

CENTRAL NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



Upcoming Meeting Alerts

• General Membership Meetings

Monday, February 13, 2012

Monday, March 12, 2012

7:00–9:00 PM

(doors open at 6:30 PM)

Allegheny Traditional Academy

• Safety Committee Meeting

February 2012 (date TBD)

Contact Paco Mahone

PMahone@cnc-pgh.org

CNNC Launches e-Newsletter

With this issue, the Central Northside Neighborhood Council launches its first e-Newsletter to keep residents, community partners and interested individuals informed about Central Northside happenings and news.

If you are not already on the CNNC Announce List, go to www.cnc-pgh.org and sign up. You'll automatically receive the e-newsletter.

For individuals who do not have email, this hard copy alternative will be placed around the community:

- Buena Vista Coffee House
- Doug's Market
- Crazy Mocha
- North Side Public Library
- Allegheny General Hospital
- Foster Square Community Space
- Participating churches

If you have suggestions for content, please let us know. Send an email to: communications@cnc-pgh.org or call (412) 465-0188.



Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|-------|
| CNNC Launches e-Newsletter | 1 |
| President's Update | 1 & 2 |
| Greg Spicer—Jefferson Award Winner | 2 |
| Updates: Safety, Development and Re-assessment | 3 |
| Central Northside Spotlighted in Pennsylvania Magazine | 4 |
| CNNC BOD Election | 4 |
| Newsletter Contact Info | 4 |

President's Update—February 2012

Happy New Year to all Central Northsiders! I hope you and your families had a wonderful holiday season. CNNC members have been busy these last few months. Let's take a moment to reflect on CNNC's recent accomplishments.

Finance and Fundraising

- We have completed our 2012 budget (details to be provided at February meeting).
- Barb Talerico built a profile on Pittsburgh Gives which netted us over \$2,000.
- Prepared funding requests from CITF, ACCBO, CDBG.
- Slashed overhead to the core (no more phone bill or printer lease).
- Anthony Cabral created a great line of fundraising giftware that has raised thus far over \$2,000.

Report continues on page 2 . . .

President's Report—January / February 2012 (continued)



Spring will be upon us soon with many exciting activities and opportunities for your involvement. Please consider volunteering your time on one of our committees – our community will be better for it!

***Thank you,
Chris D'Addario
CNNC President***

Technology and Infrastructure

- Upgraded IT accounts with a Google product (FREE to non-profits) that allows archiving all important CNNC documents.
- In process of cleaning up the by-laws; work continues.

Development

- Assisted in and helped create an equity stake for the CNNC in the old Toula's building.
- Developed and implemented the first real policy for the sale of vacant/abandoned properties and lots.
- Attended all URA meetings concerning the Garden Theater Block.

Strategic Partners

- Met with PPND in order to update them on our progress and needs for the future.
- Met with AGH Vice President Deb Kaplan to continue our excellent relationship.
- Greg Spicer worked with Light of Life (per the Mayor's request) to add community voices as they decide on their development plans.

Safety

- Met with Commander Brackney over Safety Concerns.
- Met with URA about safety concerns.

Greg Spicer Wins Jefferson Award for Public Service



If just one person can make a difference, just think what a few more of us can accomplish!

It's not every day that an individual receives a Jefferson Award for Public service, let alone one of our very own Central Northside Neighbors! CNNC recently learned that Dr. Greg Spicer is a recipient of this prestigious award.

The enduring goal of these awards is to recognize, inspire and activate volunteerism and public service in communities, workplaces and schools across America.

From the beginning, the Jefferson Awards has been based on a simple idea – one of the most powerful

ideas in the world – one person can make a difference. That is the heart of democracy at work.

Having read those qualifications it should be no surprise that our very own Dr. Greg Spicer was recently awarded this honor.

Helping to guide a Volunteer Neighborhood organization through difficult discussions and rallying efforts toward a common goal is no easy task....however it's well worth it when the efforts begin to take shape, grow,

and mature into newsworthy progress!

Please join the CNNC in congratulating Greg, and more importantly thanking him for the tireless effort he has poured into our community

Safety Update

Winter is here and we'll all be spending more time indoors over the next few months pining for another beautiful summer in the Mexican War Streets and the Greater North Side. While we hope this year is different, we know that the arrival of summer may bring some safety issues.

The CNNC Safety Committee, along with its neighbors, is working diligently to identify ways in which we can help to improve the safety of all who live within our neighborhood. Based on the feedback from the community as well as the information collected in the recent survey and meetings, we feel that there are things which we can accomplish.

We invite you to share your voice as we move forward.

