



**Central Northside Neighborhood Council**

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# CNNC

N e w s l e t t e r

September 2009

You're Invited!

**Board of Directors**

- Greg Spicer..... President
- Julie Peterson..... Vice President
- David McMunn ..... Secretary
- Barb Talerico ..... Treasurer
- Bill Buettin ..... Past President
- Jahn Augustine
- Kirk Burkley
- Christopher D'Addario
- Dr. Avis Ellis
- Joe Mansfield
- Randi Marshak
- Dennis McAndrew
- Jan Meyers
- Neil Parham
  
- Mr. William Murchison ..... Emeritus

**Executive Director**

Kilolo Luckett

## CENTRAL NORTHSIDE COMMUNITY PLAN

**See the Completed Community Plan**

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2009**

**7:00 pm**

**Allegheny Traditional Academy**

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

**R i c h i n D i v e r s i t y . R i c h i n P r o m i s e .**



## President's Message ~ *Community Planning: Hope, Trust, Empowerment*

**G**entle Neighbors: After nearly a year of hard work, the CNNC community plan is ready for its official public debut at the September 14<sup>th</sup> general membership meeting. We thank all of those who participated and encourage the community to turn out to view the results of nearly a year of intensive planning all aimed at guiding the Central Northside toward a brighter future.

Although impressive to look at, the physical document is not the most impressive part of the plan. Our plan is the result of the work of many individuals who believe in the process of community planning and the ability of that process to engage citizens in the future of their community. It is this process itself—a process that engaged so many and inspired so much in the way of vision that is ultimately the legacy of the plan. There were public and private funders, CNNC staff and volunteers, expert urban designers and planners, market analysts and, most importantly, many residents and stakeholders in the Central Northside who turned up for evening and Saturday meetings to add their voice to the finished plan. Some dedicated CNNC members and volunteers (some even came from outside of the organization) delivered flyers, knocked on doors and encouraged their friends and neighbors to participate. Everyone worked in concert to develop a plan that had the greatest number of voices and visions aimed at a brighter future for us all.



If I had to say I learned one thing about community planning is that, for all of its practical detail, it is a process about hope, trust and empowerment. Experts in these kinds of things told me repeatedly throughout this process that our meeting attendance and general level of participation was unusually high and that the input given by participants respectful and insightful. Those who believe in a better tomorrow are not naive about the challenges of the present but they possess hopefulness that, with work, things can and will change for the better. Those who trust their neighbors' input in an open dialogue about our future are not blind to difference but they embrace it as part of the vitality of a growing and forward looking community. Finally, those who actively participate in such a process see community dialogue and planning as one of many paths to empowerment for themselves and individuals and for their community collectively.

Please join us at the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to view the result of coming together over the course of this last year as we begin the dialogue of how to move our community forward together, plan in hand.

Greg Spicer, President

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*"We thank all of those who participated and encourage the community to turn out to view the results of nearly a year of intensive planning all aimed at guiding the Central Northside toward a brighter future.."*

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## CNNC Board Retreat

The Board of Directors and the Executive Director, Kilolo Lockett attended a full day retreat on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at the WYEP Studios on the South Side. The retreat was facilitated by Michael Kumer, the Executive Director of Duquesne University's School of Leadership and Professional Advancement. Michael proved to be an invaluable source of knowledge and encouragement for the Board and our Executive Director during the course of the day, which

lasted from 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Topics covered, in a variety of sessions, included: Dream Bigger Dreams!, Vision Statement and What's the role of the Board? All directors in attendance participated and through Michael's contagious enthusiasm and expertise found the retreat highly educational as we move forward with the many projects and challenges that we face as a community in the coming months. We hope to implement many of Michael's suggestions as early as

our next Board meeting in September and through time the Board's belief is that the positive effects of the retreat will become a driving force in making the Central Northside Neighborhood the number one neighborhood in the City of Pittsburgh.

The Board of Directors would like to add a special thanks to WYEP who donated the space within their studios for our retreat on Saturday.





## 2009 Mexican War Streets House and Garden Tour

In honor of its 40th Anniversary, the Mexican War Streets House & Garden Tour will be preceded by a fabulous Preservation Ball on Friday, September 11, 2009 from 7:00 - 11:00 pm at the historic Willock House at 705 Brighton Road. Guests will enjoy music, food and festivities within a fully renovated Victorian mansion. Attire is black tie optional, and ticket price is \$50/per person presale, or \$60 per person at the door. The event will be catered by Linda Ionnatta, along with in-kind donations from Penn Brewery and the Monterey Pub.

