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Lunch with  
Mayor Luke Ravenstahl  
County Executive  
Dan Onorato  
January 24

# InSide North Side

A Publication of the North Side/North Shore Chamber of Commerce, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

December/January 2007

## Debra Caplan Recognized for Two Years as NSCC Board President



Debbie Caplan (on left) is presented with a recognition plaque by Robin Miller, Executive Director, for her two years as board president

Dear Northside Northshore  
Chamber of Commerce Members:

As my term of office comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your membership in the Northside Northshore Chamber of Commerce. We appreciate your support of the Chamber and hope that you find value in the many programs and services that are available to our members.

I also want to highlight our major accomplishments over the past two years. First, we engaged in a strategic planning effort for the Chamber that resulted in improvement of our web site, the development of a Chamber mentorship program for new members, increased advocacy for legislative interests of our members, increased quality business programming for chamber members, and the establishment of the Northside Cultural Collaborative which you will be hearing much more about in the coming months. Since the Northside and Northshore are major tourism destinations, the Collaborative is in essence an initiative to have tourists and visitors utilize area businesses, restaurants and other Northside/Northshore retailers, thereby increasing business activity in this part of the City.

Most of this work was accomplished through our four active Committees: Membership, chaired by Linda Leonhardt; Program, chaired by Colleen Juran; Legislative, chaired by John Graf; and Business Services, chaired by Juan Garrett. I want to thank the Chairs and the committee members for all of their hard work and dedication over the past two years. Your efforts have really made a difference.

Secondly, we also changed our name from the Northside Chamber of Commerce to the Northside Northshore Chamber of Commerce to reflect the expansion of our membership base to the Northshore and the growing number of businesses in the area.

Finally, we are fortunate to have in place a very talented Board of Directors to oversee the Chamber's governance. I want to thank Michael Barbush, Vice President, John Graf, Secretary, Juan Garrett, Treasurer, Linda Leonhardt, President Emeritus, Dan Hooper, Colleen Juran, Scott Pipitone, Randy Rossi, Eric Schumann, Winifred Torbert, Rev. Ken-Turnbull, for their commitment and support. Your time and contributions are helping to make the Northside a more vibrant business community.

I also want to thank Robin Rosemary Miller, the Chamber's Executive Director for her leadership and dedication over the past two years. Robin is a true asset to the Chamber and has done an outstanding job. As I turn the gavel over to John Graf, owner of the Priory, as our next Chamber President, I believe that the Chamber is strongly positioned to continue to support our members with quality services. Thank you again.

Best wishes for the New Year.

Debra Caplan

## NSNSCC Legislative Update

John Graf

In November, Pittsburgh City Council considered a proposed ordinance drafted by councilman Jeff Koch, who represents the South Side. Koch's legislation, which he says is in response to the high concentration of bars and restaurants in the Carson Street area, calls for restricting the locations of new bars and restaurants serving alcohol. The ordinance would prevent any new bar or restaurant from locating within 150 feet of any two existing bars or restaurants serving alcohol. In addition, new restaurants or bars in many neighborhoods would need to demonstrate that their guests will not take residential on-street parking spaces, and will not have a detrimental impact on nearby properties.

Council did not vote on the ordinance in November, however. The result of this non-action was to make the ordinance de facto effective, as the city zoning administrator asserted that his office was obligated to follow the most stringent zoning proposals until a final vote was taken. A vote on the ordinance is not likely to come until February or March. The ordinance must proceed through public hearings before the Planning Commission and Council, then survive two Council votes and consideration by the mayor before becoming part of the City code. Businesses seeking an exception to the 150 foot rule must apply for a zoning variance.

North Side and North Shore businesses need to give the proposed legislation some very hard thought. First, for many City neighborhoods, establishing a critical mass of popular bars or restaurants is a first step to its revitalization. The barriers to entry for establishing these types of businesses is low, and they can attract people from all over the region. This critical mass of businesses can provide a solid foundation for attracting other businesses, and in creating a thriving busi-

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**Inside Chamber Business**

**North Side Cultural Collaborative Tourism**

*Overview and Mission*

The purpose of the North Side Cultural Collaborative is to assist in projects, promotions and other activities in cooperation and in coordination with the North Side and North Shore businesses, NorthSide/NorthShore Chamber of Commerce, cultural organizations, civic bodies, community groups, and other organizations and legal entities, to foster economic growth, encourage community prosperity, advance tourism, and in other ways, to promote the general well-being by promoting the unique cultural potential and economic opportunities of the North Side & North Shore.

**The Purpose**

- Capitalize on the North Side North Shore Tourism Destinations
- Increase Customers and Financial

**Stability of Hundreds of Surrounding Businesses**

- Provide a Network of Interconnectivity to Bind the many Separate Entities
  - Create a Single Powerful Force for Tourism Business on the North Side North Shore
  - Enhance the Quality of Life for all Residents and Communities through Improved Economic Climate
- Elements of the First Stage of the New Program**
- Promotional/Informational Video about North Side North Shore
  - Introduce the North Side and North Shore District
  - Attract Good Businesses to Relocate Here
  - Showcase Neighborhoods, and Amenities
  - Inform Docents to be Better Prepared to Answer Patron Questions
  - Show North Side/North Shore Commercial at the I-Max, Stadiums, Kiosk

- Offer Presentation to Corporations for New Employee Orientation
- Package DVD to Realtors for Relocation Packets

**Highly Visible Freestanding Side-walk Kiosks**

- Define and Focus Attention on Important Information
  - Offer Dramatic Curb Appeal
  - Showcase the North Side and the Chamber in a Highly Visible Setting
- New Magazine – North By North-shore**
- Promote North Side North Shore Business, Residential Opportunities, Cultural Organizations, Notables
  - Offer a Downloadable Calendar of Events and Restaurant Listings
  - Distribute to the Cultural Attractions, Businesses, Hotels and other Strategic Locations throughout the North Side North Shore

**NorthSide/NorthShore Chamber Of Commerce 2006 Holiday Party Highlights**



Diane Smoulder and Bill Diegelman, owner of Max's Allegheny Tavern and Bill Gerst and Terry Gerst, Manager ESB Bank.



