

City of Pittsburgh, District 8

Improving Our Public Space



BY **BILL PEDUTO**
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

Public spaces are at the heart of our communities, they are connections between neighborhoods, and they are the gathering places for our residents. I am excited about three new projects that will help to transform the East End.

The Shadyside Pedestrian Bridge

The pedestrian bridge that will connect Ellsworth Avenue to the Eastside shopping center is now under contract and scheduled to open in December. The bridge was first proposed in 2004 as part of a larger redevelopment plan and several neighborhood master planning sessions. In 2008, I hosted community meetings between Shadyside and East Liberty to gain neighborhood input. As a result of those meetings, changes have been made to the design of the bridge and certain safety aspects. In 2009, as a member of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, I supported using stimulus funds to close the final gap on the financing and look forward to the opening of this important neighborhood connection later this year.

Schenley Plaza Restaurant

When it was first proposed to transform Schenley Plaza from a surface parking lot into the urban park that it has become, a restaurant was a key component of the project's financing. After a number of years, the process to open a new restaurant owned by the Eat'n Park Hospitality Group has begun. This "green" restaurant will architecturally mix with the park surroundings, as well as the historic Carnegie Library and surrounding buildings. To be certain, without the rev-

enue from a restaurant on this site, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy would not have been able to create this urban gem from a surface parking lot.

Bloomfield Memorial

On April 4, 2010, one year after the tragic death of three Pittsburgh Police officers, the Bloomfield community came together to announce plans for a permanent memorial on Liberty Avenue. In the following months, streetscape improvements were made to Liberty Avenue and Pearl Street to create a new community gathering place and home for the memorial. Just a month prior to the planned unveiling on the second anniversary, the community was still just short of their financial goal. A new memorial patron program was announced to close the funding gap, and the response was incredible. The goal was reached, and today Bloomfield is home to a fitting tribute to all of Pittsburgh's first responders.

City of Pittsburgh, District 5

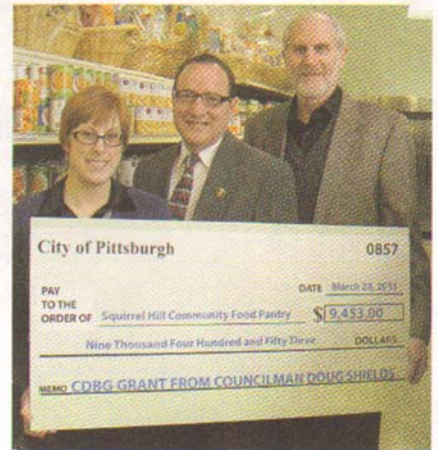
Making a Difference



BY **DOUGLAS SHIELDS**
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

Our city, our state, and our country all face formidable challenges in producing realistic and reasonable budgets against a backdrop of staggering deficits, escalating community needs, and an improving but challenging economic climate.

Still, there is one funding stream that City Council members can access to provide a positive impact on qualifying local organizations in their districts. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is an important tool for helping local governments tackle serious issues facing their communities.



City Councilman Doug Shields presents a check from CDBG funding to the Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry, a program of Jewish Family and Children's Service. Pictured (left to right): Becky Abrams, director of the food pantry; Councilman Shields; and Aryeh Sherman, president & CEO of JF&CS.

Here's how it works. Each year, Pittsburgh receives CDBG grants, which are federal funds appropriated by Congress and administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This 32-year-old program provides resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs directed toward revitalizing neighborhoods, supporting economic development, and improving community facilities and services.

This year, the city expects to receive an estimated \$17,065,000 for our CDBG budget. Originally, \$800,000 was identified for City Council to disburse, but we increased that amount by another \$118,650 during budget deliberations. In 2011, nine members will collectively allocate \$243,650 to certain hunger and community organizations, with each member having approximately \$88,000 to allocate for projects in the district they represent.

