

the Bulletin

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ABOVE: Signs of early spring in Allegheny Cemetery. Photo by Paula Martinac

Grocery Store Developer Meets with Community

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Bloomfield/Garfield – Representatives from Commercial Properties, a North Carolina-based developer, met with residents from Garfield, Bloomfield and Friendship on February 23 about plans to bring a Bottom Dollar grocery store to 5200 Penn Avenue.

The meeting, held at the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center on N. Pacific Avenue, was standing room

only, with more than 135 people in attendance. Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, moderated the event, which she called “an important meeting for our community.”

The evening kicked off with a brief presentation by Brantley Tillman, principal of Commercial Properties. “This is a grocery store,” he began, noting that Bottom Dollar primarily carries food, not extra-

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West Penn’s Future Still Unclear

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Bloomfield – It was good news for the East End and the city in general when West Penn Hospital reopened its emergency department in February. More improvements and changes at West Penn are on the drawing board, thanks to an infusion of cash from insurance giant Highmark.

But residents shouldn’t take the re-emergence of West Penn for granted. The future of the West Penn ER – and of the entire West Penn Allegheny Health System (WPAHS) – now rests in the hands of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department, which will hold public hearings on April 17 about the proposed

affiliation of Highmark and WPAHS. If the Insurance Department does not approve it, the partnership between Highmark and WPAHS will dissolve, and the doors of West Penn may close once more.

“West Penn Hospital has been the heart and soul of the East End since 1848,” Kathleen McKenzie, vice president of community and civic affairs at WPAHS, told *The Bulletin*. “We know the community wants to preserve it, so it’s urgent for people to turn out on April 17 to let the state know what a community asset it is.”

State Sen. Jim Ferlo, along with state

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Pet Smart Headed to EastSide

By Margaret Graham *East Liberty Development Inc.*

East Liberty – The nation’s largest pet retailer, PetSmart, will soon open its doors where a bookstore used to be.

See **page 6**



Revitalized: 5450 Penn

By Rich Engel *Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

Friendship – You might have already noticed the recently uncovered storefront at 5450 Penn Avenue, and its charming, old brass window

See **page 13**



Connections Abound in Quantum Play

By Melinda Maloney *The Bulletin*

Bloomfield – According to playwright Stefanie Zdravec, a sense of magic pervades not just the fictional aspects of *The Electric Baby*,

See **page 16**



ABOVE: Lori Hollis, owner of Little Angels Learning Center at 5122 Penn Avenue, plays drums with her family band, Heavenly Sounds, during the March Unblurred. Photo by Sarah Suiter

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Garfield Glen Breaks Ground

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Garfield – Mayor Luke Ravenstahl praised Garfield as “a neighborhood on the rise” at a groundbreaking ceremony for a new, affordable rental development on February 24.

More than 60 people attended the ceremony, which included remarks by the mayor, U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle, D-Pa., and City Councilman Ricky Burgess, District 9, among others.

The development, called Garfield Glen, is a joint project of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and builder S&A Homes of State College, Pa. Forty-five energy-efficient duplexes and townhomes are being constructed on scattered sites across a 12-block area, mostly on Dearborn, Broad and Kincaid streets between N. Mathilda Street and N. Atlantic Avenue.

The units will vary in size from two to four bedrooms, with some meeting the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. All will have fully equipped kitchens, wall-to-wall carpeting and vinyl flooring, individually controlled heat and hot water and washer/dryer hookups.

“It is the best-designed development we could hope to have,” said Rick Swartz, executive director of the BGC, crediting local architecture firm Lami Grubb with a willingness to sharpen and perfect the plans.

Swartz called Garfield Glen “a strategy for rental housing development that complements the neighborhood’s homeownership program.” With its partner Garfield Jubilee Association (GJA), the BGC has built 44 new homes in the neighborhood since 2002, and has four more in the works. For Garfield Glen, GJA will be in charge of identifying local laborers and making sure the project meets goals for

minority- and woman-owned business participation.

The new rental project is financed in large part through federal tax credits, which private investors purchase in exchange for putting cash into the project. Because of these public subsidies, Garfield Glen has income restrictions – it is open for rent to families earning less than \$35,000 for a family of five, \$32,000 for a family of four, \$29,000 for a family of three or \$26,000 for a two-person family.

In addition, tenants will have the opportunity to purchase their units after 15 years, putting homeownership within the grasp of many working-class families. Doyle applauded the project, noting that “people’s dream of homeownership went away in hard economic times.” Garfield Glen, he said, “is an example of federal tax credits doing a good thing.” He also pointed out the importance of the energy-efficient construction, which he called “the key to the future.”

Burgess applauded the development as “the beginning of a renaissance for the East End,” and noted the mayor’s significant financial commitment to the area. The city has provided a \$1.7 million loan for this particular development.

The Mayor’s Office and the Department of Public Works provided instrumental support for the groundbreaking ceremony itself. “And the residents were wonderful,” Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC, noted. “They moved their cars and welcomed us to the block.”

The first Garfield Glen units should be ready for tenants in late spring. For rental information or to submit an application, contact NDC Real Estate Management at 412-647-7418, or visit their office at 4415 Fifth Avenue in Oakland. ♦

BELOW: At the Garfield Glen groundbreaking; from left, Aggie Brose of BGC, City Councilman Ricky Burgess, BGC President Bill Cornell, Brenda Wells of Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, Joann Monroe of GJA, Tom Cummings of URA, Rick Savido of BNY Mellon, U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, and Andy Haines of S&A Homes. Photo by Paula Martinac



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Board-certified in internal medicine, Dr. Henry received his medical degree from the University of Michigan and completed his residency at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital. He served as a captain in the United States Air Force and a clinical instructor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Dr. Henry specializes in care for adults, diabetes management, cardiac care, and treatment for chronic illnesses.



Frank H. Kush, MD
Internal Medicine

Dr. Kush earned his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He completed his internal medicine residency at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital. Dr. Kush is board-certified in internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine.



Ronald J. Nigborowicz, MD
Internal Medicine

Dr. Nigborowicz is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He completed his medical internship at UPMC Presbyterian, and is board-certified in internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. Nigborowicz is a clinical instructor in medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.



Priya P. Saxena, MD, FACP
Internal Medicine

Board-certified in internal medicine, Dr. Saxena received her medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine, Dominica, West Indies. She completed her internal medicine residency at Maryland General Hospital in Baltimore, where she served as chief resident. She is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and is NCQA-certified in diabetes management.

Extended hours are now available.

Comprehensive Care Associates-UPMC has four locations: Bloomfield, Bellevue, Allison Park, and West View. To schedule an appointment at the Bloomfield office, call 412-315-0400.

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Grocery from page 1

neous items like lawn chairs or school supplies. "The meats are fresh, never frozen, and there's a refrigerated produce room.... Ninety-nine percent of all the groceries you need, you can buy here."

As reported last month in *The Bulletin*, the site plan includes positioning the parking lot on the corner on Penn and S. Pacific. The building itself, which would be a new construction, would abut 5222 Penn. Tillman explained that placing the building on the corner would only allow for 40 parking spaces, while his proposed plan would accommodate 53 – still only about half of what the city normally seeks.

Also influencing the site plan is the current building's unsuitability for retrofitting, Tillman said. "It has a barrel-vaulted wood roof than won't work for us," he noted. "It isn't safe."

He reported that EDGE Studio, a Penn Avenue architecture firm, will design a decorative fence and greenery that will separate the parking lot from S. Pacific and will also extend partially along Coral Street. Brose explained that EDGE is doing the design pro bono. A higher fence will shield the loading dock and trash bins from view by neighbors on Coral.

Tillman has also engaged Civil & Engineering Consultants, Inc., a local firm, to undertake a traffic study of the 100 block of S. Pacific, with the intention of making that block two-way. Delivery trucks, then, could enter the lot on Penn, exit onto S. Pacific and go directly back to Penn without cutting through the residential neighborhood. "They'll also look at whether we need a traffic light at the corner," Tillman explained, "and if we do, we'll pay for that."

Kate Tillman Brown, vice president of development for Commercial Properties, noted that there would be approximately

five to seven deliveries a week to the store, and all would take place before 5 p.m.

The developer showed drawings of the exterior lighting fixtures, which are designed to shine down into the parking lot for safety and not into nearby houses. After 10 p.m. (the hours for the store would be 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.), lighting would be reduced to lower-level security lights only.

