

CENTRAL NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JANUARY 2009 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

"Rich in Diversity, Rich in Promise"

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General Membership Meeting Agenda

- **Federal North Redevelopment:** There are currently 2 developers interested in this corridor. Both will be present at the meeting to discuss their plans and get feedback from our membership.
 - See page 4 for more information on Aiello Development Company's project
 - See page 6 for information about Barron Commercial Real Estate's project
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- **Meet Sheila Washington:** Sheila is leading the community engagement and facilitation components of the community planning process. In coming months we will be hearing and seeing Sheila often. She will introduce herself and explain her role in this important planning effort.
- **Meet Andrew Dash:** Andrew, Northside's neighborhood planner for City of Pittsburgh Planning Department will be at our meeting to discuss his role in the community.
- **Committee Updates:** Hear about the exciting work being done by our committees

**CNNC General Membership Meeting
Monday 12th January at 7pm**

Location: Allegheny Traditional Academy

Presidents Message

Happy New Years! I hope everyone had a healthy and peaceful holiday season. We've had a busy winter at CNNC and I'm pleased to report that there are many wonderful things happening in our community.

On the development front, the Federal-North redevelopment efforts are starting to pick up steam. At our January 12th membership meeting you'll have the opportunity to learn about two projects on the drawing board. These projects have the potential to transform this blighted corridor into a pedestrian-friendly, safe and vibrant destination.

The community planning effort is now in full swing thanks to the hard work of CNNC Board member Randi Marshak and the Community Plan Steering Group. An integral part of the community plan consulting team is Sheila Washington of Washington Consulting Group. Sheila will lead the community engagement and meeting facilitation components of the planning process. She has begun reaching out to neighbors and we will be seeing much more of her in the coming months. She will introduce herself and explain her role in this process at the meeting on the 12th.

As we embark on a new year at CNNC we have much to be proud of and yet much important work remains to be done. In 2009 we will spend a significant amount of time and energy improving the organization. One of the first steps in this process will be to conduct a new community needs and priorities assessment. The Planning & Evaluation Committee, in conjunction with the Membership Committee, is developing an evidence-based assessment process to gauge community need, priorities and preferences. This information will assist us in preparing a more robust, comprehensive strategic plan for the organization.

We have a tremendous opportunity to remake the Central Northside in a meaningful and long-lasting way that will benefit **ALL** residents, but we can't do it without your help. Your membership and participation is critical as we build on past successes and move the organization forward.

Nourish your Neighbors

Tri-Hill Valley Meals on Wheels needs volunteers! Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver nutritious meals to homebound neighbors. Our consumers may be elderly, injured, or unable to prepare their own meals. Meals on Wheels kitchens rely heavily on volunteers, and would not be able to operate without them. Volunteers are needed Monday through Friday mornings to deliver meals. This not only gives our consumers access to nutritious meals, but also provides them with daily human interaction that we all take for granted. For some of our consumers, the Meals on Wheels volunteer is the only regular interaction they will have from day to day, so the delivery also functions as an important safety check.

Tri-Hill Valley Meals on Wheels is one of 73 kitchens affiliated with Lutheran Service Society. The kitchen serves Troy Hill, Spring Garden, Spring Hill, Pressly Hi-Rise, St. Michael Village, Manchester, Central North Side, East Street area, West Park Court, Allegheny Center, and the lower end of Charles Street. If you live in one of these areas and would like to help nourish your neighbors, please call Leslie Montgomery at 412-366-9490.

Committee Updates

Safety Committee

Happy New year to all North Side neighbors. As you know Safety was one of our top concerns in 2008. The new year finds us working hard to make our streets and homes places of comfort and rest. The Safety Committee continues to meet monthly on the various subjects that challenge our neighborhood. Lighting, drugs, traffic concerns, and gang activity continue to be on our agenda.

Our daily activities give all of us the opportunity to affect positive change. Saying hello to a neighbor, leaving a front and back light on at night, keeping an eye out for unusual activity - these are just a few suggestions to improve our community. Daily vigilance will pay dividends. Check out some of the local links that pertain to safety found below. These will also be added to the Safety Link on the CNNC Website. We will update everyone on the projects and progress we are making at the next membership meeting.

