

THE SCOOP

KEEPING YOU ON TOP OF WHAT'S GOING DOWN WITH THE NORTH SHORE CONNECTOR

Historical Artifacts Discovered During Project Construction

Archeologist Christine Davis had a feeling she was going to find some interesting items under the ground near the former SportsWorks site on Pittsburgh's North Shore. She just did not know how interesting they would be.

Ms. Davis, owner of Christine Davis Consultants, a group that specializes in urban archeology, was tapped by Port Authority to extract potentially historical artifacts from the ground as construction crews worked to advance the North Shore Connector project.

"What we have found is truly amazing," said Ms. Davis. "There are quite a few interesting artifacts from an era just after the Civil War that we have discovered. These items are giving us a little glimpse of what life was like almost 150 years ago."

Some of those items discovered under what was the asphalt parking lot of the former UPMC SportsWorks site included medicine and whiskey bottles, European tea pots and cups, and everyday items used for cooking and housekeeping. Some of the more fragile items found at the site were children's toys including porcelain dolls, marbles, balls and drinking cups. And sadly, someone lost their wedding ring and dentures!

The veteran archeologist said the site where the dig is taking place was where a row of seven homes once stood.

"They were the homes of young families arriving in Pittsburgh with their entire lives ahead of them," said Ms. Davis. "Men walked to work in the nearby foundries, steel mills, and factories while women worked in local shops, candy companies, and warehouses. Some of the occupants were 'river people' who worked on river boats."

Foundations of the long-gone homes and their backyard wells, privies and cisterns were found to be nearly intact, giving Ms. Davis and her team of archeologists a chance to look back into an era that has long past. We rarely find places this intact in the dense urban environment.

"What we have here is quite a wonderful find," the archeologist explained.

CDC's archeologists will analyze the materials found at the site and prepare a detailed report of their findings. The artifacts will be sent to the State Museum in Harrisburg for permanent storage. The crew works in a delicate meticulous manner so they do not damage or compromise any item.

"We screen the soil and excavate with hand tools such as shovels, hoes and trowels," said Ms. Davis. "Small samples of the soil are screened through cheesecloth to recover seeds and nut fragments. On

the other hand, we also use a backhoe to get through more recent deposits like soils from the St. Patrick's Day Flood of 1936. But once we get past that, we move on to our hand tools."

Ms. Davis said much of the material discovered on site was found between 10 and 15 feet below ground.

The team began their work October 20 and is expected to wrap up their end of the project in mid-November. Ms. Davis said it is important to note that this work is not delaying the main construction of the North Shore Connector project.

"We knew there would be an archeological site in this area," she said. "And the excavation was part of the project planning process. Construction was not shut down or even delayed."

Ms. Davis said she is more than thrilled to have made such a find on Pittsburgh's North Shore.

"By weaving the artifacts and history together, we have a rare opportunity to study the everyday lives of working class men, women and children just after the Civil War," said Ms. Davis. "We can link the artifacts with specific individuals who lived at a time when Pittsburgh was transformed into a great center for steel production."



Local Construction Companies Contribute to Project

The transportation and economic benefits of the North Shore Connector project have been widely publicized. What many may not realize is that much of the complicated and specialized construction activities on the project are being undertaken by outstanding local construction companies that draw from Southwestern Pennsylvania's highly-skilled local workforce.

Saxonburg-based Brayman Construction Corporation is one of the companies playing a major role in the North Shore Connector. Brayman Construction is the general contractor on the Allegheny Station's elevated structure located near Heinz Field, the Carnegie Science Center and the future North Shore Casino.

Brayman Construction has enjoyed tremendous growth since its early days as a two-person operation. Incorporated in 1947, the business broadened its construction services from simple single-span culvert construction to today's \$100 million nationally-recognized provider of complex heavy, civil, demolition, geotechnical, marine and steel erection construction expertise.

"We offer innovative design and construction solutions for projects of all sizes and complexities in multiple public and private market sectors throughout the region and the Eastern United States," said Brayman Business Development Manager Tom Puzniak.

Mr. Puzniak said the company will employ multiple disciplines to build the elevated rail structure.

"The work will involve our General Contracting Division, Foundation Division, Demolition Division and Steel Erection Division," said Mr. Puzniak. "As you can see, our vast resources make us uniquely qualified to effectively and efficiently complete this task."

Completion of the elevated structure will include constructing a dual span steel structure that measures approximately 35 feet high and 1,750 feet long along Reedsdale Street.

The above ground, open-air glass and metal-paneled station will span Allegheny Avenue near the intersection with Reedsdale Street. The station pavilion will be located 35 feet above ground near the former site of UPMC SportsWorks.

To make room for the unique structure, Brayman is also demolishing the building that housed UPMC SportsWorks. Completion of the demolition is scheduled for mid-December 2008.

