

the Bulletin

Volume 39, Number 4

APR 2014

Serving Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty,
Lawrenceville and Stanton Heights Since 1975



More Affordable Housing Coming to the Community

By Joe Reuben

The Bulletin

Bloomfield/Garfield – With the ever-tightening rental housing market in the East End, there was a dose of good news for those pushing to see the construction of more affordably priced units to balance out the recent splurge in market-rate developments.

In a Feb. 13th announcement, the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) said it has awarded federal tax credits to assist three developments in the East End, two of which are in the Garfield and Bloomfield neighborhoods.

The tax credits make it possible for developers to seek cash from investors to finance the project, rather than turn to lenders for loans. Without a heavy debt burden, rents can be set at levels below the market rate than would otherwise be the case for new housing. The units produced must then be leased for a minimum of 15 years at the lower rental rates.

A second phase of Garfield Glen, which to date has resulted in the development of 45 single-family homes for

See **Housing** | page 3



ABOVE: More than 70 volunteers turned out for the March 15th workday to expand the Kincaid Street Community Gardens in Garfield. Here, volunteers paint benches for the Little Free Library that will become part of the garden. Read the related story on page 8. Photo by James Souder

Questions Raised About Dearborn House

By Julie Collins *Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.*

Garfield – Tensions ran high at a community meeting held on February 24th at the BGC Activity Center on North Pacific Ave. The topic was 4926 Dearborn St., a property that owner Kamar

See **page 5**

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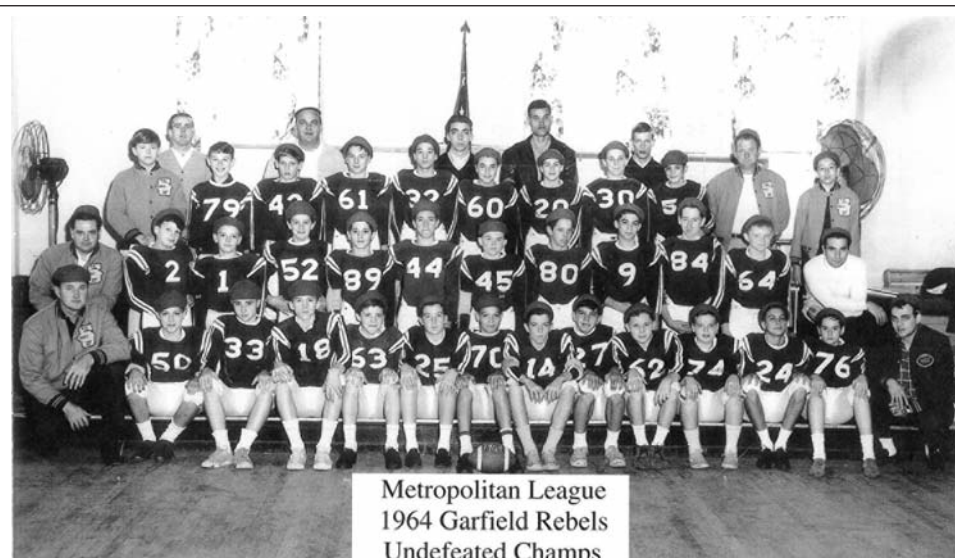
MWFA Gallery Hosts Artist Residencies

By Ross Hackett *The Bulletin*

Penn Avenue - Owner of Most Wanted Fine Art Gallery (MWFA), Jason Sauer, has assembled a group of 12 artists to be a part of a residency program that will take place throughout the year at the

See **page 9**

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Metropolitan League
1964 Garfield Rebels
Undeclared Champs

ABOVE: If you remember the undefeated 1964 Garfield Rebels, you won't want to miss their reunion this fall. Read the story on page 4. Photo courtesy Jim Kohler (no. 30, top row)

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Bulletin

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Learning To Be “Be-YOU-tiful”

Shadyside – On March 8, A Hair Boutique, 5510 Centre Ave., partnered with CitySTYLE, a local fashion show producer, to present a program for high school girls called “True Beauty.”

The program was a basic skincare and makeup seminar designed to help build the confidence of young women ages 14 to 17, educating them on age-appropriate skincare, makeup tips and techniques. It also featured a panel discussion on what it means to be “Be-YOU-tiful,” with panelists in the fields of beauty, journalism and motivational speaking.

The nine teens who attended are students at Pittsburgh CAPA, Obama and Westinghouse, and Imani Christian Academy. The event featured giveaways, tutorials, DIY sessions and a discussion about the importance of inner beauty and confidence.



ABOVE: “True Beauty” was designed to build the confidence of teen girls. Photo by Nicole Bastide/Paparazzi Photography

True Beauty was sponsored by Sisters Beauty Supply, Salon Blue, Wine & Words, Bella, Artistry, Paparazzi Photography and Posh Nail Boutique. A Hair Boutique proprietor LaToya Johnson-Rainey says she hopes to host more True Beauty seminars in the future. – staff, *The Bulletin*

Public Invited to Assess Lawrenceville’s Trees

Lawrenceville – Many of the recommendations in the Pittsburgh Urban Forest Master Plan revolve around increasing tree canopy in low-canopy neighborhoods through connecting and engaging the community. To better work with the unique challenges that exist in Pittsburgh's diverse neighborhoods, Tree Pittsburgh decided to focus on the neighborhood of Lawrenceville in 2014 to increase programming in that area and create an urban forest plan specific to the community's needs.

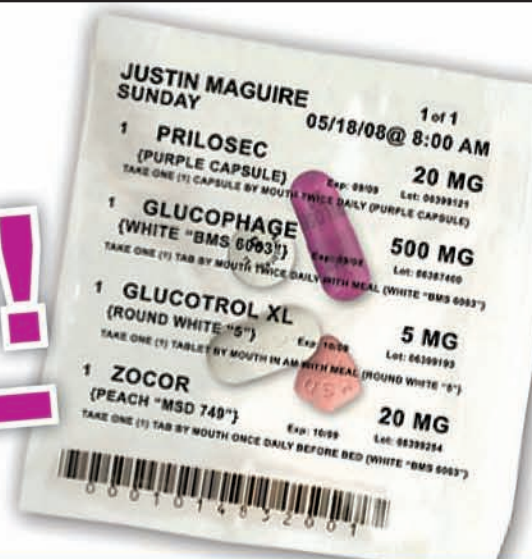
The first step in the Lawrenceville Urban Forest Initiative is to create a community vision for the needs and desires of Lawrenceville residents. Tree Pittsburgh formed a project steering committee that includes members from Lawrenceville United, Lawrenceville Corporation, Friends of Arsenal Park, City of Pittsburgh Forestry Division and City of Pittsburgh Planning Department. The end goal of the planning process is to create a road map that will guide Lawrenceville into the future to enhance and maintain the urban forest.

The public is invited to give input on the neighborhood's trees at a series of public meetings, the first of which will be held on April 16th at the Stephen Foster Community Center, 286 Main St., from 7 to 8 p.m. Participants who come to the public meetings will learn about the state of Lawrenceville's urban forest, and will have the opportunity to provide specific input into the plan. All meetings are free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

Additionally, Tree Pittsburgh is collecting information about residents' views on Lawrenceville's urban forest through a neighborhood-wide survey. Residents are encouraged to share the survey with their neighbors and friends who live or work in Lawrenceville.

For a complete schedule of community events, meetings and planning schedule, or to take the survey, please visit the Tree Pittsburgh website at www.treepittsburgh.org, call 412-362-6360 or email jen@treepittsburgh.org. – Jennifer Kullgren, *Tree Pittsburgh*

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Housing from page 1



ABOVE: Artist's rendering of the coming Penn-Mathilda Apartments. Photo courtesy Moss Architects

rent, will receive credits to help with raising the funds from investors needed to construct another 19 townhouses and single-family homes. The units, a mix of 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom houses, will be scattered along Kincaid, Broad and Dearborn Streets, between N. Mathilda St. and N. Atlantic Ave. The partners in the project are S & A Homes and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC).

"We're pleased the state recognizes the housing crunch that has come to the East End," said Andy Haines, a vice-president with S & A. "We have a waiting list of almost 600 applicants just from Phase I. So we know the difficulties working-class households are having trying to find decent housing that won't also sap their budgets." Haines estimated construction should be underway by March of 2015, with leasing to open in the late fall.

The look of the new homes under Phase II will differ in some respects from those in the first phase. Lami-Grubb Architects of Swissvale was willing to incorporate some new design elements to help avoid the sameness that sometimes defines affordable housing developments, according to Haines.

A second project at 4800 Penn in Bloomfield, to be known as the Penn-Mathilda Apartments, also received an award of tax credits from PHFA. ACTION-Housing, a Downtown nonprofit agency, intends to build a three-story complex that will feature 39 apartments on the second and third floors. They will be a mix of 1- and 2-bedroom units. A set of brick garages now occupies

the site and will have to be demolished first.