Tillman said that the store would hire 40 to 45 new employees, and that the management would work with the local community on a job fair to fill the slots. About half of these jobs would be full-time with benefits.

Following the presentation, attendees were invited to the microphone for one turn each to ask questions. About a dozen residents took advantage of the opportunity. Some, like Mary Ann McGill, manager of Laurentian Hall Apartments for seniors at 5321 Penn, said the store "would be a godsend. ... We've lacked a good store for a long time. And with gas going up, this will be economical for all of us."

Dave English, a local artist, property owner and board member of the BGC, noted that "you can't have a healthy neighborhood without a grocery store." Loretta Lewis, who has lived in the neighborhood for 66 years, said she "can't wait for yinz to get here."

Some residents did express concerns, however. Lenore Williams of the Baum-Centre Initiative asked what sound protection there would be for the air conditioning units. Tillman replied that the roof-mounted units would be no noisier than a home cooling system, and that in 36 years, he has not had a single complaint about noise.

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BELOW: Kate Tillman Brown of Commercial Properties (left) reviews the proposed site plan for Bottom Dollar with interested residents. Photo by Paula Martinac



the Bulletin

A Publication of
Bloomfield-Garfield
Corporation



Serving Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty and Lawrenceville Since 1975
with the mission of reporting on activities and ideas affecting those communities and offering an opportunity for residents to express opinions and exchange ideas.

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The deadline for the May issue is **MONDAY, APRIL 16.**

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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 Avenue. These meetings are open to the public.

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

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West Penn from page 1

Reps. Dom Costa and Jake Wheatley Jr. and other state legislators in southwestern Pennsylvania, sent a statement to the Insurance Department in support of the affiliation. The statement stressed the necessity of maintaining health-care choice for patients and for health-care practitioners in this part of the state, and pointed to the solid record of WPAHS in providing quality health care.

Sen. Ferlo is spearheading an effort to turn out residents for these important public hearings, which will be held at the Westin Convention Center, 1000 Penn Avenue, in downtown Pittsburgh. The first hearing is at 9 a.m., and there will also be an evening session at 7 p.m.

No pre-registration is required to attend, but those who would like to speak must preregister by April 12 at www.insurance.pa.gov. Speakers must submit advance copies of their remarks in one of three ways: via mail

to Robert Brackbill, Chief, Company Licensing Division, 1345 Strawberry Way, Harrisburg, PA 17120; email to rbrackbill@pa.gov; or fax to 717-787-8557. Each individual who signs up to speak will be allotted about 10 minutes.

Rep. Wheatley said he encourages "as many residents as possible to attend the April 17 hearing to make sure their voices are heard." Rep. Costa stressed "competition is good for consumers and [I] want everyone to understand how truly important it is to the region for the WPAHS to thrive."

"Community stakeholders first came together with the initial tragedy of West Penn closing its emergency room," said Sen. Ferlo. "Now the April 17 public hearing must have a strong show of support from the community at large to demonstrate to the Insurance Department the urgency of their approval." ♦

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Dr. Koduri received her medical degree from Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam, India, and completed her residency in internal medicine at Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center, New York, N.Y. She is board-certified in internal medicine and is a member of the American Medical Association. Dr. Koduri has received certification from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for her care of diabetic patients. She has a special interest in the treatment of obesity, hypertension, and diabetes.

To schedule an appointment, or for more information, please call 412-661-1210.

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COMMENTARY

Public Transit Funding: Time to Look in the Mirror

By Rick Swartz

As July 1st approaches, the Port Authority of Allegheny County faces a daunting scenario: find up to \$64 million in revenue or cost savings, or cut up to 35 percent of its existing service.

County Executive Rich Fitzgerald met with Gov. Tom Corbett and his staff in Harrisburg the week of March 12. While everyone acknowledged the problem's gravity, no one said any type of deal was struck.

Public transit advocates have clamored for months for more state aid, and Corbett has steadfastly rebuffed them. Now, county and state leaders must decide how to spread the pain among everyone with a stake in the system's future. But what type of deal is possible?

Former Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato won the state's support for taxing alcoholic beverages consumed at restaurants and bars, along with a tax on rental cars, which he said would put the system on sounder footing. In the county's 2011 operating budget, those taxes generated \$27 million for the Port Authority. That would have been a major boost had County Council and Onorato not removed from the budget the county's previous annual contribution to the Port Authority of more than \$15 million of its general revenues. One set of taxpayers (property owners) was released from supporting public transit, and another set (people who drink in restaurants and bars and rent cars) replaced them.

In real dollars, the county's support for public transit has essentially remained flat since 2000. With the new reassessment gradually coming into place, the county would be allowed to keep as much as a 4 percent increase from what it collected in 2012 in new real estate taxes. What would that yield? More than \$10 million from property owners who are now essentially standing on the sidelines.

Although that won't close the gap, it's an important gesture that Fitzgerald could make to show the state that the county will make sacrifices to preserve the system. If you're a Harrisburg lawmaker from eastern Pennsylvania, you'd probably wonder why the Commonwealth should be the only one to pony up more cash. Allegheny County, after all, must be one of Pennsylvania's wealthier counties.

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SPUR into Action for Job Training

By Melinda Maloney *The Bulletin*

Garfield – On April 12, a meeting at the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center, 113 North Pacific Avenue, will aim to “spur” community members into in-demand industries by educating them about opportunities for free career training through the Southwestern Pennsylvania Urban Revitalization Project (SPUR).

At the 6 p.m. meeting, SPUR staff will give a presentation about the training grants. The presentation will cover the dynamics of the program and familiarize attendees with the process of enrolling in and completing it. It will also describe the career and educational opportunities available through SPUR.

SPUR resulted from a \$1.95 million grant to a group of local organizations from the federal government’s Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Grant Competition. In the next two years, the funds will be used to connect residents from underserved communities with jobs in health care, energy and the trades. Program coordinator Debbie Atkins said, “A lot of people have a misconception of what underserved means. It does not always mean low income, ghetto or minority. It just means there are no services for those people. What SPUR is attempting to do is provide service for the underserved ... although anybody in Allegheny County can be a part of this program.”

The program awards grants to its participants to complete necessary training at the Community College of Allegheny County in fields such as health information technology, medical coding, medical office management, plumbing, welding and more. Students can be job ready in as few as two months.

To take advantage of this opportunity, interested community members should attend the informational meeting and

then set up an intake assessment appointment. “During that intake assessment, there is some brief paperwork, but more importantly, they discuss employment barriers and any issues they might be dealing with now that would keep them from completing their course,” Atkins said. Following the assessment, the intake coordinator will walk them through the online application process, and a CCAC adviser will help them prepare to start their courses.

The program is not limited to job training. CCAC’s Job Placement and Career Services Department will assist graduates of the training program with their job searches. Furthermore, the Hill House’s First Source Center will also help match completers with local job opportunities.

The Hill House, one of SPUR’s many partners, provides office space for the program. SPUR also collaborates with the Hill Community Development Corporation for marketing and communications strategies.

Hosting a meeting in Garfield, with the collaboration of the East End Neighborhood Employment Center and Neighborhood Learning Alliance, is one facet of that strategy. The ENEC will recruit in its network and campaign in adjacent neighborhoods to generate interest in the meeting.

According to Rick Flanagan, the ENEC’s manager, “It’s helping us because we’re always looking for ways to generate new opportunities. It helps get people training and working.”

To reserve your place at the session, call 412-362-8580 or leave a message at 412-465-0425. For more information about SPUR, visit <http://www.spurinitiative.org>.

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Transit from page 4

Should the ridership play a role in closing the deficit? It's hard to see why not. Closing or reducing less-used routes will have to happen, regardless of how much new revenue our leaders find. Lessening the number of stops, particularly in the city, to shorten trips and allow for more daily runs by each bus will likely be necessary.

The Port Authority, like everyone else, must absorb significant increases in gas prices. The \$2.50 fare from the East End to Downtown has become almost a steal compared to other options. While seeing fares rise to \$3.25 or more would hurt, the choice for riders, particularly on routes targeted for cutbacks in service or outright elimination, is rather stark: reach deeper into one's pocket, or do a lot more walking or bicycling.

