

# the Bulletin

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ABOVE: The revitalized basketball court at Kite Hill Park. Photo by Kathryn Vargas

## Garfield's Kite Hill Flies Again

By Kathryn Vargas Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.

Garfield – Over the summer and fall, a number of revitalization activities have been completed at Kite Hill Park, located on Rosetta Street between N. Fairmount and N. Graham Avenues, See **page 6**

## "Notion" Chef Regroups in East Liberty

By Margaret Graham ELDI

East Liberty – It was always meant to be in East Liberty.

When renowned chef David Racicot opened his restaurant, See **page 10**

## Natural Play Space Planned by EVO

By Paula Martinac The Bulletin

Bloomfield – Earthen Vessels Outreach (EVO), a faith-based organization that ministers to residents of Bloomfield, Garfield and Friendship, has received a \$10,000 grant from The Heinz

See **page 11**

## Grocery Store Gets Zoning Green Light

By Paula Martinac  
The Bulletin

Bloomfield/Garfield – In a ruling issued on Nov. 1, the City of Pittsburgh's Zoning Board of Adjustment approved the site plan for the proposed Bottom Dollar grocery store at 5200 Penn Ave.

Bottom Dollar applied for eight variances and two special exceptions to the City's zoning code, and all were approved by the Board. Because the site for the store is bounded on three sides by public streets, the Board members found "there is no possibility that the subject property can be developed consistent with the zoning code" – in other words, they determined the variances and special exceptions were necessary for developing the site.

The Zoning Board further stated that "the variances will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood" and will "represent the least modification possible."

The much-awaited decision followed almost two years of planning, six community meetings and numerous design amendments based on community input. Suggestions from nearby residents, particularly local architects, designers and engineers on the Bloomfield/Friendship side of Penn Avenue, "made a real differ-

See **Grocery** | page 4



ABOVE: Zeke (left) made headlines when he and owner Peter Kreuthmeier rescued Oscar from a garbage can in Garfield. Oscar has since been adopted, and the two pups were gleefully reunited at the offices of Loysen + Kreuthmeier Architects on Nov. 8. Photo by John Colombo Photography

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# Family Dollar Begins Addressing Neighbors' Concerns

By Paula Martinac

The Bulletin

**Bloomfield** – The staff of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) has been in protracted talks with the management of Family Dollar at 5160 Penn Ave. to try to mitigate problems that have been affecting the quality of life of residents living near the store.

Although the BGC and a small group of neighbors met with then-store manager Camille Turner in late July (see “Neighbors Raise Issues with Family Dollar,” *The Bulletin*, September 2012) and secured promises from her that changes would be made, Turner left the Garfield store not long after the meeting. Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC, then set up a meeting with the manager of the East Liberty store, Phil Posaterri, on Oct. 11, but he was a no-show and did not respond to phone calls. He later told Brose that he “got caught up in a meeting and didn’t have your number to call you.”

Frustrated, Brose went further up the corporate chain of command and contacted Family Dollar’s district manager, Arnold Gomez. In an email to Brose on Nov. 7, Gomez wrote, “Due to our staffing situations, our busy and hectic schedules, the upcoming holiday season and other factors that make this season our peak time for workload in our stores, we are unable to attend your community meetings. Please know that this in no way means we are not interested in correcting these issues. It only means

that we feel we can better address these issues if we dedicate our time to resolving them.”

In his most recent email communication, dated Nov. 13, Gomez reported, “The store manager [Jen Piernik] has been keeping up with the exterior house-keeping. I drove by her store this morning and saw the difference.” This was in response to the generally unkempt condition of the store’s parking lot.

Gomez further stated that “the garbage dumpster company [Allied Waste] came by the store, moved the dumpsters, installed a new top, ordered a side sliding door and ordered locking bars. They also moved the cans closer to the enclosures. They informed us that unless the enclosure is rebuilt, they will not be able to keep the cans there.” Neighbors had complained about broken dumpster gates and unsightly dumpsters with garbage spilling out of them.

“The landlord sent an electrician to reposition the lights so that they no longer shine on the neighborhood homes, but down onto our parking lot,” said Gomez in response to a neighbor’s complaint that she was forced to use blackout curtains to try to keep the light out of her house.

In addition, Gomez reported that “the Distribution Center was contacted again today about our truck deliveries; this is still work in progress.” This is an on-going



Above: At press time, the Family Dollar dumpsters had secured tops, but they remained outside the broken dumpster gates. Photo by Paula Martinac

problem in which drivers pull up outside the store before it opens and idle their engines. According to a nearby neighbor, one driver slept in his truck all night with the motor running.

Finally, with regard to noise from the outdoor loud speaker system, Gomez said that “we have partnered with our third-party contractor, iVerify, who has already sent out a technician to the location to lower the volume of the exterior speakers.”

Gomez ended his Nov. 13 email by asking the BGC to “let your group know that we are not going to stop pressing for solutions until we can coexist happily with the community. That is our goal and those are my intentions.”

