

## Student Conservation Association Joins Efforts in South Side Park



Photo courtesy SCA Pittsburgh

Since 1957, members of the Student Conservation Association (SCA) have been protecting and restoring national parks, marine sanctuaries, cultural landmarks, and community green spaces across the country. SCA's mission is to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of our environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land. Staff and crew members of SCA's Pittsburgh office are excited to do just that in South Side Park this season.

Thanks to the generous assistance of the Brashear Association, a crew of 12 young people, ages 14-18 and all from South Side's Hilltop neighborhoods, will be employed with the SCA in Pittsburgh and will focus specifically on conservation efforts in South Side Park during the spring of 2013. Some of their projects will include installing signage on unnamed and unmarked trails, performing maintenance work on those trails, removing detrimental invasive plants that threaten the park's ecosystem, and clearing litter and illegal dumping.

Every Thursday evening the crew will engage in a variety of environmental education, professional development, financial literacy, and job readiness

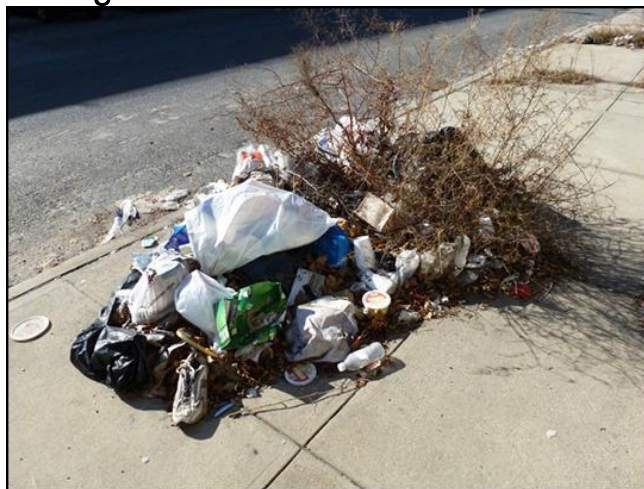
activities at the SCA office in downtown Pittsburgh.

This combination of in-the-field work experience and educational activities will hopefully prepare these young South Siders to be lifelong stewards of community green spaces, wherever they decide to enjoy them!

Interested SSSNA members are always welcome to volunteer with the SCA crew in the field or in the classroom. Those wishing to do so should email SCA Program Coordinator Joshua Nard at [jnard@thesca.org](mailto:jnard@thesca.org). Josh is a proud North Sider, but hopes that that won't be held against him! For more information on the SCA, please visit [www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org).

See you in the field this spring, South Siders!  
Josh Nard, SCA Pittsburgh

## Zoning Out On Trash



With temperatures warming, snow piles are melting away and are revealing trash piles underneath. The litter looks terrible to many Slopes residents--a recent survey to our members listed trash as a top concern. It looks terrible to visitors as well. On a Venture Outdoors-led hike through the Slopes in February, the hikers had a lot of kind words for our neighborhood, but the trash was everywhere. One woman commented that it "really bothered her." Ouch!

To respond to this concern, the SSSNA is rolling out several programs. Our Outreach Committee will soon be conducting an educational campaign,

explaining to our residents the laws relating to litter and garbage pickup, and encouraging everyone to do their part to keep the Slopes clean. The Clean-ups and Safety Committee has a new chair, and will work on this effort as well as conduct regular clean-ups throughout the year. And both Committees will use a new zone system that allows all parts of the Slopes to get some volunteer help.

To be a part of the Outreach Committee's trash initiatives, if you're interested in volunteering as a zone captain, or to learn more about which zone you're in, please contact

[Cara.Jette@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:Cara.Jette@SouthSideSlopes.org).

To join a clean-up crew, contact  
[Jamin.Bogi@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:Jamin.Bogi@SouthSideSlopes.org).

