



SouthSide Lights

South Side Community Council, Inc.

Brashear Center
2005 Sarah Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
412.431.2236
southsidecommunitycouncil.org

Board of Directors

- Joe Bielecki, *President*
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Inside This Issue

New Features	1
What a Winter	1
South Side Park Clean Up	2
South Sider Award	2
Spring Clean Up	2
Membership Application	3
Green n'At Mixer	5
Graffiti	5
Now Open	5
Board Elections	5
Police Blotter	6
311 Blotter	6
House Tour	7
Note Worthy Neighbor	7
Kid's Corner	7
Annual Meeting	8
Open Meeting	8
USPS Mailboxes	8

NEW FEA-

We are pleased to introduce two new features that will appear regularly in *South-Side Lights*.

Our "Noteworthy Neighbor" profiles a member of the community who is making a difference. In this issue, we introduce Tom Kolano, a 19-year resident who is the new chairman of Community Council's Public Safety Taskforce, on p. 7.



We also welcome two new South Side businesses in our "Now Open!" feature on p. 7.

Look forward to many more announcements to our vibrant neighborhood in the future.



What a Winter !!

Waking up after that first snow fall in the beginning of February, everything was covered in a thick layer of white billowy snow, so heavy in some places, tree branches were bending from the weight of the snow – it was beautiful.

Armed with my camera, my husband and I left early to venture out and take pictures of South Side before the multitudes could disturb this recent frozen wonderland. It had been over 10 years since we've had that much snow! We trekked everywhere, up and down Carson Street looking at busy passersby, watching the cars make their way through unplowed streets, and foraging through deeper snow to get into the back streets to take those perfect photographs.

As the euphoria wore off, reality immediately set in. Nothing was getting plowed, no one could move their cars, many were trapped in their homes, fallen branches were everywhere, side-

walks weren't shoveled, and more snow was on the way.

According to Weather Watch 4 meteorologist Stephen Cropper, 48.7 inches of snow had fallen in February — without any melting periods. This was the fourth biggest snowfall in the history of Pittsburgh and possibly the longest time it took the city to clear the streets and make them functional.

February was a bittersweet month. Some of the lessons I learned: metal shovels work best when digging through layers of snow and ice...especially when digging out your vehicle, shopping for daily necessities locally saves time, energy and possible vehicular accidents and checking on your elderly neighbors and running errands for them helps everyone get through this rough time period.

Wasn't that a dreadfully long winter?

Welcome Spring!!



Volunteers Needed for Second 'South Side Park' Clean up



The South Side Local Development Company Elm Street Committee will host a second event to "Reclaim and Revitalize South Side Park" on **Saturday,**

March 27, from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Based on a six-year plan prepared by the environmental engineering firm, Skelly & Loy, participants will help eradicate invasive vines that are endangering the vitality of native plants and wildlife, as well as remove trash and debris. Volunteers are needed in two-hour shifts starting at 10 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m. No previous environmental or biology experience is necessary and all volunteers will be taught how to properly identify and remove the targeted plants.

To register or get additional information, please contact judy@southsidepgh.com or call 412-481-0651, ext. 32.

SECOND ANNUAL OUTSTANDING SOUTH SIDER AWARD

South Side Community Council would like to continue recognizing and commending a resident and/or business owner for their commitment and dedication to making the South Side a better place to live. Whether this person, rain or shine, has made it a practice to pick up litter, plant flowers, fight graffiti, show utmost concern for their neighbor or make the neighborhood aware of public safety issues, we want to know.

The 2010 Outstanding South Sider Award will be presented at South Side Community Council's next Open Meeting, scheduled for June 2009 at the Brashear Association. Please feel free to email Eve at etrbovich@gmail.com to submit an entry, or send your nomination to Brashear Assoc. in c/o SSCC: 2005 Sarah Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203.

South Side Community Council

would like to thank

Copies At Carson

and its contributing authors for their outstanding support of

SouthSide Lights

THANK YOU!

Our next quarterly edition: Spring 2010

The 6th Annual South Side Spring Cleanup is right around the corner.....

This year's South Side Spring Cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 17th. The event will include a number of beautification projects spread across the South Side neighborhood. Volunteers from the community are needed to help with graffiti removal, litter pick up, weed pulling, community garden planting, and trimming and clearing overgrowth along Josephine Street. As in years past a large number of Duquesne Students will be on hand to help with these projects – BUT we need community member support as well.

Registration starts at 9:30a.m at the parking lot at 18th Street and East Carson. Registration and volunteers

breakfast will run from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. All volunteers will receive bags, gloves, and task at registration.



