



Mayor  
Ravenstahl's  
Monthly  
Community  
Newsletter

December 2012

MAYOR RAVENSTAHL'S MONTHLY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Dear Neighbors,

With 2013 just around the corner, I'd like to take this time to reflect on another successful year in the City of Pittsburgh. As our Third Renaissance reaches and revitalizes even more neighborhoods, I have never been more proud of the way our residents and neighbors have worked hand-in-hand with the City to clean up blight, remove litter and transform eye sores into beauty. We should all be proud of our neighborhoods, and of the work we've done – and continue to do – to ensure that they're a great place to live and do business. Across the City, many great things happened in 2012. Take a look inside to see our **Year In Review** including:

- ◆ Job Creation and World-Renowned Recognition
- ◆ Ensuring Public Safety
- ◆ Bringing Back Pittsburgh's Promise
- ◆ Greening and Sustainability
- ◆ From Seniors to Kids - Improvements for Everyone to Enjoy
- ◆ Engaging Residents in Citizen Service
- ◆ 2013 Budget

As we look forward to another successful year in 2013, I anticipate even more milestones to be reached, neighborhoods to be improved and accolades to be received. And I look forward to working together with residents, community organizations and businesses to write the next chapter in Pittsburgh's remarkable story. I wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Luke Ravenstahl  
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

## Creating Jobs in 2012

Pittsburgh's Third Renaissance reached even greater heights this year. More jobs were created, billions of dollars were invested and thousands of residents were engaged in neighborhood revitalization projects. Today, Pittsburgh's Third Renaissance is in full swing and marked not just by Downtown's transformation, but by job creation and economic development happening

*"Pittsburgh has become the national example of how to grow jobs..."*

neighborhoods all across the City. Crime has decreased for six straight years, and for the first time in decades our population is on the rise. We're deploying innovative strategies to reinvest in our neighborhoods. And we're investing in our future by caring deeply about the lives of our young people through programs like The Pittsburgh Promise.

A defining element of Pittsburgh's Third Renaissance is job creation. Pittsburgh has become the national example of how to grow jobs and innovate, despite a challenging national economy. Currently, there are more people employed in Pittsburgh than ever before, and for the first time in decades our population is growing. But there is still much more work to be done to ensure that even more residents are connected to even more jobs. Here are some developments that will help us accomplish that goal.

Downtown's newest skyscraper – the \$400 million dollar Tower at



PNC Plaza – will create 3,000 jobs for local residents. PNC's new headquarters will be the most environmentally friendly skyscraper in the world, and will further revitalize Downtown's Fifth Avenue corridor. Citywide, neighborhoods like Garfield, Lawrenceville, East Liberty, the Hill District and others have seen a surge in job opportunities and new developments that will attract both residents and visitors, and contribute to our growing business districts. From Lawrenceville's Hatfield+Home housing development, to East Liberty's Bakery Square 2.0, to Homewood's Senior Housing, Pittsburgh's neighborhoods are growing.

Recently awarded \$1.6 million in federal Community Economic Development grants for neighborhood development, the City and its partners got to work on two neighborhood development projects in East Liberty and the Hill District. The federal funding helped transform the long-vacant, historical landmark into the beautiful Mansions on Fifth Hotel – the City's first boutique hotel. It will

also enable the construction of the Hill District's much anticipated Shop 'N Save grocery store. Secured with help from Mayor Ravenstahl, Senator Robert Casey and Congressman Mike Doyle, the grants will strengthen these growing neighborhoods and create hundreds of jobs.

Projects like these – and the resulting job creation, neighborhood growth and economic development – helped Pittsburgh retain its title as "America's Most Livable City" for the fourth year in a row. Ranked among the top 50 most livable cities in the world – and one of only two U.S. cities in the top 30 – by *The Economist*, Pittsburgh is receiving the recognition it deserves. We're highly ranked as a great place for seniors, an affordable place to buy a home, and an exciting city for young professionals. We're looking forward to even more success in 2013!



## Engaging Residents to servePGH

Now in its second year, the Mayor's servePGH initiative continues to engage residents in volunteer-fueled solutions to our City's greatest challenges through eight high-impact and innovative initiatives. By obtaining a Cities of Service grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies and Rockefeller Foundation, Mayor Ravenstahl launched servePGH in March 2011 to engage Pittsburgh's citizens in service and answer President Obama's national call to volunteerism.

The Mayor has engaged residents in volunteer-fueled solutions to revitalize close to 200 City blocks, restore vulnerable residents' homes, help middle-school youth navigate life's challenges, clean up over 21,760 pounds of litter, shoveled 27,000 square feet of snow, and more. Over 3,000 volunteers have committed over 30,000 hours of service through servePGH to date.

