



Central Northside Neighborhood Council

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CNNC

N e w s l e t t e r

May/June 2010

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- David McMunn..... Secretary
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Northsider of the Year Award Winner ~ Randi Marshak .

Without a doubt, Central Northside resident Randi Marshak has done more than any one person over the past year to impact the future and well being of our community. Ms Marshak oversaw a massive and complex community planning process and continues, even now, to work on the implementation of key plan recommendations. Perhaps more importantly, her dedication to our community is notable in the very manner with which she conducted the planning process itself. She had an exacting concern for detail; a drive to make the process inclusive and solicitous of broad and divergent opinion; a focus on keeping the process alive and on track; and the character, will and tenacity to see the plan through to its fruition. The legacy of her work is evident not just in the detailed and visually compelling documents we proudly call 'the plan,' but in the hopes and dreams of her neighbors—hopes and dreams that have forever been encoded in these documents.



Therefore, every resident of the Central Northside—whether or not they chose to participate actively in the community planning process—owes Randi Marshak a great debt of gratitude. Her work on a plan aimed at mapping out a more hopeful and prosperous future for all of us will in its many effects outlive all who read these words. She inspires us anew to make the plan a living document through our concerted action.

It is in recognition of this singularly impressive community work and with a sense of great affection for our colleague that we have taken the unusual step of bestowing this title on a sitting member of the CNNC Board of Directors.

June 14, 2010
General Membership Meeting
Allegheny Traditional Academy ~ 7:00 pm

Rich in diversity. Rich in promise.



Development Review by Kirk Burkley .

This is my last committee report as a member of the CNNC board. I can tell you without question that the past two years have been one of the most turbulent, but rewarding periods of my life. Similarly, I think it is safe to say that the past two years have been a time of phenomenal transition in the Northside. Two years ago a bunch of us set out to make a difference – and we did. However, make no mistake, none of what you see and feel all around the Northside could have been accomplished without the support of many of you. Looking back on the past two years; we jump started construction and Federal Hill; we brought Zipcars to the neighborhood; we solidified our relationship with the Northside Leadership Conference [NSLC.] which led to a unified Northside application to Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development [PPND] for a corridor grant and securing that grant led to the funding of the Garden Theater block initiative with the NSLC. In the meantime, we worked with and supported the URA and Bill Barron to bring Crazy Mocha to the corner of Federal and North. Everywhere I turn, people are excited about our future. We are now talking about the redevelopment of Brighton Road and the seeds of planning have already been planted toward that effort. I often reflect to my friends that after just two years most people feel so comfortable with how things are going on Federal North that they are now concerned with Brighton Road and the redevelopment of California-Kirkbride. We recently sent out an RFP on the development of our vacant lots and structures. We have three responses thus far that propose to redevelop every single one of those lots within 18 months from the start of construction. By June 14th we will have responses to our RFP on the Garden Theater block. Redevelopment is happening before our eyes. No doubt, it has not always been smooth sailing. Change is difficult. It requires a break from the past and a commitment to move in a different direction. However, like any organization, change is necessary. Every organization must remain dynamic and trying new ideas and initiatives is the only way to keep the pizzazz. Make no mistake though, change does not mean that the work of others in the past was ill-fated, wrong or to be discounted in any way. We owe an enormous amount of gratitude to those who came before us and laid the ground work for what we are accomplishing today. Along those lines, many of the things we started in the past couple of years will not come to fruition for years to come. That is the way of the world and it will be necessary for determined women and men to step up to the plate in years to come and ensure that the Northside continues to move forward and becomes a place where persons of all walks of life can feel safe and comfortable living, working, playing and raising a family. There is still much to be done but I couldn't feel better about the direction of the CNNC board and leadership as it moves into the next phase of its ever changing existence. Two years ago we were faced with multiple paths and we chose the one most difficult and ambitious to travel, but it certainly has made all the difference. Every time you see buildings going up or being redeveloped remember that it is the manifestation of years of hard work and fortitude of many, many people. It is because of this achievement that I am proud to announce every time I am asked that I am a 'Northsider.'

