



The Bulletin

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Garfield Neighborhood Plan To Be Unveiled at Community Meeting

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Interested in getting a peek at what Garfield could look like in the year 2030? On April 29, residents and stakeholders will view a presentation of the final draft of the Garfield Neighborhood Plan, a 20-year housing and land-use plan spearheaded by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) and Garfield Jubilee Association, and drafted with community input by the architectural firm of Perkins Eastman.

Two prior community meetings in May and October of 2009 gave Garfield residents an opportunity to offer their ideas for the future of the neighborhood, such as preferred housing types and the location of green spaces. Some of the main goals that emerged from those two meetings included: increasing and diversifying Garfield's population; promoting the

creation of a viable, affordable neighborhood; improving the quality of housing, both for-sale and rental; reducing vacancy; improving the appearance of Garfield's "front doors," or main entry intersections; and increasing green space and creating a good pedestrian environment.

"I heard a lot of consensus," Stefani Danes, the lead consultant on the project, said about the meeting in October. Based on the feedback she received, her staff drew up the final version of the plan, which will be unveiled on Thursday, April 29, at the BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 North Pacific Avenue. A light dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by the presentation of the plan by Perkins Eastman staff at 6:00.

Elected officials and potential funders will also be attending the meeting to get a look at the work done by the community. "We want to tell the world about our plan," said Aggie



Courtesy Perkins Eastman

MAP SHOWING WHERE GREEN SPACES AND PARKS (GRAY SHADED AREAS) MIGHT BE LOCATED IN GARFIELD BY 2030.

Brose, deputy director of the BGC. "The meeting is a way to congratulate the community. You came to the meetings, your time was well-spent. Let us applaud you."

"I am most proud of my neighbors for coming together and making these plans possible," said Freddie Croce, chair of the BGC's Housing and Land Use Committee. "As a community,

having a clear and unified voice recorded in a document becomes our single biggest asset that shall help us determine our fate. We can measure the success of our vision by referring to the plans and assessing whether we reached certain milestones and objectives."

See PLAN, page 12

New Housing and Credit Counseling Service Opening in East End

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Do you need to repair your credit? Could you use advice on getting a first-time mortgage or avoiding foreclosure on a home you already own? If so, you will soon be able to get help for free, right in the East End. NeighborWorks® Western Pennsylvania (NWWPa) has entered into a partnership with Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) to provide credit and housing counseling services to residents in the eastern

neighborhoods of the city.

NWWPa, which has a main office downtown but maintains satellite offices in different locations, will set up a new satellite office at 5321 Penn Avenue, the shared home of the BGC's Youth Development Program and the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC). Under the new arrangement, NWWPa will provide weekly counseling in foreclosure mitigation, default and delinquency, credit restoration, and pre-purchase (for homebuyers).

"We're targeting a kick-off late in April," NWWPa's Chief Operating and Financial Officer, Craig Burkley, told *The Bulletin* via email. "We will most likely start out with counseling being offered one day per week, on Tuesdays... NWWPa has been providing similar services for over 40 years to Pittsburgh communities and is currently engaged in an extensive expansion process with the intention of offering our services throughout the 10-county MSA [metropolitan statistical area]."

There is a big bonus in having

NWWPa in such close proximity to ENEC, noted Bill Woodward, Program Manager of ENEC. When people come to ENEC because they are out of work or looking for a better job, he said, they can also be connected with an NWWPa credit counselor who can answer questions about their overall financial picture. "We'll chat with them, find out how they might be served by NeighborWorks," said Woodward. "It's a nice match."

The deadline for all articles, ads, and Bulletin Board items for the May 2010 issue is **THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2010**. For more information, call 412-441-6915.

Young Job Seeker Aided by BGC's Employment Program

By Charis Rose

Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.

Every youth in the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's out-of-school Youth Employment Program (YEP) has a unique story, and there is no set profile for the type of person who participates or how he or she comes to the program. In the case of Morgan Coles, she observed her boyfriend participating the year before, and she wanted to begin training as soon as enrollment re-opened. Despite the challenges of being a young mother, she says she knew she would be supported through her training experience. Morgan had previously held employment, but wanted her experi-

ence to reach beyond the cashier counter of a local fast food chain.

Before coming to YEP, Morgan says she had spent a good six weeks diligently seeking employment. She committed a few hours each day, five days a week, to her job search. (For the average person, a six-month job search is not uncommon.) "I don't know if it's because I'm young or that I didn't attend college, but I think [employers] looked at me and thought, 'She's incapable of learning,'" she says of her experience.

Fortunately, Morgan's search stopped at YEP. In the program, young people receive Job Readiness Training, which focuses on basic job search techniques; resume preparation; cover and "thank you" letter writing; and proper interview etiquette. They are then matched with a worksite, where they receive paid on-the-job training. It is at these worksites that youths hope to gain permanent employment.

Shortly after Morgan's acceptance and Job Readiness Training, she began working in the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC). Morgan established herself as a strong asset, quickly learning the procedures of the center and assisting clients — proving herself just the

opposite of "incapable of learning." Her reputation held just as strong at her next worksite, where they asked if her time might be extended. But she needed a YEP internship that also provided the potential for full-time hire, so that experience was short-lived.

Finally, the opportunity she was looking for came from the Bank of New York Mellon, where YEP participants work as Mail Opener Trainees. Morgan worked there for the remainder of her paid work experience, and then began full-time employment at

the close of 2009.

Morgan notes a change in her job search results, stating that she feels more confident in interviews and that she knows how to write a "thank you" letter. She has recommended the BGC's Youth Employment Program to others, and feels that it has made a major difference in her outcomes when applying for positions.

The YEP salutes Morgan Coles, April's shining star!



Charis Rose/BGC

WITH A GOOD JOB, MORGAN COLES HAS REASON TO SMILE.

CCAC Comes to the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center

Beginning April 9, the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) will be hosting Ted Ketchum of Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) as a special presenter on the second Friday of each month. Ketchum will present two separate sessions to help county residents understand CCAC's workforce educational programming that assists people in becoming trained for jobs.