*Jamin Bogi*

## Bandi Shaum Garden Update



*Photo courtesy of Bill Conroy, Community Gardener*

The 2013 garden season will soon be in full swing. The City is currently filling spots in the garden on the waiting list. If you have not but would like to get on the waiting list please visit:

[www.pittsburghpa.gov/publicworks/gardenplots/](http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/publicworks/gardenplots/).

For those gardeners interested there will be a number of monthly workshops starting with an Organics Basics on March 18th, followed by Bed Planning on April 8th and Composting on May 18th. All workshops will be facilitated by Grow Pittsburgh and take place at the Brashear Association from 6pm to 8pm.

For more information check out the Community Garden at Bandi Shaum Blog

<http://bandishaum.wordpress.com/> or email  
[sarah.shea@southsideslopes.org](mailto:sarah.shea@southsideslopes.org)

## OPENSOURCEPGH Meeting Announcement



The City is completing their first-ever comprehensive master plan, and one section of that plan is devoted to all things green. The OPENSOURCEPGH portion of the master plan covers greenways, community gardens, vacant lots, parks and parklets, and more.

According to the City, "this plan provides clear instructions and guidelines for optimal land use and infrastructure decisions....[It] makes recommendations as to where parks should be located and what levels of investment are planned for individual parks and facilities throughout its neighborhoods. The plan also looks at how we can best utilize our hillsides and vacant properties[.]"

The plans for the South Side Slopes and Flats will be presented by City planning staff on Thursday, March 28, from 7 to 9 PM, at the Market House in Bedford Square. Come prepared to learn a lot, and bring your questions and suggestions. Contact [Jamin.Bogi@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:Jamin.Bogi@SouthSideSlopes.org) for more details.  
*Jamin Bogi*

## Attention Grant Writers and Fundraisers: Volunteers Needed for SSSNA

The SSSNA Board of Directors is currently seeking committed volunteers to help us secure necessary funding to continue further our mission.

If anyone can help or know of someone who would be willing to help, please contact:

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

## Public Safety Concern

The SSSNA has been made aware of some houses that were burglarized in the Holt / Eleanor Street area. Please take some time to make sure your property is secure. Do not hesitate to dial 911 to report suspicious activity in the neighborhood. Zone 3 Police uses that feedback to compile statistics and target areas for more patrols.



Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh, a local nonprofit organization, delivers no-cost home repairs to qualifying low-income homeowners in Allegheny County.

A grant to The Brashear Association from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, UPMC Health Plan, Duquesne Light Company, American Eagle Outfitters, S&T Bank, and First National Bank for Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh will be providing their services to ten homes in the South Side Slopes and neighboring communities.

You may have already seen their team out on the streets in the Slopes. They have been knocking on doors, showing up at community meetings and stopping people on the street to provide program information to the community. They have even begun to assess the needs of a few homes through initial home inspections.

The repairs provided by volunteers and contractors can include the following:

- Window repairs/replacements
- Door repairs (i.e. locks, hinges, eliminating drafts)
- Wheelchair ramp installations
- Porch repairs
- Roof and gutter repairs
- Grab bar installations
- Handrail repairs
- Hot water/furnace repairs
- Patching walls and ceilings
- Painting walls and ceilings
- Caulking
- Insulation
- Landscaping

All applicants must meet the following requirements to qualify:

- Senior citizen (60 years or older), veteran, or permanent disability
- Homeowner and use home as primary residence for at least 3 years
- Current on all property taxes or on a qualified payment plan
- Low-Income household

With the goal of providing 10 homes with free repairs prior to June 30, 2013, the timeline is tight so apply today if you think you might qualify.

For more info or to request an application, call:  
Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh  
412-922-0953

Expect to see staff and volunteers throughout the South Side Slopes this Spring and Summer as the weather warms up and home repairs begin. If you'd like to join a team of South Side Slopes Volunteers who help with at least one of these homes, please be in touch with Brian Oswald at [brian.oswald@southsideslopes.org](mailto:brian.oswald@southsideslopes.org) to express your interest. Projects will mostly occur on Saturdays this Spring and Summer. No experience necessary.

