

on the **mount**

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2016 Summer Issue

A woman with her back to the camera stands on a stone ledge, holding a smartphone high above her head to take a photo of the Pittsburgh skyline. She is wearing a black tank top, blue jeans, and a red scarf. A brown bag is slung over her shoulder. The city skyline, including the PPG Place and other skyscrapers, is visible in the background under a blue sky with wispy clouds. Lush green trees and a stone wall are in the foreground.

***Next 3 Days —
A Hilltop Celebration***

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On the cover—Saran Hunter, a student in the UDream Architecture Program at Carnegie Mellon University, photographs the downtown view from Grandview Park during the Next 3 Days Hilltop Festival.



MOUNT WASHINGTON
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

301 Shiloh Street • Pittsburgh, 15211 • mwcdc.org

Phone: 412-481-3220 • Fax 412-481-2324 • Email: info@mwcdc.org

*The Mount Washington Community Development Corporation's mission is to bring together residents and business owners to cultivate growth, development and investment toward an even stronger and more livable community. We are a non-profit, catalyst organization, seeking to **inspire, nurture and transform** our neighborhood.*



Professional Staff

Laura Guralnick, Interim Executive Director and
Economic Development Director
laura@mwcdc.org • 412-481-3220 x205

Neil Grbach, Economic Development PULSE Fellow
neil@mwcdc.org • 412-481-3220 x206

Board of Directors

Breen Masciotra, *President*
Amanda Rubio, *Vice President*
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Joe Rewis, Josh Whiteside

On the Mount

Jane Freund, *Editor/Photographer*
Jennifer Lahmers, *Graphic Designer*

Thank you to our contributors

Kathryn Hunninen, *Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy*
Deb Riley-Magnus, *Neighbors on the Mount*
Tracy Certo, *NEXTPittsburgh*

A note from Breen Masciotra, Board President

The past several months have seen significant change here at MWCDC. After a renewal of priorities and reorganization, we are now poised to focus intently on the core of our mission: economic development in Mount Washington.

As was mentioned in past issues of *On the Mount*, our workforce development program has spun off to become a regional employment training resource called Landforce.

In addition, after months of community and board discussions, MWCDC has reached an agreement with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy to transfer stewardship of Emerald View Park to its city-wide network that includes Schenley, Frick and Highland parks, among others. (Please see page 3 for more details.)

Interim Executive Director Laura Guralnick shares the board's vision and commitment to an economic development focus, and she is already making great strides to fulfill this mandate. Multiple exciting real estate and business development projects are coming to fruition throughout the neighborhood:

- One residential rehab has been completed and another is underway in the Estella micro-neighborhood.
- The Shiloh Street Shops gateway sign is being fabricated.
- Multiple businesses are working through the URA Facade grant program to renovate their storefronts.
- The Boggs/Bailey business district has gotten significant attention through our architectural design contest and Next Three Days initiative.

To ensure the long-term viability of these important economic development initiatives, the MWCDC board of directors is currently exploring partnership options with other community development organizations in the City of Pittsburgh. We have received a grant from the Forbes Funds to facilitate this process, and a nonprofit expert will help us ensure that all issues are considered. It is of the utmost importance that any executed partnership be of benefit to MWCDC and the community at large.

Yours truly, 



Three vacant properties on Boggs were the backdrop for a Next 3 Days street fair featuring Pittsburgh artisans. More photos on pages 6 & 7. Rob Larson photo

Farewell to *On the Mount*



The MWCDC has been evaluating ways to cut back on our operating expenses, to direct the most funds possible to economic development programming. While *On the Mount* has been an effective way to communicate with you, printing and mailing of more than 6,500 copies on a quarterly basis is straining our budget. Therefore, this will be the last issue that is mailed out to everyone in the 15211 zip code. Our next issue will come out in October, and will be available for you to pick up at convenient locations throughout the neighborhood.

The next issue will come out this October, and will be available for you to pick up at these convenient locations, among others: Medicine Shoppe, Grand Brew, JJ's Family Restaurant & Catering, Lucky Bucks, Shop N' Save and Leadership League.

