

the Bulletin

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ABOVE: Art All Night patrons watched live art collaborations by an eclectic group of painters in 2012. The popular event returns to Lawrenceville this month. Read the full story on page 9. Photo by Angela Bechak

Busway Station Gets Major Overhaul

By Margaret Graham

East Liberty Development, Inc.

East Liberty – One of East Liberty's biggest transit assets is about to get a huge makeover.

Thanks to a \$15 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded to the City of Pittsburgh, the East Liberty station stop of the Martin Luther King Jr. East Busway will be redesigned into the East Liberty Transit Center.

East Liberty Development Inc., the Mosites Company, the Port Authority of Allegheny County and the Urban Redevelopment Authority presented an update of the changes in store for the immediate area at a community meeting on March 12 at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's East Liberty Branch.

The Transit Center will bring big changes to the East Liberty Station, making it more accessible and visible from the street. The "front door," or main entrance to the station, will now be at the corner of Penn and Shady Avenues, improving the pedestrian experience

See **Busway** | page 4

Facing the Addiction Battle with Family

By Wesley Davis *The Bulletin*

East Liberty – How do you treat addiction? For one East End nonprofit, the answer is one family at a time.

Familylinks, with an administrative and outpatient treatment See **page 4**

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Reality TV Winner Sets Down Roots

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Lawrenceville – Chase Rogan says he likes adventure. So when the Lawrenceville resident was working out at Urban Active in Bakery Square and got tapped to try out for a reality TV show

See **page 5**

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Program "Champions" Graduation for All

By J Wester *Neighborhood Learning Alliance*

Pittsburgh – Statistics show that a high school diploma equals opportunity. High school graduates earn more and have better projected chances of success than their peers who drop out.

See **page 16**

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ABOVE: Yogis practice Chair Pose at Clay Yoga, the new yoga studio on Liberty Avenue. Read the full story on page 13. Photo by Elizabeth Clay

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NEWSBRIEFS

Repaving of Part of Penn Will Precede Reconstruction

Penn Avenue – Repaving of Penn Avenue from Evaline Street to Negley Avenue will precede the kick-off of the Penn Avenue Reconstruction Project, according to Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation.

Phase 1 of the reconstruction project, which is slated to begin in August 2013 and include new pavements, sidewalks, signals, lighting and streetscape, will only encompass Mathilda to Evaline Streets.

But the rest of the avenue is also in poor condition – although not as bad as Mathilda to Evaline. Given the need, Brose said she and Rick Swartz, executive director of the BGC, met with Director of Public Works Ron Kaczorowski in September and requested the Evaline-to-Negley stretch be repaved prior to the commencement of reconstruction.

“The whole avenue is in complete disrepair,” said Brose. “It will be several years before we get to Phase 2 of the reconstruction going, but the repaving of the rest of the corridor just can’t wait.” Phase 2, extending from Evaline to Aiken Avenue, will have the exact same elements as Phase 1, so “the repaving is just a temporary measure,” Brose added.

Although the exact date for the repaving had not been scheduled at press time, Kaczorowski told Brose that it is high on DPW’s priority list and that they would attempt to do it before mid-June, when Penn Avenue will host an arts festival.

DPW has already repaved Friendship Avenue, which is a suggested alternate route during Phase 1 construction.

This summer, there will be a community meeting to describe the final plans for Phase 1, and outline the traffic detours and various stages of reconstruction. Watch *The Bulletin* for an announcement of the date. – *Paula Martinac, The Bulletin*

Grocery Store Appeal Delayed

Bloomfield/Garfield – A mix-up caused by staff at the Court of Common Pleas has resulted in a delay in the appeal of the site plans for 5200 Penn Avenue, the proposed location of a Bottom Dollar grocery store.

A status conference to try to mediate the differences between Bottom Dollar and five appellants who oppose the site plans approved by the Zoning Board of Adjustment was scheduled to take place on Feb. 28 at 10 a.m. The five appellants are individual property owners John Axtell, Philip and Marianne Bray and Jennifer Haven, and the nonprofit entity called Friendship Preservation Group.

However, although the lawyer for Bottom Dollar, Leslie Peters of Blumling & Gusky LLP, was informed of the status conference, the court failed to notify the city’s attorney and Kenneth Stiles, who represents the appellants. As a result, neither the city’s attorney nor Stiles showed up.

This will lead to further delay in construction of the store, should the appeal be denied. “We’re another month out,” Steve Wilson, real estate representative for Bottom Dollar, said. The original delay, precipitated by the appeal, was estimated at four to six months.

“Bottom Dollar hasn’t walked,” stated Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation. “This delay is costing them money. It’s costing the owner of the property [1017 Fifth Avenue Partnership] money. But Bottom Dollar still wants to come to our neighborhood.” Within the court’s appeal system, there is no cost to the appellants.

The court rescheduled the status conference for March 25. At press time, the outcome of that meeting was not yet known. – *Paula Martinac, The Bulletin*

Location Changes for Garfield “Windshield” Survey

Garfield – The meeting place for volunteers doing the “windshield” survey of residential property in Garfield on April 6, 2013, has changed to the meeting room of the St. Maria Goretti Activity Center, formerly St. Lawrence O’Toole, at 5323 Penn Avenue. Parking is available in a lot off N. Atlantic Ave.

From 1 to 4 p.m., the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), the Department of City Planning and a bevy of volunteers will be gathering data on all the residential properties in Garfield to inform a strategy for implementing Garfield 2030, the community’s housing and land-use plan.

Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC, requests that neighbors be welcoming of the volunteers. “We’ll be in the street with clipboards, looking at properties,” she explained. “It’s not the FBI or the police. We will be looking at all our housing stock. Please welcome the volunteers with a smile.”

The rain date for the survey will be Saturday, April 20, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Volunteers will be notified ahead of time if the survey is postponed due to inclement weather. – *Carolyn Ristau, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

Tree Park Sprouts Up in Lawrenceville

Lawrenceville – Since 2008, the Lawrenceville Tree Tenders have been working to create the Lawrenceville Tree Park, the neighborhood’s newest green space, in partnership with Lawrenceville United, Lawrenceville Corporation and Tree Pittsburgh. This month marks the completion of major work on the Tree Park, including the construction of a retaining wall, earthwork and lighting.

On the morning of April 6, 33 trees will be planted in the Tree Park, which is located at the corner of Stanton Avenue and Keystone Street. LTT will also be planting 12 street trees throughout the neighborhood, so volunteers can take part in either planting. Following the planting, there will be a celebration at the Tree Park, with food and music provided by DJ Zombo. For details about how to participate in the tree planting and celebration, see the Bulletin Board on page 14.

Next steps for the Tree Park include understory plantings and fundraising for a sculptural tree canopy element that will collect rainwater for watering trees and plants on-site.

The Tree Park converts long-vacant land into a neighborhood amenity. It will also serve as a neighborhood demonstration project, helping to educate visitors about trees, their benefits and care, so that people might be encouraged to plant trees and other greenery around their homes. Tree and plant species native to southwestern Pennsylvania will be used, helping to create a unique urban park experience. Species diversity will help protect Lawrenceville’s forest from disease and predators.

For additional information or to register for the tree planting, email trees@paconserve.org or call 412-586-2396. – *Christine Brill, Bulletin Contributor*

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Night Market May Debut This Spring

By Sara Blumenstein
cityLAB

Garfield – Vendors, volunteers, performers and sponsors are sought for a new Garfield Night Market, which could make its appearance this spring on the first Friday of each month, coinciding with warm-weather Unblurred events on Penn Avenue.

