

New Federal Website on Economic Recovery

As the global economy continues to plummet, the United States Department of Commerce has attempted to reach out and provide information to individuals and small businesses through a new website, economicrecovery.gov. The information on economicrecovery.gov could be beneficial to your business or your personal finances regardless of whether or not you are experiencing financial difficulties. The website provides information in three categories:

- “Help for Americans” has information to help individuals deal with personal financial difficulties resulting from the economic crisis. Individuals can access information on avoiding foreclosures, saving for retirement, and eating right on a small budget.
- “Help for Workers” has information regarding the availability of jobs and unemployment insurance. Job seekers can explore employment opportunities on a state by state basis, as well as search for jobs



The Home Page of economicrecovery.gov

within the federal government.

- “Help for Small Businesses and Financial Institutions” provides links to information on loans and other opportunities to help small businesses. Information is also available on the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program which helps secure some debts of banks and holding companies.

The website also contains daily economic news updates from the White House, the Department of Treasury, the Department of Commerce, and the FDIC.

BID-Bits

- **Let’s Go Pitt**
It is not too late for OBID businesses to participate in the Let’s Go Pitt marketing campaign. Participating businesses offer special discounts and incentives to Pitt Men’s and Women’s basketball fans. In exchange, the businesses receive a variety of free advertising opportunities through Pitt Athletics. As of Monday, January 6th, the Pitt Men’s Basketball



Pitt’s DeJuan Blair

team was ranked number 1 in the nation for the first time in the history of the program. The Pitt Women’s Basketball team is ranked number 19 in the nation. Both the Men’s and Women’s Basketball teams attract scores of fans to the Oakland business district during home games. For more information on participating in the Let’s Go Pitt marketing campaign, call OBID at (412) 683-6243.

Oakland Roundtable Newsletter: Paper to Electronic

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Oakland Roundtable

For All OBID members
Coming Soon

OBID is planning a series of Roundtables for 2009 that will focus on strengthening and maintaining the economic viability of Oakland businesses. Be sure to check-in with the OBID newsletter and the Events section of www.onlyinoakland.org for further information on specific topics.

OBID is seeking to reduce its Newsletter paper mailing list in an attempt to save paper and trees. If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of the OBID Newsletter, please send an email to intern@oaklandbid.org with the subject line “Remove from newsletter mailing list.” The body of the email should contain your name, affiliation and address to which the Newsletter is currently being mailed. Please indicate if you already receive an electronic copy of the OBID Newsletter. Thank you for helping us to be more environmentally friendly.

OBID Members Online

OBID members are encouraged to register in the Members Only section of www.onlyinoakland.org. Registered members have quick and easy access to OBID financial statements and meeting minutes. Additionally, registered OBID members can post BID real estate listings and will soon be able to post job opportunities on onlyinoakland.org.

Registration is simple and easy.

- From the onlyinoakland.org home site, click on the OBID section on the far right of the main menu. A new menu will appear on the

left of the screen. The Members Only section is at the bottom of this menu.

- Click on the words "Members Only" on the left side of the screen. A new screen will appear with a space for a username and password. There is an option to sign up.
- Click on sign up and provide the information requested.

OBID will review all requests for new members. For more information call OBID offices at 412 683-6243

Refuse Collection and Containers

The City of Pittsburgh is stepping-up enforcements efforts of several City Ordinances dealing with the refuse collection from commercial establishments. Following is a list of four City Ordinances with which commercial establishments should ensure compliance to avoid fines.

According to City Ordinance 619.03(a) **Refuse Containers & Storage**, all trash must be stored in receptacles or a dumpster until your scheduled pick-up day. Additionally, lids must be closed at all times.

City Ordinance 619.04(a) **Accumulation of Waste** states that the owner of the property or business shall not allow litter, debris and/or refuse to accumulate on or around the premises. This includes dumpster areas, sidewalks, parking lots and entrances adjacent to the property.

City Ordinance 619.03(b) **Early Set Out** states

that all refuse and bulk items shall not be placed out for collection during business hours (9:00 am to 5:00 pm), and shall not remain more than (1) hour after it is placed out for collection.

City Ordinance 619.05(b) **Separation of**

Recyclables states that the owner or operator of every business establishment must provide a collection system for recycling of glass, plastic, metals, high grade office paper, corrugated cardboard and leaf waste.

Establishments that are in violation of any of these ordinances will receive a written warning from the City. If the problem is not corrected, the establishment will be fined a minimum of \$1,000 and up to \$5,000 for each additional violation. For more information call the Department of Public Work's Environmental Services division at 412-255-2773.



Violation of Ordinance 619.03

Carnegie Library's One Million Dollar Challenge

The Carnegie Libraries of Pittsburgh have announced a One Million Dollar Challenge as part of their Libraries for LIFE capital campaign. The Richard King Mellon Foundation has agreed to match every dollar raised for the "Libraries for LIFE" capital campaign up to one million dollars.

The Libraries for Life capital campaign focuses on the renovation of Carnegie Libraries throughout the Pittsburgh region so that the libraries can continue to meet the ever-changing needs of the communities they serve.

Presently, the library has completed six projects at the Brookline, Downtown, Hazelwood, Hill District, Homewood, Main (Oakland), and Squirrel Hill, and Woods Run libraries. Renovations are underway at the North Side and East Liberty branches.

Why contribute to the capital campaign? The Library's economic impact study revealed that customers spend a total of \$9.8 million to \$15.6 million annually at nearby businesses. For information on contributing, visit www.carnegielibrary.org/about/cip/.



BID-Bits

- **Storefront Renovation Funding Opportunities**
The City of Pittsburgh Urban Redevelopment Authority has two programs that could help businesses pay for renovations to their storefronts. The first program, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl's Storefront Renovation Program, is a reimbursement program that can provide businesses up to 50% or \$5,000 maximum for eligible improvements. The second storefront renovation program is the URA's Streetface Program. The Streetface Program provides loans for up to 40% or \$30,000 maximum for construction costs and 50% up to \$1,500 for architectural fees. All loans under the Streetface Program are provided at a 0.0% interest rate and are forgiven after 7 years as long as the property maintains compliance with the program guidelines. Both of these programs are available to commercial establishments in business districts. Banks, savings and loan associations, gas and service stations, used car lots, home-based businesses and adult entertainment establishments are not eligible. Each program requires a non-refundable application fee of \$250. Additional eligibility requirements exist for each program. For more information, call the URA's Business Development Center at 412-255-6669.



Please reuse and recycle