The first session, starting at 10 a.m. on April 9, will focus on the many opportunities open to job seekers to become trained in a variety of occupations, including accounting, welding, computer applications, and health care. The second session, starting at 11 a.m., will focus specifically on health care and related occupations. Please call 412-362-8580 to reserve a seat at one of these trainings, which will take place at the ENEC offices at 5321 Penn Avenue.

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Parents, Students Respond to District Plans for Eastern Region Schools

About 75 people, half of whom were students, filled the Pittsburgh Peabody cafeteria on March 11 for the Pittsburgh Public Schools' third input and update meeting on the future of East Region schools. This meeting - which had originally been scheduled for February 11, but was postponed due to snow - focused on the fate of four schools: Peabody, Westinghouse, Milliones, and Obama ISA.

Like the two meetings that preceded it, the March 11 gathering was designed to collect public feedback and to inform parents and students about the findings and recommendations of the 20-member East Region Advisory Committee, an ad hoc group of parents and community leaders that has been meeting every other week to consider changes to public schools from Homewood to Lawrenceville.

"We need to reduce the number of facilities we have," explained Assistant Superintendent Derrick Lopez at the opening of the meeting. "We're putting money into facilities, not students." Enrollment, he noted, is down dramatically at Peabody, Westinghouse, and Milliones.

Four main recommendations were presented at the meeting: that poor performing schools in the East Region be reconstituted; that these schools adopt an extended year and extended school day schedule; that the 6-12 configuration of schools is preferable to 9-12; and that the East Region

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

schools adopt the Big Picture Learning Framework, a national

model that focuses on personalized instruction and out-of-school learning opportunities and internships. (More information on the framework is available at www.bigpicture.org.) The model, Lopez said, "gives students a chance to put their hands on something they like" and "opens

their eyes to bigger and better things."

After Lopez presented an outline of the Big Picture model

under review, the audience broke into 12 small groups to discuss the pros and cons of the proposed new framework. Among the main pluses that parents and students identified in the Big Picture model were the personalized attention paid to students and the opportunity for internships so that young people can explore career interests. At the same time, attendees identified numerous challenges to the program, including the costs of adequate teacher preparation, the problem of students' transportation and attire for internships, and the difficulty of getting parents to support a non-traditional model. "There's a lot going on to pull off," commented one group in the report-back session that followed the group sessions.

A final round of small group discussion zeroed in on the question on everyone's mind at the meeting: At which facility will the reconstituted school be housed? Lopez asked the groups to discuss the location of programming in the East Region, and whether they thought it would be

best to combine Peabody and Westinghouse, Peabody and Milliones, or Peabody and Obama.

The barriers to combining any of the schools, the groups noted, are many, with tensions and historic rivalries between neighborhoods at the top of everyone's list. Yet students at the meeting voiced less concern about these tensions than adults did; one break-out group of mostly young people actually said, "Just do it," of the plans to merge student bodies. "The kids aren't fearful of coming together," another group noted; "the adults are."

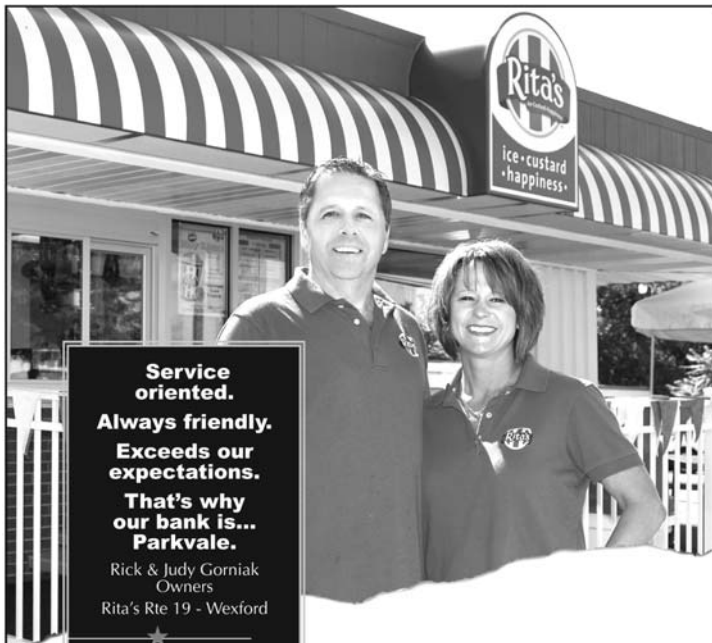
A third group suggested that, instead of Peabody being merged into Westinghouse and losing its identity, students choose a brand-new name and identity for the reconstituted school. "The building itself should not be the focus," observed a fourth group. "The program in the building should be the focus."

One suggestion that emerged from several groups and that received a warm round of applause from the attendees was the idea of school choice. Under that model, instead of students being "fed" into schools depending on where they live, they would be able to choose their schools. "That's the only way to be fair and equitable," one group noted.

In adjourning, Lopez thanked the attendees for the constructive tone of the meeting. "People disagreed," he noted, "without being disagreeable."

At press time, no final recommendations for the East Region Schools had been made. Visit www.pps.k12.pa.us and click on the "Building Excellence" tab for more information and updates.

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of coming together;
the adults are."**



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The Bulletin

serving Bloomfield, Garfield, East Liberty, Friendship, and Lawrenceville since 1975



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- serve the incorporated territory of the BGC and surrounding communities
- report on activities and ideas affecting those communities
- offer an opportunity to express opinions and exchange ideas

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Don't forget to visit The Bulletin's blog at www.bgcbulletin.blogspot.com for the latest events and happenings!

The Good, the Bad, and the Vacant

A BGC Showcase/Eyesore of the Month Profile of One East End Block

In early March, a group of eight volunteers hit the streets of the eastern part of Garfield with one simple question: "What would you like to see done on your block?" The purpose of this block-by-block survey has been to get ideas from residents for community projects that can be done in the spring to highlight the strengths of each block and address some of the resident issues. This was done with the understanding that each block might have different issues or concerns that need to be addressed. To highlight the this work, we chose the 5300 block of Broad Street between North Graham and North Aiken as this month's showcase.