The Pittsburgh Police Web site, which includes information in the report regarding the structure of the department, who to call for what, crime stats, facts, as well as has a separate link on the right side for the 2007 Annual Report, etc. etc. There are also links here for the "Crime Statistics Page" and the "Citizen Observer" within the police department site:
<http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/police/>

The Crime Statistics page is below where you can find excellent information neighborhood-by-neighborhood:
http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/police/html/crime_stats.html

At the Citizen Observer Web site users can register to log on and view alerts or sign up for text or email alerts. Once on the site, you can click the "Communities" tab on the top, then select the "Groups" option and put in your zip code. It will retrieve all alerts for that zip area:
<http://www.citizenobserver.com/cov6/app/index.html>

Thank you for your dedication and effort.

PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

At the October meeting, the CNNC membership approved the creation of a planning and evaluation (P&E) committee. The P&E committee's charter is help the CNNC Board and membership make informed decisions by (1) conducting a community needs and priorities assessment (CNAPA); (2) facilitating the development of a strategic plan to guide and integrate the CNNC's diverse activities; and (3) evaluating progress towards accomplishing the tasks that the organization sets out for itself. In this and the next two newsletters, we will provide a brief description of each of these three functions.

The goal of the CNAPA is to develop a coherent picture of our organization and our community. It expands on the community needs assessment conducted by the CNNC in 2007 in two ways. First, it includes the collection and analysis of key data about the Central Northside—demographic and economic information—to help us better understand the basic facts about our neighborhood. Second, like the prior assessment, the CNAPA will include a survey of members' concerns and priorities, but one conducted in accordance with recognized statistical norms and procedures. This will allow us to form a picture of the perceived needs and concerns of our neighbors. When complete, the CNAPA as a whole should provide us with a rich and detailed picture of the Central Northside community: how we live, what we're worried about, and where we want to see our neighborhood go.

The intent is to update this assessment on a regular basis. We also plan on making the information collected in the process widely available to the membership and the community as a whole.

If you have questions about the CNAPA or the P&E committee, or wish to help with any phase of the committee's work, please contact David Shlapak either via e-mail (dashlapak@me.com) or by dropping a note off at the CNNC office.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Progress is being made on the Community Master Plan for the Central Northside. The Steering Committee has had several meetings with the Pfaffmann + Associates their sub-consultants to establish a roadmap for the planning process. Pfaffmann + Associates has been gathering GIS information about the neighborhood, mapping existing conditions, and has reviewed previous planning studies and plans to determine what is still relevant to our current community planning efforts. Members of the Steering Committee and other CNNC members have given the urban designers tours of the Central Northside to familiarize them with the neighborhood. These will be continuing over the next several weeks. If you see folks with cameras and sketchbooks, be sure to say hello!

The group has also met with Pat Clark from Jackson Clark Associates to establish the scope of services for the community market assessment portion of the community plan. In the near future Pat will be reaching out to residents, community organizations, and business owners to gain information that will aid him in his market assessment. Jackson Clark's scope of work will include both a housing and retail component.

In addition to Pat's outreach efforts, Sheila Washington (another member of the consultant team) has developed a scope of work for the community process. As part of her initial outreach, Sheila will be calling a handful Central Northside residents to talk the Community Master Planning process and discover ways that this process can be most effective and most inclusive. As the final dates for our meetings and events are scheduled, we plan to let the members and residents know so that everybody can get involved. We are just in the early stages of this process but I will make sure to update as we go.

Randi Marshak

Chairperson of the Steering Committee for the Community Master Plan

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Aiello Development Company is progressing with their plans to develop the blighted corner of Federal Street and North Avenue. Members of the Aiello Work Group (Annette Green, Audrey Woods, Bob Weis, Dennis McAndrew, Gwen Moorer, John Canning, Randy Zotter, and co-chairs John Francona and Barbara Talerico) have been coordinating neighborhood input on the design and use of the buildings. As owner of the properties, the URA makes the final decision about their use, but the process requires neighborhood input via the Work Group.