The Garfield Night Market is a project that has grown out of cityLAB's 6% Place experiment. It is moving forward under the leadership of the 6% Place Advisory Committee, which was highlighted in the September 2012 issue of *The Bulletin*. The organizing committee is composed of local residents, with advisory support from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and cityLAB.

As envisioned, the Garfield Night Market will have vendors both from Garfield and further afield, who will sell a mix of food, local produce and handmade items. For the market's pilot year, vendors will be able to sell their goods free of charge. Technical assistance will be provided to select Garfield residents to help them obtain vendors' licenses, training and supplies necessary to sell food at the market.

In addition to vendors, the project needs volunteers to help stage the market and performers to draw attendees in from Unblurred and liven up the event. Lump-

sum and in-kind donations to the Garfield Night Market are also accepted.

Anyone interested in being a vendor, volunteer, performer or sponsor can either stop by the BGC's offices at 5149 Penn Avenue to fill out a contact form, or complete the form online at nightmarket.citylabpgh.org, and someone will be in touch.

cityLAB's 6% Place experiment examined the economic development impact of creative workers and creative enterprise. The Garfield Night Market is a project outlined in cityLAB's 6% Place book, which can be downloaded as a free PDF from cityLAB's website at citylabpgh.org.

The Advisory Committee hopes the Garfield Night Market will stimulate Garfield's economy by incentivizing the participation of neighborhood entrepreneurs, bring outside capital into the neighborhood, create a space for locals and outsiders to mingle and make Garfield more visible to the rest of the city. Plus, the Garfield Night Market may be able to help bridge the gap between the neighborhood and the Penn Avenue corridor.

For inquiries about the Garfield Night Market, email cityLAB at info@citylabpgh.org or call 412-434-7080. ♦

the Bulletin

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Corporation



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Board Meetings are held by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at 5321 Penn Ave. These meetings are open to the public.

The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the publisher.

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www.bloomfield-garfield.org © 2013 by Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

April Fools?

Dear Editor:

Apparently, someone at City Hall must have inadvertently fast-forwarded their calendar to April 1. In response to a petition from 200 taxpayers and residents of the Lawrenceville/Bloomfield communities for a traffic light or a four-way stop sign as a means of addressing the large number of accidents and near-misses at the intersection of Penn Avenue and Fisk Street, the City dispatched four maintenance workers to hang two signs prohibiting left-hand turns onto Penn between 7 and 9 a.m. and 4 and 6 p.m.

Two days later three people informed me that they witnessed potential accidents. Furthermore, I have been told that near the end of February there was yet another accident at the intersection. After wasting taxpayers' money on a traffic study and paying four men to hang two signs, the City solution has not solved the problem.

The people who signed the petition see no humor in a dangerous situation. Obviously, our bureaucrats played us for fools.

James Wudarczyk, petition originator
Lawrenceville

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GCAT CHAT

Organic Gardening Basics Workshop (by Grow Pittsburgh)

Thursday, April 4, from 6-8 p.m. at Assemble Gallery, 5125 Penn Ave.

Pick-up Penn Ave

Saturday, April 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Ave.

Seed Swap & Perennial Exchange

Saturday, April 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Gator Gardens, 5414 Kincaid Street.

Bring seeds for gardening to swap! Thin out your perennials and bring the extras to exchange with others! Get some new plants for your garden.

GCAT Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, April 17, at 6:00 p.m. at Assemble Gallery, 5125 Penn Ave.

Need a place to garden this summer in Garfield?

Gator Gardens will be a community garden located at 5414 Kincaid Street. It will provide local residents with the space, resources, and support they need to grow food in an urban area. If you're interested in gardening here, visit: <http://gcatpgh.wufoo.com/forms/gator-garden-signup/> and fill out the form.

If you have questions about the garden, contact: gcatpgh@gmail.com or call 412-450-0371

Busway from page 1

along Penn Avenue. The station will also have dedicated bike parking. These bike storage areas will provide a safe place for commuters to bike to the station and leave their bicycles while commuting downtown via the Busway.

In addition to the Transit Center, the area will also see development from a team led by The Mosites Company. This development, called EastSide III and IV, will include retail and apartment space.

EastSide III and IV will consist of three buildings, all with public courtyard space between. The ground floor of each building will have retail space, with approximately 360 apartments above.

This development means more vehicles

coming to the area. To accommodate this influx, there will be an underground parking garage, exposed on the south side to the train tracks, with more than 500 spaces. While some spaces will be leased to the residents of the apartment buildings, the rest will be "flexible" parking space open to the public.

There will also be a new street created during the development, connecting the current Stevenson Place up to Penn Avenue, using the existing traffic signal that sits between Penn and Shady Avenue and Penn at Penn Circle East/South. This street will have on-street parking as well as landscaping. ♦

Addiction from page 1

office located at 250 Shady Ave. next to the East Liberty Busway, treated 499 clients in the past year in its outpatient drug and alcohol program, while 167 received inpatient care in the drug and alcohol program, according to Paul Tedesco, Senior Director of the Behavioral Health division.

The drug and alcohol treatment program provides varying degrees of outpatient care along with an intensive, inpatient program for adult women. The Familylinks website cites research showing "treatment is especially effective when women can live at a treatment center with their children."

That aspect makes Familylinks' program different from similar offerings in the area. "Mothers are encouraged to bring up to two of their children, up to age 12," Tedesco said. Clients receive family and mental health services based on the degree of their addiction problems.

According to their website, addiction "rarely affects just one person's life, and often damages entire families." Tedesco said that Familylinks' substance abuse offerings treat the psychological and social issues accompanying chemical dependence, rather than only battling the addiction.

"We have a childcare staff that works with children while their mothers receive treatment," Tedesco said. Familylinks' residential sites are located "right in various neighborhoods around the county," to help provide "as normalized a treatment setting as possible." He pointed out how the inpatient programs host a family day

on Saturdays, as part of their efforts to help clients "grow positive relationships with the people in their lives." According to Tedesco, a full-time case manager works on arranging housing and other basic needs when clients leave the program.

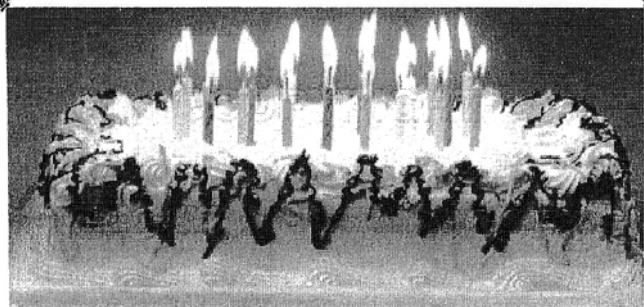
Women who check into inpatient care have usually "hit rock bottom. They're given the opportunity, with us, to pull their lives back together," he noted. Tedesco said clients' issues "run the gamut as far as what they're using." Increasingly, Familylinks sees a "high number of clients addicted to opiates," Tedesco said.

For those fighting addiction, he added, "it takes an enormous amount of courage to ask for help. If they can take that step, we can help them turn their lives around." Sarah S., a woman who recently received treatment at Familylinks, is quoted on the website: "I get real support here. They go above and beyond to help you with the resources you need. It's much more personalized here."

Many clients are eligible for Medicaid to cover the cost of their treatment, according to Tedesco. Plus, there is a fund to help pay for services for those who are not eligible for Medicaid.

Those struggling with addiction or who want to help someone confronting addiction are encouraged to call the Familylinks central intake line, day or night, 1-866-583-6003, or visit their website, www.familylinks.org. "No one is ever turned away" is the organization's claim. ♦

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Reality TV from page 1

that included "mental and physical challenges," he jumped at the chance.