"If people are not going to talk about your product, then it's not good enough."

Jeffrey Kalmikoff

Garden Block RFP Released

A request for proposals (RFP) for the redevelopment of parcels on the Garden Theater Block has been released. The RFP for developers is available on CNNC's website and is due on June 21, 2010. Interested developers may submit a proposal for the entire block or for individual parcels.

'I'm optimistic that we'll have a developer or developers identified by

the end of the Summer', noted Greg Spicer, President of the CNNC. Several developers, both local and national, have expressed interest. Redevelopment of the Garden Block is the next step of a larger revitalization effort that has seen major improvements to the Federal Street and North Avenue corridors including: Crazy Mocha, Federal Hill Housing, the Carnegie Library, and infrastructure improve-

ments along Federal Street.

The redevelopment efforts for the Garden Theater Block are being led by Northside Tomorrow (NST) which is a joint venture between CNNC and the Northside Leadership Conference [NSLC.] The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) owns the properties and is a partner in the effort.

[continues on Page 4]





Mayor Announces 2010 Summer Youth Employment Program

Mayor Luke Ravenstahl announced today that the City will be accepting applications for the Mayor's 2010 Pittsburgh Summer Youth Employment Program (PSYEP) beginning Wednesday, May 12 through May 25.

'This federally and locally funded summer employment program has the potential to employ more than 555 young people, who will gain valuable work experience, earn wages and contribute to Pittsburgh's economic growth,' Ravenstahl said. 'Most importantly, our young people will be connected with positive activities like conservation and environmental stewardship and have a better chance to be steered in the right direction for a bright future.'

The PSYEP is open to City of Pittsburgh residents between the ages of 14 and 21. Participants will be assigned to outdoor work, including restoration and conservation of city parks, public property and vacant lots, and internships, including general office work in a variety of local businesses. Youths will be paid \$7.25/hour and may work up to 30 hours per week.

Employment begins July 6 and continues until August 13.

Applications are available by download at www.pittsburghpartnership.org or by visiting one of the application centers: YouthLINK [South] at 2600 East Carson Street [412.390.2441] or YouthLINK/Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center at 5321 Penn Avenue [412.452.1513.] Applications will also be available at several neighborhood and community organizations.

To see a full listing of application centers visit website - www.pittsburghpartnership.org

Applications must be submitted in person with the required eligibility documentation stated in the guidelines. Applicants who are less than 18 years must have applications signed by a parent or legal guardian.

Applicants are selected by a random lottery. Priority is given to youths living in Public Assistance or TANF eligible households. However, all youths are encouraged to apply.

Selected applicants will be notified by phone or email by the week of June 21.

Applicants who seek more information about the 2010 Pittsburgh Summer Youth Employment Program may contact Jim Brenner, Youth Programs Supervisor for the Pittsburgh Partnership at 412. 552.7135, or jbrenner@pghcareerlink.org.

The funding for the 2010 PSYEP is not yet finalized. Approximately \$500,000 has been allocated in COBG funding

\$ummer Jobs

Applications accepted from May 12 ~ 25; participants to begin work July 6

and the City is awaiting confirmation from other funding sources. The Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board Executive Committee will approve the subcontractors who will manage the work sites on June 11, 2010.

Last year, the City placed 554 youths in conservation/fieldwork and internships with 129 workers and 17 subcontractors. The Mayor hopes to surpass this number in 2010.

41st Annual Mexican War Streets House and Garden Tour

The 41st annual Mexican War Streets House & Garden Tour will be held on Sunday, September 19, 2010. We are actively seeking homeowners who are interested in joining the parade of homes that represent our unique and renowned historic neighborhood. Our house tour is the most established tour in the city of Pittsburgh, and is

the major fundraising event for the Mexican War Streets Society. Chairing the house tour are Laurie and David Charlton.

If you would like to put your house on tour this year, Laurie and David request that you send your information to Homeowner Liaison, Leslie Ward at

412.596.0181 or email jward51@yahoo.com. If you would like to volunteer for the tour, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Cindy Nichols at 412.231.0927 or email lostlonelyandviciousbaby@yahoo.com.

