



New Allegheny Times

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MEXICAN WAR STREETS SOCIETY AND THE CENTRAL NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Looking Ahead...

2011 is off to an exciting start. The board of the Mexican War Streets Society met for the January 2011 Retreat, where we discussed the direction of the year ahead. We welcomed Kathy Deis as the Greenspace chair, Tim and Debbie Proctor as Membership chairs, and Zandrea Ambrose to the seat of Treasurer. We will have a strong focus on preservation, with the hope of making the dream of expanding the City Historic District a reality.

General Membership Meetings

Meetings will now be on Mondays and held quarterly. Dates will be published in the newsletter as well as delivered electronically. The first meeting will be held Monday, February 21st at the Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church, 416 West North Ave, starting at 7:00 p.m. We encourage you to come to the meetings and bring a friend to become a new member.

Historic District Expansion

For many years there has been discussion about expanding the Historic District. I met with the Central North Side Neighborhood Council President and Vice President early in 2010, where we discussed many important issues, one of which was the possibility of expanding the Historic District. The MWSS then enlisted the services of Lisa Miles (author of the book *Resurrecting Allegheny City*) to do in-depth historic research to support the nomination of the proposed new Historic District. Along with his own in-depth research, Jim Lawrence compiled the information that Lisa Miles provided him. Jim gave months of his time to compile the nomination packet which is a spectacular assemblage of historic information. This nomination is focused on preserving and protecting the community from further destruction for generations to come.

Bruce Harshman, MWSS President **MWSS**

Invention, Image and Investment: Crafting a Future that Matters

Last week while at a store in the East end of Pittsburgh, I ran into a familiar salesman and, as we got to talking, he told me he was thinking of moving out of his home on the Southside. Of course, I told him that he should move here, to the Central Northside. After an uncomfortable moment, he said that he used to live in the Mexican War Streets but didn't feel comfortable moving back because he feared the neighborhood is not safe. There are lots of things that could elicit a response like this, ranging from the constant evening news reports from "police headquarters on the Northside" to some audacious homicides in recent years, and years of visible blight may have played a role. But there's no doubt that the singular image of our neighborhood as a hotbed of crime discourages investment. We dismiss these kinds of responses at our own peril.

We need a new story for the Central Northside—a narrative that more fully expresses the great reasons to live, work or open a business in a diverse and increasingly thriving urban neighborhood so close to the city's political, financial and entertainment centers. According to an essay in the Spring 2000 issue of *Building Blocks*—a publication of the Fannie Mae Foundation—the process of "reimagining distressed communities" is a "potentially powerful tool to promote revitalization" and to attract investors into formerly distressed communities. Although the essay's authors are speaking primarily about reigniting financial investment in communities, money is not the only way in which reimagining a community can yield new investment. The ideas of investment and ownership are not simply financial matters; they are emotional matters as well. There is a reason we use the expression, "I'm invested in this relationship" or "You should take ownership of that problem." To be sure, you may have invested heavily in the neighborhood financially but, ultimately, this kind of financial investment, this kind of ownership is grounded in a belief that this is a place that is worth calling home, regardless of what one does or doesn't own.

You are invested in this neighborhood: You "own" its problems and its potential if you care about its image. No matter what financial investment each of us has, we share a common investment in the future of our community. So, when you read in this issue of *The New Allegheny Times* about the CNNC's efforts to re-imagine or re-brand our community for the benefit of residents and outside investor's alike, think twice before you dismiss it as "mere PR." The image of a community matters not only to outside investors but also to our future and to the degree that we can invest ourselves in a brighter future.

Greg Spicer, CNNC President **CNNC**

MAR / APR 2011



PO Box 6588
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www.mexicanwarstreets.org

OUR MISSION:

*To preserve the
historic character of the
Mexican War Streets and to
promote our neighborhood
through personal and
community involvement.*



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Phase II of Federal Hill

Construction on Phase II of the three-phase, \$15 million Federal Hill housing development in the Central Northside is underway. The housing initiative is a collaboration between S & A Homes, The Central Northside Neighborhood Council (CNNC), and the URA, and this portion of the project will bring 19 townhouses to the once blighted intersection of Alpine and Federal Streets.

Between November 2009 and September 2010, the entirety of the 23 Phase I townhouses, located one block downhill from the Phase II site, were sold. Developer S & A Homes is working to have the second phase homes completed by Spring 2012. The houses will range in size between 1,400 to 2,300-square-feet and sell for between \$140,000 and \$299,000. All will offer at least three bedrooms and one-and-a-half bathrooms.

