



New Allegheny Times

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MEXICAN WAR STREETS SOCIETY AND THE CENTRAL NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

In With the New!

Hello...and welcome to the *New Allegheny Times*, a debut publication of the Mexican War Streets Society (MWSS) and the Central Northside Neighborhood Council (CNNC). The two organizations found that information was overlapping and publishing costs were rising, so in an effort to give the community the best of the best, the MWSS and the CNNC met and decided to combine the two newsletters. Each article will end with an icon to note whether it is submitted by the MWSS or CNNC. Publishing, printing and mailing of the newsletter will be paid for by advertising revenue. Any remaining cost will be paid for by the MWSS as a donation to the CNNC. As always there is a great energy flowing through the Northside and these two organizations are part of that energy. We look forward to a wonderful future!

Bruce Harshman, MWSS President
MWSS

Drawing the Line: Rethinking Boundaries for a Better Future

The merger of the *CNNC Newsletter* and the *War Street Journal* into the *New Allegheny Times* and the distribution of this publication by post to every resident in the Greater Central Northside, is just one of the many signs that the time has come to forge new alliances and rethink the boundaries that have played a role in keeping investment away from our neighborhood for far too long.

Many of our neighbors have worked tirelessly to promote the interest of this neighborhood throughout the years. Does it matter if they live on one block or the next? Does one row of historic Victorian homes built at the dawn of Allegheny City deserve protection against demolition while the row next to it does not? Does one side of a commercial corridor deserve more help in building modern businesses and generating employment and opportunity than the other side? Should two closely aligned community groups pay for, publish and mail two separate newsletters to the same residents just because it has always been done that way? In many cases, old distinctions make no sense—they just freeze into place a status quo that only works against the interest of our neighborhood and its future.

Multi-neighborhood planning and development and close cooperation between groups with similar missions are the keys to a better future. The *New Allegheny Times* moves us in that direction, but it is just one step. We at the CNNC are reaching out to our neighbors who live “just across the street” or “just across the park” or “right next door” in order to rethink boundaries that have kept us apart, duplicated our efforts and stymied growth. During one of our many community meetings with Rob Pfaffmann from Pfaffmann and Associates, he off-handedly remarked that the Central Northside is not really “one big neighborhood” but a kind of federation of smaller places from the brand new “Federal Hill” neighborhood to the very old “Mexican War Streets.” In between and across the street, there are new coherent micro-neighborhoods waiting to be born or reborn, named or renamed—Boyle Street/Parkhurst, Apine Slopes and Gardens, Arch Street and the old Firehouse District, the neighborhoods of the Allegheny Commons; Brighton Place and Old Allegheny Rows.

What we now seek to do is see how these many places can work together toward a common dream of a new and brighter future in the footprint of one of America’s greatest historic residential and commercial neighborhoods—Old Allegheny City. That is the spirit of the *New Allegheny Times* and the vision of a greater Central Northside whose time has come.

Greg Spicer, CNNC President
CNNC

NOV / DEC 2010



PO Box 6588
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
412-323-9030
www.mexicanwarstreets.org

OUR MISSION:
To preserve the historic character of the Mexican War Streets and to promote our neighborhood through personal and community involvement.



PO Box 6255
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
www.cnnc-pgh.org

MISSION STATEMENT:
To enhance the lives of all Central Northside residents.

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

NEW ALLEGHENY TIMES
is sponsored by
Cedar Avenue Giant Eagle

Fun Raiser at RandyLand



The Olde Allegheny Community Gardens (OACG) teamed up with Randy Gilson on August 28th for the first ever **RandyLand Community Garden Celebration**. Guests enjoyed a diverse range of cuisine made by 30 community gardeners. Food was served buffet style, and on trays passed to guests by the garden chefs of the day, including



homemade mozzarella, fresh honey, locally caught fish, and eggs from actual Northside chickens. Local wines from Carlo's Garage Winery and house-made sausage provided by Right by Nature were also available. The event was organized by Sandy Kniess, and assisted by Jana Thompson, OACG Coordinator. RandyLand was a fitting locale for the celebration, since Gilson had a key role in shaping the nearby OACG throughout the 80s and 90s. Jana Thompson took time at the event to acknowledge all those who work on the Northside's green spaces. A total of \$3800 was raised for the construction of the new gravel pathway installed by Greenprints Landscaping, the primary sponsor of the fundraiser. **MMS**



(Photos of Bruce Harshman & Jana Thompson, Sandy Kniess, and Randy Gilson courtesy of Dan Wintermantel)

Holiday Gifts from MWSS!

