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InSide North Side

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

November 2007

Cardinal Wright Honors CIA Director, General Michael Hayden and NorthSide/NorthShore Chamber



Chamber Board members: Eric Schumann, Tucker Arensberg, John Graf, Priory Hotel, Robin Miller, NS/NSCC, Eric Anderton, FNB, General Michael Hayden and Scott Pipitone, Pipitone Group, pose for a photo at the Cardinal Wright Event.



Other attendees at the Cardinal Wright event; Diane Mercer, NS Community Development Fund, Winifred Torbert, NS/NSCC Board member, Linda Leonhardt, FNB and General Hayden.



NS/NSCC Holiday Party and Annual Toy Drive

The Annual North-Side/NorthShore Holiday Party is Tuesday, December 11 at 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Bally Design located at 600 River Avenue. As in previous years, we are asking you to bring a toy or make a contribution to the Urban Impact Holiday Store as your entry to the event. Lots of holiday fun is planned including a Christmas sing-along, food, beverages, raffle, door prizes and maybe a visit from Santa.

It is a great opportunity to get in the Holiday spirit, network with your fellow North Siders and to give to a worthwhile cause. Donations of toys (unwrapped with the price tag still on), gift wrap, ribbon or cash will be accepted at the party or can be taken to the North Side Chamber Office at 809 Middle Street prior to the event. Items donated stay here on the North Side for needy families in our neighborhood. For more details call 412-231-6500.

There will be a slideshow of all of the Chamber activities for the year. Make sure you take a look to see if you made it into our year-end photo show.

North Side Chamber Business Awards



Mary Wohleber, One of the Stars of North Side Story, Robin Miller, NS/NSCC Mary Ann Graf and Rick Sebak, WQED at the North Side Awards Luncheon

The First NorthSide/NorthShore Business Awards Luncheon was held last month at the Carnegie Science Center. Awardees were recognized for their hard work and enthusiasm for the North Side/North Shore Business Community. Local filmmaker Rick Sebak from WQED was the presenter.

The NS/NSCC awardees are as follows:
Best New Member - Tucker Arensberg, P.C.
Best Kept Secret Member - Burke & Michael
Best Old Line Established Member - Allegheny General Hospital
Best Community Service Member - Allegheny Center Alliance Church
Most Employee Friendly Workplace - Pipitone Group
Honorary North Sider - Bill Diegelman, Owner of Max's Allegheny Tavern

Stewards of Economic Growth?

by John Graf Reprinted from Post Gazette

The Curious Position of the Allegheny Conference on the Allegheny County Drink Tax

What is the future of Allegheny County when the stewards of economic growth, the Lions of Industry, advocate a position so harmful to small business development that its effects will reverberate for years. This is the question begged by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development's recent pronouncement in favor of the 10% tax on poured alcoholic beverages and the \$2.00 per day tax on rental cars proposed by Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato. According to its website, the mission of the Allegheny Conference is to "stimulate economic growth and enhance the quality of life in Southwestern Pennsylvania." One of its member organizations, the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, is charged with "advocate[ing] business climate improvements to create an even more competitive regional environment for new and existing businesses . . ."

The Allegheny Conference, however, has sadly undercut both of those missions by throwing the weight of its name in favor of the Drink Tax and rental car fee. The Allegheny Conference's position is both wrong on the facts and antithetical to the goal of making Allegheny County a place to start



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Inside Chamber Business

Stewards of Economic Growth? (continued from page 1)

and grow small businesses. Even a cursory review of the facts bears this out.

1) The Allegheny Conference is Hypocritical in Opposing Some Taxes and Favoring the Drink Tax: The Allegheny Conference is a key member of an organization known as CompetePA. The purpose of CompetePA is to make Pennsylvania a more business-friendly state by rolling back taxes on corporations such as the stock franchise tax and the corporate net income tax – taxes which fall, by the way, disproportionately on very large corporate concerns. The Greater Pittsburgh Chamber likewise lobbies tirelessly for the rollback of these taxes. However, when a tax is proposed on Allegheny County business owners in the hospitality industry, the vast majority of whom are local small business operators, the Allegheny Conference is unconcerned. The Conference enlists the help of small businesses when it is convenient to lobby against state corporate taxation, but when a tax is aimed at one industry in Allegheny County, they don't just remain silent, they advocate a position actively hostile to those small businesses.