"Customers can put in options, they can individualize the property. They can choose the appliances they want, change walls, and change the flooring. They're not spec houses. The customer gets to customize them," says Andy Haines, vice president of S & A Homes.

The Federal Hill project began in 1994 when the URA and CNNC worked together to declare the area blighted in order to pave the way for major redevelopment. Indeed, since the completion of Phase I, Federal Street looks radically different.

"I get a lot of calls from people looking for older homes to restore in the area, so it's certainly spurred the housing market and continued the momentum of the neighborhood," says Tom Hardy, development consultant for the CNNC.

Reprinted by permission of John Farley, *Pop City*



It's Election Time Again

How time flies, while thinking about what to write in this article we re-read the last few years of newsletter editions from around the same time. Things have definitely changed in this neighborhood since moving here in 2008. Some would believe for the better and some believe we still have much work to be done. We have made great strides in this neighborhood, with the new homes on Federal Street, a new Café Mocha, and work that will soon begin on the Garden Theater block. There are in fact still many things to do with implementing our community plan and you can be a part of this.

Being on the board is no easy task, it is definitely a working board, you have to be able to attend at least two meetings each month and many times that number will increase once you take on being a chair of a specific committee. You have to be willing to listen to all neighbors, not just the ones that voted for you! And sometimes the things you want to happen the most take the longest time. But the rewards and the satisfaction I have felt from serving on this Board are unlike any we have experienced.

We need your help in continuing the momentum of the things that have been happening, speaking for your community, protecting what is here and improve the quality of life for all our residents. Please contact our election committee if you would like more information or to suggest residents that you believe would be good candidates. You can do so via email: elections@cnn-cpg.org or contact us directly at 412.586.5746. In accordance with the amended by-laws, each member shall be entitled to one vote and is eligible to become a candidate, provided he/she is:

[A] present at the meeting, [B] has attended at least one other regular membership or special membership meeting as a dues paid member within the last twelve months, [C] is a member listed in the membership list on the record date as established in the By-Laws and [D] is current with dues.

Also in accordance with the amended by-laws, a member is now defined as any person, at least eighteen years old, who is current with membership dues and resides in the Central Northside Neighborhood. An individual member is eligible to cast one and only one vote or ballot per CNNC decision or election. Group members are not eligible to vote in council business, including the Board of Directors elections. Nominations will be open now through the April meeting.

Although the board makes no endorsements of particular candidates, we think it is important that the person elected adds to the board in terms of unique skills sets, life experiences or social/cultural identity. The current board possesses a wide variety of life experiences and skill sets in areas like law, politics, business, real estate, insurance, finance, education, healthcare, human resources, travel and tourism and communications. This high level of skill has allowed to Board to function productively without the expense of a full time staff.

The current board varies somewhat by sex/gender, income level, age, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, religious identification or practice, educational attainment, political affiliation, home ownership and other factors representative of the diversity in our neighborhood. Even so, we recognize a lack of representation on the board by persons of African descent. Given the current demographics of our neighborhood, the under-representation of African-Americans on the board concerns us greatly and we strongly encourage members to identify, nominate and help elect qualified neighbors who might help us fill this position in a way that benefits the board and the whole neighborhood.

Help your neighborhood organization by identifying qualified candidates and by voting! Many thanks.

Neil Parham and Jan Myers
Election Committee, CNNC Board of Directors



MWSS Neighborhood-Wide Yard & Art Sale

Got junk? Turn your trash (or treasures) into cash during the Mexican War Streets Neighborhood-Wide **Yard & Art Sale** on **Saturday, May 14** from 9am - 4pm. Participation is easy -- if you live in the MWS neighborhood (from Buena Vista to Arch and North Avenue to Jefferson) just set up your goods for sale in front of your house...inside your house...or in groups of your choice. Community artists are also encouraged to display and sell their artwork, as this event was created to replace the former annual Art Show at the Firehouse.

There is no cost to you. The MWSS will promote the event, and we encourage you to share the date with anyone who might be interested in attending. The first Yard & Art Sale was held in 2009, and was a great success. If you'd like to participate, please send your address to Leslie Vincen at lvincen@comcast.net and we'll add it to a map that will be available on our website.



(Photo of 2009 Yard & Art Sale courtesy of Leslie Vincen)

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(Annual dues: \$12 per member, \$6 students/seniors 65+, \$50/5 years or \$150 Lifetime Member.

Dues period through Dec 2011 or in perpetuity.)