Check out the Mexican War Streets Society's stooping glasses and seasonal cards...available in our online store at www.mexicanwarstreets.org or by contacting Leslie Vincen at lvincen@comcast.net.

Boasting a motto coined by Bambi Morton, "Preservation...I'll drink to that!", glasses can be purchased singly or by the dozen. Seasonal cards will feature a new design by Dan Wintermantel rendered in vibrant color. (2009 card shown here.) Get yours today! **MMS**



KEEP UP TO DATE ON ORG NEWS

The Mexican War Streets Society & the Central Northside Neighborhood Council are pleased to bring the *New Allegheny Times* to you every other month. To contribute to the newsletter, or to place an advertisement, just send an email to Leslie Vincen at lvincen@comcast.net. Be sure to look for neighborhood updates posted at www.cnn-c-pgh.org and www.mexicanwarstreets.org. To join the email bulletin board, simply join Yahoo and then subscribe to the YahooGroup. The HRL is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChatNorthside>.

Allegheny West Victorian Christmas Tour

The 29th Annual Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas House Tour will be held **Friday, December 10** and **Saturday, December 11** in historic Allegheny West. This incredibly popular tour will feature restored Victorian homes plus the historic Calvary United Methodist Church, famous for its beautiful Louis Tiffany stained glass windows, all decorated to celebrate a 19th Century Christmas. These tours afford a rare opportunity to glimpse a by-gone era and experience the warmth of the season in a truly old-fashioned style. Most homes in Allegheny West are over 100 years old and Victorian in architectural style. Lavishly decorated for the holidays, they recall the late 19th Century birth of the traditional American Christmas. Ticket information is available online at www.alleghenywest.org/tours-events/christmas-tour/.

MWSS Annual Holiday Party

Sunday, December 5, 2010 from 6 - 10 pm
Dennis Vodzak Residence (512 West North Avenue)

Please join us for seasonal refreshments and festivities at the MWSS annual Holiday Party, held at the elegant home of Dennis Vodzak at 512 W. North Ave. The MWSS will furnish roast turkey, baked ham, beverages and sheet cake. Please come with a side dish to share and nonperishable food items for the North Side Cooperative Ministry food pantry.

Members are free and non-members pay \$6. This is a great opportunity to renew your 2011 membership dues – a bargain at only \$12 per year! If you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact David McMunn at 412.231.1316 or Itemcmunn@msn.com. **MMS**

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MWSS 2011 Board Elections

The Mexican War Streets Society will hold its annual Board Elections at the general membership meeting at 7 pm on **Tuesday, November 16** at the Unitarian Church. Positions on the Board include the following:

President - Bruce Harshman	Social/Event Chair - Sandy Knies
Vice President - David McMunn	Greenspace Chair - OPEN
Secretary - OPEN	Program Chair - Neill Stouffer
Treasurer - Zandrea Ambrose	Membership - OPEN
Historic Preservation Chair - Greg Mucha	
House Tour Chairs - David & Laurie Charlton	

Although a number of incumbents will run for their seats again this year, the Board welcomes nominations of current MWSS members. Please note, one must be a member for three months before being eligible to run for the Board. If you are interested, please make a nomination from the floor at the meeting. Each person will have a chance to address the membership before voting. Guest speaker Lisa Miles, author of *Resurrecting Allegheny City*, will also address the membership. She will offer a brief history of the neighborhood and books for sale. **MWSS**

ALLEGHENY Y LECTURE SERIES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010 at 7:15 pm

Pittsburgh Children's Museum Executive Director, Jane Werner
Topic: The Charm Bracelet Project (rejuvenating the North Side)
Sponsored by the Pittsburgh Steelers and First Niagara.

Please register when arriving to receive a ticket that will entitle you to 20% off food at the Monterey Pub and entry to win a free one-year membership to the Allegheny Y. All lectures are free, but donations for the Y's Strong Communities Campaign can be made at each lecture. Allegheny Y, 600 W. North Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, 15212, 412.321.8594



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(Annual dues: \$12 per member, \$6 students/seniors 65+, \$50/5 years or \$150 Lifetime Member.

Dues period through Dec 2011 or in perpetuity.)

