



# New Allegheny Times

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

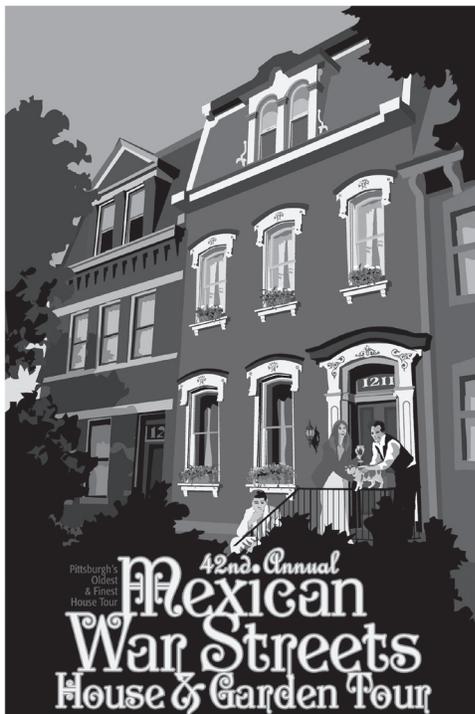
## 42nd Annual House & Garden Tour

The **Mexican War Streets House & Garden Tour** is the oldest and finest house tour in the city of Pittsburgh. During the 42nd annual event, held from 11am - 5pm on **Sunday, September 11, 2011**, visitors will be treated to a leisurely self-guided tour of homes and gardens throughout our historic neighborhood. Homes on tour represent beautiful restorations and some that offer a glimpse behind the effort that goes into a work-in-progress. Every home is unique, expressing each homeowner's personal taste and style. The House Tour will also showcase an Artists' Annex, a Midway of vendors and restoration specialists, along with a Restaurant Tasting that will feature North Side eateries. Food tickets will be available for \$5.

The House & Garden Tour is sponsored in part by Horn Corp. Builders, Western Pennsylvania Craftsmen's Guild, Cedar Avenue Giant Eagle and Best Feeds. Tour tickets are available in advance for \$18 per person, or \$20 per person on the day of the tour at the ticket booth on Monterey Street at West North Avenue. MasterCard and Visa are accepted.

To purchase advance tickets to the House Tour, please visit [www.mexicanwarstreets.org](http://www.mexicanwarstreets.org). Be sure to follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/MWSHouseTour](https://www.facebook.com/MWSHouseTour), and Twitter at #mwshousetour. Hope to see you on tour!

MMS



SEPT/OCT 2011



PO Box 6588  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
412-323-9030  
[www.mexicanwarstreets.org](http://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.cnn-cpg.org](http://www.cnn-cpg.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**

## MWSS Flowerbox Contest Winners

Planters are proliferating in the Mexican War Streets. Large containers and window boxes grew in number this year and the number of new participants and small decorative containers present are especially exciting. The overall result is beautiful synergy. We are announcing the following neighbors who are the most impressive and inspiring for this year's 2011 MWSS Flower Box Contest.



### Best Individual Container:

- #1 - Johnathan Webber and Jim Lohr at 517 Jacksonia Street
- #2 - Joan Kimmel at 1409 Monterey Street

### Best Overall:

- #1 - Dan Wintermantel and Leslie Vincen at 1523 Monterey Street
- #2 - Barb Magee at 1245 Palo Alto Street

### Best Porches:

- #1 - Kathy & Dan Deis at 1221 Buena Vista Street
- #2 - Eric Gerstbrien at 1227 Buena Vista Street

Points were given for 1) Originality, 2) Composition, 3) Plant Condition, 4) Overall Impression.

Barker Carter - Neighbor, Horticulturalist MMS

# Wine Tasting at the Library

The Friends of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Allegheny are pleased to invite you to a unique after-hours celebration in the library!

**A Wine Tasting**  
**Friday, September 30th • 7:00 PM**  
**CLP - Allegheny • 1230 Federal Street**

Sample five wines selected by Barsotti Wines  
Enjoy gourmet hors d'oeuvres prepared by Linda Iannotta  
Plus a basket raffle for great prizes  
Admission is \$50.00 per person.

Tickets available at CLP-Allegheny or at [friendsofclpallegheny@tix.com](mailto:friendsofclpallegheny@tix.com)  
(extra fees apply for online purchase)  
For additional information call 412-237-1890.

