



CentralNorthsideNews

“Hand-delivered since 1970”



Sept
2008

CENTRAL NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

1310 Arch St. • Pittsburgh, PA • 15212 • Phone: 412-231-7742 • Fax: 412-322-3386 • www.cnnc-pgh.org

Mission: The Central Northside Neighborhood Council is dedicated to sustaining a diverse community, enhancing the lives for all residents and ensuring a sense of community cohesiveness by developing affordable housing, advocating for our neighbor's needs, promoting quality of life and providing a public forum.

Vision: The vision of the Central Northside Neighborhood Council is to create a safe, clean, affordable, and engaged community.

Board of Directors

John Augustine (Treasurer)
Bill Buettin (President)
Kirk Burkley
John Canning
Christopher D'Addario
Dr. Avis Ellis
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Janet Moore
Nancy Shaeffer
Greg Spicer (Vice-President)
Randy Zotter

Emeritus
Mr. William Murchison

Staff

Michael Barber
Executive Director
mbarber@centralnorthside.com

Aaron Churchill
Community Organizer
achurchill@centralnorthside.com

September General Membership Meeting

Monday, September 8, 2008

7 pm at Arch Court (1310 Arch St.)

Agenda

- 1. Federal/North—Hear about prospective developer; vote to authorize CNNC/NSLC partnership to master plan Garden, Masonic, and Bradbury buildings. Vote to enter into MOU with URA for these projects**
- 2. Neighborhood Plan—Learn about neighborhood planning process moving forward; vote to authorize hiring of urban planning consultant, Pfaffman + Associates**
- 3. Strategic Plan 2008—Provide comment on revised draft of strategic plan. Vote to create a Planning and Evaluation Committee.**
- 4. Board Elections—Nominate candidates for 2 vacant board seats**
- 5. Federal/North Art Project—Vote to approve**
- 6. Ferris Apartments—Learn more about affordable rental housing project; vote to submit application for tax credits**
- 7. Cedar Ave. Giant Eagle—Meet, ask questions to new owners**

... announcements ... announcements ... anno

EARN \$100 WHILE YOU LEARN!



Financial Fitness for Young Adults in Allegheny County

My Money, My Life is a financial literacy program for youth 16 to 19 years-old in Allegheny County. This class will cover goal setting, budgeting, saving, and credit, among other topics. Youth who complete the course will be rewarded with \$100 in a fee-free savings account at a participating bank.



Who: Teens 16 to 19 years
When: September 18, 25 & Oct 2, 9, 16
Where: **North Side, PA**
 * Call for exact location
Time: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM *
 * Dinner will be served
Sign-Up: Call or email NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania:
412-281-1100 x 121
 cgeorge@nhsdpa.org

Sponsors include:

- Federal Home Loan Bank
- Allegheny County
- Local banks
 - o Dwelling House
 - o **ESB Bank**
 - o First Commonwealth
 - o Huntington Bank
 - o Iron & Glass Bank
 - o National City
 - o Northwest Savings
 - o PNC Bank
 - o Sewickley Savings

Call soon – this class will fill up!



NeighborWorks® Western Pennsylvania
 710 Fifth Avenue Suite 1000 • Pittsburgh, PA 15219
 412-281-5773 (t) 412-281-9987
www.nhsdpa.org

Coming September 2008!



**401 E. Ohio Street
 Pittsburgh, PA**

Rita's Water Ice Franchise Company is opening a new location on the North Side of Pittsburgh in September 2008. At Rita's, our tag line of "Ice Custard Happiness" is more than a saying. It's our way of life – and a steadfast promise to our valued guests. We promise happiness, and it's a promise that we keep.

The North Side Rita's is currently accepting applications for Store Managers, Assistant Managers and Front Line Treat Team members. To receive an application and further information, via email, please send an email to Northsideritas@verizon.net containing your: Name, Address, Email, Ph. Number, Desired Position

First Annual Central Northside Golf Outing

Join us for a day of fun with your neighbors at the First Annual Central Northside Golf Outing.

Date: Sunday, October 12. Tee-off at 10:00 am.
Place: Conley Resort 740 Pittsburgh Rd. (Route 8) Butler, Pa.
Format: 4 Person Scramble
Cost: \$70 per person (includes greens fees, golf cart, hot dog and drink at turn, buffet lunch after with beer and soft drinks)

Individuals can sign up as well as 4 person teams. We will match up any individuals on the day of the event.