Among the impressive milestones, servePGH has received additional funding from various resources to complete more projects and increase its impact. The success of the Love Your Block revitalization program led The Home Depot Foundation to increase its donation to \$130,000 – enabling the City to increase the number of Love Your Block revitalization projects from 20 to 50 per year, and doubling the grant amount to \$1,000 per project. In addition, one project per round

is voted “best” and receives an additional \$2,000 to be used for future block enhancements.

The Mayor's Mentoring Initiative, which invites City employees to mentor local students, was expanded to include elementary school students. Through Reading is Fundamental's *Everybody Wins!* program, City employees now have the opportunity to spend their lunch hour reaching to first-through third-grade Pittsburgh Public School students. The program is in addition to the successful partnership with the United Way of Allegheny County's *Be a 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Mentor* program, which engages City employees – including Mayor Ravenstahl (pictured above with mentee) – in mentoring local middle school students throughout the school year. In its first year, the Mayor's Mentoring Initiative has become the number one employer of the *Be a 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Mentor* program!

This year, the City was also granted a \$100,000 Cities of Service Impact Volunteering Fund grant to support two new servePGH initiatives. Cool



Roofs, a new program to equip Pittsburgh with more sustainable and energy efficient buildings, will coat City-owned buildings with white reflective paint, reducing internal building temperatures and reducing Co2 emissions. As an expansion of the Mayor's Green Up program, Edible Gardens will engage volunteers to improve access to healthy foods in more than a dozen low-income City neighborhoods. Look for news about those – and all servePGH initiatives – in the New Year!



# Bringing Back Pittsburgh's Promise: 2013 Budget and Five-Year Plan

Almost one decade ago, our City was facing bankruptcy and entered Act 47 State oversight. Today, however, Mayor Ravenstahl has brought the promise back to Pittsburgh. Today, Pittsburgh's Third Renaissance is in full swing and is marked by job creation and neighborhood development throughout the City – from East Liberty to Ohio Street, from the West End to the South Side, from Downtown to Allentown. For the first time in decades, our population is growing. Crime is at an historic low, having decreased for six straight years. And perhaps most important, at over 1.2 million, there are more jobs in Pittsburgh today than ever before. Our future is looking even brighter.

Mayor Ravenstahl's 2013 Budget and Five-Year Plan is, yet again, a balanced budget that contains no new tax increases or layoffs and enhances the City's commitment to investing in neighborhoods and infrastructure. In addition, the budget holds the line on spending, budgets revenues conservatively – estimating expenditures to be less than revenues in every year of the plan – and continues the fiscal responsibility that has been the hallmark of the Ravenstahl administration.

The backbone of the City's financial success has been the commitment to paying down past debts, resulting in the retiring of a quarter-billion dollars of past debts. Over the course of the five-year plan, the budget commits to a pay-as-you-go capital budget and will fund essential quality-of-life services, such as public safety, public works, and parks and recreation.

Under Mayor Ravensathl's leadership, the City has regained its financial stability. The approval of the 2013 budget by ICA and Act 47 marks the seventh consecutive year with a balanced budget, leading the State's Act 47 team to request that the City be released from oversight. This is a great milestone for the City of Pittsburgh. The State's secretary of economic development will make the determination in the coming months.



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## Pittsburgh: A Safe, Strong City



Mayor Ravenstahl's vision for a safer and stronger Pittsburgh was evidenced throughout 2012 as he aggressively invested in top-of-the-line training and state-of-the-art equipment to strengthen the City's public safety fleet. City's crime rates have decreased for six consecutive years, and these investments will better equip City officials to protect and serve Pittsburgh's residents.



With help from a federal grant, the Mayor launched a multi-million dollar initiative to install cameras in high-crime areas and business districts as well as on bridges and waterways. These cameras will be linked with camera networks, enabling public safety officials to keep a closer eye on the safety of these areas

and providing a strong safety net across the entire City. This year, nearly 100 City-owned cameras were installed.

In recent months, more than 100 residents took a greater hand in ensuring safety in their neighborhood by signing up to receive the Mayor's Block Watch in a Box tool kit. Introduced this year, the kit connects residents with City resources and information to help create or strengthen community block watches. The user-friendly kit contains information about how to work closely with police and public safety officials to keep communities safe, clean and green. It provides start-up

resources, public safety assistance, networking opportunities, funding options and more. If you'd like to help your neighborhood become even safer, visit [pittsburghpa.gov/publicsafety/bwib](http://pittsburghpa.gov/publicsafety/bwib) for more information.

Also in an effort to improve safety in our neighborhoods, 4,000 streetlights were converted to energy efficient LED lights Downtown and in neighborhood business districts. The new lights produce brighter, cleaner light and the conversion is projected to reduce the City's electricity expenses by over 60 percent.