I would like to be involved with:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> House Tour | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Streets | <input type="checkbox"/> PR/Clerical Help |

Please return this form with your payment to:

Mexican War Streets Society, PO Box 6588, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Spring Book Sale at Library!

The Friends of CLP - Allegheny will hold its first annual Spring Book Sale on **Friday and Saturday, April 22nd and 23rd from 10am to 4pm each day.**

A special evening preview will be held from 6 to 8pm on Thursday, April 21st for members of the Friends of CLP - Allegheny.

Donations are being accepted now through the day of the sale. Please drop off your gently loved books and audio visual material at the library, 1230 Federal Street. All proceeds go toward the enrichment of the branch's programming and collection.

Please contact CLP Allegheny for more information at 412-237-1890.
Carlton Stout, Manager

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Pledge Now! Northeast Common Challenge Grant



The Allegheny Commons Initiative seeks the support of the Northside community as the second phase of park restoration begins. The \$2.2 million Northeast Common project will be undertaken in phases, beginning with the area along Cedar Avenue between East Ohio and Tripoli Streets. The project will restore paths, plant trees, add lighting and pedestrian amenities. To better accommodate the Farmers' Market, the lawns will be reinforced and electrical access provided.

The restoration of the historic Northeast Fountain and the promenade along North Avenue to Federal Street is next up. To support that project, the Colcom Foundation has issued a challenge grant – for every dollar pledged, they will contribute another dollar, up to \$100,000. As an example, the Mexican War Streets Society's 2011 contribution of \$5,000 will leverage \$5,000 more from the Colcom Foundation.

Individuals and business are invited to contribute at any level, by going to www.alleghenycommons.org and making a donation to the project through the Northside Leadership Conference. Please help maximize the grant by making a tax-deductible donation, But hurry, Colcom's offer expires on May 31, 2011.

Alida Baker, Project Director,
Allegheny Commons Initiative
412-330-2569 • www.alleghenycommons.org

Spring Clean-Up Days

The schedule for Neighborhood Clean-Up Days will be the first Saturday of each month, April thru November from 10am to Noon. There will be extra days, such as PITT's Make a Difference Day, the City of Pgh Redd Up Day, and Global Impact 2011. We are looking for projects for kids to do during Global Impact 2011. Last year, we cleaned up at city steps and historic alleys, and did some weeding and planting. Call Kathy Deis at 412-321-6979 or email kdeis@aol.com with ideas or to volunteer as a leader of a project.

There will be a few trees planted this spring that didn't get planted last fall. If anyone thinks they may have space for a sidewalk tree (3ft x 10ft) and are willing to care for it, call me and I'll bring the forms to you to sign. The forms need to be completed by March 25th for trees to be planted in the Fall.

April 2nd - First Clean-Up Day - 10am to Noon
April 16th - City of Pgh Redd Up Day - 10am - Noon
May 7th - Global Impact Day - 12 noon to 4pm

We'll have snacks, water and coffee at each Clean-Up event, along with tools, gloves and trash bags.

Kathy Deis, MWSS Greenspace Chair
kdeis@aol.com • cell 973-615-1338 • home 412-321-6979

MWSS

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CNNC Development Committee Leads the Way

By late spring, a project for an additional 46 new and rehab housing will be built North of Samponia Way. Several units adjacent to Federal Hill will be built by S&A while the majority of the project was awarded to local firm October Development. That component will be managed by the CNNC.

The new CNNC has now formalized its "Conservatorship"—a program wherein a wholly owned subsidiary of the CNNC will seek legal control over blighted and abandoned properties, locate developers and create new and affordable housing in the neighborhood.

The exclusive negotiating period between the URA and the development group led by Wayne Zukin has been extended so that tenants for the Garden block can be firmed up before construction begins.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: JOIN THE CNNC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE!
The CNNC Development Committee: John Francona, Gwen Moorer, Beth Kocur, Colleen Bender, Jim Lawrence, Joe Mansfield, Elise Yanders, Tom Hardy (Development Consultant), Kirk Burkley (Vice-chair), Dennis McAndrew (Chair). The Conservatorship Sub-Committee (Central Northside Development, Inc.): John Rhoades, David Charlton, Joe Mansfield, Elise Yanders, Scott Schuster, Dennis McAndrew, Kevin Hanley (Development Consultant), Kirk Burkley (Chair).

Many thanks to all those who have served so well. Thanks to the Board and members of CNNC for their constant support and commitment to a new vision for our community.