A sizable (30 percent or greater) fare increase might motivate larger employers to split the cost (75 percent employee, 25 percent employer) of bus passes with their employees. It certainly would be one way to retain a workforce dependent on jobs at UPMC, Pitt, Duquesne and the many nonprofit employers whose land is exempt from real estate taxes. If Corbett and the state legislature saw such a commitment from the private sector, perhaps a new state income tax credit

equal to 20 percent of what bus riders would otherwise pay on their annual earned income would soften a fare increase's impact.

What about Port Authority's employees? Here, the slogging gets tougher because union rights under collective bargaining agreements often rest on state law. The Transit Union and the Port Authority board want to contend that they have done much to pare back operating costs. And they have taken some action: tripling employees' contribution to health insurance costs and eliminating post-retirement healthcare coverage for non-union, management and PAT police personnel. But current employee benefits and legacy (retiree) costs will still account for more than \$97 million of the Port Authority's \$376 million fiscal 2012 budget. If they cannot reduce those combined costs by at least 10 percent through collective bargaining, what sacrifices are the current and former employees actually making? If unionized workers don't bring something substantive to the table, then at least they could offer to give up the right to strike, as public transit's critics have insisted.

The solution's framework might not resemble what's been suggested here. But it must force every party with a vested interest in the system to look in the mirror and ask what each will do to save the system. It's hard to imagine any enthusiasm for hockey playoffs, marathon celebrations and arts festivals until a solution to our public transit crisis has been reached.

The writer is executive director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation. The opinions expressed here are solely his own.

SHOWCASE OF THE MONTH

There's No Place Like Home

by Aggie Brose Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.

Lawrenceville – Our showcase properties for the month of April are located in Lawrenceville, at 5429 and 5431 Keystone Street. According to the Allegheny County Real Estate website, the recorded owner of 5429 Keystone Street is Ms. Colleen (McGinley) Ostronic, the daughter of the owner of 5431 Keystone Street, Ms. Patricia McGinley.

Although not large or showy, the properties certainly deserve the title of "Showcase." They mirror each other, with painted window shutters in complementary colors. In the back, a deck and white fence span both yards. Through the years, the McGinley family has lived in these houses and shown a lot of pride in the community by constantly investing in the properties and putting effort into their upkeep. The BGC staff learned that at

Christmas they even have identical decorations on their homes.

Ms. Patricia McGinley's mother-in-law resided at 5429 Keystone from the 1930s to 1982. When she passed away, Ms. Patricia McGinley's other daughter, Patricia, acquired the property. She in turn sold it to her sister Colleen in 1997.

Ms. Patricia McGinley told *The Bulletin* that 5431 Keystone Street has been her home for more than 60 years and that she and her husband Jim, who has passed away, raised their family there.

We want to thank the McGinleys for calling Lawrenceville their home for these many years and keeping these simple but beautifully cared-for properties "all in the family." ♦

BELOW: These well-maintained Lawrenceville homes are owned by a mother and daughter.



Simply Frugal Living

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for more details

PetSmart from page 1

The 14,000-square-foot site is in the EastSide development on Penn Circle South, owned by the Mosites Company. The space used to be the bottom level of Borders prior to the retailer's nationwide

Baiyuan Tongbei
at Steel Dragon
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liquidation in 2011. Since the store closed its East Liberty location, the Mosites Company has been looking for tenants to fill both floors.

According to Steve Mosites, president of the Mosites Company, a number of potential tenants looked at the space. While the Highland Avenue-level space can accommodate multiple tenants, the Centre Avenue space needed a single occupant due to its orientation to the parking lot at EastSide. Only a handful of interested parties could accommodate this large of a space with the retrofitting needed, and PetSmart was one of them.

PetSmart is the largest pet supply retailer in North America, with more than 1,200 stores in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. Though they have stores in the Pittsburgh Metro area, this will be the chain's first store within

the city limits.

"A group of our EastSide customers were leaving the city to do their pet food shopping," said Steve Mosites. "We felt this fit into the neighborhood shopping needs category we fill at EastSide."

In addition to selling pet supplies like food, toys and leashes, PetSmart will have pet grooming and veterinary services. The grooming will be visible through the Centre Avenue window.

There are still 11,500 square feet available on the upper level of the store. Mosites said the company has received interest from about a dozen tenants, ranging from 1,800 to 4,000 square feet of space. They hope to announce tenants by June, and have stores in place by the end of 2012. PetSmart's projected opening date is early June 2012. ♦

OUR PRACTICES HAVE MOVED

Dr. Bradley Heppner and Dr. John Power have both joined UPMC. They are both seeing patients at their convenient new office location in Bloomfield.



Bradley Heppner, MD, FACC
Cardiovascular Disease and Interventional Cardiology
UPMC St. Margaret

Bradley Heppner, MD, FACC, is board-certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular disease, and interventional cardiology. Dr. Heppner earned his medical degree from the University of Minnesota School of Medicine. He completed his residency in internal medicine at the Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, WA, and completed fellowships in adult cardiology and interventional cardiology at the Letterman Army Medical Center in San Francisco, CA.



John Power, MD, FACC
Cardiovascular Disease and Interventional Cardiology
UPMC St. Margaret
UPMC Shadyside

John Power, MD, FACC, is board-certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular disease, and interventional cardiology. Dr. Power earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Pennsylvania. He completed his residency at UPMC Montefiore and completed fellowships in cardiovascular disease and interventional cardiology at the Dartmouth Medical Center in New Hampshire.

For more information, or to make an appointment, call 412-683-7815 or visit UPMC.com.

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Neighborhood FOCUS

More Than Just a Bike Shop

Documentary Film Pays Tribute to a Penn Avenue Landmark

By Melinda Maloney *The Bulletin*

Garfield – A Pittsburgh bike shop seems like an unlikely subject for a native Floridian filmmaker who was “never really interested in bikes.” But after walking into Kraynick’s Bike Shop on Penn Avenue for the first time last June, Jennifer Caple, who now lives in Pittsburgh, felt compelled to tell its story.

By August, she and partner Scott Canavan had decided to start shooting *This Is Your Bicycle*, a documentary about the store.

“My friend went in for a wheel, and I started talking to Jerry [Kraynick, the shop’s owner], and I just got the idea in my head. I felt that someone should make a story about this,” Caple said.

She was inspired by the wisdom she perceived from Kraynick, a former school teacher, and his ability to quietly oversee things at the shop. “You have Jerry, who holds everything together without really trying to,” Caple said. “He stands back from things



ABOVE: Kraynick’s facade got a colorful facelift last fall. Photo by Paula Martinac

“It’s like Pittsburgh on a small scale when you walk into that shop..”

and throws in his little tidbits through his metaphors, and people pick up on it!”

Caple said she believes Kraynick gives the shop a sense of community. She thought that community and how it reflects the larger city of Pittsburgh would make for a compelling story.

“I felt that there was really a story behind that. Not only for the bike shop, but because it reminded me of Pittsburgh. It’s like Pittsburgh on a small scale when you walk into that shop – the attitude of the people, how they help one another,” Caple said.

The people who are participating in the film reflect the bike shop’s familial nature. Caple and Canavan are currently interviewing some of the store’s customers, some of whom have known Mr. Kraynick for more than 30 years.

Although the shop is located in Garfield, its customers have traditionally come from all over Pittsburgh. “My dad’s first bike shop was back in 1946, and it was in the Hill District, and he did just fine,” Kraynick told *The Bulletin*. “People found out his shop was there and made the effort to get there. When I finally took over, I moved it up here. Word gets around.”

Since then, Kraynick’s shop has become a staple of the neighborhood – something that will shine through in the film, according to Caple. “There are several interviews on the rejuvenation of the Penn Avenue corridor, and how the store has changed people’s attitudes about coming outside and talking to their neighbors,” she said.

Kraynick’s father provided inspiration for the title of the film. He wrote a bicycle repair manual called “Your Bicycle,” so Caple and Canavan decided to name the film *This Is Your Bicycle*.

The title acknowledges a theme underpinning the project – the shop’s longevity. “Bicycles don’t really change. They’ve been around forever, the parts are still the same. Pittsburgh is very similar to that. You stick around, you stick to your values, and you persevere. I believe that’s what Jerry tries to teach people,” Caple said.

Caple hopes the film will be complete by the end of April or beginning of May and plans on releasing it first at Pittsburgh venues. Canada’s Cinema Politica has also agreed to do a screening. For updates on the film, visit thisisyourbicycle.com. ♦

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Adventures in Trees

by SallyJoe Guzik *Tree Pittsburgh*

Lawrenceville – This April and May, as Tree Pittsburgh celebrates the 140th Arbor Day, the public will get a chance to see tree adventures on film, and up close in real life at the Urban Forest Film Festival and at the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Western PA Tree Climbing Competition.

