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Special Announcement at NOON today!

1/March/2012

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FRIENDS OF THE RIVERFRONT



Through intense collaboration with community partners, government officials, and a diverse volunteer base, our rivers and riverfronts have been transformed from industrial wastelands to international examples of environmental renewal. Whether you bike, hike, rollerblade, or paddle along our beautiful shores, we encourage everyone to take advantage of these assets.



OHIO RIVER TRAIL PLAN UNDERWAY

[Mackin Engineering](#) has been selected by the Ohio River Planning Committee to conduct a trail plan along the Ohio riverfront from the City of Pittsburgh to Coraopolis. The goal is to develop a non-motorized connection through several communities including McKees Rocks, Stowe, Neville and Coraopolis to connect the Three Rivers Heritage Trail with the Montour Trail.

[Learn more about this project.](#)

[Become a community stakeholder by sharing your thoughts and ideas.](#)



GNC PITTSBURGH TRIATHLON NEWS

[Registration is now open](#) for athletes and volunteers for the 2012 GNC Pittsburgh Triathlon & Adventure Race, July 27-29 on the North Shore.

In celebration of this year's expanded event, Suzanne Atkinson of Steel City Endurance has become our first virtual coach! She joins us to help both first time and returning athletes to be the best they can be on race day! Check out Suzanne's first issue of [Coaching Corner](#) - available now!

Two swimming clinics and a swimming seminar will be presented by Terry Laughlin of Total Immersion Swimming this May. [Click here](#) for more information and to register. Discounts available for registered triathletes!





MONTOUR TRAIL - PIT AIRPORT CONNECTOR

At 11:00 AM on March 20, 2012, the first day of Spring, the [Montour Trail Council](#) and the Allegheny County Airport Authority will celebrate the Grand Opening of a long awaited 6.3 mile connection between the Montour Trail and the Pittsburgh International Airport.

The festivities will take place on the concrete, unused exit area where the new asphalt trail ends and crosses into the airport's Extended Parking Lot (Section 16D).

If people want to ride their bicycles to the event, they can use the well marked connector which begins at the 5 way intersection near Mile 8 of the Montour Trail, just upstream of the Enlow Tunnel. The Pittsburgh Major Taylor Bicycle Club will lead riders to the event from the Enlow Ballfield, beginning at 10 AM.



DCNR KEYSTONE

Recently, Governor Corbett proposed the largest budget cut to conservation funding in Pennsylvania history. The proposed cut would eliminate funding for DCNR's Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund, a program vital to protecting and conserving greenspace, renovating and restoring community parks, and building trails.

Please take action to stop this proposed budget cut from becoming a reality!

[Learn about Keystone.](#)

[Projects funded and legislator contacts.](#)

[More about Governor Corbett's proposed budget cut.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, March 9, 9a-noon | Riverfronts Naturally North Shore

Friday, March 16, 11:30a-2p | Riverfronts Naturally Chateau

Tuesday, March 20, 11a | Montour Trail Airport Connector Grand Opening

Saturday, March 24, 9a-noon | Riverfronts Naturally Eliza Furnace

Sunday, March 25, 9a-7p | [Pittsburgh Cycling Expo](#)

Saturday, March 31, 9a-noon | Riverfronts Naturally South Side/Eliza Furnace

For complete information about these and other great events, visit our [Calendar](#) page!

Join our Social Network!



Friends of the Riverfront thanks The Monteverde Group for supporting our mission!



How much is left on your Gift Card?

When did gift cards first become popular? In the mid-1990s, retailers began replacing traditional gift certificates with gift cards. The new wallet-sized cards - which weren't valuable until activated - quickly became popular with consumers. Now they can be found almost anywhere. Retailers have continued customizing the use of their gift cards and many now even include an expiration date.

On December 17, 2010, President Obama signed a new tax law creating opportunities for major estate and gift tax planning in 2011 & 2012. In fact, it was like receiving a gift card from Washington!

What is special about the gift card from Washington? The estate, gift, and generation skipping exemptions were increased to \$5 million per individual or \$10 million per couple. A new, historically low, 35% flat rate applies to transfers exceeding these amounts.

In addition, the tax law surprised everyone by allowing individuals to fully activate their gift card now. By unifying the estate, gift, and generation skipping amounts, the gift card applies to lifetime gifts, including transfers to grandchildren. (Previous use of the gift and generation skipping exemptions does reduce the new \$5 million exemption.)

What is the catch? Unless Washington takes further action, the \$5 million gift card will expire on December 31, 2012. The less favorable rules of the 2001 Act (\$1,000,000 exemption) will apply.

With the national debt now exceeding \$14 trillion, it is not safe to assume that the estate and gift tax system has now "stabilized." In fact, now may be the best time ever to shelter assets from future estate taxes through the use of lifetime gifting strategies, i.e. the use of the gift card from Washington!

So, how much is left on your gift card?

Remember it is set to expire December 31, 2012!

For more information, contact [Ryan Duchak](#) at the [Monteverde Group](#).

Increase awareness and engagement with the Pittsburgh region's rivers and riverfronts through activities, stewardship and expansion of water and land trails.

Sincerely,

Friends of the Riverfront

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