

Bandi Schaum Community Garden - 2014 Growing Season



Spring is just around the corner and with spring comes gardening. The Bandi Schaum Community Garden located just off of Mission Street in the Slopes is entering into its 3rd growing season. For those who are current gardeners there are some important dates to be aware of, and for those that are interested in signing up for a plot email bandishaum@gmail.com for more information.

See below for some upcoming meeting and events to enter into your calendar:

- March 29th, Noon-2 p.m.- Agreement Pick up at Carnegie Library of South Side. General pick up for signed City Agreements; sign the Rules and Regulations and choose volunteer jobs.
- April 2nd, 6:30 p.m., Delainie's Coffee-Garden Steering Committee Meeting (volunteers still needed!). General pick up for signed City Agreements; sign the Rules and Regulations; and choose volunteer jobs.
- April 12th, 10 a.m. -1 p.m. - Mulch Day and other Volunteer Work at the Garden. Duquesne students volunteers planned to help mulch paths. NEED volunteers to

help drive students from East Carson to the garden and back.

- April 16th General Meeting (time and location TBD, check the blog and website) Any agreements we have received will be distributed; Planting Day Party will be planned; volunteer help will be assigned.
- Gardeners **must** begin work on their plot by May 1st
- Planting Day Party - Tentative Date - May 17th-Looking for folks to plan a fun community day at the garden - nothing big just a low key good time.

Gardeners need to have planted seeds, seedlings or transplants by June 1st!

Don't forget to check out

<http://bandishaum.wordpress.com/> for details on all events.

Outreach Committee Trash Update



Slopes resident and trash warrior, Outreach Committee member Betty Kripp updates General Meeting attendees on neighborhood trash initiative

The Outreach Committee continues to work on illegal trash storage issues as directed by Slopes residents through a community wide survey. Considered a serious issue with health and safety ramifications, it is being dealt with through education and monitoring. Besides, it's ugly!

The committee will resume door to door visits to distribute city trash storage rules (These aren't suggestions-they're the law!). Focusing on 10 properties at a time, and with the support of Councilman Bruce Kraus, 311 will continue to be the main resource for reports of continual violators. Dealing with absentee landlords can be a challenge and the group is focusing on tools to educate and monitor them as well.

Because this is such a comprehensive initiative, we need your help. Consider the following:

- ✓ Model proper trash storage in your immediate neighborhood.
- ✓ Show our sticker!
- ✓ Offer to join future walkabouts
- ✓ Report violations to 311
- ✓ Send us your ideas...trash@southsideslopes.org
- ✓ Inform us when your 311 reports have not solved the problem
- ✓ Be a part of it!

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South Side Slopes
Neighborhood Association



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Occupancy Violations



The SSSNA and the Outreach Committee are listening to our neighbors concerns regarding violations to occupancy codes in our neighborhood. As we all know, too many individuals living in rental properties poses many problems in the slopes to include parking, trash, and safety. The code states no more than 3 unrelated individuals living in a single dwelling.

Though the enforcement of codes has proven difficult and frustrating to many, we must all be vigilant on this issue to ensure that the Bureau of Building Inspections enforces their codes in the Slopes. Violations of occupancy, building permit, weed, debris, sidewalk and trash regulations can result in fines for the property owners. We encourage neighbors to document the number of cars attached to problem properties when filing a complaint with the BBI. Photographs of cars and unkempt properties are helpful in supporting your concerns.

More info can be found at the following link:
<http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/bbi/>

To report code violators dial 311 or call the BBI at 412-255-4155

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



Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh, a local nonprofit organization, delivers no-cost home repairs to qualifying low-income homeowners in Allegheny County. We are currently seeking applicants in the Southside Slopes, so please apply today!

To qualify you must meet the following:

- Must be at least 60 years of age or on permanent disability;
- Must own and have lived in your home for the past three years;
- Your household income must fall at or below 150% of HUD's Poverty Guidelines. All residents in the home must report income;
- Property taxes must be current.

To request an application or learn more, call: Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh at 412-922-0953

Tell us what you think!