The Urban Forest Film Festival, on Wednesday, April 18, at 7 p.m. at Melwood Screening Room, puts trees in the spotlight in each of five short films. For the second year, Tree Pittsburgh education and outreach coordinator Caitlin Lenahan has chosen a variety of short films featuring trees as the real stars as part of Tree Pittsburgh's month-long Arbor Month Celebration.

"The films this year are a lot of fun, but still convey important information about trees, ecosystems and the way humans interact with them," said Lenahan. "My favorite was made by professional tree climbers who attempt a 1-kilometer forest canopy transect – climbing and camping in the treetops for five days, without touching the ground once." Other films featured include Maya Lin's *Unchopping a Tree* and a video created by Tree Pittsburgh as a

humorous response to last summer's "Rogue Pruner" who was damaging young trees throughout Friendship.

The annual Western Pennsylvania Tree Climbing Competition will once again be held in Lawrenceville's Arsenal Park. More than a dozen tree-care companies donated their time and skills to prepare the park for climbers. On Saturday, May 12, watch professional tree climbers take to the limbs throughout the day in hope of earning a spot in the state competition. Tree Climbers will show off their technical skills in five events: the belayed speed climb, work climb, secured footlocking, throw line and aerial rescue.

"I like the excitement of the footlock and the belayed speed climb. Each event usually is under 60 seconds," says Matt Erb, director of urban forestry at Tree Pittsburgh and chairperson of the Penn-Del ISA Western Tree Climb. "But the work climb is the overall benchmark of a climber's skill. Setting their line in the tree, getting up there and then safely moving through the tree to each one of the stations are many of the skills that a good climber uses to work in trees." ♦



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Sat, April 7
GA/GI FRIENDS EXTRA EVENTS:
@ Union Project, MONSTER OPEN HOUSE, 801 Negley Ave/Full day of family fun. 9:30 am-8 pm... PLUS Bap Boom Tourism (final performance) with with Makoto Hirano/Kelly-Strayhorn Theatre, 5941 Penn Avenue, 8 pm. For tickets call: 412-363-3000.

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Student Program Benefits Homeless

By Jessica Ciesiak CCCHS

Lawrenceville – Career Connections Charter High School (CCCHS), located at 4412 Butler Street, recently ended its first annual drive to help the homeless, called The Cold Earth Project. The project consisted of a six-week drive to collect winter clothing for donation to Pittsburgh-area homeless shelters.

On February 27, the project ended with an evening event, which included a visual presentation about issues facing the local homeless, including the effects of hypothermia and frostbite. The presentation was created by two of CCCHS's National Honor Society students, Samantha DeRiso and Maria Whaby.

In addition, an art installation using some of the collected apparel depicted two very different living arrangements. In the first, collected clothing appeared in hand-painted boxes, which served as a metaphor for where homeless people often live and sleep. Students were asked to role play in order to experience what it was like to be in a cold, dark and depressing environment.

In the second scenario, students experienced life under "normal" living conditions, with all of the luxuries of today present. A different behavior emerged from each group of students. They discovered through Q & A and discussion how much of a role environment plays in people's behavior, mood and tolerance.

Along with the presentation and art



ABOVE: Part of the art installation for The Cold Earth Project. Photo by Jessica Ciesiak

installation, students sold recycled T-shirts and beverages. All proceeds were donated to selected homeless shelters.

For The Cold Earth Project, CCCHS collected more than 200 items of apparel. Staff, students, family and church and community members all contributed to the effort. For more information about this event or any of the school's activities and programs, visit the website at www.ccchs.net. ♦

Penn Avenue Welcomes Neighborhood Learning Alliance

By Melinda Maloney *The Bulletin*

Garfield – Another organization has joined the vibrant and ever-expanding nonprofit community along Penn Avenue. Neighborhood Learning Alliance (NLA), a nonprofit that seeks to improve the education and opportunities of African-American and lower-income families, moved into the space at 5429 Penn Avenue last month. Grow Pittsburgh previously occupied the space, but moved to 6587 Hamilton Avenue in Larimer at the end of February.

NLA's move brought it less than a mile from the space on North Highland Avenue it occupied for the past three years. Kathryn Vargas, assistant to NLA's executive director, said a new location was necessary for the nonprofit's work.

"With programs like ours, you have to keep documents for up to five to 10 years, so we have a lot of boxes," Vargas said. "This space has a lot of storage room, and we didn't have that in the past."

NLA's programs are at local schools, so the space functions mainly as an administrative center for its six full-time staff-members and handful of part-time employees. However, Vargas hopes that the new location will lead to increased interaction with the community.

"I think it's an exciting location for us, being a part of a community of nonprofits," said Vargas. "We're right next to a few others. Where we were before was a little bit more isolated – we were on the second floor. This will definitely give us more visibility." This increased visibility is especially exciting because NLA serves many students from Garfield and East Liberty, although it works in other neighborhoods as well.

In fact, even before moving to Penn Avenue, evidence of NLA's work could be

seen in Garfield. In 2010, NLA received federal broadband stimulus funds to launch Pittsburgh CONNECTS, four free computer labs located in venues across the city. One of the labs, operated by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, is housed at its Youth Development Center at 5321 Penn Avenue, just down the street from NLA.

NLA's programs have also influenced the local community. Pittsburgh LEARNS, implemented at local elementary schools including Pittsburgh Fort Pitt, provides afterschool and summer education and care to students in kindergarten and first and second grade throughout Pittsburgh. Through its Community LEARNS program, NLA offers afterschool and summer educational, employment, recreational and supportive services to the students of Pittsburgh Millions/University Prep, a feeder school for East End students since the closing of Pittsburgh Peabody last spring.

Changes NLA made to the space reflect its involvement in the larger East End community. A Lawrenceville resident has built a coffee bar for the office, and a local artist is painting the walls with block lettering.

Although Vargas is excited about NLA's new location, she admitted that the move wasn't easy. Much of the furniture had to be custom-fitted to the space, and NLA staff members moved everything with no help from a professional moving company.

Members of the community are invited to stop by and take a look at the results of NLA's hard work. The office will be open for this month's Unblurred on April 6. ♦

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Grocery from page 3

addressed the problem of litter, noting that she is constantly finding plastic bags from Family Dollar tossed in her yard. Tillman noted that Bottom Dollar doesn't give out plastic bags, and that customers bring their own bags and boxes. He also assured the audience that the store's parking lot would be kept clean.

Jeffrey Dorsey, another resident of S. Pacific, said he doesn't oppose the store itself, just some features of the plan, like the parking lot on the corner. He asked if Tillman would be willing to look at other ideas or engage in a design charrette – a collaborative design session.

Tillman made it clear that the site plan is fixed. "This design comes from years in the grocery business," he stated. "The only alternative that works is the one that we've shown you."

The next stage is for the developer and his architect to finalize the paperwork and schedule a hearing with the city's Zoning Board of Adjustment. On March 12, the board of directors of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation passed a resolution in support of the presentation given by Commercial Properties, which will be delivered to the Zoning Board. Watch *The Bulletin* for updates on the zoning hearing. ♦

Raising the Roost in Highland Park

by Christine Bethea *Bulletin Contributor*

East End – We all know about history’s movements: Civil Rights, Women’s Rights and even Beethoven’s Fifth. But a chicken movement? Believe it or not, this trend is coming to a yard near you. Consider the case of Jody Noble Choder, an urban chicken farmer.

Choder, a respected corporate attorney, never really planned to raise chickens. However, with roots in Lower Burrell, Pa., she did consider herself a country girl with urban aspirations.

“When I hit my teenage years, I couldn’t wait to get out to the city,” Choder admitted.

Years later, after starting her legal career and getting married, she and her husband moved to Pittsburgh’s Point Breeze community. They soon relocated to a quiet place next to the Highland Park dam, with a big yard and plenty of flora and fauna. It would become the best of all possible worlds for her.

“You can take the girl out of the country, but not the country out of the girl. Next thing I knew, I was watching Martha Stewart’s TV show and putting in vegetable and French potager gardens,” Choder said.