Hope to see you on tour!





Blighted Buildings to be Demolished

Two decrepit frame houses at 251 and 253 Alpine Avenue are now in process to be demolished. As some members are aware, 253 Alpine is actually owned by the CNNC and 251 Alpine is part of the property reserve [city-owned.] We have been trying to get these buildings taken down since last December when we had the police evict a squatter and re-boarded them up. We recently learned that the demolitions were being held up by the city real estate department, because these buildings are listed in the CNNC's redevelopment portfolio. These 'crossed wires' have been straightened out with

Ordinarily there is a sense of loss associated with the demolition of vintage houses in and around our neighborhood. The community plan calls for finding better alternatives to demolition, to save and reuse viable housing stock. The development committee is actively working to advance that policy. However, there are situations where condemned and blighted properties are clearly irretrievable and the best solution is to demolish the building[s] and start over. This is the situation with several properties that are currently in the CNNC property reserve. In addition to

The purpose of all these demolitions is to clear the way for redevelopment, a process that began in earnest with the housing RFP released by the Development Committee in March. Although we are tearing down a few terrible old shacks, there are 11 other viable vacant buildings in the property reserve which we plan to have renovated into attractive new homes. In addition to these rehab projects, we [will] have 35 vacant lots in various contiguous groups that are candidates for in-fill housing proposals. Hence, saying good riddance to 251 and 253 Alpine is the

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.

beginning of the next phase of CNNC residential redevelopment, beyond Federal Hill phase one and phase two.

the relevant city departments and the process to demolish these blighted buildings is now moving forward. It is too early to know what the schedule might be, but we are optimistic that these demos will occur this season.

251 and 253 Alpine, a pair of frame houses squeezed in behind Arch Street at 209 Carrington and 1527 Pryor Way will also be demolished, pursuant to our recent interactions with the city on this front.

As Kirk Burkley mentioned in the Spring newsletter, the Development Committee will be seeking general membership review and discussion, once we have specific proposals in hand from developers.

Garden Block RFP Released

[continued from Page 3]



Over the past year, NST has worked with a team of consultants to complete a Master Plan and Market Study for the Garden Theater Block. Public meetings were held to get community input for the Master Plan. All of these documents are available for download at the project website www.gardentheaterblock.com

The completion of the Master Plan and Market Study, as well as recent nearby development, will help make the Garden

Block more attractive to developers. Some of the costly and time consuming predevelopment work has been completed. In addition, NST worked to have the boundary of the Mexican War Streets National Register Historic District expanded to include the properties in the Garden Theater Block. This will help make the structures eligible to use an important financing resource known as Historic Tax Credits. These tax credits may be combined with a \$4M allocation of

New Markets Tax Credits recently awarded to the Northside Community Development Fund.

The significant accomplishments of the past year place this project in position to move forward. Please watch for updates and meetings over the Summer as the process of selecting a developer or developers unfolds.



Painted Door Project

Randy Gilson was featured on the *Today Show* several months ago for his contribution to our neighborhood with what is known as Randyland or as he likes to refer to his home—The Yellow Castle. Several weeks later a representative from Sherwin Williams showed up at his door and offered to supply the paint if he would create another neighborhood art project. There was a call for volunteers to contribute ideas and the Pittsburgh Painted door project was created. The CNNC agreed to support the project that will bring art to the community and highlight vacant lots in the control of the CNNC that could support development. The doors will be a piece of installation art on vacant lots creating an illusion of where a front door would be positioned if a house was there.

For the first season, there will be a pilot project of 12 doors. The first several doors will be painted by the committee; the remaining through cooperation and involvement of the community.

Lots located on Jacksonia and above will be chosen for this project by the end of June and 12 art doors will be installed by November 2012 with additional doors added in subsequent years.

One of the initial doors will be on a lot earmarked as a song bird habitat. Other doors will highlight lots available for building a home. A blog will be created to follow the creation and installation of these doors as well as having instructions as to how to

secure lots for building new homes.