*Lindsay Ruprecht, Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh*

## Good Things Happening in the Hilltop



The Hilltop Alliance is a community group consisting of representatives from Allentown CDC, Beltzhoover Civil Association, Carrick Community Council, Hilltop Economic Development Corporation, Mt. Oliver City/St. Clair Block Watch, Mt. Washington

CDC and the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association.

The mission statement is to bring together, serve as a resource, and promote a common vision within the hilltop neighborhoods.

The Alliance is currently working on major projects which include Fresh Fridays, Green Toolbox, code enforcement task force and a housing study plan in Beltzhoover and Allentown.

The Fresh Fridays project is distributing fruits and vegetables at St. John Vianney's church to neighbors from the 15203, 15210, 15211, and Carrick residents in 15227 zip codes that have household income at or below 150% of the poverty level.

The Green Toolbox is a neighborhood venture to improve green space, enhance tree and tree box sites on the roads in the districts. This also involves future plans to clean and green the hilltop.

The code enforcement plan is in its final stage of development and initial meetings with city officials have been set to begin work on the process. The housing plan in association with the Design Center is working on a comprehensive plan using hilltop wide housing data to affect a vision for the future of hilltop housing.

If you have any questions please contact Denise Phillip or Paul Lorincy at SSSNA.  
*Paul Lorincy*

## 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 below:



**WHERE:** St. John Vianney Church Parking Lot, 823 Climax Street, Allentown off E. Warrington Avenue at Climax and Allen

**WHEN:** 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month beginning March 8th. *Please do not arrive before 4 p.m. – arriving early does not mean early service.*

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE:** Households in the 15203, 15210 and 15211 Zip Codes + Carrick residents in 15227 that have household income at or below 150% of the poverty level. Income guidelines are below:

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$16,755	\$1,397	\$323
2	\$22,670	\$1,891	\$437
3	\$28,635	\$2,387	\$552
4	\$34,576	\$2,882	\$666
<b>Each Additional Person Add:</b>	\$5,730	\$495	\$116

Even if you don't qualify based on income, all of the following conditions qualify you for Fresh Fridays on the Hilltop: receiving unemployment compensation, food stamps, cash assistance or medical assistance, SSI, or Social Security Disability. Also, those who are experiencing a crisis situation are always welcome. Produce to People and food pantry users are also welcome.

**NOTE:** *1 pick-up on each date per household*

**WHAT TO BRING:** Proof of zip code residency such as rent receipt, utility bill receipt, mortgage payment receipt, valid state ID, or a valid driver's license. Please bring bags, boxes or rolling carts. They will not be provided for you.

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:** Hilltop Alliance at 412-586-5807

## President's Message: Refuse the Refuse



Spring is in the air and winter has nearly left the ground. As a result of the retreating snow we are confronted by the ubiquity of trash within our neighborhood. We should all be ashamed by the amounts that have accumulated since the last neighborhood clean up five months ago.

It is time for all of us to take matters into our own hands and trash bags. I challenge each and every one of you to fill a trash bag up today with the trash littered about, it will only take you a few minutes I promise, and you can probably do so with walking less than a few hundred yards.

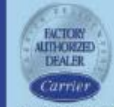
We soon will be launching a program designed at stopping littering before it occurs, but even with unprecedented success there is still an abundance that will need to be cleaned up.

Our neighborhood is beautiful, and it is time that we maintain it as it should be.

Our organization will organize clean ups as we always do, but that doesn't mean you have to wait to pick up litter. It is everywhere and I for one would like to change that culture in the Slopes. If you are in need of supplies (gloves and trash bags) please contact us and we would be happy to help keep you supplied.

