

# CENTRAL NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



CNNC Newsletter, Volume 1, Issue 3: May / June 2012

## President's Update



**CNNC President, Chris D'Addario**

*Hello to my friends and neighbors. I'm pleased to share some exciting news for the community.*

### Grant from the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development (PPND)

PPND has approved a grant in the amount of \$25,000 for a collaboration between CNNC, Perry Hilltop, California Kirkbride, Children's Museum and the New Hazlett Theater to find ways to work together to enhance our communities.

PPND nurtures sustainable community growth with expertise and early strategic capital. PPND asked for applications by combined neighborhoods and non-profit stakeholders to recognize needs and then find ways to work together in making the necessary changes. The PPND grant provides \$25,000 to hire a professional to work with the granted communities and explore the success potential. We felt that our application, combined with the worthy communities and partners mentioned above, made us a strong candidate. We were not alone in our beliefs and this grant represents a vote of confidence in the individual neighborhoods, institutions, and relationships we have all helped to build."

CNNC Board Member Barb Talerico and consultant Tom Hardy spent many hours putting together the application and a compelling story to support it. Kudos go to them and the outstanding partners we are honored to work.

The lasting and positive implications for all North Side communities due to this grant cannot be overstated. The opportunities before us did not happen instantly. The work of many over the course of a number of years has created enormous momentum. In the past four years, the Central Northside Neighborhood Council has had the good fortune to work with committed and visionary individuals to transform our community.

### To put this in perspective, just four years ago in 2008 . . .

The entire **Garden Theater Block** was threatened to be demolished. With the hard work of many committed individuals, the GTB will soon have a new lease on life and will be transformed into a destination spot for people all over the city.

**North Avenue** was one boarded up building after another. Now we have Crazy Mocha, Deli on North and more on the way.

The Central Northside had no plan for the future agreed upon by the community. Now we have a **Community Master Plan** that was led by CNNC and supported by the community, and it is now serving as our roadmap into the future.

**Federal Street** was full of abandoned structures and boarded up homes. Now there are new homes filled with individuals and families of all kinds.

CNNC would like to spotlight a few of the people who donated countless hours to make this happen:

Bill Buettin, an incredibly intelligent banker who charted a course for development.

Kirk Burkley, an attorney with development experience, political know how and the courage to take on tough but needed tasks, like, after 30 years, finally creating a

#### Upcoming Meeting Alerts

#### General Membership Meetings

Monday, June 11, 2012

Monday, July 9, 2012

7:00—9:00 PM

(doors open at 6:30 PM)

Allegheny Traditional Academy

#### Save-the-Date

National Night Out

August 7th

7:00 - 10:00 PM

#### Save-the-Date

Community Meeting

to Review Central Northside

Branding Direction

August 8th

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Location TBD

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## CNNC Board of Directors Election Results

On May 14th, the CNNC General Membership participated in the election of the Board of Directors. The following individuals were elected to the Board of Directors:

Steve Adams  
Colleen Bender  
Patrick Dexter  
Brian Kaminski  
Randi Marshak  
David Shlapak  
Andrew Wickesberg  
Craig Worl

Thank you to all of the candidates who ran for office. We had more candidates than open seats - a sign of high engagement within the community. And, a special thanks to John Rhoades and the many CNNC volunteers who helped to create a smooth and successful election process.



## Save-the-Date August 8, 2012 Community Re-branding Meeting

Thank you all for being so patient while the CNNC Branding Committee and North Star Destination Strategies conducted a thorough review of the Central Northside brand. We're excited that we are now planning to present our ideas to enhance the community's brand to better position us to meet our goal of transforming all our neighborhood's vacant lots and empty storefronts by filling them with thriving individuals, commerce and families of all kinds by 2015.

Please **save the date of August 8th, 7:00 - 9:00 PM** (location TBD) to attend a community review of CNNC's proposed new brand and see some exciting ways we can put it into action. Central Northside residents will then be able to vote on the brand direction at the CNNC meeting on **September 10th at 7:00 PM** at the Allegheny Traditional Academy.

More info to come.

