



Central Northside Neighborhood Council

1310 Arch Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15212

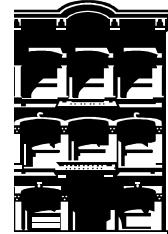
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NEWSLETTER
FOR

MARCH
2008



CENTRAL NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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

Remember to set clocks forward Saturday!!

CNNC General Membership meeting

Monday, March 10, 2008 at 7pm at 710 W. North Ave.

West Park Court Apartments, Corner of Brighton Rd. and North Ave.

Agenda

ALLEGHENY COMMONS PARK RESTORATION — Listen to presentation, ask question and provide comments to project director Alida Baker of the Northside Leadership Conference

CNNC 2008 STRATEGIC PLAN — Your questions and comments

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY — Citywide neighborhood statistics & analysis

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 8, 15, 22, 29

Northside Old Timers: 12 pm, Arch Court

March 10

General Membership Meeting: 7pm, West Park Court

March 11

Community Meeting: "The Homeless Population and Issues"

6pm, New Hazlett Theater (more details on pg. 2)

March 13

Safe Streets: 7pm, Arch Court

March 24

"Race: The Power of Illusion": 7pm, Community House Church

March 26

MLK/PSCC Committee: 5pm, Arch Court

April 2

Jefferson Rec. Center Committee: 6pm, Arch Court

April 14

General Membership Meeting: 7pm, Arch Court

JOIN CNNC—SEE PAGES 5&6!!

...announcements...announcements...announcements...

Pittsburgh Symphony Partnership

The CNNC is pleased to announce its partnership with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. The PSO will perform in the 5th Annual Community Partners Concern on **June 26, 2008**. Special guest will be recording artist, Issac Hayes. Proceeds to the concerts will go to local non-profit organizations. Tickets are currently on sale at www.pittsburghsymphony.org, and ticket prices range from \$21.50 - \$112.50. Simply enter promotional code **6646** to ensure that the CNNC receives the proceeds of your ticket.

Thanks and enjoy the show!

Kosovo Connection

Did you know that simple act of picking up a piece of litter and placing it in an appropriate receptacle can influence someone almost 5000 miles away? I wouldn't have believed it but it's true.

This year in conjunction with our Earth Day Clean Up day on Saturday, **April 19, 10am**, a film crew from Kosovo will be documenting our "Redd Up" efforts here in Pittsburgh. Apparently there is a huge litter problem in Kosovo although it is hard for me to believe that it could be worse than the problem we have here. During that day, the crew will be filming in Greenfield, Central Northside, the Hill District, and Mt. Washington. It should prove to be interesting.

As usual, I am hoping to see many volunteers that morning. Coffee, Tea, some kind of breakfast pastry will be provided along with bags and gloves. For the gardeners among us, the remains of last years annuals need to be cleared out, perennials need to be cut back and some shrubs need to be pruned in Mechanic's Retreat and Drexel's Repose Parks.

YMCA Mentoring Program

There is a new mentoring program beginning at the YMCA. The structure of the program will be one adult to one child, meeting once a week, with a focus on helping the child with homework and developing stronger literacy skills, while encouraging them and getting to know them. Please consider being a mentor; your time commitment will be small, but your impact will be great. Contact Kimberly at kwalkenhorst@gmail.com or #412-400-5388.

Northside Community Meeting

When: **Tuesday, March 11 2008**
6pm—7:30pm
Where: **New Hazlett Theater**
6 Allegheny Square East

Councilwoman Tonya Payne will host a Northside Community Meeting regarding the **Homeless Population and Issues**.

Guest Panelists

Commander Catherine McNeilly, Police Zone 1
Guy Costa, Director of Public Works
Paul Hochendorfer,
Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Vic Walczak, ACLU
MacMcMahon, Community Human Services
Lynne Weber, MLK Safety Zone Partnership
Dr. Jim Withers, Operation Safety Net
Jane Miller, Mercy Behavioral Health
David G. Bugher, Light of Life Rescue Mission
Major James La Bossiere, The Salvation Army
Michael Glass, Northside Common Ministries
Rick Venezia, Community Human Services

Race: The Power of an Illusion

1 WEDNESDAY NIGHT LEFT:

March 26, 7 PM – "The House We Live In"

Coffee and dessert will be served after each showing. Appropriate for children age 10 and up. Childcare available for children under age 10.

WHERE: Community House Church, central Northside 120 Parkhurst Street, 15212 (corner of Sandusky and Parkhurst, across from Allegheny General Hospital emergency room entrance)

Sponsored by Community House Presbyterian Church

Information: www.communityhousepittsburgh.org, or Darlene at drush68877@aol.com

Allegheny Commons: Then and Now



Lake Elizabeth, West Park showing seating, boating, brick wall & bedding-out (pre-1912)



Lake Elizabeth looking south.

COMING SOON: SUMMER STOOP GROUPS

By Diana Nelson Jones

Starting in April, the engagement committee of the CNNC will begin enlisting a handful of friends throughout the neighborhood to initiate a series of "group stoops" -- impromptu social gatherings that many of us join on our own streets regularly in nice weather. This new spin on an old social idea is to initiate group stoops with people we don't know beyond maybe recognition on the sidewalk.