Dennis McAndrew, CNNC Development Committee Chair

CNNC

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March 25, 2011

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(Double bill)
April 29, 2011

Caribbean Jazz Project
May 7-8, 2011

MCG Jazz is a social enterprise of Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, a subsidiary of Manchester Bidwell Corporation, a non-profit arts and learning center. MCG Jazz supports its mission to preserve, present, and promote jazz music every year with a full concert series dedicated to hosting the world's finest jazz musicians, and a record label and educational outreach program that reaches thousands of music lovers and students both locally and internationally. The Manchester Craftsmen's Guild Music Hall is located at 1815 Metropolitan Street, North Side.

For more information, please contact the MCG Jazz box office at 412-322-0800 or visit our web site at mcgjazz.org. Artists and dates are subject to change.



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Dates are **Wednesdays** March 23rd, 30th, April 6th 5:30pm-8:30pm, and **Tuesdays** May 10th, 17th, 24th 5:30pm-8:30pm, held at the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh.

The cost of the course is \$40 and includes materials, a meal at each session, and a t-shirt upon completion. A reduced rate option is available for those on a limited income.

Contact Caitlin for details at
Caitlin@treepittsburgh.org.

Hazlett Hot List

March 5 -13, 2011 - Varied Times
The Glass Menagerie

Presented by Prime Stage Theatre
Viewed as an iconic piece of American theater, the production will be directed by Richard Keitel, a past recipient of the Harry Schwab Award ("The Harry") for Excellence in Theatre by Pittsburgh Magazine. The production will star award-winning performer Robin Walsh as Amanda Wingfield.

Saturday, March 19, 2011 - 8 pm
Newband and the Harry Partch Instruments

Presented by Music on the Edge and The Andy Warhol Museum
The masters of microtonal music will perform on instruments invented by the iconoclastic Just Intonation composer Harry Partch (1901-1974) as well as instruments invented by composer and Newband co-founder Dean Drummond.

March 24 - 25, 2011
Doors 7pm; Event 8pm
SWAN Day 2011: A Celebration of Pittsburgh's Women Artists

Presented by No Name Players
No Name Players presents the 3rd SWAN Day celebration, an annual event showcasing Pittsburgh's women artists. This event is part of a relatively new international holiday called SWAN (Support Women Artists Now) Day, which is an annual event that takes place on the last Saturday of Women's History Month.

March 31 -April 3, 2011 - Varied Times
Squonk Opera's Mayhem and Majesty

In Squonk Opera's newest production, Mayhem and Majesty, the sonic hooligans of Squonk Opera explore the poetry of music making and the power of sound with camera jibs, projection puppets and kinetic machines.

April 14 -17, 2011 - Varied Times
Beauty and the Beast Jr.

Presented by Pittsburgh Musical Theater
Beauty and the Beast is a Tony Award-winning tale of wonder and love! Based on the Disney film, this modern day classic has captured audiences around the world with a fairytale score and delightful songs Be Our Guest, Belle, Something There, and Beauty and the Beast.

More info for these events go to www.NewHazlettTheater.org

No Vacancy: Reviving an Empty Deutschtown Lot

The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and Team Laminates are reviewing design proposals to transform an empty Deutschtown lot into a public art installation and garden beds that will provide vegetables to the community.

The project began in December when Team Laminates approached The Children's Museum about joining forces to beautify the 1,200-square-foot lot outside their building at the corner of Spring Garden Avenue and Vinal Street. The Children's Museum suggested the project might benefit from community input in the form of a design competition. Children's Museum youth programs coordinator Kimberly Bracken is working with Team Laminates, The Historic Deutschtown Development Corporation, and the community on the project.

"From the beginning the museum has said two things," says Chris Siefert, deputy director of The Children's Museum. "One is that if we want to do art and also design these garden beds we should try and make it as cohesive as possible. The second thing is that we're all committing to something that's going to have near and longer term implications. We're not just going to build something and walk away from it."

With grants from Alcoa and The National Endowment for the Arts, the winning proposal writer will be awarded \$5,000 for the project and will also receive donated supplies from Deutschtown's Team Laminates, Cully Glass Corp, and Artcraft Wood Products.

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Brady Communications Recommended To Help Central Northside's Image

Big changes are on the horizon for how the Central Northside presents itself. Building on the collaborative Community Plan effort of 2009, CNNC began a journey in August 2010, to examine the Central Northside's brand (including logo and colors, community name and reputation) and determine what, if any, changes were necessary. An ad hoc committee of Board members was formed to work with CNNC Communication Consultant, Karen Bryant on issuing a request for proposals (RFP) aimed at finding a PR/Communications firm to help in this effort.

