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Save the Date: CONNECT's Eighth Annual Legislative Session & Reception!



Mark your calendars for CONNECT's Eighth Annual Legislative Session and Reception on **Thursday, April 20, 2017, 4-7pm at the Circuit Center** (5 Hot Metal Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203). Join our members, partners, funders, and friends to hear more about our accomplishments of the last year, and to identify priorities for the year to come. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served at the reception. Please send your RSVP to CONNECT@pitt.edu.

[Sponsorship opportunities](#) are available! Contact Lindsay Angelo at lindsayangelo@pitt.edu or at 412-648-2282 for more information.

Community Profile: [Brentwood Borough](#)



Brentwood Tackles Blight, Invests in Community

Located directly south of the City of Pittsburgh, Brentwood Borough boasts excellent transit service, a walkable main street, numerous retail destinations, green space, and ample parking for residents and their families.

The Borough has taken an active role to improve and build upon the quality of life for its residents, including taking aggressive action to remediate blight within municipal borders. In 2013, after spending several years revising landlord registration rules, Council [enacted a rental property inspection program](#) to ensure that landlords keep rental properties in safe conditions. The program requires the borough's code enforcement officer to inspect each rental property at least once every five years. Now in its third year, Brentwood Borough Manager George Zboyovsky notes that the program resulted in tens of thousands of dollars in [repairs](#) to rental homes by landlords and rental companies. Eric Peccon, Brentwood Assistant Borough Manager, comments, "the rental list is nearly complete, with both big and small landlords and companies.

Upcoming CONNECT Executive Committee Meetings

Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 10AM
Stowe Township Municipal Building
555 Broadway Avenue
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 10AM
Millvale Community Center
416 Lincoln Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15209

No April EC Meeting. See you at the Congress!

Thursday, May 18, 2017 at 10AM
Mt. Oliver Fireman's Hall
120 Brownsville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15210

Save the Date

CONNECT/Utility Meetup

Tuesday, March 21, 2017
9 – 11AM
Dormont Recreation Center
1801 Dormont Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15216

CONNECT 8th Annual Legislative Session & Reception

Thursday, April 20, 2017
4 – 7PM
Circuit Center & Ballroom
5 Hot Metal St
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Careers

[Director of Municipal Services](#)
Baldwin Borough

[Transportation Outreach Specialist](#)
Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

[Community Outreach Specialist](#)
Mon Valley Initiative

[Property Manager](#)
Oakland Planning and Development Corporation

[Business District Manager](#)
Beechview Revitalization Advisory Group (BRAG)

[Clairton Community Economic Development Coordinator- Neighborhood Partnership Program](#)
Economic Development South

[Director of Community](#)

Brentwood Borough Council has supported this process as well, and overall, this has improved the perception of renting in Brentwood."

Brentwood Quick Facts:

Location: ~ 7 miles from Downtown Pittsburgh

Population: 9,643

Incorporated: November 6, 1915

Fun Fact: In response to the excise tax on distilled spirits, area residents took part in the tax revolt famously known as the Whiskey Rebellion. President George Washington arrived personally with federal soldiers to control the uprising.

Another step that Brentwood Borough has taken to combat blight includes the establishment of a Landlord License requirement that can be revoked for various offenses ranging from outstanding borough taxes, sewage, etc. to code violations. This requirement has been successful in ensuring that property owners keep their properties up to code.



These initiatives have been a joint effort between Council, the Mayor, the Borough Manager, the Police Department and the Code Department, and Peccon notes that "we've been seeing results. There are still issues, but they are smaller in scope. There has been a discernable difference since we started to take more proactive approach to addressing blight."

Recently, the boroughs of Brentwood and Whitehall completed a [streetscape enhancement overlay zoning district](#) along Route 51 that requires new commercial development to install pedestrian-scale lighting, landscaping, trash cans, benches, and bicycle racks, among other amenities. Both municipalities invested their own funds into this project, and received grants from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, as well as the Local Government Academy.

Finally, Brentwood's investment into amenities including its public park (recent improvements totaled over \$6 million), pool, and other recreation facilities has been substantial, and they believe these investments have brought in visitors and new residents.



"From a community development standpoint, in order to attract residents, we can't just worry about marketing and the quality of individual homes, we must also have amenities, places for our residents to go and things for them to do. This can have a residual effect, with newcomers spending more time here."

CONNECT Holds 2017 Strategy Session



[Engagement](#)

Morningstar Community Services, Inc.

[Communications Director](#)

Green Building Alliance

Upcoming Events[Public Hearing on E-Cigarette Use](#)

Monday, February 6, 2017
5PM

Allegheny County Courthouse
436 Grant Street – Gold Room
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Allegheny County Council will review regulations unanimously passed by the Allegheny County Board of Health that ban the use of electronic cigarettes in indoor public places where traditional cigarettes are not permitted. Click on the link above for more information or to register to speak at the hearing.

[University of Pittsburgh: Local Government Career Panel](#)

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

12:15 - 1:15PM
Room 3610, Wesley Posvar Hall
230 South Bouquet Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
The panel will include University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) alumni who now work in local government in the Pittsburgh region.

[Local Government Academy Municipal Internship Fair](#)

Thursday, March 30, 2017
12 – 2:30PM

William Pitt Union, Kurtzman Room
3959 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Both graduate and undergraduate students can [register for the Municipal Internship Program](#), and interested municipalities can [submit a project application](#).

[Save the Date: Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group's 7th Annual Community Development Summit](#)

Wednesday, May 24 -
Thursday, May 25, 2017
Location and other details to follow.