## HIDEOUT Now Available!

**You are invited to the Launch Party....**  
**Friday, September 9, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Book Launch for HIDEOUT by Kathleen George**  
**Mystery Lovers Bookshop**  
**514 Allegheny River Blvd. • Oakmont, PA**

*HIDEOUT is a "stellar sequel to The Odds (2009) ... An expert at handling investigative details and pacing, George makes readers care about the people who are about to confront each other. Told in lean, efficient prose, this is a top-notch, emotionally satisfying police procedural."*

—Publishers Weekly

For more information, visit the website or write to:  
[kathy@kathleengeorgebooks.com](mailto:kathy@kathleengeorgebooks.com)



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## CNNC's Branding Effort Achieves Important Milestone

CNNC achieved an important milestone in its branding effort in early August with the visit of North Star Destination Strategies, an industry leader in community branding. Kevin Hinson, Creative Director, and Adam Winstead, Research Coordinator, flew in from Memphis, Tennessee to get to know the Central Northside, its residents and the community's unique personality.

North Star's visit began with the traditional drive through the Fort Pitt Tunnel for the spectacular view of the Pittsburgh skyline. The rest of their two-day whirlwind visit provided an up-close and personal view of the Central Northside with the following activities:

- Tours of the Central Northside, Mexican War Streets, surrounding communities and competitive neighborhoods.
- Cultural Institution Meet-&-Greets with the Children's Museum, the Mattress Factory, the Aviary, New Hazlett Theater and City of Asylum.
- Community Engagement Meeting where all Central Northside residents were invited to learn more about North Star and the branding process.
- One-on-One Interviews with representatives from the community to experience the various perspectives.
- Photo Imagery Focus Group to give residents an opportunity to show through imagery their experience of living in Central Northside.
- Vision Survey (both online and paper) open to all Central Northside residents to provide detailed responses to questions posed by North Star.



*Focus group participants use a visual exercise to help North Star better understand the Central Northside.*

The Branding Committee provided a wide range of voices for the one-on-one interviews, the focus group and survey responders by inviting participants who reflected the rich diversity of our community, including race, gender, age, sexual orientation, household income and families with and without children. Kevin and Adam gained a deeper sense of the Central Northside and left well prepared to begin the next steps of CNNC's branding effort. Here are the milestones to watch for:

**Late August** – Research Results: North Star delivers to the Branding Committee a report including results and insights from the completed surveys and their visit along with a creative brief, a tool for the Branding Committee to provide consensus for the creative direction North Star recommends.

**Late September** – Imagination Phase: Using the approved creative brief, North Star will develop a suggested brand identity package for the Central Northside – including a new logo, color palette, tagline, a possible name change, and various ways to use the identity (billboard ads, Website homepage, street signs, business cards, etc.).

**Mid-October** – Engagement with North Star Ends: CNNC's 16-week engagement with North Star will end in October. The Branding Committee will continue to work to put into action the new brand identity approved by the community.

As a reminder – the goal of the branding effort is to develop a more accurate and compelling story about our community that will help improve the perception of the area. This story will be communicated in a coordinated way to achieve CNNC's vision of the Central Northside: By 2015, we will fill every empty house and storefront and vacant lot with commerce, individuals and families of all kinds.

CNNC



**Sunday, September 25 from 11 am - 4 pm**

Deutschtown's 2011 self-guided Historic House Tour features distinctive restored homes, many built in the late 1800s, and some modern surprises. Expect a diverse array of interiors, architecture and styles in 7 homes and 5 gardens. Enjoy ethnic music, great food at our Deutschtown restaurants, and an optional end of the day wine tasting at the 'Monks Bar' in the Priory Hotel.

Sure to be a truly memorable home on the tour is the one that local contractor and developer Al DePasquale rebuilt for himself this year behind the Priory. With 5 fountains, a stunning décor, a delightful garden, fine craftsmanship, a variety of faux treatments, state of the art technology, and lots of Al's personality, he pulled out all of the stops on this one.

The historic, acclaimed and newly expanded Priory Hotel is a centerpiece for the Tour, which begins in its charming garden courtyard on Lockhart Street. Free parking is available in the large lot adjoining Pittsburgh's Grand Hall.

