



## Design Challenge Grant Results

Projects are underway! If you've noticed more color on the 300 Block of Pittston Avenue, or new facades on businesses like Possibilities, Anisyeme Beauty Plus, the George Strasburger Gallery, Michael's Photography, or Styles by Connie, then you've noticed the effects of the Design Challenge Grant Program.

These grants of up to \$5000 are encouraging homeowners and business owners alike to improve the look of their buildings by investing their own money along with the grant money. We are pleased that Citizens Savings Bank is helping residents with matching funds. More projects are scheduled to begin shortly.

The second round of the Design Challenge Grant will start in January. The goal of the Design Challenge Grant is to encourage private investment in façade projects that improves the look of the neighborhood. Please contact Greg Elliott at ext. 115 for more information.

## UNC Breaks Ground on Cedar Ave.

Keep your eye on the east side of the 600 block of Cedar Avenue. On Friday, October 1, UNC broke ground for the \$3.9 million Cedar Avenue Project. The project includes the restoration and development of mixed-use buildings for both commercial and residential purposes. Over the next two years this block will evolve to provide visible evidence of South Side's revitalization.



## What Do You Think About South Side?

The revitalization team and volunteers are currently surveying households between Orchard and Birch Streets and Cedar and

Prospect Avenues. The survey is part of an evaluation of conditions in the neighborhood required by Wachovia Re-

gional Foundation, a funder of the revitalization plan. Participants in the survey are awarded a \$10 voucher to

spend at South Side businesses. Please call if you live in the survey area and have not yet completed the survey.



## Graffiti Hurts Grant Awarded



Keep America Beautiful awarded United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA \$2,500 as part of their Graffiti Hurts campaign to address graffiti nationwide. We were one of only three programs awarded this money across the nation.

The Elm Street Revitalization Team will administer the grant with the support of the Community Justice Initiative. The project focuses on involving South Side youth in graffiti education and removal. The youth participants will have the opportunity to make 30 second PSAs on the harmful effects of graffiti that will be featured on UNC's website, Keep PA Beautiful's website, and WNEP.

## Neighborhood Fun in Connors Park

Connors Park on Orchard Street between Pittston and Prospect is becoming a focal point for neighborhood events. With the help of sustainable farmers, Don Noll and Jonathan Maier, and a generous donation of fertile topsoil from Barbuti Landscaping, neighborhood children planted flower and vegetable gardens in the park this summer. The children sold some of what they produced at the park's South Side Market.

The farmers' market which ran from July to October provided neighbors with fresh produce and specialty items as well as the setting for special events such as a salsa competition, blue grass concert, and pumpkin painting. The market will return next summer with additional vendors and events.

## Great Homes for Sale in South Side



Lackawanna Neighbors, important partners of the revitalization project, is rehabilitating five foreclosed houses in South Side with eco-friendly materials and offering them for sale. Homebuyers must meet federal family income guidelines and could receive down payment and closing costs assistance. Homes at 311 Prospect and 718 Cedar are currently for sale, and properties at 550 Hickory, 213 Stephen and 518 S.

Webster will be available for sale in the near future. For more information, contact Jody Baden at Lackawanna Neighbors (963-7616) or Wayne Evans Realty (906-8600).

## Residents Helping Each Other Learn

The *Time for Change* Project was recently featured on the Pennsylvania Downtown Center's website. The Language Partnership has attracted more than 80 participants on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and is being expanded to include a session on Mondays from 10:30 to 11:30 AM at the South Side Senior Center and another on Fridays from 3:00 to 4:30 PM at Skyview Apartments.

Many of the Language Partnership participants are also giving and receiving services through the *Time for Change* time bank. Neighbors are helping each other with paperwork and chores, teaching each other new skills, and developing new friendships. Please contact Kim Barako at ext. 108 and she will be happy to answer your questions and provide information about this project.



## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

**Bella Pizza & Restaurant**



Great food at an affordable price! Homemade soups and sauce made from scratch and recipes passed down from generations are what Bella Pizza has to offer. Bella Pizza has takeout and delivery but encourages customers to use its beautiful dining room adorned in authentic Italian décor.

According to owner Melony Miner, "we were looking to purchase a building in a thriving neighborhood that was affordable and this was the spot." Neighbors were thrilled to see Bella Pizza open at the location of a former nuisance bar. Melony and her husband, Tom, appreciate that the community was and still is very receptive and supportive of their family business that has been open for 5 years.

Bella's offers daily lunch specials in addition to regular menu favorites. Bella's is also B.Y.O.B. Hours of operation are Monday 10:30am -6pm, Tuesday-Thursday 10:30 am-10:00pm, Saturday 12:00pm- 11:00pm.

**532 Pittston Avenue  
Scranton, PA  
(570) 343-3010**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Community Justice Initiative Meeting**, 1st Wednesday of month at 3:00 PM, South Side Senior Center  
**Neighbors & Economy Meeting**, 2nd Tuesday of every other month at 2:00 PM, UNC Administrative Offices  
**South Scranton Residents Association**, last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM, UNC Administrative Offices  
**Ethnic Carol Sing**, December 15 at 6:30 PM, South Side Senior Center

*"The South Side Revitalization Initiative is a project of the United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania in partnership with the residents of South Side and is funded by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development and Wachovia Regional Foundation."*