



# The Bulletin

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## Group Convenes to Find New Bank for Penn Avenue

By Paula Martinac  
*The Bulletin*

In the wake of PNC's decision to close its branch at 5100 Penn Avenue in May 2011, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation convened a meeting of public officials and community groups to brainstorm how they could leverage deposit support and secure customers in order to attract a new financial institution to the avenue.

Representatives from Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the Children's Home of Pittsburgh, The Neighborhood Academy, Massaro Corporation, Wireless Neighborhoods, and U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle's office, along with City Councilman Ricky Burgess, State Rep. Dom Costa, and County Executive candidate Rich Fitzgerald, joined the BGC at a luncheon meeting on March 11. At the strategy session, the group agreed that keeping a financial institution on the avenue is desirable not only for residents and businesses, but for future development efforts, and pledged to working with the BGC to make it happen.

"PNC has not deserted the neighborhood," Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC, assured those attending. "The branch was just too close to their other branches." She noted that PNC continues in a Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) with the BGC, has committed to financing new home construction in Garfield, and made a small grant to support the effort to find a new financial institution to replace the branch – even

though that could mean assisting a competitor. In addition, PNC has retained a lease on the property until 2014, and will leave all the interior fixtures intact when they move out, making it easier and cheaper for a new institution to take over the space.

But who that institution will be is the big question. At the meeting, attendees decided on a list of action items for attracting a new bank, including:

- Setting up a meeting with business people on the avenue to try to secure local deposits
- Conducting a survey and a direct mail campaign to figure out the banking needs of the nearby residents (within a 1/2-mile radius) and to gauge their willingness to switch to a new bank if one opened at this location
- Following up with banks believed to be in a "growth mode" or that may be looking to be more competitive in this part of the city
- Pursuing contacts in the banking and financial services industries suggested by attendees at the meeting who may be open to the prospect of a new bank branch

In the meantime, BGC board president Bill Cornell suggested a letter-writing campaign to let the federal government know what the loss of a branch bank will mean to the neighborhood. Anyone who banked at the 5100 Penn branch and would like to take part, see page 4 for a letter to clip, sign and mail in, or use as a template for drafting your own comments. Watch *The Bulletin* in coming months for further developments. ♦

## Fitness Center Proposed for Former Don Allen Site



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The East End may get another fitness center if plans to bring a 56,000-square-foot L.A. Fitness facility are approved by the City. Bloomfield Development Corporation and the Baum-Centre Initiative invited nearby neighbors to hear a presentation on March 15 by the company's Director of Development, Gary Collins.

In addition to hundreds of pieces of workout equipment and weights, Collins said the center, which would be located at the intersection of Baum and Liberty, would have underground parking for more than 300 cars and bikes, a lap pool and spa, a juice bar, and a racquetball court. Membership costs would be \$29.99 per month, not including start-up fees.

Collins said that L.A. Fitness is "in contract to purchase" the property. Demolition of the former Don Allen dealership and construction would take eight to nine months, with a projected opening in 2012. The investment in the neighborhood, according to Collins, would be in the area of \$12 to \$18 million. Stay tuned for more information on this proposed project.

## Bloomfield Gears Up for Neighborhood Plan

By Jennifer Lucchino  
*Bulletin Contributor*

On Monday, March 7, 2011, more than 100 people gathered at the Bloomfield Leidertafel to attend a community meeting for the Bloomfield Neighborhood Plan. The standing-room-only crowd included

residents, business owners, homeowners, workers, representatives of community organization and local city government. The purpose of the meeting was to solicit input from Bloomfield stakeholders that would identify concerns, strengths and aspirations of the community.

See **BLOOMFIELD**, page 16

The final deadline for all articles, ads, and Bulletin Board items for the May 2011 issue is **FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2011**. Placement is first-come, first-served. For more information: 412-441-6915.

## COMMUNITY GIVES TESTIMONY AGAINST PROPOSED RESTAURANT/LOUNGE

By Lauren Byrne  
*Lawrenceville United*

Maya Henry  
*Lawrenceville Corporation*

A Zoning Board of Adjustments hearing was held on March 10 regarding the proposed Industry Grill in Lawrenceville. As previously reported in *The Bulletin*, LVW, Inc., a partnership comprised of David Vizslay, Daniell Walker-Vizslay, and Tim Linz, has developed a business and site plan to open a new restaurant/lounge called Industry Grill at 4305 Butler Street.

The owners presented this plan in a community meeting on January 27. The current proposed site plan requires a special exception to the Pittsburgh Zoning Code because the it utilizes 3,400 square feet, 1,000 square feet greater than the maximum square footage permitted by right for a restaurant in

an area zoned Local Neighborhood Commercial (LNC).

Nearly 40 Lawrenceville residents, business owners, and community leaders attended the hearing and submitted testimony in opposition to the proposed Industry Grill. Representatives of Lawrenceville United, Lawrenceville Corporation, and Lawrenceville Stakeholders all testified, along with Councilman Patrick Dowd, Councilman Bruce Kraus and Council President Darlene Harris. The testimony focused on several concerns the community had with regard to the applicants being allowed a use greater than what is currently allowed by right in an LNC.

Opponents testified the applicants did not provide an adequate site plan to show parking, as well as where appropriate refuse and recycling dumpsters would be placed. Testimony focused on the fact that the proposed restaurant

did not have an adequate parking plan, and that there would be a very negative impact on the adjacent residential community. Only a small alley exists between the proposed business and the adjacent residential community which is why these issues are so important. The evidence they had gathered regarding the applicants' ownership history of commercial and residential properties demonstrated that the applicants were unfit to manage an establishment so closely adjacent to a residential area because they would be unlikely to offset the impact on the neighborhood.

The Zoning Board will accept "findings of fact" from both the applicant (owners of proposed Industry Grill) and those in opposition based on the testimonies given during the hearing until April 8. The Zoning Board will then have 45 days from April 8 to make a decision regarding the request for a

special exception. The applicant is also required to submit a more detailed site plan by April 8 based on concerns that the opposition raised.

The ownership has also applied for a liquor license. The Lawrenceville Corporation, Lawrenceville United, State Sen. Jim Ferlo, and Councilman Dowd all requested a public hearing for this pending application, and at press time, a hearing had not yet been scheduled. Lawrenceville United will alert the community if and when a public hearing is scheduled regarding the license application. Please contact LU at 412-802-7220 or via email at [info@lunited.org](mailto:info@lunited.org) with any questions or concerns regarding the Zoning Board of Adjustments hearing or with questions and concerns regarding the community process implemented around the proposed business. ♦

## Kentucky Fried Closed



Paula Martinec/The Bulletin

The KFC located at 5501 Penn Avenue closed permanently on Sunday, February 27, according to supervisor Randy who worked at that location. (He declined to give *The Bulletin* his last name.) According to Ramesh Gursahaney, Vice President of Operations for Morgan's Foods Inc. in Cleveland, which operates KFC in the Pittsburgh area, "For many years, this restaurant has been losing money. There was no way for us to remodel it to put in a drive-through. We are actively looking for another site." Mr. Gursahaney indicated that all the employees at the Penn Avenue location were offered jobs in other local KFC restaurants. The vacated property is now for sale.