The first floor of the new building will offer commercial storefronts for rent. The BGC is a partner with ACTION-Housing in the development and hopes to be able to raise the funds needed to build out the commercial spaces. Tax credits are ineligible for financing anything other than the residential units, according to Linda Metropolis, a development official with ACTION.

"These units will be available to recent veterans of the military, particularly those who may have served in either the Iraq or Afghanistan wars," Metropolis confirmed. "We'll have support services on site to assist those tenants. Whatever units are not filled by veterans will be available for rent to the general public." She said she believes the construction of the new building should be underway by next spring.

Andrew Moss of Moss Architects in Lawrenceville has been tapped to do all of the necessary design work and construction supervision for the project.

The third development financed by the PHFA is in the Larimer neighborhood, and will consist of 81 townhomes and walk-up apartments that a St. Louis-based development company, McCormick Baron, is spearheading. The Fairfield Apartment complex in East Liberty – a mix of townhouses and multi-unit buildings located between Broad Street and East Liberty Boulevard – was an earlier development by McCormick Baron. ♦

the Bulletin

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Corporation



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The deadline for the May issue is **Tuesday, April 15.**

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

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

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www.bloomfield-garfield.org © 2014 by Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Bottom Dollar Hiring Process Begins

By Wesley Davis

Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center

Penn Avenue – The Bottom Dollar grocery store at 5200 Penn Ave. is currently under construction. The supermarket is slated to open June 5, according to Bottom Dollar executives. To staff the new store, Bottom Dollar Foods and Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) are partnering to host a series of hiring events.

Two orientation sessions will provide those interested in working at Bottom Dollar with insight into the application and hiring process, along with tips and strategies to impress recruiters.

The first session will be facilitated by Erin Ziegler, Associate Relations Specialist with Bottom Dollar Foods. Ziegler will provide information on Bottom Dollar Foods' expectations of associates (dress code, punctuality, etc.), open positions, and the supermarket's culture and values. This event will take place on April 1 at 11:30 a.m. in the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Avenue.

The ENEC's Lead Employment Coordinator, Usama Al-Teraifi, will conduct the second session on April 3 at 11:30 a.m., also at the Community Activity Center. This second workshop will prepare applicants for interviews with Bottom Dollar executives and help them develop resumes

to highlight their skills for the hiring event.

Al-Teraifi will also review professional etiquette, workplace communication and dispute resolution skills, and how to navigate Bottom Dollar's online application process.

Applicants who attend both preparatory workshops will receive a pin to wear during the hiring event to acknowledge they took part in these sessions.

Finally, on April 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Bottom Dollar representatives will conduct interviews with applicants at St. Maria Goretti Activity Center, 140 N. Atlantic Ave. Their intent is to identify potential employees for all open positions.

To register for the two orientation sessions and the hiring event, call 724-230-6495 or email ENECBottomDollarHiring@gmail.com.

Those interested in applying to Bottom Dollar can find additional assistance in developing a resume and navigating the Bottom Dollar online job application by visiting the ENEC, 5321 Penn Ave., Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., or Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. Visit the ENEC online at www.enecpittsburgh.org. ♦

EYESORE OF THE MONTH

What's Next for This Gateway?

By Aggie Brose

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Penn Avenue – The eyesore for April is the vacant lot at Penn and Negley Avenues – the gateway to Friendship, Bloomfield and Garfield.

Along with the vacant Babyland properties across the street, this lot gives visitors the wrong impression of the neighborhood. When you travel further along Penn, you see millions of dollars in investment – Salt of the Earth, Verde Mexican Kitchen + Cantina, UPMC St. Margaret Family Health Center, Pittsburgh Glass Center, the Children's Home and the Fairmont Apartments, to name just a few.

According to the Allegheny County real estate website, the recorded owner of 5531 Penn is Monro Muffler and Brake (MM&B), which acquired the property in June 1999 for \$750,000. The tax billing and owner address is 200 Hollender Pkwy, Rochester, NY 14615-3808, and the taxes are paid.

Many residents and businesses have nominated it as an eyesore over the past year and have called the city's 311 line about it. In addition, MM&B was taken by the city to Housing Court on October 24, 2013, because it was leasing the site for storage of construction materials without

a valid occupancy permit. The defendant's name recorded on the Housing Court calendar was Hamoodey M. Swadan. At that time, MM&B was required to put a lockable gate at the opening of the property.

Recently, the property was leased to Duquesne Light to store equipment while the utility company worked in Bloomfield. Neighbors reported to the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) that it was a hazardous situation each time Duquesne Light moved its equipment on and off the site. There was no flagman directing vehicles, and they rarely paid attention to the traffic signal.

Penn and Negley is a busy intersection, with Penn narrowing to one lane just a few blocks to the west. Additionally, there is a transit stop at that intersection and a stop for several school buses.

The BGC called the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) and was told that MM&B had been ordered to empty the lot by March 2014. The property was on a BBI watch list, with an inspector checking it on a regular basis. BBI informed BGC that all the large machinery and debris was finally removed in early March, and the file was closed. At press time, though, there remains a small trailer, a large electrical board and a small dirt pile on the site.

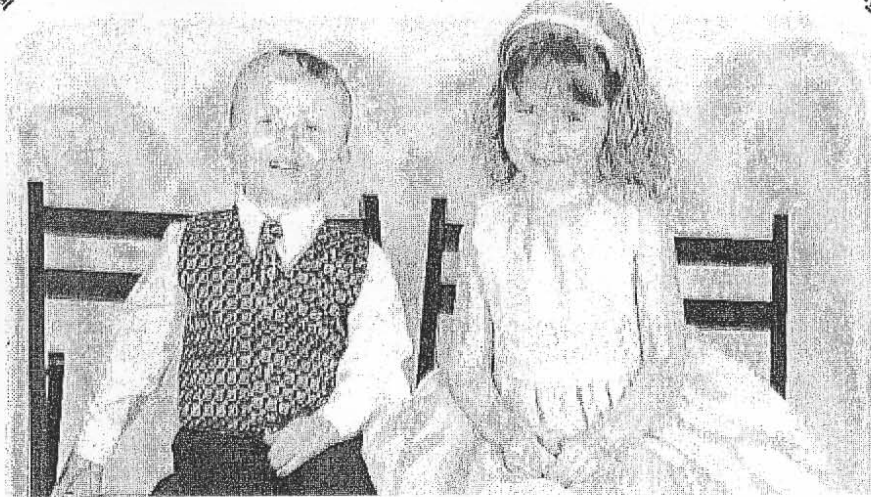


ABOVE: Community groups want to know what's going to happen with this lot. Photo by Paula Martinac

The BGC contacted the local MM&B manager, Ken Nicholson, to see what the reuse of the site would be. At one point, the BGC was told they might want to sell. But Nicholson's response was, "Not sure – possibly an extended parking lot for the garage." He suggested that BGC call the corporate office and speak to Jason Hise about the reuse of the lot. Hise did not return two calls before press time.

The community groups representing the four neighborhoods are anxious to see what happens next – will it remain an eyesore or finally be transformed to complement all the other investment along the avenue?

Neighbors can contact Hise at 1-800-876-6676 x 6117 with their concerns about the property. If he does not return the BGC's calls, he will receive a copy of *The Bulletin* with a request to respond. ♦



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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Rebels Rise Again

By Paula Martinac

The Bulletin

Garfield – This year marks the 50th anniversary of the 1964 undefeated championship season of the Garfield Rebels, a youth football team that was once a part of Pittsburgh's Metropolitan Football League.

To commemorate the winning season, Jim Kohler, who played offense for the Rebels that year, is organizing an October reunion – of team members and their families, but also of anyone who lived in Garfield at the time and fondly remembers the team.

Kohler grew up on the first floor of the Montana Apartments on Penn Avenue and attended Friendship School. He says he played just one season for the Rebels, when he was 13, because the league had "serious weight restrictions. You could only be 125 pounds ... with all the pads on.... They'd weigh us before the games."

Being part of the Rebels, Kohler says, was "the ultimate. If you walked down Penn wearing a Rebels jacket, you were 'cock of the block.'"

Kohler now lives in Washington, Pa., and says he has lost track of most of his teammates. Several of the coaches have died in recent years, including head coach Jim Bulger.

Plans for the Rebels reunion are still taking shape, and the exact date and venue will depend on the level of interest he gets from the community, Kohler noted. But he said he knows for sure that "it's going to be a great time."

If you have information about team members and their whereabouts, or to find out more about the reunion, please call Kohler at 412-853-1895.

Dearborn House from page 1

Williams is attempting to turn into a community house.

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation invited Mr. Williams to attend the meeting to explain his plans for the property. Fourteen people were in attendance, including residents who live near the property, delegates from the BGC Public Safety Task Force and Williams' general contractor.