While the City's crime rates continue to decrease, there is still much to be done.

### ***SAFER, CLEANER CITY: BY THE NUMBERS***

**\$23 million invested since 2006 to tear down nearly 4,000 dangerous structures**

**\$8.5 million invested to upgrade the City's public safety fleet in 2012**

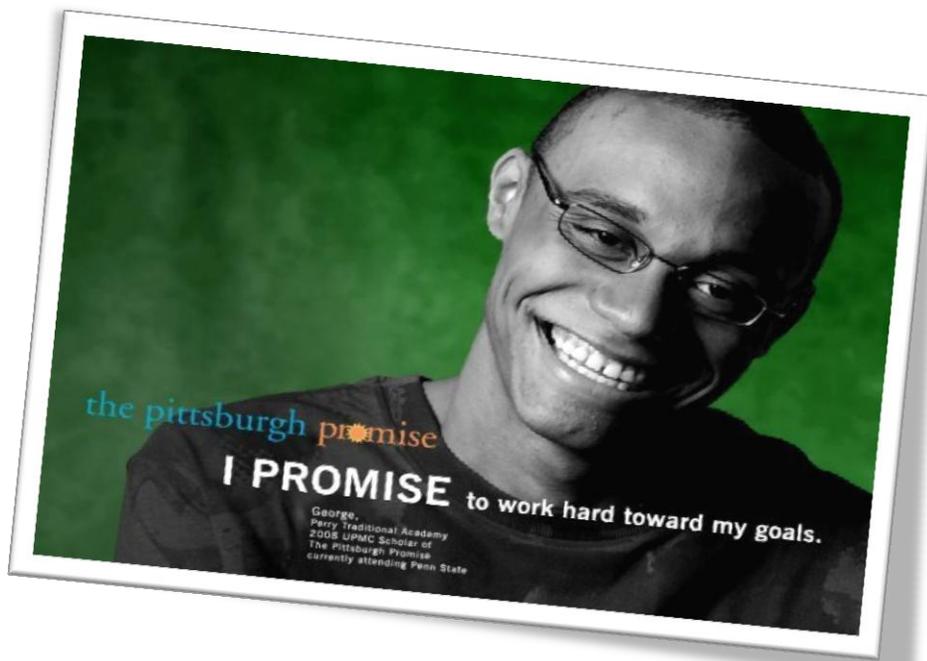
**It costs \$430,000 to replace a fire truck. There are 29 fire trucks and they must be replaced every 12 years.**

## Investing in our Youth

Mayor Ravenstahl understands that Pittsburgh's young residents are our future, and that we must invest in services and resources to ensure their safety and success. From providing scholarships for college to working to prevent bullying, that's exactly what happened this year.

To date, more than 3,200 students have reached the dream of higher education with The Pittsburgh Promise. The Promise, launched by Mayor Ravenstahl and Pittsburgh Public Schools Superintendent Mark Roosevelt in 2007, provides up to \$40,000 in scholarships to City public and charter school students that meet attendance and GPA requirements. This year, and moving forward, students will continue to earn college degrees thanks to The Promise, and the City will continue to invest in our youth and help provide the education and tools they need to be successful.

To encourage graduating seniors to begin their career in Pittsburgh, the Mayor reached out to students via email and job fairs to share the many opportunities available in our City. Students received information about job opportunities with local Fortune 500 companies businesses who make their homes in Pittsburgh, affordable housing options in all of the City's 90 distinct neighborhoods, and programs like servePGH and Propel Pittsburgh as ways to get involved in issues that affect young adults locally.



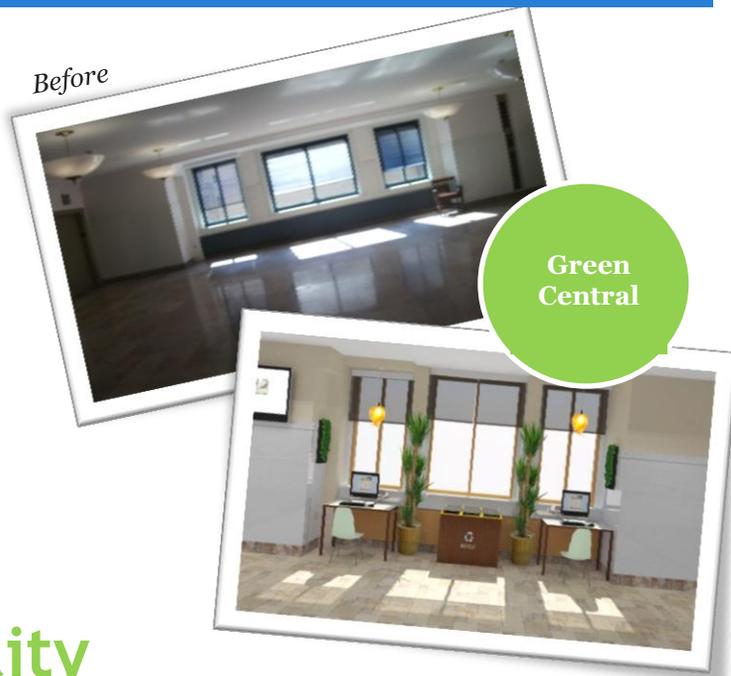
Part of the strategy to stop and prevent bullying is to provide a safe and encouraging outlet for our young people to be themselves and feel confident about who they are. With that in mind, the City teamed up with Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and the Carnegie Museums to host the "Wallflowers and Wildflowers: Alternative Homecoming" dance for City high school students who find it difficult to attend their own school's dance, as well as home-schooled and cyber-schooled students, and students who attend schools that don't have homecoming dances. "Wallflowers and Wildflowers" provided a judgment-free environment for teens to have fun, be safe and celebrate the hidden wallflower in all of us.

Mayor Ravenstahl also took steps to prevent bullying by encouraging community members to sign the "Stand Up to Bullying Pledge," in participation with a nationwide effort to end bullying and discrimination in schools and communities. Those who signed the pledge agreed to take a stand

against bullying by treating others with kindness and respect, and having the courage to not be a bystander.

One of the most exciting events hosted in our City this year was the One Young World Summit, a conference that brought nearly 1,300 young leaders from almost 200 countries to Pittsburgh. Mayor Luke Ravenstahl joined Bill Clinton, Jamie Oliver and Muhammad Yunus to welcome the delegates to Pittsburgh, who discussed world issues such as business, global health and sustainable development. The summit was an exciting opportunity to showcase Pittsburgh as a city that keeps surprising people from all over the world!





## Greening and Sustainability

The Mayor's Office of Sustainability made great strides this year, including hosting the City's first-ever Earth Market in Market Square. Dozens of vendors shared sustainable resources, promoted citywide green initiatives and supported the growth of the local green economy. The Mayor's annual tree giveaway handed out more than 1,500 evergreen trees in an effort to promote a greener City and reach the Treevitalize Initiative's goal of planting 20,000 trees by the end of 2012.

A new program, called The Civic LEAF Academy – Leaders for an Environmentally Alternative Feature – was launched earlier this year, providing middle school, high school and college students the opportunity to learn about sustainability and how

they can help reduce Pittsburgh's carbon footprint. Students were given a "behind the scenes" look at City government's role in developing a sustainable, green City and learned how to live and lead a "green" lifestyle in their homes, schools and communities.

The City's Green Central Student Design Competition invited local students to submit their ideas to redesign the City-County Building's sixth floor corridor into a one-stop-shop for green- and sustainability-related information. Four groups of students (12 students total) competed, and two groups from Chatham University won. Green Central will encourage education about issues of sustainable development, and connect students and residents with information about the City's Greening efforts and resources to jumpstart their own greening projects, and is projected to open next spring.



## Improving, Cleaning and Greening in 2012

This past year, the Department of Public Works (DPW) worked diligently to improve our neighborhoods by paving streets, tearing down vacant houses, improving playgrounds, and working with Redd Up, Green Up and community groups to complete beautification projects. Year-round, DPW works to ensure the cleanliness, efficiency and safety of our City's streets, infrastructure and neighborhoods.

Looking around your neighborhood, you'll likely notice some recent work that

DPW has done. Just this year, they cleaned 43 lots, boarded up 102 abandoned buildings, cleared 466 tons of debris, created 12 new community gardens and opened the South Side Dog Park. Collaborating with community volunteers, Green Up Pittsburgh (launched by Mayor Ravenstahl in 2007), and Redd Up Zone (part of the Mayor's servePGH initiative) help stabilize City-owned vacant lots, reduce blight and public safety hazards, inspire community pride and promote environmental values.

In 2012 alone, the City invested almost \$1 million in playground improvements, including citywide renovations to improve the safety and function of the City's more than 130 parks, and

to continue to provide safe, family friendly places for children to have fun. Renovations included installation of new safety surfaces, electrostatic painting enhancements and increased ADA accessibility.

Acknowledging that our roads are in need of investment, Mayor Ravenstahl called for one of the most robust paving seasons the City has seen in years. With a plan to increase paving mileage from 25 lane miles in 2011 to 60 lane miles in 2012, DPW crews finished paving 62 miles of City streets this year, and are prepared for another impressive paving season next year.



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