"I always thought it would be neat," he says, although he had never actively pursued the opportunity. However, the chance to win \$100,000 in prize money was the real carrot, he notes.

At the time, Rogan says he didn't know what he was trying out for. Even when he was chosen and was in the middle of filming "The Full Bounty" – which appeared to be about bounty hunters – he still didn't understand what he was involved in. It turns out he was really on "The Joe Schmo Show," a hoax show on Spike TV that attempts to fool contestants into believing they're part of an actual reality series, when in fact everyone else involved is a professional actor. If the contestant makes it through to the end without figuring out the scam, he wins \$100,000 – which Rogan did, becoming the third Pittsburgher to triumph since "Schmo" debuted in 2003.

The prize money went toward the purchase of a dream house on 43rd Street in Lawrenceville for Rogan and his wife, Taylor, who are both originally from the Erie area. The couple currently rents an apartment in the neighborhood, but had been hoping to buy their first house. Rogan had his eye on the 1890 brick row house even before being tapped for "Schmo." "I thought, if I win, I'm going to buy that house," he says.

"The house has a ton of potential," Rogan explains. "And we loved the location. It's convenient to everything." He says he and Taylor have witnessed a lot of changes in Lawrenceville in just the few years they've lived in the neighborhood. "It's neat to be part of the change."

Coated in dirt and wearing protective masks, they are now knee deep in dust and debris as they do the grunt work involved in renovating the house, including ripping plaster off old bricks. There were two drop ceilings and a plaster one that had to be demolished. "I grew up on a farm, so the idea of renovation isn't foreign to me," Rogan says.

"It's fun to see what's underneath everything," Taylor adds, describing the vinyl records and old ads they found stuffed into a fireplace.

Eventually a contractor will take over the work. When the renovation is finished, the Victorian-era house will have exposed brick walls, numerous fireplaces, two bedrooms and baths and a finished attic. "We'd like to be in by May 1," Rogan notes. But since the house is basically a shell right now, he adds, "July is the absolute deadline."

Rogan is squeezing the renovation work in between his business as a consultant. An agronomist by training, he runs Pure Turf Consulting, which offers services in soil fertility, agronomy and environmental management, primarily to golf courses. However, he is now expanding his business to offer residential vegetable garden installation throughout the city and suburbs.

Would he consider trying out for another reality show? "Absolutely!" he says, and Taylor adds she'd also be game. So don't be shocked if the self-described adventurers turn up on the small screen again in the future. ♦

For more information about Rogan's residential garden installation, visit www.pureturfconsulting.com.

BELOW: A reality TV win helped Taylor and Chase Rogan buy and renovate a house in Lawrenceville. Photo by Paula Martinac



In Style on Penn Avenue

By Samantha McDonough

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation



ABOVE: Models in the That's Sharp fashion show wore clothes from the boutique's racks. Photo courtesy Veda Weathers

Garfield – Penn Avenue was the height of fashion when That's Sharp Boutique held its very first fashion show on February 23.

The idea for the fashion show originated when Veda Weathers, the boutique's owner, began working with Eric Gaines of "One Fashion Place," a fashion and style magazine that reaches 70,000 readers, according to its website. One of Gaines' photos of Sunni Lovelace, That's Sharp's signature model, was featured on the cover of the October 2012 issue of the magazine. Lovelace can now be found modeling That's Sharp ensembles every month in the publication.

Weathers collaborated with "One Fashion Place" and EMAGE Modeling and Talent Agency to select models for the fashion show. Sporting elegant gowns and evening wear, smart suits and business attire, dresses and casual wear available at the boutique, the talented models included Sunni Lovelace, Debra Clark-Russell, Daryl Ferguson (owner of Good Cleaning and Floor Care Services), and Olesia, Reba and Marissa. Gaines emceed the event, which took place in the That's Sharp storefront, located at 5165 Penn Ave. Jeanine Ferguson was the show's

makeup artist and stylist.

The fashion show enjoyed a full house of attendees, including Weathers' family; her pastor and his wife; Vince Sims from WPXI and his wife; State Rep. Ed Gainey; and Soul Pitt website's CEO Donna Michele Baxter, fashion editor Sabrina Clark and writer Sheila Beasley. Weathers' young nieces were charged with passing out favors in the palette of the shop's official colors, teal and silver, to those in attendance.

Weathers opened That's Sharp in May 2012. The boutique carries gently used and vintage clothing for men, women and juniors. (For the full story, see "Looking 'Sharp' in Garfield," *The Bulletin*, November 2012.) While her shop is still in its first year, she says she is very enthusiastic about the future of the business. She says she may be interested in working in the future with local designers who would like to have a space to sell their wearable art.

That's Sharp is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 to 5. For more information, call 412-404-7565. ♦



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Summer Camp To Teach Swimming Skills

By Wesley Davis
The Bulletin

Pittsburgh – For many children and adults in Pittsburgh, swimming to exercise, goof off and keep cool is a summer tradition. The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation will operate a Swim and Water Polo Camp through the Pittsburgh Public Schools' Summer Dreamers Academy this summer as a way for kids to have fun and learn swimming skills.

Mark Rauterkus, Head Boys and Girls Swim Coach at Pittsburgh Obama 6-12, will run the camp. Rauterkus said, "Summer should be a time when all kids have quality opportunities to be outdoors, to run, to swim, to play with others while pushing their growing bodies physically with mentor coaches." Rauterkus is striving to make this occur for hundreds of Pittsburgh youths in 2013.

Rick Swartz, Executive Director of the BGC, said the camp "will be great" because it provides "a way to utilize school district facilities in the summer." Swartz noted the fitness benefits for students of organized activity in the pool.

In 2013, BGC will serve as the fiscal sponsor for the Swim and Water Polo Camp, with help from the Neighborhood Learning Alliance. Rauterkus will deploy varsity swimmers and recent high-school

graduates as many of the assistant coaches. Students will learn various swim strokes, take part in games and learn the fundamentals of playing water polo. Swartz said that Rauterkus "should be commended" for his initiative in working to make this camp a possibility.

Pittsburgh Public Schools offers participation in the Summer Dreamers Academy to certain student populations as a free way to curb learning loss in the time when students are out of school in July and August. Rauterkus noted, "Water polo has been a popular activity option for the past four summers."

General information about the Academy and how to apply for the program can be found by contacting summerdreamers@pgphoe.net or 412-622-3983. The Summer Dreamers Academy's website explains the goals of the program: "[To] encourage a passion for learning and exploration that is a driving factor for future academic success and to motivate youths to persist in the face of challenges with the knowledge that hard work and effort will yield success."

In addition to outdoor activities, the Academy includes an academic component. "Literacy and math blocks support



ABOVE: Last year's Summer Dreamers, practicing their water polo skills. Photo courtesy Mark Rauterkus

and challenge campers in the areas that will benefit them the most," according to the Academy's website. Swartz said that transportation will be provided to move campers between academic and swimming facilities.

"This summer, only 20 middle-school slots are being provided, down from 100 last year," Rauterkus pointed out. "But the addition of more than 100 participants in elementary grades is new." Rather than one site, activities will take place at five locations, including Homewood, the West End and the Hill District.

Those who do not enroll in the Academy can still take part in other swim and water polo activities in the mornings. Practices and games will occur at Ammon Recreation Center's outdoor pool, along with swimming activities planned for pools in North Park and Shaler.