John and Barbara brought Work Group recommendations to a project team meeting in December, where project status was discussed. Here is an update: Final building design and pricing are underway. Several banks are performing the due diligence necessary to prepare for project financing. The project currently has a funding gap, but the URA and Northside Community Development Fund are assisting with financing strategies. Several retail tenants (including coffee shops and restaurants) have expressed formal interest in the space. Aiello has agreed to spend the extra money to preserve 4 W. North Avenue, an architecturally important building in this corridor. Overall, we're very pleased with the progress that's been made so far. Project representatives will attend the CNNC general membership meeting on January 12 to present current architectural renderings and provide further updates



W. NORTH AVE. ELEVATION



FEDERAL STREET ELEVATION

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

The CNNC Communication Committee held its last meeting in November. The committee decided to explore making the web page more interactive with the possibility of adding committee blogs and bulletin boards to the evolving site. The committee hopes to work on this in the coming months. Jason Simmons has agreed to oversee this as he has professional experience in this kind of design. Also, the committee has agreed for the moment to attempt to deliver the monthly newsletter to all residences in the central northside. In the past, the newsletter often did not get delivered due to various physical barriers (locked apartment building front doors, for example) and the lack of volunteers who could commit to getting the newsletter to their neighbors each and every month. Members interested in volunteering to deliver the monthly newsletter should contact Julie Peterson at juliepeterson1@hotmail.com.

Finally, Scott "Skip" Mosser has been appointed as the Communication Committee representative to the Community Planning Committee. Skip will be advising the Community Planning Committee on issues related to organizational communication and public relations. The Communication Committee did not meet in December but will hold its January meeting to be held on January 22nd at 7:15 p.m. at CNNC "world headquarters" at Arch Court.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Revised By Laws to Be Submitted to the Membership

At a special December meeting, the Board of Directors reviewed proposed changes to the CNNC by laws. These proposed changes were the result of months of diligent work by the CNNC By Laws Committee. Randy Zotter, the chair of the committee oversaw work on various aspects of the Organization's current by laws from fixing grammatical and formatting errors to more substantive changes in organizational procedures.

CNNC Vice President Greg Spicer chaired the special meeting and noted that, "the Board was in broad agreement on many of the changes—including some key substantive matters." There were some areas of discussion and disagreement among the Board however, including whether or not to make some current committees standing committees or "ad hoc" committees.

As soon as the board sees the by laws with the proposed revisions included, the proposed changes adopted by the Board will then go to the CNNC General Membership for approval. Given the current procedure for changes in the by laws, this process will take several months to complete. Listen for details of the process at upcoming meetings.



Barron Commercial Real Estate Eyes 2 E. North

On December 15th, CNNC received a letter from Bill Barron, owner of Lawrenceville-based Barron Commercial Real Estate. In his letter Mr. Barron expressed interest in acquiring and redeveloping 2 E. North Avenue situated on the northeast corner of Federal and North. Many know this property as the former Park View Café. Most recently, Franco Harris had pursued this property for a restaurant, but those plans never came to fruition and Mr. Harris is no longer intent on acquiring the property. Mr. Barron's desire is to acquire the property and restore the original storefront façade to accommodate a retail tenant. He is working with another Lawrenceville-based business, Crazy Mocha Coffee Company, to expand their local presence to this Central Northside location.

Mr. Barron has a successful track record of urban, neighborhood redevelopment. He has been instrumental in the revitalization of Lawrenceville, having renovated eight properties on Butler Street and four properties on Penn Avenue. He has served on the City of Pittsburgh's Historic Review Commission and on the board of the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh, including 2 years as its President. Mr. Barron plans to present his project at CNNC's January 12th General Membership meeting.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **19th January - Three different activities.** At **10:30 am**, **Northside Urban Ministries** is hosting a *Peace and Unity March*. The March will begin at **Bidwell Presbyterian Church**, 1025 Liverpool St. in Manchester and conclude at **Calvary United Methodist Church** at Allegheny and Beech Avenues. At **noon**, at the conclusion of the march at Calvary, **Northside Urban Ministries and the United Methodist Conference** are sponsoring an *ecumenical e of celebration*. The theme for the service is **"THE BELOVED COMMUNITY: TELL IT...LIVE IT...BE IT."** **Rev. Glenn Grayson**, pastor of **Wesley Center AME Zion Church** in the Hill District will be the guest speaker. Finally, following the worship service, **at 1:30**, the Northside United MLK committee is organizing a *"Drum Major for Justice"* action. This action is yet to be determined, but will likely last about an hour. Buses will leave from Calvary Church and return to Calvary Church and Bidwell Church.
- **4th February** - The Northside Health Improvement Partnership, of which CNNC is a member, is hosting an Access to Healthcare initiative to address diversity in end of life care by presenting education and awareness programming to minority churches and community organizations on the Northside.