## CLEAN AND GREEN GARFIELD

With spring here, enthusiasm and energy for creating green space in the Garfield

By Kathryn Vargas  
*Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.*

neighborhood are blooming. The momentum for greening projects was palpable at a February strategic planning session concerning green space in the neighborhood, hosted by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation. The hope is to harness some of this enthusiasm and bring community volunteers out to actively engage in a number of exciting greening projects this spring.

For example, plans are underway to work with GTECH Strategies to help "redd up" abandoned vacant lots in the neighborhood. GTECH uses a strategy of planting sunflower seeds to cleanse the soil. The sunflowers can then be harvested and turned into bio-fuel.

In coming weeks, the BGC and GTECH will be selecting sites and attempting to secure the means to complete these projects. By end of April, the BGC hopes to get started on these sites and will be looking to the

community for support in planting, harvesting, and designing a

reuse plan for the chosen lots.

The Garfield spring community clean-up is set for Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., and will focus Penn Avenue and on areas of the neighborhood where the community has identified interest in greening. (See notice on page 15.) In addition, the Garfield Community Action Team (GCAT) hopes to springboard an aggressive monthly clean-up campaign throughout the spring. GCAT has been instrumental in organizing the community clean-ups, tree plantings, community walks, and family day. The group will be working with GTECH and others to continue developing green projects in the neighborhood.

All those interested in a cleaner and greener Garfield are encouraged to participate in some or all of these activities. If you are interested in becoming involved, please call the BGC office at 412-441-6950 x 17. ♦

# Penn Avenue Grocery Store Shelved

By Paula Martinac  
The Bulletin

A proposed deal to bring a full-service, 14,000-square-foot grocery store to 5200 Penn Avenue has fallen through, at least for the foreseeable future. The developer, C. Brantley Tillman of Commercial Properties Inc. in Raleigh, N.C., told the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation that he is "not moving forward with development of the property at 5200 Penn Avenue as a grocery store at this time."

Tillman said he envisioned "a lengthy approval process with this site" that could not be completed in the time period he had hoped.

Commercial Properties had been holding an option to buy the property. However, in a voice message on March 11, Tillman's daughter, Kate Tillman Brown,

who is VP of Development for Commercial Properties, told Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC, "We released our option to buy. We just didn't feel it was fair to hold onto it when the owner is trying to sell it and we can't do anything with it as this point in time."

The announcement followed a contentious meeting with nearby neighbors on February 7, in which a number of residents objected to the proposed location of the store's parking lot facing South Pacific Avenue. Tillman had already had his engineer, George Haberman of the local firm Civil and Environmental Consultants Inc., redraw the plans in an effort to appease concerns raised by neighbors at an earlier meeting in December.

However, many from the Friendship side of Penn Avenue said they had not known about the December meeting, so they

brought their issues to the February assembly. Residents expressed concerns about truck traffic, lighting and noise levels. One neighbor on South Pacific said the store's parking lot would spoil the ambience of his wraparound front porch, and even invited attendees to come after the meeting to see for themselves. Some attendees in the architecture and design fields offered to work with the developers on a more suitable layout.

Other residents at the meeting voiced support for bringing a grocery store to the neighborhood – an asset that has been missing since Giant Eagle closed its store at that same location in 1987. "You have to balance the inconveniences with the benefits," remarked Bill Cornell, BGC board president and a resident of the 5000 block of Penn.

The meeting, however, produced no consensus for or against

the store, and the process promised to drag on. A sub-committee of neighbors formed to look into working with Tillman and Haberman on a design most neighbors could back. Before that committee had a chance to meet, however, Tillman announced the withdrawal. He told Brose that he is "occupied now with the construction of a store in McKeesport." When that Bottom Dollar store, a subsidiary of Food Lion, opens, he said he would bring community members out to see it with the idea of possibly revisiting a store on Penn Avenue in 2012.

"We're hoping [the property on Penn] will still be available when we come back," said Tillman Brown. "If not, we'll continue to look in the community to find something else."♦

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Dr. Koduri received her medical degree from Andhra Medical College, Maharaniapeta, Visakhapatnam, India. She completed her residency in internal medicine at Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center, Bronx, N.Y. Dr. Koduri is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and is a member of the American Medical Association. She specializes in diabetes, hypertension, and women's health.

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## The Bulletin

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



The Bulletin is published by the  
Bloomfield-Garfield Corp. to:

- 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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PNC Bank.**

Thanks also to BNY Mellon,  
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**Don't forget to visit The  
Bulletin's blog at  
www.bgcbulletin.blogspot.  
com for the latest events  
and happenings!**

## TAKE ACTION

If you would like to make your voice heard regarding the closing of the PNC branch at 5100 Penn Avenue, contact the federal agency that regulates the banking industry. Clip, sign and mail the letter below, or use this as a guide for creating your own letter. You can also email letters to [steven.maggio@occ.trea.gov](mailto:steven.maggio@occ.trea.gov).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Steven Maggio  
Director for District Licensing  
Comptroller of the Currency  
Northeastern District Office  
340 Madison Avenue, Fifth Floor  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Maggio:

I am writing to comment on the fact that PNC Bank is closing its branch at 5100 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224, effective May 13, 2011. This is my neighborhood branch.

My neighborhood consists of a primarily low- and moderate-income population, and has labored long and hard to keep a financial institution in our business district. We originally had an Equibank branch, which closed; a National City, which closed, then reopened, then was bought by PNC; and then a PNC, which is now closing, too. The PNC closure is a great hardship to me and my neighbors, many of whom do not have access to transportation for banking at branches that are farther away. Many also don't have computer access for online banking. We would welcome any assistance your office could provide to our community organizations in attracting a new branch bank to this site.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns about this closure.

Sincerely,

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

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## IS A RECREATION PARK IN GARFIELD'S FUTURE?

By Michael Rebinski  
Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.

While brainstorming for the 2030 Community Plan and at subsequent Strategic Implementation Plan meetings, Garfield residents were emphatically vocal in their support of expanded and updated recreational facilities in the neighborhood. Therefore, it is no surprise that the idea of a Hilltop Park, to be built in the area around the water tower, is one of the most popular in the plan.

On Friday, March 11, District 9 Councilman Rev. Ricky Burgess met with Garfield residents, the organizers of Garfield Youth Sports, and Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation staff at the Community Activity Center to discuss the Hilltop Park and other recreational opportunities.

Rick Swartz, Executive Director of the BGC, presented the community's vision – expanded upon at a February 16th community meeting – of a signature park featuring a modern athletic field with a track, a playground, landscaping, and walking

trails.