As initial research moved forward, largely with community-based focus groups (see "Focus Groups," page 9), it was clear that the current "brand identity" (what people think about the neighborhood) does not accurately reflect who we are today as a community and where we plan to go in the future. It became obvious – it's time to consider a makeover.

In response to the RFP, three proposals were submitted representing very different approaches to rethinking and remaking our community's image. The committee conducted site visits to gain a thorough understanding of how each agency proposed to create a new brand identity for the Central Northside.

The committee's findings were unanimous. At the February Board of Director's meeting, the committee will recommend to the full board that CNNC pursue hiring Pittsburgh-based Brady Communications be approved to bring a strategic approach to rebranding the community and CNNC. It will then go to the CNNC membership for approval at March's monthly meeting.

The committee selected Brady Communications for having a full spectrum of capabilities, in-depth experience in community rebranding, direct experience with some of North Side's gems like the Children's Museum and the Carnegie Science Center and a well articulated passion for working with CNNC to effect positive change.

Stay tuned –as we begin the rebranding process, CNNC will engage the entire Central Northside community for input. A shared vision and commitment to action will be necessary to meet our vision to "... transform all our neighborhood's vacant lots and empty storefronts by filling them with thriving individuals, commerce and families of all kinds."

Karen Bryant, CNNC Communications Consultant
Karen Bryant & Associates
Karen@kjbryant.com

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Space for Change

For its new Literary Center project, City of Asylum/Pittsburgh was a winner in the national "Space for Change" Competition. The award is accompanied by \$50,000 and two years of technical support.

City of Asylum/Pittsburgh was begun in October of 2004 and is the publisher of Sampsonia Way. The organization is best known for its exiled-writer residency program and its "house publications" on the facades of the houses where the writers live. However, it also sponsors an annual Jazz-Poetry Concert and salon-style readings by authors from around the world as well as readings on the streets and gardens of the Central Northside and residencies for visiting international writers and translators.



What started out as a program with a limited mission has become a catalyst for the transformation of its Northside neighborhood, rooted in making reading and writing a part of everyday life. The literary center on Monterey Street will convert a former bar, a vacant lot, and an abandoned home into a unified space with a bookstore (specializing in translations), a bar-café-restaurant, and spaces for readings and writing workshops. The project will enable a major expansion of City of Asylum/Pittsburgh's literary program and residencies and is intended to be a home for literary activity in Pittsburgh.

Local foundation support has been critical to launching the project. Over \$1.5 million has been committed by the Richard King Mellon Foundation, The Heinz Endowments, and the Hillman Foundation, with additional support expected over the next few months. Ground-breaking is projected for this coming summer.

(Both buildings and the empty lot will become City of Asylum's Literary Center. Photo courtesy of Laura Mustio)

It's Humane to Volunteer

When I came across the listing for an available internship at the Western PA Humane Society, I knew immediately that I wanted to go. Helping animals was something I always wanted to do and it offered a chance to combine volunteer service with work experience. If you're going to college, it doesn't leave behind a lot of money to give to charity. Nonprofits like the Western PA Humane Society depend on the time volunteers offer every bit as much as they depend on the money that donors contribute.

Working at the WPA Humane Society has been an eye-opening experience. It's not as simple as picking up a homeless animal off the street, sticking it in a cage and then waiting for someone to take it home. It takes a lot of time and effort to get pets ready for adoption. The more human contact an animal receives, the friendlier it becomes and the more likely it is to be adopted. Helping an animal get adopted can involve something as simple as walking a dog once a week or cuddling a cat, to something as committed as taking a litter of kittens or puppies home for a few weeks of foster care. The Humane Society offers opportunities for every level of commitment. The rewards for volunteering are also tangible and immediate -- the creatures you're helping directly might not be able to say thank you, but it's extremely satisfying to hear that somebody is taking home your favorite walk buddy or that adorable cat you cuddled.

Every time I leave my internship, I feel like I've done something to help out a great cause. The next time you're sitting around watching TV and wondering what to do, consider stopping by the shelter and seeing how you can make a difference in the life of a homeless animal. I promise you will not regret it.

Sean Keeney
www.wpahumane.org

Go Green on St. Patrick's Day!

We are not talking about painting your face green, donning a green T-shirt emblazoned with "Erin go braug", or wearing a headband with Shamrocks that flash thanks to those tiny LED lights. No, we are referring to a combined effort of the Mexican War Streets Society's Green Space Initiative and Central Northside Neighborhood Council's Beautification Committee.