For details about the Dreamers Swim Camp and other summer swimming options, email Mark@Bloomfield-Garfield.org, or call Rauterkus at 412-298-3432. ♦

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Neighborhood FOCUS

Nurturing Plants and Sea Creatures

Community Garden Raises Money for New Sculpture

By Wesley Davis *The Bulletin*

Friendship – Several years ago, an apartment building on S. Aiken Street was ruined by a fire. Kristin Hughes, professor of design at Carnegie Mellon University, lives near the site and wanted to turn a terrible event for the community into a positive space.

"I just had this crazy idea, a garden," Hughes explained on Rick Sebak's "25 Things I Like About Pittsburgh," a documentary that aired last fall on WQED-TV.

"Three years later, the garden is ripe and blooming with foods such as rhubarb, peaches and tomatoes," she told *The Bulletin*. "Several members from the nearby and surrounding communities have participated in cultivating the garden, donating plants and fruit trees and watering the land."

Hughes also noted that the garden's organizing group "received a grant from the mayor's office and Grow Pittsburgh to develop the community project." She added that along with these supporters' help, "several high school students from East Liberty volunteered to build the foundation of the garden and several raised flowerbeds, creating an open space that welcomes passersby and surrounding neighbors."



ABOVE: A sign at the entrance to the community garden on S. Aiken Avenue points the way with the warning "Caution: Tomatoes." Photo by Kristen Hughes

The Center for Eco-Literacy's guiding principles inspire her, she said. The Center is a national organization that focuses on educating children about environmental sustainability. Its four main tenets are: "Nature is our teacher, sustainability is a community practice, the real world is the best learning environment and sustainable living is rooted in a deep knowledge of place."

The garden's central feature is a large mosaic sculpture of an octopus named Octavia, said Hughes. Octavia was donated by local artists Laura Jean McLaughlin and Bob Ziller, owners of Awesome Books in Garfield. They originally built the octopus as a prop for a putt-putt golf course at the Three Rivers Arts Festival, Hughes said. "Once Octavia arrived, the garden and the surrounding area were magically transformed. A number of small pop-up art projects have found their way into the space."

Asked about the potential impact of the garden on the area, Hughes expressed her hope that community members "will think more about nature that is all around them." Neighbors manage the garden's plots, she said, growing a cornucopia of plants. For those who don't have plots, the garden is still a relaxing place to sit, enjoy nature and interact with members of the community, of the human and octopus variety. McLaughlin echoed this sentiment and used the word "nurturing" to describe the similarity of creating art and flower beds.

Hughes told *The Bulletin* she plans to build a new sea creature with McLaughlin and Ziller, "something to keep Octavia company." The new creature will be "related to solar and wind energy," and, according to Hughes, children will take part in its creation. While building the new creature, Hughes said she aims "to teach simple science principles and practices of planting, growing and harvesting a vegetable garden. Some of the interactive elements include a colorful wind-powered whirligig and oversized, kid-made/kid-powered kaleidoscopes."

McLaughlin expressed excitement at the outdoor tiles she recently ordered from Italy for the new sea creature. Octavia is made from indoor tiles, which means the sculpture requires regular maintenance. According to McLaughlin, the outdoor tiles will be very reliable. "It could be there for centuries."



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Art All Night Turns Sweet 16

By Kristen Batao *Art All Night*

Lawrenceville – From Saturday, April 27, at 4 p.m. to Sunday, April 28, at 2 p.m., Lawrenceville once again opens its arms to Art All Night. One of the most anticipated and unique art shows Pittsburgh has to offer, Art All Night returns to the Willow Street Development at Willow and 40th Streets, to showcase one piece of artwork from every person who submits his or her own art. No fees, no jury, no censorship.

Art All Night began 16 years ago because a group of volunteers wanted to see an art show that truly celebrated the arts. They dreamed it up, found a location and made it happen. What was once a 100-piece art show that 200 people attended has transformed into an arts event that showcases more than 1,200 works of art to 13,000-plus people in a single weekend.

All types of artwork are submitted to the show; there's something for everyone. Video submissions play in the video lounge; there are drawings, paintings, sculptures, hand-made furniture, glass pieces, collages, mixed-media pieces, jewelry and everything else creative minds can devise. Art All Night artists are a mix of professionals, rookies and dabblers. They are a blend of children, teens and adults, creating art at different skill levels and contributing their individual styles to the show. Submitting artists drop off their creations during registration hours on Saturday, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Online pre-registration cuts some of the

wait time, and will be available on the website by mid-April.

Because art is not just about the final product but also about the process, art will also be made at the show. Professional and semi-professional cartoonists and graphic novelists will be "Cartooning All Night" throughout the show, and pairs of pre-selected artists will collaborate on paintings Saturday evening. There is a community art project involving repurposed plastic bags that needs the help of Art All Night patrons before its installation in the Lawrenceville area this summer.

The children's activities start at 4 p.m. on Saturday. They will be splashing paint, weaving, bubble painting and more. Kids should also look forward to the triumphant return of Cardboard City.

Art All Night wouldn't be the event that it is today without the wide array of musical artists, dance groups and various performers, too. Cara Monigold, an Art All Night patron who travels from Ohio to visit the event, said she loves the atmosphere created by the arts and performances at Art All Night. "I felt like I was stepping out of reality when I entered the warehouse last year," she said.

For more information, including the history of Art All Night, the activities and how to volunteer, visit www.artallnight.org.

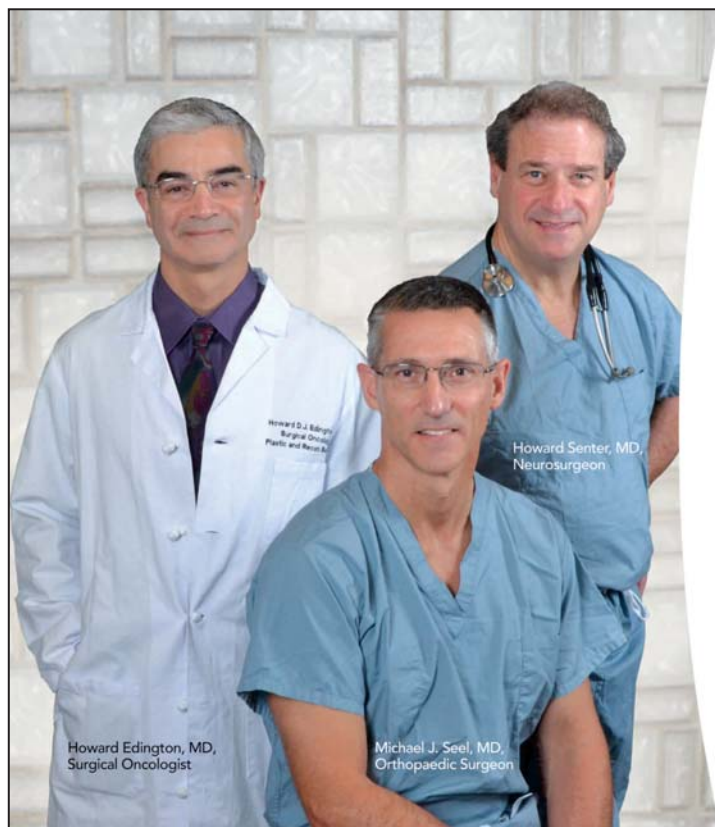


"Tender" Is the Night



Lawrenceville – Tender Bar + Kitchen, located in the old Arsenal Bank building at 43rd and Butler Streets, held a preview event in mid-March in preparation for the venue's opening in early April. The decor includes an old bank vault left on the premises and an upright piano that looks like a prop from *The Great Gatsby*.