Attendees attested that the Hilltop Park would be an asset to the entire neighborhood, increase the attractiveness and value of existing housing development, and would become a regional attraction. "We need something like this to bring us all together," said Bob Jones of GYS.

Currently, there are few options for organized field sports in Garfield. The nearest fields and youth sports programs are in Schenley Park, Morningside, and Highland Park. Ft. Pitt field, used by the Garfield Gators youth football team and others, is less than ideal due to the poor condition of the field, lack of maintenance, parking issues, and other factors.

One hurdle to building the Hilltop Park is that the Housing Authority of Pittsburgh owns the land and plans to build Phase IV of Garfield Commons on the site. Attendees suggested that the Housing Authority could move some of the housing down the hill into the neighborhood, continuing the work of BGC, Garfield Jubilee, and private efforts.



THE LIGHT GRAY AREAS ON THIS MAP SHOW THAT ONLY 1.8 PERCENT OF GARFIELD'S TOTAL AREA CONSISTS OF PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS. THE DARKER AREAS INDICATE WOODLANDS.

Burgess allowed that Garfield has suffered from disinvestment in the past, but he said he believes it now has the leverage to attract some of what residents are asking for. He requested that attendees remain optimistic, but cautious and willing to be flexible.

Burgess revealed that an effort is currently in place to bring a state-of-the-art recreation facility to a

Housing Authority-owned site in nearby Larimer. Though no funding is in place yet, the proposed facility is helped by support from the Larimer community, and the fact that the Housing Authority owns the site and has no other plans for it.

Some attendees bristled at the idea of Larimer being the site for a

See **PARK**, page 16

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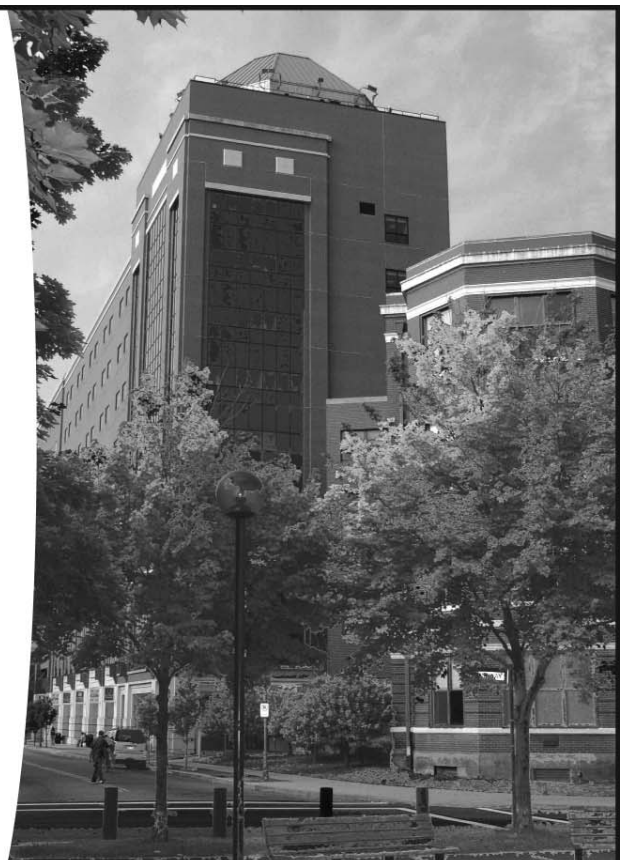
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## New Breast Cancer Survivor Group for African-American Women Forms

Beginning Wednesday, April 6, a networking group for African-American breast cancer patients will be held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. at the East Liberty branch of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, located at 130 South Whitfield Street.

The group will be led by Yvonne Durham, a breast cancer survivor and local advocate. This project is sponsored by the Cancer Caring Center with grant support from the Pittsburgh Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

The network provides a setting for patients to share common experiences and concerns and to provide emotional support. The group is free, but registration is required by calling 412-622-1212.

Since 1988, the Cancer Caring Center has provided a wide variety of free services, including community groups, professional counsel-



**YVONNE DURHAM WILL LEAD A NEW SUPPORT GROUP FOR BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS.**

ing, a telephone helpline and children's support. The Center is a Pittsburgh-based charity located at 4117 Liberty Avenue in Bloomfield. For more information, please call 412-622-1212 or visit [www.cancercaring.org](http://www.cancercaring.org). ♦

## Irish Eyes Were Smiling



Lawrenceville United's executive director, Lauren Byrne (right), was honored as one of the "Top 40 Under 40 Irish Americans" by the *Irish Echo*, the largest circulation Irish-American weekly newspaper in the country. Lauren received the recognition at a ceremony in New York City on February 24. Pictured with her are Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (who is also Lauren's grandmother), and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Congratulations, Lauren!

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# UPMC



## Allegheny Riverfront Vision Plan Unveiled at Engine House 25



**By Patrick Bowman**  
*Lawrenceville Corporation*

Home to the Roberto Clemente Museum and Engine House 25 Winery, Engine House 25 located at 3337 Penn Avenue in Lawrenceville hosted the public unveiling of the Allegheny Riverfront Vision Plan on Monday, March 14, to a capacity crowd.

The event featured food and beverages donated by local restaurants and eateries and represented the culmination of a public planning process that began in April of 2009. For 12 months, a steering committee made up of sponsors, key stakeholders and city representatives engaged residents, business owners and community leaders in the development of the 20-year plan.

"The Strip District, Lawrenceville,

Morningside, Highland Park, Downtown, and participants from all over the region have been working together for two years to create this shared vision for the corridor," said Lena Andrews, Planning and Development Specialist for the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) and member of the 16-person steering committee. "The event provided an excellent opportunity for stakeholders to mingle, celebrate, and talk about the future of their communities."

The plan itself seeks to create a comprehensive and unified vision for the redevelopment of 6.5 miles of the Allegheny River's south shore stretching from 11th Street in the Strip District to Highland Park, and a small area on the north shore at the 16th Street Bridge. The study area involves hundreds of parcels, both publicly and privately owned, and the project examines ecological systems, market-based land uses, neighborhood connections, open space, infrastructure and pedestrian and transit opportunities.

At the event, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl noted that Pittsburgh has much to be gained by reclaiming and redeveloping the Allegheny riverfront as outlined in the Vision Plan. Pennsylvania State Sen. Jim Ferlo stated that Pittsburgh has a great future laid out before it because of the Vision Plan, and that the city has become, and will continue to be, a far cry from the Pittsburgh described by James Parton's infamous quote: "Hell with the lid off."

Other speakers at the event included URA Executive Director Rob Stephany, CEO of Riverlife Lisa Schroeder, and Executive Director of the Lawrenceville Corporation Matthew Galluzzo.