Martha Stewart makes country living look glamorous, and when the lifestyle diva ran a story on raising chickens, Choder was smitten. She ran the idea of getting some young peeps past her husband, who agreed to the plan under the condition that they build their own chicken coop to save the expense. It was only much later that the couple realized they lacked the necessary carpentry skills to do so.

“We bought a dog house from Lowe’s and tried to retro-fit it. The problem is we forgot about the door.” That first spring their young peeps were killed by weasels. Choder refused to accept failure but vowed not to bring another peep into the house until they were more prepared.

The second year, the Choders went back to Lambert’s Tack and Feed in Butler, Pa., determined to get more peeps and raise a better roost. After only a few more setbacks, the Choders became true urban chicken farmers. They perused every chicken-raising catalogue and magazine known to humans in search of the perfect coop, admitting that a dog house just wasn’t the same as a chicken coop. Before long, they spied an amazing Amish-built chicken domicile.

“Our chickens went from humble Section 8 housing to a five-star mansion,” Choder said. The new coop had automatic doors, heated roots, special in-door lighting, nesting boxes and an easy-clean floor.

The Choders began finding other urban chicken farmers, and their network grew. By 2010, the group wanted to host the city’s first self-guided coop tour. The plans were somewhat hampered when they learned about a potential City of Pittsburgh chicken ordinance that required a zoning variance for chicken owners. However, by the next year, the dust had settled, and with four East End coops and four on the North Side, the first Urban Chicken Coop Tour was launched.

“We expected some success, but for a first-year event, the interest was phenomenal! We had over 450 people attend, coming from Uniontown, West Virginia and as far away as Ohio.” The event even made the front page of the *Wall Street Journal*.

Choder said, “People want to know where their food is coming from. It’s an opportunity for parents to teach their kids something, and everyone wants to eat

Urban chicken farmer Jody Noble Choder. Photo by Christine Bethea



healthier.”

Among the tour’s surprise hits were the T-shirts designed by Jason Sauer, owner of Most Wanted Fine Art, a gallery and yoga spot on Penn Avenue. Emblazoned with the caption “Chicks in the Hood,” the shirts quickly sold out. Proceeds from the tour were donated to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

“Some people are surprised by what we do, but I don’t know why,” said Choder. “People used to raise chickens in the city all the time, before it fell out of favor. It’s such a good and holistic practice. It’s nice to have some control over what you eat.” Choder gives her hens’ eggs to friends and even neighborhood restaurants like Salt of the Earth, which have offered trades in return.

The next Urban Chicken Coop Tour is tentatively set for Sunday, June 17. Tickets will be on sale at The Quiet Storm and other area restaurants. ♦

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Saturday, April 21, at 10 a.m. at the BGC Community Activity Center, 113 North Pacific Ave.

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GCAT Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, April 28, at 6 p.m. at Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Ave.

Be part of the Garfield Community Action Team (GCAT) and help with projects that improve the neighborhood. Enjoy some food and drinks; meet neighbors too!

Celebrating 15 Years of Art All Night

By Kristen Batao *Art All Night*



ABOVE: Art All Night 2011 in full swing. Photo by Joey Kennedy

Lawrenceville – Art All Night Lawrenceville, the highly anticipated annual celebration of the arts and community, is celebrating its 15th year in 2012.

From Saturday, April 28, at 4 p.m. through Sunday, April 29, at 2 p.m., Art All Night will make its home in the Willow Street Development at 4001 Willow Street in Lawrenceville. Admission is free, and the event is open to the public.

This year's location is a former decking mill. The building graciously lent more than 50,000 square feet to Lawrenceville's nomadic public art exhibit, which opens only once a year. Complete with family activities, musical acts and performances, Art All Night is a unique event not to be missed.

Since its inception, Art All Night has been organized by a committee of all volunteers, aided by hundreds of additional volunteers who help prepare the venue, clean up after and do all the things in between. Volunteers register the art pieces, hang them, staff the retail tables, lead the children's activities and create the on-site art. Art All Night provided last year's 12,000+ attendees with a 1,240-piece exhibit and entertained them with 36 bands and numerous performances.

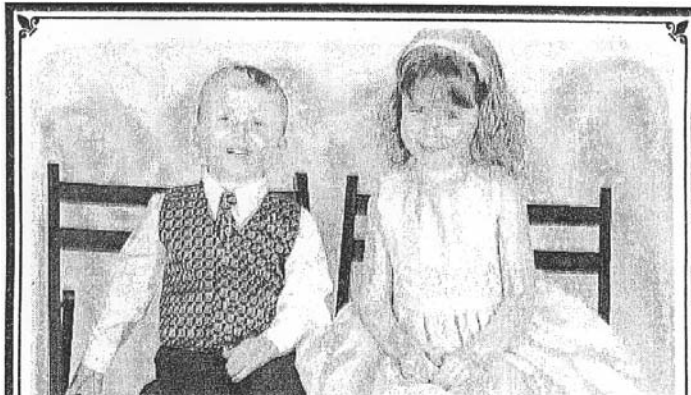
In addition to the art on exhibit, Art All Night will host live art created during the event. Volunteer artists, with a diversity of concentrations in technical, traditional and street art, have been paired to collaborate on paintings throughout the event. The artistic duos' styles and concepts will come together on canvas. Cartooning-All-

Night, a homage to 24 Hour Comics Day, is new this year. Artists are scheduled in hour-long time slots to start and complete one page of a comic. Some artists have committed to be there for the entire 22-hour event.

Children's activities were so successful last year that they earned a spot in this year's event. Crafts and activities, like screen-printing and button-making, start right when Art All Night opens on Saturday. There will be various artist demos, as well as activities hosted by the Pittsburgh Glass Center and Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse. The children's area will be in operation on Sunday as well, but on a smaller scale.

In the 15 years since its inception, Art All Night has become one of Pittsburgh's most popular arts events. The roving event that hosted the 1,240 artists last year might not resemble the smaller, intimate exhibit of 101 artists and 200 attendees in 1998, but the core values remain the same: no fees, no jury, no censorship. Art All Night is also free to participating artists. Each artist may submit one piece of artwork on any subject, in any medium. The show offers artists of any skill level or experience the chance to showcase their work. First-timers' doodles and drawings hang right beside professionals' doodles and drawings. Drawings, paintings, sculptures ... every medium has a place at Art All Night.

To learn more about the event, including how to register artwork and how to get involved as a donor or volunteer, visit www.artallnight.org. ♦



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.

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5450 Penn from page 1



ABOVE: Nico Hartkopf takes a time-out in his new mid-century furniture shop, 5450 Modern. Photo by Rich Engel

fittings. After spending decades under cheap plywood boards, the four small storefronts are finally being reopened by new tenants Conor Doyle and Nico Hartkopf.

Attached to and sitting incongruously between Penn Avenue and the beautiful and historic red-brick, Second Empire house behind it, these storefronts are finally getting the facelift they've needed for years. Of the four, the third bay from the left was the first to be redone and is now home to a new furniture shop, 5450 Modern.

Specializing in "atomic" or mid-century styles, 5450 Modern is currently open by appointment and during the monthly first Friday Unblurred gallery crawl. "The pieces in the shop now are my fresh finds; they're local," said Hartkopf. The exceptions are two pieces he brought from New York City, where he lived for the past year.

Hartkopf was raised in Highland Park; his parents are both faculty members in the architecture department at Carnegie Mellon University. He completed his undergraduate degree in architecture at CMU in 2010. He and Doyle did many of the renovations to 5450 themselves, including electrical updates, new concrete floors and roof repair.

Hartkopf and Doyle, who works full time for Astorino, an architecture firm in

downtown Pittsburgh, created the company Archtype LLP, which includes the furniture store, property renovation, property management and design and sourcing services. Its recent projects include supplying furniture for a postwar American art exhibition at Bard College and custom millwork for a storefront in San Francisco.

The storefront at the corner of Penn and Roup will be sublet for the next several months as artist studio space. The westernmost bay is in the worst shape, Hartkopf says. Tentative plans are in the works to open the bay to the left of the furniture shop, which is the most intact of the three remaining to be updated, as a millworking studio with a computer-driven CNC router they plan to build.

The property changed hands when owner Perry Lewis passed away in December at age 90, and his children inherited several of his investment properties. The rear home's six apartments are fully occupied. Archtype has a two-year lease arranged with the new manager, Gus Lewis, Perry's son.