A project of Jeff and Erin Catalina, owners of Verde Mexican Kitchen + Cantina in Garfield, Tender offers specialty libations with names like "Death in the Allegheny" ("Licorice swilled into (s)lushy submission," per bartender Sean Rosenkranz) plus 30 classic cocktails, including Mint Julep and Mai Tai. The bar also offers Arsenal Cider, crafted by Arsenal Cider House on 39th Street and served from a wooden cask behind the bar. Accompanying the drinks are small plates showcasing regional American fare. – Paula Martinac, *The Bulletin*



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Friendship Flower Festival Blossoms Again

By Wesley Davis

The Bulletin

Friendship – The Friendship Flower and Folk Festival, known as F4, returns on May 11, the day before Mother's day, with perennials, bedding flowers, herbs and vegetables for sale. Locally grown flowers can be ordered in advance at www.friendship-pgh.org or purchased at the festival.

One of F4's organizers, Dutch MacDonald, said that the flowers come from Pisarcik Greenhouses in Valencia, Pa., which is operated by Elaine Pisarcik and her family. "The flowers include popular annuals as well as some rarer varieties, in flats and half-flats," McDonald explained. "The perennials are locally grown in a field for at least a year before being transplanted to pots, in order to assure that they are healthy, sturdy and acclimated to our climate." Vegetables and herbs will also be on sale, McDonald said, including "long-time favorites as well as some heirloom varieties."

The greenhouse will once again supply beautiful, reasonably priced hanging baskets, one of the most popular parts of the festival in previous years. "The baskets have three varieties of plants selected for compatibility and composition," said McDonald.

Despite the name, flowers are just one part of F4's cornucopia of goods and activities. Tree Pittsburgh will sell trees this year, and a number of vendors will offer glass art and other handmade creations.

The festival will be "totally family-friendly," F4 organizer Martha Terry said, noting her expectation of a large, lively crowd full of "lots of dogs and children and moms and dads." Students from Pittsburgh Montessori School will host a bake sale at the festival, with proceeds going to their school, according to Terry. She went on to mention a slew of other kid-friendly activities, including an inflatable bouncy house, face painting and a martial arts demonstration.

Bike Pittsburgh will have a table to provide information about biking in the city, while another group will offer a tutorial on raising urban chickens. Volunteers will sell raffle tickets to win gift baskets, including kid-friendly options, donated by community members, local restaurants and other businesses.

For book lovers, "Karen Brooks of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Lawrenceville branch will have a table

sharing information about library services, downloadable materials" and ways to get involved with the library, Terry explained. In addition, neighbors are encouraged to donate gently used books for a book sale, Terry noted; they can drop books off at Baum Grove the morning of the festival. F4 is also seeking donations to include in the raffle gift baskets and the loan of pop-up tents to house vendors, she said.

On a small stage, folk musicians and the Steel City Ukelele Club will provide locally sourced music. "We have some Samoan dancers coming this year," Terry said.

Proceeds from F4 go to maintaining Baum Grove, "a cute little parklet ... owned and maintained by the neighborhood," Terry said. Friendship Preservation Group (FPG), which takes care of the park, and Friendship Development Associates (FDA), which owns the land, are in the process of combining to form the Friendship Community Group (FCG), Terry explained.

Confusing acronyms and bureaucratic questions aside, the real host is the tight-knit group of neighbors in Friendship.

Terry proudly pointed out that in Friendship "we take care of each other." The festival is a "celebration of our neighborhood, we want people from all over the city to come." Aside from a small grant from the city, Terry said, "This is a completely community-organized festival. To me that's the backbone of Friendship."

Each year, F4 fundraises for a different organization. Donations will be collected at this year's festival for the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh.

F4 takes place on Saturday, May 11, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in and around Baum Grove, at the intersection of Harriet, Fairmount and Roup. Streets will be blocked off surrounding Baum Grove to provide pedestrian-friendly space for the festival's offerings.

Check out the Friendship neighborhood's Facebook page, facebook.com/friendship.pittsburgh, for news and updates on F4 and a link to a downloadable flower order form. Also, catch Terry's appearance on the "Saturday Light Brigade" (slradio.org) on May 4 to talk about the festival. ♦

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Garden from page 8



ABOVE: Early draft of a proposed sea creature sculpture for the S. Aiken community garden; the final sculpture, notes artist Laura McLaughlin, won't have long hair. Courtesy Kristin Hughes

Hughes said the new creature will be created with the help of students from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation Summer Camp, Pittsburgh Montessori School and the Waldorf School, along with McLaughlin and Ziller. McLaughlin directed praise to the BGC for its involvement in the garden's construction and improvement.

Hughes said she is using the popular fundraising site indiegogo.com to raise money for new garden beds and improvements to the garden's rainwater collection devices; at press time, the project had raised over \$3,000. The current flower beds are made of bricks from the burned-down apartment building; according to Hughes,

sturdier wooden beds will last longer. She said she aims to build six additional beds this spring, with more to follow.

The garden also needs the help of neighbors who can donate used garden tools and a contractor to move the fruit trees. The garden "couldn't happen without its incredible neighbors," Hughes stated.

She said a "Rebuild the Beds Day" is planned for April 13 at 10 a.m. Community members are invited to help assemble the new garden beds and enjoy a cookout afterwards. Turning off of Penn Avenue onto S. Aiken, the Octopus Garden is located on the left – look for the "Caution Tomatoes" and "Vegetable Crossing" signs. ♦

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Dog Run Etiquette Ensures Fun for All

By Sarah Chirico and Emil Radinick *Urban Dog*

Lawrenceville – Outdoor dog parks like the new Bernard Dog Run, located on the Three Rivers Heritage Trail in Lawrenceville, were developed to allow dogs to run free, uninhibited by their human counterparts, and to socialize and play with other dogs. Dog parks can offer a whole new world of sights, smells and friends. Dogs are not solitary animals by nature and need to socialize as well as exercise with other dogs to fulfill their mental and physical needs.

An outdoor experience with your dog can be a positive and rewarding time to enjoy together. Although a fenced-in run liberates your dog, there are certain rules and codes of conduct that should be followed to ensure that all dogs at the park are safe and happy. Understand the risks associated with any dog run and prepare in advance.

Dog Problems: Introduce your dog to other dogs in the area slowly by using a “Nose to Butt” method. In the dog world, this is the same as shaking hands. When your dog is off leash, be diligent about watching him for signs of dominating others or being dominated. Natural

playing for dogs can be rough at times, with both dogs taking turns playing. One dog being chased by many dogs is not OK at a dog park. The dogs can get into a pack mentality and bite the dog being chased. If you encounter a situation in which one dog is completely dominating yours or vice versa, remove your dog immediately. The last thing you want is a full-blown dog fight with injuries.

It is difficult to define “normal” behavior and what is acceptable. Exercise a commonsense approach to monitoring your dog’s activity at the park. Watch for signs of trouble – ears upright and an aggressive stance, head on the back pushing downward, mounting other dogs from the rear, teeth bared, a menacing low growl, carrying the tail high and moving it stiffly from side to side, raised hair on the back. Pay close attention to the dog’s eyes for a fixated or trance-like stare. These are all signs that you should intervene immediately and remove your dog. Don’t be overprotective to the point your dog doesn’t benefit from the experience, but don’t allow your dog to be bullied or harmed.

People Problems: Remember, you are there for the experience with your dog. Don’t get so consumed with your cell phone or engaged with your own socializing that you forget to spend time with your dog. Don’t assume that since there are other dog lovers at the dog run that they know the potential signs of problems, or even have control of their animals. You can’t rely on others to watch your dog – your dog’s safety depends on you. There are plenty of dog owners who allow their pets to play unattended and unsupervised, causing chaos.