"The Allegheny Riverfront Vision Plan is the framework in which we and our community partners can confidently invest our time, our creativity, and our financial resources to make a sustainable and dynamic urban model neighborhood," said Galluzzo. "The eyes of the region are looking to us to make the Allegheny Riverfront Vision a reality." ♦

### announcement

## Introducing our newest doctor

The UPMC Renal-Electrolyte Division is pleased to welcome our newest doctor to our community-based nephrology practice.



**Christopher Passero, MD**  
*Board-Certified, Nephrology, Internal Medicine*

Dr. Passero received his medical degree from Brown University Medical School. He completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in nephrology at UPMC. He is available for outpatient appointments at University Center, and as of spring 2011, at UPMC Monroeville Surgery Center. He is available for inpatient consultations at UPMC Shadyside, UPMC St. Margaret, and UPMC Mercy.

To schedule an appointment, or for more information,  
call 412-802-3043.

UPMC Kidney Clinic at  
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UPMC Kidney Clinic at  
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## TECHIES WANTED

Are you technology savvy and enjoy sharing your skills with others? The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation has volunteer opportunities for you.

The BGC is a nonprofit agency with a 35-year history of improving the social and economic fabric of the East End community. Recently, we've gone crazy for broadband, and we are expanding the efforts to make Pittsburgh one of the most connected cities in the nation. Our revolutionary Pittsburgh CONNECTS Technology Center will feature the very best in broadband technology and provide access, education and training, and connection to services for the members of the East End community.

Imagine a colorfully decorated space with tables, chairs, and comfy couches littered with the latest in mobile technology devices, such as iPads and laptop computers. In one corner sits a coffee and juice bar and in the other a SMART Board-equipped training space. All around people are working on laptops connected with the latest in broadband wireless technology. You could be at the center of this techno wonderland!

If you consider yourself a technology savant, we invite you to share your enthusiasm with others as you engage them in navigating the information highway to access Web content about everything from health to education.

Opportunities will also be available for you to wield your tech expertise in assisting job seekers in utilizing computer and Internet applications to enhance their job searches. If you're up for the challenge, you can guide clients in completing online applications, creating email accounts, conducting Internet searches, and creating and editing resumes and cover letters. If you are interested in joining BGC's own broadband revolution, call 412-441-9833 for more information.



## GOODWILL RELOCATES TO LAWRENCEVILLE

By Paula Martinac  
The Bulletin

You may only know Goodwill as a store where you can donate or buy secondhand clothing and household items, and the retail side is a vital part of the nonprofit organization's work. That's because the stores are actually funding the rest of Goodwill's mission -- to provide training and jobs for people facing physical, mental, social and economic barriers. Since late December, Goodwill Southwestern Pennsylvania has been accomplishing its goals in a brand-new, 106,000-square-foot facility in upper Lawrenceville.

Vice President of Marketing and Development David Tobiczky says he likes to show off the new facility, a bright, efficiently laid-out space on two floors. Although Goodwill's for-

mer building on Carson Street on the Southside -- which dates from the early 20th century -- was actually larger, "It was less efficient," Tobiczky noted. "It was a vertical space that had seven floors and one elevator. You could wait a long time for the elevator."

Tobiczky says that the organization had been thinking about acquiring a new facility "for a long time." The main criteria were proximity to public transportation and Access, and an ADA-accessible space. Everything came together when an empty warehouse on 52nd Street just off Butler became available, allowing Goodwill to build its dream facility from the ground up. The new building "allows us to do what we do in a better way," Tobiczky says.

In the Southside building, some of Goodwill's programs, like its Production Services, were housed on



Courtesy Goodwill SWPA

**GOODWILL'S PRODUCTION SERVICES TAKES ON CONTRACTS FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES.**

several floors, making supervision difficult. The new building, however, offers a large, bright space on one floor for this program, in which local businesses contract with Goodwill for services they can't do themselves. For example, the day *The Bulletin* visited, individuals in Production Services were busily sorting thousands of plastic clothing hangers for a local retail establishment. "The work has to be done really well," Tobiczky notes.

Not far from the Production Services room is Goodwill's Computer Recycling Center. The program, Tobiczky says, has been around for 15 years but really took off four years ago when it teamed up with Dell Reconnect, the computer giant's recycling effort. Goodwill workers take apart donated computers, separating parts and wiping clean the hard drives three times, to meet U.S. Department of Defense specifications. The program is "very environmentally friendly," Tobiczky points out.

In fact, he notes that Goodwill was a "pioneer in 'green' before it was hot." To capitalize on its long history

in this area, the organization added the tagline "Renews!" to its logo in 2008 to emphasize its ground-breaking efforts to reuse and recycle millions of pounds of merchandise each year, from clothing to computers.

Tobiczky calls Goodwill's new building a "one-stop center" for individuals looking for work. An attractive space, he says, "helps build self-esteem." Goodwill provides GED classes, job training, brush-up classes and ESL instruction -- all of which can break down barriers to locating work. Special programs are available for people with autism and seniors, and free tax preparation for low-income individuals is available through April 17 (*see page 15 for more details*). The facility also houses a walk-in CareerLink site; a Goodwill store will open in summer 2011.

Goodwill Southwestern Pennsylvania will host an open house for the public to see its new space on April 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with a dedication ceremony at 11 a.m. For more information, call 412-481-9055 or stop by the center at 118 52nd Street. ♦

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## Quantum Theatre Brings Tango to East Liberty

By Margaret Graham  
*East Liberty Development, Inc.*

Quantum Theatre, known for performing in unconventional spaces, has brought the tango operita "Maria de Buenos Aires" to East Liberty. The show, which opened March 24, will play at the East Liberty YMCA at 120 S. Whitfield Street through April 17.

"Maria de Buenos Aires," with music by Astor Piazzolla, is a musical tour of the evolution of the tango. According to Quantum Theatre Artistic Director Karla Boos, Piazzolla's work on this production explains how the tango transformed from a simple, dying form to the lively version of the tango we know today. In the show, the character Maria travels on a journey from birth, through triumphs and hardships, death and eventually rebirth – just like the tango.

In addition to music from start

to finish, the show features poetic text that is both sung and spoken. Members of Attack Theatre dance the tango throughout the show. Music is provided by an eight-piece orchestra that includes a bandoneon, an instrument of Argentina.

This production is a part of Quantum's Neighborhood Initiative, an 18-month-long program to bring their productions to neighborhoods along the Penn Avenue corridor. The first show, "When the Rain Stops Falling," brought Quantum to Lawrenceville, in the old Iron City Brewery.

"We have seen a positive impact on the neighborhoods where we perform," said Boos. "We bring people in, and they use other businesses. We realized we can have a greater impact, and bring people repeatedly to a neighborhood." Paris 66, the French bistro located at 6018 Penn Circle

South, signed on to serve as Quantum's restaurant partner, and is offering specials throughout the production.

In addition to restaurant discounts, Quantum hosted Community Night the night before the official opening of the show. Community Night included discounted tickets as well as a pre-show party.