I would like to be involved with:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> House Tour | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Streets | <input type="checkbox"/> PR/Clerical Help |

Please return this form with your payment to:

Mexican War Streets Society, PO Box 6588, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Carnegie Library Programs

Kettlebells - A fitness class using weights. Saturdays at 10:00 am. Kettlebell weights and comfortable clothing are needed.

Yoga/Tai Chi - Tuesdays at 6:00 am. Schedule alternates weekly. A mat is needed for yoga, and comfortable clothing is suggested.

Lego Club! - Saturdays in November at 2 pm. Design and build your own Lego creations at the Library! Legos are provided, but feel free to bring your own.

Cynthia's Expressions - Multicultural Toddler Storytime
Saturdays, November 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 10:30 am.
Toddler storytime featuring African American books and themes.

Family Movie Night - Wednesday, December 1 at 5 pm.
Bring the whole family to the library to enjoy popcorn and a movie.

Senior Citizen's Holiday Dinner - Sunday, December 12 at 5 pm. at Community House Presbyterian Church. Homecooked Christmas meal with live entertainment, door prizes, and holiday cheer! To register, call Jen Saffron at 412-266-4424 or email jensaffron@comcast.net.

Please call 412-237-1890 to register for the free events.

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Home Sweet House Tour

The 41st annual Mexican War Streets House & Garden Tour welcomed over 1,200 visitors to our historic neighborhood, and raised a total of more than \$20,000 to invest in community green spaces and neighborhood preservation projects. House Tour co-chairs David and Laurie Charlton are grateful for all of the volunteers who played important but often unsung roles in the day's success, and of course, the homeowners. It is their willingness to support the program that continues to ensure its success. They'd also like to thank the restaurants who participated on the midway – Atria's, All In Good Taste Productions, Bistro To Go, Heinz Loft Cafe and The Monterey Pub – and all of the Tour sponsors – Horn Corp. Builders, Eisler Landscapes, WPA Craftsmen's Guild, Cedar Avenue Giant Eagle and Clark Bar & Grill. A special thanks goes out to Bob Sendall for hosting the Homeowners' Party, and to D&GG Advertising for providing space for the After-Tour Party. Thanks also to all the House Tour committee members: Zandrea Ambrose, Mark Deptola, Eric French, Bruce Harshman, Sandy Kniess, Patt & Bruce Ledewitz, Cindy Nichols, Glenn Olcerst, Bob Sendall, Allan Slider, Jana Thompson, Leslie Vincen, Leslie Ward, and Dan Wintermantel. This event is the primary funding source for the Mexican War Streets Society. Please join our membership and help us spend this money wisely toward useful causes throughout our beautiful community. **MMS**



Homeowners' Party!

From left: Laurie Charlton, Findley Zotter and Leslie Ward; Jim Lawrence, David McMunn, Barbara Talerico and Andrea Fridley; Bambi Morton and Neill Stouffer; Greg Mucha and John Engle; Dan Wintermantel and Leslie Vincen. (Photos courtesy of John Engle)



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Hazlett Hot List

Through November 7, 2010 – varied times

Prime Stage Theatre presents the world premier of a unique adaptation of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* - Written by FJ Hartland and Directed by Mark Calla, the performance unfolds weaving children telling ghost stories into Irving's spooky classic.

November 9, 2010 – 7:30 pm

Pittsburgh Premiere of *Beyond Belief* with Q&A by Susan Retik, Co-founder of Beyond the 11th and post event reception by Conflict Kitchen - Film screening of a documentary about the extraordinary humanitarian efforts of two suburban Boston mothers who both lost husbands in the attacks of September 11, 2001 and turned their grief to a mission of compassion and peace on behalf of Afghan widows.

November 18 -- 28, 2010 – varied times

Groucho, A Life In Revue, Starring Jeremy Czarniak and Presented by QM Productions, Inc. Back by popular demand, Jeremy Czarniak will once again perform the role of Groucho Marx in this entertaining and biographical telling of the Marx Brothers romp through show business.

December 16 -- 19, 2010 – varied times

A Lyrical Christmas Carol Presented by Pittsburgh Musical Theater - Dickens' magical tale of Scrooge, Ghosts, Tiny Tim and the Cratchit family returns this holiday by popular demand.

More info: www.NewHazlettTheater.org

2010 Green Space Review

2010 was a very productive year regarding anti-litter and gardening activities here in the Central Northside!

