



CentralNorthsideNews

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## CENTRAL NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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## **October General Membership Meeting Monday, October 20, 2008, 7 p.m. Agenda**

- 1. Election to fill 2 vacant board seats. See page 6 for candidates' bios.**
- 2. Federal North – Vote to enter into Memorandum of Understanding with URA and form joint venture with Northside Leadership Conference.**
- 3. Learn about the National Aviary's expansion plans from the Aviary's Pat Mangus.**
- 4. Get updates on all the exciting activities, projects and initiatives being worked on by CNNC committees. Sign up to join a committee!**
- 5. Hear about CNNC's plans for staffing, organizational structure and strategic objectives.**

**CNNC General Membership Meeting**

**New Location: Allegheny Traditional Academy**



## Update on Federal North Art Project

Thanks to good weather and 30+ dedicated volunteers, we completed the project in one weekend instead of two! We had a great, exhausting time made easier by the encouragement and appreciation of passers-by. Take a look at your improved block! The transformation is amazing!

Thanks to the following donors:

Sherwin-Williams Paint Company  
Bistro-to-Go  
Pizza Hut  
Keystone Plumbing

and special thanks to these wonderful volunteers!

## President's Message

I have been thinking a lot lately about the meaning of the word “community”. There seems to be a lot of different definitions of “community” ranging from the scientific to the philosophical. What I found most interesting, though, is the word’s origin. Community comes from the latin “communus” which literally means “shared by all”. Does this definition only refer to the geographic borders that define our neighborhood and the physical assets we all have access to such as Allegheny Commons Park, the various community gardens, Alpine playground and the like? I think not. There are many communities, such as people who love to fish or members of a book club, that are not bound by lines on a map or shared amenities. I believe that community includes more than the physical things we share. Community includes our storied history, the values we hold dear, the interconnectedness of our daily lives and our hopes for the future. Community then is the amalgamation of all the shared characteristics that makes it unique.

The past 45 days have certainly been challenging for this community. We had an emotional meeting about the future of the Ferris apartments, which resulted in a tie vote and a failed motion to resubmit the project this year. We have also parted ways with our two staff members, Michael Barber and Aaron Churchill. Those decisions, for better or worse, have created serious and potentially damaging tension between parts of our community. While debate and disagreement are healthy and necessary parts of the community process, this level of tension and hostility towards one another is not. Threats, intimidation and verbal and physical abuse have no place in this organization and will not be tolerated. Period. It will be difficult, I know, but it is also necessary for us to move beyond these rifts. There are many great things happening in the Central Northside that we can all be proud of. Most importantly, we must focus on those values shared by all of us as we work together to build a better Central Northside for all.

Please attend the October 20<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting to vote two new Board members, vote to move forward with the Federal North redevelopment, learn about the exciting expansions plans of the National Aviary and hear from the CNNC committees.

## Seasonal Sensation

At the start of the fall season when the weather begins to cool, lettuces ready to uncurl their leaves in the crisp autumn air. And nearby, affable Northside resident Jana Thompson noted that as the soil around the lettuce is enjoying the changes, it is also preparing to host new plantings of spicy garlic cloves and other cold weather treasures. These treasures, like the ones nestled into the small plots within the Olde Allegheny Gardens on Arch and Sherman Streets, are amongst a handful of public places where food and flowers grow in our neighborhood. And this year, the gardens have received an award.

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society has acknowledged the achievements of this improved green space, managed by Jana and other enthusiastic gardeners. This community garden, lovingly tended to by neighborhood residents, has become a charming space worthy of receiving a Community Greening Award, given to select public projects.

Humble and funny, Jana expressed her happiness and surprise upon receiving the award by noting that their project was the only food-based community garden in the category. The variety of vegetables grown here, Jana revealed, goes beyond the expected tomato stakes and common greens, and showcases the variety of edible plants that it's volunteer gardeners test and tend to. A longtime fan of homegrown produce, Jana has experienced firsthand the depth of flavor and richness of color that come with freshly-picked food grown close to home. Work on the garden where this delicious bounty originates is slowly winding down, and they will soon be turning off the water to prepare for the coming frost. But if you want to get in on the fun that Jana is having, you are in luck. This Saturday, she and other volunteers will be re-mulching the soil and attending to the pathway before winter arrives. And I'm sure they won't mind a few extra helping hands.

## Safety Committee Updates

The CNNC Safety Committee would like to thank Giant Eagle for their generous donation of \$20,000 worth of surveillance equipment. This donation gives us a real opportunity to gather information and chronicle our troublesome areas.

The Committee has met a number of times the past few months. Using the results from the volunteer surveys we have focused our work in three areas.