The BGC will continue to monitor the situation to make sure the problems are resolved to the satisfaction of the community. ♦

## Another Winning Season for Garfield Gators Team



*Congratulations to the Garfield Gators 13- and 14-year-old team on another undefeated season in 2012! The boys won the championship in their division of the Southwestern Pa. Youth Athletic Association, prevailing over five other teams. They have now won 48 games in a row, dating back to 2008. A huge thanks to the coaching staff, who start in early July with practices four days per week. The team is led by Tony Walls, head coach, who is assisted by Russell Gaston, Michael Gay, Winky Street, Neal Williams, DaSean Jennings, and the equipment manager, Harold Hamlin. Photo by JN Photos*

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## BGC Board Aims to “Make a Difference”

By Paula Martinac  
The Bulletin

*Garfield* – A day before the U.S. presidential election, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's membership held an annual election of its own and voted in a new slate of directors. The election had originally been scheduled for Oct. 29, but was postponed one week due to inclement weather caused by Superstorm Sandy.

According to the BGC by-laws, the board can have no more than 17 directors, and all must be dues-paying members of the organization. At least three-fourths of the directors must live, work or own property in the organization's incorporated territory of Bloomfield, Garfield and Friendship.

Executive Director Rick Swartz noted that, unlike some other groups, the BGC “works from a bottom-up process. We start with the people who are most affected by conditions in the neighborhoods,” he said, “and try to get them to shape the process.” He described the BGC as “board-driven” – “the staff aren't the ones setting the policies.”

Returning to the board for another year-long term are Zuleikha Bjork of Garfield; Callie Byford of Garfield; Bill Cornell of Bloomfield; Catherine Curry of Garfield; Freddie Croce of Garfield; Eileen Kraus-Dobratz of Friendship; Dorothy Eubanks of Garfield; Joe Junker of Bloomfield; James F. Maloney of Bloomfield; P.J. Maloney of Shadyside; and James H. Moore of Garfield.

Five new directors have joined the

veterans: Samantha Hahn Bui of Friendship; Jeanette Coleman of Garfield; Vera England of Garfield; Michelle Massie of Garfield; and Rebekkah Ranallo of Bloomfield.

New board members bring a range of interests to the BGC. Garfield homeowner England said she has “a passion for children and young people... I like helping to grow them into leaders.” Coleman, also a homeowner and a Garfield resident for 15 years, noted that she “went to all the meetings I could to get Bottom Dollar in the neighborhood,” and wants to continue to help with community change.

Massie, who also owns a home in Garfield, said she wanted to be part of the BGC because “I've seen a lot of changes... I chose Garfield to put down roots because of the diversity and the strength of the community organizations.” Ranallo explained that she is “an active reader of *The Bulletin*,” which she called “a great publication.”

Returning board members voiced an almost unanimous interest in being directors because they want to “make a difference” or “give back” to the community. Bjork said that, even after two years as a director, “I'm still really excited to be on the board.”

Board officers will be elected at a separate meeting on Jan. 14, 2013. All board meetings are open to the public and take place the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at 5321 Penn Ave.

## the Bulletin

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Corporation



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

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

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

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[www.bloomfield-garfield.org](http://www.bloomfield-garfield.org) © 2012 by Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

After the election, the BGC presented the annual Father Leo Henry Founders Award to Minette Vaccariello, a Penn Avenue resident who started the ecoDesigners Guild to inspire designers to give back to their community. (See related article, page 7.) Vaccariello is a driving force behind the Green & Screen Project, which beautifies empty lots along the

Penn Avenue corridor; and the Garfield Community Action Team, a band of volunteers who muster forces to bring physical change to small corners of the neighborhood.

“There's lots of great energy in Garfield,” said Vaccariello, on accepting her award. “We always need some extra hands.” ♦

BELOW: The BGC's 2012-2013 Board of Directors. Bottom row from left: Eileen Kraus-Dobratz, Vera England, Catherine Curry, Michelle Massie and Callie Byford; center: Bill Cornell and Joe Junker; top: P.J. Maloney, Jeanette Coleman, Rebekkah Ranallo, Dorothy Eubanks, and Jim Maloney. Missing from photo: Zuleikha Bjork, Samantha Hahn Bui, Freddie Croce and James H. Moore.



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## New Technology Helps Traffic Flow Better Through East Liberty

By Margaret Graham

East Liberty Development Inc.

*East Liberty* – No one likes to sit in traffic. Thanks to a new initiative in Pittsburgh, a section of East Liberty is experiencing shorter wait times and lower vehicle emissions.

Traffic 21, an initiative from Carnegie Mellon University, has developed technology that allows traffic lights to “talk” to each other, resulting in better traffic flow and shorter wait times.

The project is supported by the Heinz Endowments, the Henry L. Hillman Foundation and the R.K. Mellon Foundation. All three are members of the Breathe Project, a Heinz Endowments initiative focused on improving air quality in southwestern Pennsylvania.

The technology was installed in nine intersections in East Liberty during the summer as a pilot project along and around Penn Avenue, Penn Circle East and Penn Circle South. Cameras on lights at these intersections detect travel conditions and communicate with each other, adjusting lights as needed.

But why East Liberty? One day while driving home from work, Stephen Smith, director of the Intelligent Coordination and Logistics Laboratory in CMU’s Robotic’s Institute, noticed cameras on a few lights. Eight of the nine intersections now part of the project had been upgraded during the conversion of Penn Circle South and East to two-way traffic.