Some of my personal allocations this year include: Jewish Association on Aging; Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh; Persad Center; Jewish Family & Children's Service of Pittsburgh; Aleph Institute; National Council of Jewish Women;

Riverview Towers; Squirrel Hill Health Center; Shepherd Wellness Community; Jewish Residential Services; Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh; and the Pennsylvania PA SIDS Alliance.

The CDBG program has made a difference in the lives of millions of people and their communities across the nation. I am proud of the many fine local organizations that I have been affiliated with in my 20 years of public service. They are all models for stretching limited dollars to achieve significant results.

Borough of Fox Chapel

Come and Enjoy



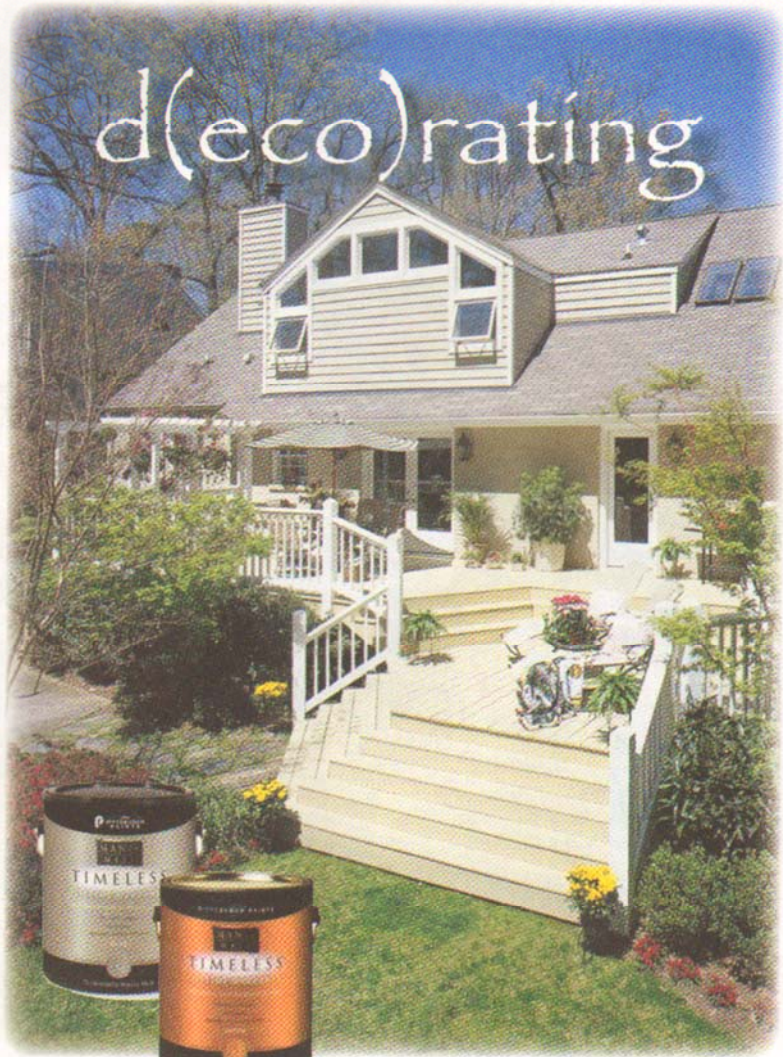
BY **NATHAN K. PARKER JR.**
BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

At long last the new Cooper-Siegel Community Library is open, as of April 30. It is new. It is spacious. And it is a pleasure to spend time in these surroundings. Everyone come and enjoy!

The library is not the only new and useful facility in Fox Chapel. The playground at McCahill Field has been extensively upgraded. Facilities are in place for young children, including swings, bars, a slide, a fort, and artwork. Families may bring toddlers while the teenagers and others play sports in the old polo field. Again, everyone come and enjoy.

Of special note is the annual Squaw Run Garden Club flower sale on Saturday, May 14. Plant sales provide funds to support a myriad of local charities, which makes it a win-win situation for residents of the Fox Chapel Area School District. Come to Squaw Valley Park between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. SA

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