governance Committee.

### January:

Twenty five neighbors attended this meeting at St. Paul's Retreat Center. Brad Palmisiano introduced Mr. Harry Readshaw, our State Representative, and Mr. Ken Wolfe, representing City Councilman Jake Wheatley. Brad listed some of the accomplishments of SSSNA last year: upkeep of five public gardens, upgrade of lighting on Mission St. and the Mission Street Bridge steps, work on the 18<sup>th</sup> St. steps, and continued work on Josephine St., including steps at the corner of Josephine and 24<sup>th</sup> streets. Brad gave honorable mention to one of our Volunteer Award winners from last year who was not able to attend our Christmas party last month: Matt Schaefer.

We then began a discussion of what we might work on for 2010. Brad started with our SSSNA Vision and Mission Statements: Vision Statement: *SSSNA is a well connected community, accessible and beautiful, clean, "walkable" and green.*

Mission Statement: *Neighbors working together to make the Slopes a more livable, beautiful and safe community.*

One of the neighbors attending who has been a long time member of SSSNA described how she viewed our organization.

- We are an agent and advocacy group, addressing critical issues helping to improve the Slopes. As such we focus on relationships with state officials, City officials and City Services such as DPW and BBI.
- We work to draw neighbors together through our general meetings, Newsletter, alerts and holiday parties.

Brad described SSSNA's active committees which include: Outreach (new memberships and PR); Cleanups and Safety (cleanups and crime concerns); Beautification (public gardens); Zoning, Housing and City Services; Step Trek; Elm Street; Governance (Review

and Revise By-Laws). These committees work at accomplishing our Mission.

We then began a discussion of issues which need to be addressed this new year by the SSSNA and neighbors. These issues included: increasing membership; SSSNA PR to neighbors; South Side Park cleanup and renovation; keeping street cleanups going and including more neighbors; trash; parking; absentee landlords and unruly renters. We selected the top two issues for SSSNA to focus on this year:

- Cleanup and repair and restoration of South Side Park (including getting other neighborhood associations adjacent to the Park to help).
- Absentee landlords with unruly renters... how to deal with this problem.

Our meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM after lively and insightful discussion.

**February:** (called due to weather)

### **March:**

Thanks to the South Pittsburgh Reporter for their excellent coverage of our monthly meetings, particularly Tom Smith's feature-length article on our General Meeting in March. Read all about it at [www.sopghreporter.com](http://www.sopghreporter.com)

Fifty-three attended this discussion of South Side Park. Brad introduced our elected officials and their representatives present: Councilman Bruce Kraus, Magistrate Gene Riccardi, and Chuck Half from the Mayor's office. Representatives from several other organizations were also present: South Side Community Council, Arlington Community Council, South Side Sabers, Pittsburgh Parks Conversancy, South Side Athletic Association and RE 360. Brad then introduced six South Side Slopes neighbors who were present for the first time.



Judy Dyda of the SSLDC gave a background report and updates on the South Side Park project. She outlined a number of studies which have been completed over the years regarding the Park, and the to-do list of improvements to enhance and develop this little-known 64-acre jewel of a green space, such as invasive species removal, trail development, and marking... with the help of a lot of volunteers.

After Judy's insightful presentation, she facilitated public discussion on the Park. Participants offered their comments and suggestions, including an activities center on the footprint of the former arena, working on streams and spring heads, mapping and installing location signage, and developing a public picnic and food court area. Chuck Half noted that the Mayor's office is considering plans for a program center on the site of the former arena...in the future. In the meantime, efforts and volunteer opportunities continue. Fr. Don Ware, C.P.

## StepTrek 10-10-10!

Our 10th StepTrek date is announced: 10-10-10! Now, the committee could not have done that if they wanted to. Who knew from the first StepTrek in 2000 that the tenth would be 10-10-10! Each year the Trek date is based on the Steelers' schedule and that is the bye week. Since StepTrek happens on Sunday from noon to 4pm, this was our only choice. And, we are pleased! Expect to see many references with the number 10!