Sign up information at Sam Caruso's Beer Distributorship on N. Taylor or call Joe Mansfield at 412-680-6102 (cell) or 412-904-3249 (work).

Council District 6



Items needed:

- Pencils
- Pens
- Notebooks
- Back Packs
- Folders
- Any other items

Sponsored by Councilwoman Tonya D. Payne

Pants (no denim) - Khaki, Navy Blue, Black
 Skirts, Jumpers, or Dresses (no denim) - Navy Blue, Khaki, Black,
 Walking Shorts (no denim) - Navy Blue, Khaki, Black
 Polo & Short Sleeve Shirts - White, Yellow, Light Blue
 Long Sleeve Shirts - White, Light Blue, Navy

Youth sizes 6-18, Men's pants sizes 28 - 40, Men's shirts S-XXL
 Women's pants sizes 12 - 18, Women's shirts S-XXL

Please Bring Donations to the CNNC Offices, 1310 Arch Street
 Drive runs from now until September 20th.




Light of Life to Host Java and Jazz

Hosted by Light of Life's Education and Employment program, Java and Jazz promises a leisurely time to enjoy complimentary light refreshments, the fabulous musical talent of Joy Ike, and the unique ambiance of Amani's. Last but not least, guests will have the opportunity to meet and chat with Mission clients whose lives have been transformed.

September 18, 5 – 8 p.m.
Amani International
Coffeehouse and Café
507 Foreland St.

Call 412-803-4138 for more information.



Meet a Central Northsider

A lifelong Northsider, Marcus Berry, 25, attended Oliver High School, and has lived with his father, a retired truck-driver, for the past 18 years on Arch Street. When we met Marcus on a sun-drenched Friday afternoon, he was wearing a homemade printed t-shirt that says M. Berry with a picture below of he and his 6 year old son, Cam'ron. It is no surprise, however, to see Marcus proudly touting his son. Born deaf, Cam'ron attends a special-needs school and participates in after-school programs at a local church. With the help these caring teachers, Cam'ron has improved his hearing and speech skills. When the two are together, they enjoy playing video games—particularly Spider Man and X-Men. When we ask about who usually wins, Marcus smiles wryly and says, “I usually let him win.”

Marcus is currently employed at Bay Valley distribution center, and has completed a year at community college where he studies philosophy and psychology. When Marcus is not working or hanging out with Cam'ron, he enjoys rooting for the Steelers and reading; his favorite book is *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. As a longtime resident and father himself, Marcus is interested in helping neighborhood kids, and he would like to see the neighborhood come together to provide more activities for Central Northside youth.



Pittsburgh King, ALA Announcements

KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE RALLY

Pittsburgh King, ALA will be hosting a “Keep Our Children Safe Anti Violence Rally” on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 from 6-8 P.M. There will be clergy, public officials, political leaders, educators and residents amongst our panel of experts.

PARENT BREAKFAST

Our first PARENT BREAKFAST of the new school year will be Tuesday, September 16 from 8:30-10:00 A.M. This is an opportunity to meet new staff, get information, win prizes and of course, eat a delicious catered breakfast. Please contact Ms. Debbie Atkins at 412-323-4160.

Community Planning Process Moves Forward with Board Selection of Local Design and Planning Firm

After a thorough vetting process, the CNNC Community Planning Initiative Committee (CPI) and the CNNC Board of Directors have selected local design firm Pfaffmann and Associates to guide the community planning process here in the Central Northside. This selection now goes to the general membership for approval at the September 8th meeting. The board's decision to recommend Pfaffmann to the membership came after several whirlwind weeks of reading proposals and meeting with several very competent and competitive firms.

An initial request for proposals (RFP) was sent out from the CNNC in July and several firms sent impressive applications showcasing their work with other communities in the area. All firms had extensive experience in urban design and planning and each expressed excitement about the Central Northside and the potential for community growth and development here. Four applications were put before a committee consisting of CPI members, CNNC staff and officers. Of those four applications, three were selected to give presentations and, of those three, two selected for final presentations. All three firms that presented to the selection committee were asked the same series of questions and were judged using a set of pre-determined criteria that reflected neighborhood concerns ranging from strategies for inclusion of various voices and interests in the neighborhood to use of local labor in community planning.