“It presented a great opportunity to pilot test our technology at a relatively low expense,” he said.

The project also helps to further spur economic development in the already bustling neighborhood. After the initial concept was proposed to the Heinz Endowments, adaptive signalization seemed to be a good fit for the Breathe Project.

So far, it’s working. According to Traffic21, travel time has been reduced by 25.8 percent, on average. Wait times have been reduced by 40.6 percent, and vehicle emissions in the area are down 21.6 percent. That means traffic is flowing and drivers are spending less time at lights with cars idling.

In the future, the project will focus on giving more attention to multi-modal transportation, Smith said. Further research and experimentation is currently being done to coordinate interruptions of traffic by waiting pedestrians, in a way that will not delay traffic already flowing. They are also exploring integration of bus traffic and detecting and facilitating bike traffic.

It may also expand further in the City of Pittsburgh. Smith said the 2010 Annual Mobility Report indicates Pittsburgh commuters spend up to \$800 on lost time and added fuel consumption.

“It would have significant impact on Pittsburgh’s traffic congestion,” said Smith. “Expansion of our project as planned would result in comparable reductions in emissions, due to reduced time idling and reduced fuel consumption.” ♦

## Grocery from page 1

ence,” said Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC). “A better site plan was developed because of them. The site will have a lot of bells and whistles it wouldn’t have had without their input.” No other Bottom Dollar store in the Pittsburgh area enjoys as much landscaping or as many unique design elements as the one planned for this site, according to the developer, C. Brantley Tillman of Commerical Properties, Inc..

Community backing for the store has been strong, and letters of support came from Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, State Sen. Jim Ferlo and City Councilman Ricky Burgess, plus a number of organizations along the avenue, from Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh to Garfield Jubilee Association. The Board of Directors of the BGC passed a resolution in April 2012 endorsing the site plan.

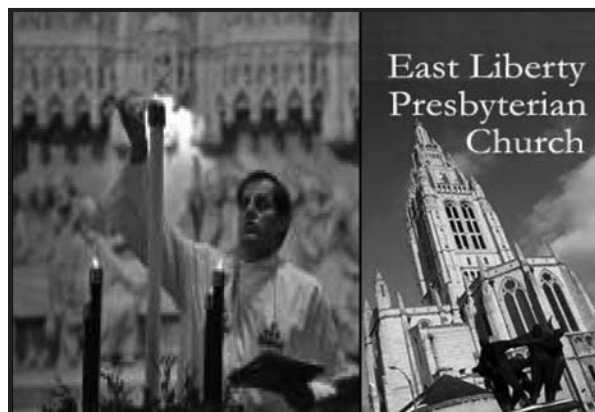
Two of the nearby residents most greatly affected by the store’s location – Megan Higgins Palomo and Felipe

Palomo of Coral Street, whose property sits adjacent to the site – originally sent a letter of opposition to the Zoning Board. But they withdrew their objections to the site plan in a letter dated Oct. 1, in which they expressed their support for the proposed development.

Any “affected person” who is “dissatisfied with the Board’s decision,” according to the official notice, has the opportunity to appeal to the Court of Common Pleas by December 3, 2012. At press time, no appeal had been filed.

According to Zoning Board stipulations, “Substantial construction or occupancy [of the store] should begin within one year of approval.”

Tillman told *The Bulletin* that he expects his team to finish the site plans and get them out for bid in December, but that actual construction of the store would not begin until March, given the onset of winter weather. He said he estimates the store will be open for business by October 2013. “We’re looking forward to coming,” he said. ♦



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## Garfield Tackles Violence Head On

By Aggie Brose and Kathryn Vargas  
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

*Garfield* – It was a devastating fall in Garfield, with four shootings happening within a few months' time of each other. It is the type of violence the community is not used to, nor willing to accept as part of the neighborhood's image.

Since the tragic events, the community has rallied together, hosting prayer vigils and a community block party on one of the streets affected, and posting signs in an effort to bring positive energy back on the streets. Equally as busy has been the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's Public Safety Task Force in engaging Bureau of Police Zone 5, the U.S. Attorney's office, the County District Attorney's office and the Mayor's office in an effort to stop the surge in violence and bring justice to those who were victimized. Thanks to all of these players, there has been a concerted effort to stem neighborhood violence and make sure that neighbors can feel safe in the community again.

The following is a report to the community on what has occurred as a result of each incident.

**400 Block of N. Fairmount Street:** Two men were injured in a shooting that occurred on September 9, 2012. To date, there are no suspects or arrests made on this case, but it is an on-going investigation.

**5400 Block of Broad Street:** Following the fatal shooting of Ronald Somerville Jr., 24, on September 13, there has been greater concentration on the 5400 Block to keep loitering and extraneous activity off of the block. Local residents and members of Valley View Church also organized a community block party to help restore positive energy on the street. To date, there are no suspects and no arrests have been made on this case, but the investigation is also on-going.

**N. Aiken Ave.:** Following the fatal

shooting of Ne'Ondre Harbour on October 14, the residents involved in the incident at 412 N. Aiken have vacated the property, the locks have been changed, and it has been boarded up in an effort to keep the block safe and secure. There has been an arrest of the shooter identified as Brandon Sewell, 21, of Homewood.