Williams is seeking to house six unrelated people in the property. He said he plans to remodel the single-family house to have six bedrooms, one kitchen and one bathroom.

However, in order for this property to house more than three unrelated people, a zoning variance must be obtained. The BGC's official policy, explained deputy director Aggie Brose, is to hold a community meeting before a Zoning Board of Adjustment hearing to inform the community about the requested change to their neighborhood.

Williams owns several properties around the city, most of them in the Homewood and Larimer neighborhoods. He said he offers "transitional housing," which "provides shelter and therapy so that people can matriculate back into the community." According to the drafted room rental regulations – an abbreviated lease – for 4926 Dearborn St., each tenant must pay \$400 a month with a \$150 security deposit. The regulations also make the eviction process clear:

"A typical residential Pennsylvania eviction process consists of several notices and a hearing before the landlord can physically remove the tenant from the home. In the situation of a rooming house, however, the land lord can simply lock you out of the room unless a different eviction process is specifically detailed in the lease agreement or oral agreement provided by the landlord to the tenant."

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Many residents attending the meeting expressed concerns about who would be housed at 4926 Dearborn, due to the progress this block has made in improved public safety and housing. Williams stated that no ex-offenders would be placed in the house. But a probation and parole officer who works in Garfield was present at the meeting to report that she had spoken that day with the property manager, a woman identi-



ABOVE: The owner of the single-family house at 4926 Dearborn wants to turn it into a community home. Photo by Paula Martinac

fied as Virginia Humphreys, who is attempting to place four ex-offenders in the property.

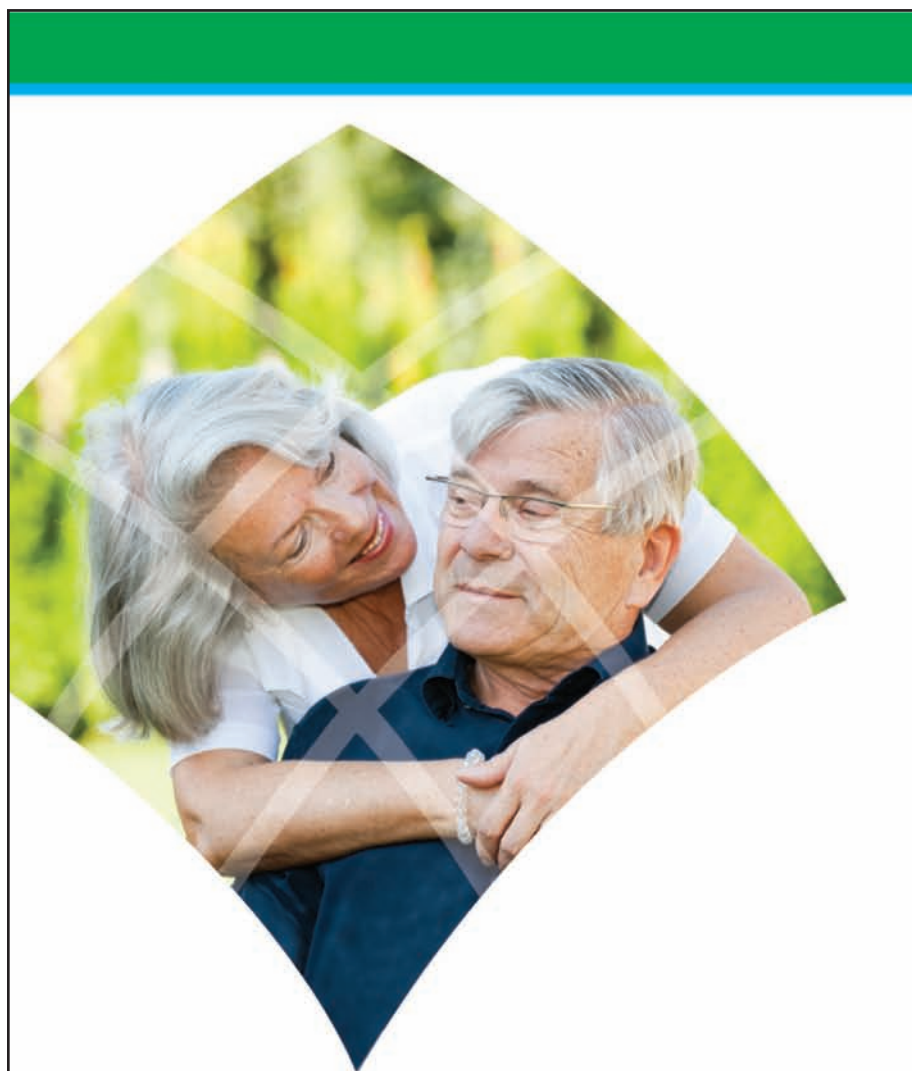
Brose made it clear that the BGC believes "everyone deserves a second chance." The proposition made to Williams, however, was that he scale back the plans for the house to include no more than three unrelated people as residents. This would create a better environment for those living at 4926 Dearborn, Brose said, expressing the position of the BGC. Williams did not agree to change the property plans.

Another suggestion, as proposed by a member of the city's Nuisance Property Task Force, was to have a staff member present at all times on site to monitor the property and the tenants. He also suggested a common room for tenants to gather and relax in order to foster a sense of community. At present, Williams' plans do not include common space inside the property.

In response to these requests, Williams stated he is "willing to do whatever necessary to accommodate the community."

The Zoning Board of Adjustment met on February 27th to hear Williams' request for a variance. However, Shawn Carter, chief of staff to City Councilman Rev. Ricky Burgess, asked the Zoning Board to issue a continuance.

A new hearing, which is open to the public, is scheduled for April 3rd at 10 a.m. on the first floor of the John P. Robin Civic Building, 200 Ross St., Pittsburgh, PA 15219. ♦



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East Liberty Addresses Walking and Parking Issues

By Ross Hackett
The Bulletin

East Liberty – With increased population and commercial activity in the neighborhood of East Liberty, walkability, accessibility and parking have been recognized as critical issues. In February 2014, East Liberty Development Incorporated (ELDI) addressed these by releasing a draft report of its “East Liberty Circulation and Mobility Action Plan Phase One: Walkability, Accessibility, and Parking.”

In order to understand these issues in the neighborhood, ELDI teamed up with the Remaking Cities Institute (RCI) at Carnegie Mellon University to study walkability and accessibility, and Walker Parking Consultants (WPC) to study parking.

The Walkability and Accessibility Study aimed to locate areas in the neighborhood with the most need for pedestrian-oriented improvements. The RCI team identified the five primary variables that provide a safe and enjoyable walking experience for pedestrians: destinations that are frequented by pedestrians, safety from crime and accidents, an aesthetically appealing and enclosed walking environ-

ment, streets with separate rights of way for various means of transportation, and various parking options.

The team analyzed and mapped the streets in the neighborhood that fail to satisfy the five variables but have the potential to readily attract pedestrians. A community survey, distributed both electronically and via hard copy, also contributed to the selection of Highland Avenue, Penn Avenue and Centre Avenue as high-priority routes for pedestrians in East Liberty.

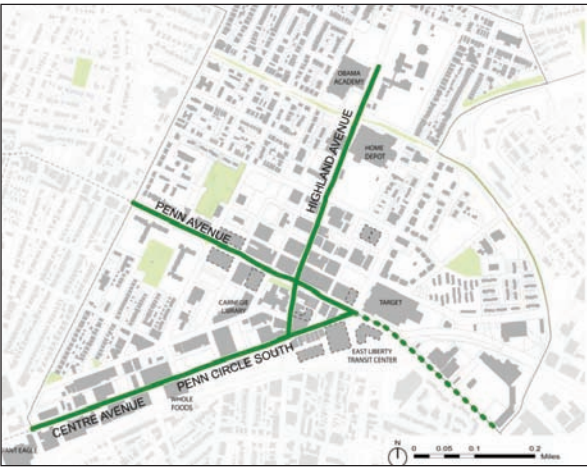
Projected short-term improvements for these three routes include slowing traffic by adding additional on-street parking, providing incentives for owners to repair and maintain sidewalks, adding trees and removing graffiti to increase visual appeal, and improving key intersections by installing crosswalks and pedestrian signals. Increased utilization of vacant buildings and lots and the reconstruction of Penn Circle North and West as two-way streets are among the long-term improvements for the action plan.

According to the report, parking is

currently a barrier to the neighborhood reaching its full potential as businesses continue to open. An ample parking supply was identified as necessary to assist community stakeholders in ensuring that East Liberty remains a great place to live, work, shop and ultimately, park.

WPC worked with ELDI on the East Liberty Parking Study to define current parking conditions, analyze future parking needs of the neighborhood and prepare a number of strategies to meet these needs.