I came to this idea one day last summer when I was interviewing neighbors for a newspaper article about a rash of fatal shootings. A black couple was sitting on their stoop on Jacksonia and they gladly talked to me, but they didn't want to give their names, in fear of retaliation. I realized as we chatted that I liked this couple and really did want to know their names, for my own sake. As I walked home, I thought that one day soon I would return to their stoop and ask them if we could plan a social stoop gathering-- them and some of their friends and me with some of mine, with some snacks and beverages thrown in.

This was the paradigm I proposed to the engagement committee last month, and the couple on Jacksonia will be first on my list as we kick off this outreach.

The disconnect between blacks and whites is a nationwide burden, but we in the Central Northside have a great opportunity because we are so integrated. It is a demographic fact that needs a social counterpart for us to have better lives. The more we get to know each other and share infor-

mation, the less chance we have to misunderstand each other's motives. More of us will have each other's back. We will knit support of each other into our day and show others, say, in chance meetings on the street, that connections are slowly being woven. We will be less susceptible to rumors, more willing to take part in neighborhood doings and more capable of getting what 99.9 percent of us desperately want -- a safe place where community lives up to its meaning.

So be looking for the stoop squads, or let the CNNC know you'd like to be in one. And feel free to follow their lead.

SAVE THE DATE!

*Mark your calendars for these upcoming
Allegheny Heart Institute Fundraisers:*

Prescription for a Healthy Heart

April 29, 2008, 11:00am to 2:00pm

Magovern Conference Center Exhibit Area

Get ready for the James A. Magovern, M.D., Memorial Hearts in the Park Walk and a heart-healthy lifestyle with this one-day event that will focus on preventive heart care, a healthy diet and fitness regimens including relaxation therapies, such as massage. This event is free to the public.

James A. Magovern, M.D., Memorial Hearts in the Park Walk

Saturday, May 3 2008, 9am

Rain or shine, Allegheny Commons Park

This fun walk through Allegheny Commons Park, the "heart" of Pittsburgh's historic Northside is open to everyone. Your registration fee of \$20 will support both the Allegheny Heart Institute and the restoration of Allegheny Commons Park.

Draft 2008 - Strategic Plan Summary

Membership Committee

Outcome: To increase CNNC membership by 150% with respect to 2007. Targets include:

- (1) To conduct membership drive to recruit members from all parts of the neighborhood.
- (2) To improve and maintain distribution of newsletter
- (3) To provide welcome packets for new members
- (4) To use electronic media more effectively

Engagement Committee

Outcome: To build relationships among neighborhood residents of all socio- and economic lifestyles, while having fun. Targets include:

- (1) To meet face-to-face with majority of Central Northside residents
- (2) To organize social, "block events"
- (3) To obtain feedback on interests and needs of community
- (4) To initiate "Stoop Groups" (see page 3)
- (5) To plan and execute Summer Street Party and Thanksgiving Dinner

Community Planning Initiatives Committee

Outcome: To facilitate and implement Central Northside Neighborhood Plan; create a pipeline of residential and commercial development. Targets include:

- (1) To make GIS-based neighborhood data & mapping system
- (2) To facilitate Central Northside Neighborhood Plan
- (3) To create business plan for housing and commercial development
- (4) To capitalize property acquisition fund

Litter and Beautification Committee

Outcome: To improve Central Northside gateways, street-scapes, facades, and to ensure litter and infrastructure management. Targets include:

- (1) To devise and implement North Ave. beautification strategy
- (2) To ensure litter control by coordinating street and leaf cleaning with DPW

Development Committees

Outcome: To develop further the Federal and North Ave. corridor. Targets include:

- (1) Federal Hill—to build and sell homes in Phase 1
- (2) Ferris Apartments—to package financing and begin construction
- (3) Federal/North—to work with URA and PHLF to complete feasibility analysis

Please look to the left to see a draft summary of the CNNC 2008 Strategic Plan.

We are requesting you to provide us with your comments, questions and suggestions by April 1 so that we can incorporate them into the plan before we seek CNNC membership approval at the April 14 Membership Meeting. If you are inspired, you can also join a committee whose purpose matches your interests. Call, email, write or come down to the CNNC office.

What was the process to generate this draft plan summary? During the summer of 2007 CNNC volunteers interviewed a cross-section of 68 Central Northsiders to see what they liked and wanted to work on in the neighborhood. The priority areas of public safety, litter and beautification, housing, increasing understanding among neighbors and youth are addressed throughout the plan.

Four committees worked since January 28 to articulate how to achieve the outcomes named in the CNNC board planning retreat last summer and, in some cases, adjusted since then. The committees and participants are named below.