In a related incident, there is also a warrant out for the individual who shot Brandon Sewell's stepfather, Thomas Bey, in retaliation. Mr. Bey is recovering from the incident.

**Garfield Commons:** Rudolph Freeman, 20, of McKees Rocks, who reportedly grew up in Garfield, was fatally shot on 5300 block of Mossfield Street in Garfield on October 21. It is likely the incident has something to do with drug activity; however, to date, no suspects have been identified in the shooting. Again, this case is on-going.

It is important to note that these violent acts, for the most part, were not related to each other and occurred in isolation. It is also important to recognize that there have been many critical arrests made in the neighborhood of individuals with weapons, or involved in drug activity, due to the increased presence of law enforcement. Included among these are:

- Dakota Hicks has been arrested with possession of drugs and a firearm and is out on bond.
- An arrest was made in the attempted robbery of the Family Dollar store – Effern Allen, currently out on bond, will stand trial.
- Local and federal warrants are out on another actor for drug activity on the 5400 Block of Broad St.

If you have any information regarding these cases, please do not hesitate to contact Zone 5 at 412-665-3605. ♦

## Why We Need to Keep Our Sewers Clean

By Kathryn Vargas Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation



ABOVE: Pitt students helped educate residents about the city's sewers. Photo by Kathryn Vargas

*Garfield* – If you've taken a walk through the neighborhood recently, you may have noticed newly painted stencils saying "Dump No Waste, Drains to River" on the sewer grates. Volunteers from the University of Pittsburgh hit the streets during Pittsburgh Cares, held on October 20, with a mission to educate residents about the importance of keeping our city sewers clean. This is an issue of grave importance for a city surrounded by rivers, and there are many things that residents can do to make an impact on keeping our water system clean, healthy and efficient.

"Storm water" is the term for any water that is drained back into the natural environment following a rainfall. In urban areas, storm-water management is very important as an abundance of concrete and other non-permeable surfaces often means water has nowhere to travel but through designated sewers. When rain takes its trip through the sewers, there are a lot of obstacles standing in the way of it staying clean. Unnecessary debris, litter, leaf buildup and chemicals from cleaning often lead to contamination of the water as it travels back into the river. When buildup of debris is high, it also causes flooding around sewer systems. These issues usually cost a lot to manage and repair, and greatly disrupt the natural flow of our water system.

What can we do to make sure that this is not an issue in our communities?

**Do not dump:** Any litter or waste left on

the streets or thrown into sewers automatically becomes part of the environment. It is important that we all take the extra time to find a trash can rather than leaving garbage on the streets. Plus, this keeps our sewer systems clean.

**Rake leaves:** Cleaning up the natural environment of yard debris is very helpful, as when too much of it gets down into the sewers it can start to clog the system. Additionally, fallen leaves can block a sewer entry, making it difficult for water to filter through.

**Clean up after your pet:** Any pet waste left behind in the soil also leaves behind bacteria that are later filtered into the rivers when it rains. Please make sure you pick up after your pet; it makes a lot of difference in keeping the water healthy.

**Use cleaning products responsibly:** Chemicals from gardening, car washes and construction sites will filter right into the water supply if not carefully managed. Make sure you are doing your best to keep these chemicals from filtering into sewers.

The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) has been pushing for communities to take action and think more strategically about how residents can support a clean water supply. If you are interested in more information or in volunteering to paint sewer gates in your neighborhood, contact PWSA at [info@pgh2o.com](mailto:info@pgh2o.com) or 412-255-8800. ♦



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## Boutique Adds International Flair to Little Italy

By Melinda Maloney  
Bulletin Contributor

**Bloomfield** – The recent opening of a new store in Bloomfield brings a global flavor to Pittsburgh's Little Italy. The International Fashion House, an initiative of Christian Evangelistic Economic Development (CEED), opened in the neighborhood on September 21 and aims to celebrate, showcase and market creative international goods and services.

Located at 4705 Liberty Avenue, the store is not only a boutique with clothing, accessories and artwork, but also features consignment items from CEED vendors who sell at the international marketplace on Saturdays at the Pittsburgh Public Market. In addition, it has a sewing incubator with machines that seamstresses can use for a fee, and it will soon offer classes in different artistic disciplines.

The store opened as CEED's newest Skills to Wealth initiative, designed to promote under-served and disadvantaged local entrepreneurs.

"We have a lot of immigrants and refugees who are here in the city of Pittsburgh, and they have skills that they haven't been able to showcase upon coming here to the United States. And this is part of helping bring their talents out there," said Adedoyin Adeniyi, CEED program officer.

As such, the store features products from all over the world, including India, China, Thailand and a variety of African countries.

It draws on the clients of CEED, which focuses on small-business development among immigrant, refugee and minority populations in the city of Pittsburgh and 10 surrounding countries, for its vendor base. "The idea is to bring something fresh, something new, that people don't usually see in Pittsburgh while promoting our client," said Adeniyi.

So far, the strategy is working. According to Adeniyi, the International Fashion House's storefront garners a lot of attention from passing pedestrians, who stop in to buy and ask questions.