The analysis for the study involved taking inventory of parking assets by type, ownership and accessibility, inventory of policies and regulations for different parking areas, and hourly occupancy counts of parking assets during weekdays and weekends. Using the information from this analysis, ELDI was able to calculate parking surpluses or deficits at different hours of the day and begin to



ABOVE: Map showing high-priority routes highlighted in the Walking and Accessibility Study. Courtesy ELDI

determine future parking needs.

The study revealed that the parking issue in East Liberty is not a lack of supply, but a lack of access to supply. The report suggests a shared parking program to improve access to underutilized parking areas by reaching out to private parking lot owners to communicate revenue opportunities. ♦

Program Attracts International Volunteer

By Rachel Zadnik
Neighborhood Learning Alliance

Garfield – Marina Baldissera Pacchetti is Neighborhood Learning Alliance’s (NLA) Volunteer of the Month for April. A native of Milan, Italy, Pacchetti is a doctoral student at the University of Pittsburgh studying History and the Philosophy of Science.

Pacchetti, 28, volunteers through NLA’s afterschool program at Pittsburgh Allderdice. She switched from Pittsburgh Sci-Tech this semester to better accommodate her schedule. She says she has learned a lot about American culture just by working with the students.

“Students can spot my accent and sometimes ask questions, which I am very happy to answer,” she says. “One day a girl asked me what sort of currency we had in Europe. I showed her some coins, and we had a very interesting conversation about the differences and similarities between my home and hers, and what it is like to live in a different country.”

Pacchetti says she enjoys volunteering



ABOVE: Marina Pacchetti has learned about American culture from her afterschool students. Photo by Rachel Zadnik

with NLA because “it’s a very fulfilling experience and it’s a great way to contribute to the community in one’s free time.” She says she especially likes to help students recover failed credits.

If you’re interested in volunteering with NLA, email Zadnik@neighborhoodlearning.org or call 412-363-1910. ♦

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For a free, fold-out map of all of the businesses (with phone numbers), contact Samantha at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, 412-441-6950, x 16.

Thank you! The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation would like to acknowledge its main corporate partners, PNC Bank, Dollar Bank and Allegheny Valley Bank. Thanks also to BNY Mellon, First Niagara Bank, WesBanco, Allegheny Health Network, Citizens Bank and all of *The Bulletin's* advertisers.

Green + Screen Continues Under New Leadership

By Ross Hackett
The Bulletin

Penn Avenue – The Green + Screen Initiative, started by EcoDesigners Guild in 2010 to beautify vacant lots along Penn Avenue, is under new leadership. Moving forward, Green Through Energy and Community Health (GTECH) in Larimer will manage the initiative. According to Megan Zeigler, ReClaim Director at GTECH, "Green + Screen is a program that we have always believed in."

Starting in 2010, Green + Screen implemented a series of artistic and educational installations on Penn Avenue to beautify ugly vacant lots and other missing teeth along the business district corridor. The volunteer-driven initiative, which began in the Garfield neighborhood, is a chance for local artists and volunteers to give back to the community by filling vacant gaps along business corridors.

When Minette Vaccariello, head of the



ABOVE: High school kids from "Students Today, Leaders Forever" on their work day with Green and Screen. Photo courtesy GTECH

EcoDesigners Guild, decided to become less active in Green + Screen projects in order to start a family, she approached

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Neighborhood FOCUS

Growing a Library in Garfield

Neighborhood Partnership Produces “Little Free Library” for Young People of Garfield

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Garfield – You may have seen tiny depositories for books cropping up in neighborhoods around the city. Now Garfield is getting its own “Little Free Library,” thanks to a collaboration of PULSE and Garfield Community Action Team (GCAT) with Assemble’s Saturday Crafternoon program.

The concept behind Little Free Libraries is simple – a resident or group builds a small, weatherproof shelter for books, which is then placed on a sturdy post in an outdoor space and filled with books to share. Anyone can take a book, as long as they give another – or the same – book back. Across the country, people are employing this community-friendly way to recycle books they’ve already read and gain access to new ones they might enjoy.

“It was a dream we had,” explained Leah Thill of PULSE, talking about conversations she had with Minette Vacarriello of GCAT about a Garfield library. “Several years ago, PULSE wanted to have a Little Free Library at each of its houses [in Garfield, Highland Park and East Liberty].” But the missing link, she said, was carpentry skills ... as well as energy and time.

Enter the Saturday Crafternoons program. Assemble, located at 5125 Penn Ave., runs the drop-in program for elementary school children, in which local artists, craftspeople and community groups engage the kids in various creative projects.



ABOVE: Neighborhood elementary school children helped put together the Little Free Library for Garfield. Photo by Jess Gold

“We want to get kids excited about learning new skills,” noted Jess Gold, who oversees the program. Plus, by working on a community-based project, children learn that “they can be agents of social change.”

It took about three months of planning for Garfield’s Little Free Library to come to fruition, explained Gold. She was able to engage Ben Johnson, a carpenter who lives in the neighborhood, to design the depository. In his design, Johnson included all recycled materials, including doors donated by Construction Junction through its ReGives program. Even the green and purple paint used to finish the library was left over from another project.

Johnson prepped the building materials “for kid-friendly carpentry,” Gold said. “They got to screw the pieces together.” The bulk of the actual construction took place in one day. In addition, the children made book plates to affix to the books and brightly colored wooden circles that will adorn the library frame. Because the depository is destined to sit in the Kincaid Street Community Gardens, the kids painted pictures of plants on the circles.

The library, Gold said, will be geared primarily toward children’s books. Neighborhood youths will be able to borrow a book to read, with the idea that they will bring it back when they’re finished and borrow another. The library has already had a significant number of books donated to it, she noted.

The brightly colored seating that GCAT built for Kite Hill Park several years back has been moved down to the Kincaid garden, where the blocks will serve as benches for kids who want to read while their parents and guardians work in the garden. “We wanted a fun, but passive activity for kids,” Thill said. The hope, though, is that kids who hang out reading books will also have their interest in gardening piqued.

At press time, a few finishing touches still remained, including creating a sign and

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Residencies from page 1

gallery, located at 5015 Penn Ave.

Sauer explains that he and his wife, Nina Sauer, spent a year reaching out to local artists they are “connected to through the Pittsburgh arts scene.” The artists were encouraged to propose a project they would carry out if they had \$1,000.

The artists were selected by invitation to create their own individual shows that will each display in the basement of MWFA for one month. According to Sauer, the selected artists have a wide range of preferred artistic mediums. Included in the program are fine artists, digital artists, a DJ and even a chef.

In addition to submitting a grant application to The Heinz Endowments to fund the residencies, Sauer says that he has reached out to various businesses to sponsor different projects by donating supplies and money.

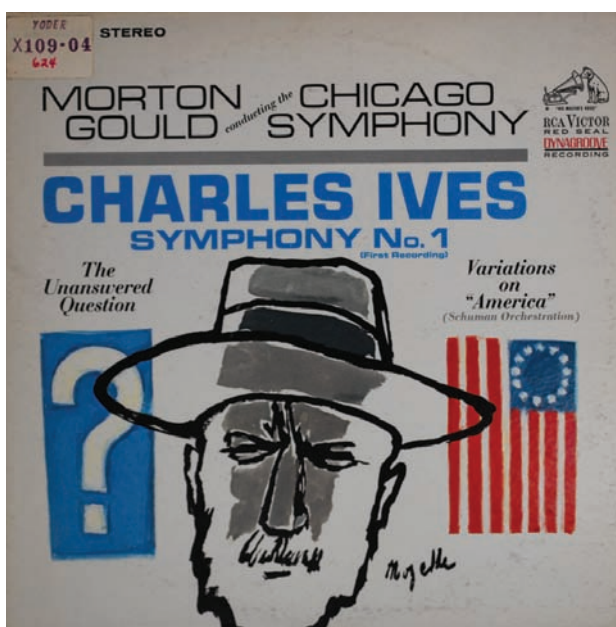
“The artists are very proud to be a part of this project,” says Sauer. “They were selected because their projects have a sense of purpose, integrating art with the blight of the neighborhood.”

Pittsburgh DJ J. Malls is one of the resident artists who will display at MWFA this year. Malls says he has always been interested in local history, which explains why a happenstance discovery became the inspiration for his project.

While listening to a CD of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s speeches in January 2013, Malls noticed a description on the liner of the case indicating that the cover artist, Mozelle Thompson, was from Pittsburgh. According to Malls, Thompson grew up in Garfield and graduated from Peabody High School in 1944 before moving to New York City, where he became a notable artist for a plethora of album covers.

“I’ve identified over 80 albums that he has done artwork for,” says Malls. “The next eight months will involve a lot of calling around, talking to people to get information about Thompson that isn’t on the Internet.” The goal is to acquire and frame as many albums as possible for the show.