Our goal is to shift our primary communications to the MWCDC website and an e-newsletter in 2017. We would like to build a database of e-mail addresses, so if you would like to receive a newsletter electronically at a later date, please sign up at www.mwcdc.org.

SEPTEMBER 11

**Explore Mount Washington
and Emerald View Park.**

Enjoy an urban hiking adventure.

WALKATOP

Proceeds benefit

**The Thomas Brown Alton
Foundation**

A Birmingham Foundation Fund

Dedicated to suicide prevention by helping those
in need toward improved mental health.



EVENT REGISTRATION: showclix | QUESTIONS ABOUT WALKATOP?: thomasaltonfoundation@gmail.com

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TBA FOUNDATION: thomasaltonfoundation.org

New partnership agreement bodes well for future of Emerald View Park

As Board President Breen Masciotra mentions in her letter on page 3, MWCDC and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy have entered into a partnership agreement for the next phase in management of Emerald View Park. Effective June 1, 2016, MWCDC continues to ensure community oversight of the park at the local level through the Emerald View Park Committee, while PPC now directly manages park operations.

With an aim of the best possible stewardship model for this beautiful green space, an alliance was created between MWCDC and PPC that includes former park-focused staff from our organization joining the PPC team. By implementing ongoing and future Emerald View Park projects, these staff members will continue to advance the significant groundwork that was initiated here under their leadership.

The alliance ensures that all currently planned projects involving Emerald View Park – which PPC will advocate for inclusion in the City of Pittsburgh's Regional Parks Master Plan – will continue as scheduled. This alliance includes PPC taking on the primary role for park planning, fundraising and project implementation.

Stay tuned for a formal public announcement of our alliance – in addition to Emerald View Park project updates – during the early fall of 2016.

We remain strong in our commitment to Emerald View Park, with the knowledge that the new PPC alliance will continue to bring the park – and critical pieces of its master plan – to life for the surrounding communities and our region for years to come.

For questions regarding planning, fundraising and project implementation, please contact Kathryn Hunninen, senior manager of Special Initiatives, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. Phone 412-682-7275 or go to www.pittsburghparks.org.

Rep your park

The Emerald View Park Committee is a volunteer committee established by the MWCDC to serve as a first point of contact for community input on park-related issues. (It replaces the former Parks and Conservation Committee.) The committee provides feedback on projects in EVP and/or those that affect the park, builds a strong EVP constituency, and host events & volunteer days as desired by the committee. The committee is chaired by a MWCDC board member.

All committee meetings are open to the public. Committee members are asked to commit to attend 75% of the meetings in a calendar year to maintain committee voting privileges. The committee meets on the second Wednesday of every other month from 5:30-7 p.m. in the MWCDC office at 301 Shiloh Street.

To find out more about committee membership, contact the MWCDC at 412-481-3220 or e-mail info@mwcdc.org.

N3D HILLTOP

Mount Washington and Allentown were the focus of the Next 3 Days Hilltop Festival from June 17-19. It was the second in a planned series of events sponsored by the City of Pittsburgh, the Urban Redevelopment Authority and NEXTpittsburgh to focus attention on emerging neighborhoods that offer affordable housing.

The festivities kicked off Friday night with a dance party attended by more than 300 at RE360's Industry on Industry in Allentown. The hub of the festival was Grandview Park, where visitors enjoyed musical performances, interactive family activities and specialty foods served by local restaurants.



Sunday featured a free homebuyers' workshop. The Design Center, WesBanco, PNC Bank, NeighborWorks and the Urban Redevelopment Authority were all present to advise first-time buyers on the complex process of purchasing a home. The program included a self-guided tour of 15 houses in Mt. Washington, Duquesne Heights and Allentown that are either being rehabbed or are for sale.

Kudos to the residents, businesses and community organizations who participated in the N3D Festival. Your unique brand of city hospitality is what makes Mount Washington a most desirable place to live, work and play.



1 Vocalist Phat Man Dee brought her special brand of cabaret jazz to the outdoor amphitheater at Grandview Park.

2 Emily Gallagher, a stylist with Jennifer's Hair Studio, placed second in the Next 3 Fades "Speed Fade" competition. (The winner was Ken McGuinn of McGuinn's Barber Shop.) Rob Larson photo

3 Artist Joy Camp has turned a Boggs Street landmark known as the Hot Dog Shop into a colorful outlet for her own hand painted shabby chic furniture.