[Open Streets Pittsburgh Event](#)

Last week, CONNECT held a productive strategy session with our members, where we discussed CONNECT's strengths and weaknesses, and planned for 2017 and beyond. Kathy Coder, Councilwoman of Bellevue and former CONNECT Chair, facilitated the session. Many great ideas were shared and priorities were set, so we're off to work! Thank you to Kathy Coder for facilitating, and to Ruthann Omer and Gateway Engineers for hosting!

Live Well Allegheny Holds First Learning Collaborative!

On January 10, [Live Well Allegheny](#) (LWA) convened over 70 partners representing municipalities, schools, community organizations, and workplaces who learned more about the LWA campaign, discussed Health in All Policies and its application to different types of organizations, and identified ways to collaborate with one another. The event provided ample opportunities for participants to learn from their peers and engage panel speakers in their areas of expertise. Importantly, it highlighted the campaign's ability to provide tools and resources for community partners that are available to LWA communities. To learn more about meeting takeaways, [click here](#).

**ALCOSAN Launches Customer Assistance Program**

ALCOSAN, Dollar Energy Fund serving as the program administrator, is offering a new customer assistance program aimed at helping families afford their sewage treatment bills. The Clean Water Assistance Fund is now available to eligible residential customers within ALCOSAN's service territory. The new program will provide a credit of \$30 applied every three months to eligible customer accounts. The credit would appear on the account every three months regardless if the customer is billed monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly. [Learn more about the program](#).

**Thank you to Ross Township for hosting CONNECT's January 2017 Executive Committee Meeting!**

CONNECT'S first Executive Committee meeting of 2017 had a great turnout of over 40 attendees from 19 member municipalities. Breen Masciotra from the Port Authority of Allegheny County (PAAC) joined us to provide an update on recent ridership and fare changes and other PAAC happenings. Attendees also heard from ALCOSAN regarding the launch of their Customer Assistance Program, Rebecca Kiernan, the City of Pittsburgh's Senior Resiliency Coordinator who shared information about opportunities available through their Resilient Pittsburgh Platform Partners, and updates on CONNECT's health, EMS, and infrastructure coordination efforts. Thank you again to Ross Township for having us (and the sandwiches weren't bad either)!

Tri-COG Land Bank Advances as Finalist for Technical Assistance Scholarship Program (TASP)

The [Tri-COG Land Bank](#) has been selected as one of five finalists in the Center for Community Progress' Technical Assistance Scholarship Program! The finalists

Sunday, May 28, 2017
9AM – 1PM

OpenStreetsPGH is part of a movement called Ciclovía, which includes 100s of cities across the globe. OpenStreetsPGH is also a group of businesses, neighbors, non-profits, and others who want to help Pittsburgh be the healthiest, most active, and happiest city it can be. All are welcome!



are in competition to receive one of up to three technical assistance scholarships from the Center for Community Progress, a national nonprofit that helps communities revitalize vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties. As finalists, the Tri-COG Land Bank received no-cost site visits from national experts, as well as assessments of their current activities and systems to address vacant and blighted properties. Up to three of the finalists will be chosen as recipients of a full scholarship through TASP, which consists of up to 400 hours of deeply subsidized technical assistance over the course of nine months in 2017 to help recipient communities break new ground in their efforts to address property vacancy and abandonment.

Congratulations to the Tri-COG Land Bank and we wish you continued success in the competition!

PCRG is Seeking Proposals for Upcoming Summit!

Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group's (PCRG) is now accepting proposals for their 7th Annual Community Development Summit, *CommUNITY: The Power of People in Action*. This year's Summit will examine how people take concepts, build support, and put them into action. The Summit will lift up models that have achieved lasting change that pays dividends to residents, entrepreneurs, responsible developers and investors, while breaking the cycle of triage management and creating true wealth and opportunity.



PCRG is seeking directors, coordinators, and experienced community development practitioners of all kinds to present and address Summit attendees. The Summit aims to include those who are interacting with people on the ground or putting a new program into motion. [Click here](#) to learn more, and submit your proposal (due by midnight, February 12, 2017).

Local Government Academy (LGA) Online Course, *Contemplating Governing: Tackling Candidate Red Tape* Now Online

Contemplating Governing's Session 1 is now available online to help ensure that local candidates have the resources they need to get on the primary ballot. The purpose of this session is to educate candidates on the important deadlines and filing requirements they will face in order to appear on the May 16th Pennsylvania primary ballot. [Click here](#) to register for the course.



Good Reads

Featured:

Several CONNECT municipalities have received grants for projects ranging from boat launches to streetscapes. Congratulations, McKees Rocks, Sharpsburg, Bellevue, and Mt Oliver!

[\\$750,000 Grant for Phase I of Chartiers Avenue Streetscape Plan](#)

*McKees Rocks Community Development Corporation
December 26, 2016*

[Sharpsburg gets \\$38K to upgrade boat launch](#)

*TribLIVE
Tuesday, January 3, 2017*

[Bellevue awarded \\$115,000 state grant for Bayne Park improvements](#)

January 2017

[Mt. Oliver receives funding to expand streetscape](#)

South Pittsburgh Reporter

January 17, 2017

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[Will EMS Fee-For-Service Change with Obamacare Repeal?](#)

EfficientGov

January 19, 2017

[ALCOSAN Begins Customer Assistance Program](#)

CBS Pittsburgh

January 9, 2017

[Who's Next: Politics: These 19 people are shaping Pittsburgh's political scene](#)

The Incline

January 5, 2017

[Downtown Pittsburgh's Strawberry Way named favorite 'Street Transformation'](#)

Pittsburgh City Paper

January 5, 2017

[City of Pittsburgh and PWSA Draft City-Wide Green First Plan – Open for Public Comment](#)

Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority

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