Arlette Ambungo, the store's manager, hopes to expand that customer base. She said that the International Fashion House wants to encourage people to commute to the store.

Part of those efforts will include holiday specials. Starting on Black Friday, many of the store's products were placed on sale at rates up to 50 percent off.

The store will also host a special event, probably during the second week of December, to "celebrate and welcome the neighbors," Ambungo said. The event will include classes and entertainment.

To stay up to date on happenings at the International Fashion House, "like" CEED Pittsburgh on Facebook or visit [www.internationalfashionhouse.org](http://www.internationalfashionhouse.org). The store is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. ♦

## Kite Hill *from page 1*

making it a more accessible, usable and family-friendly place.

Sparked by the energy of a CMU student, Louisa Butler, a study into "what the kids in Garfield like to do" turned into an effort to restore this park as a place that is welcoming and suitable for children. Countless volunteer hours later and the park is on its way to becoming a neighborhood asset.

Since the beginning of the Kite Hill project, volunteers with Green & Screen and the Garfield Community Action Team (GCAT) used the data from interview sessions with youths, mainly teens, from the neighborhood to guide the efforts. Some of the comments teens made included: "There is nowhere to go in the neighborhood"; "Kite Hill is old"; "There are no nets on the basketball hoops"; "There's nowhere to sit" and so on.

Armed with this information volunteers have transformed the space to one that includes:

- Modern and fun movable seating
- Newly chalked Basketball court and new nets
- Removal of brush, opening up the park for greater visibility, regular maintenance
- Potential plans for a nearby community garden space

There were many people and groups that played a role in the revitalization of this park, proving that it takes a village to make an impact. Louisa Butler, Minette Vaccariello, Gary Cirrincione, Jason Sauer and the Most Wanted Fine Art team, Garfield CISP, Summit Academy, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, GCAT, Green & Screen volunteers, Garfield residents and University of Pittsburgh volunteers all played a part in getting this project started.

On November 3, volunteers held a Kite Hill Family Celebration. Residents and volunteers came together to play some pick-up games, enjoy the fall and utilize the newly revived park space. To find the park, look for the yellow kites flying above the basketball hoops, ensuring that no matter how the park changes over the years and who is using it, it will always be known as Kite Hill.

There are plans to continue work on the park in 2013, and there will be more opportunities for residents to get engaged.

If you are interested in more information about the park and how to get involved, contact [kathrynv@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:kathrynv@bloomfield-garfield.org) or visit [www.gcatpgh.com](http://www.gcatpgh.com). Interested in being involved in a community garden? There are a few different locations (including Kite Hill) being considered. Call 412-450-0371 to indicate your interest. ♦

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## Designer Wins Father Henry Award

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Garfield – Minette Vaccariello said it was a “whim” that led her and her husband to look at houses along Penn Avenue in Garfield in 2007, after their plans to buy a house in Highland Park fell through. “We had thought about living on a main street, and we were familiar with Penn Avenue from going to Garfield ArtWorks and Unblurred every month.”

Maybe it was just coincidence that they located a perfect three-story row house right on Penn that “would have been out of our means in Boston,” where they had formerly lived. Or maybe it was fate. Today, Vaccariello is a vital member of the community, recently receiving the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation’s (BGC) Father Leo Henry Founders Award for “dedication in working toward change in our neighborhoods.”

By day, Vaccariello, who has a master’s

degree in product development from Carnegie Mellon University, works in “experience design” for UPMC, brainstorming how to improve services for health-care customers, such as mobile apps and a more useful website. A skilled craftsperson, too, Vaccariello is one of about 10 organizer/curators of Handmade Arcade, Pittsburgh’s largest craft fair.

After work, she morphs into a Garfield super-volunteer, taking part in numerous activities aimed at enhancing the physical landscape of the community through artistic projects and neighborhood beautification.

Vaccariello says she got started as a community activist because she “was sitting up on the third floor, sewing by myself. I love sewing. But I wanted to be creating with other people. I like the energy of other people; it gives me energy.”



ABOVE: BGC staffer Kathryn Vargas (left) helped present the Father Henry Founders Award to Minette Vaccariello. Photo by Paula Martinac

She decided to join the board of the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative (PAAI) and at about the same time launched the ecoDesigners Guild with a handful of other designers who wanted to “give back to the city in a green and sustainable way.” The two organizations found common ground in the PAAI’s Green & Screen initiative, which uses volunteer architects and designers to create unique artworks and screens for empty lots, such as the beautiful benches at the corner of N. Winebiddle Street.

Although she received the Father Henry Award for her own work, Vaccariello is quick to point out that “there’s not just one person in this.” The Green & Screen projects, for example, “wouldn’t have happened without teams of people.” She particularly notes the hard work of Jason Sauer of Most Wanted Fine Art, who in turn brought young men from Summit Academy, a residential program in Butler County, to construct the first Green & Screen project. Students from Penn State University are collaborating on the next Green & Screen, to be built in spring 2013 at the corner of N. Aiken and Penn.

Vaccariello is also an active participant in the Garfield Community Action Team

(GCAT), a volunteer-driven initiative of the BGC. GCAT volunteers have accomplished everything from planting trees to beautifying the Garfield Veterans Memorial to revitalizing the Kite Hill playground. (See related story, page 5.)