We are inviting all of our neighbors (or friends) who are interested in creating a cleaner, greener, and more beautiful Central Northside. Come join us at 1526 Monterey Street on **March 17 at 7pm** and share your ideas for potential projects for the 2011 season and feel free to come with as many St. Patty's day accessories as you like!

John Engle and Kathy Deis
Former & current MWSS Greenspace Chairs

MWSS

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Everyone's an Old Friend at The Modern

The Modern Café at 862 Western Avenue has been in operation since 1933, and although the décor has changed a bit since then, the cool retro outdoor sign prevails...along with the friendly atmosphere inside. After suffering from a fire on January 1, 2009 and being closed for 15 months, owners Dean and Irene Zotis reopened The Modern on April 5, 2010 and they haven't looked back. The Modern Café is a true neighborhood watering hole – the perfect place to grab a bite and a beer.

And not just any beer...with some helpful suggestions from daughter Constance, Dean and Irene are stocking an astounding number of ice-cold microbrews and craft beers from around the world. "We have beer tastings twice a month," said Constance. "That's how I've really gotten to know our customers. Sometimes I feel like I'm in a *Cheers* episode! Everybody knows each other...we're like one big happy family."



The beer selection at The Modern would make anyone happy. If they don't have what you want, they'll get it for you. The Modern offers 12 varieties on tap -- including Dark Horse Crooked Tree IPA, Blue Moon, Great Lakes Eliot Ness, Guinness, East End Big Hop, Rogue Dead Guy Ale and Magic Hat #9.

By the bottle, you can choose from standard Domestic or some impressive Imports -- like Mythos, Grolsch, Stella Artois, Spaten, and Moose Head -- or an even more impressive selection of Microbrews -- including Abita Purple Haze, Dogfish Head IPA, Pipe Organ Pale Ale, Weyerbacher Merry Monk, Victory Hop Devil, Terrapin Rye Pale Ale, Duck

Rabbit Milk Stout, Flying Dog Beers, and MANY more. You can even create your own Mix & Match 6-Packs To Go from their selection of bottled beers.

The Little Deli is located directly next door, and a great selection of fresh Munchies, Salads and Sandwiches is offered daily at The Modern Cafe. HAPPY HOUR features half-off appetizers Monday - Friday from 5 to 7pm; THURSDAY is Craft Beer Night -- Enjoy \$1 Off all Craft (microbrew) beers; and FRIDAY is Import Beer Night -- Enjoy \$1 Off all Imports.

Coming up on **Friday, March 11th** is **Guinness Night** from 9 to 11pm. Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day by learning how to pour the perfect pint of Guinness! A special keg will be tapped so you can show off your skills to your friends.

Check out www.themoderncafe.com to get a listing of live music events and other happenings, and be sure to make The Modern a regular stop when you're ready for a night out in the neighborhood!

(Photo of Constance Zotis courtesy of Leslie Vincen)

*Come and see what's new at the
Modern Cafe and The Little Deli!*

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Calendar of Events

Now through May 29, 2011

WHOOSH!

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh
www.pittsburghkids.org

Monday, March 14, 7pm

CNNC General Membership Meeting

Allegheny Traditional Academy
www.cnnc-pgh.org

Monday, April 11, 7pm

CNNC General Membership Meeting

Allegheny Traditional Academy
www.cnnc-pgh.org

Saturday, April 16, times vary

Breakfast & Lunch with Easter Bunny

National Aviary
www.aviary.org

Fri & Sat, April 22 & 23, 10am - 4pm

CLP-Allegheny BOOK SALE

Carnegie Library Allegheny Branch
www.carnegielibrary.org

Saturday, May 14, 9am - 4pm

Mexican War Streets Neighborhood Yard & Art Sale

www.mexicanwarstreets.org

Monday, May 16, 7pm

MWSS General Membership Meeting

Unitarian Church, 416 W. North Ave.
www.mexicanwarstreets.org

Friday, June 17

Urban Garden Party

Mattress Factory
www.mattress.org



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Focus Groups Tell a Consistent Story

As part of CNNC's review of the Central Northside's brand identity over the last few months, community members have participated in focus groups answering questions about what drew them to the area, what they value about the community and what differentiates this area from others.

We talked to a wide spectrum of residents reflecting key target segments: retirees; gays and lesbians; young professionals; African American professionals; artists; and, young families with children. Their many insights will be shared with the advertising agency selected to conduct the rebranding campaign.