Please come to the February 13th CNNC membership meeting and learn about the next steps in our efforts to promote and increase safety. The Safety Committee hopes that everyone will listen, chime in and walk with us. Contact Safety Committee Chair Paco Mahone for more information:

pmahone@cnnc-pgh.org

Re-Assessment Update

Tom Hardy offers this recap on the status of the re-assessment situation as of the end of January 2012:

- Court has delayed use of new assessment values to 2013
- If you think you have reason to file a formal appeal on the new assessed value, you may file an informal appeal by February 15, 2012 and a formal appeal by April 2, 2012.
- Appeal forms are available: call 350-4600 or go online at www.county.allegheny.pa.us/opa/aforms.aspx. Make sure the information listed for your properties is correct (square footage, # bathrooms, lot size, etc.)
- If you file an appeal make sure you have done your homework which means having examples of recent comparable sales to justify what you believe the market value of your home is.
- Realize that the formal appeal is a quasi-judicial process. Testimony will be given under oath. The taxing bodies will likely have a lawyer representing them. You are not required to have a lawyer, but you should strongly consider hiring one.
- Keep in mind that your tax bill may not go up, even if your re-assessment has. This is because the taxing bodies are required to re-set the tax rate (i.e. millage) after a re-assessment.
- All of this info is subject to change because of the ongoing judicial process. Check County website for updates.

Development Update

Big news – Mayor Luke Ravenstahl held a press conference on Monday, January 30th at the Masonic Hall to spotlight the \$17 million "Garden Block Revitalization" project. Participating in the festivities were CNNC President Chris D'Addario and developers Wayne Zukin and Craig Totino. Also in attendance were members of the CNNC Board of Directors, local government representatives and many Central Northside residents.



A milestone was reached when Nakama announced it will be opening a second Japanese sushi bar and hibachi grille in what is now the

vacant Masonic Building. Patrons will have additional parking behind the Garden Theater and at the 500-space parking garage on Federal Street.

Construction is already under way at two buildings on Federal Street that are being stabilized and turned into new commercial space. Rehabilitation on the Garden Theater and Masonic Hall will take place this summer.

Wayne Zukin of Zukin Realty and Craig Totino of Collaborative Ventures are also in negotiations with owners of the Round Corner Cantina in Lawrenceville and the former Firehouse Lounge in the Strip District.

In other development news, we expect to hear shortly that the expansion of the National Register District to include the Garden Block was approved by the National Park Service. And, October Development is working on plans for six new homes in the 100 block of Jacksonia Street.

Central Northside Neighborhood Council

Mission Statement

To enhance the lives of all Central Northside residents.

Vision Statement

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

We're on the Web.

Sign up to receive bi-monthly e-newsletter at:

www.cnnc-pgh.org

Questions or comments – contact CNNC at:
412.465.0188

Communications@cnnc-pgh.org

Local Writer spotlights City of Asylum and Central Northside in *Pennsylvania Magazine*

Bette McDevitt, North Side freelance writer, calls the Central North Side a "cauldron of creativity" with blocks of "colorful chaos" in her article about the City of Asylum.



Read the full article published in the January/February 2012 issue of *Pennsylvania Magazine* or at the CNNC Website, reprinted with the permission of *Pennsylvania Magazine*:

www.cnnc-pgh.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/asylum-pa-mag-jf2012.pdf

It's Election Time Again. Your Neighborhood needs you!

New Perspectives. New Ideas. New Passions. New Energy – these are all things brought to the table and driven by NEW PEOPLE!

The CNNC Board of Directors has created momentum that is improving the quality of life for all our residents. We invite you to help keep the momentum going. Serving on the Board is an honor and a responsibility, for this is definitely a working board. Count on at least two meetings each month, more if you take on being a chair of a specific committee. If you possess the fairness to listen to all neighbors and the patience for your favorite issues to come to fruition, then you can reap surprising rewards and satisfaction.

In accordance with the 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 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 eligi-

ble 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 the Board to function productively without the expense of a full time staff.

Please contact our election committee if you would like more information or to suggest residents who you believe would be good candidates. You can do so via email: elections@cnnc-pgh.org.

CENTRAL NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



January/February 2012

It's Election Time Again. Your Neighborhood needs you!

CNNC Board of Directors

New Perspectives. New Ideas. New Passions. New Energy – these are all things brought to the table and driven by NEW PEOPLE!

The CNNC Board of Directors has created momentum that is improving the quality of life for all our residents. We invite you to help keep the momentum going. Serving on the Board is an honor and a responsibility, for this is definitely a working board. Count on at least two meetings each month, more if you take on being a chair of a specific committee. If you possess the fairness to listen to all neighbors and the patience for your favorite issues to come to fruition, then you can reap surprising rewards and satisfaction.

In accordance with the 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 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 the Board to function productively without the expense of a full time staff.

Please contact our election committee if you would like more information or to suggest residents who you believe would be good candidates. You can do so via email: elections@cnn-c-gh.org.