The process for selecting the winning firm was overseen by Andrea Lavin from the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh (CDCP). The CDCP gave the CNNC \$16,000 in the *continued on page 4*

Membership to Consider Resubmission of Low Income Rental Housing Application

At the September 8th meeting of the CNNC, the membership will be asked by the CNNC Board of Directors to consider whether or not to resubmit an application to the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) to build 34 low-income, rental-housing units in the Central Northside.

Geographically, Ferris Apartments would fill 15 empty lots and renovate 2 abandoned tenements at locations on Alpine, Jacksonia, Monterey, Brim Way, Reddour, Sampsonia, Federal, Boyle, Saturn Way, and Armandale Streets. To qualify for housing in the Ferris Apartments, renters would have to meet income guidelines set forth by PHFA. In addition to these qualifications, some special units are slated for Boyle Street. Three units will be reserved for children and parents making the transition from homelessness and foster care. These families will receive 24-hour wrap-around services from YMWABA (Young Men's and Women's African Heritage Association) for individuals who are suffering from drug/alcohol addiction and/or mental illness.

The first submission for PHFA funds occurred last December, but the housing agency subsequently denied the project. The CNNC Board of Directors originally voted at their July 30th meeting to table the application for this year due to the burst in development activity on Federal Street and West North Avenue and the start of the community planning process. The community planning process would include, among other things, creating a community wide housing strategy that takes into consideration the desires of the neighborhood in planning future housing initiatives. Many board members felt, therefore, that resubmitting the Ferris application at this time would silence community input into the kinds and location of housing projects that the CNNC should be undertaking in the neighborhood.

After the CNNC board vote not to resubmit the Ferris application at the August 25th meeting, however, the board learned that there may be some contractual obligations to the for profit developer, S&A Homes (also the builder for the Federal Hill development project) that would require the CNNC to compensate S&A for a percentage of "out of pocket" expenses incurred on the project to this point (for example, costs associated with design, site preparation and planning) should the board choose not to resubmit the project to PHFA.

In light of the possible penalty and the general board opposition to resubmitting Ferris without community input, the CNNC Executive Board is voting on Friday, September 5th to send the matter to the membership at the regularly scheduled September general membership meeting in order to have the entire membership present vote on how to proceed with Ferris.

According to the CNNC by laws, membership approval is required to resubmit the Ferris application to PHFA because this project is a contractual agreement with a third party. Members are therefore strongly encouraged to attend the September 8th meeting and voice their opinion regarding whether or not to resubmit the Ferris Apartments project at this time.

Community Planning Process

Cont'd. from pg. 3

form of a start up grant for the community planning process. The CDCP has an established relationship with urban design and planning firms in the area and these firms, according to Lavin, trust that the CDCP will keep the selection process fair and running smoothly. Randi Marshak, CPI chair, voiced the opinion of many in the selection process when she publicly thanked Ms. Lavin at close of the deliberations that ended in the selection of Pfaffmann and Associates, noting especially the ways in which she aided committee members in understanding the various steps in a sometimes complex process.

Pfaffmann and Associates got the nod from the board of directors at an August 25th meeting shortly after the two finalists made their presentations. While the other remaining firm, Maynes Associates, also had a very competitive application and presentation, there were a variety of reasons voiced for supporting Pfaffmann as the firm to move the CNNC forward with its community planning process. "Although all the firms were impressive in their own ways, Pfaffmann, in my opinion, had some real strengths in the area of understanding neighborhood or community culture" said board VP Greg Spicer. Other participants in the selection process were impressed with other dimensions of Pfaffman such as their dedication to historic preservation or their innovative approach to analyzing market dynamics in a rapidly evolving neighborhood.

If the CNNC membership votes to ratify the board's choice of Pfaffmann as the firm to oversee the community planning process, work will begin immediately on gathering information and input from Central Northsiders. This process of gathering information will range from collecting "objective" data about our neighborhood (demographics, etc) to setting up a series of community meetings or discussion groups ("charettes") in order to garner the most information about neighborhood attitudes, concerns, questions, and visions for a better future. This extensive information gathering process will aid Pfaffmann in coming up with suggestions for a community plan that is broadly inclusive, suited to our neighborhood and its unique needs and desires, and aimed at a coherent approach to future development and growth in the Central Northside.