The Showcase: 125 North Aiken Avenue

This is a block with a number of responsible residents who have made it a priority to keep the block looking nice. Walking down the street, you

residents to keep their block looking beautiful. We would like to thank Jacqueline Butler, the owner of record, for the reinvestment she has made in the neighborhood!

The Eyesore: 5353 Broad Street

Of course, no block is without its concerns. As you enter the block, directly across from 125 North Aiken, there are two homes that currently sit vacant. These two homes concern residents because they are worried that the vacant houses will alter the aesthetics of the neighborhood.

The owners of record of the property at 5353 Broad are Stanley and Anne Fields; the house is tax delinquent, and has been sitting vacant for some time. It has also been cited with a violation by the City Bureau of Building Inspection. This property has become a problem for residents. While at first glance it does look well maintained, the truth is that the neighboring



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

EYESORE: 5353 BROAD STREET

ties in the East End and recently fell into foreclosure on more than 60 properties. The 5300 block of Broad is now left to feel the negative effects of abandonment and foreclosure. Foreclosure is an issue in neighborhoods because it leaves homes available to the highest (or lowest) bidder, which often means that they fall prey to absentee landlords. This is the kind of activity that these residents should not have to worry about on their block.

Abandoned homes have a negative effect on property values, and usually mark the beginning of decline for a neighborhood. Additionally, owners who are adjacent to the abandoned properties are particularly vulnerable to possibly losing their homeowners' insurance. It is not fair to the residents on this block who dedicate their time to keeping their properties in good condition that these two abandoned properties ruin the appeal of their neighborhood.

The only other concern the neighbors had for the 5300 block was the presence of a number of stray cats that roam the area. These animals are likely to be found on residents' property, and are a nuisance to those who want to enjoy time outside of their homes.

Right now, in the case of this block, the positives outweigh the negatives. If issues like stray animals and vacancy are left neglected, however, it is possible that the negatives will begin to become a more serious problem. At the BGC, we are currently working on addressing some of these concerns. Our Elm Street project has given us the unique opportunity to begin addressing people's direct concerns in order to keep our community safe, clean, and pleasing to the residents.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

SHOWCASE: 125 NORTH AIKEN AVENUE

notice that it is quiet and well kept. The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation staff had the opportunity to speak with a number of the residents who reflected a love of their neighborhood; everyone is friendly, and works to keep their place in good shape. One resident pointed out the house on the end of the block: 125 North Aiken, which sits at the corner of North Aiken and Broad. This property owner recently put in a new fence around her pristine and newly landscaped property. Notably, the owner has kept the original foundation and stained glass windows intact. The property serves as an entranceway to the 5300 block of Broad, and makes a bold statement that reflects the commitment of all the

residents are the ones who have kept the property in good condition. It has sat empty for years, it burdens the residents, and it has a negative impact on the properties that surround it. Even more shameful is the fact that the tax bills are currently being sent to the Fields' home at 462 South Atlantic Avenue, Apartment 4, in the Friendship area! It is troubling that those causing blight in our community also happen to be our nearby neighbors.

Good or Bad? 5355 Broad St.

The property that sits at 5355 Broad, owned by David and Marsha Grenick, was recently vacated. The Grenicks owned a number of proper-

Family Resources Acquires Parental Stress Center

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

There's a new name over the door at 5877 Commerce Street, the home of the Parental Stress Center (PSC). On March 1, two East End social service organizations that have offered similar yet distinctive programs to families with children since the 1970s joined forces, when Family Resources acquired the services and facilities of PSC.

"This is great news," says Bob Feikema, PSC's Director of Programs and Community Initiatives who has made the move to Family Resources, an organization four times PSC's size. "What you have is the joining of two organizations with similar missions

whose programs are complementary. The issues that sometimes come up when two organizations merge, like duplication of services and staff, just didn't apply."

Family Resources' Director of Development, Andi Fischhoff, explains that PSC and Family Resources "have common roots" in the 1970s. Betty Elmer, a social worker who was major figure in bringing an understanding of child abuse to the local community, played a role in the formation of both groups. In one clear example of their parallel histories, the WARmline, a toll-free phone number for parents with questions and concerns about raising their children, was once housed at PSC but eventually became part of Family Resources'

programming. (See the Bulletin Board listing on page 10 for more information.)

Feikema says that, to his knowledge, most of the staff made the transition to Family Resources, with the exception of PSC's executive director, James Thompson. "He elected not to," Feikema says, "although he was instrumental in engineering the acquisition." For the present, some PSC staff remain in the building at 5877 Commerce Street, but the clinical staff has moved across the way to Family Resources' offices in the Stevenson Building at 141 South Highland Avenue.

Fischhoff emphasizes that the acquisition "makes us an even stronger presence in the community to serve families." She says that all of PSC's services and programs have moved to Family Resources in "a seamless transition."

In fact, one of PSC's signature programs, "Safe Visits/Safe Families" – a supervised custody exchange pro-

gram, in which children are safely transferred from custodial parent to non-custodial parent for visits – will still carry the PSC name. And with new funding from the R.K. Mellon Foundation, says Feikema, the program will actually be able to double in size. In addition, PSC's free tax preparation service for lower-income individuals and families, a popular program under its economic empowerment initiative, is in full swing through Tax Day, April 15.

Both Fischhoff and Feikema say that the acquisition of PSC was an idea that had been bouncing around between the two agencies for years, and that recent economic turmoil made it come to fruition. "Agencies have been looking for ways to be more efficient," says Fischhoff. "The [state] budget impasse put a lot of pressure on smaller agencies." Feikema agrees. "It's been a difficult time for nonprofit organizations," he says. "We saw this as a way to be financially stronger."

A Historic Nomination

East Liberty Development, Inc.'s Grant Manager, Skip Schwab, nominated the East Liberty Commercial District to the National Register of Historic Places in 2009. In late January, East Liberty community members attended a public meeting held at the East Liberty Presbyterian Church and hosted by ELDI to inform the community about the National Register listing in East Liberty. At the meeting, Schwab explained that "if listed, this designation will provide opportunities for renovation tax credits and other development advantages without impacting private property owners' rights to manage their buildings as they see fit." If approved, the nomination will protect and maintain historically and architecturally significant buildings within East Liberty's Commercial District, like East Liberty Presbyterian Church (pictured above).



