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InSide North Side

A Publication of the North Side/North Shore Chamber of Commerce, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Fall 2006

Sixth Annual North Side Charity Golf Outing Winning Team



The 6th Annual North Side Charity Golf was held last month. This year, part of the proceeds will benefit the NFE program at Cardinal Wright School. Pictured is the winning golf team, left to right, Corey Pettiford, Jason Wells, Dewayne Chandler and Brian Lowe. See additional photos from the Golf outing on page 2.

NSNSCC Legislative Update

John Graf

The Legislative Committee of the North Side/North Shore Chamber of Commerce met several months ago with then-City Council President Luke Ravenstahl. The Committee discussed a number of issues with Ravenstahl, including the streamlining of the permitting process for construction and building rehabilitation projects in the city, and for the permits involved with starting a new business. The Committee pointed out to Ravenstahl that the City's procedures for obtaining construction and business permits was unwieldy, inefficient and expensive, and that taking steps to streamline the process – speeding the approval of water and sewer permits, reducing the number of departments with responsibility for issuing permits, moving permitting offices to a central location outside of downtown, and insuring greater communication among departments – would greatly aid the City in developing new business. In addition, allowing developers to obtain permits through the Internet would greatly increase efficiencies for developers and entrepreneurs. A recent story in the Pittsburgh Business Times quoted one Chicago architect as complaining that Pittsburgh was the second worst city in the nation for obtaining permits, behind only Palm Beach, Florida.

Ravenstahl promised that simplifying the permitting process was a top agenda item for both him and the office of then-Mayor Bob O'Connor. Before his illness and subsequent death, O'Connor had announced that he planned to cut the steps and stages to obtaining construction and other

permits in half, with a goal of reducing the time from start to finish from 6 months to fewer than 2 months.

The City's official website, www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/permits, has been revised to set out in simple terms the permits needed and timelines for obtaining the permits, and provides graphs illustrating the interaction between the various departments. This is a good first step, but real change is needed to truly make the permitting process user friendly. This includes: (a) ensuring quick turnaround times for water & sewer permits; (b) making the permit process a "one-stop shopping" experience; and (c) guaranteeing communication among the inspecting offices, so that inspections occur in the right order. The NS/NS Chamber Legislative Committee will continue to work with public officials to promote these and other common sense reform to make Pittsburgh a more business-friendly environment.

NS Members Made Top 100

In a recent *Pittsburgh Business Times* Top 100 fastest growing companies in Pittsburgh, three NorthSide/NorthShore Chamber members made the list. On the list at number 8, Matrix Solutions, 58 -J. Francis Company and 94- Bally Design, Inc. Congratulations and best wishes for your continued success.



Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and Guy Costa, Director of Public Works, pose with the Litterbug at the recent Trashapalooza event that happened on the Fineview Hillside last Saturday.

In what hopes to be the start of an ongoing clean-up program for our neighborhoods, Trashapalooza drew dozens of volunteers from around the area to tackle the hillside at Fineview. Matt Galluzzo from the NSLC organized the event along with PA Cleanways of Allegheny County, the Pennsylvania Resource Council and Clean Pittsburgh Commission member Boris Weinstein. Boris has been instrumental in moving the City's Redd Up program forward.

Brian O'Neill, writer for the Post-Gazette, and volunteer, was one of the driving forces for this event. He reported that the City Public Works Department hauled away 94 bags of trash and 91 more of recyclables that were collected from the hillside that spanned James to Middle Street.

We are planning a similar event for the spring. If anyone is interested in participating in a clean-up project, contact the North Side/North Shore Chamber, 412-231-6500.

Upcoming NSCC Events

NS/NS Chamber Holiday Party - Thursday, December 5

Visit the NSCC Web Site for details www.northsidechamberofcommerce.com
Other events will be added as they are scheduled



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Pittsburgh, PA 15212-4918
412-231-6500

Inside Chamber Business



**Report from
County Councilwoman
Brenda Frazier**

On October 4th, 2006 Allegheny County Council enacted a new law, one

that will prohibit smoking in public places and workplaces. Many citizens of Allegheny County are exposed to the harmful effects of tobacco smoke, and in the absence of a state statute, local restrictions are necessary to protect the public's health, safety and welfare.

I co-sponsored Bill No. 2705-06 which passed Council with a vote of 14 to 1. I supported this legislation from the very beginning because the issue is first and foremost about public health.

Prior to passage of the bill, County Council held several public meetings which helped us get a sense of the public opinion and many witnesses, both for and against the ban, gave impassioned statements. We heard from bar owners, restaurant managers, bartenders, waiters and customers, as well as, health care providers. Other witnesses told of family members who did not smoke but died of smoking-related illnesses because a spouse smoked or because they spent time in smoky environments.

Opponents said a smoking ban would be another step -- joining rules on the use of seat belts, motorcycle helmets and cell phones -- on the path toward government-as-nanny. Some constituents said the ban was un-American. While I'm a proponent of "less government" it was clear that County Council had a responsibility to protect not only the health and welfare of workers, but children. The Surgeon General reports that there is no safe level of secondhand tobacco smoke.

Many expressed the feeling that the ban would seriously harm small businesses and jeopardize many people's

livelihoods. But numerous studies and statistics show that a smoking ban has no negative effect on businesses. In some instances, business actually increased after a ban took effect. A New York City one-year review of its ban showed that the city's bar and restaurant industry was thriving, business tax receipts were up 8.7 percent, employment was up by more than 10,000 jobs and New Yorkers overwhelmingly supported the law.

Several proposed amendments to the legislation will be up for debate in the Health and Human Services Committee on October 19th, 2006. I plan on carefully considering the proposed amendments, but in general, I am pleased with the way the Ordinance was originally written. Allegheny County is setting a standard and joining the growing list of communities that have adopted smoke free policies.