The initiative will kick-off with a production of *Vesta* on **Wednesday, February 4, 2009 at 5:30pm at the New Hazlett Theatre**. This intimate 90-minute theatrical reading examines an African American family's struggle when the matriarch is diagnosed with a life-limiting illness. Following a series of complex medical, economic and personal issues, *Vesta* must confront loss of independence and, inevitably, her life's end. The conflicts focus on the relationship between *Vesta*, her daughter and her granddaughter, and the decisions they must make about her healthcare.

Following the reading there will be a panel discussion that will allow the audience to ask questions about the play and specifically about diversity in end of life care. The event will also be offered to health care professionals for Continuing Education credit. Tickets are free but a reservation is appreciated.

If you have any questions or would like to make a reservation, please contact Stephani Greenleaf, AGH Northside Partnership Coordinator, at 412-330-2535 or email Stephani@pittsburghnorthside.com.

Membership Renewal

Happy New Year from the Membership Committee!

As you know, the CNNC makes many decisions which impact all residents of the Central Northside. But remember, this is a membership-driven organization where you can only vote if you are a member in good standing.

Have you renewed your yearly membership in the CNNC during or after this past November's Thanksgiving dinner? ***If not, you are not a member in good standing!***

Now is the time to renew your membership to the Central Northside Neighborhood Council for 2009.

Here's how to do it:

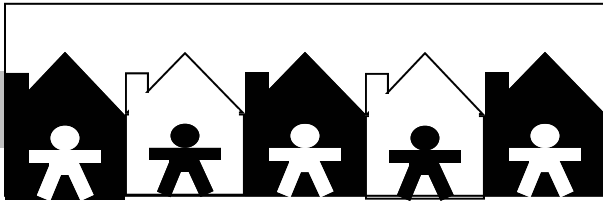
- Complete the 2009 Membership Registration form included in this newsletter today and mail to 1310 Arch Street with cash or a check made payable to the Central Northside Neighborhood Council.
- The next Membership Committee meeting is Monday, January 5, 7 p.m. 1310 Arch Street. You can sign up and pay your dues there as well.
- The first Monday of each month will continue to be our regularly scheduled meeting, so if you cannot make the January meeting, you can sign up at any of our monthly meetings.

As a member in good standing, you can have an official voice in the exciting projects and initiatives of the CNNC in the coming year, including:

- The revision of the organization's by laws
- The shaping of a master plan for our neighborhood's development in years to come
- The renovation and restoration of the park
- The community's voice in a number of retail and housing developments planned or underway

Once you've renewed your membership, why not join on our our active committees: Communication, Development, Litter & Beautification, Public Safety, Strategic Planning and Youth. Committee work is where progress is accomplished. Your energy is needed.

The way to make a difference in our neighborhood is to stay involved and stay informed!



2009 CNNC Membership Registration Form

Dues Run From January 2009-December 2009

Please print legibly.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (Home): _____ (Other): _____

Email: _____

Do you want to receive the Newsletter via email? Y___ N___

Signature: _____ Date: _____

If you do not reside in the central North Side please list properties you own on the Central Northside: _____

(Please continue

listing on back)

Enclosed is _____ \$5 _____ \$3 (seniors 60+) for my dues for 2009.

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

Please name the delegate for your organization: _____

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**

_____ **Communications** (newsletter, web site management, announcements)

_____ **Development** (Business District and Housing)

_____ **Membership** (outreach to the community, event planning)

_____ **Public Safety**

_____ **Litter and Beautification**

_____ **Strategic Planning** (evaluating neighborhood needs and planning strategies to meet identified needs)

Date: _____

Amount Paid: _____

Check _____

Cash _____

Received

by _____

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