To begin, 21 volunteers gathered over 60 bags of organic debris, litter and six tires during our April 24th Earth Day Clean Up. On May 1st, with the help of 37 student volunteers from the Urban Impact Foundation, we will tackled six projects. Zandrea Ambrose and Michael Beigay headed a group that tackled the Arch Street City Steps clearing them of litter, branches, and poison ivy. The Kozys and Randy Burns lead the charge in clearing a number of vacant lots along Saturn Way of Japanese knotweed and bamboo. Jana Thompson and her group trail blazed a number of brick alleyways in the Alpine-Jefferson corridor which are designated as 'greenways' by the CNNC Neighborhood Masterplan. Tom Cihil's group planted shrubs and trees, generously donated by Gavin Deming, in the beds flanking the Family Dollar parking lot. Kathy Deis headed a group that weeded and cut back the perennials in Mechanics Retreat Park. The debris filled over 100 large contractor bags with approximately 10 yards of loose organic material which was hauled away by the city. This was an amazing amount accomplished in just a few hours.

Closing out the year, our final Clean Up Day was October 16th. Approximately 40 volunteers from the University of Pittsburgh came and helped us. Barker Carter lead a group that did some major reworking of Drovers Repose Garden located at the intersection of Taylor and Brighton. A major weeding effort was lead by Becky Coger, Brad and Elena Spencer at the Brighton Road garden near the Zone 1 police station. Kathy Deis headed a group that cut back the perennials in Mechanics Retreat. Julie Peterson led a group that weeded and cleaned up Alpine Gardens. Finally, Sandy Kneiss spearheaded a group that worked on cleaning up alleys throughout the neighborhood. Collectively, over 16 yards of mulch were spread in the Drovers, Mechanics, and Brighton gardens. We should all have a great sense of accomplishment for the 2010 season. Well over 200 bags of litter, organic debris, and invasive species were hauled away. In addition to the numerous beautification efforts, many new friendships were forged and our sense of community was strengthened. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered throughout the year, and I'll see you again in the spring!

John Engle, MWSS Greenspace Chair



(Photo of Barker Carter, Dan Wintermantel, Zandrea Ambrose, Randy Burns and Tom Cihil courtesy of John Engle)

MWSS

FLOWERBOX CONTEST WINNERS



The MWSS offers congratulations to the winners of its 2010 Flowerbox Contest, which was held during August:

BEST INDIVIDUAL CONTAINER

1st - Barker Carter, 1306 Monterey; 2nd - Debbie Moses, 1226 Resaca; 3rd - Susan & Bill Steen Jr., 1322 Arch

BEST MULTIPLE CONTAINERS

1st - Frank Tallarico & Kyle Cunningham, 1517 Buena Vista; 2nd - Leslie Ward & Randy Zotter, 1239 Monterey; 3rd - Robyn Macerelli, 1302 Sherman

BEST MATCHING PAIR OF FLOWER BOXES

1st - Michele & Steve Adams, 1239 Palo Alto; 2nd - Darlene, Derwin & Leila Rushing, 1239 Resaca; 3rd - Robert Stauritch, 1228 Arch

BEST SIDEWALK PLOTS

1st - Debbie & Tim Proctor, 414 Jacksonia; 2nd - Leslie Vincen & Dan Wintermantel, 1523 Monterey

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Fred Weiss & Nora Miller, 1216 Palo Alto; Fred Curtis, 1209 Monterey; Monica Harris, 1510 Garfield; Nick Boardman & Lynette Wright & Nicolette, 1200 Sherman; Randy Buffington & Chris Phillips, 1209 Palo Alto; Anthony Cabral Jr. & Lauren Reynolds, 1220 Monterey; Joan Kimmel, 1409 Monterey; Jonathan Weber, 517 Jacksonia

MMS

(Photo of Tim & Debbie Proctor, Debbie Moses, Dan Wintermantel, Steve & Michele Adams, Kyle Cunningham & Frank Tallarico courtesy of Sandy Kniess)

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Branding Initiative Gathers Steam with New Consultant

Along with efforts to redevelop the physical environment, provide quality, affordable housing and retain and attract retailers, the CNNC is now looking toward rebuilding the identity of the Central Northside by exploring the neighborhood's "brand" identity in the region and forming strategies to better compete for individuals and families looking to relocate, rent or buy or establish a business in a new neighborhood.

