



E-Blast

August 2005

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What's so great about the city?



Transportation is essential for many to get to work, go shopping, or grab a bite to eat. People have access to a variety of public transportation options in Pittsburgh. In addition to buses and trolleys, many commuters take advantage

Greetings!

In this month's issue we announce an upcoming CSL workshop, showcase the Mount Washington and Duquesne Heights neighborhoods, detail the Livable Neighborhood Program, and highlight the newly formed southwestern PA community development coalition.

We hope you find this information useful and that you enjoy the final days of summer!

- **September 8th Workshop**

Right Size It: Find the Right Space for Your Small Business

Are you a start-up or existing business in need of office space and don't know the first thing about the current commercial real estate market? Or are you an existing business with future downsizing or expansion space needs?

On Thursday, September 8 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., Cool Space Locator will offer an office space planning workshop for start-up and/or existing small businesses, artists, and arts organizations. The workshop will be held at Cool Space Locator's office in Lawrenceville at 279 45th Street, and will provide you with basic and essential tools necessary to find the right office or studio space for your business. We will help you identify your true space needs to make effective and financially healthy space planning decisions.

Cost is \$35.00 per person; registration is required and space is limited. The registration form is

Mail or fax your completed registration, which is available online at www.coolspacelocator.com, by September 6, to:

Robyn Barber
Cool Space Locator
279 45th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15201
Fax: (412) 683-6428
Phone: (412) 683-5790 x21

of river shuttles or take a trip with a view on the Duquesne and Monongahela inclines up and down the face of Mt. Washington.

What do you love about *your* city? If you have a photograph of urban life that you would like to see featured here, please send it to us, and be sure to tell us what you love about your community.

Can't make the September 8th workshop? Cool Space Locator will begin offering the Right Size It workshop on a regular basis. Revisit Cool Space Locator's website in the upcoming weeks to view future workshop dates and times.

• Featured Neighborhoods

Mt. Washington & Duquesne Heights

High atop the hillside south of Downtown Pittsburgh sit the neighborhoods of Mt. Washington and Duquesne Heights. PJ McArdle Roadway serves as a grand driving entrance to the



hilltop, leading both tourists and residents alike to the breathtaking views of Pittsburgh from Grandview Avenue, a scenic byway, where there are several observation decks and cliff side restaurants. But there is so much more to these neighborhoods than the famous view and the historic Duquesne and Monongahela Inclines.

Atop the Mon Incline, wooden rocking chairs beckon visitors to Shiloh Street, one of the area's several business districts (pictured above). Others include the Boggs/Bailey Corridor, Virginia Avenue, and Grandview Avenue in Duquesne Heights. Restaurants featuring different types of cuisine, a florist, and an ice cream shop are a few of the amenities lining the streets. Charlie Lewis Parklett (pictured below) is a welcoming resting place at the other end of the Shiloh main street. The sense of community is also apparent when walking through the well-kept residential streets.

For those who enjoy the outdoors, there are plenty of opportunities to enjoy it in the four parks (Grandview Park, Grandview Overlook Park, Olympia Park, and Mount Washington (Dilworth) Park), walking trails, and additional green areas. Realizing the importance of preserving these areas for all to enjoy, the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) has proposed the Emerald Link. The plan calls for the preservation of all the green areas in the two neighborhoods, which encompass almost 300 acres of land.

The MWCDC has been an instrumental part in implementing a number of other programs to better the neighborhoods of Mount Washington and Duquesne Heights. Established in 1990, the MWCDC has overseen community forums, the building of different housing projects, and planting projects. The current agenda includes assisting with the adaptive reuse of the South Hills High School.

For more information about MWCDC or the neighborhoods of Mount Washington and Duquesne Heights, visit the

MWDC website at www.mwcdc.org or call (412) 481-3220.

While in the area, be sure to check out the [Urban Mountain Gathering Place](#) at 213 Bailey Avenue, a Cool Space Award winner.

Thanks to Wendy Powers of the MWDC for her assistance in writing this article.