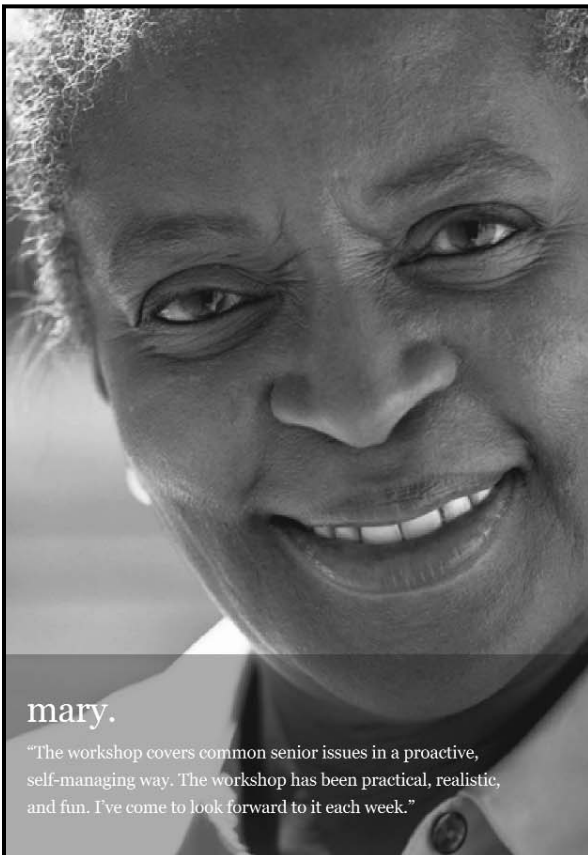
"We offered an especially big discount [on tickets] as a way of saying thank you to the community," said Boos. "That way, they were the first ones to see the work and celebrate with us at the pre-show party."

For more information on restaurants and specials, check [www.eastlibertypost.com](http://www.eastlibertypost.com). To order tickets, call ShowClix at 1-888-71-TICKETS or visit Quantum Theatre's website at [www.quantumtheatre.com/season/maria/](http://www.quantumtheatre.com/season/maria/).



Heather Mull

CAST OF "MARIA DE BUENOS AIRES,"  
FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: CAROLINA  
LOYOLA-GARCIA, KARLA BOOS,  
RAQUEL WINNICA, MICHELE DE LA  
REZA, AND DANE TONEY.



mary.

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## Art All Night Returns to Iron City Brewery

By **Tiffany Wilhelm**  
Bulletin Contributor

Art All Night Lawrenceville, an annual celebration of arts, community and creativity, is back for its 14th straight year on April 30 (starting at 4 p.m.) and May 1 (ending at 2 p.m.). The event will once again be at Iron City Brewery at 3340 Liberty Avenue. Admission is free, and the event is open to the public.

Art All Night has become one of Pittsburgh's most popular arts events in the years since it was first created by residents and supporters of Pittsburgh's vibrant Lawrenceville neighborhood. Even as its profile has risen, Art All Night remains a homegrown event, organized by an all-volunteer planning committee and supported by hundreds of additional volunteers who help to prepare the venue, hang artwork and more. Last year's event attracted around 12,000 attendees and featured work by 1,189 artists

and performers, the most ever in the event's history.

Art All Night is also free to participating artists. Integral to this event is its democratic premise — works by professional artists hang alongside artworks created by students, kids, maybe even your grandma. The show offers artists of any level of skill or experience the opportunity to showcase one piece of artwork in the exhibit with no fees, no jury, and no censorship. In addition to visual art, the event will feature live music, performances, and interactive art activities for both children and adults. The popularity of activities for children last year prompted the planning team to lengthen the event for 2011 by opening the show at 4 p.m. on Saturday.

To learn more about the event, including how to register artwork and how to get involved as a donor or volunteer, visit [www.artall-night.org](http://www.artall-night.org).



A SCENE FROM LAST YEAR'S ART ALL NIGHT.

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## NEW GREEN AND SCREEN PROJECT PROPOSED FOR PENN



CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FOR TEMPORARY GREEN AND SCREEN PROJECT  
NEAR QUIET STORM, SET FOR COMPLETION IN EARLY MAY.

There is a new Green and Screen project on a fast track at 5416-5420 Penn Avenue near Quiet Storm Restaurant. The project, proposed by local artist/architect Raedun Knutsen, is on track for completion before the May "Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn" activities.

Knutsen has applied for funding from Mainstreets Program and for The Seed Award, a small grant from The Sprout Fund.

The proposed screen will be made primarily of painted, perforated metal. The large metal panels will be held by tall, wooden posts. The Green and Screen Team is hopeful to reuse the existing posts from the current chain link fence as extra structure.

This is a temporary project, as this site will soon be developed, but the construction methods and materials will be available for use in future sites along Penn Avenue.

This project is looking for volunteers on Saturday, April 23, Saturday, April 30, and Sunday, May 1. If you are interested in participating, please contact Raedun Knutsen at raedun.knutsen@gmail.com, 703-362-5016.

### Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center Services

**FREE Employment Search Assistance:** Are you interested in free employment services? Please visit the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, to get help with resume preparation, interview preparation, job leads, connections with employers, and much more.

**YouthLink Lab:** Are you under 21 and interested in assistance with job searching, resume building, or applying? Every Wednesday evening, from 5 to 7 p.m., the ENEC holds targeted help sessions for youths. Additionally, on the first and third Thursday of each month, the ENEC hosts this session at Peabody High School in the 108 Computer Lab, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**OVR:** OVR, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, is available for appointments on the first and third Monday of every month. The office serves those with disabilities (physical, mental or emotional) that create a barrier to finding employment. OVR helps individuals to prepare for and connect with employment opportunities. A representative from the office is available for consultation at the ENEC to determine if an individual is appropriate for OVR services.

**Credit Counseling:** NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania offers free on-site credit counseling at ENEC every Thursday. To set up an appointment, please call 412-281-9773 x 125 and ask for Ross.

For more information, please call the ENEC at 412-362-8580 or stop by at 5321 Penn Avenue.



### 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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## Choreographer Comes Full Circle at Dance Alloy

By Jessica Marino  
Dance Alloy Theater

Dance Alloy Theater continues to celebrate 35 years as a pioneer in the Pittsburgh dance community with this season's Spring MainStage, "To Where We're Going." The evening includes premieres by Ursula Payne, Pearllanne Porter, and Dance Alloy's artistic director, Greer Reed-Jones, as well as a revamping of Nora Chipaumire's "Becoming Angels."

Since mid-February, Payne has been in-house working on "Things We Miss." As part of Alloy's monthly participation in the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative's Unblurred, Payne's work was presented during a Behind the Curtain evening. Audience members got a sneak peak at her work-in-progress and enjoyed a discussion with the dancers about having the opportunity to work with Payne and her creative process.