Malls asserts that the resident artist program is a great way to promote community engagement. After the show, Malls says that he would like to donate the albums to the Garfield community so they can be accessible to people on an



ABOVE: Designed by Garfield native Mozelle Thompson, this album cover was nominated for a Grammy Award for Graphic Design in 1967. Courtesy J. Malls

ongoing basis. “It would be great if young kids that are interested in art could see this piece of unacknowledged local history.”

Tara Sherry-Torres is another Pittsburgh resident featured in the residency program. Though she is not a chef by day, Sherry-Torres explains that she comes from a long line of cooks and has “long had a passion for bringing people together with food.”

Sherry-Torres’s initiative is called “Café con Leche.” The name, she says, reflects her Puerto Rican heritage and the culture’s tradition of serving coffee with milk to household guests. At each of the Café Con Leche events, Sherry-Torres will prepare free traditional dishes for residents. Through her initiative, she says she hopes to bring the community together and “spark a dialogue between guests about the connections they may have with one another.”

The first event, “Herencia Africana,” will take place at MWFA from 12 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 6. Sherry-Torres explains that the event will “celebrate African roots in Latino culture.” The event will include traditional food, live music, live dance performances and a short film, all of which are free for guests.

“This [residency] program is a great platform for Pittsburgh artists,” Sherry-Torres states. She says she thinks it’s great that MWFA is lending a helping hand to artists who can use support. “Pittsburgh is an accessible city with so many talented, creative people that believe in each other.”

“We Love Woolslair” Brings School Together

By Dave Breingan
Lawrenceville United

Bloomfield – Student-made luminaria – paper bags with votive candles inside – twinkled outside of Pittsburgh Woolslair K-5 on March 6th, bearing decorations and notes of appreciation like “Woolslair rocks” and “Woolslair has great teachers.”

Inside the neighborhood elementary school, 200 people participated in “We Love Woolslair,” a family fun night organized by Woolslair parents and staff that included activities like luminaria-crafting, bingo, face-painting, mask-decorating and button-making from the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Lawrenceville branch, and tennis from CitiParks. A free dinner was offered thanks to donations from local venues like DJ’s Butcher Block, Piccolo Forno, Spak Brothers and Fazio’s Pizza, as well as American Beverage Company.

“This is the best family fun night I’ve ever been to!” declared one child.

Prospective families were also invited to see the kindergarten classroom and meet Woolslair teachers. Woolslair is currently accepting enrollment for the 2014-2015 school year for elementary-aged children within its feeder area.

The idea and much of the planning for the night came from parent volunteers like Valerie Allman, in the midst of a school year that has seen Woolslair targeted for closure. “I just wanted to do something to bring the school together and highlight what we all love about this school,” said Ms. Allman, who has a second grader at Woolslair.

In November 2013, district staff at Pittsburgh Public Schools recommended that the Board of Education close Woolslair for the 2014-2015 school year as part of a plan to grapple with the district’s impending budget deficit. The process to close the school was opened by the school board

shortly after that recommendation, but then rescinded in December when four new members were sworn in to the board. As a result, the school will remain open for the coming school year.

The family fun night was also a chance to learn what current and prospective parents want to see at the school that could bolster enrollment. As they entered, parents were asked to fill out a survey, the results of which will inform a plan to bring in new programming to enrich student learning and attract new families.

In the meantime, the “We Love Woolslair Night” successfully brought Woolslair families, staff and the community together for a night of fun. The parents who organized the evening said they hope it will kick off a new Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) at Woolslair.

To get involved, call 412-802-7220 or email Dave@LUnited.org. ♦

BELOW: Woolslair’s family night included face painting. Photo by Lauren Byrne



Growing a Library continued

giving the depository a final coat of sealant. Thill estimated that the library would be in place by the end of March. Eventually, Gold and Thill plan to register the library on the official Little Free Library website.

Asked if there would be more tiny libraries dotting the neighborhood in the future, Gold said Assemble would be open to it, “as time and energy present themselves.” She also noted that the design of the first library allows for expansion, with additional shelves to be added at a future time. ♦

For more information about Little Free Libraries across the country, visit littlefree library.org.

NLA Initiates Technology Education Program

By Ross Hackett
The Bulletin

Garfield – After being “challenged by Google to come up with an intervention in schools that would teach technology to young students,” Stephen MacIsaac and his team at the Neighborhood Learning Alliance (NLA) originated the TechWarriors program.

MacIsaac, executive director of NLA, explained that the organization has developed a strong relationship with the Google office in Bakery Square because “they are supportive of our efforts to bring technology to underserved, lower-income communities in Pittsburgh.” He said that Google was immediately receptive to TechWarriors and provided a “generous donation” for the program.

Tech Warriors will resemble Reading Warriors, a successful program started by the NLA in 2013 that employs high school students to coach elementary students on reading skills during after-school programs. According to MacIsaac, the model for the Reading Warriors program “has a great deal of appeal” given the positive impact it has had on young students.

MacIsaac said that the NLA is built on a vast network of staff members and community partners that work with Pittsburgh Public Schools and communities and will be able to identify viable students for Tech Warriors. A group of 25 high school students will be hired and trained as mentors who will teach students in

Pittsburgh public elementary schools technology applications they are unfamiliar with.

For example, Tech Warriors will teach students Scratch, a program that enables them to create interactive stories, games and animations. Nick Jaramillo, an NLA partner who is based at the Hilltop YMCA, will be developing a curriculum for the Warriors to teach.

This program is a “dual-learning opportunity,” according to MacIsaac. Not only will elementary students learn necessary skills, but the Warriors will experience a sense of value for their work.

Training will be a two-step process. NLA assistant director Katy Frey will lead the first half of training. Frey will train the high school students in the proper approach to teaching elementary kids. The second half of training will be an ongoing process, tailored to the technological aspects of the program. Every other week, Tech Warriors will meet for two hours to learn the newest projects that they will be training their students on and

to reflect on the progress of the initiative as a whole.

MacIsaac outlined why technology education is important. First, he explained that technology’s progression in society is inevitable. If families and children fall behind technology’s advancement, it will put them at a disadvantage and make them less competitive to employers.

Second, MacIsaac said it is crucial to “spark curiosity and creativity in the minds of young people.”

“Some people consider themselves as producers while others simply think of themselves as consumers,” he said. The goal of the program is to inspire kids to realize that they have the ability to be producers of their own ideas, or the makers of things that other people want to consume.

According to MacIsaac, there is no date yet for the commencement of the TechWarriors program, which is still in the planning stages; a start date will not be finalized, he said, until “something great is ready.” ♦



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Arsenal 6-8 Takes Trip to Slippery Rock



Lawrenceville – On February 4, 37 Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8 students were invited to visit Slippery Rock University along with their teacher, Robert White, and student services staff, Monica Tillman and Mark Johnson.

White, a Slippery Rock University alumnus who teaches 6th-grade math and science at Arsenal, was invited to be a guest speaker for the university's Black History Month Kickoff Celebration. When White accepted the guest speaker spot, Laura Carroll, a university employee, offered his class the opportunity to attend his talk and spend time on campus. Students were selected to attend the trip based on if they were "Pittsburgh-Promise-Ready," which means a 2.5 GPA and 90 percent attendance.

At Slippery Rock, Arsenal students talked to staff about potential career paths, and got an introduction to college life, the college application process and graduation requirements. Afterwards, all of the students went on a short campus tour, which included an all-you-can-eat lunch buffet in the campus cafeteria.

The day concluded with students learning about the history of the university and how it has changed over the past 125 years, striving to become more inclusive and respectful of people of color. Slippery Rock students performed several gospel songs and dances, including a tribute to former South African President Nelson Mandela, who died in December.

On returning to Pittsburgh, each Arsenal student showed appreciation for the experience by writing a thank-you card to Laura Carroll and the students of Slippery Rock University. ♦

Interactive Exhibit Flows into Assemble

By Ann Payne
Chatham University

Garfield – Every last drop of water on Earth is all the water it has ever had. When you pour yourself a glass of it, George Washington or even a Tyrannosaurus Rex may have consumed those same water molecules hundreds of years ago – or millions of years ago, in the case of the T-Rex. This is the magic of the water cycle – and one of the many qualities that make water the life-giving resource it is.



ABOVE: Dr. Molly Mehling and her graduate student assistant Kristen Reynolds look for small insects in one of Pittsburgh's local head-water streams. They are working together to create the upcoming exhibit, "The Drop Project." Photo by Ann Payne

From April 4th to 26th, the Assemble gallery space for arts and technology at 5125 Penn Ave. will host "The Drop Project." This interactive exhibit celebrates water as a precious resource, generates local stewardship and – most of all – gets people to have a good time while getting their "feet wet" learning about water systems. It is directed and built by Dr. Molly Mehling, Professor of Ecology at the Chatham University Falk School of Sustainability, and two graduate students – myself, and Kristen Reynolds. The exhibit is the first installment of "Water Connects," an art-science approach to sharing information on local aquatic ecosystems.

