



Mayor Ravenstahl's Monthly Community Newsletter

February
2013

MAYOR RAVENSTAHL'S MONTHLY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Dear Neighbors,

On the heels of a successful and impressive 2012, I'm proud of all we've accomplished and look forward to further fueling our City's rebirth and resurgence in 2013. Pittsburgh's Third Renaissance, marked by job creation and neighborhood development throughout the City, is in full swing. For the first time in decades, our population is growing. Crime is at an historic low, having decreased for six straight years. And, at over 1.2 million, there are more jobs in Pittsburgh today than ever before. While we've worked hard to expand Pittsburgh's Third Renaissance into more neighborhoods last year, there is still more work to be done.

Our 2013 budget is balanced, contains no new tax increases or layoffs, and enhances the City's commitment to investing in neighborhoods and infrastructure. Over \$16 million is dedicated to projects throughout the City – from spray parks and community projects, to recreation and senior centers, to playgrounds and ball fields. We'll continue to deploy innovative strategies to ensure that Pittsburgh's Third Renaissance reaches all of our City's 90 neighborhoods.

Whether it's capitalizing on the impact of dedicated volunteerism through servePGH, or investing in the future of our young people through The Pittsburgh Promise, we recognize that the greatest strength we have in Pittsburgh is our people. This year, I look forward to working with residents to transform more blocks through Green Up and Love Your Block, assist and impact residents through Mayor's Mentoring Initiative and Snow Angels, and foster more informed and effective civic leadership through Civic Leadership Academy and Civic LEAF Academy. Together, we'll write the next chapter in Pittsburgh's remarkable history.

I'm excited about the new projects and initiatives that will come your way this year. Advanced public safety efforts, greener programs and practices, volunteer opportunities with new servePGH initiatives and more – Pittsburgh's Third Renaissance will have an even greater impact in 2013.

Sincerely,

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

Luke Ravenstahl
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh



Mayor Ravenstahl plants flowers with students from Manchester Elementary School.

Recently awarded a \$100,000 Cities of Service Impact Volunteering Fund grant, the City - through the Mayor's servePGH and Green Up Pittsburgh initiatives - will roll out two new, innovative and sustainable programs this year.

Edible Gardens – an expansion of the Green Up Pittsburgh program and addition to servePGH – will engage volunteers and improve access to healthy foods in more than a dozen low-income City neighborhoods where access to fresh produce markets is limited.

Targeting food deserts within the City, volunteers

New Initiatives Will Increase Access to Fresh Foods, Decrease City's Carbon Footprint

will work side by side with Green Up Pittsburgh's Green Team on vacant City-owned property to create, design and plant vegetables and fruits in raised boxes.

We look forward to spreading the importance of healthy diets to neighbors while educating volunteers about how to grow healthy, locally grown produce. Distribution throughout the community is a must, and community events at the garden are also highly encouraged. More information and applications are available at: pittsburghpa.gov/ediblegardens.

Also in the pipeline is an innovative servePGH program that will reduce the City's energy usage and waste. **Cool Roofs** – set to launch this spring – will engage volunteers to coat 10 City-owned buildings' roofs with a reflective white paint, which will reduce excessive

CO₂ emissions and allow the buildings to operate more efficiently.

Cool Roofs is the Mayor's next step to create a cleaner, greener City of Pittsburgh.

Edible Gardens will harvest and distribute nearly one ton of produce to at least 200 families in its first year!

Cool Roofs will reduce the City's carbon emissions by 50 tons!

Under Mayor Ravenstahl's leadership – and with the invaluable support of Cities of Service, Bloomberg Philanthropies, key partners, City departments and champion volunteers – the City of Pittsburgh will better meet residents' needs and be 10 roofs closer to a greener City in 2013!

New servePGH Initiative Will Make More Students 'Promise-Ready'

The City's newest servePGH initiative - called Promise Coaches - will equip adults with the skills needed to mentor young people in an effort to increase graduation rates while increasing the number of students eligible to receive \$40,000 for college from The Pittsburgh Promise.

Unlike traditional styles of youth mentoring, Promise Coaches offers a wealth of resources for adult-youth mentoring relationships that already exist. Citywide, adults can attend workshops, access both online and print resources, and commit to staying involved and engaged in a young person's life through high school and onto higher education.

Promise Coaches will provide a series of mentoring workshops across the City in an effort to increase high school and college graduation rates among Pittsburgh's students, mirroring the goals of The Pittsburgh Promise. Additionally, it aims to increase the number of public school graduates who receive funding for college from The Promise, a \$40,000 scholarship available to all public and charter school students in the City of Pittsburgh that meet attendance and GPA requirements.

Launched this month, Promise Coaches will further Mayor Ravenstahl's work to provide young people with the tools and resources they need to succeed. This new program will help ensure that all of our City's students have at least one dedicated, encouraging adult who can help them succeed in high school, college and beyond. Watch for workshops coming to your neighborhood to find out how you can become a Promise Coach.

Interested in becoming a Promise Coach or want to know more? Contact servePGH at 412-255-2280 or servepgh@pittsburghpa.gov.

This initiative, led by servePGH, is supported by: The Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania, the United Way of Allegheny County, the Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS), the Pittsburgh Promise, and the Mayor's Office of Youth Policy. In addition, The Promise Coach Campaign was informed by material developed by the Philadelphia Graduation Coach Campaign, an initiative of Mayor Michael A. Nutter's Office of Education and funded by the Coca-Cola Foundation.



For more information and to stay updated about the City of Pittsburgh, visit and follow!



Pittsburghpa.gov



facebook.com/city.of.pittsburgh



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What Do You Love About Pittsburgh?

We asked our Facebook fans, “Valentine’s Day is just around the corner, and we want to know... What do you love about Pittsburgh?”

“I love driving around a bend and watching the skyline present itself. But my favorite thing is that this happens on every side of the city. No matter where you're coming from, our skyline greets you with open arms.” – Amanda Paciorkowski, Bon Air

“The Pittsburgh Promise!!!”
– Jeff Heil, Observatory Hill

“I grew up in Pittsburgh, but now live in Kansas City. I love going home through the Fort Pitt tunnels and being welcomed into the city I love.”
– Bette Marcus

“Like most of us who have left Pittsburgh and boomeranged back, it's that first moment when you go through the tunnels and have your breath taken away by the skyline, and feel in your heart that you're 'home.' It's when you're in another city, and a stranger picks up the littlest hint of a 'yinz' or an 'n'at,' and the next thing you know you have a new friend sharing tales of Primanti's or the Original. It's when you're in an airport and someone smiles and nods at your Pens jersey or your Pirates cap. I love that while Pittsburgh is a city, with boundaries and borders, but Pittsburghers, we're everywhere.”
– Amy Boardley Watson, Mt. Washington

“Pittsburgh offers practical urban living in natural surroundings. More folks should follow their heart this Valentine's Day and move into the City.”
– Trail Town South Side Pittsburgh

“I love my neighborhood of South Side and all the parking chairs, steps with street names, sitting on my stoop on nice evenings, sharing all the beauty South Side has to offer with neighbors young and old. I love to walk down Carson and window shop.” – Sherri Lynn Dunik, South Side

“A 10-minute walk to work becomes thirty minutes, simply because friends and neighbors stop to talk to each other.”
– Tom Kolos, Greenfield

“Since moving here in 2002, and to Mount Washington in 2007, it has become home. The community is amazing and it's made me realize there's nowhere else I'd rather be.”
– Adam Paul Causgrove, Mt. Washington

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