Originally from Charlotte, N.C., Payne now lives in New Castle, Pa. She's an alumna of Slippery Rock University's dance program, and is one of its most sought-out professors. Payne received her M.F.A. in Dance from Ohio State University, and is a certified Movement Analyst in Laban Studies. She has performed at many venues, and has worked with Dianne McIntyre, the leading African-American female choreographer. As a master choreographer, Payne has taught or been commissioned to create works at more than 16 universities throughout the world.

Working with Dance Alloy completes a circle for Payne. She says that, when she was a college student, Dance Alloy planted seeds of understanding about all that modern dance had to offer. She remembers "a very influential moment" watching former Alloy Artistic Director Mark Taylor and dancer Mary Willerford perform a duet. Payne says she was so moved by their creativity that she can still recall thinking, "Wow! This is the kind of dancing that I want to be doing."

And now she's back.



Courtesy Dance Alloy Theater

**COMPANY DANCER GRETCHEN MOORE DURING REHEARSAL FOR URSULA PAYNE'S THINGS WE MISS.**

A recent rehearsal had a calm and explorative atmosphere. Beams of light shone through the Alloy studio's wall of windows, and Payne had a presence of clarity and direction working with the dancers on "Things We Miss." The dancers seemed comfortable, working diligently to encompass the rebellious, yet athletic, tasks being asked of them. Creative inspiration for this work, Payne says, surrounds thoughts of home, and how relationships may mature, enrich and, at times, implode. Things We Miss explores these developments over the course of a lifetime, and how they may consequently change what "home" means.

"Think less," Payne suggested as dancers Gretchen Moore and Raymond Interior were troubleshooting a challenging section. The dancers looked great, the energy was high and there were smiles on their faces – all positive signs for what is to come.

The Spring MainStage takes place April 15 to 17 at Alloy's home, 5530 Penn Avenue. For more information or to reserve tickets, visit [www.dancealloy.org](http://www.dancealloy.org) or call 412-363-4321. ♦

## Penn Avenue Couple Wins Post-Gazette Design Contest

By Paula Martinac  
The Bulletin

How do architects design their own homes? Married architects Freddie Croce and Jennifer Lucchino, Garfield residents and business owners, demonstrated such ingenuity and flair in their own residence that they recently won the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* 5th Annual Renovation Inspiration Contest in the "Large Project" category. Their home and office on Penn Avenue were featured on the front page of the "Home & Garden" section of March 12 edition of the paper.

Gretchen McKay, the *Post-Gazette* reporter who covered the win, told *The Bulletin* in a voice message that "we were impressed with their creativity and the sophistication of the project."

"I thought of applying a year ago," says Lucchino, "but I honestly wasn't sure this was the kind of project they were looking for." Although their building was erected around 1910 and is typical of others on the avenue, Croce and Lucchino's gut renovation produced an interior that is sleek and modern – "a contemporary way to reuse the building," as Croce puts it. "You can get something new and fresh with old bones."

Croce estimates it took them two and a half years to finish the project, which was completed in fall 2009. "Jen and I come at problems differently," he notes, so it took time for them to agree on details. "Sometimes it was who yelled louder. Sometimes it was just what was a better solution. Sometimes it was you get this, I get that."

And some decisions, Lucchino

says, were left until the last minute because the couple bought the property just weeks before she gave birth to their son, Marco, and she had her hands full with a new baby. "I would have Marco here in his baby seat while we were trying to make decisions," she laughs.

Croce did most of the grunt work himself, using hand tools whenever he could. Many of the interior fixtures are built-in, made of medium-density fiberboard, or MDF, which he says is more reasonably priced than other materials. "Quality comes in different forms," Croce points out. "It doesn't have to be granite or marble."

The *Post-Gazette* honor doesn't carry a cash prize, but mostly brings exposure for their work and design ideas – valuable advertising for their firm, inter\*ARCHITECTURE, which they run from the first floor of the building. As part of their award, the couple made a guest appearance at the *Post-Gazette's* booth at the Home & Garden Show at the David Lawrence Convention Center, and will receive free tickets to house tours around the city.

When they bought the building from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, they were not sure they were going to live in the space, but both now say they're glad they did. "It was a fun project," Croce, who serves on the BGC's board of directors, says. "It gave us a chance to experiment with materials and colors" and to tackle "the challenges of urban living." ♦

For more details about the winning project, visit <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11071/113145130.stm>.



Courtesy Freddie Croce/Jennifer Lucchino

PART OF THE KITCHEN AND DINING ROOM OF THE WINNING PROJECT.

Read back issues of The Bulletin at  
[www.bloomfield-garfield.org/pages/bulletin.html](http://www.bloomfield-garfield.org/pages/bulletin.html).



# 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](mailto:Bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org) by the 15th of each month. We do not accept listings over the phone. Listings published on a space-available basis.

## SPRING CLEANING IN GARFIELD

Please join the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation in a citywide effort to support clean neighborhoods. We will be having our Garfield Spring Community Clean-up on Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Meet at the BGC Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave. Gloves, bags, light breakfast and lunch will be provided to all volunteers. Similar clean-ups will be happening in neighborhoods across the city; we hope that you will be able to join us! For more information or to RSVP, please contact Kathryn Vargas at 412-441-6950 x 17.

## CELEBRATE LIFE, CELEBRATE ART

Persad Center, Inc., is the nation's second oldest licensed counseling center specifically created to serve the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. The center's Celebrate Life, Celebrate Art auction and reception will be held at the August Wilson Center in downtown Pittsburgh on Monday, May 9, from 6 to 11 p.m. Celebrate Life, Celebrate Art brings together the work of more than 200 local, regional and international artists who donate original art and sculpture for a strolling cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception and a live and silent auction. General admission tickets are \$85. For more information, visit [www.persadevents.org](http://www.persadevents.org) or call 412-441-9786 x224.

## PARENTING WARMLINE

Parenting is a tough job - the Parenting WARMLINE can help! We offer free, non-medical telephone support, information, and referral. Call 412-641-4546 or 800-641-4546 or email: [Warmline@familyresource-sofpa.org](mailto:Warmline@familyresource-sofpa.org). Confidential.

## YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM

Build your community and get paid while in training! Earn your G.E.D. or high school diploma, and learn skills to increase your income. Join Garfield Jubilee's YouthBuild Program, in partnership with Hill House Association and Housing Authority of Pittsburgh. To apply, you must be interested in learning construction trades and in further education; serious and committed; between 16 and 24 years old; unemployed and out of school; and a resident of Pittsburgh. To qualify, you must have a birth certificate, proper ID and Social Security card. For more information, contact Renee Robinson or Tonya Daniels at Garfield Jubilee Association, 5315 Hillcrest Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15224 or 412-661-6275.