A Season of Change

We can all remember coloring eggs, eating chocolate candies and wearing our finest clothing. But the true sentiment of Easter is the hope that it brings.

As we reflect on Christ's resurrection and see the coming Spring, we receive a promise of future joy.

Let this season of change be a reminder that even life's deepest sorrows can be followed with new beginnings.



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Local African-American History Guide Published

The Young Preservationists Association has published a full-color printed tour guide to regional African-American history. Called "Discover the Legacy: The African American Experience in Southwestern Pennsylvania," the guide features 104 physical sites that people can visit to experience local African-American history. Fifty-three are within the City of Pittsburgh limits.

Sites were selected for their historical significance, nationally, regionally, or locally; for their visibility; for their condition; and for their relevance to larger historical themes. Most of the Pittsburgh sites are located in the Hill District, Homewood, and the North Side, including places such as playwright August Wilson's home, the National Negro Opera Company building, and sites on the Underground Railroad.

The East End is represented in two historic churches: St. Mark's AME Zion Church at 3832 Mintwood Street in Lawrenceville (built between 1880

and 1900 - see photo below); and Mount Ararat Baptist Church at 271-277 Paulson Avenue in Larimer/East Liberty (organized in 1906, with the current building dating to 1928). Also noted in the East End is a historical marker at 5913 Bryant Street in Highland Park honoring singer and band leader Billy Eckstine.

Many organizations provided support for the printing and distribution of 5,000 tour guides for students in the Pittsburgh region, including the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Pennsylvania Dept. of Community and Economic Development, The Poise Foundation, CMU's Center for African-American Urban Studies and the Economy (CAUSE), and the University of Pittsburgh's History Department. The guide was unveiled at a ceremony at the August Wilson Center at the end of February, and released in early March. The sites can also be viewed online at www.youngpreservationists.org.



ST. MARK'S AME ZION CHURCH IN LAWRENCEVILLE WAS BUILT AT THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY.

Art All Night Returns to Lawrenceville

Art All Night Lawrenceville – an annual celebration of arts, community and creativity—is back for its 13th straight year on April 24 (starting at 6 p.m.) and 25 (ending at 2 p.m.). Last year, the event featured work by more than 1,000 visual artists, live music, interactive arts activities for children and adults, performance artists, and a live broadcast by WYEP-FM. The event attracts between 7,500 and 10,000 attendees each year. This year, Art All Night takes place at Iron City Brewery, 3340 Liberty Avenue, and a documentary crew has been recording the process of this amazing community event. Admission is free, and the event is open to the public.

Art All Night offers every artist of any skill level the opportunity to showcase one piece of artwork in the exhibit: no fees, no jury, no censorship. It is planned and coordinated by an all-volunteer organizing committee comprised of residents and supporters of Pittsburgh's vibrant Lawrenceville neighborhood. Scores of additional volunteers help to prepare the venue, construct exhibit panels, assist with registration, hang artwork, and much, much more. To learn more about the event, including how to register artwork and how to get involved as a donor or volunteer, visit www.artallnight.org.

Pull Weeds, Not Your Back, When Gardening

As springtime approaches, the weather warms up, and leaves turn

green, many of you will spend more time outside planting bulbs, mowing the lawn, and pulling weeds. Gardening can provide a great workout, but with all the bending, twisting, reaching, and pulling, your body may not be ready for exercise of the garden variety.

Gardening can be enjoyable, but it is important to stretch your muscles before reaching for your gardening tools. The back, upper legs, shoulders, and wrists are all major muscle groups affected when using your green thumb.

To make gardening as fun and enjoyable as possible, it is important to prepare your body for this type of physical activity. According to the American Chiropractic Association, the following stretches will help to alleviate muscle pain after a day spent in your garden.

1. Before stretching for any activity, breathe in and out, slowly and rhythmically; do not bounce or jerk your body, and stretch as far and as comfortably as you can. Do not follow the "no pain, no gain" rule. Stretching should not be painful. While sitting, prop your heel on a stool or step, keeping the knees straight. Lean forward until you feel a stretch in the back of the thigh, or the hamstring muscle. Hold this position

By Dr. Michael Cutitta
Bulletin Contributor

for 15 seconds. Do this once more and repeat with the other leg.

2. Stand up, balance yourself, and grab the front of your ankle from behind. Pull your heel toward your buttocks, and hold the position for 15 seconds. Do this again and repeat with the other leg.

3. While standing, weave your fingers together above your head with the palms up. Lean to one side for 10 seconds, then to the other. Repeat this stretch three times.

4. Do the "Hug your best friend." Wrap your arms around yourself and rotate to one side, stretching as far as you can comfortably go. Hold for 10 seconds and reverse. Repeat two or three times.

Finally, be aware of your body technique, body form, and correct posture while gardening. Kneel, don't bend, and alternate your stance and movements as often as possible to keep the muscles and body balanced.

If you do not complete warm-up and cool-down stretches and you already feel muscle aches and pains, there are ways to alleviate the discomfort. Apply a cold pack on the area of pain for the first 48 hours, or apply a heat pack after 48 hours... and then make an appointment with your chiropractor.

Dr. Cutitta can be reached at 412-325-4100.

FREE COMPUTER CLASSES AT EASTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD EMPLOYMENT CENTER

Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) is conducting free computer classes at its offices at 5321 Penn Avenue in Garfield. Computer equipment used in these classes was supplied by the City of Pittsburgh's Operation Weed and Seed. The class schedule in March includes:

Tuesdays:

Intro to Computers
Intro to Windows
Working with E-Applications
Intro to Word
Intro to Access
Intro to Powerpoint

Wednesdays:

Intro to Computers
Intro to Windows
Intro to Word
Working with E-Applications

Thursdays:

Intro to Powerpoint
Intro to Access
Intro to Excel
Working with E-Applications
Intro to Word
Intermediate Word
Intermediate Excel
Intermediate Access

For class times, dates, and pre-requisites, and for class registration, call ENEC at 412-362-8580 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Maximum class size is 10, so register early! No admittance to class if more than 10 minutes late. Classes are **FREE** to Allegheny County residents.