**TICKETS:** \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Students \$5. Discounts of \$2 per ticket for groups of 6 or more. Advance ticket sale locations include Priory Fine Pastries, Priory Hotel, Sweet Time Cafe, Amani Café and Bistro To Go. Or purchase tickets online in advance at [www.deutschtown.org](http://www.deutschtown.org)

For more info, call 412-321-1204. Stay up to date on the Deutschtown Facebook page and get a sneak preview of the homes in a tour album there. If you have questions email [Jen.Saffron@gmail.com](mailto:Jen.Saffron@gmail.com). Proceeds benefit the ongoing community development, preservation and renovation efforts of East Allegheny Community Council.

## Allegheny City Society Hosts Evening Walk

The Allegheny City Society has sponsored a series of summer evening walks through the Commons. Recognizing the history of the various sections of the Allegheny Commons, each 90-minute walk focused on the unique nature, history and features of a particular section of the Commons.

On **Wednesday, Sept 14th**, the walk will focus on the Allegheny City Square Park. At 7pm, we will gather at the Anderson Monument on the east side of the Children's Museum. The tour will cost \$10, with all proceeds shared with the Allegheny Commons Initiative. Reservations can be made by calling: Amy at 412.766.5670, Ruth at 412.364.6132, or John at 412.322.3974.

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## MWSS MEMBERSHIP: YOUR CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED

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DATE/DUES PAID \_\_\_\_\_

(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

## What's NEW at The Park House?

- free live music on weekends
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## Jazz Poetry Concert & More

**City of Asylum's 7th Annual FREE Jazz Poetry Concert**

**Saturday, September 10, 2011 • 7:30 - 9:30 pm**

**Sampsonia Way, between Monterey and Sherman Streets**

**In the event of rain, the concert is moved to New Hazlett Theater.**

Headliners this year are Oliver Lake and Tarbaby. Saxophonist Lake is a BNY Mellon "jazz legacy" master and the trio of pianist Orrin Evans, bassist Eric Revis, and drummer Nasheet Waits are all among the top players of the younger generation. Emcee will be Northside jazz expert and violinist Heather Pinson. Between two jazz sets, poets from Lebanon, Russia, and Finland will perform with the jazz musicians, as will American poet Sonia Sanchez, winner of the Robert Frost Medal for distinguished lifetime service to American poetry and the Langston Hughes Poetry Award. Also reading will be Khet Mar (Burma) and Israel Centeno (Venezuela), who are hosted by City of Asylum/Pittsburgh.

Earlier on September 10, at 3:30 pm, City of Asylum/Pittsburgh presents its **5th annual Writers-in-the-Gardens**. Tour guides lead small groups from garden to garden, where a writer does a short poetry reading. This year's tour features five Pittsburgh poets, including prize-winning poet Sheila Carter-Jones of the Northside. Writers-in-the-Gardens is free but reservations are very limited- please contact [coapgh@yahoo.com](mailto:coapgh@yahoo.com).

**"I Don't Know What I'd Do, If I Couldn't Speak My Mind."**

**Sunday, September 11, 11 am to 5 pm**

**1410 Monterey Street - Future site of Alphabet City literary center**

Poets, storytellers, essayists of all ages do short readings on the theme. Curated by Anjali Sachdeva, you are invited to participate or just come and listen. If you would like to read, please email [coapgh@yahoo.com](mailto:coapgh@yahoo.com).

## MF Goes Global

**Sites of Passage**

**Curated by Tavia La Follette and Katherine Talcott**

**September 9, 2011 - January 8, 2012**

**Opening reception: Friday, September 9, 2011, 7-9pm**

The exhibition presents an artist exchange that took place between Egypt and the United States during Egypt's fight for democracy, the U.S. 10 year anniversary of 9/11, and as both countries go into an election for a new leader. Sites of Passage will feature video, sound and site-specific installations created specifically for the Mattress Factory by resident artists from the United States and Egypt. This exhibition is the final "dig" of the Firefly Tunnels Project, an artist residency and workshop organized by Tavia La Follette. Visit [www.mattress.org](http://www.mattress.org) and [www.fireflytunnels.net](http://www.fireflytunnels.net) for more information.

**Factory Installed**

**Curated by Michael Olijnyk, Barbara Luderowski, and Katherine Talcott**

**October 28, 2011 - February 26, 2012**

**Opening reception: Friday, October 28, 2011, 7-9pm**

New work by a selection of artists from throughout the world who submitted applications to the Mattress Factory's residency program during the winter of 2010. Natalia Gonzalez (USA), Nika Kupyrova (Czech Republic and Austria), Mariana Manhães (Brazil), Than Htay Maung (USA), Veronica Ryan (USA), and Pablo Valbuena (Spain) will work in residence in September and October to create new site-specific works for the exhibition. Visit [www.mattress.org](http://www.mattress.org) for more information.