Vaccariello says she has to be “strategic” about her volunteer commitments, so she doesn’t overextend herself. She is currently winding down her role in other projects, while hoping to ramp up her work with GCAT. “I’m really excited with what GCAT is doing,” she notes. “I feel I can really offer something.... I’d like to do more research, talk to residents about what they’d like to see in the neighborhood.” Even though the GCAT projects are small, she says she finds them meaningful. “We haven’t made huge, drastic changes. But things like mowing the grass and planting flowers give people hope. And I find that energizing.”

Asked what she likes best about living in Garfield, Vaccariello doesn’t hesitate. “I love my neighbors,” she says. “I grew up in the country [in Connecticut] and I didn’t know my neighbors. My neighbors here are great. They make me want to do more for the neighborhood.” ♦

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# Neighborhood FOCUS

## Going Mad for Science

### Pop-Up Shop Features Goods to Inspire Science Fans of All Ages

By Katie Lockley *Literary Arts Boom (The LAB)*

Garfield – October 27th was a happy day for those who like to explore, experiment and invent. Literary Arts Boom (The LAB), a creative writing and tutoring organization in Garfield, held a grand opening event for the launch of its Mad Science Supply and Surplus pop-up shop at 5125 Penn Avenue.

The imaginative store is housed within Assemble, a community space for arts and technology. It features a variety of goods to evoke and inspire the mad scientist in all of us. Visitors can find mementos such as T-shirts and buttons, gag gifts like small rubber mice called “mice decoys” and decorative objects such as a “Trans-parent Person Detector” and “The City of the Future.”

MAYA Design generously donated \$30,000 of its services to branding and building the pop-up shop. With the help of several LAB volunteers who contributed their ideas, tools, and labor to the efforts, the store came alive. This project is also supported in part by a Spark Award from The Sprout Fund. Mad Science Supply & Surplus will remain at Assemble for at least the next few months, and proceeds from the shop will be used to offset the cost of providing free out-of-school educational programming to children ages 6 to 18 in the neighborhood.

Apart from browsing and buying, visitors at the grand opening played and snacked. They also exercised their hands and minds by completing writing and art



ABOVE: Visitors enjoyed shopping, snacking and working on creative projects at the Mad Science Supply and Surplus pop-up shop opening. Photo courtesy MAYA Design

“There is mind-boggling stuff going on with robotics ... in this city.”

activities. Kaleidoscope Cafe in Lawrenceville donated meatballs for the event, which The LAB rebranded as “non-vegetarian particles.” Sir Isaac’s Newtons (Fig Newtons) and Alchemy Fish (Goldfish Crackers) were among the other treats.

Many children and a few courageous adults participated in themed activities. For “Einsteinify Yourself,” they donned Einstein-like mustaches and eyebrows that they crafted from felt and paper, as well as safety goggles cut from transparencies and file folders. Nearby, a writing prompt called “Key to My \_\_\_\_\_” gave participants a key and encouraged them to describe a dream invention it would turn on or unlock.

Inspiration was not hard to come by, as a robot with thermos legs greeted visitors with the blinking, beeping, and trembling that accompany his attempt to retrieve his dropped glasses from the floor. Known as Robot #65, this animated bot was kindly lent to Mad Science Supply by Toby Atticus Fraley, the Pittsburgh artist behind the Robot Repair Shop downtown.

Paula Levin, Lead Experimentalist of The LAB and Mad Science Supply & Surplus, described the grand opening as a success. “The purpose of the pop-up shop,” she explained, “is to draw attention to The LAB, capture imaginations, spark community engagement and generate revenue to offset some of the costs we incur to provide free youth programming.” When asked about the mad science theme, she said, “It’s a quirky and adaptable idea that will let us have a lot of fun while we celebrate and showcase really great, creative things going on in Pittsburgh. It fits



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## Going Mad for Science continued

right in with the spirit of the maker movement that's growing throughout the city."

The LAB and Mad Science Supply & Surplus are modeled after the eight chapters of 826 National, a nonprofit network of writing and tutoring centers in cities across the country. Each 826 chapter creates fun and effective youth programming, beautiful publications and strong community connections. Their unconventional storefronts sell well-designed products that range from decorative to functional to absolutely absurd, thereby attracting superheroes and spies as well as seemingly ordinary neighbors who turn out to be extraordinary participants, volunteers and supporters.

Levin said she believes Pittsburgh is ripe for this type of project. "The brain trust here is incredible," she said. "There is mind-boggling stuff going on with robotics, biochemistry and medicine in this city. We're excited about all the possible innovative ways to connect writing and art with science, technology, engineering, and math."

By providing a space for these connections, The LAB aims to help kids discover what fascinates them so they can pursue their interests, find their voices and tell their stories. Levin shared a quote from French novelist Gustave Flaubert: "The art of writing is the art of discovering what you believe."

Mad Science Supply & Surplus business hours will vary over the next few months, so check The LAB's calendar ([www.literaryartsboom.org/calendar](http://www.literaryartsboom.org/calendar)) for the most up-to-date information. Mark your calendars for these upcoming hours: Dec. 1, 1-4 p.m. (during Assemble's paper-making Saturday Crafternoon) and Friday, Dec. 7, 6-10 p.m. (during the Unblurred gallery crawl). ♦



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## Chef from page 1

Notion, in Oakmont on December 31, 2010, he knew it would need to leave.