Technology Festival Comes to Penn

On Good Friday, April 2, Pittsburgh will experience something it has never seen before: The Geek Art/Green Innovators Festival – Pittsburgh's first art, technology and ecology event. Organized by Passports: The Art Diversity Project and the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative, GA/GI (pronounced GAH-gee) is a platform to celebrate current innovation as well as interesting people, projects, and programs in the technology and "green industries" from southwestern Pennsylvania and beyond.

The festival is staged in two parts:

GA/GI DAY – Union Project, 801 North Negley Avenue, 10 a.m.-Noon

"Birds, Bees and Robots" is an ecology play date for K-5, to get young children interacting with ecology and technology. Activities include creative movement with the Pittsburgh Dance Alloy; a performance by the Dilworth Elementary School World Beat Drummers; hands-on art projects provided by the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts; and special guests: David Edwards' Solar powered Flower; Sibel Deren's Replay My Play; and puppeteer Flora Shepherd reading *The Lorax* by Dr.

By Meagan Maher
Bulletin Contributor

Seuss. Plus, kids enjoy a healthy snack. A fun morning for children and parents alike!

GA/GI NIGHT – part of "Unblurred" on Penn Avenue, 5-11 p.m. (Participating galleries and businesses open from 4800-5500 Penn Ave.)

Events include eco-art exhibits in galleries, installations, and music in the new Glass Lofts condos; film and robotics demos; a twilight farmer's market; and dance, performance, and solar powered inventions. Stop at the "Eco-Tech" Information Center at 113 N. Pacific to see the University of Pittsburgh's 80-ft. Mobile Science Lab. Get information from eco-solution vendors, and you might even meet Abe Lincoln. Then at 9:30 p.m., an Eco-Tech Fashion Show/"Pedal to the Metal" takes place at Pittsburgh Glass Center (includes vintage fashion, eco-chic fashion, stylized salvage art clothing, LED looks, and robotic eveningwear). At 10:30 p.m., the evening wraps up with a performance by Cello Fury.

For more information on the festival visit the GA/GI website: www.gagifestival.blogspot.com.



TAX MAN

by Patrick N. Price
*Tax Consultant
Internal Revenue Service*

Everyone who files a federal tax return must determine which filing status applies to him or her. It's important to choose the correct filing status as it determines your standard deduction, the amount of tax you owe, and ultimately, any refund owed to you. Your marital status on the last day of the year determines your marital status for the entire year, and is the first step in determining your filing status. If more than one filing status applies to you, choose the one that gives you the lowest tax obligation. The Single filing status generally applies to anyone who is unmarried, divorced, or legally separated according to state law. A married couple may choose to file a joint return together. The married couple's filing status would then be Married Filing Jointly. If your spouse died during the year and you did not remarry during 2009, you may still file a joint return with that spouse for the year of death, provided the joint return election is not revoked by the executor of the deceased spouse's estate. A married couple may also choose to file their returns separately; each spouse's filing status in this case would generally be Married Filing Separately. Head of Household generally applies to taxpayers who are unmarried. You must also have paid more than half the cost of maintaining a home for yourself and a qualifying person to qualify for the Head of Household filing status. You may be able to choose the Qualifying Widow(er) with Dependent Child as your filing status if your spouse died during 2007 or 2008, you have a dependent child, and you meet certain other conditions. For more in-depth information on the filing statuses, you can review IRS Publication 501, Exemptions, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information.

4 NEW Single-Family Homes for Sale in Garfield!



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>> Cash down as little as \$2,500, if paired with matching grant from bank.

>> First-time buyers with sales agreement executed by April 30th are eligible for \$8,000 tax credit on their federal tax return when filed in 2011.

Call Barb Murphy at 412-665-5208, or Rick Swartz at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, 412-441-6950 x11, to schedule a tour.

Runner Goes the Extra Mile for Branch Libraries

Library supporter Susanne Park will be running in this year's Pittsburgh Marathon on May 2. To raise awareness of the financial plight of Pittsburgh's library branches, Ms. Park will run an extra mile after the Marathon. She will run across the 7th Street Bridge to the "Labor Reading" statue on the North Side. The grassroots group "Save Pittsburgh Libraries" is supporting "Going the Extra Mile," and encourages library lovers to:

- Join Ms. Park and run/walk the extra mile.
- Pledge/sponsor Ms. Park's extra mile (proceeds will benefit Friends of Lawrenceville Library).
- Contact their elected representatives to let them know that neighborhood libraries are worth saving.

DATE: Sunday, May 2, 2010

TIME: Noon

ROUTE: 7th Street bridge to "Labor Reading" statue across from the old Carnegie Library on the North Side. Route map: <http://www.mapmyrun.com/run/united-states/pa/pittsburgh/157126669654839202>.

WHO: Families, neighbors, and friends are invited to walk or run. Participants do not have to be Marathon participants.

INFORMATION: www.lawrencevillelibrary.org or susannepark@hotmail.com

DONATIONS: Each runner may raise funds for the Friends of Lawrenceville Library. It is up to each runner to solicit, collect, and present funds to the library organization. Make checks payable to: "Friends of the Lawrenceville Library" and mail to Lawrenceville Library, 279 Fisk St., Pittsburgh, PA 15201. Please write "Going the Extra Mile" on your check.

**Please note: This event is not affiliated with the Pittsburgh Marathon or Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.*

Arsenal Students Envision Project to Promote Tolerance

A small group of Somali students and alumni from Arsenal Middle School took a shot at a competitive grant offered by the Pittsburgh Foundation and the Grable Foundation under an initiative designed to give voice to young people in Pittsburgh. Working with their afterschool advisers from the MGR Foundation in Lawrenceville, the youths devised a project called "Breaking Barriers, Building Tolerance," based on their own experiences as a minority in a mostly African-American and white school.

"We started working with the students at Arsenal about four years ago," explained Phil Koch, Pittsburgh Program Director for the MGR Foundation. "There was a lot of tension between the Somali students and the other students. We looked at ways to help them grapple, help them form community."