In August, the CNNC hired communications consultant Karen Bryant to help guide the organization's efforts at "rebranding" as it's called in marketing and public relations circles. Bryant, owner and founder of Karen Bryant and Associates, is a native Northsider born in Fineview who, after living in Los Angeles for several decades, returned to Pittsburgh where she opened her communication firm specializing in non-profit organizations. She has begun working with the Board on concepts essential to understanding branding for neighborhoods on the rise, and intends to shepherd the Board towards crafting an RFP for a professional branding and public relations firm by year's end. **CNNC**

Flying High at Aviary

Wild encounters at the National Aviary have taken on a thrilling new approach. **WINGS!** -- the first bird show to be presented in the National Aviary's new Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone Theater -- features birds flying freely above and landing close to audiences seated in the theater's intimate space. Music, lighting, video and narration add drama and context, creating a complete theatrical experience that takes viewers to distant lands and habitats. The FliteZone Theater is part of the National Aviary's \$18.5 million expansion, which is now complete.

The National Aviary is the only zoo in the world to offer an indoor theater experience that includes live birds in flight. Traveling from the rainforests of South America, to the plains of Africa, the continent of Europe and the wild spaces of North America, audiences will learn about the behaviors of rare macaws, hooded vultures, Eurasian eagle owls, hawks, silver gulls and eagles, and the threats these birds face in the wild as habitats disappear and resources dwindle. The show will include opportunities for guests to interact directly with the birds.

"WINGS! is unlike anything the National Aviary has ever presented, and is the first show of its kind, anywhere," says Patrick Mangus, executive director, National Aviary. "Audiences are completely immersed in the experience. No matter where you sit, you are no more than a few feet away from some of our most remarkable birds. It is an incredibly moving experience."

WINGS! is presented daily at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Admission to WINGS! is included in Aviary admission: \$13 adults; \$12 seniors; \$10.50 children ages 2-12; under 2 admitted free.

Upcoming Events:

Holiday Bird Show
Daily, November 26 – January 2

National Aviary Light Up Night
Friday, December 3, 2010

Breakfast with Santa
December 4, 11, 18 - 8:30 am

For details call 412.323.7235 or click www.aviary.org.

Meals On Wheels Needs You

Meals On Wheels on the North Side Needs Your Help

Do you have about an hour per week or per month to make a difference in someone's life? Do you want to help people in your neighborhood and build new friendships? If so, the Meals On Wheels kitchen that serves your community can use your help! This kitchen is located on Spring Garden Avenue, and it serves home-bound seniors in the central North Side, Spring Hill, Spring Garden, Troy Hill, and other neighborhoods in this vicinity. We serve people who are unable to get to the grocery store or prepare their own meals.

Volunteers Make It Happen

Our Meals On Wheels program is truly driven by volunteers. Each of our 39 Meals On Wheels locations has a paid cook and often a paid site coordinator, but everyone else who helps to prepare and deliver the meals is a volunteer. Meals On Wheels is extremely important for two reasons. First, we are providing over 1/3 of the recommended daily amount of nutrition for seniors. We are serving them a tasty and nutritious meal that they would not otherwise have access to. Second, our volunteers are providing these clients with a much needed connection to the outside world, as well as a safety check. Our volunteers are often the only people who see our clients each day, and they observe the client in their home to ensure their health and well-being. Meals On Wheels simply would not operate without volunteers. And now, we need help more than ever.

Current Volunteer Needs

Volunteers are needed to help prepare and/or deliver meals Monday through Friday mornings. Kitchen Volunteers typically work from around 8:00am-10:00am and Delivery Volunteers typically work from approximately 10:30am-12:00pm. We can use your help even if you only have one hour to spare, and we pride ourselves in trying to accommodate all of our volunteers. Volunteering for Meals On Wheels is a great opportunity for stay-at-home moms and dads (you are welcome to bring your kids with you), retirees, church groups, college students, or businesses who want to give their employees an opportunity to volunteer.

Lutheran Service Society is a faith-based non-profit organization that has been working in southwestern Pennsylvania for over 100 years. Our mission is to promote the dignity and independence of people in need. We have several programs that serve the North Side in addition to Meals On Wheels, including St. Afterschool, the Three Rivers Senior Center, and St. Michael Village (affordable housing facility). We operate 39 Meals On Wheels locations, and they are all operated by volunteers. Lutheran Service Society is the largest provider of Meals On Wheels in the region, and we are a member of the Meals On Wheels Association of America. To volunteer, please call Leslie Montgomery at 412-366-9490 or complete a volunteer application at www.LSSWPA.org/volunteer-form. To learn more, please visit our website at www.LSSWPA.org. Thank you very much!