Clean up activities will begin at 10am and run until noon or 1pm.

Following the cleanup all volunteers

are invited back to the lot to each lunch, mingle with your neighbors, listen to music, and learn about local organizations! Local restaurant food will be featured!

For more details or to register, call Sarah Alessio at the Pennsylvania Resources Council at 412.488.7490 ext. 236 or email saraha@ccicenter.org.

Sponsors:

Honorable Harry Readshaw

Organizers:

- *Duquesne University Spiritan Campus Ministry*
- *Pennsylvania Resources Council,*
- *South Side Community Council, and*
- *South Side Local Development Company*

SOUTH SIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Membership Application

c/o Brashear Association 2005 Sarah Street Pittsburgh, PA 15203

www.southsidecommunitycouncil.org

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone - Day:

Phone - Evening:

Email Address:

Yes! Save a stamp - email me the Newsletter!

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Enclosed is my \$10 check or money order made payable to the South Side Community Council. (Student and Senior Citizen membership annual rate is \$5.00.)

Enclosed is an additional donation of \$_____ in support of the South Side Community Council's efforts.

I am interested in making a donation of materials or services. Please contact me.

INVOLVEMENT:

Yes! I want to get involved...please contact me about the:

Internal Processes Subcommittees:

- Membership Committee*
- Communications/Marketing Committee*
- Event Planning*
- Fundraising Committee*

External Relations Subcommittees:

- University Relations*
- Neighborhood Community Liaison*
- Business Liaison*

Action & Advocacy Subcommittees:

- Graffiti Watch*
- Beautification/Green N'at*
- Public Safety*
- Building & Zoning Committee*

I have a questions and/or concerns regarding our community. Please contact me!



South Side Community Council Membership Application

c/o Brashear Association 2005 Sarah Street Pittsburgh, PA 15203

www.southsidecommunitycouncil.org

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

South Side Community Council hosts programs on topics of interest that are open to the public.

Members receive a copy of *SSCC's SouthSide Lights* newsletter four times a year.

ADVOCACY & INVOLVEMENT

You have firsthand knowledge of issues affecting the community and have an outlet to voice your concerns.

Work with residents who feel the same about issues affecting the community.

SSCC connects its members with activities that benefit the entire community, such as the Spring Clean Up.

SSCC board members serve on committees and boards of various South Side organizations and offer these organizations insight regarding residents' issues and concerns.

In addition, SSCC provides financial support for local organizations like the Brashear Association.

SOCIAL

SSCC offers its members opportunities to meet their neighbors and have some fun!

SSCC SUBCOMMITTEES:

Internal Processes Subcommittees:

Membership Committee: Recruit new members.

Communications/Marketing Committee: Get the word out about SSCC programs and community efforts.

Event Planning: Help plan events within the community to encourage communication and

Fundraising Committee: Raising money for the SSCC's efforts in the South Side

External Relations Subcommittees:

University Relations: Work with the Universities for the purpose of reaching out and welcoming students, while instilling a sense ownership and responsibility while living in our neighborhood.

Neighborhood Community Liaison: Work with neighbors to learn of their concerns and issues.

Business Liaison: Work with businesses and the community for streamlining communication purposes.

Action & Advocacy Subcommittees:

Graffiti Watch: Prevent and remove graffiti

Beautification/Green N'at: Beautify our neighborhood through community artwork, landscaping and ridding the neighborhood of litter and trash.

Public Safety: Address quality-of-life issues across the neighborhood including safety

Building & Zoning Committee: Work on zoning, ACHD and BBI residential issues

Green Is Growing Volunteer Mingle

South Side Community Council Action Team volunteers are invited to a Volunteer Mingle on Wednesday, March 24th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at the Double Wide Grill. This is our way of saying thanks to everyone for all of the hard work they have put into making South Side an extraordinary neighborhood where we live, work and play. The 2010 volunteer season is just around the corner! What better way to kick things off than with some good food and good company?

The Double Wide has graciously donated their space and food. We encourage attendees to bring a friend or neighbor who is interested in helping out with Green N'at and/or Graffiti Watch this year. This is a great chance to meet your neighbors and enjoy some good clean fun with each other! No gloves, wagons or paint cans required.