Since 2006, a group of Slopes residents has been trying to communicate with various individuals at Duquesne University about the significant impact of the Rooney Field lights on our neighborhood. Because these lights are in sharp contrast to surrounding light levels, they have become a quality of life issue for many residents. The group has offered to work with DU toward a solution. Councilman Bruce Kraus has supported these efforts. After installing some shields in 2012 that did not address the problem, Duquesne has refused all requests for more action to remediate the impact of their lights on the Slopes. This response has been particularly curious as DU has touted its green initiatives since at least 2008.

At this point, the group would like to gauge the interest and concern of all Slopes residents regarding solving this problem. Please let us know what you think about the DU Rooney Field lights and if you are interested in helping work toward a solution by emailing lights@southsideslopes.org. Thank you.

South Side Home Tour 2014



Have you noticed the recently done warehouse on Jane Street near Steve Seventy Way, now the Print Shop Lofts? At least two of the very cool living spaces inside will be on the South Side Home Tour on May 17th.

Also included is a lovely home renovated by the grandson of a couple who operated a neighborhood store in that Josephine St. house

years ago. The grandson now lives there with his family and has lots of memories to share of his childhood there.

These are only a few of the sites that will be presented this year. Now in its 23rd year, the South Side Home Tour remains one of the most popular tours in the area. Don't miss it! Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 day of....available through showclix soon.

President's Message



Spring has finally arrived after a dreadfully bitter winter, it's time to get out and enjoy the world again. This is a time of renewal to be enjoyed in our wonderfully green, clean, and safe neighborhood.

By now you have all realized the efforts this organization puts forward to maintain these goals in the Slopes. I could continue to harp on the need for volunteers and leaders from our hillside to join in our mutual goals, and please know we still need help. But I would rather encourage you all to reconnect with what makes this neighborhood great.

Get out in the warm weather and take a walk! South Side Park is improving at a brisk pace, thanks to a newly funded grant, and is in need of positive use from all neighbors and visitors. Bandi Schaum Community Garden is about to

spring forth an abundance of sustenance and communal enjoyment for its third season.

Monongahela Park is going to get some sprucing up as well this spring and could use some activity to keep it fresh. The multitude of other parklets such as Eleanor Street Park, Cobden Street Park, Winters Playground, and a soon to be developed parklet along Brosville Steet should all be enjoyed much more than they have been in the recent past. And let's not forget, the stairs are the fabric of this hillside, and they are good for you. Take on the challenge of exploring the Slopes as only we know how, take the steps. So if you haven't climbed German Square's 254 steps, or Yard Way's 317 steps, get to it and let us know if you find anything in need of improvement.

If we don't use the incredible amount of amenities that we are afforded in the South Side Slopes we will lose our identity as one of the best up and coming neighborhoods around. If you are looking for new places to explore get in contact with us via Facebook (South Side Slopes), email (info@southsideslopes.org), or our website www.southsideslopes.org.

We are all happy to share in the joy and love for this neighborhood that has inspired us to volunteer our time and efforts to improve and expose our community to anyone and everyone who wants to know.

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Obamacare Assistance Available

If you need to purchase your own health insurance because it is not provided to you by an employer, Certified Health Insurance Navigators from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit are available to meet with you and help you navigate the Healthcare.gov website. (Obamacare)

Our Navigators will be able to assist you in applying for tax credits to lower your monthly premiums and other cost saving subsidies you may qualify for. The service is free. Please contact Beth Newman at 412-576-3297 for additional information.

Remember, the open enrollment for "ObamaCare" ends March 31. If you can afford health insurance, you will be required to have purchased insurance or will be charged the Individual Responsibility Requirement when you file your 2014 tax return. The fee for 2014 will be \$95/adult or 1% of your income.

Neighborhood Cleanup Dates



As the snow melts, the litter accumulated over the winter months paints our beautiful neighborhood in an unflattering light. We would love for you to join us in our efforts to clean up our neighborhood.

Saturday, April 19th & Saturday, May 10th at 10 a.m.

The April 19th cleanup will begin at Josephine and South 27th, and will travel up Josephine as far as possible. The May 10th cleanup will depart from the South 18th Street bend and will continue up 18th.