*Brian Oswald, President*






turn to the experts


# Phillips

## Heating & AC




FINANCING  
AVAILABLE  
to qualified buyers

**24 Hours - 7 Days**  
1100 E. Warrington Ave.,  
Pittsburgh PA 15210  
[www.phillipsheating.com](http://www.phillipsheating.com)



PA 017698

**CELEBRATING  
35 YEARS  
IN BUSINESS**



PHILLIPS HEATING &  
AIR CONDITIONING CO  
412-431-6563 412-882-8038

*City*  
412-431-6563

*North*  
412-366-2050

*South*  
412-882-8038

*West*  
412-279-9460

We service and install all brands of home heating and cooling equipment

10% off Furnace or AC  
Cleaning and Check

Pre-season "specials" call  
for details

Early Summer Rebate  
Savings!

SAVE UP TO \$1,450  
On a New Carrier Heating &  
AC/Heatpump System

(Similar Savings on Hot Water Boilers. Ask us about available  
Utility Company Rebates)

Expires 6/15/13

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

Need to contact the city about something that's been bothering you, like potholes and graffiti? Call the **311 Response Line** (alternate number is 412-255-2621). Your request will be logged and sent to the proper department.

Want to contact someone directly? The following list may help.

- \* Mayor's Office (412-255-2626)
- \* Littering (412-255-2621)
- \* State Littering Hotline (1-888-548-8372)
- \* Abandoned Houses (412-255-2175)
- \* Abandoned Cars (412-255-4776)
- \* Weeds/Litter/Bad Sidewalks (412-255-4155)
- \* Building Inspection (412-255-2176)
- \* Public Works Main # (412-255-2790)
- \* Refuse/Recycling (412-255-2773)
- \* Potholes (412-255-2720)
- \* Graffiti Watch (412-496-2272)
- \* Graffiti Busters ((412-255-2872))
- \* Report Graffiti Happening to You (9-1-1)
- \* Report Graffiti in Neighborhood (3-1-1)
- \* Report Mail Box Graffiti (412-359-7845)
- \* City Planning (412-255-2200)
- \* Parking Authority (412-560-7275)
- \* City Council (412-255-2142)
- \* Environmental Services (412-255-2780)
- \* Allegheny County Health Dept. (412-578-8390)
- \* Police, Zone 2 (412-255-2827)
- \* Police, Zone 4 (412-422-6520)
- \* Police, Zone 5 (412-665-3605)

## Notes from SSSNA General Meeting

- City officials present: Bruce Kraus, City Council Representative; Michael Lamb, City Controller; and Candice Gonzalez, Office of the Mayor.
- Michael Lamb addressed the recent reassessments of city properties and offered the help of his office to anyone who wants to appeal their assessment.
- Recent statistics for the police crackdown on Southside weekend visitors.
- Alert to neighbors of two recent break-ins at Slopes homes when their occupants were at work. Please keep eyes open and dial 911 immediately to report any suspicious activity.
- Board Secretary Jamin Bogi next reported on work of our Slopes Outreach Committee. The Slopes will be divided into six zones, each with a captain

who will keep the Board apprised of any problems in the zone and will help with clean ups in their zone.

- Next General Meeting is on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM in the Retreat Center, St. Paul's Monastery.
- On April 6<sup>th</sup> CMU students will help with either South Side Park clean-up or the Garden at the bend of S. 18<sup>th</sup> St. and Josephine St.
- Josh Nard of the *Student Conservation Association* will be working with twelve Hilltop students on Saturdays throughout the spring and summer in South Side Park. Projects include: clearing the trails, signage, litter cleanups, and invasive plant and vine removal. Josh also encouraged us to be a part of the Earth Day Event in the Park on April 20<sup>th</sup>. More details to come.
- Lindsay Ruprecht from *Rebuilding Pittsburgh Together*, a privately funded home improvement association which helps repair homes for elderly, people with handicaps and veterans is now looking at homes in the Slopes in need of repair. Applicants must currently live in their home and have owned the residence for three years. If you or someone you know fits the criteria, please contact the SSSNA.
- Bruce Kraus talked about a soon to be approved e-waste plan for Pittsburgh. There will be more about this in the future.
- Candice Gonzolez, Neighborhood Coordinator for the South Side Slopes, offered any help the Mayor's Office can give to address neighborhood problems. Call her office at 412-255-2792.  
*Fr. Don Ware, C.P.*

