



Central Northside Neighborhood Council

1310 Arch Street
Pittsburgh PA 15212

CNNC

N e w s l e t t e r

Winter 2010

MISSION

To enhance the quality of life for all Central Northside residents.

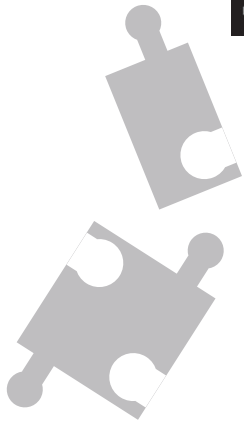
Board of Directors

- Greg Spicer..... President
- Julie Peterson..... Vice President
- David McMunn Secretary
- Barb Talerico Treasurer
- John Augustine Beautification
- Kirk Burkley Development
- Christopher D'Addario..... Safety
- Dr. Avis Ellis Membership
- Joe Mansfield..... Conservatorship
- Randi Marshak Planning
- Dennis McAndrew Development
- Jan Meyers By-Laws
- Neil Parham Human Resources
- Mr. William Murchison Emeritus

VISION

By end of 2015, CNNC will transform all of our neighborhood's vacant lots and empty storefronts by filling them with thriving individuals, commerce and families of all kinds.

Rich in Diversity. Rich in Promise.



Notes from the Future: The Neighborhood that YOU Built

In my last message, I talked about our proposed new vision statement for the CNNC—filling all of our neighborhood’s empty lots and vacant buildings with thriving individuals and families and commerce of all kinds. This statement is, in my opinion, a kind of “call to arms” for our neighborhood; a way to tap the potential of what was once lost for what might yet be. What is visionary about this statement and what I find most inspiring is not the prospect of the physical repopulation of the neighborhood or the thought of many gardens, urban “farmettes” and common green spaces or the return of “walk to work” jobs and thriving, neighborhood based commerce. Those are all great things to “vision” about, of course. But what I find so visionary about this statement is that it focuses our attention on what we—all of us—can and WILL do. In a word, this statement is not so much about repopulation and renaissance as it is about the EMPOWERMENT of all Central Northsiders. Think this proposed vision can’t be realized?

Remember what upper Federal Street looked like just two years ago or what the corner of East Federal and North looked like last winter? Remember what the corner of Jacksonia and Buena Vista looked like before Beleza and now the Buena Vista Coffee Shop? How about Mechanic’s retreat park a few years before that? How about the now nearly bricked sidewalks aside the community gardens or the mural on the Garden Theater Block or the now thriving row of artist residences on Samponia or the beautifully restored Widow’s Home or the new street trees planted throughout the Mexican War Streets and beyond or the new mini-gardens in the Commons stewarded by residents? I didn’t do these things, YOU did.

In nearly every instance it was your neighbors—on their own or banded together—who were instrumental in these seemingly isolated but ultimately transformative steps toward a better neighborhood.

And this all is not limited to our built environment. While you were doing all of that, you were building a better community by significantly reducing crime through supporting the camera initiative, working towards closing nuisance establishment, looking out for your neighbors and your block. You were attending community meetings and giving your input so that our community plan [often cited as a model in meetings with government and non-governmental agencies] could serve as a detailed description of the community’s hopes and concerns.

What is next as we move forward together? Will it be better schools IN our neighborhood or better quality housing for ALL residents or even safer streets or restoration of our “other” long-neglected business district on Brighton Road or more beautification of our common spaces and better lighting at night or growing more food in our neighborhood or constructing new housing beyond Federal Hill or more recreational, educational and artistic activities embedded in our community’s everyday life?

To be sure, we can do all of these things and more. But one thing is certain; YOU will do these things. This will be, after all, the neighborhood that YOU built.

Greg Spicer
President, CNNC Board of Directors

*“A sense
of humor
is part
of the art
of leadership,
of getting along
with people,
of getting
things done.”*

Dwight Eisenhower

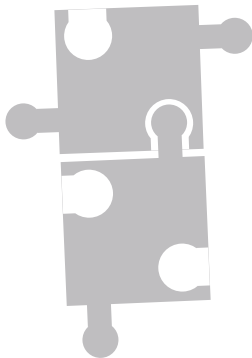
MWSS/CNNC Newsletter News

At their annual January retreat, The Mexican War Streets Society agreed in principle to move forward with plans to include the War Streets Journal into an expanded CNNC bi-monthly newsletter. Members of

each organization now have to work out the details [advertising, layout, mailing lists, etc] before we switch formats and begin mailing our newsletters to everyone. We hope to mail out our first combined issue during May/June of this year.

CNNC Reps to Engage in School Closing Issues

Are you concerned about the news that the school district is considering school consolidations and closings that may negatively impact our neighborhood for DECADES to come? We are. CNNC Board members Julie Peterson, Jan Meyers, John Augustine and Dennis McAndrew are planning to attend meetings with representatives from across the Northside of Pittsburgh to talk about how to best have our collective voices heard. Thanks to John Canning for raising this at our January meeting. More to come...