1. Camera surveillance- the cameras will be placed in anonymous locations for various periods of time where they can be most effective. Any valuable information gathered will be shared with the local authorities. This will begin as soon as the equipment arrives. We are about 10 to 14 days away from delivery.
2. Safety Lighting- It sounds so simple but studies show a well lit area is a deterrent to many types of crime. We are working with the Beautification Committee to see what can be done to light up troublesome spots.
3. Traffic Patterns- there are concerns over the speed of vehicles moving through the neighborhood promoting unwanted and sometimes dangerous traffic flow. We are exploring options to solve this riddle.

These are just a few of the items on our very long list of concerns. Our next meeting will be October 22, 2008. If you are interested in attending please contact Chris D'Addario @ 412-906-0171 or cdaddario2@msn.com

## A New Look For CNNC News

The CNNC Newsletter is taking on a new look. The changes you'll be seeing will include a new design, updated layout and new regular content features. Though the design will be more evident in coming issues, the content changes are already underway. New monthly content includes a Featured Business, a list and article on items that will be voted on at the next general membership meeting and a recap on last months motions.

The Communication committee is planning to execute this new layout and design over the next few months, so stay tuned as the changes are happening!

## Communicating to our Members and Beyond

Though we encourage all residents of the Central North Side to become a member of the CNNC, we also respect your decision not to and want to provide every opportunity for members and non-members alike to stay abreast of CNNC news and happenings.

With that in mind, we have established a communications plan that we will work to implement over the next coming months. Please know that this is a work in progress and as we move forward we will identify what works, what doesn't and what suggestions the community has to improve methods of communication. The end goal is to make information available to the Central North Side easily and efficiently.

### Initial Communication Plan:

- Community Bulletin Boards - CNNC Office, Beleza Coffeehouse, Jefferson Recreation Center, Unitarian Church, Doug's Market, YMCA. The weekly CNNC Announcement will be posted on the community bulletin boards throughout the neighborhood.
- Monthly Newsletter
- Website – will include up-to-date news and information as well as contact information for the board members among other relevant community information.
- Weekly Communication in the form of a CNNC Announcement. Delivered via email and community post. You can sign up at the CNNC website for email delivery
- CNNC Binders - Available at General Membership Meetings and at the CNNC Office

### Communication Plan – Future Developments:

- Monthly Newsletter via postal mail – we will start mailing the newsletter to our neighbors in the near future. If you wish to receive the newsletter by email and join our green effort, you will have the opportunity to indicate that on the website and at future General Membership Meetings.
  - Community Computers – We will be actively seeking donations for community computers that will be accessible to all North Side Residents. Locations will be determined as we work through relationships. If you have a computer that you are willing to donate, please contact the CNNC via the website.
  - Town Hall Meetings – Provide an open forum to discuss specific topics that affect our neighborhood. Different from the General Membership Meetings, these forums will be discussion groups meant to discuss specific topics in more depth and debate with your fellow neighbors on the pros and cons.
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## The L.I.V.I.N.G Ministry's Sixth Annual Clothing Drive

This time every year, L.I.V.I.N.G Ministry collects clothes for Pittsburgh's homeless. Each year, enough clothes are donated to help hundreds of men, women, and children make it through another winter.

What do we need? Men's winter clothes especially, but also items for women and kids and accessories. Clothes, coats, hats, scarves, socks, gloves, thermals, toiletries, winter shoes, book bags, duffle bags, and blankets. Please, *no* furniture, books, food, or other random items.

We're looking for winter clothes only—the kind of things you'd wear in freezing weather. Donations should be of good quality; nothing dirty, torn, or full of holes. Finally, larger-sized men's clothes are especially needed.

A collection bin will be set up in the park next to **Allegheny Center Alliance Church** ([www.acac.net](http://www.acac.net)) on **Saturday, November 22nd**. If you would like to donate but cannot do on the 22<sup>nd</sup> please contact Mike Gallo, Executive Director, L.I.V.I.N.G. Ministry (<http://www.livingministry.org>) at (412) 427-9468 to schedule a pick up.

## Halloween in the Neighborhood

It is that time of year so stock up on your candy now. Neighbors across the Central Northside community can expect anywhere between 200 to 400 children – dressed in costume and looking for treats.

They won't be disappointed. Somewhere on Palo Alto full sized candy bars, ring pops, and starbursts candies will be given. The Old Timers group will also have candy for the children - passed out in premade bags. Neighbors living on the 1600 and 1700 blocks of [Buena Vista Street](#) will once again gather together near West [Jefferson Street](#) to pass out their candy. By meeting the children at this location it saves the trick-or-treaters from climbing the [steep hill](#). It also serves as a great social gathering spot for adults who partake of hors d'oeuvres and various beverages.

Come and out and enjoy the holiday and meet many of the wonderful people who make up our community!