(2) The Drink Tax Has Nothing to Do With the Mass Transit: Ostensibly, the Allegheny Conference favored the Drink Tax and rental car fee because it would provide a steady source of funding to mass transit in Allegheny County. This justification is not supported by the facts as presented by the County itself. First, the state legislation enabling the imposition of the rental car fee and the Drink Tax requires only a 5% increase in County funding to the Port Authority to receive state matching funds. This amount is surely less than \$2 million based upon the County's previous funding level of \$25 million per year. The Drink Tax and rental car fees, though, are expected to raise at least \$30 million. Where does the extra money go? Good question. Both County Controller Mark Flaherty and County Manager James Flynn have stated in testimony to County Council that Allegheny County has operated with a systemic budget deficit for years, ranging from \$15 million to approximately \$30 million this year. The

Drink Tax is needed not for funding public transportation but to fund general County operations. The Allegheny Conference, however, has made no mention of this in its position paper and did not bother to take it into account when it issued its public proclamation.

(3) Real Negative Effects: The Allegheny Conference's position is already reaping real negative effects. Proponents of the Drink Tax and rental car fee are holding out the endorsement of the Allegheny Conference as an endorsement by the business community at large. Nothing could be further from the truth. Businesses know that any tax directed at one industry -- especially in Allegheny County, where consumers can easily cross county borders -- will stifle business development and cause a loss of jobs. According to an article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Philadelphia, since it enacted a similar tax 1994, has lost 150 liquor licenses. This loss equals closed businesses and lost jobs. Allegheny County can expect worse, given the high growth rates of and ease of access to adjoining counties. If the Drink Tax is imposed, you can be assured that small businesses will close, people will lose jobs, and prospective business owners will look to more fertile business climates (say Cranberry Township).

I am the President of the North Side/ North Shore Chamber of Commerce. We are in favor of lowering government-imposed impediments to the development of businesses, large and small. We are in favor of creating an environment of letting entrepreneurs create their businesses without onerous taxes directed at one industry. The Drink Tax and rental car fee do exactly the opposite: the message to business is "Do Not Locate in Allegheny County; Go Elsewhere." Why the Allegheny Conference, purported champion of free enterprise and low taxes, cannot see that is a mystery.

Put Some Holiday Jingle in Your Wallet

Freeze out fees this holiday season with First National Bank. Now through the end of 2007 the North Side offices of First National Bank will waive all fees associated with opening a new Home Equity loan or line of credit. Consolidations, refinances, or general use of equity in your home can now be used at only interest cost. Please call your local North Side branch for more details at 412-359-2627.

No Membership Meeting in December

The NorthSide/NorthShore monthly membership meeting is cancel for December. Meetings will resume the third Tuesday in January (15). We will use that day as an opportunity to do a membership blitz for the Chamber. Anyone interested in participating can call the Chamber office at 412-231-6500. This is a great opportunity to cold call on a business that you may be interested in learning more about.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency 911
 Mayor's Response Line 311
 Animal Control 412-255-2036
 Bureau of Building Inspection 412-255-2177
 City Council District 1 412-255-2135
 City Council District 6 412-255-2134
 Duquesne Light 1-888-393-7100
 Environmental Services 412-255-2779
 Narcotics Division 412-323-7800
 North Side Community Development 412-322-0290
 Parks & Recreation 412-255-2362
 Pittsburgh Firefighters 1 412-922-1574
 Pittsburgh Parking Authority 412-560-2511
 Public Works Division 1 412-255-2726
 State Representative Walko 412-734-9740
 State Representative Wheatley 412-471-7760
 Zone One Pittsburgh Police 412-323-7201
 Zoning 412-255-2231

Take Stock of Your Tax Issues

Now is the time to review your current tax issues and plan for the end of the year. Why? There is very little you can do after December 31 to reduce your taxes for the current year. So take stock of your tax issues before the end of the year to see what you can do about them-how can you pay Uncle Sam only what he is legally due and not a penny more. Call Michalik & Daniels, LLC @ 412-322-2662 to see how we can help you and check out our website at www.eztaxtime.com. We are full service accounting firm serving North Side businesses and individuals for the past 25 years.