Contacting the CNNC

Further to the last General Membership Meeting ~ Monday, January 11th there was a request from a member to have better contact between our committees and members/residents. Below I have created a list of email addresses to contact specific committees that are currently being chaired by a member of the Board of Directors.

Please contact any of these if you are interested in updates, dates of meetings or have questions or comments for the Committees:

- BEAUTIFICATION..... John Augustine beautification@cncnc-pgh.org
- BY-LAWS..... Jan Meyers bylaws@cncnc-pgh.org
- COMMUNICATION Julie Peterson..... communication@cncnc-pgh.org
- DEVELOPMENT..... Kirk Burkley..... development@cncnc-pgh.org
- ELECTIONS Jan Meyers elections@cncnc-pgh.org
- FINANCE Barb Talerico finance@cncnc-pgh.org
- FUND RAISING..... Barb Talerico fundraising@cncnc-pgh.org
- MEMBERSHIP David McMunn membership@cncnc-pgh.org
- SAFETY..... Chris D'Addario..... safety@cncnc-pgh.org

*"Respect
is the
center
of the
circle of
community."*

Manitonquat

We are committed to provide our residents ways to access information quickly and efficiently, we realize that not everyone is connected to the internet and we are looking at various ways to make sure you, our community has access to the Board you voted for. As you know we do not currently have any office staff, however; the voicemail service is working and is checked daily, again if you leave a message and expect a return please leave your name and telephone number for us to do so. Many thanks.

Julie Peterson
Chair, Communication Committee
412.321.1012

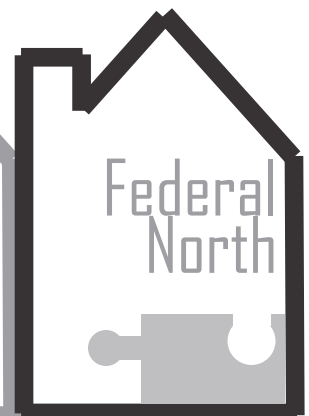
Federal North Development Moves Forward

By now, hopefully, Central Northside residents have sipped a cup of coffee at both new coffee shops in the neighborhood. Our efforts are certainly paying off and the new building at the corner of Federal North is merely a sign of things to come. Dennis McAndrew and Elise Yanders continue to lead a task force aimed at assisting the long time business owners on the easterly side of Federal Street to tap into public funds to help them improve their facades. The most

recent meeting took place on January 16th and another is scheduled for February 1st at the new Allegheny Library and including representatives from the CNNC, the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh and, of course, the business and building owners themselves. In addition, Jim Aiello's development on the westerly side of Federal Street continues to move along and we hope to see demolition

and site work by this Spring. Finally, the Northside Tomorrow, LLC joint venture has completed its business and marketing plan, which has been accepted by the URA. Several interested developers have toured the Garden Theater block and we are extremely hopeful that we will have a very good idea who will be developing the remaining buildings by the end of 2010.

Kirk Burkley
Chair, Development Committee





"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that has."

Margaret Mead

Safety Committee Review

Hello All,

One of the biggest developments in our neighborhood was the drug bust December 21, 2009. Santa arrived a few days early to the Central Northside in the form of uniformed and under cover officers. A huge amount of heroin was confiscated along with firearms and drug paraphernalia.

Our youth deserve safe streets free of drugs and violence.

The Central Northside ended the year with very positive news.

There will be more camera installations as soon as the weather cooperates. Sights have been picked out and hosts have been found.

Realizing how fortunate we were to have such a large quantity of drugs removed from our neighborhood means we need to be on the watch that it does NOT get replaced. If you notice anything you feel is dangerous, unsafe or illegal call 911. If you notice a problem or a recurring issue that you feel could escalate over time into a danger call 311. Calling and reporting problems and crimes does work. We

may not get immediate results, but vigilance pays off. If possible keep a record of all complaints made; jotting down time, place, date, description of actors, description of vehicles, etc. Let us keep the pressure on those in our community who create an unwholesome atmosphere.

See you at the next meeting.

Chris D'Addario
Chair, Safety Committee

February 2010 General Membership Meeting

DATE Monday ~ February 8, 2010

TIME 7:00 pm

LOCATION..... Allegheny Traditional Academy

*** PLEASE NOTE ***
Second and final vote on the new Vision and Mission Statements
during this meeting ... see Front Cover

City of Asylum Receives More Recognition, Money for it's Unique Mission

City of Asylum/Pittsburgh (COA) has been awarded one of only six MetLife Innovative Space awards. According to Henry Reese, in addition to the national recognition and the technical assistance that result from such an award, COA will receive a grant of

\$10,000. The award specifically recognizes COA's unique writer-residency program on Sampsonia Way. The award also recognizes the important and forward-looking way that COA and its programs are integrated into the fabric of the

community as opposed to simply being housed here.

The CNNC is honored to have helped support the grant application for COA and congratulates everyone involved in COA and its important efforts.