## 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](mailto:lvincen@comcast.net). Be sure to look for neighborhood updates posted at [www.cnn-c-pgh.org](http://www.cnn-c-pgh.org) and [www.mexicanwarstreets.org](http://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>.

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# Tough Art Returns to CM!

## Dora the Explorer Live™! Dora's Pirate Adventure

Through September 4, 2011

Explore the theatrical set from Dora's Pirate Adventure, enjoy pirate sing-a-longs, climb Purple Mountain and more. Daily: Explore the theatrical set from Dora's Pirate Adventure, enjoy pirate sing-a-longs, climb Purple Mountain and more. For more information, performance times and tickets, go to [www.doralivepgh.org](http://www.doralivepgh.org)

## Tough Art

Opens September 10, 2011

Tough Art is an annual exhibition of original, interactive artworks created by a variety of artists that are "tough" enough to withstand kid-handling.

## Mini Maker Faire Pittsburgh

Sunday, October 23, Noon – 6:00 pm

Save the Date! Mini Maker Faire Pittsburgh is coming. Stay tuned to [www.makerfairepgh.com](http://www.makerfairepgh.com) for the call for makers and additional event information.

More information at 412-322-5058 or [www.pittsburghkids.org](http://www.pittsburghkids.org)

# Saturday Clean-Up Days

There will be two Clean-Up Days scheduled for September...**Saturday the 3rd** and **Saturday the 10th**, in preparation for the MWSS House Tour. If you can't help on either Saturday, please consider picking up things on your block when you do have free time. The meeting time for Clean-Up is still 10am at Mechanics Retreat for each Saturday. Thanks!

- Kathy Deis, Greenspace Chair, MWSS

MWSS



Today's Kids sponsored by the Pennsylvania Resources Council



## Calendar of Events

Saturdays, September 3 & 10, 10am

**Saturday Clean-up Days**  
Mechanics Retreat Park  
[kdeis@aol.com](mailto:kdeis@aol.com)

Saturday, September 10, 7:30pm

**Free Jazz Poetry Concert**  
Sampsonia Way  
City of Asylum/Pittsburgh  
[www.cityofasylumpittsburgh.org](http://www.cityofasylumpittsburgh.org)

Saturday & Sunday, September 10 & 11, 2pm

**Merry Wives of Windsor**  
Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks  
Allegheny Commons  
[www.pittsburghshakespeare.com](http://www.pittsburghshakespeare.com)

Sunday, September 11, 11am - 5pm

**Mexican War Streets House Tour**  
[www.mexicanwarstreets.org](http://www.mexicanwarstreets.org)

Monday, September 12, 7pm

**CNNC General Membership Meeting**  
Allegheny Traditional Academy  
[www.cnnc-pgh.org](http://www.cnnc-pgh.org)

Saturday, September 17

**Women's Walk For Peace**  
[www.alleghenycommons.org](http://www.alleghenycommons.org)

Sunday, September 25, 11am - 4pm

**Deutschtown House Tour**  
[www.deutschtown.org](http://www.deutschtown.org)

Friday, September 30, 7pm

**A Wine Tasting**  
Carnegie Library of Pgh - Allegheny  
412-237-1890

Monday, October 10, 7pm

**CNNC General Membership Meeting**  
Allegheny Traditional Academy  
[www.cnnc-pgh.org](http://www.cnnc-pgh.org)

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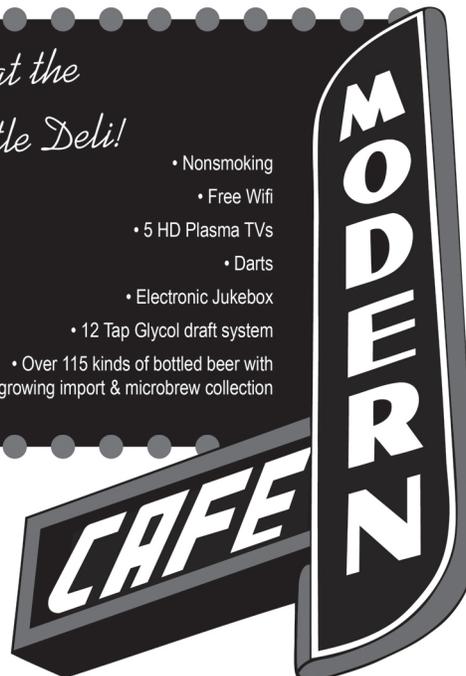
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## Eyes Opened During AGH Tour of Central Northside