"We love what's happening on Penn Avenue, and are thrilled to be a part of it," said Hartkopf. Please extend a warm welcome to the Penn Avenue Arts District's newest residents and visit 5450 Modern during the April 6 Unblurred. ♦

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 the PSTF's monthly meeting during the first 15 minutes. The next meeting is April 11 at 4 p.m. at the BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 North Pacific Avenue.

Career Connections' Charter Threatened

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Lawrenceville – In a preliminary vote on March 21, the Pittsburgh Public Schools board voted against renewing the charter of Career Connections Charter High School on Butler Street.

The board followed the recommendation of a review team that evaluated the high school back in October and concluded it doesn't meet requirements for student performance ("Adequate Yearly Performance," or AYP), has programs that are inconsistent with its mission and is not supporting its internship program.

The next step is a public hearing, not yet scheduled at press time, but probably taking place late this month or early in May. At that hearing, community members will be able to turn out to show support for renewing the school's charter.

"The truth is, the review team didn't spend a lot of time here," Tim McElhone, chief executive officer of CCCHS, told *The Bulletin*. "They were here about 2-1/2 hours at the end of the day, and had limited classroom observation time." He said that CCCHS staff provided the review team with "a mountain of information," and he was "surprised they concluded their review so quickly."

The team also got some facts wrong, according to McElhone. For example, they reported that more than half of the students at CCCHS have dual enrollment in the high

school and Community College of Allegheny County, when, in fact, only six out of the 60 eligible do. The reviewers also stated that having this dual enrollment program is "not consistent with the mission" of CCCHS.

"Dual enrollment has a proven track record of success," said McElhone. "Some of our kids *should* go to college, and the program helps them acclimate to it. We see it as a part of our mission." But, he noted, the review team never went over any of its concerns or questions with him, or with CCCHS's principal or vice principal.

With regard to not meeting AYP, McElhone admitted that his school "had bad testing on math last year. We were below the public schools. But over a five-year trend, we were better than many public schools. Still, we're not where we want to be." Ironically, he added, in reporting on CCCHS's math scores problem, "the review team made a math error."


McElhone also stressed the support CCCHS gives to its internship program, another point on which the review team faulted the school. "We have a ton of human resources devoted to our internship program," he said. "They ignored the evidence. All our interns get a weekly site visit and field report, mid- and end-of-term evaluations and twice-weekly mentoring sessions."

McElhone said he believes the charter will be renewed "once the board has time to review all the information." He noted that CCCHS has an annual review and in prior years has always received "the highest possible grades."

Aggie Brose, deputy director of Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, bemoaned the continued bleeding of schools from the East End. "We lost Rogers and Peabody, and we're losing Ft. Pitt," she said. "Now Career Connections is threatened. Our families are losing access to school choice and affordable education."

To find out when the public hearing on CCCHS's charter will take place, residents can contact the school at 412-682-1816. ♦

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April 1

GARFIELD**Celebrating a Pastor**

The King of Kings Baptist Ministries will celebrate Overseer L.C. Carter's 24 years of pastoral service and 12 years as founder with services by Elder Danny Stanton from Friendship Baptist Church at 10:15 a.m. and by Bishop Jesse N. Gavin at 5 p.m.

LAWRENCEVILLE**Free Walking Tour**

The Lawrenceville Historical Society's free spring walking tour will begin near Iron City Brewing on Liberty and Herron Avenues at 1 p.m. and last approximately 1.5 hours. Rain date is set for April 15. No reservations needed.

April 2

BLOOMFIELD**BRICKS 101**

Young adult cancer patients and survivors are invited to the Cancer Caring Center, 4117 Liberty Avenue, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for a booklet reading, writing workshop, and to learn how to participate in an upcoming edition of the booklet with BRICKS for Young Adults Founder Charissa Hamilton-Gribenas. Light refreshments will be served, and free copies of the first BRICKS edition will be provided. Call 412-622-1212 to register.

April 5

GARFIELD**Power Point Basics**

Learn how to make professional looking presentations and slide shows with Microsoft PowerPoint from 6 to 7 p.m. at Pittsburgh Connects, 5321 Penn Avenue. Call to sign up via message: 412-567-3891.

April 6

PENN AVENUE ARTS DISTRICT**Unblurred**

The first Friday of each month, from 6 to 11 p.m., various venues in the Penn Avenue Arts District (4800-5500 Penn Avenue) open their doors and showcase a variety of artwork and performances. For more information, visit <http://is.gd/unblur>.

April 7

HIGHLAND PARK

Union Project, 801 N Negley Avenue, will host a Monster Open House from 9:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. A full day of free family friendly, monster-themed, community-building activities featuring art-making, collaboration, and learning opportunities

(noon-3) and a dance party with DJ Wammo (6-8 p.m.). Visit UnionProject.org or call 412-363-4550 for more information.

April 10

BLOOMFIELD**Life After Cancer**

At 6:30 p.m., at the Cancer Caring Center, 4117 Liberty Avenue, Dr. Josie van Londen will discuss how to move forward after cancer treatments. Come with questions and bring family and friends. Light refreshments will be provided. Call 412-622-1212 to register.

GARFIELD**NCO Call Centers Hiring**

More than 100 immediate customer service and collection oriented openings exist at the NCO Call Center in Robinson Township. NCO will be at the ENEC, 5321 Penn Avenue, to review details and do pre-interviews at 10 a.m. Call 412-362-8580 or RSVP or leave a message at 412-465-0858.

EAST LIBERTY**Microsoft Word Basics**

This course, offered at the Carnegie Library East Liberty, 130 South Whitfield Street, from noon to 1:30 p.m., will teach you the basics of Microsoft Word. Call to sign up via message: 412-254-4007.

April 11

GARFIELD**Pardon Me Clinic**

At the ENEC, 5321 Penn Avenue, from 6 to 8 p.m., learn about background checks, formal record expunging, and pardons from Dean Williams of the Formerly Convicted Citizens Projects and Carena Phillips of the Career and Workforce Center East at YMCA Homewood. RSVP at 412-362-8580 or leave a message at 412-465-0858.

GARFIELD**Finding Fulfillment**

Learn to find a job or college major matching your interests and aptitudes at this free career planning class at the ENEC at 5321 Penn Avenue, led by a U.S. Department of Labor Best Practice Author, Bill Freed, from 6 to 8 p.m. RSVP at 412-362-8580 or leave a message at 412-465-0858.

April 12

GARFIELD**Microsoft Word Basics**

Learn how to make great-looking resumes, calendars, and more from 6 to 7 p.m. at Pittsburgh Connects, 5321 Penn Avenue. Call to sign up via message: 412-567-3891.

GARFIELD**Free CCAC Training**

From 6-7:30 p.m., come to the ENEC at 5321 Penn Avenue to learn about the free career training at CCAC now available for in-demand jobs. RSVP at 412-362-8580 or leave a message at 412-465-0858.

GARFIELD**Drawing Party**

Explore the world through drawing techniques from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Assemble, 5125 Penn Avenue. Talk to architects, artists, information designer, engineers, and more!

April 13

EAST LIBERTY**Resume Writing**

This training, conducted by Walter Fortson (author of Resume Writing Without Paid Work Experience), will teach you how to make an effective resume from 12 to 1:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Library East Liberty, 130 South Whitfield Street. Call to sign up via message: 412-254-4007.

April 17

GARFIELD**Microsoft Excel Basics**

From 6 to 7 p.m. at 5321 Penn Avenue, learn to make a budget, track your spending, and more! Call to sign up via message: 412-567-3891.

EAST LIBERTY**Microsoft Excel Basics**

Learn to work with a spreadsheet, create and manage a budget, and input basic formulas from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Library East Liberty, 130 South Whitfield Street. Call to sign up via message: 412-254-4007.

LAWRENCEVILLE**Lights, Camera, Discuss**

The Lawrenceville Library's, 279 Fisk Street, independent film series continues at 6 p.m.

April 18

GARFIELD**Doing What You Love**

From 6 to 8 p.m., attend this ENEC workshop at 5321 Penn Avenue to assess your interests, work styles, aptitudes, PRIDE experiences and potential barriers to success, and how these relate to your personal choice of careers and schools. RSVP at 412-362-8580 or leave a message at 412-465-0858.

April 19

GARFIELD**Excel Charts and Graphs**

From 6 to 7 p.m., at Pittsburgh Connects, 5321 Penn Avenue, learn the beauty of turning hard data into graphical charts. Call 412-567-3891 to sign up.