MGR brought its arts-based afterschool experience, "Murals," to Arsenal. The program uses dance, photography, puppetry, drama, and visual expression to address the issue of violence prevention. "Murals" also has a mentoring component, provided by college students from the

University of Pittsburgh. In addition to participating in "Murals," the Somali students take part in "Mix It Up Day" every two weeks, in which they come together with other students at their school in arts-based activities that promote unity and getting along.

When the call for proposals for the "Voices of Youth" grants was announced, Koch and MGR's Program Coordinator, Amy Garbark, jumped at the opportunity to help the students fashion a proposal. They also engaged high school students who had previously been in the "Murals" program. "Intolerance continues to come up as a barrier to them when they get to high school," said Garbark.

She pulled together a small focus group of young people to explore the kind of project they would like to create for the competition. "We met at Crazy Mocha on Butler Street," Garbark said, "and talked about what a grant is, what kind of issues they face as young people." After the first

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

meeting, the students went home to think more about the grant and their ideas, and then showed up at the second meeting with friends in tow.

"You could sense the excitement," said Garbark. "It was impressive that they made the connection that lots of young people are judged. They thought it was important to tell their stories as refugees." The students came up with the idea of creating a

DVD and accompanying lesson plans for teachers at schools around the city — a

"tolerance toolkit" for breaking down the barriers that exist between young people because of ethnic, racial, religious, cultural, gender, and other differences.

As part of the project, students wanted to use flipcams (provided free by Carnegie Mellon University, where many of MGR's interns attend school) to record interviews with friends and family members, or to keep personal video journals. They also envisioned an online community where they

could post their video footage on tolerance and invite other students to upload theirs, too. "All the details weren't worked out," Garbark said, "because we really want them to take the lead. We wanted to empower them to drive the project." CMU students would provide the technical expertise needed to complete the project.

The "Visions of Youth" initiative received about 35 proposals from groups of students around the city. The Arsenal students' project made it to a list of seven finalists, but did not make the final cut of three funded projects.

Garbark explained that the students understood how grants work — that sometimes funding is not awarded, even for worthy projects. Fortunately, the group still has access to the free flipcams and technical advice from CMU, making a video project or a "ning" (online social network) likely.

And at press time Koch reported some good news: "We received word from another funder that is interested in the project and might provide the funding to make it happen anyway."

The MGR Foundation can be reached at 412-400-9435.



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New Nonprofit Helps African-Americans Find Their "Roots"

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Joe Kennedy says he wasn't looking for either a hobby or a new career when he began researching his family tree about 10 years ago. Both sides of Kennedy's large, extended family had reunions going back for many years, which he always attended, and at first he was simply interested in trying to pull together family stories and photos.

Registering at Ancestry.com, Kennedy says he "found just enough information to keep me going. I didn't think it would become my life's work." What started as an interest turned into a new career path when Kennedy, an East End resident, left his job as Director of Operations at Mister Rogers Neighborhood and founded a new nonprofit, Riverbends, in October 2009 to assist African-Americans in undertaking their own genealogy projects.

African-American family history, Kennedy observes, is "a wonderful lens through which to view all of American history." He found that his own family was "rich and complex" - not just black, not just Southern, not just slaves. "It showed me how interconnected we all are, how we're all related to each other." He wanted to help others enjoy the "rich experiences" that he had while uncovering his family's past.

Kennedy named the nonprofit Riverbends because, when he delved further and further into his family's history, he discovered that all the different branches, from North Carolina to Virginia to Pittsburgh, had lived along bends in rivers. Eventually, he intends for Riverbends to be primarily an online service, but he is still in the early stages of getting the website up and running. At present, he offers three different workshops to community and school groups, based on his experiences tracking his Virginia and Pennsylvania relatives. "I can tailor them to the audience," Kennedy says.

One of his workshops is titled "African-American Genealogy: Pitfalls and Pinnacles," and he outlined for *The Bulletin* some of the biggest pitfalls he has encountered. "Many of our most crucial records either were never kept or were destroyed," he explains.

Kennedy also notes that surnames prove a challenge in black genealogy. The popular notion is that freed blacks took the names of their slave owners, but he has found that was not always the case. For example, Kennedy discovered that the surname of one of the earliest of his ancestors he can trace, Hanie Megginson (born in 1796), did not belong to any of her slave owners. Other huge pitfalls include the fact that much of African-American his-

tory has been oral, and that slave families were routinely split up, with members sold away from each other.

Kennedy says family history becomes much easier to trace after 1870, when blacks were first counted as individuals in the U.S. Census. He discovered that many of his most recent relatives had distinguished themselves in fields like sports and music, making their histories more accessible via newspaper accounts. (His own father, Joseph Kennedy III, desegregated the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, playing piano and French horn.)

Asked about the pinnacles of tracing family roots, Kennedy notes the elation one of his aunts experienced when he helped her find some of her relatives. "She told me she felt as if her life had been transformed," he says.

Information that will soon be available at the Riverbends website includes tips and strategies for doing family genealogy; advice on how to do courthouse research; links to free and paid resources; nitty-gritty details of how to store and name computer files so they can be easily located; and a guide to African-American records. Kennedy has



VIOLA BENNETT KENNEDY (1893-1981), GREAT-GRANDMOTHER OF THE FOUNDER OF RIVERBENDS. (courtesy Joe Kennedy)

other, long-term goals, too; he is writing a book about his family, and dreams of setting up a jazz retreat at his great-grandmother's home in McDonald, Pa.

But mostly, he says he wants to help African-Americans realize "you don't have to be Harvard educated" to find your roots. "After all, who understands your family better than you do?"

For more information about Riverbends, visit www.riverbends.org, or call 412-512-1591.



Keep Your Asthma Under Control

By Dr. Amy DiPlacido, MD
Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health Center

Is your asthma acting up? Follow these steps at the first sign of an asthma exacerbation:

- Continue to take your usual inhalers and medications exactly as prescribed.
- Use your rescue inhaler (like an albuterol inhaler or nebulizer) every four hours.
- Call your health care provider to make an appointment as soon as possible.