Health Risks: Do not take a puppy that hasn’t completed its series of vaccinations to a dog run. Healthy, vaccinated adult dogs have a low risk of becoming ill as a result of visiting the dog park. Ask your veterinarian whether she recommends vaccinating for Bordetella (kennel cough) to adequately protect your dog.

A day at the dog run can be a positive and rewarding time for you and your



ABOVE: A happy pup at the Lawrenceville dog run. Photo by Paula Martinac

canine companion. An understanding of how to prepare is an important ingredient for a happy and successful outing. ♦

Urban Dog will offer “Dog Park Etiquette 101,” a free workshop about socializing your dog, at the Bernard Dog Run at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 20. Call 412-782-2200 to register.

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Sculpting Bodies and Minds in Bloomfield

By Wesley Davis
The Bulletin

Bloomfield –Elizabeth Clay said she used to look into an empty storefront across from her apartment on Liberty Avenue and think “that has to be a yoga studio.” On Feb. 9, Clay opened just such a yoga studio, Clay Yoga, at that location, 4519 Liberty Avenue.

Clay moved to Pittsburgh from Akron a few years ago. “I love Pittsburgh. It’s great how people walk around here,” she said, which is something you don’t see in Akron. Prior to opening Clay Yoga, Elizabeth taught classes at Most Wanted Yoga, part of Most Wanted Fine Art in Garfield, located at 5015 Penn Avenue. Most Wanted Fine Art’s owner, Jason Sauer, beamed about his time working with Clay and her successful opening of her studio. “Elizabeth’s doing great. I’m very proud of her,” Sauer said.

Power Vinyasa yoga, Clay Yoga’s focus, is an athletic, motion-focused style. Clay said she fell in love with yoga while in grad school in Akron because it helped her “de-stress,” and soon after, she became a certified instructor. Power Yoga’s relaxed atmosphere and fitness aspect made it her favorite type of yoga.

Another offering, Kripalu yoga, offers a

slower-paced movement through yoga poses, Clay said, at about two breaths per pose as opposed to Power Yoga’s up-tempo, one-breath-per-pose pattern.

Power yoga focuses on a vigorous kind of breath called “‘Ujjayi’ (pronounced ooh-jai-ee), a powerful breath that keeps you present and aware,” according to Clay Yoga’s website. The site goes on to encourage beginners, “You should always be able to hear your breath. Don’t be shy about breathing.”

Clay noted that she keeps the studio heated at about 85 degrees during classes, a warm but not uncomfortable temperature that encourages muscle stretching. A class called Gentle Yoga provides a slower alternative to the majority of classes, which are titled All Levels Power Yoga. A regular rotation of instructors, including Clay, leads the classes.

The brightly colored art and warm,

bluish tone of the walls give the studio a calm vibe. It feels like a different, calmer planet tucked into Liberty Avenue’s hustle and bustle.

Clay Yoga’s website says, “All levels really means all levels. Whether you’ve been in class for ten years or ten minutes, you can

take any class we offer on our schedule. You’re a lot stronger than you think!”

The studio keeps blocks and straps stored behind the main practice area. The

props help yogis achieve full extension in their poses, said Clay. “Blocks bring the floor closer to you. Straps help you bind poses. If you want to experience the fullest expression of any posture, use a prop,” Clay Yoga’s website states. Yogis should bring a mat, water and clothing that won’t limit movement, though extra mats are available for those who need them, according to Clay.

“I don’t sweat the small stuff,” Clay noted, on the way yoga has benefitted her lifestyle. She says she focuses on the inclusive nature of her classes. “At the end of the day it’s about breathing regulation,” she said, noting how beginners won’t be intimidated or judged by more experienced yogis.

What makes Clay Yoga special, according to Clay, is that “our teachers are really paying attention to you.” Clay also pointed to the way her classes allow students to talk and be themselves; every class is designed to be as welcoming as possible.

The Clay Yoga website encourages beginners to avoid taking themselves too seriously, saying, “If you fall over (and you’re gonna fall over), it’s okay. What would a 5-year-old you do? Get frustrated and angry? Or laugh, get back up and try it again? Life’s about falling down; living is about getting back up.”

“Everyone’s New Year’s resolution is to try yoga. It’s April. Get off your butt and do it,” Clay exclaimed. Pricing and scheduling information can be found at Clayyoga.com or by calling 412-335-1332.



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April 3

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April 4

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UPMC Job Recruitment

The Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center invites job seekers to attend a UPMC Recruitment Session at 1 p.m. at the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave. Learn about the ENEC's partnership with UPMC, which gives applicants preference in the interview process. Call the ENEC to register, 412-362-8580.

April 5

LAWRENCEVILLE

April in Paris

The next exhibit at Galley on 43rd Street in Lawrenceville is "April in Paris," the photography of Scott Davidson. This show, a collection of his experiences in Paris, runs through May 18, with the opening reception taking place tonight from 7 to 10

p.m. TONE/OVERTONE will provide music for the evening. For more information: www.galleryon43rdstreet.com or 412-683-6488.

FRIENDSHIP

Mash Up World Premiere

Fierce, fragile and unadorned, Mash Up Body is a new performance installation by choreographer Kate Watson Wallace. Presented by the Kelly Strayhorn Theater as part of the KSTmoves series, Mash Up Body will have three performances at The Alloy Studios, 5530 Penn Avenue, tonight at 8 p.m. and April 6 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Part runway, part club and part theater, this multi-media piece looks at the complex and random ways in which people use their bodies to play people they are not. Visual artist/choreographer/dancer Kate Watson Wallace collaborated with DJ/musician Christopher Sean Powell and dramaturge Jaamil Kosoko. Tickets are available on the website and may be purchased in advance by visiting www.kelly-strayhorn.org or by calling 412-363-3000.

PENN AVENUE

GA/GI Festival

Geeks, artists and green innovators unite for the fourth annual GA/GI Festival – Pittsburgh's eco/technology/art festival – being held at 20 locations between 4800 and 5500 Penn Avenue, from 6 to 10 p.m., as part of Unblurred, and on April 6 from noon to 9 p.m. Meet video game art designers of the Global Game Jam and see their art exhibition and try your skills playing their games in the Global Video Game Art Jam; participate in a supermodel-style photo shoot or a fiber art bombing project; or enjoy a lighting exhibit featuring found pieces. Most of these family-friendly events are free and open to the public. For the most current information, visit: <http://www.gagi4.blogspot.com>.

Safe Light

From 7 to 10 p.m. the Irma Freeman Center for Imagination presents the opening of Safe Light, a father-son multi-media collaboration between Nick and Dennis Childers, exhibiting digital prints and an experimental video installation. There will be snacks, drinks and live music by the band The Dark Room. On view through May 3 at 5006 Penn Avenue. www.irmafreeman.org.

April 6

LAWRENCEVILLE

Tree Planting Party

Lawrenceville Tree Tenders (LTT) will plant 45 new trees in Lawrenceville: 12 street trees and 33 trees in Lawrenceville's newest green space – the Tree Park at the corner of Stanton Avenue and Keystone Street. Pre-registration for both events is welcome; email trees@paconserv.org or call 412-586-2396. Register to plant trees and grab a coffee at 8:45 a.m. at the Tree Park. Planting will start at 9 a.m. and end

at noon. Starting at noon, there will be food and music in the Tree Park.