CMNC

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Tree Climbing Competition in Allegheny Commons Park

As part of its 14th Annual Student Career Days, the student chapter of the Tree Care Industry Association will be holding a **Tree Climbing Competition** in Allegheny Commons West Park. As the largest free career development event for students enrolled in horticulture, forestry and related programs at all levels, Student Career Days is a valuable opportunity for students to get an inside look at the field they're studying.

Thursday, November 11

8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Tree Care Skills Competition - Allegheny Commons West Park
Events include: work climb, throw line, and belayed scramble. Academic exams include: safety exam and knowledge exams. Pre-registered students at all levels of ability are invited to enter for prizes. More information at www.treecareindustry.org.

Annual MWSS Progressive Dinner

Please hold the date for the MWSS 5th Annual Progressive Dinner on **Saturday, February 28, 2011**. Anyone interested in helping to plan, organize or host please write to Sandy Kniess at kniess1@comcast.net. All the upcoming details will appear in the Jan/Feb newsletter.

Sandy Kniess, Social/Events Chair

MWSS

CNNC Requests Casino Funds to Study "East of Federal" Renaissance

The CNNC is pushing forward with plans to study how to best help the portion of the neighborhood located east of Federal Street. "Just as developers have been selected to both restore old homes and build new compatible housing in the area west of Federal Street, we need to focus our attention more fully to the eastern sector of the Central Northside," said CNNC Board member and Development Chair, Dennis McAndrew.

The CNNC had previously intended to apply for public funding through the "Elm Street" program but that program has ended, forcing the organization to look for new sources of funding. "The Casino funds are just perfect for this," remarked Jan Meyers, CNNC's representative to the NSLC for the distribution of Casino funds. "These funds will allow us to move forward with studying this area of the neighborhood and look for funds to implement any plans coming from our study."

The fund will distribute \$3 million over three years to neighborhoods in the Northside; \$500K per year for residential development, and \$500K for business development along the "approved corridors" of Federal St., East Ohio, and Western Ave.

All together, the CNNC Development Committee will be making a request for funds for both commercial and residential projects totalling approximately \$100K, which will cover costs to put together a planning process for East of Federal, a conservatorship seed fund and street face improvements for the retail shops located on Federal Street.

CNNC

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MODERN CAFE

Call for Writers from the Commons Neighborhood

Do you live in Foster Square or one of the other areas of the Allegheny Commons? Would you like to write for the *New Allegheny Times*? We are interested in writers who look at the Central Northside from our "South Shore!" If you are interested or would like more information, please contact our editor, Leslie Vincen at lvincen@comcast.net or CNNC Communication Committee Chair, Julie Peterson at info@cnc-pgh.org.

CNNC

Calendar of Events

Now through Jan 16, 2011

Tough Art Exhibit

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh
www.pittsburghkids.org

November & December events

New Hazlett Theater
www.newhazletttheater.org

Monday, November 8, 7pm

CNNC General Membership Meeting

Allegheny Traditional Academy
www.cnc-pgh.org

Thursday, November 11, 7pm

Novelist Shahriar Mandanipour

City of Asylum, 330 Sampsonia
www.cityofasylumpittsburgh.org

Tuesday, November 16, 7pm

MWSS General Membership Meeting & Board Elections

Guest Speaker: Lisa Miles
Unitarian Church, 416 W. North Ave.
www.mexicanwarstreets.org

Wednesday, November 17,

Allegheny YMCA Lecture

Jane Werner, Executive Director
Children's Museum of Pittsburgh
Topic: Charm Bracelet Project
412.321.8594

Friday, November 26, 11am - 4pm

Mattress Factory Family Day

www.mattress.org

Daily, November 26 – January 2, 2011

Holiday Bird Show

www.aviary.org

Sunday, December 5, 6 pm

MWSS Annual Holiday Party

Dennis Vodzak Residence, 512 W. North Ave.

Friday & Saturday, December 10 & 11

Allegheny West Victorian Christmas Tour

www.alleghenywest.org

Monday, December 13, 7pm

CNNC General Membership Meeting

Allegheny Traditional Academy
www.cnc-pgh.org

Saturday, February 28, 2011

5th Annual Progressive Dinner

www.mexicanwarstreets.org
knies1@comcast.net

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MF: Something for Everyone

MATTRESS FACTORY FAMILY DAY

Friday, November 26, 2010 11:00AM-4:00PM

Hands-on activities & drop-in guided tours for the entire family!
Free with museum admission.