The exhibit is designed to be fun and engaging, while exploring the "visible and invisible" qualities of water that people can affect with their everyday lives – from the tiny animals living among stream rocks to development of the local landscape. Headwaters, or the hundreds of tiny streams that flow from the hilltops fed from precipitation and underground springs, make their way down through fields, farms and neighborhoods into the city, where they eventually join together to become mighty rivers. Along its journey,

water passes over, under and through everything in its path: soil, lawns, storm drains, fields, dog poop, oil, trash – anything people or nature place in front of it.

Visitors to the exhibit will find it transformed into a life-sized world of a small stream where they can try on waders and learn how to use a "gravel-o-meter"; see Pittsburgh and East End area topography from above; escape into local artists' photography stories of a stream; meet local water professionals; relax in a home-styled space while considering how much "hidden" water goes into making their morning coffee and favorite pair of blue jeans; and come to know how similar water flow is to their own body's systems.

The exhibit will be open during Assemble's regular hours: Tuesday through Friday from 4 to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 12-4 p.m. The Drop Project is supported by Chatham University, the Awesome Foundation and local partners. ♦

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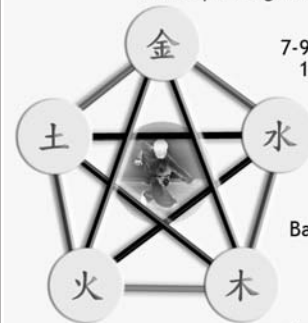


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Business Owner Sponsors Prom Contest

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Penn Avenue – Dar Jones, proprietor of The Diva Den at 5138 Penn Ave., says she didn’t really have anybody pushing or encouraging her when she was growing up in Wilkinsburg, so it took her a while to find her footing in life.

The 30-year-old credits her own drive – and a lot of trial and error – with helping her go from being a teenage mother to the owner of a hair salon.

“I’m very happy with what I’ve made of myself,” she says. And now she’s decided to give back.

This spring, Jones is sponsoring a contest called “Show ‘Em What You Got,” in which high school seniors compete to win prom tickets and outfits by writing an essay about themselves and their goals.

“Kids value things they’ve gotten on their own,” she notes.

Why prom? Jones says that prom is an important part of youth culture, and was when she was in school, too. “There were kids I wouldn’t see for half the year, but they’d show up for prom,” she laughs.

She decided to make the prize a complete prom package for two winners, a girl and a boy – prom tickets, a gown or tux, a hairstyle or cut, make-up, shoes and photographs.

Sponsors include The Diva Den, Posh Nails Boutique, Little’s Shoes, Something Borrowed Boutique and Men’s Wearhouse. Jones is trying to get the high schools to donate the tickets.

Although she herself went to prom, Jones says her mother couldn’t afford the basic prom necessities. “My cheerleading coach bought my gown,” she notes. “It made me feel so good that someone saw what I had going for me.”

According to the guidelines, seniors at Pittsburgh Obama, Pittsburgh Westinghouse and Wilkinsburg High Schools are eligible to enter. All they have to do is write a 250-word essay discussing their career goals and life aspirations, and how they hope to carry them out.

Students should also relate what their strengths are, and strategize about how they can surmount any negativity or difficult circumstances around them.

“I want them to do their own thinking and research so they can see their own self-worth,” Jones explains.

The judges will be Jones, her husband, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation board member Joe Ciotti and an English teacher from one of the high schools.

What would a winning essay look like? Jones says she’s looking most of all for passion.

“I want to see someone who’s passionate about doing better. But I also want them to pay attention, to make their essays presentable.” That’s why she stipulated that the essays be written in American Psychological Association (APA) style.

The contest deadline is April 18, and winners will be chosen April 24. Jones says she’s hoping it will become an annual event.

“But if I could encourage just one teen, that would be great,” she says. “Maybe if they get this encouragement early on, they can be productive citizens in their 20s and 30s.” ♦

For more information, call 412-378-7546 or email thedivadenpgh@gmail.com. Essays can be emailed, or mailed to/dropped off at The Diva Den, 5138 Penn Ave., 1st floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15224.

Debating the Facts on Video Games

By Brianna Watson
Reading Warriors

and Karen Jueng
Pittsburgh Woolslair



ABOVE: 5th graders at Pittsburgh Woolslair practiced debating during a special afterschool program. Photo by Dave Breingan

Bloomfield – On March 5, the 5th-grade students in the afterschool program at Pittsburgh Woolslair Elementary School held a debate on a very controversial topic: “Do Violent Video Games Create Violent Behavior in Children?”

After several weeks of researching and preparing, the teams presented their arguments. The Pro team argued that violent videos games do cause violent behavior, citing various experts who have conducted research with adolescents and children. The Pro team members were Navaeh Best, Jamal Bigstaff, Damesha Porter, Jaimar Gilbert and Destiny Smeadley.

The Con team argued that studies have shown violent video games have no impact on violent behavior and are protected under the First Amendment right to freedom of speech. The Con team members were Amir Wind, Damere Porter, Rico Harper and Keon Cross.

Both teams prepared thoroughly and

worked very hard to develop their arguments and statements. Each team was required to be fact-based and cite their references. In the end, the Pro team won the debate, but both teams were well prepared in their arguments.

The debate was held in the library at Woolslair with an audience of parents and students from the afterschool program. The main purpose of this debate was to give students the opportunity to improve their writing and speaking skills and gain experience participating in a debate, which students will continue to use in school.

The Woolslair afterschool program has been a part of the school for the last three years and is a partnership program of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and Neighborhood Learning Alliance. This program is designed to help students improve their reading and math skills, and provides additional programming – like the debate – throughout the year. ♦



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Art All Night Reflects Community Spirit

by Carrie Patterson Reed

Art All Night

Lawrenceville – People are constantly talking about the “cool” and “hip” Lawrenceville community. While recent development growth in this small slice of Pittsburgh may have enlivened the area, it’s the diversity and community spirit, and not just the trends, that make Lawrenceville something special.

A perfect example is the 17th Annual Art All Night, which takes place this year at 40th and Willow Streets from Saturday, April 26th at 4 p.m. until Sunday, April 27th at 2 p.m. It’s a community arts event that started humbly in an empty storefront on Butler Street before Lawrenceville was “the place to be.” At its start, Art All Night exhibited just 100 works of art, but has grown to be an impressive event, featuring approximately 1,200 pieces of art and attracting 15,000 visitors.

With a motto of “No fees, no jury, no censorship,” the event showcases an amazing diversity of art with varying skill levels, content, genres, and media – more than you could ever imagine seeing in a

single art gallery or even some museums.

And while the art is remarkable, the community spirit that goes into the event is equally inspiring. From beginning to end, Art All Night is put on completely by volunteers. The palpable feeling of community and festivity at the event is part of what brings people back year after year.

There will be art activities for everyone, from chalk sketching to group improv sessions and memory drawing to live music. Artists will be performing throughout the space, making music and art for most of the night. Children’s activities will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. on Saturday and again from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday. Art activities for kids will give the next generation of artists the chance to build their own cardboard city, weave with recycled materials and create silkscreen prints.

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



ABOVE: Bubble painting was one of the kids’ activities at last year’s Art All Night. Photo by Kristen Batao

Sign Up for Summer Fun

By Becky Thatcher

Lawrenceville United

Lawrenceville – Lawrenceville’s Summer Celebration Day Camp will be back this June and is expected to be better than ever.

The Summer Day Camp was launched by Lawrenceville United (LU) in 2007 to keep local families connected to each other and to exciting programs through the summer months. The camp has evolved and developed over the past seven years. LU staff has worked hard to identify and recruit innovative program partners and invest in a strong coordinating and counselor staff to facilitate a safe and enjoyable camp.

Program partners include CitiParks, Reading Is Fundamental, 3 Rivers Rowing, MGR Foundation, the YMCA, the Boys and Girls Club, Carnegie Library, the PITT Mobile Science Lab and local artists and musicians.

The camp, as always, will celebrate

community. This year, camp locations include Pittsburgh Arsenal Middle School, the Boys and Girls Club, Carnegie Library and other local community spaces.

Camp will run June 23rd through August 1st from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with lunch and an afternoon snack included. At press time, LU was still finalizing registration fees and applications, but is committed to keeping the costs low again this year so that camp remains accessible for all. The camp is open to all residents of Lawrenceville and neighboring communities.