4 State Representative Jake Wheatley, Jr., right, and Legislative Assistant Kirk Holbrook.

5 Allison Blankenship of the Pa. Democratic Coordinated Campaign helps Harvey T. Walheim register to vote at his new address.

FESTIVAL



6



7



8



9



10

6 (From left) Neil Grbach, Economic Development PULSE Fellow, MWDC; Siena Kane, Hilltop Alliance; Laura Guralnick, Interim Executive Director, MWDC; and Tim Dolan, Hilltop Alliance. The Hilltop Alliance was instrumental in bringing N3D to our community.

7 Mikhail Istomin (left) and Kairbay Tumanov of Kavsar Restaurant serve up traditional Uzbek and Russian cuisine to Linda Piso.

8 Tommi Lynn Declan is not sure about her encounter with a goat from Steel City Grazers.

9 The Chalking Dad, Eric Greenawalt, created an homage to the Penguins.

10 The Friends of Grandview Park organization was represented by Chairperson Mary Causey, left, and Diane Delmer.

They had designs on the Boggs/Bailey corridor

Taking a blank canvas and creating a masterpiece is the greatest challenge any artist will face. For a design contest coordinated by MWCDC in June, the assignment was promoted to local designers, architects, engineers and city planners: Create a unique, out-of-the-box design that will remediate a blighted four-acre development site in the Boggs/Bailey business district.

The contest's seven entries were judged by a panel of five, who awarded first place and a \$2,000 prize to qkArchitecture. Their entry, *The Bend @ Boggs + Bailey*, featured affordable housing, shops and Skyway trolley cars that move about the neighborhood on elevated rails.

Neil Grbach Economic Development PULSE Fellow at MWCDC, commented, "This entry is a thought provoking example of the site's potential to yield an inclusive, mixed-use, transit-oriented development catering to healthy urban lifestyles. The Bend is a glimpse into the future and sets the bar high on the potential of our Boggs/Bailey corridor."

If Boggs Avenue residents have concerns about (or wish for!) futuristic transit vehicles hovering over their sidewalks, Grbach stressed that this was a competition simply to generate interest and highlight the site's potential: "It's not a real plan for what is actually going to happen on the street."

MWCDC wishes to thank the contest sponsors: Northwood Realty, Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience (PULSE) and the various property owners of the site.

Katy Popple and Dan Hudock of LGA Partners are shown with the second place winning entry: Vantage Point. Third place went to Ryan Mustio's Urban Vineyard.



The winning design team from qkArchitecture: (Clockwise from upper left) Oyuki Sulu, Monica Blasko, Brian Gaudio and Arpit Prakash





Neil Grbach announced the design contest winner at the Next 3 Days Hilltop Festival on June 18.



Area resident Derek Jones (Gyre LLC) submitted “before” and “after” 3D models of building complexes he proposed for the site.



At the awards ceremony, visitors had the opportunity to share their ideas for the development site.

meetings & special events



July

13

Emerald View Park Committee

MWDC • 5:30-7 p.m.
301 Shiloh

17

Butterfly Walk

Venture Outdoors
Emerald View Park • 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
\$12 (members \$8)

18

Public Safety Council

Zone 3 public meeting
Police station • 6 p.m.
830 Warrington

27

Economic Development Committee

MWDC • 6-7:30 p.m.
310 Shiloh

28

Citiparks Roving Art Cart

Olympia Park Playground
Grandview Park • 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

30

Perk-Up Hike

Venture Outdoors & Black Forge Coffee
Emerald View Park • 8-11 a.m.
\$12 (members \$8)

August

1

Free Coffee at the Mon

The Well Church
Mon Incline • 7:30-9 a.m.

2

National Night Out

10

Astronomy Outing with WHAA

Emerald View Park/
Skookum Field • 9 p.m.

21

Farm Dinner

5-course meal by Chef Minella
Benefits Friends of the Park – \$100
Grandview Park
To register: mlycausey@gmail.com

27

2nd Annual Community Picnic

Olympia Park • 1-6 p.m.

