



**Central Northside Neighborhood Council**

1310 Arch Street  
Pittsburgh PA 15212

# CNNC

N e w s l e t t e r

Spring 2010

**Board of Directors**

- Greg Spicer..... President
- Julie Peterson..... Vice President
- David McMunn ..... Secretary
- Barb Talerico ..... Treasurer
- John Augustine ..... Beautification
- Kirk Burkley ..... Development
- Christopher D'Addario..... Safety
- Dr. Avis Ellis ..... Membership
- Joe Mansfield..... Conservatorship
- Randi Marshak ..... Planning
- Dennis McAndrew ..... Development
- Jan Meyers ..... By-Laws
- Neil Parham ..... Human Resources

Mr. William Murchison ..... Emeritus

## MISSION

To enhance the quality of life for all Central Northside residents.

## VISION

By end of 2015, CNNC will transform all of our neighborhood's vacant lots and empty storefronts by filling them with thriving individuals, commerce and families of all kinds.

*April 12, 2010*

General Membership Meeting  
Allegheny Traditional Academy ~ 7:00 pm

*Rich in diversity. Rich in promise.*



## Hey Everybody, Let's not Forget the Other Part . . .

Even as the last of the snow was melting and the bulbs were beginning to emerge from the ground, the membership of the CNNC adopted new mission and vision statements in an act that, like the spring itself, signals the emergence of renewed hope for better days. A particular act of faith was required for adopting the new vision statement aimed at transforming our neighborhood's vacant lots and empty storefronts. This is, without a doubt, an audacious and hopeful statement that allows us to imagine a more thriving, more populated neighborhood with more activity, more residents, more retail, more jobs, more gardens and, generally, more energy. We've even given ourselves a date to aim for: December 31, 2015.

But let's not forget the other part.

We intend to transform these lots with *thriving individuals, commerce and families of all kinds*.

This part will require that we all get involved and not let the quantifiable—the number of lots to be filled or the number of homes to be restored or the number of businesses to draw—cloud out the importance of keeping our neighborhood's eclectic mix of diverse individuals and families and helping each and every person and enterprise thrive now and into the future.

As the Board continues to work towards a plan implementation strategy [see below and page 6 for a summary of our recent retreat on the subject,] we must not forget that the repopulation of lots and buildings must be done in a way that engages our current community even as it works towards a larger and even more vibrant one. Our mission, "to enhance the quality of life for all Northside residents" is one that requires broad community support and action.

So, let's get busy building but let's not forget that we are building an even more diverse and thriving community and not just physical structures and new businesses.

And perhaps most importantly, let's do this together.

Greg Spicer  
President, CNNC Board of Directors

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*"Bite off  
more than you  
can chew,  
then chew it.  
Plan more than  
you can do,  
then do it."*

**Anonymous**

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## CNNC Master Plan Implementation

In 2008, in an effort to provide a road map for development within the neighborhood, the CNNC sought proposals for the Central Northside Community Plan. While there had been many plans for the neighborhood over the years, none of them had looked at the neighborhood comprehensively, and only a few had engaged the public in a discourse regarding the direction of the neighborhood. After a preplanning process and community needs assessment, the CNNC organized the

outline of a community plan that would help redirect development and unify the neighborhood. A team led by Pfaffmann + Associates was hired to undertake the work.

The Board of the CNNC met at the Allegheny Library on a snowy Saturday afternoon in late February for an all day meeting on the implementation process for the community plan. All but two board members were present and the meeting was

facilitated by Caryn Ernst, a consultant based in Washington, DC who had previously lived in Pittsburgh.

When the plan was finally completed we were given 117 recommendations and over the course of our meeting we focused on narrowing this down to a more workable number, these are:

[ continues on page 6 ]



## COME JOIN ALPINE GARDENS TASK FORCE

The Central Northside Neighborhood Council is putting together a neighborhood task force for Alpine Gardens Playground. We intend:

- to eliminate crime from this area
- to put a plan in place to involve the children that use the park to take pride in its appearance
- to make a commitment to maintain the park and its general surrounds
- to encourage as many neighbors and residents to feel safe using it for themselves and their families.