## SSSNA Board of Directors

*Brian Oswald, President*  
*Maggie Buck, Vice President*  
*Pavel Yakovlev, Treasurer*  
*Jamin Bogi, Secretary*  
*Denise Fillip*  
*Peter Kreuthmeier*  
*Molly McClelland*  
*Brad Palmisiano*  
*Sarah Shea*  
*Fr. Don Ware*  
*Mark Zalenchak*

## Slopes in the News

In case you missed the good press our neighborhood is receiving, check out the following:

**“South Side’s Little Earth Lands Big Terrible Towel Contract”** Kim Leonard, TribLive, Feb. 20, 2013  
<http://triblive.com/business/headlines/3513549-74/towel-terrible-steelers#axzz2Mav2hniN>

## People in our Neighborhood



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).



## City of Pittsburgh TRASH GUIDELINES

Each neighborhood is scheduled for collection on the same day every week.

Bulk waste (large items such as furniture and appliances) is now collected each week. Residents may place a maximum of two bulk items each week at curbside.

Recyclable items are picked up every other week.

### What Refuse is Collected?

#### Household trash

In addition to household refuse, crews will accept chairs, small TVs, bikes, small appliances, garden tools, end tables, ironing boards, roasters and grills.

Place all refuse at the designated site on collection day in plastic bags or bagged and placed into a container not exceeding 35 gallons in size.

Place needles, syringes and lancets in a hard plastic container with a tight-fitting plastic lid, labeled as medical waste.

Wrap sharp objects (broken glass/sharp metal) in heavy paper and place in a box reinforced with tape or string. Place animal feces and litter in double plastic bags and place outside the refuse container.

### Where is Refuse Collected?

Curb side

**CITY DOES NOT COLLECT** carpeting installed by a professional, construction, building, explosive, medical, hazardous, infectious or flammable materials as well as car and automobile parts, bricks, cement, glass blocks, or marble or stone countertops.

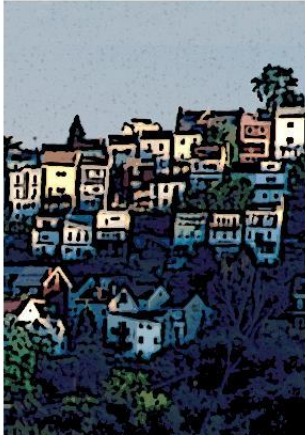
### When is Refuse Collected?

Weekly pick up

**Place at curb no earlier than 7 p.m. on the night before collection** and no later than 6 a.m. on the day of collection.

Prohibited Materials: Propane tanks, smoke detectors and chemicals are some examples of prohibited materials. For information on disposing of these and other materials which may be hazardous, please call Environmental Services at 412-255-2773.

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



SOUTH SIDE  
S L O P E S  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PITTSBURGH PA  
PERMIT NO 603



Mark your calendars:

- SSSNA Workday in South Side Park-March 30<sup>th</sup>
- SSSNA/CMU/SCA Volunteer Day-April 6<sup>th</sup>, South Side Park
- SSSNA Candidates Night – April 9<sup>th</sup>, The Retreat Center at St. Paul's Monastery
- Earth Day Event in the Park -April 20<sup>th</sup>, South Side Park
- SSSNA Fundraiser at Wagle Whiskey-April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6-8 p.m. in the Strip
- SSSNA Workday in South Side Park-May 11th
- Planting Day Bandi Schaum-May 18th