## Upcoming Events

**October 15 - Northside Community Development Fund – Start Your Own Business, 6pm at 1310 Arch St.**

**October 15 – CNNC Membership Committee meeting, 7pm at Arch Court (1310 Arch St.)**

**October 18 – Women Walk for Peace, 10am, starting @ Northview Heights Bridge**

**October 20 – CNNC General Membership Meeting, 7pm, Allegheny Traditional Academy**

**October 21 - MWSS General Membership Meeting, 7pm at AUU Church - West North Ave**

**October 22 – CNNC Safety Committee Meeting, 7pm, location TBD**

**November 6 - CNNC Communication Committee Meeting, 7 pm location TBD**

**November 22 - The LIVING Ministry's annual clothing drive**

## CNNC's Board Nominees – October 2008

### **Lydia Wade**

I have worked with children for 38 years, including work with handicapped children at Allegheny Valley School, and run a licensed day care center for fifteen years. I have volunteered with the Head Start Program, been an administrative assistant with Pittsburgh Mass Choir through the North Side Church of God, and volunteered at North Side Old Timers events. I have volunteered with the CNNC with the summer street party, Thanksgiving Dinner, and with the newsletter and mailings. I've had a mission in my heart for mothers, families, and the young men of our neighborhood who are difficult to reach sometimes. By being a godmother to many, adding as much love and stability in their lives, I've been able to help them. As a result of my experience, I believe in the CNNC's mission to advocate for our neighbor's needs and promote a better quality of life for all. I would like to add my unique experience of being close to the difficulties that many young families face to bring as much compassion as I can to the CNNC's efforts.

### **Julie Peterson**

I live here with my husband Jason and my amazing son Evan. Although I have only been here since June 2007, I feel the strong sense of community and want to offer my contribution to make it even stronger! Our friends, neighbors and families here have made us feel so welcome and we feel so lucky to have found this place we now call home. I am able to offer my time, commitment and enthusiasm to the CNNC. I will keep an open door to anyone who wishes to talk to me about neighborhood issues and do my best to make decisions based on the benefit of ALL the residents that live here. Even if I am not elected to the Board I will continue to volunteer on the committees that need me and help to improve the lives of all my neighbors.

### **Audrey Woods**

I'm the manager of Arch Street Court Apartments, 1310 Arch St., where I have lived for the past 9 years. My parents lived on the North Side, on Saturn Way and Jacksonia St, for 40 years. I have been a member of Central North Side Neighborhood Council for 2 years and served on the Federal North Committee when Rebecca Davidson-Wagner was director. I have also participated in focus groups and been involved in Safe Streets. I've encouraged tenants here at 1310 to become members of CNNC, taking them to Thanksgiving gatherings. I'm well aware of CNNC's mission. Our building, 1310 Arch Street, is a product of CNNC's commitment to the neighborhood. I'm interested in helping CNNC advocate for current and new neighbors. Over the past 35 years, I've been on several boards, serving as president for some. All my experience has been around community issues. I want to help CNNC stay focused on their mission and not get side-tracked by new comers who do not know what has gone on before they arrived. I promise to keep the CNNC mission alive. I hope this information is beneficial in making a decision as to my worth.

## Community Planning Steering Committee Now Set: Community Input Key

At the request of the CNNC Board of Directors, Community Planning Initiative (CPI) chair, Randi Marshak has cobbled together a diverse and broad-based board to help steer the community planning process being directed by urban design specialists Pfaffmann and Associates. The steering committee members are: Fred Fortson, Annette Greene, Randy Burns, Jen Tharp, Gwen Moorer, Randy Zotter, Neil Parham, Dave McFarland, Dave McMunn, Lydia Wade, Irene Karavolos, and Randi Marshak.

The steering committee is charged with finding out what the Community wants and needs are. Marshak notes, "The request for proposal stressed the CNNC wanted to reach as much of the Central Northside community as possible when coming up with this plan. Pfaffman and Associates were chosen by the board because they expressed best that they got that message and could do the best job of reaching out to the community."

## North Ave "Garden" Sprouts Signs of Hope: Come Vote on Marquee Slogans

After years of neglect and blight, the first bright signs of a renaissance on West North Avenue began last weekend with a public art project organized by the CNNC. With funds from the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development (PPND), talent provided by neighborhood artist Dan Wintermantel, organizational skill by Barb Talerico and good old fashioned effort by a team of dedicated neighbors, the front door of our rapidly revitalizing neighborhood center now sports sweeps and curves of vivid colors which all appear, like the neighborhood itself, to point upwards.

The piece, conceived by Wintermantel as a series of abstract forms rather than a picturesque mural, took shape as volunteers first primed and then painted new plywood panels affixed to the doorways and window frames on the entire block.

One volunteer, Kimberly Walkenhorst noted the immediate positive interest in the project even when the primer was the only thing on the plywood, remarking, "It's great to see so many people of different ages and backgrounds pitching in to help bring back the neighborhood. Tashae Paige, a youngster in Walkenhorst's community mentoring program agreed with her mentor, adding, "It ain't gonna feel so sad anymore."