April 20

ROSS**Job Fair**

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., come to the Ross Community Center at 1000 Municipal Drive to attend State Representative Dom Costa's Job Fair. Meet with currently hiring local, state and federal employers. Applications will be accepted on site - applicants are encouraged to bring copies of their résumés.

April 21

EAST LIBERTY**Story Event**

At 11 a.m., the Carnegie Library of East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St., invites children and their families for a reading of Stop Snoring Bernard! by Zachariah O'Hara and to participate in fun activities related to the book. Each attending family will receive a complimentary copy of the book.

EAST LIBERTY**I Made It, Junior**

From 12 to 4 p.m., 30 local artists will sell handmade items for babies and kids at Bakery Square, 6425 Penn Avenue.

April 23

BLOOMFIELD**Health Insurance Issues**

Come to the Cancer Caring Center, 4117 Liberty Avenue, at 6:30 p.m. for an informative presentation about health insurance. Learn basic terms and how they apply to your coverage to help you navigate through the healthcare system puzzle. Call 412-622-1212 to register.

April 24

EAST LIBERTY**PowerPoint Basics**

Learn how to use this presentation software from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Library East Liberty, 130 South Whitfield Street. Call to sign up via message: 412-254-4007.

April 25

HIGHLAND PARK**Nutrition for Stress**

Reaching for cookies or potato chips when you're stressed, then eating the whole bag? In this workshop, learn about controlling cravings; managing blood sugar spikes and crashes; moving away from dieting and toward a healthy diet; and incorporating herbs and supplements for stress relief into your regimen. Led by Paula Martinac, M.A., M.S., nutrition educator/holistic health coach. Takes place 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Nuin Center, 5655 Bryant Street; the \$20 cost includes a healthy snack. Class size is limited - call 412-760-6809 or email Paula.NutritionU@gmail.com to register. More info at www.nutritionu.net.

Sorry, we do not accept listings over the 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. **Announcements for the May issue are due MONDAY, APRIL 16 via email submission to bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org.**

Volunteer Opportunities & Services

GARFIELD

Smart Goal Setting

Come to the ENEC at 5321 Penn Avenue from 6 to 7:30 p.m. get FREE tools and templates to help you, your family, or your organization set goals, strategies, and projected outcomes. RSVP at 412-362-8580 or leave a message at 412-465-0858.

April 26

GARFIELD

Excel: Financial Formulas

From 6 to 7 p.m., at Pittsburgh Connects, 5321 Penn Avenue, learn to use Excel to find out how much you need to pay monthly for a general loan, to calculate principle and interest per loan payment, find the future value of an investment, and much more. Call to sign up via message: 412-567-3891.

April 27

EAST LIBERTY

Live Debt-Free

From 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Carnegie Library, 130 S. Whitfield Street. Learn to identify and liquify! Exciting first steps to rid you of toxic debt. Register: 412-254-4007.

April 29

LAWRENCEVILLE

Pancake Breakfast

the Holy Name Society's annual breakfast will take place on from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. in Saint Augustine Auditorium, 220 37th Street. Cost is being held at \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under. Funds raised through this event benefit parish and community charities.

Throughout April

PITTSBURGH

Phipps Internships

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens offers a paid high school summer internship from June 18th to July 26. Interns learn about horticulture, botany, the environment, and green practice and work with staff, college interns, and community members. Applicants must have completed their sophomore years, be 16 years of age or older, and qualify to receive a free or reduced-cost lunch. Applications, available at phipps.conservatory.org and will be accepted through May 11. For more information, Kate Borger, 412-441-4442, x 3905.

Jobs Available

LGC Associates is currently hiring - especially those with experience in hotel room attending and cleaning or food services. Apply by sending your resume via email to stacyn@gcassociates.com, visiting www.lgcassociates.com, or calling Stacy at 412-343-5087. Home Depot is hiring for sales, lot, cashiers, and freight positions. Visit www.work4homedepot.com.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Sunday Church Service

The Door of Hope Community Church, 5225 Holmes Street, offers church services every Sunday at 11 a.m. It also offers Sunday School for all age groups and Christians in Recovery at 10 a.m. For any additional information, call (412)781-6440, email doorofhopecommunitychurch@verizon.net, or check out their Facebook page.

DIY Art Studio

Located at the Ice House, 100 43rd Street, in Studio 212, Paint Monkey is a do-it-yourself painting studio. For more information, call 412-770-4923 or visit www.beapaintmonkey.com.

Award Nominees Sought

The Rotary Club of Lawrenceville is soliciting nominations for the "Donald R. Canfield Community Activity Award" to recognize individuals, groups, associations or companies who improve the living and business conditions of the Lawrenceville area of Pittsburgh PA. The winner will receive a monetary award along with a plaque. The winner and nominees will be honored at a luncheon ceremony on Thursday, May 31, 2012. Please send nominations and a narrative of no more than 100 words to Luci Casile at luci.casile@pnc.com.

Computer Basics

Learn the basics of computers on Wednesdays April 11 and 25 from 2 to 3 p.m. at The Zone, 5217 Butler Street. Call to sign up via message: 412-465-0850.

ENEC Drop-In Sessions

Thursdays from 9 to 1 p.m., the ENEC offers a weekly drop-in session to help you work on career readiness, the job search, job application process and more at The Zone, 5217 Butler Street. Call to sign up via message: 412-465-0850.

GARFIELD

Fine Art Contracting

Most Fine Art now offers fully insured fine art contracting. Call 412-328-4737 or email mostwantedfineart@yahoo.com for more information.

Artists Sought

Most Wanted Fine Art seeks artists for its juried art car show, on Saturday, October 2. The show will feature celebrity judges, prizes, and live car painting. Entering, registration, and sponsorship cost \$20. 412-328-4737 or mostwantedfineart@yahoo.com for more information.

PNC Hiring Workshops

Every Tuesday at 10 a.m., take the first steps toward your new career at the ENEC, 5321 Penn Avenue. Attend the full series of free workshops and assessments, and gain a guaranteed interview if you're a good fit for a banking or finance career. Call 412-362-8580 for more information.

Summer Jobs

Positions across many fun jobs - including at the zoo, Kennywood, Sandcastle, and more, are being filled now for the summer. Call ENEC for details at 412-362-8580 and join us Wednesdays at 5321 Penn Avenue at 5 p.m. for YouthLINK nights.

UPMC Hiring Workshops

UPMC has many career options every day (over 1500), and this ENEC effort, every Thursday at 10 a.m. at 5321 Penn Avenue will bring you right to UPMC and also has guaranteed interviews for successful candidates who match job and hiring needs and pass the POWRR steps and job requirements.

Lab Coordinator Wanted

Pittsburgh CONNECTS has paid part-time and full-time positions available. Duties would include helping people access the Internet, general computer maintenance, and helping with workshops. To apply, visit the ENEC, 5321 Penn Avenue, or email your resume to bgc.enec@gmail.com.

Employment Outreach Coordinator Wanted

If you want to help people with the job search and companies with recruitment, consider applying for the ENEC Employment Outreach Associate position. To apply, visit the ENEC at 5321 Penn Avenue or email your resume to bgc.enec@gmail.com.

Adult Computer Lessons

Mondays from 1 to 2 p.m., learn the basics of computers at Pittsburgh Connects at 5321 Penn Avenue. Our HandsOnTech staff will answer questions. Call to sign up via message: 412-567-3891.

Email with Gmail

On Wednesdays, from noon to 1 p.m., come to Pittsburgh Connects, 5321 Penn Avenue, to learn about the advantages of Gmail and Google products. Call to sign up via message: 412-567-3891.

Typing Basics

Wednesdays 3:00-4:00pm, at 5321 Penn Avenue, learn how to type and computer basics. Call to sign up via message: 412-567-3891.

Post-Digital Explorations

A series of design experiments explores the possibility of an architecture that lacks permanence and stability. See them from 6 to 11 p.m. at 5125 Penn Ave during UnBlurred or until April 28. A symposium is offered on April 7 from noon to 2 p.m.

Library Invasion

Come to 5125 Penn Avenue from 4 to 5 p.m. on April 10, 12 or 19 for feedback from other teens and/or practice your skills with some writing exercises! Learn about the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Ralph Munn Creative Writing Contest rules and guidelines - first prize is \$250!

Other Assemble Events

Let your ideas take flight with expert plane building Ben Saks on April 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Assemble, 5125 Penn Avenue. \$5 donation for materials. Ages 5 and up, adults welcome." On April 22, come to Assemble for an afternoon of sewing, socializing, and snacks for Dresses Without Borders from noon to 5 p.m.