Summer Celebration Day Camp is made possible by PNC Bank, UPMC Health Plan, Duquesne Light and CitiParks. To learn more about the camp or the registration process, or to sponsor an activity or the camp in general, please call 412-802-7220 or email becky@lunited.org. ♦



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April 1

GARFIELD

Free Homework Help

Assemble offers free homework help sessions for youths in grades 1 to 8 every Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at 5125 Penn Ave. Volunteers provide one-on-one homework assistance to participants who need it, but kids may choose to work independently. Youth participants can bring homework, a book or a personal project to work on. Snacks provided. Also offered on April 8, 22 and 29. Contact jess@assemblepgh.org or 412-540-5349 for more details.

April 3

BLOOMFIELD

Ballroom Dance

Join the Pittsburgh Dance Center at 4765 Liberty Ave. for a ballroom dance lesson at 7 p.m. and stay for the open ballroom dance party from 8 to 10 p.m. The event costs \$10 a person and refreshments will be available. Call 412-681-0111 for more information.

April 4

PENN AVENUE

Unblurred

The first Friday of each month, from 6 to 11 p.m., various venues in the Penn Avenue Arts District, 4800-5500 Penn Ave., open their doors to showcase the work of a variety of artists and performers. This month's Unblurred coincides with the fifth annual GA/GI Fest – for information, visit gagifest5.blogspot.com.

BLOOMFIELD

Festival Nouveau

The first Pittsburgh Festival Nouveau, a celebration of dance and circus arts, will be held at Pittsburgh Dance Center, 4765 Liberty Ave., through April 6. For more information and to register, visit www.hakandances.com.

April 5

GARFIELD

Workshops for Kids

As part of its Saturday Crafternoon program, Assemble hosts free drop-in workshops for elementary school-aged kids on Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. at 5125 Penn Ave. Each week, kids will have the opportunity to work with local artists,

makers, and community organizations on make-and-takes or community-based projects. All materials provided. Also offered on April 19 and 26. Please contact jess@assemblepgh.org or 412-540-5349 for more details.

Free Tech Talks

Come to Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Ave., from 12 to 5 p.m. for free lectures by technology pioneers. Call 412-328-4737 or visit www.most-wantedfineart.com for details.

Eco-ILL-Logical

Join Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Ave., from 7 to 11 p.m. for a free salon-styled installation event focused on creative individual interpretations of the term “illogical ecology.” The event will feature futuristic garments with audio and video performances. Call 412-328-4737 or visit www.most-wantedfineart.com for details.

April 7

BLOOMFIELD

Yoga for EveryBODY

Marlene Fritsch, a Yoga Alliance certified instructor and 16-year cancer survivor, will hold an introduction/information session on yoga at the Cancer Caring Center, 4117 Liberty Ave. from 6 to 7:30 p.m. She will talk about the importance of breathing and also discuss future yoga classes that will offer countless benefits to cancer survivors and their families. Dress comfortably; bringing a mat is optional. Friends and family members also welcome. Call 412-622-1212 to sign up.

April 8

EAST LIBERTY

Gubernatorial Debate

A gubernatorial candidate debate, hosted by the PA Interfaith Impact Network (PIIN) and Yinzercation, will take place at 6 p.m. at Pittsburgh Obama Academy, 515 N. Highland Ave. Doors open at 5 p.m. All of the Democratic candidates are confirmed and this will be the only debate in the state focused exclusively on education issues.

GARFIELD

Allegiance Staffing

Allegiance Staffing will be holding a recruitment session at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Ave. Sample positions available include the following: welders, fitters, machinists, warehouse workers, contractor's helpers, banquet servers, production workers and more. To register for the event please call 412-362-8580.

April 9

GARFIELD

Weeding Wednesdays

Kincaid Street Gardeners invite community members to lend a helping hand on Wednesday evenings starting from 6 p.m. to dusk, as we tend to our vegetables and try to keep the weeds under control. Young people are welcome. The garden is located in Garfield on Kincaid between N. Aiken and N. Graham.

Public Safety Task Force

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

April 10

BLOOMFIELD

Guided Relaxation

The goal of guided relaxation is to consciously produce the body's natural relaxation response, characterized by slower breathing, lower blood pressure and a feeling of calm and well-being. Ellen Rodwick, a retired teacher, has used relaxation techniques extensively in her career and will lead a session at the Cancer Caring Center, 4117 Liberty Ave., from 6 to 7 p.m. Participants can either sit comfortably or lay on a mat (bring your own) with eyes closed. Cancer survivors, friends and family members are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be offered. Call 412-622-1212 to register.

GARFIELD

Ex-Offender Workshop

The Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center is holding an Ex-Offender Expungement Workshop from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center, 113 North Pacific Ave. The presentation will address the following: barriers to employment in Allegheny County, steps that can be taken to remove those barriers, criminal records, employment discrimination, unemployment compensation and more. To register for the AARP Recruitment Event please call 412-362-8580.

April 11

GARFIELD

Word Circus

Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Ave., will host a monthly reading series presented by the Chatham University MFA Creative Writing Program from 7:30 to 11 p.m. The free event will feature a mix of poetry and prose writers from Chatham and welcomes attendees to perform during an open mic. Call 412-328-4737 or visit www.most-wantedfineart.com for details.

April 12

LAWRENCEVILLE

Community Service Fair

Lawrenceville United is hosting a community service fair at Arsenal Park on from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. This event will be a great opportunity to get to know the volunteer community groups working in Lawrenceville, including the Bernard Dog Run, Lawrenceville Farmers' Market, Lawrenceville Organic Community Garden, and more. Come to learn what work they are doing and find ways to get involved. For more information, please contact Lawrenceville United at info@lunited.org or call 412-802-7220.

Film Forward

International touring program “Film Forward” will screen the Academy Award winning documentary feature, “Twenty Feet from Stardom,” at 2 p.m. at Carnegie Library – Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St. The film spotlights the often overlooked lives and contributions of the backup singers to legendary performers.

GARFIELD

Weird Paul and Parents

Join YouTube famous and legendary local, Weird Paul Petrosky and his parents as they present home videos from the 1980s. The event will take place from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Ave. and will include a potluck. Call 412-328-4737 or visit www.most-wantedfineart.com for details.

April 13

GARFIELD

Easter Program

Morningside Church of God in Christ, 5173 Dearborn St., welcomes residents to their Easter program at 3:30 p.m. All are welcome.

April 19

BLOOMFIELD

Literary Reading

Join Literary Arts Boom for a special literary reading in honor of National Poetry Month and in celebration of our fabulous and talented volunteers. The event will take place from 7 to 9 p.m., at Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave. Find details on the literary reading and other LAB events online at www.literaryartsboom.org/calendar.

STANTON HEIGHTS

Easter Egg Hunt

All children (ages 0 - 12) and parents are invited to Valley View Church, 601 N. Aiken Ave., for our first annual Easter Egg Hunt. The egg hunt will start at 11 a.m. and conclude at noon, with a free lunch to follow. All are welcome. For more information, please call the church office at 412-361-0870.

Sorry, we do not accept listings by phone.

The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, fundraising events and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Listings published on a space-available basis; we cannot guarantee placement. **Announcements for the May issue are due Tuesday, April 15, via email to bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org.**

Volunteer Opportunities & Services

GARFIELD

Burlesque Academy

After weeks of training, the students at the Steel City Burlesque Academy are ready to show you what they've learned. Come to Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Ave. from 8 to 11 p.m. to watch the performance. Call 412-328-4737 or visit www.most-wantedfineart.com for details.

Resurrection Egg Hunt

Morningside Church of God in Christ, 5173 Dearborn St., welcomes residents to their Resurrection Community Easter Egg Hunt at 11 a.m. All are welcome.

LAWRENCEVILLE

The Big Hunt

Encounter Church and Lawrenceville United invite residents to attend the biggest Easter Egg Hunt in Lawrenceville. Come to the 2nd annual free event at Arsenal Park in Lawrenceville from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This year will be even bigger with 3,000 eggs, tons of candy, food, crafts, the Easter Bunny and more. All free. Visit www.encounterph.com for more details.

April 20

LAWRENCEVILLE

Easter Sunday Service

This Easter, start a new tradition and experience more than just chocolate bunnies and egg hunts. Mars Hill Church, 3832 Mintwood St., invites families to come to a service that features a come-as-you-are atmosphere, live music and a relevant message about the miracle of the first Easter and the risen Savior. Arrive at 10:30 a.m. for a continental breakfast and hot drinks prior to service. After service, kids up to the ages of 10 are invited to join in the annual Easter egg hunt for prizes and candy-filled plastic eggs. For more information: www.marshallchurch.net.

April 21

LAWRENCEVILLE

Imagination Builders

Children and caregivers are invited to use their imagination to build Lego structures. Building blocks are more than fun toys; they are valuable educational and creative tools. Join us for this family program for children of all ages at 7 p.m. at Carnegie Library – Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St.