Barb Talerico, project coordinator and John Augustine, chair of the CNNC beatification committee were also there to lend a hand in the painting. Talerico organized the project initiated by the City Art Commission this past summer. She was able to secure donated paint from our local Sherwin Williams and food from Bistro to Go for the volunteers. The URA provided the plywood. Duquesne Light will light the project so that the art project will be illuminated at night. Augustine remarked that, "It's our first step to help draw attention to the buildings so that people can see past the blight that was once here and toward the future."

At the CNNC general membership meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup>, members will vote on several candidates for slogans to go up on the Garden Theater marquee. This will be a chance for those attending to place the finishing touches on the project. According to Talerico, the top three slogans by popular vote conducted on the Internet were submitted by the CNNC to the URA for their initial approval.

- "Grow a new garden!"
- "X no longer marks the spot"
- "Out of the red light, back into the limelight"

## Women's Walk for a Peaceful Community

In conjunction with the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh – Week Without Violence annual event, womenswalk.org is sponsoring a two mile walk promoting peace throughout our community.

The walk, which will take place on Saturday, October 18, 2008, at 10am, will start at the Northview Heights Bridge and wind its way down Charles Street on to Brighton Road and proceed to North Avenue. It will conclude at West Park where National and Local speakers will address the crowd.

There will also be a FREE Gospel Concert starring Grammy Award Winner KAREN CLARK- SHEARD. BEV SMITH, National Radio Talk Show Hostess will serve as the Keynote Speaker for this event.

For more information call 412.321.5527

## Announcements

The CNNC Membership committee will start planning the 2008 CNNC Thanksgiving dinner at their next meeting (October 15, 7pm at Arch Court). If you are interested in volunteering for this event please contact Claudia Keyes ([keyes15212@yahoo.com](mailto:keyes15212@yahoo.com)).

The Hazlett Theater is looking for volunteers for all upcoming events. If interested please contact Desiree Davis, House Manager, 412-320-4610 ext 15, email: [ddavishousemanager@gmail.com](mailto:ddavishousemanager@gmail.com)

At the next MWSS General Membership meeting (October 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm) Patrick Mangus, COO of the National Aviary, will make a presentation on the expansion/reconfiguration of the Aviary into the Allegheny Commons.

## COMCOM Takes on Meeting Structure: Security/Civility Top Priorities

At the October meeting of the Communication Committee, members voted unanimously to craft a series of reforms concerning CNNC General Membership meetings.

Some of the changes slated for the upcoming meeting:

1. A larger venue so that all can sit comfortably;
2. The presence of security to enforce a zero tolerance policy in regards to physical threats, hate speech, and other forms of intimidation;
3. The banning of third party recording devices;
4. The provision of a microphone and amplification so that no one has to yell to be heard by all; and,
5. Extra help and planning for the Membership Committee and others taking names and membership applications at the door.

## Development Committee Looking for Membership Feedback on Task Forces

Kirk Burkley, chair of the CNNC Development Committee is looking for members interested in serving on the committee and one of its many active “task forces.” So far, there are six active task forces:

- Federal Hill
- Federal North
- Footpath Restoration (West Park)
- Restoration of Jefferson Recreation Center
- Brighton Road Corridor
- Compilation of local contractors/labor list

Burkley emphasizes that this is just an initial list and that each of these tasks forces will work largely on their own and will need members from other committees (such as Beautification and Communication). Those interested in forming tasks forces for other development-related projects should join the committee.

## Federal Street gets a Facelift

Federal Street will start to take on a more residential feel with the addition of a tree lined median strip that is to be installed by the city between Parkhurst Street and Alpine Avenue. The new median strip will ease the burden on pedestrians trying to safely cross the nearly 50 feet of travel lane width.

The new median strip should be completed by the spring when the first of the new townhouses are completed. This will bring more of the neighborhood feel to Federal Street, making it more accessible for pedestrians and cyclists alike.



### Membership Registration Form

**Dues Run From January 2008 through December 2008**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (day):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone (eve):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**YES! I want to be involved. Enclosed is \_\_\_\_\_\$5 \_\_\_\_\_\$3 (seniors) for my 2008 dues.**

**If your organization/business would like to be a member, dues are \_\_\_\_\_\$25. Include the name and contact information of delegate\_\_\_\_\_. Enclosed is an additional tax-deductible donation of:**

**\$20 \_\_\_\_\_ \$40 \_\_\_\_\_ \$60 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_**

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

\_\_\_\_\_ **Youth**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Business District Development**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Membership**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Housing**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Public Safety**

**I have the following skills, talents or interests that I would like to put to use for our neighborhood:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send this form to the CNNC office with your dues ( Check or Cash). Check payable to CNNC:  
CNNC Membership  
1310 Arch Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212**