April 7

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free History Lecture

At 11 a.m. the Rosary Society of Our Lady of the Angels Parish will host a free lecture by local historian Jim Wudarczyk. In his talk, "From the Doughboy to the Present," Wudarczyk will share amusing stories about community life as he takes a look at the ever-changing face of Lawrenceville. Refreshments will be served. This event will take place in Saint Augustine Auditorium, 220 37th Street. Confirm reservations by calling Regina 412-318-6639 or the parish office at 412-682-0929.

FRIENDSHIP

Peace Festival

City Reach Church East presents the Pittsburgh Neighborhood Peace Festival. Come to celebrate the common heritage of the Old Testament at 2 p.m. at Fourth Presbyterian Church, 5440 Friendship Avenue. Sing songs, enjoy refreshments and learn about Hope Homes and Freedom from Drugs, Alcohol and Other Issues. Call 412-882-1677 for more information.

April 8

LAWRENCEVILLE

Writing Workshop

Students in grades 9 through 12 are invited to Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., for a creative writing workshop. Upon completion, students will enter their pieces in the Ralph Munn Creative Writing Contest. 4:30 p.m. For more information call 412-682-3668.

GARFIELD

Youth Poetry Workshop

Students in grades 5 through 8 are invited to bring poems to The Literary Arts Boom (The LAB), 5125 Penn Ave., for workshoping from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The LAB will give participants basic information about preparing for a big poetry reading on April 29. Held again on April 24. RSVP to literaryarts-boom@gmail.com or 773-425-1531.

April 9

GARFIELD

Pitt Recruitment Session

Come join recruiters from the University of Pittsburgh who will discuss types of job opportunities available, the application process and how to make a stand-out application. Hosted by the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center at the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave., at 1 p.m. Call 412-362-8580 to register.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Tummy Time

Lawrenceville Family Care Connection, 5235 Butler Street, encourages parents to bring their babies to Tummy Time. Come meet with other parents and

their babies to discuss development over the first year of life, and learn activities and strategies to prepare your baby for a lifetime of learning. Times vary to accommodate needs. Free event. To RSVP call Ms. Patty (RN) 412-784-8683 x12.

April 10

GARFIELD

Public Safety Task Force

The Public Safety Task Force has convened monthly in Garfield since 2000. At the table are representatives from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, the Bureau of Police, other neighborhood organizations, the offices of the Mayor and City Council members, various city and county departments and the state. Community members are invited to bring specific concerns to PSTF's monthly meeting during the first 15 minutes. The meeting starts at 4 p.m. at BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave. For more information: 412-441-6950 x15.

Biodiversity Learning Party

Join Assemble for a Biodiversity Learning Party from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 5125 Penn Avenue. Come learn about the variety of life found on Earth, and participate in fun, hands-on activities led by local makers, scientists, artists, and technologists. Kids and grownups are invited. Contact outreach@assembleph.org for more information.

April 15

LAWRENCEVILLE

Dr. Seuss Celebration

Celebrate author and illustrator Dr. Seuss and his wonderful books at Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., at 7 p.m. Call 412-682-3668 for more information.

April 16

LAWRENCEVILLE

Lunchtime Computer Classes

Get an e-mail account, learn basic word processing and basic Internet searching at noon at Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St. Continues through April 18. Registration is required. To register call 412-682-3668.

April 19

EAST LIBERTY

"Miriam" – Pittsburgh Premiere

With "Miriam," renowned choreographer and dancer Nora Chipaumire creates her first character-driven work – a deeply personal dance-theater performance that looks closely at the tensions women face between public expectations and private desires; between selflessness and ambition; and between the perfection and sacrifice of the feminine ideal. Co-presented with the Andy Warhol Museum as part of their "Off the Wall" series.

Sorry, we do not accept listings by phone.

The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, fundraising events and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Listings published on a space-available basis; we cannot guarantee placement.

Announcements for the MAY issue are due Monday, April 15, via email to bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org.

Volunteer Opportunities & Services

Tonight and April 20 at 8 p.m. at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Avenue. Tickets may be purchased in advance by visiting www.kelly-strayhorn.org or by calling 412-363-3000.

GARFIELD

Literary Reading

Celebrate National Poetry Month and nearly a year of The Literary Arts Boom's existence with a literary reading for adults that features LAB volunteers and our talented musical friends, Arlo Aldo. 5125 Penn Ave. 7 to 9 p.m. Call 773-425-1531 with questions.

April 20

LAWRENCEVILLE

Dog Etiquette

Urban Dog will offer "Dog Park Etiquette 101," a free workshop about socializing your dog, at the Bernard Dog Run under the 40th St. Bridge. 1 p.m. Call 412-782-2200 to register.

GARFIELD

Recycled Crafts

Assemble will host a free, drop-in recycled crafts workshop for kids from 1 to 4 p.m. at 5125 Penn Ave. With the help of local artist Erika Johnson, kids will be using recycled materials to create their own biological forms, which they can add to an art installation or take home. Please contact outreach@assemblephg.org for more details.

April 21

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free Walking Tour

The Lawrenceville Historical Society will sponsor a free walking tour called "The Historic Ninth Ward." Explore the hidden history of various forms of Victorian architecture, a stable, churches, a bank, a monument, the Village of Hatfield and more. Tour begins at 1 p.m. at the corner of 40th and Davidson streets and will last approximately 90 minutes. No reservations required. Rain date: April 28 at 2 p.m.

April 22

GARFIELD

Volunteer Training

A volunteer training session called "Interdisciplinary Learning with Recycled Materials" will take place at Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This workshop for existing or aspiring Literary Arts Boom (LAB) volunteers will explore how a simple pile of raw, recycled materials can be the inspiration for many layers of learning while finding out about a variety of ways to engage children of all ages. RSVP by April 19; email literaryartsboom@gmail.com or call 773-425-1531.

April 25

GARFIELD

Freelancing and the Law

"Lessons from the 6% Place" is a free business education series for freelancers and other creative

entrepreneurs. The series seeks to make the business part of running a creative business (e.g., contracts, incorporating and accounting) less scary, with spirited workshops led by subject experts with an affinity for the creative community. In the first session, attorney Eric Davis will discuss the legal aspects of running a creative business. Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Email info@citylabphg.org for more information.

April 27

LAWRENCEVILLE

Money Smart Series

Learn from Lady Savings, www.ladysavings.com, the basics of couponing, from scouting deals online to using your smartphone to maximize savings on your grocery bill, at Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St. at 2 p.m. Call 412-682-3668 for more information.

GARFIELD

Instrument-Making

Assemble will be hosting a free, drop-in instrument-making and music workshop for kids from 1 to 4 p.m. at 5125 Penn Ave. Make violins out of recycled materials and write songs with The LAB (Literary Arts Boom). Contact outreach@assemblephg.org for more details.

April 28

LAWRENCEVILLE

Pancake Breakfast

The Holy Name Society of Our Lady of the Angels Parish will hold an "All the Pancakes You Can Eat" breakfast from 9 a.m. until noon in Saint Augustine Auditorium, 200 37th Street. \$6 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under. Proceeds benefit parish and local charities.

April 28

GARFIELD

Invention Convention

Join The LAB and Assemble and Invent-abling for our Invention Convention at 5125 Penn Avenue from 1 to 4 p.m. Students ages 8 to 13 are invited to participate in a design session that challenges them to work with reused materials and basic technology to create prototypes for products, places, and worlds they want to envision. They'll also practice pitching their ideas to their target audience. Please RSVP to literaryartsboom@gmail.com or 773-425-1531.