# COME JOIN US ~ let's get to work!!

**DATE ~ TIME ~ LOCATION ~ to be announced**

**CONTACT ~ Julie Peterson, 412.225.5103, [info@cnncc-pgh.org](mailto:info@cnncc-pgh.org) or Claudia Keyes with your thoughts and input.**

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*"Be alert to give service. What counts a great deal in life is what we do for others."*

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Anonymous

## Federal North Development Moves Forward

The Development Committee continues to forge ahead with several transformational projects. Most notably, the Committee has compiled a significant amount of data with the help of Jim Lawrence that identifies vacant lots, vacant buildings, tax lien parcels and property held in the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG) land reserve for CNNC. This data has enabled us to put together a comprehensive request for proposals to entice developers to invest in our community. We expect to have a development-centric meeting in the near future to discuss potential residential housing initiatives so stay tuned. In addition, the 'Federal Street

East' task force continues to assist existing small business owners on Federal Street to renovate their facades as part of the 'new look' of Federal Street. Already, one business has applied to the Urban Redevelopment Authority for the funds available to small businesses for facade renewal. Dennis McAndrew heads this street task force with Beth Kocur and Elise Yanders.

Finally, the North Side Tomorrow board continues to move forward the Garden Theater block development process. The board's memorandum of understanding currently calls for a draft request for proposals to be

presented to the City of Pittsburgh Urban Redevelopment Authority this month, with a final RFP to go out to the development community in early April. Members of North Side Tomorrow and the CNNC Development Committee continue to meet with numerous parties interested in developing this all important block and we are very encouraged by the enthusiasm of City officials and the development community at large. We are all sales agents for our community so please continue to tell everyone you meet about the great things going on the Central Northside.

Kirk Burkley  
Chair, Development Committee

Federal North. . . improvement continues!





Colleen  
Bender

My first visit to the Central Northside was 7 years ago. In 2005 I became a resident. Living in the Northside has been nothing short of an enriching experience.

As a resident of the Northside, I take pride in the positive evolution seen in our welcoming community. Never before had I experienced a neighborhood with such diversity and sense of

kinship. Working as a member of two CNNC Committees - Safety and Development - I understand how all facets of the community do not work in silos but do affect each other. I want to do more. I want to join the Board of the CNNC to help continue to make a positive change in our wonderfully diverse neighborhood and to help fulfill our new vision statement that . . . .

*"By end of 2015, CNNC will transform all of our neighborhood's vacant lots and empty storefronts by filling them with thriving individuals, commerce and families of all kinds."*

Jim  
Lawrence

Has lived in the neighborhood since 2001. He has a BS in engineering and worked in telecommunications for 24 years, with a corporate background in product development, market analysis, strategic planning, and business plan development. Jim and his wife restored their 3-story Victorian from 2-family to single-family, managing the subcontractors and investing a lot of sweat equity as well. They have gone on to invest elsewhere in the neighborhood,

restoring several vacant houses to affordable rentals. Through these activities Jim has become very familiar with the neighborhood, in terms of both the property and the diversity of people. He has been involved in the local historic review committee and has been an active member of the CNNC and the MWSS. Jim's interest in saving vacant buildings from demolition led to him joining the CNNC Development Committee in

2009. He now manages the CNNC property reserve, which involves monthly meetings of the Vacant Property Working Group of the PCRG and developing working relationships with the URA and city real estate department. Jim would like to join the board to make his activities on the Development Committee more efficient, and to contribute to the ongoing improvement of the organization.