It's amazing that anytime you take a group of people through the Central Northside who have never spent a significant amount of time here and share the architecture, cultural/art institutions, and all the development underway, it's as if you've opened their eyes to a place they never knew existed.

It was no different on Thursday, July 14th, when members of the CNNC board of directors Greg Spicer and Anthony Cabral, in partnership with Keri Harmicar, Allegheny General Hospital liaison to North Side communities, led a group of 20 or so professionals from AGH on an hour and a half tour of portions of the Central Northside.

The goal of tours like this is to let the employees of some of the larger employers in the North Side experience all that our neighborhood has to offer with the hope of inspiring some of them to consider living closer to work.

Starting at AGH, the group boarded a trolley (graciously donated by Just Ducky Tours) and started down North Avenue. Seeing Crazy Mocha, the Deli, and the new development on Federal Hill, the group was amazed. While some knew about some of the development which has taken root over the last couple years, they hadn't realized just how much had happened in such a short time.

AGH employee and tour guest Janet Kneidler said, "I didn't realize the level of development going on in the neighborhood and the amount of homes that have been renovated."

As the tour progressed and we shared more of the local attractions we have all come to appreciate, if not take for granted, the group became more vocal. Commentary revolved around the amazing housing stock to the sheer amazement of having both the Mattress Factory and City of Asylum woven into the fabric of our neighborhood.

Part of the tour was on foot, giving the group another perspective and an opportunity to express their surprise at how "neighborhoody" it felt. Our tour guests were as interested in the diverse architecture as they were in the diverse residents we encountered, all consistently pleasant and welcoming!

We gained many insights from observing the tour guests. The most important was their surprise in discovering what a gem Central Northside is, even though they've been working right down the street from us, some for many years. But the most surprising insight we gained was how our own eyes were "re-opened" to the fact that we really do live in an amazing neighborhood, filled with a wealth of architectural and intellectual, and diverse human capital, and it's future success is as simple as letting more people know about it. **CNNC**

### "Grand Opening of a New Antique Store on the Northside"

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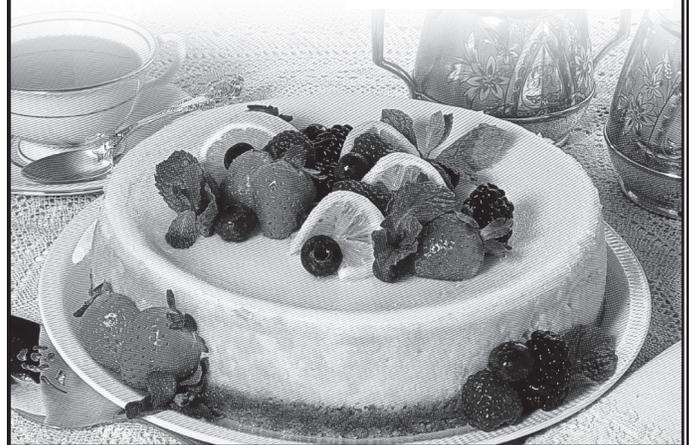
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## Shakespeare in the Park!

### *The Merry Wives of Windsor*

**Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks (PSIP)**

**Directed by Tommy Costello**

**September 10 and 11, 2011 • 2:00 pm**

**Free performance at Allegheny Commons West Park**

One of the only theater companies in the area to offer free outdoor Shakespeare, Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks (PSIP) was founded in 2005 by Jennifer Tober, a Pittsburgh actress/director. PSIP offers FREE outdoor Shakespeare theater performances in parks throughout the city, as well as the popular BYOB (Bring Your Own Bard) reading series once a month at Te Café in Squirrel Hill. These family-friendly events feature children-oriented pre-show activities, young actors and readers, and fun and accessible interpretations of Shakespeare's works. PSIP brings a unique take on Shakespeare and theatre by utilizing the beautiful backdrop of our city parks.