Allegheny Station will serve as the last stop on the line and will give riders easy access to destinations such as Heinz Field, Carnegie Science Center, Community College of Allegheny County, North Shore Park and the North Shore Casino.

Brayman Construction's contribution to constructing the North Shore Connector project doesn't end there. The company's expertise was also tapped last year for another aspect of the North Shore Connector project construction. Last fall, crews from Brayman completed the installation of nine caissons used for underpinning four support piers of a ramp between the Fort Duquesne Bridge and State Route 65.

"Brayman Construction's reputation for producing quality work is well-documented," said Port Authority Rail Operations and Engineering Officer Winston Simmonds. "The company's pedigree speaks for itself. We have worked with them in the past and look forward to utilizing their expertise in building the elevated structure of the Allegheny Station."

Project Xtreme host tackles Port Authority's North Shore Connector

They've scaled and painted New York's Queensboro Bridge, changed light bulbs on top of the Empire State Building during gale-force winds and climbed hundreds of feet below the streets of Times Square to splice a 12,000-volt power line, but can they tackle Port Authority's North Shore Connector project?

Matt Blashaw, the new host of the DIY Network's hit television show, Project Xtreme and his crew were in Pittsburgh on November 2-4, 2008 to tape a future episode of the cable show that takes common, everyday do-it-yourself projects to a whole new level.

Earlier this year, the show's producer, Joy Huang, contacted the Pennsylvania Film Office in search of an exciting project currently taking place in our region. The Film Office referred her to Port Authority after learning more about the North Shore Connector project. The project proved to be a perfect fit for the show and was certainly a venue that not many viewers ever get to see. After all, there aren't too many projects like this one in the country let alone the world.

"The Bore to the Shore is so cool," said Blashaw. "The magnitude of this project is just amazing and I'm really excited to be a part of it and can't wait get my hands dirty with the professionals."

Blashaw, a licensed contractor in California, is presently the host of DIY Network's Deconstruction as well. He was hired by the network after entering its "Studfinder Contest" a few years back.

"Because of my background and love for renovation projects, my wife suggested that I enter the contest," said Blashaw. "I'm thankful I did because this has been a dream job for me."

With supervision from Port Authority's hired contractor, Blashaw and the Project Xtreme crew took on the responsibilities of loading concrete tunnel rings onto a vehicle and transporting them to the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM); working with crews to attach a section of the tunnel ring, sitting alongside the operator of the tunnel boring machine and working to excavate mined foreign materials from the slurry.

Port Authority first began mining back in late January on its 1.2-mile extension of Port Authority's light rail system that will link the South Hills, Downtown Pittsburgh and the North Shore. After traveling under the Equitable Resources building, the Allegheny River and eventually Fort Duquesne Boulevard, the 500-ton tunnel boring machine arrived in Downtown Pittsburgh this past summer before a magnitude of workers, media and fascinated onlookers. After weeks of preparing for its return trip, the machine began boring the second tunnel last month and should arrive

back to the North Shore before the end of this calendar year. The project is scheduled to be totally complete by 2011.

The episode is scheduled to air sometime next spring on the DIY Network. An official date has not yet been set.





LOCATION	ACTIVITY	START	COMPLETION
<p>Stanwix Street: Closed at intersection with Penn Avenue.</p>	<p>Construction activities associated with building of new Gateway T station.</p>	<p>Work to begin January 2009.</p>	<p>Scheduled to reopen to traffic in mid 2009.</p>
<p>Stanwix Street: Closed between Liberty and Penn avenues.</p>	<p>Construction activities associated with building of new Gateway T station.</p>	<p>Work began in August 2008.</p>	<p>Will remain closed until station construction is completed in 2011.</p>
<p>Penn Avenue Extension (PAE): Two lanes between Stanwix Street and Liberty Avenue.</p>	<p>Long term closure will occur for construction of Gateway T station.</p>	<p>Work is ongoing.</p>	<p>Long term closure to continue through August 2009.</p>
<p>Liberty Avenue: Intersection with Stanwix Street.</p>	<p>Utility work associated with construction of new Gateway T station is ongoing.</p>	<p>Work began in February 2008.</p>	<p>Periodic nighttime restrictions at intersection through December 2008.</p>
<p>Reedsdale Street: Between Allegheny Avenue and Tony Dorsett Drive.</p>	<p>Construction of aerial structure. Access to parking lots maintained and opened to traffic on Game Days.</p>	<p>Work began in September 2008.</p>	<p>One lane of eastbound Reedsdale Street is open.</p>

To sign up to receive email alerts and information about the North Shore Connector project, contact Dave Whipkey at **412.566.5137** or dwhipkey@portauthority.org.