If you have any questions concerning this topic or another County matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 412-350-6585.

Weed and Seed/Public Safety Updates

Neil Parham, Mayor's Office Weed and Seed Coordinator is helping the North Side to get organized to apply for Federal Weed and Seed funding. The process involves getting the various communities together to identify specific problems and set goals that are required by the Department of Justice. The funds can be used for prevention, intervention and neighborhood restoration efforts. There is nearly a two year process to get the money, in the mean time, the group is looking to identify alternative funding sources to get some of the public safety projects moving along. If you would like to attend the next Weed and Seed meeting it is Thursday, November 2 at 4:30 pm., call the NS/NS Chamber office 412-231-6500 for the location.

In Public Safety Committee news, from Rhonda Brandon from the NSLC,

North Side Charity Golf Outing Photos



Terry McGover, S&S Trophy getting ready to head out on the course at Cranberry Highlands.



Dale Skoff, MFG at registration with volunteers. Stephanie Lamison, DDS and ESB volunteers, Mary Ann Mills and Terry Gerst.



John Graf, Priory Hotel and Gary Jackson, Virtuality, enjoy the after golf networking dinner.

there is a police officer patrolling East Ohio Street in early morning and will be doing so for the rest of the year. Eric Miliron from the NSLC is scheduling the officer, whose task is to patrol East Ohio Street from Cedar to East Street and James Street to Foreland. He will also keep a watch on the park for public intoxication and other illegal behavior.

Historic Preservationist Opportunities

The National Trust for Historic Preservation comes to Pittsburgh for its annual National Preservation Conference from Tuesday, October 31 through Saturday, November 4. The host organization for the week-long event is the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation.

The conference expects to draw 2,500 individuals from all over the United States engaged in historic preservation, community development, green construction, urban planning and redevelopment, and architecture. Related conferences will be meeting in and around the NTHP conference as well.

The Mexican War Street Society, as a local advisory committee member, is taking on three significant events through the week. First, an all-day field session will be offered on Tuesday and Friday, providing a motorcoach tour of historic districts and development areas around the Allegheny Commons on Pittsburgh's North Side. Lunch will be provided at the Teutonia Mannerchor.

The two tours are expected to draw 200 people into our neighborhood to see what preservation, development and opportunities are still available on Pittsburgh's North Side.

There will be a Candlelight House Tour on Thursday, November 2 from 7-11 p.m. featuring 14 homes in Allegheny West and Mexican War Streets historic districts. In addition, the Allegheny City Society will provide refreshments and historic background of the North Side at Jones Hall at CCAC. Two great neighborhoods for the price of one. This event is open to residents and their friends. Tickets are available at www.mexicanwarstreets.org and the cost is \$20.

There are a number of non-ticketed, free events that the general public may attend. They are listed on the Pittsburgh History and Landmark site: www.phlf.org or www.nthp.org. For the two events that require an admission fee, you must purchase your tickets in advance only and on line only.

News about Carnegie Library's Plan



At a recent NorthSide/North Shore networking luncheon, Mary Monahan from the Allegheny Regional Carnegie Library reported on the status of the library located at 5 Allegheny Center, since it was hit by lightning back in April. The City of Pittsburgh has approved a plan to repair the damage to the building but have also agreed that the it does not currently meet the needs of a modern neighborhood library and it's a good opportunity for the Library to seek alternative space.

The Library is committed to staying in the neighborhood, a 16,500 foot lot at 1210 Federal Street has been identified by the URA as one of the available space for a new freestanding library. Located on a corner lot not far from the current CLP-Allegheny Regional building, the lot is situated in an area poised for development. The CLP will need to do further research to ensure the space is acceptable, but is prepared to submit a proposal to the URA to begin the process. The idea of a new freestanding library has earned support from many community groups.

A community meeting is being held Thursday, November 16 at 6:00 at the Children's Museum.

Now Showing at the New Hazlett Theater

Prime Stage Theatre is presenting "The Crucible," by Arthur Miller, October 28 through November 5 at the New Hazlett Theater at 6 Allegheny Square. The show is directed by Nona Gerard. For ticket information call 412-394-3353 or go to www.proartstickets.org.

For one week only, Attack Theatre presents "The Kitchen Sink." November 10 & 11 at 8pm and November 13 & 14 at 7:30 pm. For other upcoming shows check the New Hazlett Theater web site:www.newhazletttheater.org

Welcome New NSCC Members

North Side Rotary
Phil Wilson
P.O. Box 6546
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
412-231-8441

Patberg, Carmody, Ging & Filippi
Sean Carmody
801 Vinial Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
412-232-3500
Attorneys

The Children's Museum Charm Bracelet Project

The Children's Museum is sponsoring the "Charm Bracelet Project," an international ideas program for improving connections between the numerous cultural assets on the North Side. As a partner in this project, the Carnegie Mellon University Urban Lab students are working as liaisons between the community residents and the professional design teams, ensuring that local issues and design objectives are communicated. In correlation with the professional design teams and in collaboration with the community, student teams are working to create their own new visions to connect North Side neighborhoods and attractions. They are concurrently working on a visioning project for the future development of the Brighton Road Corridor.

For information about the projects go to www.arc.cmu.edu/urbanlab/index.html



Stop by the North Side/North Shore Chamber office to pick up a copy of the "A Pittsburgher's Guide to Neighborhood Improvement," a directory that gives you the resources to be better stewards of

the environment by providing a list of organizations and actions you can take to improve the quality of life your neighborhood. The guidebook also serves as a directory of city departments to help you identify specific areas of service needs.