Please visit [www.pittsburghshakespeare.com](http://www.pittsburghshakespeare.com) for more information about the company, performances, and upcoming events.

## International Culture Awareness Day

**Saturday, September 3**

**Sponsored by Trib Total Media**

The National Aviary will hold a full day of activities and programming focusing on vultures on September 3. The day will include a trainer-led feeding in the outdoor Andean condor exhibit, talks, a condor wingspan display, vulture biofact table, and a scavenger fact hunt with prizes for those that find all their clues. Children will have the opportunity to make their own vulture mask, play a vulture population game, and learn about vultures at a special story time.

The National Aviary will also formally launch a fundraising campaign to build a new exhibit area for its Andean condors. All activities are free with National Aviary admission. For more information, contact the National Aviary at 412.23.7235 or click [www.aviary.org](http://www.aviary.org)

## Federal Hill Development Reaches Another Successful Milestone

The Central Northside Neighborhood Council (CNNC) is proud to announce another successful milestone in its collaboration with S&A Homes for the revitalization of Federal Street – all of the 12 homes to be built in the first half of Phase II are under contract to be sold.

Construction on the first half of Phase II started in January 2011 and, as of this past July, is about 30% complete. Upon completion, the second half of Phase II will begin with expectation of a similar success – 4 buyers are interested in signing contracts as soon as construction begins on the next 9.

### Federal Hill – One of S&A Homes' most successful projects

"In light of the economy and what's happening in housing today, this is quite an accomplishment," says Andy Haines, Executive Vice President of S&A Homes and the Affordable and Urban Housing Division. "I attribute that success to the overall improvements in the neighborhood and that people who want to live in a city see this as a real opportunity."

### CNNC's commitment to the revitalization of the Central Northside

The area was once defined by blight and demolished buildings. CNNC worked with the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) and S&A Homes to secure the property and lay the ground work for a successful redevelopment. The project was funded with a significant investment by the URA and additional funding by Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, Dollar Bank, Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, and the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh.

Today, about 30% of buyers (mainly empty nesters and young professionals) are from outside of the City of Pittsburgh. URA's special financing for qualified buyers makes three of the homes available to working people earning less than 80% of area median income (AMI). The URA financing allows the Federal Hill Development to target these households and provide mortgage assistance up to 115%. The remainder of the homes can then be sold at market value to anyone.

### Mayor Luke Ravenstahl Acknowledges CNNC

"Through partnerships with community organizations like CNNC, we have been able to revitalize this community in a way that is meaningful for all of its residents," Mayor Luke Ravenstahl said. "I applaud the great work of the CNNC and look forward to accomplishing many more great things together."



## Cool Music at the Hazlett!

The New Hazlett Theater supports and nurtures the creative performing arts, and serves as a community resource for arts access and education. Join us for some great music coming up in September and October!

**An evening of music presented by The Warhol featuring Sound Series: The Olivia Tremor Control, with special guests, The Music Tapes on September 15.** The Warhol welcomes the Olivia Tremor Control band as part of a highly anticipated reunion tour of sorts. The trio of W. Cullen Hart, Bill Doss, and Jeff Mangum recorded their (now cult classic) first EP "California Demise." Mangum went on to form Neutral Milk Hotel, which along with OTC became the most visible and innovative members of the Elephant 6 collective, which also included bands such as The Music Tapes who opens the show.

**On September 16 and 17 Pittsburgh's own Joe Grushecky and the House Rockers will record a live CD/DVD as they celebrate over 30 years of house rocking** -- the band's first live CD/DVD since 1999. Plan to stay after the performance for meet and greet with the band.

**On October 22, David Bromberg comes to the New Hazlett.** Bromberg's sensitive and versatile approach to guitar-playing earned him first-call "hired gun" status for recording sessions, ultimately playing on hundreds of records by artists including Bob Dylan, Link Wray, The Eagles, Ringo Starr, Willie Nelson, and Carly Simon. Bromberg's range of material, based in the folk and blues idioms, has continually expanded to include bluegrass, ragtime, country and ethnic music.

For more info on any of these events: [www.NewHazlettTheater.org](http://www.NewHazlettTheater.org)

great food • large selection of cold beer • fabulous martinis  
friendly staff • delicious appetizers • savory soups • thick  
burgers • juicy steaks • hearty salads • exquisite desserts  
friends & neighbors • festive atmosphere • cozy fireplace



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