Upcoming Events

September 8	General Membership Meeting, 7pm at Arch Court (1310 Arch St.)
September 10	Membership Committee, 6:30pm at Arch Court
September 11	Neighborhood Plan Steering Committee, 7:30pm at Arch Court
September 12	CTAC All Neighborhood Block Party, 5pm-8pm at 901 Western Ave.
September 13	Neighborhood Clean-Up, 10am at Mechanic's Retreat Park
September 14	MWSS House Tour, 11am-5pm
September 16	Federal/North Committee, 6:30pm at Arch Court
September 17	MLK-Parent, School, Community Council, 5pm at MLK Library
September 18	Litter and Beautification Committee, 6:30 at Arch Court
September 18	Light of Life Java and Jazz, 5pm-8pm at Armani Coffeehouse
September 24	Pittsburgh King ALA Anti-Violence Rally, 6pm-8pm at King ALA
October 12	Central Northside Golf Outing, 10am at Conley's Resort
Saturdays	Twilight Market, 3-6:30pm at Mechanic's Retreat Park

News and Notes

This article was originally published in the August Special Edition of the CNNC Newsletter. For more information, go to www.cnnc-pgh.org to read the entire August issue.

Normally, we take a break from the monthly newsletter during the heat of August. Many residents are on vacation or just staying cool in the “dog days” of summer and thoughts of community meetings and ongoing neighborhood projects are, at least for a few weeks, put aside. This year, however, because so many exciting developments are underway at what seems like a break neck speed, we want to keep you the membership as informed in as timely of a manner as possible. That is why the CNNC board and the Communication Committee are bringing you this special edition of the newsletter. Among the exciting developments:

- An election to fill vacant Board seats has been moved to the October membership meeting so those wishing to cast a vote will have a chance to do so. If you haven't been able to make a membership meeting this fiscal year (starting June 1st) you can attend the September 8th membership meeting to satisfy the attendance requirement in the bylaws.
- Construction financing for the Federal Hill development is now closed and work is set to begin this week. Additionally, the traffic islands (medians) have been deemed “safe” by the traffic calming study prepared for the City, which should lead to final approval by Department of Public Works in the next couple of weeks.
- The Malta Temple Building on West North Avenue is now a historical landmark in the City of Pittsburgh and is likely to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places in the next week or so. Plans to demolish the Malta by the Salvation Army have been quashed by a concerted community effort.
- The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA)—the owner of the buildings at Federal Street and North Avenue – has granted a 6-month exclusive negotiating period to Aiello Development for a portion of this important commercial corridor.
- At the same meeting, the URA awarded an exclusive negotiating period to the community for the more historically significant portion of the Federal/North corridor including the Garden Theater, Masonic Hall and Bradbury building.
- The Pittsburgh Art Commission approved a public art project for the Garden Theater block of North Avenue that will enliven the streetscape while development plans move forward. Duquesne Light has agreed to light the facades of these North Avenue buildings, which will improve the safety of this block while enhancing its appeal.

In the future, these kinds of developing stories will be posted on the new website for the quickest and most efficient possible dissemination to the membership, the neighborhood and the various publics beyond the Central Northside. For now, we are committed to ensuring that members and other interested neighbors get “the skinny” on some of the many things afoot at the CNNC this summer.



Central Northside Neighborhood Council

Membership Registration Form Dues Run From January 2008-December 2008

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (day): _____ Phone (eve): _____

Email: _____

YES! I want to be involved.

Enclosed is _____ \$5 _____ \$3 (seniors) for my dues for 2008.

If your organization/business would like to be a member, dues are _____ \$25
(Include the name and contract information of delegate _____)

Enclosed is an additional tax-deductible donation of

\$20 _____ \$40 _____ \$60 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

I am interested in participating in the following committees of CNNC:

_____ ***Youth***

_____ ***Business District Development***

(Working on the Brighton Road and Federal Street business district revitalization)

_____ ***Membership***

(Working on outreach to the community, events, and various other programming)

_____ ***Housing***

(Working to eliminate blighted housing, provide affordable housing options)

_____ ***Public Safety***

(Working with Safe Streets)

I have the following skills, talents or interests that I would like to put to use for our neighborhood: _____

Send this form or drop it off at the CNNC office with your dues (Check or Cash) Make check payable to CNNC:

CNNC Membership
1310 Arch Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

CNNC Newsletter Is Available Electronically!

If you would like a newsletter delivered to you via email, please contact Aaron: achurchill@centralnorthside.com or 412.231.7742

New to the Neighborhood?

The CNNC has a New Residents Packet full of information for people who are new to the neighborhood. Please contact Aaron: achurchill@centralnorthside.com or 412.231.7742 to obtain a packet.