These dates are subject to change due to weather, so be sure to check the website for any updates. Thanks for helping keep our neighborhood beautiful

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 mmclelland2414@gmail.com.

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 above.



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Candidate's Night April 15th




The SSSNA will host a special Meet the Candidates Night on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 7 PM in main lounge of St Paul of the cross Retreat Center. Attending will be State Representative Harry Readshaw and State Representative Erin Molchany. Both are running for the democratic nomination in the newly reorganized 36th legislative district. The Primary Election is May 20th. Come out, meet the candidates, and participate in this important election.



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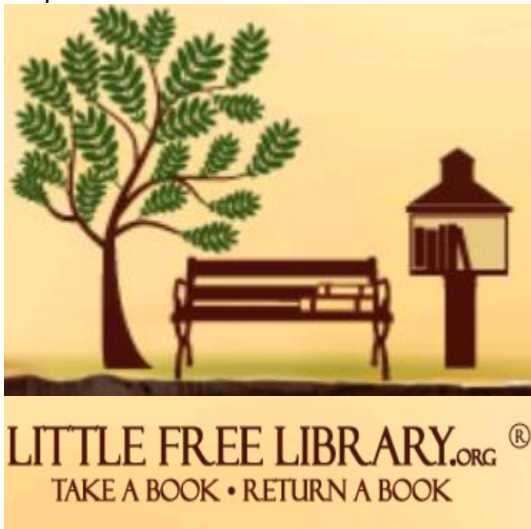
SPECIALS RUN THROUGH MAY 31ST, 2014

Hilltop Residents Reclaiming Vacant Lots



Since October, 13 Hilltop Residents have been working with GTECH Strategies on their ReClaim South Program to reclaim 13+ vacant lots in the South Hills. After months of classroom study and site research, these projects are almost shovel-ready.

In the South Side Slopes, we have 2 projects to look forward to. David Totten, a South Side Slopes resident, is creating multiple "Little Free Libraries" throughout the Hilltop including the Barry Street Garden in the South Side Slopes. This project combines David's love of reading and public transportation by placing these tiny libraries in public area gardens and near bus stops.



SSSNA Board Member, Cara Jette, is working on the Knoxville Incline Historic Route on the border of Allentown and the South Side Slopes. This project is beautifying a blighted area along Brosville Street with new trees, planters, and a trail. Jamie Balser, another Slopes resident, has been acting as a mentor for all the projects.

For more details on the projects, please attend the April 8th general meeting. We will have more information and volunteer opportunities. If you have questions about the projects or want to help, feel free to contact cara.jette@southsideslopes.org South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 4248
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

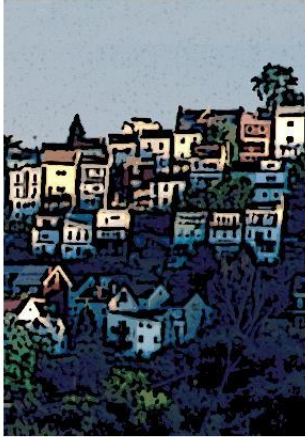
SCA Seeking Community Conservation Crew Leaders

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is looking qualified applicants to lead, educate, and inspire high school students for the 2014 Pittsburgh summer program. Lead, mentor and coach a crew of 5-6 students, ages 15-19, while completing various conservation service projects designed to build an ethic of community and environmental stewardship.

Projects include a range of activities such as trail and park maintenance, habitat restoration, revitalization of abandoned urban properties or to urban agriculture and run for 6 weeks at a time. In addition, leaders will facilitate pre- and post- program planning which includes crew training, environmental education and reporting.

To Apply:

Please visit www.thesca.org/employment for a detailed description including information on how to apply. Leader applications are accepted only online. For questions, concerns or more information contact scaPittsburgh@thesca.org and/or nschaefer@thesca.org.



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www.SouthSideSlopes.org

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Mark your calendars:

- 3/29 – Monongahela Park with CMU
- 4/19- Neighborhood Cleanup
- 4/26 – Earth Day in South Side Park
- 5/10 - Neighborhood Cleanup
- 6/7 - National Trails Day in South Side Park