

Tall Girl

Finding a wide selection of clothing that fit can be a challenge for any tall woman.

Tall Girl, located on the first level of Fifth Avenue Place in Downtown Pittsburgh since 1993, has the answer for every tall woman's desire to dress with flair and style for every occasion.

Store Manager Amy Killmeyer said her establishment has the clothes to perfectly outfit every aspect of a tall woman's life.

"We specialize in tall-proportioned women's clothing," Ms. Killmeyer said. "It is important that for those who are taller, everything is proportionally-correct."

For women who stand 5-foot-7 or taller and in need of the latest fashion, Tall Girl is a dream come true.

"Denim is very big," Ms. Killmeyer said. "It is a very big deal for our clientele to find a pair of jeans that are proportional and fit and we have the jeans that fit that bill." Brands such as Parasuco, Dish and Silver to name just a few are in stock at Tall Girl.

"We also carry our popular in-house store brand of jeans," Ms. Killmeyer said.

Along with jeans, Tall Girl carries the latest brands of shirts, blouses, dresses, pants, and jackets.

Tall Girl's location in Downtown Pittsburgh could not be more convenient.

"We have a very good clientele," Ms. Killmeyer said. "Our location is good for those who are traveling here for conventions or meetings, as well as for women who work Downtown. We really do not do a whole lot of major advertising because our location provides maximum exposure in itself."

Tall Girl's Fifth Avenue Place location is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and is closed on Sundays.

For more information, call 412-471-3310 or log on to [HYPERLINK "http://www.tallgirlshop.com" www.tallgirlshop.com](http://www.tallgirlshop.com)

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

Projected Ridership: Average weekday ridership is expected to reach 14,300 by 2025. The projected annual ridership for 2025 is 4.2 million.

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.

THE SCOOP

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

She Digs Her Job

Rebecca Vettorel thinks she is no big deal. In fact, she simply wants to be just one of the guys.

But the 37-year-old single-mother of one from McDonald, PA does have a job that no other woman in the United States possesses. She is the only woman in this country operating a large tunnel boring machine, which is currently mining its way under the Allegheny River towards Downtown Pittsburgh from the North Shore.

Vettorel works for West Mifflin-based Trumbull Corporation, one of the construction companies that is constructing the North Shore Connector, a 1.2-mile light-rail extension that will link Downtown Pittsburgh to the burgeoning North Shore. Although she is a woman working a unique job, she does not want to be put on a pedestal.

"The guys I work with are like a family," Ms. Vettorel said. "I don't look at myself as being more important than them. We all have to come to work and do our job. I'm not any more special than anyone else on this job."

Although Ms. Vettorel doesn't think she's special, her supervisors see her as a hard-working, valuable member of the construction team.

"I think this is definitely good for the project and for the industry as a whole," North Shore Constructors, Inc. Assistant Construction Manager John Murray said. "Traditionally, heavy construction work, such as this project, is a man's business. She is showing that women can succeed in this world."

Ms. Vettorel has been a heavy machine operator for nearly a decade and is a member of Local 66 International Union of Operating Engineers. Although the work she does is unique and vital to the operation, she said she admires those who work outside the machine.

"Those that are working closest to the cutter head, they are the ones that are in the trenches," she said. "My job is to make sure they are safe and that the machine operates safely and efficiently."

Part of keeping the crew safe and machine running in peak form involves vigilant monitoring of the machine's operations.

"I make sure the slurry-pressure balance is correct," she said. "It's an important operation."

Slurry, a water-clay mixture, is pumped to the head of the machine to maintain the structural integrity of the tunnel and prevent a collapse once the hole is created. The material excavated from the earth is then pumped back to the surface, along with a small amount of slurry. Crews then separate the slurry from the excavated material, which is hauled away. The slurry that is retrieved is then recycled and used again as the boring machine advances.

Ms. Vettorel works with a crew of three other operators inside the climate-controlled machine cab under the direction of supervisor Ron Klinghagen of Obayashi Corporation of California. She works 12-hour-shifts daily between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

"It's a grind for sure, but I love it," she said. "Although it is tough when that alarm clock goes off at 4:30 a.m."

Ms. Vettorel said she feels a special bond with her colleagues as they work hard deep under the ground.

"We are all valuable to the process," she said. "Each team member is as important as the next. Everyone here really looks out for one another and takes care of one another."



Although she is quite team-oriented, she does hope she is an inspiration to others who may want to follow her same path.

"I think that this is an example of 'yes you can,'" she said. "I think in many instances, women can be their own worst enemy. But I feel that being able to do this shows that you can achieve anything."



Mural on the Move

A popular piece of art is about to change its surroundings.

Pittsburgh Recollections, was produced by the late renowned artist Romare Bearden. It is currently located at the platform level of the Gateway Center light-rail station and has called the station home since 1984.

Bearden was born in Charlotte, N.C. in 1914. He spent his childhood and adolescence in both Pittsburgh and New York City. During this time period, he was introduced to and strongly influenced by the musical and cultural innovations of jazz. This influence later emerged in Bearden's paintings in the form of visual orchestration of the many pieces and styles to which he had been exposed to in his youth.