Mattress Factory Happenings

Family Day

November 23 - 10 am to 5 pm
 Free with paid admission
 Bring the whole family for a day full of hands-on activities, guided tours and special surprises.

Glass Artist Trunk Show

November 24 & 25 - 11 am to 5 pm (Sat.) 1 pm to 5 pm (Sun)
 Glass artist from around the United States are migrating to Pittsburgh to live, work, study, teach and exhibit. Come view the work and meet Pittsburgh glass artist Drew Hine of Vessel Studio

Felt Making Workshop & Trunk Show

December 8 - 11 am to 5 pm
 Join Mexican War Streets-based fiber artist Karen Page as she shows her work and demonstrates how to make felt. Karen has taught felt-making classes at the Society for Contemporary Craft and at the Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts.
MF Snow Ball Featuring Tinsel Garland
 December 20 - 7 pm
 Kick off the holidays in style at the Mattress Factory with a special performance by Tinsel Garland. For more information visit: www.mattress.org



Design Winner for the Allegheny Public Square Project

Progress toward revitalizing Allegheny Square Park (near Allegheny Center Mall) takes one giant step as a winner was announced earlier this month at the design competition, sponsored by the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh.
 Andrea Cochran Landscape Architect of San Francisco was the winning design. "Revitalizing and transforming Allegheny Public Square for families, students, residents, workers and visitors

Little Peepers at the National Aviary



In an effort to spark an early love for nature, the National Aviary is launching "Little Peepers," a new kid-focused series of programs

designed specially for children ages 2-5 years old. Incorporating stories, songs, hands-on craft activities and live bird presentations, Little Peepers programs have been created to enhance the Aviary experience for very young children.

The program started earlier this month with Munchkin Mondays, a story and song time present in partnership with Munchkins Bookshelf, Western Pennsylvania's only children's bookstore. Munchkin Mondays will take place the second Monday of every month at 11:30 a.m.

Go Nuts This Holiday Season

NorthSide Lions Club is holding their annual Nut Sale for the Holidays. You can order lovely snacks that will be great gifts for anyone on your Christmas or Holiday list. They make great hostess gifts or to bring to family get-togethers. Stop by the NS/NSCC office to place your order. For more details you can call Lion Robin at 412-231-6500.

Welcome New NS/NSCC Members

ADP

Kristi Hosko
 1000 Cliff Mine Road, Suite 230
 Pittsburgh, PA 15257
 Payroll Services

Darlene Shelton-Lamont Insurance

911 Western Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15233
 412-322-1064
 Insurance

Karen Chiaramonte Insurance

541 East Ohio Street
 Pittsburgh, PA 15212
 412-231-4171
 Notary/Insurance

Manpower

Roseanne Conroy
 501 Grant Street
 Pittsburgh, PA 15219
 Employment Services

Mascaro Construction

Janet O'Connor
 1720 Metropolitan Street
 Pittsburgh, PA 15233
 412-21-4901
 Construction

SIDS/Cribs for Kids

Judy Bannon
 810 River Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15212
 412-322-5680
 Family Support

Singer Pest Control

Christine A. Singer
 3972 Auld Avenue Ext.
 Allison Park, PA 15101
 412-486-2612
 Pest Control

Allegheny City Annexation Anniversary

A once in a life-time opportunity to celebrate an historic event, the Allegheny City Society Celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Annexation of the North Side to the City of Pittsburgh December 6, Priory Grand Hall from 6-10 p.m.

To register for the commemoration banquet, send a check (payable to ACS) for \$30 per person to : Allegheny City Society, P.O. Box 100255, Pittsburgh, PA 15233. for additional information, visit www.alleghenycity.org.

Friday, December 7, at noon on the Roberto Clemente Bridge, there will be a reenactment of the historic 1907 meeting between the Honorable George W. Guthrie, then Mayor of Pittsburgh, with the Honorable Charles F. Kirshler, Mayor of Allegheny City. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend this free event.