## FREE CREDIT COUNSELING

NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania, a non-profit organization serving the Pittsburgh region since 1968, offers free one-on-one financial counseling services at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Avenue, in Garfield. Homeowners delinquent with city, school or county taxes can benefit from NeighborWorks counseling through the development of a workable payment plan and intercession with the tax collection agency. Through education and personal involvement, NeighborWorks is able to get clients back on track with their finances. The NeighborWorks satellite office at ENEC makes it convenient for East End residents to take advantage of the free services available. NeighborWorks certified counselors are trustworthy and compassionate and conduct their sessions in strict confidence. To schedule a free appointment, call 412-281-9773.

## PHIPPS SUMMER INTERNS

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, with the support of The Grable Foundation and Pennsylvania's Education Improvement Tax Credit Program, will once again offer a summer enrichment opportunity for high school students with an interest in plants, the environment and science. This six-week paid internship will provide a unique combination of exposure to horticulture, botany, science, and green practices and career options through a variety of hands-on activities, classes, and

field trips. Acceptance into the internship is based in part on financial need; students must qualify for free or reduced-cost lunch in order to apply. In addition, they must be 16 years of age by June 20, and have completed their sophomore year of high school; students who are currently seniors are welcome to apply, as well. Applications accepted until May 13. Required application forms can be found at [www.phipps.conservatory.org](http://www.phipps.conservatory.org) (look for High School Programs). For more information, call 412-441-4442 x 3905 or e-mail [kbarger@hipps.conservatory.org](mailto:kbarger@hipps.conservatory.org).

## APPLY FOR A HABITAT HOME

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh's mission is the elimination of substandard housing in Allegheny County and throughout the world. Habitat homes are built in partnership with the homeowner and the community and sold to families with an interest-free, 30-year mortgage. Beginning in 2011, HFHGP will be building four homes in Garfield. Applications for homeownership are now being accepted! Please visit [www.pittsburghhabitat.org](http://www.pittsburghhabitat.org) or contact Stephanie Raufer at [sraufer@pittsburghhabitat.org](mailto:sraufer@pittsburghhabitat.org) or 412-466-6710 x10 for more information on this new homeownership opportunity in Garfield.

## SOJOURNER HOUSE VICTORIAN TEA

Sojourner House will host its seventh annual Victorian Tea, Saturday, April 30, 1 to 3 p.m., at Churchill Valley Country Club, 800 Beulah Road. Those attending this "friendraiser" 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 rehabilitation 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 founding board member Gerri Maurer. For more information or if you would like to support Sojourner House with a tax-deductible contribution, please call 412-441-7783, X 10,

email Jill Friday, or make a donation online.

## FREE L'VILLE WALKING TOUR

The Lawrenceville Historical Society will sponsor a free walking tour of "Historic Fisk Street" on Sunday, April 10 at 1 p.m. The tour will explore the rich architectural diversity from pre-Civil War structures to thoroughly modern buildings, as well as much of the hidden history of one of Lawrenceville's most unique streets. Tour begins at the corner of Penn Avenue and Fisk Street and should run approximately 90 minutes. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Rain date is set for Sunday, May 1, at 1 p.m.

## FREE TAX PREPARATION IN LAWRENCEVILLE

Goodwill Southerwestern Pa. is part of the "Money in Your Pocket Coalition" and wants you to get every penny of your refund. No money to tax preparers! Free tax service for lower income, elderly, disabled and limited-English taxpayers. Goodwill Lawrenceville VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Office, 118 52nd Street, Monday and Wednesday from 12 to 4 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. Call Keisha at 412-632-1732 to make an appointment.

## GUIDE TO LOW-COST HEALTH CARE

March 1 marked the end of adultBasic, Pennsylvania's basic health insurance program. More than 4,200 individuals in Allegheny County lost coverage. For individuals who were covered by adultBasic as well as the many who are under- or uninsured, the most comprehensive guide to free or low-cost health care is compiled by the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD). It is called *Underinsured or Uninsured? A Guide to Health Care Resources in Allegheny County*, and includes a wide range of community health centers, dental, prescription drug assistance programs and more arranged by region. The booklet is available at the

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# THE BULLETIN BOARD

ACHD website: <http://www.achd.net>, under "Timely Topics" on the right.

## PARTY WITH THE POETS

Join Friendship writer Angele Ellis and friends – including poets Renée Alberts, Madalon Amenta, Jan Beatty, Deb Bogen, Dana Killmeyer, Ellen McGrath Smith, Andrew Sydlík, and Don Wentworth – in celebrating the release of Angele's second book of poems, *Spared* (a runner-up in Main Street Rag's 2010 Chapbook Competition). This evening of verse, refreshments, and books will be held on Saturday, April 2, at ModernFormations, 4919 Penn Ave. Doors open at 6 p.m. All are welcome!

## SOCCER FOR KIDS

Kids ages 5 to 11, sign up for A.I.S. Pittsburgh East End Soccer Club. Before April 3, just \$15 per child for eight weeks of soccer, shirt and trophy; after April 3, \$20. Registration deadline: April 9. Practices and games are on Saturdays, starting April 2, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Place: Heths Field by St. Raphael's Church in Morningside in the 5400 block of Hampton Street. Have fun, improve your soccer skills and learn what the Bible says to kids. Also, there will be a soccer club for middle school boys and girls, grades 6 to 8, starting April 9, from 12 to 2 p.m. Sponsored by The Open Door, 801 N. Negley Avenue. Call B.J. Woodworth at 412-215-6398 or Lisa Collier at 412-567-2582 for information.

## HOLY WEEK AT DOOR OF HOPE

Holy Week services and activities at the Door of Hope Community Church, 5225 Holmes Street, Lawrenceville. Palm Sunday, April 17: Church Service at 11 a.m. with luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday, April 21: Church Service with Sermon & Communion at 7 p.m. Easter Sunday, April 24: Sunrise Service at 8 a.m. and Church Service at 11 a.m. We also have our Sunday School for all age groups, plus Christians in Recovery, at 10 a.m., and Church Service at 11 a.m. every Sunday. For additional information, please contact us at 412-781-6440 or [doorofhopecommunitychurch@verizon.net](mailto:doorofhopecommunitychurch@verizon.net).

## SPRING REVIVAL AT KING OF KINGS

Spring Revival: "It's a New Season" at King of Kings Baptist Ministries, 5169 Broad Street, Garfield; overseer, L.C. Carter, Founder & Pastor. Saturday, April 9, 12 p.m.: Rev. Wanda Sawyer-Flippings of Emmanuel Baptist Church. Saturday, April 30, at 12 p.m.: Rev. June Jeffries, New Life Baptist Church; Pastor Rasonia Herring, New Dimensions Full Gospel Baptist Church; and Fred J. Dukes, Jr., Revival's Minister of Music. Come out and be blessed! Get your praise on! For information: 412-661-3550.

## EASTER EGG HUNT

New Bethel Baptist Church, 221 43rd Street in Lawrenceville, will host a "He Is Risen" Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For children ages 4 through 12. Fun, games and prizes! Celebrate Easter Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. on April 24. All are welcome! For information, call 412-231-3128.