We welcome a new sponsor, LR Kimball, for Trek 2010. In the past they have helped with printing, but this year they will be supporting our brochure and map book printing in full. This is a major contribution and we are grateful for the increased support.



The committee has been meeting regularly and working hard. The work that is in full swing is to choose a theme, Honorary Chairperson, Presenting Sponsor, routes, and new additions. The date has been posted on the website and soon we will be setting up registration through Active.com. Anyone interested in helping with this, our 10<sup>th</sup> formal showcase of the neighborhood, please contact Chairperson, Bev Boggio, at 412-488-0486 or [Bev.Boggio@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:Bev.Boggio@SouthSideSlopes.org). There are hundreds of jobs from mailings to planning, to clean ups, to volunteering, on 10-10 and anything in between. Watch the newsletter and website for updates. The next six months are busy ones for StepTrek.  
Bev Boggio

## Garden Update News

Thanks to the many student volunteers from Duquesne University and the University of Pittsburgh, several of our Slopes gardens received much needed attention. Dee Burkhart, Matt Shaffer and Bev Boggio worked with the students in the gardens. Angela from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy brought a large group of students to work with us in the WPC garden at Josephine & Greeley Streets. Pictured below are the before and after photos of the third section (the perennial portion) of the garden. All of the plants were there, but buried under gravel and debris from the heavy winter snows.



WPC Greeley Street Garden – Before



WPC Greeley Street Garden – After

There was also a great deal of attention to the Triangle Garden at 18<sup>th</sup> and Josephine Streets. Pitt students spent time cutting back the grasses and plants to prep them for new growth. The garden had new mulch added, and the barrier around the pylon was roped-



Triangle Garden – 18th and Josephine

off. Last Spring, many volunteers placed new commercial landscape fabric and mulch and this was a wise investment. There were only a minimal amount of weeds. There was fabric placed at Greeley and we hope for the same results.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Street bend garden, as well as all of the other gardens, had a great deal of trash and recyclables removed.

The All Wars Memorial on Pius Street has had a great deal of attention recently as well. The bushes have been weeded, mulched and Preen applied. Grass seed has been planted and we expect a green garden season! We welcome you to help keep our gardens weed free throughout the summer. Contact us at [info@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:info@SouthSideSlopes.org) to be connected. There will be scheduled garden weeding dates if you want to join in, watch for announcements on the website and through SSSNA's free eblasts. Thanks for helping to keep the Slopes GREEN!  
Bev Boggio

## South Side Park Event

Thanks to all who participated in our second Reclaim and Revitalize South Side Park event on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Some highlights:

- ✓ 130+ Volunteers from: South Side Flats, South Side Slopes, Arlington, and CMU!
- ✓ Another perfect weather day (Thanks again Father Don)
- ✓ No injuries (but we had a first aid kit just in case)
- ✓ Two missing loppers (if found, please return to South Side LDC)
- ✓ One extra shovel (donated to DPW)
- ✓ One lost jacket (we have it if it's yours)
- ✓ 14 Truck Loads of Trash, Debris, and Weeds! (According to DPW)

Pictures are posted on South Side Pittsburgh Facebook page.



Special Thanks to:

- John Radcliffe and Department of Public Works 4<sup>th</sup> Division
- Erin Copeland – Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
- An Anonymous Donor
- South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association

Thank you all again for your tremendous efforts! We'll be in touch!

Judy Dyda

## Sponsor Spotlight:



Aside from their tremendous dedication to customer service, STOREExpress Self-Storage also strives to do good for the communities in which they belong. In the Slopes' case, STOREExpress provides in-kind sponsorship for the self-storage needs of the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association. Since 2006, STOREExpress has donated their superior service and customer care in support of all of SSSNA's storage needs...from StepTrek items to gardening supplies to...you name it! We just couldn't do what we do without their help.