Out of the diversity of voices, several consistent themes emerged that set this community apart from all others in the city:

- People are the community: Whether we're seen as quirky, urban pioneers, cultural creatives, blue collar or young professionals – one thing unifies us – we care for each other in a way reminiscent of times gone-by.
- We celebrate diversity: There is a sincere celebration of diversity in the people who reside here and their ideas, professions, talents, lifestyles, ages, races, sexual orientation and education.
- You can get there from here! No other neighborhood has such walkable access to downtown, cultural venues and sporting venues and easy driving access to the airport and other parts of the city.
- History is all around: The architecture and the history of the area converge to create a compelling and meaningful foundation for community.
- Get "stoopified!" Prospective residents might have to navigate negative perceptions of the North Side from friends and family, but once they step into the neighborhood, they will be surprised and converted. Whether they encounter folk on the stoops or at the Monterey Pub or view amazing homes at the MWS House Tour – the key to changing their perception is getting them here – boots on the ground.

Karen Bryant, CNNC Communications Consultant
Karen Bryant & Associates
Karen@kjbryant.com

CNNC

MF: Event & Exhibition

GESTURES 15
Friday, March 25, 2011
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

\$10 (MF Members & CMU/PITT Students FREE w/ I.D.)

"Gestures 15 is about process and collaboration: how the curator chooses artists and the process of the artist to create and respond to visual cues or concepts. My process as curator is to identify the inner workings and conceptual subtleties of aesthetic practices, see the potential, and offer experimental opportunities to Pittsburgh's creative community."

–Katherine Talcott, Curator of Gestures 15

SARAH OPPENHEIMER: 610-3356
April 26, 2008

Sarah Oppenheimer opens apertures in existing architecture, modifying the recognizable modular units (such as rooms) that make up our standardized built world. Interested in the way that people navigate their environments through both familiar bodily experience and with the aid of navigational tools, like maps, Oppenheimer's works alter the visitor's experience and perception in the gallery space.

Contact: info@mattress.org • www.mattress.org



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www.Bistro-ToGo.com

Hop Over to the Aviary!

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

April 16: 8:30 am

\$20 per person; children under 2 admitted free

Enjoy a hot breakfast cooked up by Bistro to Go, pose for photos* with the Easter Bunny, and enjoy a take away treat. Includes admission and VIP seating to the Aviary's presentation of Wings!, 11 a.m. in the FliteZone Theater. Advance registration is required. Call 412-258-9439 to reserve your spot. *Bring your own camera

Lunch with the Easter Bunny

April 16: 11:30 am

\$20 per person; children under 2 admitted free

Enjoy a buffet lunch by Bistro to Go, pose for photos* with the Easter Bunny, and a take away treat. Includes admission and VIP seating to the Aviary's presentation of Wings!, 1:30 p.m. in the FliteZone Theater. Advance registration is required. Call 412-258-9439 to reserve your spot. *Bring your own camera

The National Aviary is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$13 adults; \$12 seniors; \$10.50 children 2-12; under 2 admitted free. For more information call 412.323.7235 or click www.aviary.org.



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A Message from City Council

As we prepare ourselves to embrace the much awaited coming of Spring, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the faith that you have placed in me to be your City Councilman. It is both an honor and a privilege to serve you in this capacity. I spent my first year in office learning the innermost workings of City government, meeting organizations from the various neighborhoods that comprise District 6 and the residents whom I represent. Now well into my second year in office, I will continue to hone this knowledge to ensure City services are appropriately and most effectively delivered to my constituency.

A principal concern that was consistently brought to my attention from various individuals and organizations in the Northside was the issue of preservation. This is especially true of the Mexican War Streets, a historic neighborhood and a jewel for the City of Pittsburgh. The stately architecture lining the streets and the rich history they embody are to be celebrated and highlighted. To preserve the unique qualities that make the Mexican War Streets a one-of-a-kind neighborhood is a goal my office will continue to pursue in its response to issues of blight in the community. By swiftly addressing the problems posed by abandoned buildings and vacant lots we can avoid their negative impacts in the long run. We need an active residency to work in conjunction with our office and make us aware of problem areas that need to be addressed.

We also need your help in locating potholes in need of repair. The Public Works Department is launching a City-wide effort to fix streets in disrepair. Residents can report areas of concern at www.pittsburghpothole.com, via the 311 line, or by contacting the District 6 Council Office directly at 412-255-2134. Non-residents can contact 412-255-CITY. Complaints should include street addresses, intersections and landmarks to ensure workers get to the right places. Once received, the City will attempt to address complaints within three to five days. With information provided by residents such as you, City government services will most efficiently respond to problems in your community. We hope that you will join us in this joint effort.

Councilman R. Daniel Lavelle

Looking To Become More Involved with PHLF?