The Mexican War Streets House & Garden Tour is the oldest and finest house tour in the city of Pittsburgh. If you would like to volunteer for the tour, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Cindy Nichols at 412.231.0927 or [lostlonelyandviciousbaby@yahoo.com](mailto:lostlonelyandviciousbaby@yahoo.com). During the 40th annual event, held from 11 am to 5 pm on Sunday, September 13th, visitors will be treated to a self-guided tour of 13 homes throughout our historic neighborhood. Every home is unique; expressing each homeowner's personal taste and style. Of special interest is the home of former Pittsburgh Steeler, Franco Harris. The house tour committee wishes to thank Mr. Harris for joining the tour this year!

The House Tour will also showcase a midway of vendors, along with a Restaurant Tasting that will feature All In Good Taste Productions, Bistro To Go, Nicky's Thai Kitchen and The Monterey Pub. Food tickets will be

available for \$5 each. The Mexican War Streets House & Garden Tour is sponsored in part by Horn Corp. Builders, Eisler Landscapes, Cedar Avenue Giant Eagle, Astorino, Dollar Bank and Clark Bar & Grill. Tour tickets are available in advance for \$18 per person, or \$20 per person on the day of the tour at the ticket booth on the corner of Monterey Street and West North Avenue. Tickets to the Preservation Ball and the House Tour are available at [mexicanwarstreets.org](http://mexicanwarstreets.org).

### HONORING PRESERVATION

In order to recognize the significant contribution of Ms. Louise Boesel (1919-2007), who pioneered the preservation of houses in the Mexican War Streets, the MWSS Board of Directors wishes to dedicate this year's house tour to the memory of Ms. Boesel. Her efforts and those of others working in the neighborhood resulted in the founding of the Mexican War Streets Society and in the initiation of the annual house and garden tour tradition. Her two sons, Peter and David, and their wives will be in Pittsburgh for the weekend of the house tour to take part in all the festivities. We welcome Ms. Boesel's family back to the Mexican War Streets!

The MWSS will also take the opportunity this anniversary year to honor the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. In early 1964, James D. Van Trump and Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. sought to create a preservation group that would provide means of saving and restoring historic homes and

public buildings that were slated for the wrecking ball. The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation was incorporated on September 30, 1964, and in 1966, received a \$100,000 grant from the Sarah Mellon Scaife Foundation and committed the resources to the deteriorating Central Northside area with the intention of creating what turned out to be the first racially integrated, mixed income historic district in the nation. The PH&LF promoted the area, and helped to establish an independent neighborhood organization—the Mexican War Streets Society. The Mexican War Streets Restoration Program was launched in 1967 and on October 9, 1969 is recorded the first formal meeting of the newly-formed Mexican War Streets Society for the purposes of electing leadership and conducting the business of the organization. Through the PH&LF, a wealth of preservation projects, practices, and publications have been made available to the worldwide preservation community and secured Pittsburgh as a fundamental starting point in the historic preservation movement that we know today. Thank you, PH&LF, for all the hard work and the enduring legacy of a city's architectural heritage preserved. Learn more about PH&LF at its website: [www.phlf.org](http://www.phlf.org).

Ms. Louise Boesel and the PH&LF will be recognized at the MWSS 40th Anniversary Preservation Ball on Friday, September 11, 2009.

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*"The Mexican War Streets House & Garden Tour is the oldest and finest house tour in the city of Pittsburgh."*

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Mexican War Streets




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*“Neighborhoods are sustainable if they have a genuine mix of population in terms of different kinds of interests, and needs, as well as in different kinds of assets that residents have to contribute to their neighborhood. These assets include time, care, skills, culture, and social capital, as well as money.”*

Monika Jaechel

## Northside Old Timers ~ Save One, Job Done

Several years ago, a small group of residents of the Northside gathered to develop a strategy to address the wanton acts of violence on the Northside. Most, but not all members, have resided on the Northside the greater part of their life and for some, since birth. Under the mantra, "Save One, Job Done," and the name Northside Old Timers (NSOT), this multi-racial, gender balanced group of individuals have spent countless hours attempting to bring youth, young adults and senior citizens together to enhance the "quality of life" on the Northside. The primary focus of NSOT is with school aged youth - kindergarten to 8th grade. Through fundraisers such as cabarets, NSOT has

sponsored skating parties for the youth, distributed items (including educational material) to youth during Halloween, hosted an annual awards banquet, and planned the annual and thus far, greatly successful and cherished, "Unity Gathering" in West Park. It's particularly noteworthy to share that Northsiders traveled from as far away as California to attend the "Unity Gathering." This year the "Unity Gathering" was preceded by the "Children's March Against Violence." Other activities are currently being contemplated for Northside youth. Recognizing the importance of bridge-building and accomplishing the task at hand, NSOT has interacted and worked with a

number of social service organizations, business owners, churches and elected officials. NSOT would like to thank those who have supported initiatives thus far and encourage like-minded individuals to adopt "Save One, Job Done."

