



Mayor Ravenstahl's Monthly Community Newsletter

April 2012

Dear Neighbors,

Spring is here, and Pittsburgh is blooming greener than ever. Though it can be hard to stay motivated through the winter, we have worked to find greener ways to run our City.

Over the last few months, we've made significant improvements in operating more efficiently. We have upgraded 3,700 business district streetlights to brighter, cleaner, cost-efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) streetlights - an improvement anticipated to reduce the City's energy usage by more than 60 percent and save taxpayers approximately \$110,000 per year; begun the development of "Green Central," a centralized space where residents and City employees will have easy access to information related to everything green; purchased new Compressed Natural Gas (CnG) waste haulers, set to run quieter, cleaner and more efficiently than ever on trash day; and assisted with the weatherization of 70 homes for City residents. There are many projects currently in the works that will keep Pittsburgh as a leader in sustainability, including the development of the Civic LEAF Academy.

This month, in honor of Earth Day, I invite you to celebrate the preservation of our planet all week with the City's first-ever Earth Market, April 23 - 27, in Market Square, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Also, don't miss this year's annual Earth Day celebration in Frick Park on Saturday, April 21.

If your green organization would like to participate in our Earth Market, or you would like more green-related information, please contact the City's Sustainability Coordinator, Aftyn Giles, at 412-255-2254. I also encourage you to sign up for an electronic copy of the Green Scene, my new newsletter that provides valuable resources and information about Pittsburgh's push toward a greener future. Go to pittsburghpa.gov/green and click on "Sign up for email updates" to subscribe to the Green Scene.

Creating a sustainable City is a collaborative effort that balances protection, preservation, maintenance and innovation. I am proud that Pittsburgh provides a great quality of life for our residents, and I look forward to working with residents, as well as the public and private sectors, to ensure a green, sustainable, most livable future for our City.

Sincerely,

Luke Ravenstahl
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

Civic LEAF Academy

This month, Mayor Ravenstahl is initializing a new program, called The Civic LEAF Academy.

Leaders for an Environmentally Alternative Future (LEAF) will participate in the five-week program that engages middle, high school and college students in annual green-themed programs.

Through the Academy, Mayor Ravenstahl plans to encourage youth interest in living a green lifestyle, engage them in City's "green" initiatives, introduce them to "sustainable" career opportunities, and inspire young leaders to incorporate best practices in their homes, school, and communities.

The Academy will meet twice a week for three-hour learning sessions every Wednesdays, followed by three-hour, hands-on activities on Saturday. To kick off the program "students will learn about urban gardening" in relation to local government,



businesses and non-profits, and will be provided with educational resources, future employment opportunities and community development support.

The program's three sectors include, "Sprout" for middle school students, "Cultivate" for high school students, and "Grow" for college students. Students will work separately and collectively on community projects, volunteer opportunities and various age-appropriate topics. Working with the Pittsburgh Promise, high school students, and college groups will help oversee the project as a whole.

At the culmination of the five week course, students will present their work, discuss what they've learned and show how they've worked - and will continue to work - collaboratively to help keep Pittsburgh as an international "green" leader.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are interested in this program please visit:
pittsburghpa.gov/youthpolicy



UPCOMING CLEAN UPS

**April 14, 2012**

Boy Scout Troop 73

Where: Butler to Mulberry Street

PA Resource Council

Where: Carson to Sarah Street

Morrell Street Volunteers

Where: Morell Street

OPCD and University of Pittsburgh
Student Groups

Where: Various locations

April 20-22, 2012**Spring Redd Up Weekend**

DID YOU KNOW?

273

Blocks have been impacted by Redd Up zone

35

Zones have been adopted



Mayor Ravenstahl with Boy Scout Troop 73 and Andy Masich, President and CEO of the Heinz History Center, who have adopted Redd Up Zones in Lawrenceville and the Strip District.

Redd Up Zone

The "Redd Up Zone" initiative celebrated its first official clean up last November, when Boy Scout Troop 73 and the Heinz History Center cleaned up litter from streets in Lawrenceville and the Strip District. This year, we are excited about the number of residents that will help clean up Pittsburgh's streets.

Launched last Fall, "Redd Up Zone" engages volunteers in street beautification and blight reduction when residents, community groups and local organizations adopt "Redd Up Zones" and commit to year-round clean ups. The program is part of Mayor Ravenstahl's servePGH initiative, which encompasses seven high-impact citizen-service initiatives that engage volunteers to help solve the City's most pressing challenges.

During this segue to warmer weather, redd up crews will begin organizing their first 2012 clean-up. The Gamma Sigma Sigma sorority at the University of Pittsburgh held its first cleanup along Bates Street in Oakland, on March 24, and Pitt Biology Club, Pitt Tri Bet, and East Carnegie Community Council also held Redd Up events March 31.

This month, a City-wide Redd Up weekend will take place on April 20-22.

Many of Pittsburgh's ninety neighborhoods will participate in the weekend event, which celebrates the litter-fighting Redd Up Zone initiative and includes Earth Day celebrations in collaboration with Citizens Against Litter.

Our goal is to include 250 communities from surrounding counties and collect 250 tons of litter.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call: 412-255-2280

Email:
servepgh@pittsburghpa.govVisit:
pittsburghpa.gov/mayorApply:
pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/reddupzone/application



In honor of Earth Day, a green and sustainable farmer's market, called Earth Market, will be held in Market Square from April 23-27, 2012.

This week-long farmer's market will help introduce residents to Pittsburgh's green resources and showcase local vendors. Earth Market will be open all week from 11 a.m to 2 p.m.

Along with selling organic food, vendors will demonstrate how to turn recycled plastic bags into fabric textiles crafts, and the City will host its annual tree give-away.

Space is still available for vendors. For more information please contact Aftyn Giles, the City's Sustainability Coordinator, at 412-255-2254 or at Aftyn.Giles@pittsburghpa.gov.