"We knew Notion could never reach its full potential in that location," said Racicot. "We started plans to move it after five or six months of being in Oakmont. We knew from the beginning we'd have to move to be successful."

After months of searching, Notion will reopen in January 2013 at 128 S. Highland Ave., the space that used to house Royal Caribbean Restaurant.

Racicot originally looked at East Liberty as a restaurant location in January of 2010, at the site that now houses Spoon. He and Jennifer Jin, who was the General Manager at Lautrec, the Nemacolin Woodlands Resort restaurant, during Racicot's time as executive chef there, liked the energy in the neighborhood.

"There's something here that's really special," he said. "We really like this area, and this side of town a lot."

But instead of finding space in East Liberty, Racicot opened Notion in Oakmont. It was a good way to introduce the restaurant to people in the area, Racicot said. In November of 2011, he and Jin began to look for the next space for

Notion. The process took longer than they imagined.

According to Racicot, the pair had an idea of where they wanted to go and what they wanted to do in a new space, but hit a wall at the funding process. Turned down by 19 different banks, Racicot began to fear that maybe Notion wouldn't happen in a new location. He was blinded by his expensive vision for what Notion could be, he said.

"All of the chefs that I admire were chefs that started cooking on six-burner stoves that you'd have at your house, in a restaurant," he said. "They worked their butts off to get where they are."

After remembering that the food and the service are the two most important things, a reopening of Notion became a much more attainable goal for Racicot. By looking for a place that had previously been a restaurant, complete with a hood system, plumbing, gas and so on, costs were cut in half. This led Racicot and Jin to the space on South Highland Avenue.

"It's nice to be in an area where there's a lot of really great stuff happening," said Racicot, "and that's this entire area." ♦

## Most Wanted Fine Art Honored by Goodwill



On Nov. 13, Penn Avenue's own Most Wanted Fine Art received a Power of Work Award from Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Jason Sauer of MWFA (left) was on hand at the Omni William Penn Hotel ceremony to pick up the award, which annually recognizes employers who offer self-esteem and self-sufficiency to individuals with special needs and other barriers to employment. MWFA was honored for providing work experience and training to people discharged from correctional facilities and helping them find jobs. Only three other employers in Pittsburgh received 2012 Power of Work Awards: Peoples Natural Gas, UPMC and the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh. Photo courtesy MWFA

**Thank you!** The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation would like to acknowledge its NPP partners, PNC Bank and Allegheny Valley Bank. Thanks also to BNY Mellon, Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, The United Way, Dollar Bank, Citizens Bank, and all of *The Bulletin's* advertisers.

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## Play Space from page 1

Endowments to create a small, natural playground at the Pacific Sanctuary at the corner of S. Pacific and Friendship Avenues.

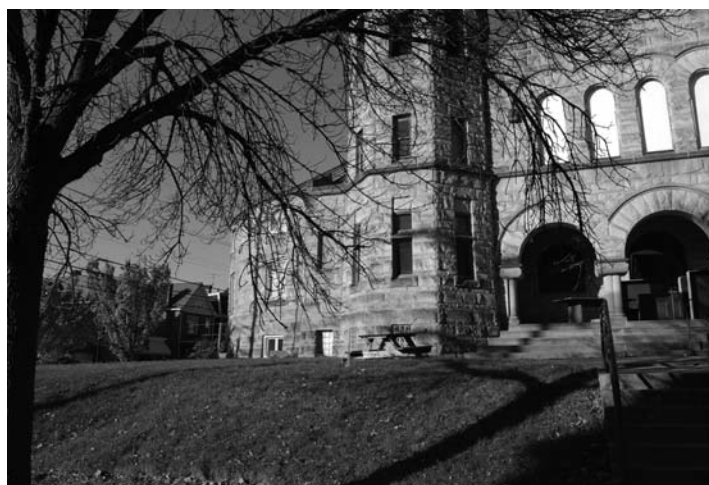
Last August, EVO submitted a proposal to Heinz's "Green PLAY (Productive Learning Affecting Young Children)" initiative. The request for proposals (RFP) offered funding for "environmentally friendly" play spaces using natural building materials such as wood, tree trunks, dirt and sand, in lieu of the traditional plastic and metal playground structures. These natural playgrounds, the RFP stated, "benefit children's social, intellectual and physical health... and foster an appreciation for, and awareness of, nature."

Natural playgrounds allow children and their guardians to "enjoy a little of the natural environment in the city," according to Vera England, a Garfield-

based artist and architect who is spearheading the playground design process for EVO. The proposed play space, she explained, will complement the more traditional-style playground at nearby Pittsburgh Montessori School, not supplant it.

England said that Heinz received a lot of proposals but that "most people didn't own the space where they wanted to put the playground." EVO purchased the vacant 19th-century church in 2007, and has been slowly but steadily renovating the exterior and interior spaces. The ministry finished renovation of the basement community center in early 2012, which allows them to offer before-school and after-school programs and summer camp to neighborhood youths. The renovation of the church sanctuary is still in process.