PERFORMANCE: GUILLERMO GÓMEZ PEÑA/ LA POSTRA NOSTRA

Thursday, December 2, 2010

7:00PM - Performance

8:00PM - Discussion with Panelists

Guillermo Gomez-Pena is a performance artist, writer, activist, and educator. He has pioneered multiple media, including performance art, experimental radio, video, photography and installation art.
\$10 (MF Members Free/Pitt & CMU students free with I.D.)

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Censoring an Iranian Love Story

City of Asylum presents a reading with novelist Shahryar Mandanipour, *Censoring an Iranian Love Story*. This novel entwines two equally powerful narratives. A writer named Shahriar -- the author's fictional alter ego -- has struggled for years against the all-powerful censor at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. Now, on the threshold of fifty, tired of writing dark and bitter stories, he has come to realize that the "world around us has enough death and destruction and sorrow." He sets out instead to write a bewitching love story, one set in present-day Iran. It may be his greatest challenge yet.

Censoring an Iranian Love Story may be the first novel to wield post-modernism as a political weapon. It is also a tour-de-force of great story-telling, filled with humor yet as serious as can be. A tension permeates the novel that is akin to reading a badly translated book, published in a bi-lingual edition, when you are fluent in the original language... except that the original "book" in this case is life and the novel is beautifully written and translated.

Iranian novelist Shahriar Mandanipour, the 2006 recipient of Brown University's International Writers Project Fellowship, is regarded as one of the most accomplished and successful writers in contemporary Iran. He is the author of five collections of short stories, including *The Eighth Day of the Earth*, *Violet Orient*, *Midday Moon*, *Mummy and Honey* and *Shadows of the Cave*. His most recent collection, *Ultramarine Blue*, gathers eleven stories that relate in various ways to the events of 9/11. Mandanipour is also the author of a two-volume novel, *The Courage of Love*, and of essays, translations, and children's books. His various works explore, sometimes in symbolic or metaphorical terms, the effects of dictatorship and oppression on the Iranian people, and he has spoken out in a number of international lectures on censorship in Iran. As a result of his literary and political activities, Mr. Mandanipour has been subjected to harassment, threats, censorship and intimidation by Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance; for a long period, from 1992 until 1998, he was unable to publish his work, including another novel and a collection of short stories.



Where & When:
Thursday, November 11
330 Sampsonia Way

The Evening's Schedule
7:00 Reception (wine)
7:30 - 8:30 Reading and discussion
8:30 - 9:00 Dessert and informal discussion

Free but by reservation only.
Reservations are limited to 60 for this event.
Contact 412.321.2190 or visit www.cityofasylumpittsburgh.org

What's Not There Anymore

Borrowing from Rick Sebak, famed Pittsburgh videographer and historian, there are buildings that have been lost over the years—in and around the Mexican War Streets neighborhood—in the name of development, urban renewal, or, simply, from neglect. We thought it would be informative to share a few of these sites with you as we move forward in developing a historic preservation-conscious community.



The sixth in this series is the Mary Cowley Public School built in 1895 at the corner of Webster Avenue (now named Sherman Avenue) and Eloise Way. As the Second Ward grew in population, the schoolhouse at the corner of W. North Avenue and Palo Alto Street could no longer serve the children of the community. (The original Second Ward school was torn down and replaced with the Emmick Apartments, now a condominium.)

The school served the community until it closed in 1973. The Martin Luther King, Jr. elementary school in the Allegheny Commons was constructed and serves the community today. Mary Junkin Buchanan Cowley (1848-1937) was an educator and advocate for early childhood education (kindergarten).

Many homes in our neighborhood have pieces of railing from the interior and exterior of this school. A parking lot managed by the Kindred Hospital-North Shore sits on this site today. This view is looking along Sherman Avenue towards W. North Avenue.

