



Office of Councilman Patrick Dowd — November 2011

NEWS AND UPDATES

Vote “YES” for Our Libraries on November 8

As many of you know first-hand, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is one of our community's most valued and trusted assets. The Carnegie Library helps young people learn and develop literacy skills beyond the school day, seniors continue their life-long learning, job-seekers find resources when they are applying for work or learning new skills. The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh has helped us and now the Library needs our help.

When we vote on November 8th the supporters of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh ask you to vote “YES” on a referendum question. The question on the November 8th ballot asks citizens to establish a 0.25 mill special tax on all taxable real estate in the City of Pittsburgh to be allocated and used only for the maintenance and operation of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. (This is the equivalent of \$25 per year or \$2.09 per month on \$100,000 of assessed value.) If passed, this referendum would help provide Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh with the diverse and sustainable funding required to continue to provide the critical services the community wants and needs.

Here are a couple of important facts to consider before voting on November 8th.

1. If approved by the voters, this initiative would generate an estimated \$3.2 million in revenue and would go directly to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh to be allocated and used ONLY for the operation and maintenance of the Library.
2. This initiative is the center piece of a six-part plan which also includes increased fund raising efforts and policy changes and which can be found at

<http://www.carnegielibrary.org/about/future/background/PublicPrivateTaskForceReport1-20-2011.pdf>

3. The Library gets approximately 90% of its annual operating revenue from the Allegheny Regional Asset District and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. State sources of revenue have been declining for several years, and RAD funding hasn't kept pace with the rising costs of providing services that today's Library users need. The Carnegie Library has cut hours, personnel and other costs but cannot sustain its operations without additional sources of funding.

Supporters of the initiative ask you to vote “YES” so the Carnegie Library can not only continue to provide the strong neighborhood based services that we have all long valued, but also so it can continue to serve our communities well into the future.

Best regards,

Special Yard Debris Collection

City Environmental Services crews will hold a special fall yard debris collection on **Saturday, November 12**. Properly packaged bagged leaves, tree branches, bushes, and pumpkins will be picked up and recycled for compost.

Only the following items will be accepted:

- **Bagged leaves:** Residents must bag leaves in paper bags only and place them out at your normal refuse collection site. Bags should NOT exceed 35 pounds. Leaves in plastic bags will not be accepted.
- **Tree branches and bushes:** Cut, bundle, and tie branches and bushes in lengths not exceeding five feet in length. Tree branch diameter should not exceed four inches.
- **Pumpkins:** Placed at normal collection site.

City residents must place materials out for residential collection by City refuse/recycling crews. Please note that City crews **will not** collect dirt, rocks, stones, or cement. Yard debris left at the curb by contracted lawn care workers or independent contractors will not be collected by City crews.

Yard debris materials can also be taken to the following Public Works locations:

- 2nd Division 6814 Hamilton Ave., West Homewood
- 3rd Division 40 Melancton St., Hazelwood
- 5th Division 1330 Hassler St., West End

PLEASE NOTE

We are pleased to announce that the City has chosen Google Apps for its new email, calendar and contact platform. The transition from our former system will entail changing our email addresses. Our new **District 7 email addresses** will follow this format:

firstname.lastname@pittsburghpa.gov

During this time of transition there may be a few bumps in the road. Please feel free to email both of our addresses if you are inclined. Our former address that will be forwarded follows this format:

firstname.lastname@city.pittsburgh.pa.us

If you do not hear back from us within a few days of writing to our former email addresses or new ones, please do not hesitate to try again or phone us at 412.255.2140. We are eager to hear from you.

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, November 9, 7pm-8pm – Polish Hill Civic Association, 3060 Brereton Street

The Bloomfield and Highland Park Council to Go's will be canceled due to the holiday.

Holiday Hours

Friday, November 11, Veteran's Day – District 7 Office Closed

Thursday, November 24, Thanksgiving Day, and Friday, November 25 -- District 7 Office Closed

Community Events

Check out Garfield's new [Pittsburgh CONNECTS](#) center at Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's **Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center at 5321 Penn Avenue**. Some of the free and interesting programs they will be offering in November include:

- **Wednesday, November 2, 10am, Project for Freedom's Job Readiness Training** for people with disabilities
- **Monday, November 7, 3:30pm-5pm, Researching Candidates and Issues Online**
- **Thursday, November 10, 5pm-6pm, Excel Training Class**
- **Tuesday, November 15, 12noon-1pm, Free Computer Repair**
- **Saturday, November 19, 10am-12:30pm, NeighborWorks Foreclosure Prevention Workshop**

Friday, November 4 – [Reblurred](#) – 5 Neighborhoods, 1 Event – From intersection of Penn and Highland Avenues to Penn Avenue and 38th Street.

Thursday, November 17, 7pm -- Lawrenceville Historical Society Free Lecture – Lawrenceville, McVey Auditorium of Canterbury Place, 310 Fisk Street. Explore the lives of Frances Slocum of Wyoming Valley and Massie Harbison of Allegheny River Valley.

Wednesday, November 30, 6pm-8pm – Tree Lighting – Lawrenceville, 47th and Butler Streets

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?

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, helps low-income families pay their heating bills. LIHEAP is a grant that offers assistance in the form of a cash grant, sent directly to the utility company, or a crisis grant for households in immediate danger of being without heat.

Applications for the 2011-2012 LIHEAP season will be available beginning Nov. 1, 2011.

How to Apply: There are three different ways you can apply for LIHEAP--online, on paper, or in person.

1. You can apply for the LIHEAP benefits online by using [COMPASS](#). COMPASS is the name of the website where you can apply for LIHEAP and many other services that can help you make ends meet.
2. Download an application for LIHEAP benefits by clicking on the links below (links will be available beginning November 1) and return it to your Allegheny County Assistance Office, or

English - [Energy Assistance Application](#)

Spanish - [Energy Assistance Application](#)

3. File an application at your [local county assistance office](#).

Allegheny County Assistance Office Headquarters

Piatt Place
301 5th Avenue
Suite 470
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone: 412-565-2146
LIHEAP (Cash Assistance)
412-562-0330
LIHEAP (Crisis Assistance)
800-851-3838
FAX: 412-565-3660

For more information, please contact the Allegheny County Assistance Office or the LIHEAP hotline at **1-866-857-7095**, Monday through Friday (individuals with hearing impairments may call the TDD number at 1-800-451-5886).

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

JENNIFER THOMA | Administrative and Communications Director
Office of Councilman Patrick Dowd | Pittsburgh City Council District 7
City-County Building, Rm. 510 | 414 Grant Street | Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Tel 412.255.2140 | Fax 412.255.2419
jennifer.thoma@pittsburghpa.gov

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