



East Pittsburgh Economic Development Corporation and
 The Borough of East Pittsburgh
 East Pittsburgh, PA 15112
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We're on the Web!
www.eastpittsburghborough.com

The Shamrock

New Basketball Hoops

The East Pittsburgh Economic Development Corporation (EPEDC) is happy to announce the installation of basketball hoops in Quarry Field. We hope you enjoy using them!



EPEDC Easter Egg Hunt



The EPEDC sponsored an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19, 2014, at Noon at Quarry Field for children aged 2 thru 12 years.

The weather cooperated and 57 children participated in the hunt. Parents filled the bleachers and cheered for their kids! Over 500 Easter eggs were scattered and they were all found! Children were also given chocolate bunnies as they left the Easter Egg field.

The EPEDC hopes to make this a yearly event.

Take Back Drugs Event a Huge Success

The semiannual Take Back Drugs event held on Saturday, April 25, 2014, was a huge success.

Officer Patricia Summers was on duty to collect all unused or expired prescription and over-the-counter medicines. Three boxes of drugs were collected and the DEA will properly dispose of them.

East Pittsburgh, along with the Department of

Justice, DEA Division, sponsors these collections twice a year – in April and October. If you missed this drop off, we will be collecting again in October.



If disposing of prescription or over-the-counter drugs yourself, the DEA has provided the following guidelines:

- Take them out of their original containers and mix them with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter.
- Put them in a sealable bag, empty can, or other container to prevent the medication from leaking or breaking out of a garbage bag.
- Do not give medications to friends. Doctors prescribe drugs based on a person's specific symptoms and medical history. A drug that works for you could be dangerous for someone else.
- When in doubt about proper disposal, talk to your pharmacist.

Vacant Property Recovery Program

The purpose of the Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program is to take blighted and/or tax delinquent properties and resell them to an applicant to reuse as determined by their application and as approved by the municipality. The Program helps to stabilize neighborhoods, provide viable reuses for abandoned properties and return properties to a positive, tax-generating status.

Applicants to the program must meet the following qualifications:

- Must be current on taxes, water, sewage and refuse bills on all properties owned in Allegheny County.
- Must have no outstanding code violations on properties owned in Allegheny County.
- Must submit a complete application, including all required supporting documentation.

Applications are subject to all requirements under the Program policies. To be eligible for the Program, a property must at a minimum meet all preliminary eligibility requirements, including:

- Be a vacant lot or vacant structure.
- Have at least three years of tax delinquency.
- Be located in a participating municipality.

The following additional requirements generally apply:

- Properties must be less than one acre in size.
- Applicants may apply for no more than two properties in any three-year period.
- Applicants must own a parcel that contains a principal structure, such as a residence, business, etc., and shares a common boundary with the property they are applying to acquire. Exceptions to this may include applications to rehabilitate a vacant structure, such as a residence or business, and applications from a non-profit, community-based, or government organization that will have a public or community benefit.

For more information on this worthwhile program and an application, please visit our website, www.eastpittsburghborough.com, and click on the link.

Local Business Spotlight

The first business in the East Pittsburgh Plaza is identified at CEOT. I've often wondered what this business was and I'll bet you have, too.

Since the late 1980's the Center for Environmental



& Occupational Training (CEOT) and Associated Thermal Services (ATS) have been providing environmental services to the Western Pennsylvania region. The father and daughter duo (David and Samantha Ginsburg) and their team service school districts, residential, commercial, and industrial clients throughout the area. CEOT has provided testing, training, environmental site assessments,

remediation protocols, and project management in the areas of asbestos, indoor air quality and lead based paint. ATS has conducted well over 1,000 asbestos abatement and interior demolition projects. With over 25 years of industry experience as environmental consultants and contractors, they make sure everyday issues are not forgotten and no question goes unanswered. At CEOT and ATS, they are able to help their customers deal confidently with their environmental concerns.

Samantha is also involved in many animal rescue operations. She frequently donates her time and money to help animals in need. She works with Chief Payne to trap feral cats and have them vaccinated and spayed / neutered here in East Pittsburgh. She is also a volunteer with our own East Pittsburgh Police Abused and Neglected Animal Fund, Kopy Kat cat sanctuary and other animal rescue organizations.



Business Meet and Greet

The East Pittsburgh Economic Development Corporation (EPEDC) wanted to engage the businesses and landlords within the Borough.

In order to appeal to those invited, EPEDC chose to keep the program short, limiting it to one hour, and to hold the event first thing in the morning to capture attendees on their way to work. Invitations

were hand delivered approximately two weeks before the meeting.

Mayor Lou Payne welcomed the attendees and introduced Mary Carol Kennedy, the EPEDC President. Mary Carol spoke briefly on the goals of the open house and expressed her gratitude for their attendance. Jennifer Caldararo, Mon Valley Initiative Community Outreach Specialist, spoke about EPEDC and MVI's mission statements and how the businesses and landlords can collaborate with EPEDC to further expand business and improve the quality of life in East Pittsburgh.