Randi  
Marshak

I've lived in the Central Northside for 10 years now. For the last 2 years I've been on the board of the CNNC. My primary accomplishment over the last 2 years has been working as the chair person of the Steering Committee for the Central Northside Community Plan. I worked with our hired urban designers, the board, CNNC members

and the community for over a year to create the Central Northside Community Plan. We conducted extensive community outreach to get as much community input as possible. Please go to the CNNC website and click on the Central Northside Community Plan Committee to take a look at this comprehensive, innovative plan. If you

allow me I would like to take the next two years and work on the implementation of that plan.



David  
Slapak

My bride Belinda and I have lived in the War Streets for about nine years, moving here from the Washington, DC area in spring 2001. Occupationally, I'm a senior defense policy analyst for the RAND Corporation in Oakland; I've been with RAND for over 27 years in California, DC, and now here. My biggest accomplishment however, has undoubtedly been my ability to cheer simultaneously for the Browns (born

and bred in the Cleveland area) and Steelers (simply impossible not to become a fan if you live here and have a pulse.).

We realized how unique this neighborhood is on our first morning here when no neighbors complained about the moving truck blocking in their cars or disturbing their peace at 6am; in DC, we would have been hearing from

the lawyers by lunchtime. Neither Belinda nor I have felt as welcome anywhere as we have been here. This is just a great place to live.

My goal as a member of the CNNC Board would be, simply, to help carry forward the momentum established over the last two years. Much has been done, much is left to do. The best, I believe, is yet to come.

Greg  
Spicer

I am asking for your vote as a candidate for a position on the CNNC Board of Directors. I am running for a second (and, I must say, last) term, having served first as VP and then as President of the Board. Over the last two years, I have worked hard with my colleagues to steady the organization in a period of serious transition while helping move the CNNC forward on several fronts. This last year, I had

the privilege of leading the Board as we worked on ways to make the CNNC more efficient and focused. We now have a community plan, a sharper focus in terms of mission and vision, and a keen desire to implement our plan in ways that will maximize community/membership involvement while allowing for speedy action in the areas of community growth and development.

# WARRIORS

*Additional nominations can be made from the floor at the April 12th General Membership Meeting.*

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The following nominees did not yet submit bios for the newsletter but are still on the ballot for the election:  
John Augustine, Scott Mosser.

Kim Bracken, Laurie Charlton and Courtney Center were all nominated at the March General Membership Meeting, however; they elected to have their names removed from the ballot.



## CNNC Master Plan Implementation

[ continued from page 2 ]

### EDUCATION, YOUTH, ARTS and CULTURE

- Create Central Northside Resource Guide and Community bulletin boards
- Improve Alpine Gardens Playground
- Identify and meet with 15 organizations and institutions to develop partnership opportunities

### SAFETY and TRANSPORTATION

- Develop crosswalk improvements on targeted streets
- Strategize with City to enforce traffic regulations and support crime prevention
- Implement lighting improvements in targeted areas

### ECONOMY and MARKET

- Marketing/Branding/PR Program focusing on safety and image
- Create a draft reuse plan for Columbus Middle School

### ARCHITECTURE and URBAN DESIGN

- Garden Block District/Reddour
- Brighton Corridor
- Activate and secure vacant lots and parcels
- Code Enforcement/Property Maintenance and management policies

With the above focus points we hope that we can cover both the long and short term goals for the neighborhood and we will be seeking the memberships' input and efforts into how we can put together task forces to make these recommendations a reality. As much as the community plan worked due to residents' input, the implementation is where the real work comes in and we can start to look forward to exciting new things happening in our community. We have many more important parts of the Community plan to implement and all the recommendations can be viewed online at: <http://www.cnnc-pgh.org/committees/community-planning-initiative> we also now have a full copy of the community plan available at the Allegheny Branch of the Carnegie Library on Federal Street.