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## President's Message (continued from page 1)

Greg Spicer, past CNNC President who has made numerous contributions.

Randi Marshak, who has led the two most important planning works, the Community Master Plan and Community Re-Branding projects.

All of the neighbors who regularly participate on committees, attend general membership meetings and who provide their perspective. Their energy and insights help inform and mold the direction and positive momentum which is moving the community upward and onward.

The CNNC continues to build positive, long lasting relationships with our neighbors, our funders and our elected officials. Together, we have developed a respected and, in many cases, admired reputation for our community. Let us continue to prove we are worthy of support.

Thank you,  
Chris D'Addario  
CNNC President

### Other noteworthy happenings in the community:

- Craig Totino of Collaborative Ventures reports that the Section 106 process is moving along well. There a couple of potential leases that could be signed soon.
  - Allie DePasquale of October Development reports he will be breaking ground on new homes on Jacksonia Street soon. Work has already started at 105 Jacksonia Street.
  - The Historic Expansion request is moving, slowly but forward.
  - The KaBOOM! playground effort is coming along on schedule. Build Day is June 19<sup>th</sup>.
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## Safety Update

### CNNC Launches Off-duty Police Patrols for Summer Patrol

The CNNC Safety Committee is launching a plan in which off-duty police officers will be hired throughout the summer months to patrol various parts of our community that have a history of drug and violent activity. This initiative is likely to begin in June. We will be seeking funding from both residents and the CNNC. More information will be shared in the near future.

### Save-the-Date: National Night Out—August 7th

The "29th Annual National Night Out" is a unique crime/drug prevention event designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message that our neighborhood is organized and engaged.

The Safety Committee welcomes your input and would like to remind you that as a resident with a vested interest in developing a

safe community, your time, energy and involvement are key ingredients. Please contact Safety Committee Chair Paco Mahone for more information about how you can get involved: [pmahone@cnc-pgh.org](mailto:pmahone@cnc-pgh.org).

## Residential Parking Permit Program

A process has been initiated for creating a new permit parking district within the Central Northside Neighborhood. This program, if approved by the community, will help secure on-street parking for residents. As of June 1st, there will be a 90-day period of review and petition. Documents from the initial meeting are posted on the CNNC website: [www.cnc-pgh.org](http://www.cnc-pgh.org).

For more information on the program, please contact: Mr. Ashley R. Holloway, Director of Residential Parking Permit Program, 412-393-0162, [ashley.holloway@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:ashley.holloway@pittsburghpa.gov)

## Development Update

### Federal Hill Housing

This project will move forward with the next phase of for-sale homes on the east side of Federal Street with construction beginning in June. The seven units that make up the next phase of development follow the current phase in which all but one of the twelve units has closed—the final buyer should close in the next month. Please join CNNC and our development partner S&A Homes in welcoming our new neighbors to the community.



### Other Federal Street Progress

The former Toulas Restaurant at 1108 Federal St. is being renovated by Bill Barron. The first floor will feature a Mexican restaurant and the upper-floor will have an apartment. Occupancy is expected by the end of this summer. The CNNC facilitated this development by obtaining site control and arranging for a portion of the financing.

Steve's Hot Dogs at 1110 is renovating the front of their building façade. CNNC helped to arrange a small matching grant via the Northside Leadership Conference and Rivers Casino.

### Garden Theater Block

We have great news to report in that the second lease for the project has been signed—and it is for

the Garden Theater! Spencer Warren, former operator of the Firehouse Lounge in the Strip District will bring his talents to help anchor the development of the Garden Block with a restaurant & bar. Mr. Warren joins Nakama, who has signed a lease for the Masonic Temple, as businesses that have committed to this project. Developer Wayne Zukin and Allegheny City Development are working on additional lease commitments for the other buildings in the block.

Stabilization work on 1113-1115 Federal St continues. This work is expected to be completed in June. The new temporary fencing in front of the Masonic Temple and Garden Theater has been installed so that the old plywood can be removed to expose the original openings. This will allow the architect to complete the plans for these buildings.