Jeff Brooks, Co-Director of Mon Valley Initiative's Workforce & Development Program, spoke about the programs offered by the Workforce Team to job seekers. Dana Friez, Job Developer at MVI, followed up by explaining how MVI partners with businesses to identify job seekers with the appropriate skills, experience, and eligibility for job openings. Finally, Patrick Shattuck, Director of MVI's Real Estate and Development Team, explained MVI's tactics for rehabilitating subpar properties, thus stabilizing the community, increasing the surrounding property values, and attracting homebuyers, tenants, and businesses from outside of East Pittsburgh. Patrick also informed the attendees of the technical support MVI can offer to utilize the Vacant Property Recovery Program and other programs.

Those in attendance were very receptive to the presentation and the need for follow-up was expressed. A future meeting will be held at Keystone Commons to help create camaraderie and collaboration among the businesses within East Pittsburgh. An open house will be held at Keystone Commons to bring residents and others into the businesses. Finally, a job fair will be held to link the businesses with job seekers from the community.

Landlord Meet & Greet

A Landlord Meet and Greet meeting was held on Monday, May 5, at the Bessemer Avenue Community Center. Over 200 landlords were invited to this event and about 50 were present at the meeting.

Police Chief Lori Payne and Building Inspector/Fire

Marshal Dave Miller addressed various ordinance violations and suggested ways to avoid them.

The Mon Valley Initiative (MVI) Real Estate Department talked about the vacant lot purchase program and their rehab for sale program.

The landlords talked of starting a Landlord Group where they could share their ideas and problems.

Mayor Lou Payne thanked everyone for attending. The EPEDC sponsored this event and provided refreshments for all attendees.

Gone But Never Forgotten

East Pittsburgh recently lost the services of three churches - St. William, St. Helen, and St. Mary. Many of us were baptized, made our First Communion, and were married in one of these churches. We also buried our loved ones from the same church in which they were baptized.

Because of dwindling population, St. William was merged with St. Helen to form the new Holy Cross parish in May 1994.

The Diocese of Pittsburgh recently made the decision to merge Holy Cross Parish with Good Shepherd Parish. Both St. William and St. Helen permanently closed their doors on April 28, 2014.

St. William Catholic Church

St. William was established in 1906. The first Mass of the new parish was celebrated in a store in early 1906. Work soon began on a church. The



cornerstone was laid on November 18, 1906. The first Mass in the new church was celebrated on Christmas Day in 1906, although the church was not yet completed. Construction ended in early 1907 and the church was dedicated on Easter Day in 1907.

By the mid-1950's, the congregation had outgrown

the existing church building. Ground for a new church was broken on November 4, 1956. The cornerstone was laid on October 31, 1957, and the completed church was dedicated on December 15, 1957. The original church was then torn down.

St. Helen Catholic Church



St. Helen was founded in 1917 as a Slovak parish. Before the parish was established, Slovak Catholics living in East Pittsburgh had to travel to St.

Michael the Archangel in Braddock to attend Mass. The distance they had to go led to their petitioning the bishop for their own church. The first Mass of the parish took place in 1917 in a rented storeroom. The parish was a mission of St. Michael until July of 1918, when a resident pastor was assigned. Land for a church was purchased in September of 1918 and a temporary wooden church was quickly constructed. The first Mass in the new church was celebrated in November of 1918.

The parish continued to raise funds for a permanent church. Work on the church began in 1929. The cornerstone was laid on July 5, 1929, and the completed church was dedicated on May 30, 1931. The old church was converted into a social hall until 1961 when it was torn down.

St. Mary's Byzantine Church

On November 1, 1930 Father Theophile Zatkovich, official representative of Bishop Basil Takach, presided at an organizational



meeting of the former parishioners of St. John the Baptist Greek Catholic Church of East Pittsburgh to form a new parish. This new congregation was to be named St. Mary Greek Catholic Church.

When the original St. John Church, established in 1900, professed Orthodoxy in 1926, sixty families chose to remain within the Greek Catholic Exarchate of Pittsburgh. They celebrated their services in St. Helen Roman Catholic Church on Ridge Avenue in East Pittsburgh. Because of the inconvenience of the two groups trying to use the same building as a church, the small mission group found temporary quarters in the Polish Hall in North Braddock. This hall was used for three years. When the St. Helen congregation moved to their newly-constructed church on Main Street, and with the permission of Father Thomas A. Malik, pastor of St. Helen Church, the old St. Helen Church building became available. Eventually the 60-family group became St. Mary parish. With a permanent home and a promise of future development, the mission was raised to parish status on November 1, 1930.

In 1948 five lots were purchased from the Andreas Family on Howard Street, the present site of St. Mary. Ground was broken for the new church on September 12, 1948 and three days later, actual construction was begun by Brusca Brothers. Architect for the new church was Charles J. Pepine of Pittsburgh. The cornerstone was blessed and installed on May 1, 1949 by Bishop Daniel Ivancho.

All three churches were a vital part of East Pittsburgh and will be missed and long remembered.

In Search Of!

In preparation for the dedication of the new World War II memorial in 2015, the EPEDC is in search of information and photos of any East Pittsburgh citizen who was killed in action during World War II.

We are still searching for photos of businesses that were once located on Bessemer Terrace.

If you can help, contact Kath Keating at 412-824-8313 or email kbk535@verizon.net. All photos will be returned.

Comments, questions, or suggestions for articles for The Shamrock should be directed to the Editor, Kathleen Keating, at 412-824-8313 or kbk535@verizon.net