## Upcoming Events

- April 1..... [Thursday]..... Wii VIDEO GAME PROGRAM..... 4:30 pm..... Carnegie Library ~ Allegheny
- April 8..... [Thursday]..... MOMMY & ME YOGA..... 10:30 am..... Carnegie Library ~ Allegheny
- April 9..... [Friday]..... FAMILY STORYTIME..... 10:30 am..... Carnegie Library ~ Allegheny
- April 10..... [Saturday]..... PGH HERDS & PGH LANDMARKS PROG..... 3:30 pm..... Carnegie Library ~ Allegheny
- April 12..... [Monday]..... CNNC General Membership Meeting..... 7:00 pm..... Allegheny Traditional Academy
- Apr thru May..... [Mon & Wed]..... HOMEWORK CLUB..... 4:00 pm—5:00 pm..... Carnegie Library ~ Allegheny
- April 24..... [Saturday]..... TALK WITH ROB ROGERS..... call for time..... Carnegie Library ~ Allegheny
- April 27..... [Tuesday]..... FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY EVENT..... 6:00 pm..... Carnegie Library ~ Allegheny
- May 1 thru May 22.. [Saturdays]..... FAMILY STORYTIME..... 10:30 pm..... Carnegie Library ~ Allegheny



Rich in Diversity  
Rich in Promise

# Central Northside Neighborhood Council

1310 Arch Street  
Pittsburgh PA 15212  
[Email] info@cnn-c-pgh.org

## 2010 CNNC Membership Registration Form

Dues run from January 2010 to December 2010

[Please print legibly]

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (home) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE [other] \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to receive the Newsletter via email? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not reside in the Central Northside please list properties you own in the Central Northside.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in participating in the following CNNC committees:

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| _____ By-laws Committee       | _____ Litter/Beautification Committee   |
| _____ Communication Committee | _____ Membership Committee              |
| _____ Development Committee   | _____ Planning and Evaluation Committee |
| _____ Finance Committee       | _____ Safety Committee                  |
| _____ Fundraising Committee   |   |

Enclosed is \_\_\_\_\_ \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ \$3 [Seniors 60+] for my dues for 2010

If your organization/business would like to become a CNNC member, dues are \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Please name the delegate for your organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is an additional tax-deductible donation of: \$20 \$40 \$60 \$80 other

### (Office Use Only)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Received by \_\_\_\_\_

Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

# Allegheny Commons Tree Care Day ~ 05.01.2010

Greetings Fellow Northsiders,

As you all know, spring is finally approaching. Numerous new trees have been planted in **Allegheny Commons** over the last few years and it is time to tend them before the Western Pennsylvania Tree Climbing Championship, and before Kayak Pittsburgh sets up shop on Lake Elizabeth. We will be weeding, mulching, and removing stakes & litter from around the trees from **10:00am until 2:00pm on May 1st**. Join your neighbors for this great spring event to help our trees thrive in one of our city's most historic and unique parks. Everyone is welcome. Stamps for Tree Tender cards will be given at the end of the event. Earn your pruners, Tree Tenders!!



Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest will supply the tools and coffee. RSVP to Don Mahaney at [don@pittsburghforest.org](mailto:don@pittsburghforest.org) or 412.362.6360. Tree Tenders in the area have already expressed interest in organizing a Pot Luck Lunch. If you are interested in participating in the Pot Luck, contact Alida Baker at [Alida@pittsburghnorthside.org](mailto:Alida@pittsburghnorthside.org).

**EVENT** ..... TREE CARE DAY, hosted by Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest  
**WHEN** ..... May 1, 2010 ~ 10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
**PLACE** ..... Allegheny Commons  
**MEETING AT** ..... George Washington Memorial  
**WHO'S INVITED** ..... EVERYONE  
**RSVP** ..... Don Mahaney at [don@pittsburghforest.org](mailto:don@pittsburghforest.org) or 412.362.6360  
**POT LUCK LUNCH CONTACT** ..... [alida@pittsburghforest.org](mailto:alida@pittsburghforest.org)

R i c h i n D i v e r s i t y . R i c h i n P r o m i s e .

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