We have a number of door prizes for those who attend. Who doesn't love free stuff? We'd like to offer a huge thank you to the South Side businesses who have donated these wonderful prizes:

- ⇒ One month free membership to East Carson Fitness
- ⇒ T-shirt from Commonwealth Press
- ⇒ \$20 gift certificate from Piper's Pub
- ⇒ Gift certificate for a free pedicure from Southside Nail Candy
- ⇒ T-shirt from Smokin' Joes
- ⇒ \$50 gift certificate to The Library

And an enormous thank you to Double Wide Grill for hosting South Side Community Council volunteers!

Please email Jen Brandhuber (brandhuber@yahoo.com) to RSVP for the event no later than Monday, March 22nd.

We hope to see you there!

GRAFFITI

Graffiti contributes to: blight, increased criminal activity, reduced property values, and Increased expenses re: damage to property and costs of removal.

In order to prevent and remove graffiti on the South Side we need your help. As a volunteer you can help us by monitoring and reporting locations of graffiti on the South Side to 311 or 911, Adopting a Spot, and participating in paint-outs. There's a job for you!!

Upcoming paint-outs are scheduled for March 27, April 17, May 8. We meet at 9:00 AM at 2132 Sarah St. Entrance is behind building on Larkins Way.

FOR INFORMATION and to volunteer contact: Steve Root via email at graffitiwatch@gmail.com or by phone at 412-496-2272



**South Side
Community Council**
welcomes these new
businesses to the
neighborhood:

**Maurice's Barbershop - 1118 E. Carson
&
Pi Neapolitan Pizza Bar - 1707 E. Carson**

SSCC BOARD ELECTIONS

South Side Community Council's Annual Election of New Board Members is scheduled for June 29, 2010.

If you like what the Board has accomplished and you want to become more involved with a hands on approach helping to maintain quality of life in our neighborhood, why not think about running for a Seat? We will be filling 8 seats this June.

Applications can be requested by contacting Joe Bielecki, President of South Side Community Council.

412-390-0900

POLICE BLOTTER

October 8, 2009 through March 8, 2009

Crime Stats for South Side Flats

Aggravated Assault	35
Aggr. Assault w/Police Officer	2
Accidents	75
Armed Person	1
Arrestable Driving Offence	9
Bad Checks	1
Bench Warrant	1
Burglary: Business	6
Burglary: Residence	27
Credit Cards: Stolen	1
Criminal Mischief	157
Disorderly Conduct	13
DOA	5
Drug Arrests	19
DUI	47
DUI/Arrestable driving offence	15
Forgery	3
Fraud	3
Harassment	86
ID Theft	3
Illegal Firearm	1
Indecent Assault	1
Intoxication	4
Loss of Property	8
Open Lewdness	2
Rape	2

Receiving Stolen Property	2
Reckless Endangerment of Another	2
Resisting Arrest	5
Robbery	4
Robbery of a Person	19
Simple Assault	72
Simple Assault: Escape	1
Simple Assault: Loss of Property	1
Stalking	1
Stolen Vehicle	3
Stolen Vehicle:Recreation Vehicle	2
Tampering w/Evidence	1
Terroristic Threats	3
Theft by Deception	6
Theft: Auto	109
Theft: Business	14
Theft: Person	105
Theft: Residence	7
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	1
Vehicle Code Arrestable Crime	1
Warrant Arrests	2

Arson	1
Business Burglary	1
Attempted Burglary	1
Burglary: Residence	38
Criminal Mischief	26
Criminal Trespassing:Residence	1
DOA	4
Domestic Violence	2
Drugs Arrests	18
DUI	3
DUI/Arrestable Driving Offence	3
Escaped from Police Custody	2
False ID	1
Fraud	1
Harassment	23
ID Theft	1
Loss of Property	2
Robbery of a Person	3
Robbery	2
Simple Assault	20
Terroristic Threats	3
Theft by Deception	1
Theft: Auto	17
Theft: Business	1
Theft: Person	18
Theft: Residence	1

Crime Stats for South Side Slopes

Aggravated Assault	2
Agg. Assault with Police Officer	1
Accidents	27
Armed Person	1

Theft: Residence	1
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South Side 311 Service Calls

October 8, 2009 THROUGH March 12, 2010

Abandoned Vehicle	39
Building Violation:Residential	16
Dead Animal	3
Demolition	3
Drug Enforcement	3
EnvServ: Early Set Out	3
EnvServ: Missed Blue Bag	4
EnvServ:Missed Pickup	12
EnvServ:Violations	27

Graffiti	12
Inspections	3
Litter Can	4
Noise	3
Overgrowth	3
Parking	25
Patrol	5
Permit—Residential	7
Potholes	93

Salt Box	5
Sewers	5
Sidewalk Need Repaired	10
Sign Request	14
Signs-Replacement	32
Snow & Ice Control	91
Street Cleaning	4
Street Resurfacing	7
Weeds/Debris	23

South Side Historic Homes Tour

A sure sign of spring on the South Side is the annual Historic Homes Tour. This year's event takes place on **Saturday, May 15**, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

More than 10 homes will be featured on the self-guided tour throughout the Slopes and Flats—including renovations, restorations, lofts, and even a former restaurant that is now a church.

Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 on the day of the event, and select restaurants will offer a special post-Mother's Day brunch and tour ticket.

Proceeds benefit the South Side Local Development Company and volunteers are needed.

For additional information and advance tickets, please call 412-481-0651 or visit www.southsidepgh.com.



A NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBOR

SSCC introduces **Tom Kolano**, the new chairman of South Side Community Council's public safety committee.

As of this May, Tom Kolano has been a Resident of the South Side for 19 years. He moved here mid-way through graduate school and remarks he still hasn't found a better place to live! He enjoys being

able to fill the basic needs on foot: supermarket, bagel shop, good restaurants, movies, bookstores and the train noise in the distance.

Three generations of Tom's family were married at St. Adalbert's Church: his parents (1952), his mother's parents (1923), and his grandmother's parents who he never knew (1894). His mother was born in a house on 13th Street, and there are still a few people here who were her neighbors.

Tom feels our neighborhood's best-kept secret is the trail system – "We are so spoiled. The trails are a great motivator for both exercising and getting off of the main drag." He feels with the few missing links in the larger system will be completed, everyone will be able to travel larger distances without ever hitting traffic.

A combination of family history and seeing public safety drop, particularly in the last five years, and wondering if he could make a difference is why Tom decided to get involved with Community Council.

Some of the biggest challenges currently facing South Side he sees are the worsening of crime and overall public safety. "On Sundays through most Thursdays this is a normal neighborhood – you can hear a pin drop at night. But like clockwork on Fridays & Saturdays, and increasingly on Thursdays, a huge nonresident population pours into the neighborhood, including a significant number of lawbreakers. Visitors think they can get away with anything – St. Paddy's day being only the most recent black eye. We have to get this situation under control or it will harm everybody, residents and businesses, in a domino effect."

Tom adds, "While the entertainment district is an asset, a certain sub-segment of establishments need to contribute to improving public safety, instead of exacerbating the problem. They may not understand that it will ultimately harm their businesses. Finally, for everyone's sake, the message must get out that if you visit the South Side and break laws you will be prosecuted."

Welcome aboard Tom!!



Kids Corner



Best friends Nadia Sandi and Gabriella Nemeth, both of the South Side Flats, stand next to possibly South Side's largest snowman ever built!

While making their way to the movies, they walked past Kyklops Tattoo parlor, saw "Cyclops, the one-eyed snowman", and immediately agreed this was a fantastic photo opportunity. "He was really huge!"

Kudos to Kyklops Tattoo for finding a way to make use of all that extra snow, blanketing the streets of February 2010!!

SSCC ANNUAL MEETING

What: 2010 Annual Board Meeting
Events: Election of New Board Members
The Outstanding South Sider Award
Meet and Greet
When: June 2010: Check the So. Pittsburgh Reporter for upcoming details and announcement through SSCommunityTaskforce@yahoo.com.
Time: 6:30PM
Where: Brashear Association, 2005 Sarah St.

NEXT SSCC OPEN MEETING

What: How to Protect Yourself Against Home Invasion, Scams & Identity Theft
Speakers: Detective Michael Pilyih and Detective Dave Jellison, City of Pittsburgh Police Dept./Burglary
Officer Michael G. Overholt City of Pittsburgh Police Dept. Computer Crimes Division
When: Fall 2010
Check the So. Pittsburgh Reporter for details.
Where: Brashear Association, 2005 Sarah St.

FALL 2009

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SouthSide Lights



News Flash

The US Postal Service's green relay boxes throughout the South Side are a primary target for graffiti vandals. The USPS has not given Graffiti Watch permission to paint them. These mailboxes are an eyesore in the community and easy targets for taggers.

The USPS has not been able to keep the mailboxes free of graffiti. Community volunteers can if we can get permission from the USPS to paint the boxes.

This will require an administrative effort involving contacting state and federal legislators to promote our cause.

If you would like to work on this project contact: Graffiti Watch: Email: graffitiwatch@gmail.com or phone: 412-496-2272.

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To: