



Office of Councilman Patrick Dowd — May 2011

News and Updates

DEAR FRIENDS

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is an anchor of our community. If we hope to have a community filled with children who are literate and engaged, we need a strong library system. If we want a community in which folks can find jobs and have access to important information, we need a strong library system. If we want neighborhoods in which seniors are active and involved, we need a strong library system. If we want a vibrant Pittsburgh, we must have a vibrant Carnegie Library system. Our library is our future.

For at least two years now, the board of the Carnegie Library has been working to address tough financial issues. In December, 2010 the board received an important report with six recommendations on how to establish sustainable funding for the Library. That report along with other important information is available at <http://carnegielibrary.org/about/future/background/>. This package of recommendations included ways to protect and grow current library funding as well as possible new funding streams.

To that end, the board established the Joint Committee on Sustainable Funding for the Library. As co-chairs, Judge Frank Lucchino and I have been working with the members of the committee to prepare for the board all the information they will need to consider the feasibility of getting a question on the ballot of the November 2011 General Election. This is a complicated matter and we have done significant research and hired folks to help answer legal and other types of questions. We expect to finalize our work this month.

If you are interested in learning more about the possible Carnegie Library ballot initiative, have further questions, or are willing to volunteer, please contact Pat Milham at ourlibraryyourfuture@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued interest and involvement. Our library is our future.

DUMPBUSTERS TO THE RESCUE!

Dumping is an unfortunate and serious issue in Pittsburgh and DumpBusters is out on patrol. A program of Allegheny Cleanways, DumpBusters is a group of dedicated individuals tired of seeing illegal dumps all around the City. These volunteers spend their days removing trash dumped over our area hillsides and in secluded spots. Recently, they tackled a *small* dump site, removing 16 tires, 400 lbs of metal and 700 lbs of loose debris! They will engage the community in a more comprehensive clean-up in that area during the summer months.

There are some things you can do now, however, to address the issue. If you catch someone dumping illegally, take down their license plate and take pictures, then contact police. Fines start at \$50 but can reach \$10,000 or prison time for repeat offenders. If you would like more information about Allegheny Cleanways and the DumpBuster program, please contact Myrna Newman at 412.381.1301 or myrnan@alleghencycleanways.org.

You can also spread the word and help keep District 7 clean! Let folks know that large items may be dropped off at the following locations:

East End Center (412-665-3609)
Hazelwood Center (412-422-6524)
West End Center (412-937-3054)

Upcoming Events and Meetings

COUNCIL TO GO

Join **Councilman Patrick Dowd at Council to Go**, his mobile district office, to voice your concerns, ideas, and questions about local government and services.

Polish Hill — Wednesday, May 11, 7-8pm — Lili Coffee Shop, 3138 Dobson Street

Bloomfield — Tuesday, May 24, 6-7pm — Crazy Mocha, 4525 Liberty Avenue

Highland Park — Thursday, May 26, 7-8pm — Enrico's Tazza D'Oro, 1125 N. Highland Avenue

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Saturday, May 7, 2011, 8am-4pm – [ISA Penn-Del Chapter Tree Climbing Competition](#), Allegheny Cemetery, Butler Street Entrance

Watch as International Society of Arboriculture Certified Professionals take to the treetops to prune high up branches and keep mature trees healthy in this exciting family-friendly competition.

Saturday, May 7 & 8, 2011 – [Lawrenceville Blossom Tour](#)

Travel down Butler Street on May 7 & 8 to see all that Lawrenceville has to offer. Collect seed packets for your own garden at each participating stop along the way.

Sunday, May 15 -- [Dick's Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon](#) – Bloomfield & Highland Park

Council District 7 is the place to be on Race Weekend. Activities in Bloomfield will include a weekend long sidewalk sale; Bloomfield's Best Meatball competition at Groceria Italiana; and a marathon pasta eating contest at Del's Bar and Ristorante. On Marathon Sunday cheer on the runners through Pittsburgh's Little Italy along the route lined with spectators and bands. For more information on these Bloomfield contests, visit www.bloomfieldnow.com

And in Highland Park, they will have refreshments for spectators and Hill Jordan and his band will be playing on Bryant Street to inspire runners and crowds alike.

Monday, May 16, 6:30-8:30pm -- First public meeting for the [Polish Hill Community Plan](#) – *West Penn Community Recreation Center*

Tuesday, May 17, 2011 – ELECTION DAY!

Saturday, May 21 – Special City of Pittsburgh [Yard Debris Collection](#) 2011

The City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works, Bureau of Environmental Services will be collecting leaf and yard debris from all residents in a special collection.

Saturday, May 21, 8:30am-3pm -- [S.A.F.E. Pittsburgh: Building Community Block Watches](#) – *West Penn Hospital Friendship Dining Room*

This community safety training and resource fair is sponsored by the Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and the Office of Councilwoman Theresa Kail-Smith (District 2 and Public Safety Committee Chair) and hosted by the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG) and the Community Technical Assistance Center (CTAC). *Space is limited; registration required.*

Saturday, May 21, 9am-12pm – [Lawrenceville Community Clean-up](#)

Lawrenceville United conducts community clean-ups on the third Saturday of each month from April through October. Breakfast and lunch are provided. If you are interested in volunteering to clean-up your community, you can contact Becky Thatcher at becky@lunited.org

Saturday, May 21, 9am-12pm – Morningside Community Clean-up

The Morningside Area Community Council hosts four or more clean-ups per year with the next one happening this month. Meet at the Baker Street Community Garden (Baker and Morningside Avenue).

If you know of any free community-oriented events in your District 7 neighborhood that we should publicize through our monthly newsletter and [District 7 website](#), please email Jennifer.thoma@city.pittsburgh.pa.us by the **1st of each month**.

Did You Know?

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, an average home can easily accumulate 100 pounds of common chemicals referred to as “household hazardous waste.” These household chemicals include cleaners, paints, stains and varnishes, car batteries, automotive fluids, pesticides, pool chemicals and other products containing potentially hazardous ingredients.

Local residents will have an opportunity to safely and cost-effectively dispose of common chemicals found in their homes at a series of drop-off collections sponsored by the [Pennsylvania Resources Council](#) and its partners. The Allegheny County collection will take place on **Saturday, May 7 – 9am to 1pm** at the **North Park Swimming Pool** parking lot.

To unsubscribe from Council District 7 updates, please notify Jennifer Thoma at jennifer.thoma@city.pittsburgh.pa.us and you or your organization will be removed from our contact list.

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[District 7 Schedule of Events Google Calendar](#) | [2010 Annual Report](#) [pdf]