It is the goal of the committee to have temporary art installations to highlight areas where we hope to have permanent homes that will expand and strengthen the fabric of the community.



Mark the date!!

 CNNC 
SUMMER STREET FESTIVAL

SUNDAY ~ JULY 18 2009

Contact David McMunn for additional information



Upcoming Events and Announcements

3rd ANNUAL SPIN-A-THON

- June 13, 2010 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Monterey Street in front of the YMCA
- All proceeds go to Allegheny YMCA Strong Communities Campaign. Registration is \$25 per person and each team is responsible for raising a minimum of \$500. If you are not on a team, but would like to ride, please contact: Pam Falcona at 412.321.8594 or email at pfalcona@ymcapgh.org

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM of PITTSBURGH

- NEW ~ follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pittsburghkids to get the latest updates on Children's Museum and events
- Pittsburgh Yinz Play ~ now thru June 6, 2010. Celebrate all things Pittsburgh in this interactive exhibit.
- WEEKLY PROGRAMS ~ check out our weekly offerings such as Clay Classes, Woodworking, Take Apart Classes and Tot Time in the 'Classes for Kids' section of our website www.pittsburghkids.org

ADVENTURE OUTDOORS

- TYKE HIKES have partnered up with Carnegie Museum of Art to provide a two hour program for your little ones. We will take a tour of the galleries, followed by a nature inspired art exploration in the Children's Studio. We will then venture to Flagstaff Hill for a short hike and snacks.
- \$20 nonmember/\$15 member/\$10 kids 3 and under/\$1 with Access card
- Call 412.255.0564 ext 21 to register for this event.

2010 MEXICAN WAR STREETS HOUSE and GARDEN TOUR

- SUNDAY ~ SEPTEMBER 19, 2010.
- To list house please contact Homeowner Liaison, Leslie Ward at 412.596.0181 or ljward51@yahoo.com
- To volunteer please contact Volunteer Coordinator Cindy Nichols at 412.231.0927 or lostlonelyandviciousbaby@yahoo.com

 Become active in your neighborhood and participate on one of the many CNNC committees!! 



Rich in Diversity
Rich in Promise

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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 _____



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PO BOX 6255

Pittsburgh PA 15212

PRESORTED STANDARD
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Rich in Diversity. Rich in Promise.

Kayak in Allegheny Commons all Summer Long

Kayak Pittsburgh at Lake Elizabeth returns to Allegheny Commons this Memorial Day, May 31. Families with small children and paddlers not ready to head to the Allegheny River will find that Lake Elizabeth provides a controlled, welcoming paddling experience. The lake's featured shallow water is just 3 feet deep. The city skyline forms a beautiful backdrop to the city's oldest park near the National Aviary. Best of all: anyone above the age of three and weighing at least 35 pounds can kayak.

KP Lake Elizabeth will be open daily Memorial Day through Labor Day. Monday-Friday, boats will be available for free from 4:00PM - Dusk. Weekends, kayak between 10:00AM - Dusk for \$5 per boat per half-hour.

Tuesday evenings this summer, The Mattress Factory and Venture Outdoors will partner in Allegheny Commons Park to create free family art programs, performances, and outdoor activities including kayaking.

Lake Elizabeth is just one of Kayak Pittsburgh's kayaking locations. KP's Downtown location, under the 6th Street Bridge, is already open from 10:00AM to Dusk Saturday and Sundays, and from 11:00AM - Dusk beginning in June.

Other opportunities to try paddling this summer include Pittsburgh's attempt to get a world-record number of boaters in the water via Paddle at the Point, taking place in conjunction with World Environment Day on June 5th. Or for free outdoor recreation events all day, explore the Venture Outdoors Festival at Point State Park and the Mon Wharf on May 22 from 11:00AM - 6:00PM.

Free weekday kayaking and ART Outdoors are made possible with support from the Grable Foundation as part of the Charm Bracelet Project Fund.

Walk-up rentals at KP locations are ongoing and first-come, first-serve. For more information, visit <http://www.kayakpittsburgh.org>. To learn more about the world record attempt and get involved, visit <http://www.paddleatthepoint.com>.