Allegheny Center Alliance Church Kids Choir Performing at the NSNSCC Holiday Party.



Louis Spinnenweber, Todd Goss and Dan Hooper, all from National City



Mike Moskal, Micronexx and Kris Kirk, Mentor PC

Thank you to our NorthSide/NorthShore Holiday Party Sponsors that included: AJ Warhola Recycling, Barefoot Cellars Wine, J. Francis Company, Lockhart Tires, Max's Allegheny Tavern, Pittsburgh Metro Postal Workers Union, Priory Hotel and Triangle Tech.

Thanks to everyone who donated to the Annual Urban Impact Holiday Toy Drive. Special recognition to the New Hazlett Theater for hosting and to the Allegheny Center Alliance Church Kids Choir for their performance at the event.



**Ravenstahl Agenda Puts Neighborhoods First**

Growing up in a tight-knit community, I know how hard my family and neighbors worked to ensure a safe and clean environment for my brothers and I. Looking back on it, I cannot imagine my community thriving without my fellow neighbors taking ownership of it. With active communities as Pittsburgh's foundation, we can begin to build a better future for Pittsburgh.

I thank you for the dedication you bring to the City of Pittsburgh and as Mayor I am excited to do my part by continuing to invest in the North Side. In October, I launched the City's first-ever 3-1-1 Response Line, making it easy for city residents to file non-emergency complaints with a live person. By dialing 3-1-1 you can report your non-emergency problem, and we, the city will immediately direct the request to the appropriate department. Concerned citizens have an effective way by which to solve the problems that plague their neighborhoods.

Shortly after 3-1-1 was up and running, I announced my 2007 budget, in which I proudly honored Bob O'Connor's commitment to safe and clean neighborhoods. If anyone knew Pittsburgh's neighborhoods and people, it was Bob. He made everyone proud of their neighborhood, and their city. This budget doubles our dedication to the Redd Up program by increasing it to \$500,000, so that we can touch every neighborhood in the City. My administration will work to increase our police force to a responsible and optimal 900 police officers, and invest in new public safety vehicles. This budget will also include \$2 million for building demolition, which will eliminate vacant buildings and their associated dangers. We have also reinstated the Rodent Control Department and increased our street resurfacing and bridge repair allocations by 76.5%, something every driver will appreciate.

We will also continue putting neighborhoods first by promoting economic and housing revitalization projects throughout Pittsburgh's communities. Some of these include \$8 million in City funding to the Urban Redevelopment Authority to support neighborhood business and housing initiatives. Additionally, my budget allows for the creation of the Mayor's Business Assistance and Retention Team. The BART initiative will coordinate efforts to ensure that City government is creating a business friendly climate that will allow our neighborhood business districts to thrive. In addition to my commitment to safe and clean neighborhoods, I am also dedicated to creating a 21<sup>st</sup> century government that invests in Pittsburgh's future. Establishing a vibrant city requires a government that is run efficiently and effectively. We will utilize technology to aid us in streamlining permitting functions for new businesses and increasing service to residents by collecting refuse in a more timely and efficient manner.

**NSNSCC Legislative Update**

*Continued from Page 1*

ness district from a blighted one. Second, in order to attract people to the City from outlying areas and out-of-town, the City needs areas which are concentrated with nightclubs, bars and restaurants. People flock to the Flats area in Cleveland from an hour or more away because the sum of the various establishments is greater than their whole – they are an attraction unto themselves. Last, the ordinance in effect gives veto power to nuisance or nuisance-type bars over the ability of a business person to locate a reputable restaurant within a certain business district. Nuisance Bar Owner: "If you want to locate on this business district street, you'll have to buy my liquor license -- \$100,000 please."

The North Side/ North Shore Chamber will be giving much consideration to a position on this legislation in the coming weeks. Please let us know your thoughts. You can email to nscrobin@hotmail.com

**Welcome New NSCC Members**

**Cardinal Wright**  
Kenneth Macek  
711 West Commons  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
412-231-8248

**F.L. Rose Agency**  
Fred Rose  
810 River Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
412-323-8855

**Masterpiece Painting, Inc.**  
David Wilson  
1413 Sheffield Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233  
412-322-5223

**Moriarty Consultants**  
Arlinda Y. Moriarty  
3241 Brighton Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235  
412-732-9584

**Richard Ducote & Associates**  
Richard Ducote  
One Allegheny Square  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
412-322-0750

**Sharry Everett Scholarship Fund**  
Amanda Kopnitsky  
P.O. Box 100252  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

**Sarah Heinz House**  
M.J. Meenen  
One Heinz Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
412-231-4176

**NS/NS Chamber Tentative Program Schedule**

**January 24** – Lunch with Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and County Executive Dan Onorato

**February 13**– Breakfast Tour of Bidwell Orchid Greenhouses

**March** –Networking After Work Wine & Cheese

**April** – Tour a business district

**May** - Legislative Event

**June 12**- Community Night with the Pirates

**July 28**– Celebration in the Park

**August**– Networking w/speaker

**September**– Golf Outing

**October**– Taste of the North Side

**November** – North Side Business Awards Lunch

**December**– Holiday Party