

# Bridge City POST

PITTSBURGH, PA | JANUARY 2011

## Bringin' It to the Burgh



Next summer, the 31st National Veterans Wheelchair Games are coming to Pittsburgh...*where heroes become legends.*

Here in the City of Champions, we do nothing on a small scale. Home to nearly 450 bridges and birthplace of the Big Mac and the legendary cole-slaw and French-fry-stuffed sandwiches, we are all about doing things big.

The Wheelchair Games will be no exception. The Keystone Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America and VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System are honored—and thrilled—to present the Games Aug. 1-6, 2011, for the second time in our city.

Here, cheering on athletes is as natural as breathing, and rooting for heroes is second nature. Our downtown boasts three professional sports stadiums—Heinz Field, the CONSOL Energy Center and PNC Park, where you're invited to spend an evening watching our Pirates play on one of the best baseball fields in America, while also taking in our spectacular skyline. You'll get an even closer view on our block party night, when you board the Gateway Clipper Fleet for a nighttime cruise on the three rivers that meet in the City of Bridges.

Visiting athletes will stay at the

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## Venue Update

*From Events Chair Alan Petrazzi*

Hello, athletes!

We're excited for next summer and can't wait for you to join us (again, in some cases)!

A team of our staff attended the Denver Games and returned brimming with ideas on how to make your Pittsburgh experience the best ever. We've assembled an enthusiastic group to focus on making our venues accommodating and ensuring the events are challenging and enjoyable.

Translated into Pittsburghese: We're working on a bunch of stuff, n'at, for the 2011 Games dahntahn.

We've already settled on all our venues and are now working on maximizing accessibility and spectator views, and getting all the athletic equipment ready for your arrival come August—to name a few things.

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## Pittsburgh Games on the Web



NVWG  
[www.wheelchairgames.va.gov](http://www.wheelchairgames.va.gov)



VAPHS  
[www.pittsburgh.va.gov/NVWG](http://www.pittsburgh.va.gov/NVWG)



Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/VAPHS](http://www.facebook.com/VAPHS)



Twitter  
[twitter.com/VAPittsburgh](http://twitter.com/VAPittsburgh)

*Bringin' It to the Burgh continued*

Westin Convention Center Hotel, conveniently connected to the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, the certified green facility where many events will take place. And, you'll be a mere mile from The Strip, Pittsburgh's historic wholesale market district.

During your stay, you can indulge your artistic side with a visit to the Andy Warhol Museum, delve into the history of Heinz Ketchup, explore the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, take in the sights and fragrant scents wafting through Phipps Conservatory and behold the landmark Cathedral of Learning before touring the Carnegie Museums. Our balmy summer is also ideal for discovering the dozens of parks throughout the biggest small city in America.

We can't put on the best Games ever without you—the athletes! So sign up for 2011 today at [www.wheelchairgames.va.gov](http://www.wheelchairgames.va.gov)!

Can't wait to see yinz in the Burgh!

## With WePay, You Choose

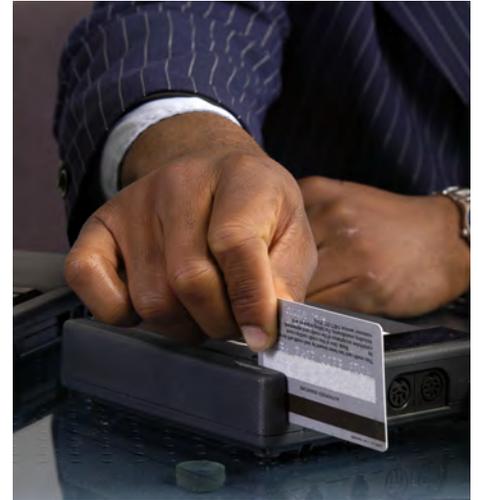
Where will you eat during the Wheelchair Games?

Wherever you want.

Veterans participating in the Games, as well as some volunteers, will receive a debit card with a certain amount of money added to it daily, leaving them free to explore Pittsburgh eateries on their own schedule.

The cards are available through WePay, a system shared by the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. They are solely intended for covering the cost of lunch and dinner. Veterans will receive breakfast at their hotel.

"It's kind of like a stipend," said Dan Fisher, the WePay administrator who works in the university's Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology, adding that WePay is part of the school's contribution to the Games.



## Midnight Chow Is Back!

Have the late-night munchies? Get ready for Midnight Chow—back by popular demand.

For two nights during Games week, Veterans can look forward to an evening filled with a themed buffet, cash bar and exciting entertainment for them and their guests in the Grand Ballroom at the Westin.

*Venue Update continued*

Most of the indoor events, such as nine-ball billiards, air guns, basketball, power soccer and quad rugby, will take place in the award-winning David L. Lawrence Convention Center, which overlooks the banks of the Allegheny River. You'll be the center of attention at this grand facility.

## Calling All Volunteers!

We need about 3,000 volunteers to make the Games a success. If you're interested in helping out, visit [www.pittsburgh.va.gov/NVWG](http://www.pittsburgh.va.gov/NVWG).

## Games Spotlight

**Name: Chad Evans**  
**Job: Athlete Recruitment**

Need a coach? Chad Evans is looking for local athletes to groom for the Games—and holding several clinics leading up to the big event.

Veterans new to the Games and interested in competing can contact Evans at (412) 954-4741 or [chad.evans2@va.gov](mailto:chad.evans2@va.gov). Athletes outside the Pittsburgh area should contact their local PVA chapter or VA facility for coaching information. To find the chapter nearest you, call (800) 555-9140 or visit [www.pva.org](http://www.pva.org).



**Want to learn more about the venues?**

Explore them online:  
[www.pittsburgh.va.gov/nvlg/events.asp](http://www.pittsburgh.va.gov/nvlg/events.asp)