### Property Reserve Program – Mini RFP

CNNC approved proposals to purchase certain properties that CNNC controls in the City's Property Reserve. The proposals were in response to the Request for Proposals (RFP) for developers or homeowners that were advertised on CNNC's website for several months. The approved proposals were from Todd Meyer (250 & 248 Alpine, 104 & 108 Sampsonia) and Frank Quinn (1525, 27, 29, 31 Saturn). The next step is to complete the paperwork and transfer the properties. Saving these structures from the wrecking ball and returning them to the tax rolls helps us create a more vibrant neighborhood. CNNC has recently posted a list of the properties it controls in the Property Reserve Program on its website: [www.cnc-pgh.org](http://www.cnc-pgh.org) (located on the Development Committee Page under Member Resources). There are only two properties not yet spoken for: 1532 and 1534 Federal Street.

For additional information, please contact Colleen Bender, Development Chair at (412) 465-0831 or [development@cnc-pgh.org](mailto:development@cnc-pgh.org).

# Central Northside Neighborhood Council

## 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.

We're on the Web  
[www.cnnc-pgh.org](http://www.cnnc-pgh.org)

Sign up to receive bi-monthly e-newsletter and access the newsletter archive.

Access important information including:  
CNNC Community Plan  
Property Reserve Program  
Committee Overviews for Development & Safety

Have a question about CNNC or the neighborhood?  
Get an answer by contacting  
[info@cnnc-pgh.org](mailto:info@cnnc-pgh.org)  
412.465.0192

## Welcome, Neighbor to Neighbor

In May, the Central Northside Neighborhood Council (CNNC) launched **Welcome, Neighbor to Neighbor**. With this new program, we're revving up the old



welcome wagon and taking it out for a spin.

All newcomers are eligible – home buyers and renters. For more information, or if you know of someone who has moved into the community recently, please contact:  
[welcome@CNNC-pgh.org](mailto:welcome@CNNC-pgh.org).

CNNC Board Member Barbara Talerico and Welcome Chair Leslie Ward present new-comer Sena Mills with the Welcome, gift bag.

## Events Worth Checking Out . . .

### KaBoom! Playground Build Day—June 19th

8:00 AM—3:00 PM

Allegheny Commons Park, North Ave. (across from Palo Alto St.)

To volunteer: [servepgh@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:servepgh@pittsburghpa.gov) or 412.255.2280

### Allegheny UU Pride Day Activities – June 10<sup>th</sup>

Allegheny UU invites North Side residents to these activities:

- **8:30am** - French Toast breakfast.
- **9:30am** - Worship Service and guest performers  
Vanessa German & musician Jesse Landis-Eigsti
- **10:45am** - Bus ride (donations accepted) to the noon  
Pride Awareness March downtown with return trips  
after the march. Need a ride? We can give you one!

More information: 412-322-4261 or [www.alleghenyuu.org](http://www.alleghenyuu.org).

### City of Asylum Pittsburgh

- Thursday, June 21st (free) - Cave Canem poets
- Saturday, September 8th (free) - Jazz Poetry Concert  
& Writers-in-the-Gardens

[www.cityofasylumpittsburgh.org/](http://www.cityofasylumpittsburgh.org/)

### Summer at the YMCA

Check out all the new activities

<http://www.ymcaofpittsburgh.org/locations/allegheny-ymca/>

### Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

**Friday, June 8th** - After Party in the Park  
[www.brownpapertickets.com/event/246764](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/246764)

Current events and exhibits: [www.pittsburghkids.org](http://www.pittsburghkids.org)

### New Hazlett Theater

- June 1st - *Songwriter's Spotlight*
- June 8th - 10th: *Who Do You Love?*  
(A New Gospel Musical)
- June 16th - *Speaking of . . . In Bloom*
- June 22nd - July 1st: *Next to Normal*  
by Carrivale Theatrics

<http://www.newhazletttheater.org/>

### Summer at The Mattress Factory

- June 15th - Annual Garden Party Fundraiser
- June 17th - FREE Community Urban Garden  
Party
- FREE Summer Art Classes for Youth

Application deadline: Friday, June 15th

Contact Shannon in the Education Department at  
[shannonb@mattress.org](mailto:shannonb@mattress.org).