## RIDE SHARING SERVICE

Instead of commuting solo, consider sharing a ride. CommuteInfo is dedicated to increasing the number of commuters in Southwestern PA sharing a ride to work or school. Think of CommuteInfo as a restaurant menu of commuting choices. It's free to register, and benefits include informational updates and, for those who join a "pool," participation in the Emergency Ride Home service. The CommuteInfo website includes a cost calculator where commuters can calculate the cost of their commute. Commuters just plug in a few numbers, and can then take a look at their actual commuting costs. Contact CommuteInfo at 1-888-819-6110 or register on-line at [www.commuteinfo.org](http://www.commuteinfo.org) today.

## 2ND GA/GI FESTIVAL

April "Unblurred" is Geek Art/Green Innovators Festival on Penn Avenue! Now in its second year, GA/GI (pronounced GAH-gee) is a tossed salad of art exhibitions, technology and eco innovation, providing a unique opportunity for the average Joe or Jane and the family to meet interesting people, and learn about projects happening in and around

## CARNEGIE LIBRARY HAPPENINGS - APRIL

**Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - East Liberty Branch**  
130 S. Whitfield St. 412-363-8274  
*All programs are free*

**Super Science @ Your Library**  
Saturday, April 16, 10:30 p.m.  
Stop by the library for some hands-on science experiments as we learn about water, rivers and whales and more. Recommended for 1st through 5th grades.

### The Family Playshop

Ages 0-3. Fridays, April 1, 8, 15, 22.

### Family Study Buddies:

#### Social/Emotional

For students in grades K-5 with a parent. Saturday, April 2, 10 a.m.

### Pre-K Program: What's the BIG

Idea? Math & Science for Preschoolers

Wednesday, April 27, 6 p.m.

### School Age Fun: Artful Stories

For ages 7-12. Wednesday, April 20, 6 p.m.



**Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Lawrenceville Branch**  
279 Fisk St. 412-682-3668  
*All programs are free*

### Adult Book Discussion Group

Monday, April 11, 5 to 5:45 p.m.  
This month's title is *29 Gifts: How a Month of Giving Can Change Your Life*, by Cami Walker.

### One Book, Every Young Child

Celebrate this year's selection, *Whose Shoes? A Shoe for Every Job*, by Stephen R. Swinburne, at this special program.

### Snuggle Bug Story Time

Tuesdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26, 11 a.m. Caregivers and babies are invited to share a program of books, rhymes, songs, finger plays and fun!

### Teen Time

For middle and high school students. Wednesday, April 27, 4 p.m. Video games? Board games?

Crafts? What we do is up to you!

### One-on-One Computer Classes

Need to use a computer, but don't know where to start? Contact CLP-Lawrenceville to register for one-on-one computer instruction.

Southwestern PA. Some new faces you'll be seeing this year include the Quality of Life Technology Center, which gears up folks with physical limitations; you'll also get a sneak preview at the new Post Natural History Center, see LED light displays and join in on the "Obscure Games" being played on the main street. Look for the GA/GI "Clusters" of events throughout the Penn Avenue Arts District (Negley to Mathilda) on Friday evening, April 1, starting 5:30 p.m.; then on Saturday, it's GA/GI eco/tech projects just for kids at the Union Project Open house, 801 N. Negley Avenue, in Highland Park, starting at 10 a.m. Plus come back to Penn to the Glass Center and Lofts for more events like the "I (re)Made it Smart" indie crafts fair. For more info, visit [www.gagifest.blogspot.com](http://www.gagifest.blogspot.com).

## BENEFIT SCREENING OF "PRISCILLA"

Persad Center and Pitt's Rainbow Alliance present a screening of *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the*

*Desert* at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater on Wednesday, April 6, at 7 p.m. All proceeds to benefit the Initiative for Transgender Leadership, a 10-month paid fellowship opportunity given to one transgender-identified youth to promote professional and leadership development and positive community impact. Join us for a community mixer at 6:30 p.m. before the film, a panel discussion after, and raffle prizes awarded throughout. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 under 25. For more information, contact Ray Miles at 412-441-9786 x240 or [rmiles@persadcenter.org](mailto:rmiles@persadcenter.org).

## HEALTH/Wellness DAY

Stress screening will be performed by EECM Community Stress Center staff at 116 S. Highland Avenue, on Thursday, April 14, from 12 to 4 p.m. Cholesterol screenings from 12 to 3 p.m. The Pittsburgh Black Nurses Association will be performing blood pressure and blood sugar screenings from 1 to 3 p.m. Stretching exercises and Back/Hand Massages from 1 to 3 p.m. To register, call 412-383-5137.



**BLOOMFIELD, from page 1**

This meeting represented the first major step in a six-month process initiated by the Bloomfield Development Corporation (BDC). Faced with the challenge of obtaining funding for projects in the community, the BDC, a non-profit community development corporation, reached out to funding partners from the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh (CDCP), Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development (PPND) and Fifth Third Bank to define a process that would better enable Bloomfield to compete for available funds. Executive Director Karla Owens explained that this process will lead to completing a five-year vision for Bloomfield.

The presentation was prepared and led by Freddie Croce and myself – architects and planners with the Penn Avenue firm inter\*ARCHITECTURE. Attendees had the opportunity to contribute their concerns and aspirations for the community by speak-

ing to the group and completing a survey. Eleven enthusiastic audience members, ranging from a 10-year renter in the area, to a seven-year business owner and a lifelong resident, took the opportunity to address the group. Collectively, they voiced a desire to clean up certain areas in the neighborhood and lauded the community's strengths such as its diversity, strong history and central location amongst other issues.

Next steps include a series of three focus group meetings over the next two months on major topics that concern the community. These will be held in different locations in Bloomfield to reach out to as many people as possible. This will lead to the development of specific implementation ideas that will be included in the Neighborhood Plan. For more information, please contact the BDC offices at 412-681-8800 or visit the website at [www.bloomfieldnow.com](http://www.bloomfieldnow.com). ♦

**PARK, from page 3**

new sports facility, considering the existing structure and history of youth athletics in Garfield. Others expressed wonder that no effort had been made to include Garfield residents in what is clearly a regional issue.

Burgess proposed three items of action: (1) to renovate Ft. Pitt field, though this would require suspension of activities at the site for two years; (2) to purchase a facility such as St. Lawrence O'Toole's indoor gymnasium, to be owned and operated by the Garfield community; and (3) to broker a meeting between the community and Fulton Meachem, Executive Director of the Housing Authority.

Bob Jones stressed that shutting down the field for two years with no alternative would be detrimental, and renovating Ft. Pitt field would still leave the problem of parking and accessibility. To conclude the meeting, Burgess affirmed his intention to move forward with exploring the purchase of the St. Lawrence gymnasium and to set up a meeting with Meachem. ♦

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