The Pittsburgh-based self storage company has come a long way since 1998 when a fire ripped through the floors of the facility located close by on 200 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street off of East Carson Street in the South Side. Almost devastating the future of the business, company President Steve Mitnick and his staff prevailed with their true commitment to customer service and dedication to doing what is right for their customers. The company re-invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in order to restore as many belongings as possible, rent steam cleaning machines for customers to use on damaged items and even take items to the dry cleaners.

Now, with six convenient Pittsburgh locations and a projected revenue of \$4 million in 2010, STOREExpress has shown what superior customer service can do for a business as well as the community.

The facility features state-of-the-art amenities such as climate controlled storage, video surveillance, wine room storage, band rehearsal space and much more. Their New Kensington, Pa. location is even home of the World's First Automated Storage Facility!



In addition to their support of nonprofit organizations like the SSSNA, STOREExpress is now extending some great offers to the residents of *our* community. We are pleased to offer the following discounts from STOREExpress to our *Slopes Quarterly* readers:

**2<sup>nd</sup> Month Free Rent**

**Free Truck and Gas for Move-in**

**20% Off All Moving & Packing Supplies**

RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY. CANNOT BE USED WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. EXPIRES 1/31/2011

We encourage you to stop by or call Lori, Amy or Amber – the STOREExpress South Side Management Team – at 412-259-3945. STOREExpress is a one-stop-shop when it comes to the storing, moving and packing needs of the great people of Pittsburgh, especially those of the South Side Slopes!

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Gardeners

### Tree Tenders

### Clean-Up Volunteers

No experience necessary!

Additional information is on our website

Please contact us by:

Phone: 412-488-0486

Email: [info@southsideslopes.org](mailto:info@southsideslopes.org)

Web: [www.southsideslopes.org](http://www.southsideslopes.org)

## Upcoming Events

### General Meeting

June 8, 2010

7:00pm

St. Paul of the Cross Monastery

Retreat Center

148 Monastery Avenue

### Summer Celebration

July 13, 2010

6:30pm

Games 'n At

2010 Josephine Street

### Ongoing Events

Gardening

Cleanups

See website for details

(no meeting in August)

### StepTrek

October 10, 2010

Noon – 4:00pm

UPMC South Side Parking Lot

Josephine and 21<sup>st</sup> Streets

## Please Join for 2010

With your donations, we are able to keep neighbors informed and connected.

SSSNA Membership is \$5 and runs from January 2010 to December 2010.

Thank you for joining us!

## SSSNA Membership

Please mail \$5 to:

South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 4248

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

or bring to our next meeting

Name

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Slopes Interest

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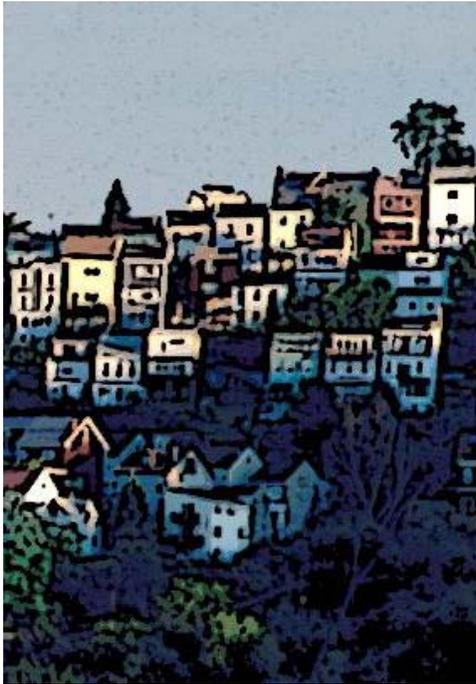
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[www.SouthSideSlopes.org](http://www.SouthSideSlopes.org)

Thank you to our Sponsors...



Mark your calendars:

**General Meeting**

June 8, 2010

Special Guest: Jenn Jeffers,  
The Brashear Association

**Summer Celebration**

July 13, 2010

**StepTrek**

10-10-10