Property Conservatorship Moves Closer to Reality

Sick of abandoned properties dragging your block down? So are we. The CNNC membership voted to form a subsidiary to legally obtain, rehabilitate and sell such properties as a way of converting these abandoned gems into affordable, safe, clean housing. Joe Mansfield, the director in charge of this initiative tells us the insurance is now in place and the subsidiary should be fully formed by March 1st of this year. Thanks to Joe all those working to make this a reality!



It's Election Time Again

How time flies, whilst thinking about what to write in this article I re-read the last two year's of newsletter editions around the same time, things have definitely changed in this neighborhood since I became a board member in October 2008, some would believe for the better and some would argue not so much. Whatever your opinion of the changes that have happened, change is inevitable, without it we may never have seen Barack Obama as our President and with it we may see gay marriage as a definite reality in our futures.

We have made great strides in this neighborhood, we have new homes on Federal Street and a fantastic new library that is always jam packed when I am there with Evan. There are many things we still have to do, a community plan to implement, protecting our neighborhood schools and you can be a part of this.

Being on the board is no easy task, it is definitely a working board, you have to be able to attend at least two meetings each month and many times that number will increase once you take

on being a chair of a specific committee. You have to be willing to listen to all neighbors, not just the ones that voted for you! And sometimes the things you want to happen the most take the longest time. But the rewards and the satisfaction I have felt from serving on this Board are unlike any I have experienced in the volunteering I have done in the past.

We need you to become involved, speak for your community, protect what is here and improve the quality of life for all our residents. Please contact our election committee if you would like more information or to suggest residents who you believe would be good candidates, you can do so via email: elections@cncn-pgh.org or contact me directly on 412.321.1012. The fine print is below and the same rules apply to become a member of our board, you must have attended at least one meeting in the last year and be a fully paid up member of the CNNC.

In accordance with the amended by-laws approved on April 20, 2009, each member shall be entitled to one

vote, provided he/she is **[A]** present at the meeting, **[B]** has attended at least one other regular membership or special membership meeting as a dues paid member within the last twelve months, **[C]** is a member listed in the membership list on the record date as established under Article III, Section I of these By-Laws and **[D]** is current with dues.

Also in accordance with the amended by-laws, a member is now defined as any person, at least eighteen years old, who is current with membership dues and resides in the Central Northside Neighborhood. An individual member is eligible to cast one and only one vote or ballot per CNNC decision or election. Group members are not eligible to vote in council business, including the Board of Directors elections.

Many thanks.

Julie Peterson
VP, CNNC Board of Directors

*"Leadership
and
learning
are
indispensable
to
each
other."*

John F. Kennedy

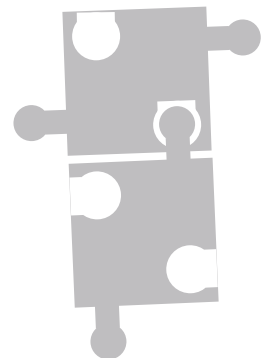
The Central Northside: Pittsburgh's New Green Neighborhood

Did you remember how low our neighborhood ranked in recycling just a year or so ago? Many of us were more than a bit surprised to find out that we are now the city's FIRST AND ONLY "Gold Star" recycling neighborhood! In 2007 our neighborhood was only recycling at around 30%, at the time the Central Northside Neighborhood Council made a commitment to

the City to improve this and improve we did, now 23 out of 25 of our households recycle, 90% of our residents are putting out their blue bags and making a positive change to improve both our neighborhood and our planet!!

While other neighborhoods talk green, we were doing it!

Meanwhile, sustainable Pittsburgh is coming to the CNNC Board of Directors' January meeting to discuss planning for green/sustainable initiatives for our neighborhood. We should have some news about this at the February membership meeting.





Rich in Diversity
Rich in Promise

Central Northside Neighborhood Council

1310 Arch Street
Pittsburgh PA 15212
[Email] info@cnncc-pgh.org

2010 CNNC Membership Registration Form

Dues run from January 2010 to December 2010

[Please print legibly]

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE (home) _____ PHONE (other) _____

EMAIL _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Do you want to receive the Newsletter via email? YES _____ NO _____

If you do not reside in the Central Northside please list properties you own in the Central Northside.

I am interested in participating in the following CNNC committees:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| _____ By-laws Committee | _____ Litter/Beautification Committee |
| _____ Communication Committee | _____ Membership Committee |
| _____ Development Committee | _____ Planning and Evaluation Committee |
| _____ Finance Committee | _____ Safety Committee |
| _____ Fundraising Committee | |

Enclosed is _____ \$5 _____ \$3 [Seniors 60+] for my dues for 2010

If your organization/business would like to become a CNNC member, dues are _____ \$25 Please name the delegate for your organization: _____

Enclosed is an additional tax-deductible donation of: \$20 \$40 \$60 \$80 other

[Office Use Only]

Date _____

Amount Paid _____

Received by _____

Check No. _____ Cash _____