Will Thompkins  
412.292.6812



## Allegheny Church Used Book Sale

*"No furniture so charming as books."*  
Sydney Smith

It's that time of year! Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church will be holding it's annual used book sale

on Sunday, September 13 during the Mexican War Streets Society House and Garden Tour. Please stop by the book tables where you're sure to find some interesting, informative and -- dare we say -- provocative

reading. Most hardcovers are a dollar, and paperbacks are 50 cents. There will also be book sets available.

## CNNC Reaches out to Allegheny West

One of the goals President Greg Spicer outlined for the CNNC Board this year is to begin reaching out to organizations which are adjacent to our neighborhood - Allegheny West, Manchester and East Allegheny, for starters.

The first of these meetings occurred with Allegheny West board members at the end of July. We shared information about our organizations' history and current plans, and agreed to begin working together on shared goals. All of us are excited about the

prospects of this collaboration, which gives us, in Spicer's words, . . . *(the opportunity to) reconnect with our nearby and long estranged neighbors.'*



## Federal North Projects Moving Along

The grand opening of the new Carnegie Library branch is not the only big news for the Federal Street Corridor. Two developments that will anchor the Federal North intersection are also moving forward. Developer Bill Barron has started construction on 2 East North Avenue, a development that will house a Crazy Mocha coffee shop. On the opposite corner, JRA Development has secured URA approvals to move forward with plans and financing for his mixed-use development that will include Fifth Third Bank, two additional commercial spaces along Federal Street, and 14 apartments on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors.

The Crazy Mocha will occupy space that has long been vacant, and offer a nice addition to the existing stores along Federal Street. CNNC played an important role in helping the developer access funds to restore the window openings along Federal Street. This will help improve the appearance of the block by replacing a long brick façade with window openings that add life to the street. Crazy Mocha hopes to open by the end of the year.

The JRA Development across Federal

Street including 2 and 4 W. North Avenue is continuing to move forward, although site preparation has not yet begun. CNNC worked with the developer to help preserve 4 West North Avenue, retaining an important façade along W. North Avenue. The URA and City Council recently approved the developer's disposition proposal, which allows him to move forward and complete his construction drawings and secure financing. These items will take a couple months to complete, and construction on this development likely will not occur until early 2010.

CNNC, along with the Northside Leadership Conference, is leading up master planning and market study activities for the rest of the Garden Theater Block. Perhaps you've been to one of the public meetings where ideas for these structures were discussed. CNNC's job is to balance what the neighborhood desires with what the market will support and lenders will finance. Our next step is to work with the Urban Redevelopment Authority (owners of the property) to extend our existing site control so that we may begin to find a private

developer(s) that will partner with us to develop the buildings. We've also worked with the URA to help secure funds that may help us make some immediate improvements to these buildings.



Federal North  
federal hill townhouses  
carnegie library allegheny branch  
crazy mocha



## Get Climbing Pittsburgh

Over 5,000 Pittsburghers are already taking advantage of the many outdoor activities provided by Venture Outdoors. Starting this summer, Climb Pittsburgh, a project of Venture Outdoors, has set up a temporary home for their rock climbing wall on Pittsburgh's North Side, allowing groups and individuals many opportunities to try this exciting sport.

Rock wall climbing is quickly becoming a challenging addition to many fitness programs and can provide organizations with team building exercises. And they encourage would-be climbers to try a high energy sport in a safe, controlled environment.

The climbing wall is available for use on the first Monday of each month at Lake Elizabeth in Allegheny Commons on Pittsburgh's North Side. Interested

individuals can climb the rock wall for only \$3. Individuals can climb the wall from 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM on September 7. The location gives wall climbers the option to kayak, as well.

Rock wall climbing has also become a popular beginner-friendly activity at parties and corporate events, but can be pricey to rent. Fortunately, Climb Pittsburgh is also providing groups with the opportunity to reserve the wall at discounted rates.