(Photo courtesy of Nancy Ewing and Mary Lou Ruttle)

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Historic Partnership Renewed at AGH Ceremony

On the morning of October 15th, representatives of the Northside Leadership Conference and the leaders of 15 community organizations, including the CNNC, joined representatives of Allegheny General Hospital to celebrate the 20th anniversary of The Northside Partnership Agreement—a framework for cooperation between the hospital and its many neighbors. Several dignitaries were in attendance, including Pittsburgh City Council President and lifelong Northsider Darlene Harris who spoke to the crowd about the central role of the hospital in the life of the community. The attendees were also treated to a video presentation highlighting some of the many programs made possible by the agreement, ranging from job training programs to efforts to combat childhood obesity in the community. Christopher Olivia, President and CEO of the West Penn Allegheny Health System spoke of the need for the hospital to continue its efforts at building community in the Northside, especially in relation to the built environment. Dr. Olivia's remarks were echoed in the video presentation by CNNC President Greg Spicer who talked about the important role of the hospital facilities in the community's renaissance—especially its potential role in the development of ongoing housing initiatives in the Central Northside.

CNNC

Mayor's New Website

Check it out friends – www.mayor.pittsburghpa.gov

The Mayor's office is the first page to be redeveloped – the whole city website will be turned over to the new, clean look soon. Their goal is to communicate more effectively to citizens and stakeholders.

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Please Touch the Art

TOUGH ART Exhibit at Children's Museum of Pittsburgh Through January 16, 2011

Over the course of the summer, emerging artists or artist-teams in the Children's Museum's annual Tough Art residency worked with visitors, museum professionals, outside experts and each other to prototype and develop works of art that are able to withstand hands-on interaction with Children's Museum visitors!

The four, original interactive artworks created for the 2010 Tough Art program are below:

Aerophone by Blaine Siegel

Plug in pipes to see, hear and feel what happens. Aerophone is an instrument, sculpture, surreal plumbing, out of control, sensory, perplexing, rugged, sort-of-like an octopus....blue tube eye opening experience.

The Beast by Nova Jiang

Place a ball in The Beast's mouth and see where it goes. This life-sized wooden cow has a unique mechanical digestive system that lets it eat, digest and poop colorful balls.

Temperamental Stairs by Agnes Bolt and Arthur Jones

Step on the green tiles to make a sound. Borrowing shrieks, giggles and moments of abandon and sadness from the daily activities of the Museum, this piece uses sounds to create new emotional and playful possibilities on the main staircase.

Motion Machine, two channel interactive video by Amanda Long

Step into the light and move your body. Your motion triggers a 7 second recording which appears in red, green and blue, staggered in time. Try leaping, jumping, skipping, somersaults and dancing - any movement - to see the dynamic rhythms your body creates in motion.

More information at 412.322.5058 or www.pittsburghkids.org

Northside Tomorrow and CNNC Recommend Zukin for Garden Block Development

On October 8th, the Board of Directors of Northside Tomorrow (NST) voted to recommend to the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) that Philadelphia-area developer Wayne Zukin and his team develop the Garden Theater block—a stand of buildings currently owned and maintained by the URA. Zukin's team was one of two finalists selected in a process that began in January 2009 when the CNNC membership voted to form this joint venture with the Northside Leadership Conference (NSLC) and the URA. After the NST vote, the CNNC membership voted at their monthly meeting to endorse the NST recommendation.

The URA was slated to consider this recommendation at its October meeting. Northside Tomorrow President and CNNC Development committee co-chair Kirk Burkley described the process as diligent and inclusive with a wide variety of considerations leading to the Board's recommendation to the URA, adding, "The team led by Wayne Zukin is, simply put, the right horse for the course. Their proposal was the best suited to meet the goals and desires of the community, while taking into consideration all aspects of financing. We are very excited to work with Zukin and his team in transforming this infamous block into one of our community's most treasured assets."

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Doors Open to the Northside



Artistic talent abounds in our neighborhood, and some of it will soon be on display through the Northside Doorways Art Project, spearheaded by the CNNC. Recycled doors were painted during the summer by community volunteers, and will be placed on vacant lots around the upper areas of the Central Northside. As the CNNC moves forward to bring new housing to some of these lots, the doors will signify an inviting opportunity to those who would invest here. Special thanks go out to Randy Gilson for

donating his property, time and amazing energy to this project. Thanks also to Regis Flaherty from Sherwin Williams, who donated all the paint and showed up with his family to help all those who turned up and became artists for the day. Painted doors will be installed on vacant lots on Brim Way, Alpine, Sampsonia, Redour, Jacksonia, and Carrington. More information about this project may be found at northsidedoorways.blogspot.com. (Photo courtesy of Clifton Page)

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