• **Livable Neighborhood Program**

Mount Washington is the first neighborhood to implement the Pittsburgh Livable Neighborhood Program. Currently implemented through a collaborative effort between Conservation Consultants Inc. (CCI) and MWDC, the program



empowers neighbors to work together to make a difference in their community. There are currently fifteen participating blocks, each of which has a team of neighbors that are working under a designated block leader. Based on their concerns, block teams work together to address issues like neighborhood appearance and crime prevention that affect their community.

There have been several successful stories with the program in Mount Washington. More than just the community is transforming; personal relationships among the neighbors are growing as well. Formerly distant groups of neighbors have successfully coordinated and conducted litter pick ups, crime watches, and parties for residents to enjoy some time to get to know one another better.

Originally developed by the Empowerment Institute, the Livable Neighborhood Program has been successfully applied in Philadelphia neighborhoods and others across the country. If you are interested in learning more about the Pittsburgh Livable Neighborhood Program and how to apply it to your neighborhood, visit www.ccicenter.org or call (412) 431-4449.

• **Community Development Coalition Forms in SWPA**

Community developers in the Southwestern Pennsylvania region recognize that revitalizing the region's communities and preparing the economy for growth aren't so different from one another. They recognize the need to make better decisions about what, where, and how we develop. As economic and population trends evolve, more and more of Southwestern Pennsylvania's communities are feeling the effects of population loss and the dispersion of investment decisions, which is why community developers are joining together to take a regional approach to

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phone: 412-683-5790

coordinate the creation of sound policy and investment decisions that will benefit both current and future generations.

10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, a statewide public policy advocacy and education organization, was invited by several Pittsburgh area community development organizations to help organize and provide support to an evolving network of community developers in the ten-county region who are looking to provide opportunities for people to live in communities where they can live, work and play. Formed in August 2004 and known as the Southwestern Pennsylvania Community Development Coalition (SWPACDC), the group is now working to provide community development professionals with better access to state and regional policy information, and to improve their ability to influence decision-making at the regional and state level.

The Coalition consists of over twenty organizations located in the urban, suburban, and rural communities of Southwestern Pennsylvania. The organizations, including Sustainable Pittsburgh, MWDC, and the Mon Valley Initiative, represent diverse interests, but all share the common bond of seeking to improve the quality of life of the region's communities. The Coalition has established a set of guiding principles that include:

- Promotion of the efficient use of public resources;
- Representation and inclusion of residents in social and economic decision-making; and
- Respect for the unique social and physical qualities of place, relating to culture, history and the natural and built environment.

The Coalition has voiced support for several key legislative issues. Topics range from support for state historic preservation incentives, to the voter supported Growing Greener bond program, which will supply more than \$100 million for community revitalization, to the Transit Revitalization Investment Districts legislation that will create \$500,000 for community planning and transit-related development. When asked about the Coalition's effectiveness, Dorothy Lengyel, President of the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development said, "By taking a fresh regional approach, the Coalition is producing immediate benefits for communities from East Liberty to Aliquippa."

The Coalition is poised to become an advocate for viable investment strategies and community revitalization policies that increase choices and improve the quality of life for Pennsylvania's communities.

For more information about the Coalition or if you are interested in joining, contact Grant Ervin of 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania's Pittsburgh office at

erwin@10000friends.org or (412) 471-3727 x16.

- **About Us**

Cool Space Locator, a project of the Tides Center (PA), is a non-profit real estate organization that connects neighborhoods, properties, and businesses in the revitalization of urban communities. We work in the community development realm to promote revitalization of urban areas and walkable communities and match forward-thinking companies with cool urban spaces to create a sustainable future. Aside from working directly with companies to find space, we work with government, economic and community development agencies, and commercial property owners to help boost the growth of office-based jobs in the great urban commercial districts of Pittsburgh. We are supported by:

- Richard King Mellon Foundation
- The Heinz Endowments
- The Pittsburgh Foundation
- Roy A. Hunt Foundation
- The Urban Redevelopment Authority of the City of Pittsburgh
- City of Pittsburgh, Mayor's Office