



403 Fox Chapel Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
(412) 828-9520



1212 Main Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15215
(412) 781-0783

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LIBRARIES MARK 'ARCH-TOBER' WITH LOCAL HISTORY SERIES

FOX CHAPEL, PA – Cooper-Siegel (CSCL) and Sharpsburg Community Libraries (SCL) plan to celebrate National Architecture Month with a new local history series.

"We are all shaped by the communities that we live in, even in ways we don't always notice. Even the layout of a house is shaped by where a culture places its values," Local History Librarian Cassandra McGinnis said. "From where we put kitchens and the size of entertaining spaces – to the designs of streets and communal spaces – it all shows what we value in terms of connection and privacy. Humans have been designing community and home spaces for centuries; each culture in time and space has put its own values into brick and mortar."

McGinnis will host two free "Arch-tober" events this October, showcasing both libraries' boroughs:

- **October 6** – Spirit of the Place: History of Suburban Development and Architecture; 4 p.m. at CSCL; 403 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.
- **October 15** – Brick by Brick: The Architectural History of Sharpsburg; 6 p.m.; at SCL; 1212 Main Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15215.

McGinnis said attendees of the Fox Chapel event will learn that suburbs are "nearly synonymous with success and achievement."

"But they didn't just spring up fully formed from the soil," McGinnis said. "If you've ever wondered what led to the development of suburbs and how the development of those 'little houses on the hillside' have reshaped Post-War America."

At Sharpsburg's event, McGinnis will highlight how history's "physical remnants" are more than "pottery shards and shipwrecks."

"From ghost signs to architectural features that are now purely decorative, but used to serve a purpose, Sharpsburg's architecture is filled with insights into the history of the borough's residents and their origins," they said. "Once you notice one, you will notice a thousand little moments of history preserved in the walls around you."

McGinnis said they hope attendees of both events "take away an urge to look slower, as they run their errands or go to work."

"The physical embodiment of cultures, new and old, exists all around us," they said.
"Sometimes you just have to let your eyes linger a little longer on a beautiful window or an interesting cornice to discover something important to the people who inhabited that space before you."

To register for either event, or for more information about Cooper-Siegel or Sharpsburg Community Libraries, including other upcoming programming, visit www.coopersiegelcommunitylibrary.org.

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For media inquiries, contact Communications & Marketing Specialist Kaylie Glaze at 412-828-9520, ext. 5012, or glazek@coopersiegelcommunitylibrary.org. Cooper-Siegel Community Library and Sharpsburg Community Library serve all Fox Chapel School District communities.