Bearden's Pittsburgh Recollections stands 13-foot tall and spans 60-feet wide. It depicts Pittsburgh's social and cultural history and covers the far platform level wall in Gateway Center Station. Located across the trainway from the station platform, the wall is the focal point of the the station.

The mural was created using 780 ceramic tiles by Bennington Potters, Inc. of Vermont. Each fired-clay tile was applied with glazes in the colors and patterns of Bearden's design and mounted to the wall surface.

With the current station scheduled to close next year to make way for a new

and improved Gateway Center station as part of the North Shore Connector extension project, Port Authority decided to take action and remove and restore the mural.

"We're going to have to cut behind the mural about two-to-three inches," Mr. Marinzel said. "We will take the concrete behind the mural and restore it like that."

"That part will take approximately a week or so," Mr. Marinzel said. "It will also be cleaned and restored as part of the process."

Port Authority will utilize an art conservator to conduct the work needed to finish the project and is in the process of bidding on the contractor needed to undertake the work.

The original cost of Pittsburgh Recollections was approximately \$90,000 and was part of Port Authority's Public Art Program in its Downtown subway stations undertaken in the early 1980s. The Public Art Program was funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, Benedum Foundation, Federated Investors, Hillman Foundation, and the PPG Industry Foundation.

The Heinz Endowment has agreed to fund a portion of the removing and restoring project.

discusses how visitors can keep themselves safe at all times when touring the area. All are required to wear appropriate footwear, hardhats, safety vests and safety glasses with no exceptions. Visitors are also required to watch a video on how to utilize a self-rescuer device, which is used to assist with breathing should an emergency occur in the tunnel area.

The self-rescuer is a small device that can be worn either around the shoulder or waist. It is used to keep impurities out of the lungs.

"The self-rescuer is good for up to one-hour," Mr. Berger said. "It turns carbon monoxide into breathable carbon dioxide."

Carbon monoxide poisoning is a concern for those working in or visiting the tunnel area. It is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that can be deadly.

"That is why taking precautionary steps such as learning to use the self-rescuer is absolutely required of everyone entering the tunnel," Mr. Berger said.

Whether it is being vigilant of slips and falls or being wary of potentially dangerous gases below the surface, officials at the North Shore Connector construction site are constantly working to maintain a high-level of safety for work crews and visitors alike.



LOCATION	ACTIVITY	START	COMPLETION
Stanwix Street: Closed to through traffic.	Work necessary for construction of the TBM receiving pit. Full closure (use of sidewalks and access to garage maintained)	Work began in July 2007.	The street will be fully reopened to traffic in mid-May. Open from Ft. Duquesne Blvd. to parking garage.
Stanwix Street: Closed northbound between Liberty and Penn avenues	Support activities for receiving pit excavation and construction.	Work began in July 2007.	Remains closed. Scheduled to open in mid-May.
Penn Avenue Extension (PAE): Two lanes between Stanwix Street and Liberty Avenue	Support activities for receiving pit excavation and construction.	Work began in September 2007.	Scheduled to open in mid-May.
Liberty Avenue: Intersection with Stanwix Street.	Utility work with Verizon is underway.	Work began in February 2008.	Periodic nighttime restrictions at intersection.
Reedsdale Street: between Art Rooney Avenue and Tony Dorsett Drive	Utility work complete: Support of excavation activities and construction of 1,500 feet of tunnel below Reedsdale Street and the North Side Station shell continue. (access to parking lots maintained)	Work began in February 2007.	One lane of eastbound Reedsdale Street is open.

Staying Safe on the Job

Staying safe on the job site is a top priority for those working on any construction site and it is paramount for those working on the North Shore Connector.

In an effort to ensure the safety of everyone working on the project, North Shore Constructors, a joint venture of West Mifflin-based Trumbull Corporation and Obayashi Corporation of California, educate workers and visitors alike on the importance of practicing safe habits when stepping foot on the work site.

"This is not a place where you daydream when walking through," Project Safety Manager Jeff Berger said as he overlooked the North Shore work site. "You have to pay attention to what you are doing and what is going on around you at all times."

From cranes delivering materials such as concrete rings to the launch pit, to unsure footing at both ground and tunnel level, potential dangers are lurking around every corner for those who don't conform to strict safety procedures.

That is why Mr. Berger conducts a safety-briefing for every visitor to the North Shore Connector work site. From his trailer office, Mr. Berger

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

SCOOP Up the SAVINGS

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.



**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 06/1/08. Valid only at indicated location.
Source: Scoop Up The Savings



Fifth Avenue Place - 2nd Level

10% off entire purchase.

Valid through 06/1/08. Valid only at indicated location.
Source: Scoop Up The Savings

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free cookies!

Present this card at **Max & Erma's** for a free order of six warm chocolate chip cookies with a food purchase!

Downtown Pittsburgh Store only. Not valid with any other discount or on carryout. Limit one coupon per party. Cannot be used toward purchase of alcohol. Coupon Code 4980. Valid through 06/1/08. 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.