April 24

GARFIELD

Senior Care Jobs

Come to the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Ave., from 1 to 3 p.m. for the Home Instead recruitment session. Home Instead is looking for a team of compassionate caregivers for one-on-one home care for seniors. A nursing certificate is not required, but prospective

employees must have access to a car. Call 412-362-8580 for registration and details.

April 25

GARFIELD

Dollar Bank Recruitment

Dollar Bank is holding a recruitment session from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Ave. Meet with Dollar Bank's Human Resources representatives to learn about current open positions and their locations, availability of full- and part-time jobs, pay rate and benefits and how to apply. To register for the event, call 412-362-8580.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Observations

Come to the opening reception of Gallery on 43rd Street's (187 43rd St.) newest exhibit, "Observations." Observations is a collection of small watercolors by Maura Doern Danko that emphasize observations of the familiar world: kitchen objects, toys, family settings and landscapes. Danko recently moved to NYC after making a home in Pittsburgh for 15 years. The opening reception will go from 7 to 10 p.m., but the exhibit will run from April 25 to June 6. For more information, call 412-683-6488 or visit www.galleryon43rdstreet.com.

April 26

BLOOMFIELD

Poetry Reading

Join us for a poetry reading and mini-fundraiser from 7 to 9 p.m., at Assemble, 5125 Penn. Ave, in honor of National Poetry Month. There will be a curated line-up interspersed with teen poetry workshop participants. You can find other LAB events online at www.literaryartsboom.org/calendar, and more details on this reading at http://bit.ly/LAB_Read_Poetry_2014-04.

GARFIELD

Burlesque and Belly-dance

It's all about the hips! Come to Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Ave. from 1 to 3 p.m. for a burlesque and bellydance hip movements class with award-winning burlesque performer, producer and instructor, Viva Valezz. Advance sign up is \$100 for all 5 classes or a \$25 walk in. Call 412-328-4737 or visit www.brownpapertickets.com/event/587142.

April 27

LAWRENCEVILLE

Pancake Breakfast

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

OAKLAND

Writing Workshop

6th -12th grade students are invited to a Literary Arts Boom [The LAB] writing workshop from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main, Teen Department. There will be a mini lesson, prompts with lots of writing time, and a chance to workshop your piece(s) with peers and mentors. Participants are invited to share their writing aloud at our May literary reading (details TBD). You can find this workshop and other LAB events online at www.literaryartsboom.org/calendar. Complete the registration form (http://bit.ly/LAB_write-read-series) or call 412-906-9522.

April

LAWRENCEVILLE

Computer Classes: E-mail

Do you want to get an e-mail account or learn how to manage your account better? Come to Carnegie Library – Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., every Wednesday from 12 to 1 p.m. for assistance with any of your e-mail needs.

Puzzle Saturdays

Come to the Adult Reading Room at Carnegie Library – Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St. every Saturday at 12 p.m. to work on a jigsaw puzzle. Whether you only place a couple of pieces, or see it all the way to completion, the puzzle will be available to everyone who wants to work on it.

FRIENDSHIP

f4 Vendors Needed

The annual Friendship Folk and Flower Festival (f4), which takes place on May 10, is looking for vendors of crafts, jewelry or anything handmade (no garage sale items, please). The fee to participate is \$15. Vendors receive a place for one table and 5 raffle ticket vouchers, vouchers for a sandwich and drink, a plant (excluding hanging baskets), and an item from the membership table (excluding T-shirts). Please respond by April 15 to Kathy Farrington at farringtonk@me.com or 412-362-0862 to reserve a space at this popular neighborhood festival.

BLOOMFIELD

Kids' Yoga

A 6-week series, Kids' Yoga, will be held from April 6 through May 10 at Clay Yoga, 4519 Liberty Ave., for kids in grades K-8. This fun, exciting and all-out awesome series will meet on Saturdays from 2 to 3 p.m. For more information or to register, call 412-335-1332 or visit www.clayyoga.com.

May 1

HIGHLAND PARK

How Sweet It Isn't

Are you hooked on sweets? Does it feel like you can't get by without sugary baked goods, regular or diet pop and other sweet stuff? At the same time, have you gained weight, or has your doctor warned you about your blood sugar levels? Learn the difference between natural and added sugars and their effects on your body, and what you can do to break free of your reliance on sweets. Free talk by Paula Martinac, MS, BCHN, at the Nuin Center, 5655 Bryant St., 6 p.m. For more information: 412-760-6809.

May 2

GARFIELD

Garfield Night Market

The Garfield Night Market will be returning with food, crafts and fun for families. Interested in being a vendor or a volunteer? Visit garfieldnightmarket.org, email garfieldnightmarket@gmail.com, or call Samantha at 412-441-6950. We're also looking for a manager to help run the market this year; find more information and how to apply at garfieldnightmarket.org/job-opportunity.

Further Out

STANTON HEIGHTS

Freedom Camp

Looking for a great way to spend your summer? If you are between the ages of 6 and 12, we have the program for you. Valley View Presbyterian Church, 601 N. Aiken Ave., will once again offer Freedom Camp. Freedom Camp begins on June 23rd and will continue through July 24th. The camp will run 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Camp includes breakfast, lunch, academics, crafts, bible studies, weekly field trips and a variety of activities. For additional information or to obtain an application, call 412-361-0870.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Calling All Gardeners

The annual Lawrenceville Garden Tour is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 21st from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. All Lawrenceville residents who engage in any kind of outdoor efforts are invited to participate. All types of gardens welcome: traditional, container, herb, water and even art or sculpture gardens. If you would like more information on how you can participate, contact Kate at 412-621-2573 or kateb1950@gmail.com. Homeowners and renters are all welcome to participate, and the tour will be free to visitors.

Classifieds

Real Estate

Newlyweds seeking older house, fixer-upper or vacant lot in Lawrenceville. Please call Rich at 412-290-7069.

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Truckin’ for Affordable Healthcare



Photo by Rick Flanagan

Garfield – The Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) hosted the Highmark Direct Truck on March 17 for a day-long event aimed at signing up neighborhood residents for affordable health insurance.

Under the Affordable Care Act (popularly called Obamacare), U.S. residents were required to enroll in a health insurance plan by March 31 or face possible penalties.

According to Rick Flanagan, manager of the ENEC, “A steady flow of applicants met with the Highmark enrollment people.” In all, 44 visitors came to the truck, which was parked on North Pacific Avenue next to the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center. Some sought to enroll in a plan on-site, while others just wanted to collect information about available plans.

“The application process went well,” said Flanagan. “Seven people left with insurance coverage, and an additional 15 had just a few more steps to finish their enrollment.” ♦

Green and Screen from page 7

GTECH about absorbing the program. “It was the ideal time for transition,” says Zeigler. “We have the volunteer and design experience to continue the initiative.”

In line with the mission of Green + Screen, Zeigler and her ReClaim Team regularly works to find new and innovative strategies for addressing vacant land in the city. Having worked with Green + Screen on a project at 4903 Penn Ave., Zeigler says she is familiar with the operations of the initiative and is prepared to keep it afloat.

“We were drawn to Green + Screen at GTECH because of its ability to reflect a neighborhood’s unique character by activating underutilized spaces,” Zeigler asserts. “It’s a way to create a more cohesive corridor.”

The latest Green + Screen project was conceived by Matthew Zambelli, the artist who designed the bench at the corner of Penn Avenue and N. Winebiddle Street. The new installation will fit in the space in front of the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center at 5321 Penn Ave. and will have a similar aesthetic to the bench.

Sixty high school kids from the “Students Today, Leaders Forever” program in Illinois helped with Zambelli’s project when they came to Garfield for a service leadership trip in February. Students worked to cut 4-x-4 wooden

posts that will form an undulating, wave-like structure in the space. “The installation will spark your interest when [you’re] traveling down Penn Avenue,” says Zeigler.

Moving forward, Zeigler says that GTECH will be open to proposals from any neighborhood in Pittsburgh interested in launching a project in their business district. “The Green + Screen Initiative is a great model that can be taken to other neighborhoods.” Penn Avenue has proven that Green + Screen is a great activator and supporter of redevelopment for business districts, Zeigler says.

According to Ziegler, the Urban Redevelopment Authority has been and will continue to be the main funder of Green + Screen.

Despite the plans to expand the program, Zeigler notes, “Maintaining a strong partnership with Garfield residents and the Garfield Community Action Team (GCAT) is really important to us.”

Zeigler says she feels strongly that Green + Screen projects “can reflect the ambitions and goals of a neighborhood with fun, aesthetically pleasing installations.” Under the new direction of Zeigler and GTECH, the Green + Screen initiative is bound to continue to be a successful tool for adding color and inspiration to vacant spaces. ♦



Infant, toddler, and preschool programs
Call for information or to schedule a tour.

Arsenal Family & Children’s Center
336 S. Aiken Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
Phone: (412) 345-0008
Email: afcc@arsenalfamily.org

Open House – Sunday, April 6, 2014
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

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