Membership Committee: Dr. Avis Ellis, Claudia Keyes, Deborah McCree, Lydia Wade

Engagement Committee: Joanna Deming, Fred Fortson, Diana Nelson-Jones, Janet Holtz, Jennifer Russell, Glenn Woodard, Lydia Wade, Lynne Weber

Community Planning Initiatives Committee: David Bugher, Joanna Deming, Gavin Deming, Jennifer Flanagan, Joan Kimmel, Dennis McAndrew, Jenn Tharp, Glenn Woodard, Randy Zoller

Litter & Beautification Committee:

John Augustine, Chantel Blake, John Canning, John Engle, Dave Holliday, Tracy Mortimore

A Note from the Executive Director

Today is “a beautiful day in the neighborhood.” The sun and warmth are melting the ice. Spring is near.

In the Jewish calendar, spring is also the season for Passover, the exodus of the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt to freedom. Yet we are commanded to remember the exodus from Egypt. Why all this remembering about leaving Egypt?

The answer lies in the Hebrew word for Egypt: *mitzrayim*. The underlying meaning of this word is something akin to “narrow place” or “constriction.” The daily remembering of the intervention of the Almighty to enable a whole people to leave a place of constriction empowers us to push forward against the internal barriers and constrictions we encounter. The precedent of the exodus is a daily reminder of the possibility to be our best selves in our current existence against all odds. From this we draw our faith that our Creator wants us to succeed.

So, you ask, how does this relate to CNNC on a beautiful day?

It relates perfectly! CNNC is all about individuals leaving their isolation—places of constriction and narrowness—and working towards unity for purposes bigger than themselves. The irony is that at the moment when we set aside “me” and trade it for “we”, amazing things start happening. That moment is precisely the time of greatest challenge. Our struggle is to be the individual that we are while using our unique talents for a good greater than we are as individuals.

This has been the history and purpose of CNNC. Let me share with you two Central Northside people I have met, people on whose shoulders we stand, on whose accomplishments we draw inspiration.

* Sam (name changed) is now 94. Through construction and steel he made his living. Now limited to using walker, he shares that in another time, when the coal truck made a delivery to his home, he would pack

containers into the back seat of his car and deliver coal to families with children without shoes. And later he brought them shoes, too. Today those same children have families of their own and come to visit him daily to look in on the man who gave them all he could. Sam celebrates his birthdays in a new apartment in Arch Court, which CNNC sponsored as an affordable housing development for seniors.

* John (name changed) is a founder of CNNC and is a contributing member of the board to this day. He recently served on the ad-hoc committee that assisted me in screening and hiring CNNC’s new Community Organizer. He is a lay leader of his church and has met and advocated with every Pittsburgh mayor for more than four decades. He helped establish the Martin Luther King school. He served in the United States Army and saw the world. When not involved with the community, he cares for his wife with dignity and lives in his family home.

The potential for enduring success in the Central Northside has never been greater. CNNC relies on ordinary, extraordinary people like the ones described above. CNNC is made of people like you, who join, select leaders, get involved with committees and events, and plant spring flowers in the Central Northside.

During this spring membership drive, take advantage of CNNC’s invitation to leave your constricted, narrow place and enter into unified, purposeful action with your neighbors. If you pay with single dollar bills, it says right there: “*E pluribus unum*”, from the many comes one.

Contact Us

Michael Barber: Executive Director, mbarber@centralnorthside.com

Aaron Churchill: Community Outreach Organizer, achurchill@centralnorthside.com

Morgan Ress: Community Planning Initiatives Coordinator, morgan@centralnorthside.com

Are you getting your CNNC Newsletter?

Central Northside Neighborhood Council wants to know, are you receiving a hand delivered monthly newsletter at your residence? **If NOT** please tell us. Call 412-231-7742 to give us your address.

Thanks & April Newsletter Deadline

Thanks to all contributors of articles and to Allegheny General Hospital for sponsoring the printing of the CNNC Newsletter. April Newsletter Deadline: April 7, 2008



**Central Northside
Neighborhood Council**

ELECTION 2008: YOUR VOTE COUNTS

With 7 open seats on CNNC's Board of Directors, this year's Board election is pivotal in determining the neighborhood's future. Vote for a Board that represents YOU!

Do you want friendly relations with neighbors? Do you want bustling business development? Do you want a neighborhood that embraces everyone? Do you want to feel safe in our streets? Do you want opportunities for our kids? Do you want to turn vacant lots into vibrant residences?

TO VOTE, YOU MUST:

- (1) Sign up to be a member of CNNC (see below).
- (2) Attend the March and/or April CNNC general membership meeting(s).
- (3) Vote in the May Board election.

Upcoming General Membership Meetings

March 10, 7pm @ West Park Court Apts. (710 W. North Ave, Corner of Brighton & North)

Presentation of Board Nominees: April 14, 7pm @ Arch Court Apts. (1310 Arch St.)

Election of Board: May 12, 7pm @ Arch Court Apts. (1310 Arch St.)

Contact Aaron Churchill with questions/comments: achurchill@centralnthsde.com, 231-7742



2008 CNNC Membership Registration Form Dues Run From January 2008-December 2008

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (day): _____ Email: _____

YES! I want to be involved.

Enclosed is ____ \$5 ____ \$3 (seniors) for my dues for 2006-07.

If your organization/business would like to be a member, dues are _____ \$25

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

Youth Affordable Housing Membership/Outreach

Business Development Safety

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

CNNC Membership, 1310 Arch Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212