MORNINGSIDE

Spring Soccer

Kids aged 5-14 of any skill level are invited to come every Saturday morning to Heth's Field from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. starting April 14th and continuing through June 2nd to learn soccer skills. Registration is \$20. For more information, contact Joy Hickey at 412-567-2582 or joy@pghopendoor.org.

HIGHLAND PARK

Marriage Seminar

The Open Door, located at Union Project, 801 N. Negley Ave., is hosting a free T WOgether Pittsburgh event on Mondays April 9 to April 30 from 6 to 9 p.m. Dinner and childcare are included free of charge. Preregistration required - contact Joy Hickey at 412-567-2582 or joy@pghopendoor.org.

Classifieds

For classified prices, email bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org or call 412-441-6915.

Housing

Braddock small house, rent \$700+, rent to own \$3,000 down, sale \$50,000 neg. 412-271-9343.

Jobs

CONSULTANT

Brothers and Sisters Emerging Organization is looking to hire a consultant to assist in developing agency and programmatic infrastructure.

- Assist with developing a system for organizing existing paper, incoming and follow-up correspondence
- Assist with grant research and writing
- Assist in developing a database and fact sheets for the resource bank

Qualifications: At least 15 years experience in program development and implementation, and a bachelor's degree in a related field. Will consider a candidate with equivalent experience.

Contact: Robert Jones at 412-654-6046.

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Quantum from page 1

which opened for community members on March 29, but the circumstances around the play's journey to fruition.

The play, a collaboration of Quantum Theatre, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC and the Waldorf School, is set in Pittsburgh. It revolves around The Baby, a fragile yet powerful character, and the group of individuals his illness brings together.

In the play, The Baby connects his Romanian-born mother Natalia and Nigerian-born father Ambimbola to the charismatic Pittsburghers around them. In the course of the play's development, Zdravec, who is based in New York, experienced firsthand how a child can lead you to unlikely places.

When she was in the midst of writing the play, Zdravec's life began to mirror the lives of her characters. A lung ailment caused her son, Colin, to require oxygen, but he remained undiagnosed by his doctors in New York. Eventually, the family was sent to Children's Hospital here, where specialist Dr. Geoffrey Kurland diagnosed him with neuroendocrine hyperplasia of infancy, a rare, but treatable, interstitial lung disease.

Zdravec emphasized that, despite the seemingly unbelievable similarities between her family's story and *The Electric Baby*, the play was well underway before the family found itself at Children's Hospital. "I randomly set the play in Pittsburgh because it felt like a very sort of Mid-Atlantic,

middle-class city. I didn't want people to appear overly affluent. I wanted them to be real people. Pittsburgh is that place in my fantasy," Zdravec said.

Although *The Electric Baby* isn't a memoir, according to Greg Barrett, president of the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation, "There are many, many stories just like this that take place at the hospital every day. This play does a wonderful job of capturing the universal spirit of Children's Hospital and the people – physicians, nurses, staff, patients and families – that make up this unique and special community."

The hospital and Quantum Theatre share a similar philosophy on the importance of place. "At Children's, design and art is used to mitigate the difficult experience of the families. I think place contributes to the experience. It's part of our thing here," Karla Boos, artistic director of Quantum Theatre, said, adding that she hopes the play will make Pittsburghers proud of the hospital.

"We initially talked about hosting the play at the John Rangos Research Building on campus, but the demands for rehearsals couldn't be accommodated considering our security requirements," Barrett wrote. So Quantum Theatre approached the Waldorf School, which became another partner of the play.

According to Boos and Zdravec, the partnership between the school and



"The Electric Baby" actors Monteze Freeland (foreground) with Ruth Gamble and Nicholas Lehane. Courtesy Quantum Theatre

development, and murals of mythic stories cover the auditorium's walls. As Zdravec said, "Where do stories belong if not in a children's school?"

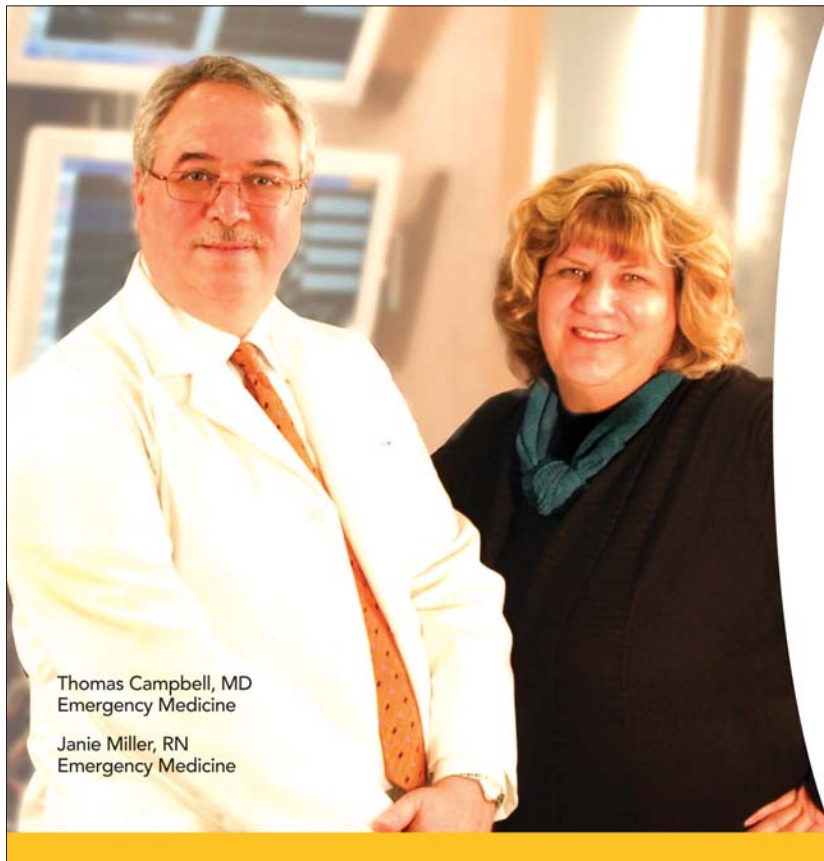
Relationships among the team that worked on *The Electric Baby* reflect another aspect of the play – the unlikely, but fateful, connections people build. "It's so Pittsburgh, how all these characters keep running into each other," Zdravec said. And the connections between the play's director and writer are also definitely "so Pittsburgh."

Zdravec knew both director Daniella Topol and Karla Boos before deciding to bring *The Electric Baby* to Pittsburgh. Although she graduated from Carnegie Mellon University, Topol is currently based in New York City, where she had worked with Zdravec on the development of *The Electric Baby*. Meanwhile, Zdravec knew that Boos specialized in site-specific plays, so she sent her a draft of the play. At a chance Pittsburgh meeting with Topol, who was directing at the City Theatre, Boos mentioned the play, and they realized they both knew Zdravec and were familiar with her new play.

The Electric Baby runs through April 22, with tickets available at quantumtheatre.com or 1-888-71-TICKETS. Quantum Theatre will extend a \$2 discount to East End recipients of *The Bulletin*, who can enter the coupon code NEIGHBORS when ordering tickets online. Boos hopes the community will take advantage of this discount. "We want a big turnout from the neighborhood!" she said. ♦

Quantum Theatre was a natural one. "The Waldorf School is about education that involves the whole child – and we're trying to make an immersive experience for the whole person," Boos said.

They also picked that location for more tangible reasons – saying that it felt like fate when they set foot in the auditorium. The moon is an important motif in the play, and the auditorium has a midnight blue ceiling with a lamp that looks like the moon. Folklore and folk tales underlie the play's



Thomas Campbell, MD
Emergency Medicine

Janie Miller, RN
Emergency Medicine

The West Penn Hospital Emergency Department is now open and better than ever.

West Penn Hospital's freshly renovated Emergency Department opened on Valentine's Day, marking the hospital's rebirth as a full-service healthcare provider. The ED has undergone a complete transformation with a new design, new technology and larger, more comfortable patient rooms, all to better serve the surrounding community. Board-certified emergency physicians and nurses provide personalized care in the state-of-the-art department, which was created specifically with the patient in mind. West Penn Hospital is back to doing what we do best – providing excellent care whenever you may need us.

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