Groups can reserve 30 minutes of time on the climbing wall and 30 minutes of kayaking for their group for only \$3 per person. The wall is available to groups on September 19. Walk up groups are welcome, but priority will be given to those who make reservations. Walk up pricing is \$1 per person to climb the wall and \$5

per person to kayak for 30 minutes. Groups interested in reserving a space on one of the upcoming dates can email Liam Cooney at [lcooney@ventureoutdoors.org](mailto:lcooney@ventureoutdoors.org) or call 412.255.0564.

Venture Outdoors is a local non-profit organization that seeks to transform the Pittsburgh region into a place where the outdoors is an integral part of our culture, our identity and our lifestyle. For more information, visit



## Anne Feeney and Friends sing in the Heart of the Northside

Pittsburgh's favorite Union Maid daughter, singer and social justice worker Anne Feeney and friends will be performing in our neighborhood for two September concerts:

Tuesday, September 15th, 2009 7:30 PM, "Sing Out for Single Payer Road Show!" when Anne rounds up as many members of the tour as she can to give you a sample of the fabulous show that they took from San Diego to Bellingham over 26 days in July.  
Sunday, September 20th, 2009 8:00 PM, "Roy Zimmerman and Anne Feeney in Concert!" Join Anne as she

welcomes the pre-eminent political satirist of our time to Pittsburgh. Roy is the author of "Defenders of Marriage," "Creation Science 101," and dozens of other hard-hitting and hilarious songs.

Both concerts are priced at \$10-20 suggested. The church is on the corner of Resaca Place and West North Avenue.

Rev. Dave McFarland (this year's Central Northsider of the Year) says that Anne has sung and spoken at the church several times. He notes that

she chose his church for these concerts at least in part because "Allegheny UU Church has been opening its doors in our neighborhood for the past 100 years and has a commitment to social justice and a better world—and neighborhood—for all souls regardless of creed, sexuality, race, or belief or non-belief." The church welcomes you to join in the irreverent fun!





## September 2009 General Membership Meeting

DATE ..... Monday ~ September 14, 2009

TIME ..... 7:00 pm

LOCATION..... Allegheny Traditional Academy

### Meeting Agenda

- Presentation of CNCP Final Plan

### Upcoming Events

- September 16..... [Wednesday]..... HOMEWORK CLUB..... 3:30 pm..... Carnegie Library ~ Allegheny
- September 17 ..... [Thursday] ..... BEGINNING EMAIL..... 9:00 am—10:00 am..... Carnegie Library ~ Allegheny
- September 23..... [Wednesday]..... HOMEWORK CLUB..... 3:30 pm..... Carnegie Library ~ Allegheny
- September 26..... [Saturday]..... BALLET FUNDAMENTALS..... 10:30 am..... Carnegie Library ~ Allegheny
- September 30..... [Wednesday]..... HOMEWORK CLUB..... 3:30 pm..... Carnegie Library ~ Allegheny



We're  
WORKING HARD  
to build a better  
Community!

# CNNC

## WELCOMES New Library Opening



### New Carnegie Allegheny Library

The newest addition to Federal Street has already opened its doors to the Central Northside community. The Allegheny branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh quietly opened its doors on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> August in the lead up to its grand opening on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> August.

Mary Monaghan, Assistant Director of Neighborhood Libraries explained that *"We always do a soft-opening a week or two out from the grand opening celebration, just to make sure that everything works, etc, before we show it off to the world."*

#### Staff:

Manager ..... Carlton Stout ..... 412.237.1891 ..... stoutc@carnegielibrary.org  
Children's Librarian ..... Jennifer Pickle ..... 412.237.1893 ..... pickle@carnegielibrary.org  
Children's Librarian ..... Eva Mays ..... 412.237.1893 ..... mayse@carnegielibrary.org  
Librarian ..... Barbara Lawler ..... lawlerb@carnegielibrary.org  
Librarian ..... Pat Geary ..... gearyp@carnegielibrary.org  
Clerk ..... Cathy Behm  
Clerk ..... Dolores Medve  
Clerk ..... Jan Loksik

#### Hours:

Monday ..... 10:00 am ~ 7:00 pm  
Tuesday ..... 10:00 am ~ 7:00 pm  
Wednesday ..... 10:00 am ~ 7:00 pm  
Thursday ..... 10:00 am ~ 5:00 pm  
Friday ..... 10:00 am ~ 5:00 pm  
Saturday ..... 10:00 am ~ 5:00 pm



**Rich in Diversity. Rich in Promise.**