Please help us grow our membership. Consider a gift of membership to PHLF for your family, friends and acquaintances.

In addition to our series of free walking tours, membership offers discounts on PHLF publications, area historic hotels and B&Bs, and discounted invitations to preservation seminars, lectures, and special events, among other benefits.

For more information: www.phlf.org

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., President
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Readings Under the Big Tent

In early May, City of Asylum/Pittsburgh presents "Readings Under the Big Tent." The readings are free, and afterward there will be time for questions and answers.

The readings will take place outdoors, under a tent behind 318 Sampsonia Way, and they will start at 7 pm. Reservations are recommended: 412-321-2190 or coapgh@yahoo.com. All readings and books will be in English.

May 3: Three authors (in partnership with PEN World Voices). Hosted by Eric Shiner, Acting Director of the Andy Warhol Museum

David Bezmozgis (Lithuania, now living in Canada)

The Free World

David is one of the New Yorker's "20 under 40" novelists. This novel is one of the most eagerly awaited novels of 2011. He tells great, nuanced stories in a very idiomatic, yet precise English and with deadpan humor.

Kyung-Sook Shin (Korea)

Please Look After Mom

Takes us into "unfamiliar corners of a foreign culture and into the shadowy recesses of the heart. In spare, exquisite prose, Kyung-sookShin penetrates the very essence of what it means to be a family, and a human being." — Gwendolyn Brooks, Pulitzer Prize winner

Hervé Le Tellier (France)

Enough About Love

"Any man—or woman—who wants to hear nothing—or no more—about love should put this book down," warns Le Tellier in this complicated tale of the romantic lives of four Parisians. A quintessential French novel.

May 10: Gary Shteyngart (American, born in Russia)

Super Sad True Love Story

Hosted by Terrance Hayes (Pittsburgh author and winner of the 2010 National Book Award in Poetry).

Gary is also one of the New Yorker's "20 under 40" novelists.

"A wonderful new novel...a supersad, superfunny, super affecting performance — a book that not only showcases his ebullient satiric gifts but also uncovers his abilities to write deeply and movingly about love and loss and mortality." — *New York Times*

May 11: Jennifer Kwok (Netherlands via Brooklyn from Hong Kong)

Girl in Translation

Hosted by Bill O'Driscoll of *The City Paper*

"Part fairy tale, part autobiography... what puts this debut novel toward the top of the pile is its buoyant voice and its slightly subversive ending that suggests "happily ever after" may have more to do with love of self and of family than with any old Prince Charming." — *O, The Oprah Magazine*

KEEP UP TO DATE ON ORG NEWS

The Mexican War Streets Society & the Central Northside Neighborhood Council are pleased to bring the *New Allegheny Times* to you every other month. To contribute to the newsletter, or to place an advertisement, just send an email to Leslie Vincen at lvincen@comcast.net. Be sure to look for neighborhood updates posted at www.cnn-c-pgh.org and www.mexicanwarstreets.org. To join the email bulletin board, simply join Yahoo and then subscribe to the YahooGroup. The HRL is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChatNorthside>.

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Wing Night Tuesday

Spring Into Fun at CM!

Please note: The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh will be closed on Sunday, April 24, 2011.

"WHOOSH!"

Through May 29, 2011

Step inside a whirlwind room, climb in the cockpit of an old-school airplane, build and launch rockets, experiment with light and bubbles to create colorful sculptures and more in this new exhibit all about air.

Billy Kelly and the Blah Blah Blahs LIVE

Saturday, March 5; Shows at 1:30 & 2:30 pm

Don't miss the wry, sardonic humor and catchy pop melodies of Billy Kelly and the Blah Blah Blahs' children's music that is catching on across the nation.

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Performance

Saturday, March 12; 1:00 pm

Experience a live performance by musicians from The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

Irony City

Saturday, March 19; Shows at 1:30 and 3:00 pm

Join the improvisational fun with interactive shows by Pittsburgh improv comedy troupe Irony City.

The Legendary Illusions of Angeloni

Saturday & Sunday, March 26 & 27; Shows at 1:30 and 3:00 pm

"The Legendary Illusions of Angeloni" will defy your senses as objects appear and disappear and float into the air before your very eyes! Astounding and astonishing illusions are in store as magician Tim Angeloni debuts on the Children's Museum stage.

Ken Waldman LIVE

Saturday, April 9; Shows at 1:30 and 2:30 pm

Don't miss a live performance full of poetry, humor and fantastic fiddling by Alaska's Fiddling Poet, Ken Waldman.

More information at 412.322.5058 or www.pittsburghkids.org

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