



Mayor  
Ravenstahl's  
Monthly  
Community  
Newsletter  
  
September  
2012

MAYOR RAVENSTAHL'S MONTHLY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Dear Neighbors,

Throughout the summer, the City has been working diligently to improve streets, repair sidewalks and upgrade the overall maintenance of our neighborhoods. The Department of Public Works (DPW) maintains and cleans our City's streets, parks and public spaces, working to beautify our neighborhoods and make them safer.

This year we've raised the bar even higher by increasing the amount of streets paved, and by working with more community groups to clean up their blocks. So far this summer we have paved almost 50 miles of City streets, and we expect to complete 60 miles by the end of this year. Also, 56 new handicap ramps have been installed, with an expected 104 to be completed by the year's end. DPW has also worked with Redd Up and Green Up groups to clean 43 lots, board up 102 abandoned buildings, clear 466 tons of debris, create 12 new community gardens and officially open the South Side Dog Park. If you haven't checked it out yet, visit the City's newest dog park at 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Riverfront Park.

The City's parks are fun, safe areas for families and children to socialize with their neighbors. Safety repairs and improvements have recently been made to many of the City's 145 parks and playgrounds, including upgraded courts, lighting and overall appearance. Also, over the summer, 17 City pools have been available for families to enjoy, including the repaired and improved Moore Pool in Brookline.

All year round, the City works diligently to keep our neighborhoods safe and clean, providing the environment, resources and services that make Pittsburgh America's "Most Livable City." Please do your part to keep up the progress by working with neighbors and City representatives to combat blight, litter and crime, and help continue the transformation of our City.

Sincerely,

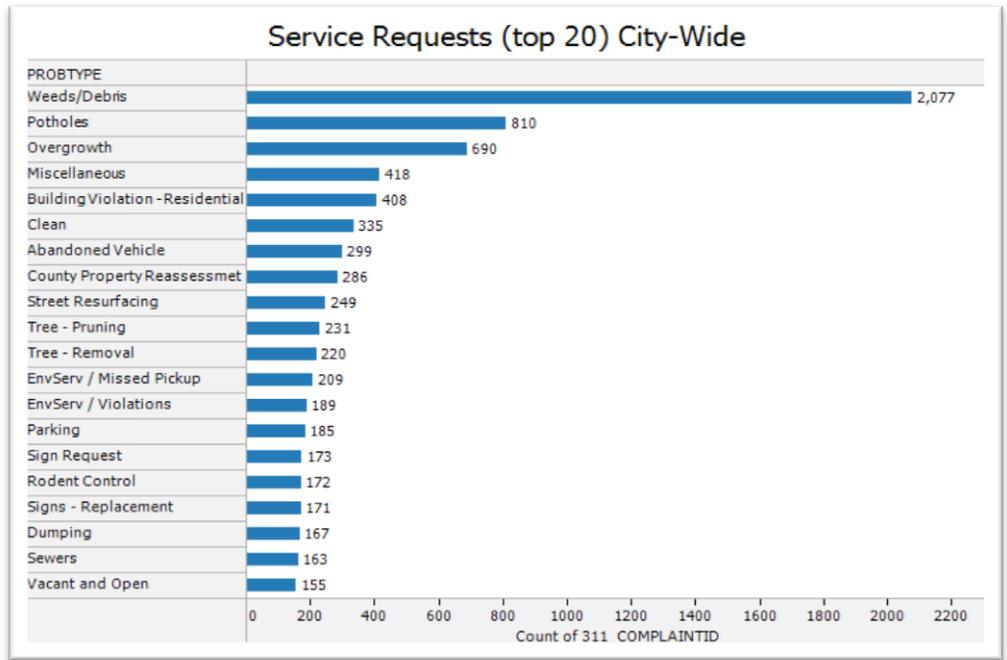
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Luke Ravenstahl".

Luke Ravenstahl  
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

# Repairing, Cleaning and Improving

The City's DPW crews work hard during the summer months to resurface streets and maintain roadways that deteriorate during the winter. This summer, almost 50 miles of City streets have been paved, and 10 additional miles are expected to be completed by the year's end. While the City uses a computerized database to help designate which roads need work, residents can request specific roads to be paved by calling 311 or filling out a form online at [pittsburghpa.gov/311/form](http://pittsburghpa.gov/311/form). DPW directors and Asphalt Plant personnel consider these requests while developing the coming season's paving plan.

The summer is a busy time for many City departments. From June 1 through August 21, over 6,444 code enforcement activities have been addressed by 10 field officers from the Bureau of Building Inspection. These activities include filing legal paperwork, giving written notices and completing general inspections.