The longer you wait to seek medical attention, the harder it may be to get your breathing back under control. Quick action on your part may keep you safe and out of the hospital. It is important that you do not run out of your usual inhalers, so try to keep track of when you are starting to run low so that you can get a refill from the pharmacy.

Once you are feeling better, work with your health care provider to develop an asthma action plan specific to you and your needs.

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THE BULLETIN BOARD

The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, announcements, fundraising events, and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Send announcements to Bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org by the 15th of each month. We do not accept listings on the phone. Information published on a space-available basis.

FAMILY HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR

The Kingsley Association, 6435 Frankstown Avenue, will hold its 2nd Annual **Health & Wellness Expo** on Saturday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come and bring the family for a full day of fitness, health, wellness, and nutrition. Kids' activities include a climbing wall, a karate demonstration, kayaking, sports clinics, and much more. Adults can take part in Pilates, Zumba, Splash Dance, yoga, and line dancing, among other activities. There will also be booths offering information about nutrition, childhood obesity, health insurance, outdoor recreation, and more. Please bring swimming attire and towels for pool activities. Refreshments will be available for purchase. To find out more, to inquire about volunteering, or to reserve a vendor booth, contact Keino Fitzpatrick at 412-661-8751 x133.

PARENTING WARMLINE

Raising Kids is a Tough Job! The Parenting WARMLINE at Family Resources can help. Call 412-641-4546 or 800-641-4546 for **free, non-medical, telephone support** for parents/caregivers. Confidential...no question too big or too small. Mon-Fri 9-9, Sat-Sun 1-5, or warmline@familyresourcesofpa.org.

SOJOURNER HOUSE VICTORIAN TEA

Sojourner House will host its sixth annual Victorian Tea on Saturday, April 24, from 1 to 3 p.m., at Churchill Valley Country Club, 800 Beulah Road, Churchill. Those in attendance can enjoy a delicious **tea, silent auction, and raffle** while learning about the award-winning work of East Liberty-based Sojourner House, a six-month residential reha-

bilitation program for addicted mothers and their children, and the inspiring stories of the families who live there. This year's Pearl of Hope honoree is long-time Sojourner House volunteer June Rush. For more information or if you would like to support Sojourner House with a tax-deductible contribution, please call 412-441-7783, x10.

HELP FOR WOMEN IN CHEMO

If you know a woman currently undergoing chemotherapy for any type of cancer, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides **free housecleaning** - one (1) time per month for four (4) months - while she is in treatment. All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. "Cleaning for a Reason" will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service. Visit www.cleaningforareason.org for more info. The organization serves the entire country and currently has 547 partners to help cancer patients.

PET FIRST AID

Learn how to help keep your four-legged companions safe by attending a **free Pet First Aid seminar** at the Simulation, Teaching and Academic Research (STAR) Center at West Penn Allegheny Health System, located on the first floor of the West Penn Hospital School of Nursing, 4900 Friendship Ave. in Bloomfield, from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 22. Tony Cuda, an instructor at Community College of Allegheny County, will demonstrate first aid techniques using dog and cat simulators. The event is free and participants may purchase an instructional booklet describing the pet first aid maneuvers discussed at the seminar. Free parking is available at West Penn Hospital's South Millvale Street garage, and participants should bring their white parking tickets to the seminar to be validated. Email RSVPs to simulation@wpahs.org and type "Pet First Aid" in the subject line by April 19.

AFFORDABLE ACUPUNCTURE

Pittsburgh Community Acupuncture is an affordable and accessible **acupuncture clinic** that provides a sliding scale acupuncture service of \$20-40/treatment with a one-time \$10

administrative fee without any proof income. Located at 4059 Penn Avenue (a block away from Pittsburgh Children's Hospital), Pittsburgh Community Acupuncture is right across from the Main Street bus stop on Penn Avenue. With a facility consisting of a consultation room as well as a large community acupuncture room with four zero-gravity chairs and two massage tables, people will enjoy an environment that provides a relaxing at the same time community oriented experience. East End residents and visitors can stop in for a visit or call owner Tyler Phan, LAc, at 412-253-0603 to set up an appointment. Visit the www.pittacupuncture.com for more information.

APRIL AT CANCER CARING CENTER

The Cancer Caring Center, 4117 Liberty Avenue in Bloomfield, presents its April "Live Well with Cancer" programs. On Tuesday, April 13, Dr. Stanley Marks, Chief Medical Officer of UPMC Cancer Centers, will discuss "Current and Targeted Therapies in Cancer," from 7 to 8:30 p.m. On Wednesday, April 14, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., there will be a Reiki Open

House with practitioners from Key Stone Reiki; learn how you can benefit from this complementary therapy, and also receive a mini treatment. On Saturday, April 28, come to "Family Fun Jump into Spring" from 12 to 1:30 p.m.; lunch will be provided, followed by activities for children. Each child will get a surprise to take home. All three events are free, but please call early to register: 412-622-1212.

5TH ANNUAL BLOSSOM TOUR IN L'VILLE

After a long winter, Lawrenceville businesses will be welcoming Spring during the 5th Annual **Blossom Tour** on April 16, 17 and 18. With the business district ever-growing we invite you to stop at the 23 participating shops, galleries and coffee shops along Butler St., 43rd, 44th, Hatfield, and 50th Streets to collect flower and herb seeds (while supplies last). Newcomers this year are Common Thread, Cavacini Garden Center, Body Shop Tattoo & Apparel, Wild Card, and pageboy salon & boutique. Many businesses will be having Blossom Tour specials, sales, raffles, garden tips and demonstrations. Fresh Heirlooms invites visitors to make

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Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Lawrenceville Branch
279 Fisk St. 412-682-3668

Preschool Storytime

For ages 3 to 5. Thursdays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 10:30 a.m.

Adult Book Discussion

Monday, April 12, 5 p.m.
A Walk in the Woods, by Bill Bryson

Terrific Tales for Toddlers

For ages 6 months to 3 years.
Tuesdays, April 6, 13, 20, 27, 11 a.m.

Family Fun: One Book Celebration

For all ages. Saturday, April 17, 11 a.m.