April 29

GARFIELD

Literary Reading

Youths who responded to Literary Arts Boom (The LAB) April poetry prompts are invited to participate in this literary reading at 5125 Penn Ave. Students ages 6 to 18 will create an interactive installation with petri dishes and microscopes to fit the April BIO exhibit at Assemble. Family, friends and supporters are invited. 6 to 8 p.m. Readers must register by April 24; literaryartsboom@gmail.com or 773-425-1531.

April

GARFIELD

Gator Gardens

Gator Gardens, a community garden located at 5414 Kincaid Street, will provide local residents with the space, resources and support needed to grow food in an urban area. Those interested in gardening should visit gcatpgh.com/gator-gardens. Grow Pittsburgh will host an Organic Gardening Basics class on April 4 at 5125 Penn Avenue from 6 to 8 p.m. A seed swap and perennial exchange will take place on April 6 from 10 a.m. to noon at the garden. Planting days will take place on April 20 from 10 a.m. to noon and April 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the garden. Email gcatpgh@gmail.com or call 412-450-0371 for more information.

Freedom Summer Camp

Valley View Presbyterian Church will once again offer Freedom Camp for children ages 6 to 12. Freedom Camp begins on June 24 and will continue through July 26, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Camp includes breakfast, lunch, academics, crafts, bible studies, weekly field trips and a variety of other activities. Camp is free and space is limited so sign up early. For additional information or to obtain an application, call 412-361-0870.

Comics Club

Make Comics at 5125 Penn Ave. (Assemble and The Literary Arts Boom). Comics Club is a series of eight consecutive Thursday workshops, beginning on April 4 and continuing on Tuesdays for the rest of the month from 4 to 6 p.m. For ages 8 to 10. Students will learn about the visual and narrative elements of comic strips and graphic novels. Students must pre-register. \$5 per session or \$35 for the series: <http://comicsclubspring.eventbrite.com>, literaryartsboom@gmail.com or 773-425-1531. Scholarships available. Parents must be sure to complete a Student Application which can be found online (<http://literaryartsboom.org/get-involved/parents/>) or completed on site prior to the workshop.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Arts & Abilities Classes

Art classes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are now available at Kiln N' Time on Tuesdays from 4 to 6 p.m., 3801 Penn Avenue. Classes are taught by artist Kirsten Ervin, M.Ed., formerly with Milestone Centers. Adaptive ceramics and pottery instruction for individuals with special needs are available at Kiln N' Time any

time. For more information, please call Sandy Simon at 412-687-0383 or email her at sasimon777@gmail.com. Property Tax/Rent Rebate Assistance

Tax Help

Volunteers from LIFE Pittsburgh will be at Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., each Wednesday in April to assist you with the preparation of your PA-1000 Property Tax or Rent Rebate form. Registration is required. Call 412-682-3668 to register.

BLOOMFIELD

EVO Summer Camp

Enroll children ages 3 to 14 in Summer Camp. Earthen Vessels Outreach and Seeds of Hope Church are celebrating 12 years of summer sports, field trips, arts, games, education & fun at our Day Camp. Located in the Garfield/Bloomfield/Friendship area, this 6-week camp runs from June 17 until July 27. Camp will be held Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Mornings are spent engaged in Bible, math, reading and healthy living courses. Afternoons are spent engaging the campers in physical activities such as dance and performing arts, swimming, tennis, soccer, basketball, music, arts and crafts. Children enjoy camp for the entire summer for \$240 to \$360. Call to register now at 412-681-7272.

STANTON HEIGHTS

Soccer in the Community

Students are invited to take part in the Soccer in the Community soccer camp on April 12, 19 and 26 at 423 Fox Chapel Road. Students will be picked up by bus at The Neighborhood Academy, 709 N. Aiken Avenue at 5:30 p.m. and dropped off at the same location at 7:40 p.m. Please email James at jamesmeara@hotmail.com or call Coach Garth at 412-475-6434 to register.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Children's Services

Family Care Connection presents free services for parents and children at 5235 Butler Street. Offerings include Kindergarten Readiness classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m., for children ages 3 to 5; Parenting Classes on Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m.; and a Focus on Fathers adult men's group that meets twice a month at different dates and times. For more information on these events and other FCC offerings, call Patricia 412-784-8683.

Classifieds

Classified ads are cheap! Advertise jobs, apartments, items for sale and services. Just \$5 for the first 15 words and 10 cents for each additional word. Boxed classifieds run \$15 to \$30 a month. Your ad is seen by thousands! Call 412-441-6915 for more information.

Services

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A Hauling Job?

We clear basements, yards, garages, attics, estates

Fast, Reliable, Reasonable

Also demolition work, minor repairs, grass cutting, salvage credit.

412-687-6928 **Call Walt** 412-773-0599

Italian artist hoping to relocate to Pittsburgh, the city of his mother, seeking inexpensive sublet for himself, wife, 2 daughters (6 and 10 y.o.) for June-Sept while in city looking for work. Lawrenceville or East Liberty preferred. Please contact Guglielmo Botter: gubotte@another.com.

Graduation from page 1

Still, the nation's percentage of freshman high-schoolers who graduate on time is just 78.2 percent. The national rate is even lower for African-American students – just 66.1 percent, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Unfortunately, the numbers in Pittsburgh mimic this national trend.

Numerous programs across the city support students in their pursuit of graduation and also coach them to plan for life after high school, whether that means continued education, the military or entering the workforce. The approach of Garfield-based Neighborhood Learning Alliance (NLA) includes these efforts, too, but adds a unique element – community education about graduation requirements, an effort called “Graduation Champions.”

The Graduation Champions Campaign launched during the 2010-2011 school year to rally community members around the common goal of increasing graduation rates in two public high schools, Pittsburgh Peabody and Pittsburgh Westinghouse.

As the initial staff team behind Graduation Champions formed to discuss strategies to support students, they soon realized that no one among them knew all of the requirements for graduation or the options for remediation. They asked

themselves, if adults who had years of experience working with high school students didn't have all of the facts, how informed was the rest of the community?

Realizing the grave implications of this gap in knowledge, the team collected its research and designed an “Unofficial Guide to Graduation” (available online at: www.neighborhoodlearning.org), which was distributed widely to community organizations and students.

The efforts of the first Graduation Champions campaign ended with the successful graduation of over 95 percent of the Peabody and Westinghouse seniors in 2011. While Peabody closed that same year, NLA now sets its sights on replicating these efforts in schools throughout the city, including Pittsburgh Milliones 6-12 and Pittsburgh Westinghouse High School. To that end, NLA has published a second edition of the “Unofficial Guide to Graduation” and hosts regular Graduation Champions trainings.

At these trainings, volunteers learn about the current drop-out crisis facing youths. They are then armed with knowledge about Pittsburgh Public Schools graduation requirements, remediation options and strategies to coach students to reach their goals for high school and beyond. Free copies of the guide are also

available at these trainings for participant use and distribution.

Do you have what it takes to become a Graduation Champion? Trainings are free, open to the public and offer light refreshments. All community members are encouraged to attend. Upcoming trainings will be held on Tuesday, April 9, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at West Penn Hospital School of Nursing, 4900 Friendship Avenue; Wednesday, April 24, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, 5321 Penn Avenue; and Wednesday, May 22, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Emanuel United Methodist Church, 856 Crucible Street, West End.

Organizations seeking to offer this training to their staff and individuals with questions can email wester@neighborhoodlearning.org or call 412-363-1910. ♦



ABOVE: Glass artist Daviea Davis chose Neighborhood Learning Alliance as one of the non-profits featured in her mosaic installation, “18 Rays of Light.” These pillars will be on display at Phipps Conservatory from April to September. NLA's pillar-in-progress is a brilliant tower of light. Photo courtesy NLA

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