Mayor's Service Center 311 Requests – 10,833 Requests for Service were initiated; 7,032 of these requests have been Resolved/Completed. The top 20 requested categories for service are shown above

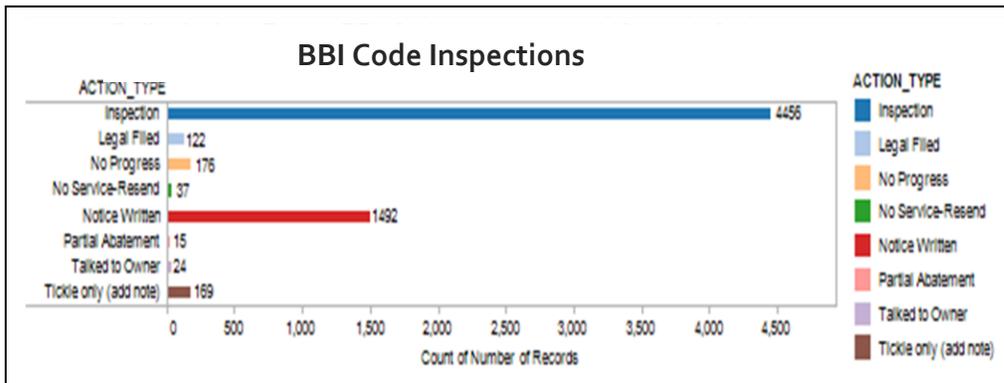
Over 7,000 311 requests have been resolved or completed this summer alone! The City has completed 2,077 weed and debris request and over 800 pothole requests - the most common requests placed through 311.

While the City does everything it can to keep our streets and neighborhoods clean, it's important for residents to pitch in. In 2007, Mayor Ravenstahl introduced the Green Up Pittsburgh program to combat overgrown vacant and abandoned lots left from the steel industry's decline.

The program stabilizes City-owned vacant lots by reducing blight and public safety hazards, inspiring community pride and promoting environmental values. Green Up has transformed blighted properties into over 60 urban gardens and other community spaces where residents can work together and take pride in their neighborhoods.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

To find out how you can get involved, check out these greening resources  
[pittsburghpa.gov/greeningresources](http://pittsburghpa.gov/greeningresources)



Code Enforcement Activities – 6,444 enforcement activities by 10 field officers  
 Please Note that Code Violation Citations = # Legal Filed + # Notice Written

## FALL PARK'S EVENTS

### Alphabet Trails and Tales

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 10a.m-1p.m.

### Bump in the Night

Friday's and Saturday's

October 12<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 7p.m.-9p.m.

### Richard S. Caliguiri Great Race



### Playgrounds Updated

Schenley Park	Marmaduke
Roland Lockridge	Esplen
Brookline	
Stratmore	Bon Air
Sheraden	Pauline
Dunbar	Phillip Murray
Natoli	Niagara
Mutual	
Woods Run	Park-west Common
Mellon Park	Four Mile Run
Wightman	Fowler
Chartiers	Manchester
Heth's	Kennard
Moore	
Philips	Vincennes
McKinley	Bud Hammer
Granville	Osceola
McCandless	Garland
Dallas	
Ormsby	Al "Turk" Graham
Fort Pitt	Graham
Nelson Mandela	Leslie
Westinghouse	Arlington
Davis	
Magee	Lincoln Place
Dinan	
Allegheny Commons	

## City Parks Maintenance and Fall Activities

Pittsburgh's beautiful parks provide safe and fun places that families can enjoy. The warm summer weather allows City crews to maintain and upgrade its more than 140 parks, ensuring their safety and cleanliness. The Parks Maintenance Bureau works to maintain the beauty, usability and safety of all City parks.

The playground safety program is designed to keep all play areas in compliance with national and state guidelines. While the City is happy to provide family friendly play areas in all of its neighborhoods, the safety of residents is highest priority. Under the playground safety program, DPW renovates playgrounds installing safety surfaces and updating play units

to ensure the structural stability of all equipment.

Be sure to check out some of the many outdoor activities coming soon this fall. "Bump in the Night" is a family friendly event that encourages all to enjoy, rather than fear, the night by meeting a nocturnal animal, joining in a sing - along and carving a pumpkin with family and friends. Take a walk with your family in beautiful Frick Park where adventures await you at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Alphabet Trail and Tales - Citiparks free event for early and elementary-aged children that features interactive, larger-than-life story sets that create the backdrop for a day of reading, games, music and other fun.

## Do You “Love Your Block?”

This month, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl announced the 21 recipients who will receive funding through his “Love Your Block” program this fall. The block revitalization program provides an opportunity for local volunteers and residents to revitalize our City – one block at a time!

Thanks to the generous support of The Home Depot Foundation, Love Your Block grantees are now awarded \$1,000 – increased from \$500 - to purchase supplies and equipment to implement a block improvement project that mobilizes community volunteers. In addition, a special \$2,000 prize will be given to the organization that best transforms their block each grant cycle. These 21 projects are scheduled to take place between August and October in many neighborhoods, including Homewood, Mount Washington, Spring Garden and Sheraden. Projects range from planting gardens, to beautifying vacant lots, to restoring veteran memorials.

“With twice as many organizations receiving more support than ever to carry out their innovative neighborhood revitalization plans, more residents will be apart of the growing movement of impact volunteerism,” said Ravenstahl. “Since the launch of this program, citizens have helped to spruce up 100 City blocks, collected nearly 10,000 pounds of litter and created 30 new community gardens.”

Do you love your block? Contact us to volunteer with one of these exciting projects this fall, or apply for your own Love Your Block project in your neighborhood. Applications for the next round of grants will be available this winter, and all community organizations and non-profits are encouraged to apply. To learn more, please visit the servePGH website at [pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh](http://pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh).

Love Your Block is one of eight service initiatives that are a part of the Mayor’s servePGH initiative, which engages volunteers to help address Pittsburgh’s greatest challenges. Still have questions? Email the Mayor’s Office of Service & Civic Engagement at [servepgh@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:servepgh@pittsburghpa.gov) or call at 412-255-2280.



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