A Walk in the Woods

For all ages. April 11, 10:30 a.m.
A guided walking tour of Allegheny Cemetery; meet at

Butler Street entrance.

East Liberty Branch Events @ Borders EastSide Storytime

For ages 3 to 5. Wednesdays, April 7, 21, 10:30 a.m.

Family Fun: What a Treasure!

For families. Saturday, April 24, 2 p.m. A PA One Book, Every Young Child Event.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Main PC Center

4400 Forbes Avenue
<http://www.carnegielibrary.org/locations/pccenter/main/>
For more information about all our free computer classes, call the PC Center-Main Library at 412-578-2561.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

seed papers from scrap-paper pulp that can be used as a book mark or gift tag and later planted in soil to grow a beautiful patch of flowers. Stop by Salon 22 to take part in Lisa's potting station for kids. Make a donation to the Make a Wish Foundation and your child can plant some seeds to take home. Businesses will be keeping their own hours. For a list of Blossom Tour participants visit www.lawrenceville-pgh.com and click on "Events" or call 412-683-6488.

L'VILLE "LITTLE FLEA"

The Lawrenceville Little Flea opens its second season Saturday, April 3 at the corner of Butler St. and 36th from 8am-3pm. Little Flea is a **weekly outdoor marketplace** featuring a rotating variety of flea, thrift, craft, food, and cultural activities. Our mission is to contribute to the sustainability of our community by providing a venue for local vendors and neighbors to gather and share. For more info, email lawrencevillelittleflea@gmail.com or visit lawrencevillelittleflea.blogspot.com. We're actively seeking vendors, musicians and artists.

FUSED GLASS ART AT UNBLURRED

"Egg"quisite bargains on **fused glass art**, Friday, April 2, 6-9 p.m., during the April Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn. 5469 Penn Avenue (next to Voluto Coffee).

HELP CLEAN UP PENN

Help to "spring clean" Penn Avenue and our Garfield blocks! As part of the citywide "Redd Up" events during the last weekend in April, a **community clean-up** is planned for Saturday, April 24, from 9 to 11 a.m. Volunteers are needed for this event. We are calling on all residents to pitch in to keep Garfield clean. Gloves and bags will be provided, as well as a light breakfast and plenty of water. Please RSVP by April 16 to 412-441-6950 x17 so that we are sure to have enough food and supplies.

F4 RETURNS

Mark your calendars! **Friendship's annual Flower and Folk Festival** will be held on Saturday, May 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Baum Grove (intersection of Harriet, Fairmount

and Roup). Join us for this laid-back, family-friendly event featuring a fabulous selection of perennials, bedding plants, and vegetables; ongoing demonstrations; raffles; and delicious food! Check the Friendship website, www.friendship-pgh.org, for news and updates about the festival.

FLEA MARKET

Our Lady of the Angels will be sponsoring a **community flea market** on Saturday, April 10, the Saturday after Easter, at the St. Augustine Social Hall, 204 37th Street in Lawrenceville. The flea market will operate from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For further information, call 412-682-0929 or 412-682-0413.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICERS

On Sunday, April 4, at 6:45 p.m., help honor the **fallen police officers** of the Stanton Heights tragedy by lining Stanton Avenue with luminaria. Meet in two places: Sunnyside Elementary School and the bus shelter at Woodbine and Stanton Ave. Bring your family, and join us in creating a visual tribute to the officers. For more info: stantonheightspgh@gmail.com

SUMMER CAMP

Looking for a great way to spend your summer? If you are between the age of 6 and 12, Valley View Presbyterian Church will once again offer **Freedom Camp**. Freedom Camp begins on Monday, June 28, and continues through Thursday, July 29 (five weeks). Time: 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Camp will include academics (reading and math), crafts, bible studies, enrichment workshops, weekly field trips and much more. The camp is free! Space is limited so sign up early. For additional information or to apply, please call 412- 361-0870.

CENSUS HELP AVAILABLE

Need help understanding the **U.S. Census form** you got in the mail? On April 15, drop by the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Avenue, any time between 1 and 5 p.m., and a person from the Census Bureau will be on hand to answer your questions and assist you with filling in the form. Your census information is confidential, so make sure your household is counted!

You haven't outgrown Easter.

It's just time to break out of the past.



Join us at ELPC as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Holy Week services
7:00 pm on March 31- April 3

Easter Sunday services
8:00 am and 11:00 am on April 4

East Liberty Presbyterian Church | The Cathedral of Hope
116 South Highland Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15206
(412) 441-3800 www.cathedralofhope.org

East Liberty Presbyterian Church
The Cathedral of Hope

FREE FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS WORKSHOP

Join NeighborWorks® Western Pennsylvania in partnership with the Bloomfield -Garfield Corporation and PNC Bank for a free presentation on the right steps toward homeownership.

WHEN: Saturday, April 17, starting at 8:30 a.m.

WHERE: Community Activity Center, 113 North Pacific Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Lunch will be provided. To register, call 412-281-1100 x121 or 412-281-9773 x100.



CLASSIFIEDS

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PLAN, from page 1

Brose pointed out that the release of the neighborhood plan dovetails perfectly with larger plans underway in the city. In particular, Pittsburgh has created a Land Recycling Task Force to look at the widespread problem of properties that have been tax delinquent for two years or more, and to implement state law to take hold of those parcels and assemble them in a land bank for redevelopment.

"This puts us in a good position for what's going to happen throughout city. Everybody will have to abide by this plan for years to come," explained Brose. "No slum landlords can come in and build up a portfolio of property here, because we have a plan on file with the city. The organizations' job was to get the ball rolling, but the community really created it. And this plan will drive investment in Garfield for years to come."

Chief among the community's wishes, according to the language of the neighborhood plan, are to "build new houses on vacant property" and have "affordable rental housing ... distributed throughout the neighborhood" and not isolated in one spot. In keeping with that, the BGC and S&A Homes have applied for funding to build 49 units of rental housing called Garfield Glen that will be scattered throughout lower Garfield. The goal is to create affordable, attractive rental units interspersed with for-sale, single-family home, a mixture that helps stabilize the community. Renters who are not currently in a financial position to buy will

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