Construction Information 24/7
Construction Hotline: 412.566.5222 Web site: PortAuthority.org

The Latest in Men's Fashion Can Be Found at Lydell's

For nearly a decade, Lydell's, located on the first floor of Fifth Avenue Place in Downtown Pittsburgh, has been a prime destination for the fashionable male shopper.

From silk dress shirts, to hats, belts, ties, and slacks, the smartly-dressed man looking for high-end men's fashion can find everything they are looking for at Lydell's.

"Lydell's is for men who know the difference," said store manager Kenny McDonald. "We offer a wide variety of fashionable options," Mr. McDonald said. "If you want to look your absolute best and sport the latest fashion, we can most assuredly help you achieve that goal."

Lydell's also offers overcoats, sweaters, leather goods and jeans for more casual occasions.

The store manager said business for his establishment remains consistent throughout the day, but picks up during lunch hours and especially during the spring and summer season.

"We really do not cater to a specific clientele," said Mr. McDonald. "We welcome any man who wants to look his best for whatever the occasion, whether it's for work or for a night out on the town."

Mr. McDonald said his store location is a benefit to business.

"Guys from all over come in to shop for that special clothing item they are looking for," said the manager. "Those that work in Downtown find us to have a very convenient location."

Lydell's is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

For more information, call 412-281-9098.

Project Quick Facts

Project Name: North Shore Connector

Length: 1.2 miles from Downtown to the North Shore

Cost: \$435 million

Location: Downtown Pittsburgh's Central Business District and North Shore

Three New Stations: Allegheny, North Side and Gateway

Completion of Construction: Scheduled for 2011

Current Status: Construction is underway

STATION NAME	LOCATION
Gateway	Downtown Pittsburgh - Underneath Stanwix Street between Penn and Liberty Avenues
North Side	North Shore - Adjacent to General Robinson Street and Tony Dorsett Drive
Allegheny	North Shore - Above Allegheny Avenue and Reedsdale Street

Have Questions, Need Info?

Submit your questions to: The Scoop - Media Relations Department/ Port Authority of Allegheny County/
345 Sixth Avenue/ Pittsburgh, PA 15222 or online at PortAuthority.org.

Whether you're shopping or dining, enjoy these great discounts from some of Pittsburgh's finest businesses and retailers. Clip the coupons below and use them at your favorite stores. Get The Scoop on the North Shore Connector and save some green.

C&C News & Snax

2 PPG Place

Mix & Match Deal
25 cents off any purchase of:

1 Candy Bag or		1 Tea or
1 Candy Bar or	PLUS	1 Soda or
1 Large Popcorn		1 Water

Taxes excluded. Limited one purchase per customer.
Valid through 12/15/08. Valid only at indicated locations.
Source: Scoop up the savings

Chocolate & Chances

400 Stanwix Street

Mix & Match Deal
25 cents off any purchase of:

1 Candy Bag or		1 Tea or
1 Candy Bar or	PLUS	1 Soda or
1 Large Popcorn		1 Water

Taxes excluded. Limited one purchase per customer.
Valid through 12/15/08. Valid only at indicated locations.
Source: Scoop up the savings



Buy any Toasted Wrap combo meal at regular price get a Toasted Wrap for only .99

Coupon valid at both locations PPG food court and 963 Liberty Avenue.
www.fernandoscafe.com
Source: Scoop Up The Savings



Hair Fashions by Howard

Open for business during street construction

625 Stanwix Street
Pittsburgh, Pa 15222
412.232.0044
412.471.1333

TALL GIRL

Fifth Avenue Place - 1st Level

10% off any regular price purchase at Tall Girl.

Taxes excluded. Limited one purchase per customer.
Valid through 12/15/08. Valid only at indicated location.
Source: Scoop Up The Savings



Fifth Avenue Place - 2nd Level

10% off entire purchase.

Valid through 12/15/08. Valid only at indicated location.
Source: Scoop Up The Savings



Fifth Avenue Place, PPG Place Food Court and 441 Smithfield Street.

10 percent off any food purchase at any Downtown Pittsburgh location

Taxes excluded. Limited one purchase per customer.
Valid through 12/15/08. Valid only at indicated locations.
Source: Scoop Up The Savings



107 Fifth Avenue Place

10 percent off any wrap or panini sandwich, \$1 off any salad.

Taxes excluded. Limited one purchase per customer.
Valid through 12/15/08. Valid only at indicated locations.
Source: Scoop Up The Savings

Participation in Scoop Up The Savings is free to all businesses within the North Shore Connector construction zone. Each participating retailer is encouraged to place an advertisement or offer an incentive such as a percentage off discount, a buy-one-get-one or a free item with purchase. Scoop Up The Savings is sponsored by the Port Authority and Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership. To participate in or ask questions about the program, please call 412.566.5137.

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