September

12

Free Coffee at the Mon

The Well Church
Mon Incline • 7:30-9 a.m.

14

Emerald View Park Committee

MWDC • 5:30-7 p.m.
301 Shiloh

19

Public Safety Council

Zone 3 public meeting
Police station • 6 p.m.
830 E. Warrington

28

Economic Development Committee

MWDC • 6-7:30 p.m.
310 Shiloh

Ongoing...

MWDC Community Forum

Public meeting
3rd Thursday of the month
Mt. Washington Senior Center • 7-9 p.m.
122 Virginia

BYS Yoga in the Park

Sundays through September
Grandview Park • 10:30-11 a.m.
\$5

Dollar Bank Cinema in the Park

Saturdays in July & August
Grandview Park, at dusk

Weekly Boot Camp

Mondays through August
Point of View statue on
Grandview Avenue • 6-9 p.m.
\$5

Baby & Me Storytime

Tuesdays
Mt. Washington Library • 11 a.m.-Noon

Toddler & Preschooler Storytime

Thursdays
Mt. Washington Library • 11 a.m.-Noon

Join us at a Community Forum

Each month, the MWDC and our partners present news, project proposals, project updates, development strategies and more to the community in an open meeting format. Local participation at these meetings is essential for us to have meaningful conversations that lead to the development of actionable, positive strategies. Forums are open to the public and all MWDC members, residents and stakeholders in the community are invited and encouraged to attend.

Forums are held the third Thursday of every month.

Support the MWCDC mission

We acknowledge the valuable role you play as a community partner – and hope you will join us in whatever capacity works for you!

Just the basics – Become a member

It's easy, it's free, it's your voice in the community!

All residents, homeowners, property owners, businesses, institutions and organizations are invited to join online at www.mwcdc.org/membership. Join by September 20 to vote in the October board election.

Up your game – Represent your neighbors on a committee

Advisory committees meet six times a year to review proposed projects and serve as a first point of contact for public review and approval. As an appointed committee member, you will provide valuable advice to the MWCDC board and staff members on community planning and development. The committees are:

- Economic Development
- Emerald View Park

Reach for the stars – Run for a board seat

- Do you reside, own property or own a business in 15211?
- Are you passionate about, and committed to, community development in Mt. Washington and Duquesne Heights? If so, please consider running for a seat on the MWCDC board.

For more information, contact Laura Guralnick at 412-481-3220 x205.

For election details, go to www.mwcdc.org/elections.

Board elections...

The Mount Washington Community Development Corporation is governed by a board of directors elected by MWCDC members. The directors are elected for three-year terms. There will be 5-6 seats open for the next election.

Candidates over 18 years of age with a background in community planning, real estate development, fundraising, public safety, accounting or partnering with universities are highly sought. We strive to be an inclusive board that embodies diversity in gender, race, ethnicity, age and religion – as well as economic and social diversity.

- Candidates must join MWCDC by September 15.
- Deadline for submitting a resume and statement is 4 p.m. August 5.
- Applications will be reviewed by a nominating committee, which will then conduct interviews with potential candidates.
- Each candidate may give a presentation at the September 15 Community Forum.
- Elections will be held October 20.

Chatham Village Mt. Washington



Saturday, July 23rd

8:30am – 2:00pm

655 Pennridge Avenue
Chatham Village Club House

Antiques, Collectibles, Vintage,
Household & Handmade Items

Rain or Shine

Food and Beverages available



**16 Southern Avenue
Mt. Washington
(412) 488-8708**

Belonda St.



SOLD IN 6 DAYS

Olympia St.



SOLD IN 1 DAY

Boggs Ave.



SOLD IN 1 DAY

LaBelle St.



SOLD IN 13 DAYS

Plymouth St.



SOLD IN 1 DAY

Griffin St.



SOLD IN 1 DAY

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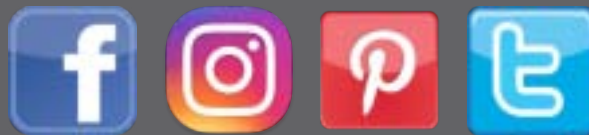
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