The playground will be located in the



ABOVE: The front yard of the Pacific Sanctuary will be transformed into a natural play space. Photo by Paula Martinac

## Preschool Expands at Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5

By Judith Flaherty Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5

**Lawrenceville** – When the doors open every day at 8 a.m. at Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5, preschool children arrive dressed in school uniforms, awake and ready for a six-hour school day.

When Pittsburgh McCleary School closed last spring, five additional preschool classrooms were added to the three that were already in existence at Arsenal. Two floors of the elementary wing are now devoted to preschool. Student learning is evident in the preschool halls, which are decorated with student artwork, photographs and charts.

The preschool program, serving children ages 3 to 5 years, is an integrated curriculum that includes literacy, math, science, social studies and social/emotional skills. Students go on field trips to places like Carnegie Library, the Children's Museum and the Carnegie Science Center. The program is open to families living in the city of Pittsburgh and is free for most. Each preschool teacher has a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education.

There are many benefits for children to attend preschool. For instance, they are thought to be better prepared for kindergarten. They work on social interactions with other children and are exposed to a variety of materials and skills that provide a strong foundation for academic learning. If you are interested in enrolling your child, contact Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5 for more information at 412 622-7307. ♦

BELOW: Preschool teacher Andrea Stupi poses with her students at Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5. Photo by Judith Flaherty



building's front yard. Although there is a steep grass slope leading to the sidewalk that poses a potential hazard, England explained that a natural hedge barrier will keep the playground – and children – safely contained.

EVO is actively seeking the input of community members who want to brainstorm what this playground might look like; the ministry held two public, family-focused meetings in mid-November to solicit ideas. Participants received blank maps of the space and crayons, and were asked to draw features they would like to see incorporated into the design. She offered photos of other natural playgrounds to spark ideas about climbing rocks, slides made of wood, log paths, stepping-stones and fantasy shapes made

of branches and other natural elements.

England said she also hopes there will be space for flower and herb planters that will allow children to learn about gardening.

A core group of volunteers will continue meeting to refine the design and choose the best elements for the playground. Those who couldn't attend the November meetings are welcome to contact England at [england.vera@gmail.com](mailto:england.vera@gmail.com) to offer ideas or assistance.

"Everything will have to be run by [the Zoning Board of Adjustment]," said England. "For now, we'll gather ideas and then see what happens." She said EVO hopes to have the playground under construction in the spring. ♦



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## A Movie Stylist Blooms in Friendship

By Christine Bethae  
Bulletin Contributor

*Friendship* – Since moving to Friendship several months ago, Jillian Rose Keenist has made treasure-hunting in the Penn Avenue Arts District for vintage finds one of her favorite activities. Although she is single, she was looking for a neighborhood in the city that had a family vibe.

"I heard about Unblurred First Fridays, and lots of great things about the artistic community," says Keenist. "For the business I'm in, this neighborhood was a perfect fit."

Keenist is a stylist for movies, television, corporations – for just about anything that needs, well, style. The Elizabeth, Pa. transplant graduated from Forward High School. Raised with two fast-growing brothers, she used to go with her mother to secondhand stores, where she learned you could get a lot of fashion and home decor with just a few dollars.

"Our closets were overflowing," she recalls. "We had great stuff, and I learned so much from my mom."

Keenist's aesthetic sense was equally influenced by all the movies she loved, and

by a stint she did performing with the Civic Light Opera. Although she studied at CCAC, finishing college got put on a back burner when a chance meeting with a set designer named Rachel Vallozi happened. The two kept meeting by coincidence – a sign of things to come.

"Rachel Vallozi is a set designer and former stylist for the Pageboy Boutique in Lawrenceville," says Keenist. "We kept running into each other at festivals and other events. We started chatting. Eventually, she mentioned needing a styling assistant, and I was happy to help out."

The opportunity proved pivotal for Keenist, and she's been working ever since. She reasoned that in the current economy, school was expensive and at best "iffy." She chose to work instead and says the choice has been more than rewarding.

"Being a stylist is tons of fun," she says, "but very demanding, too. You have to pay attention to every detail when selecting a wardrobe, like what season it is and if the season changes. The style has to be correct to the era in the script. The fit has to be

right, and color plays a key role."

Fortunately, there is plenty of work to go around. While still assisting her mentor Vallozi on some projects, Keenist now strikes out on her own. This past winter, she was the stylist for a film called *Progression*, directed by Lawrenceville residents Sam Turich and Gab Cody and featuring all local talent. She's currently working with a nationally syndicated TV show, but says she hopes to do more movies in the months ahead. "I plan to stay in the Pittsburgh, where the movie industry just keeps growing."

Keenist loves this city and says she believes everything always turns out as it's supposed to. "You put good karma in, you get good karma out."

When asked about her personal style, she chuckled:

"Thrift store, mixed with high-end fashion." It makes sense – she's her mother's daughter, after all. ♦



ABOVE: Jillian Rose Keenist says she learned how to shop at thrift stores from her mother. Photo by Christine Bethae

## Hope Academy from page 16

and acting. Young people make a year-long commitment to the company, and are required to attend classes, private lessons, rehearsals and performances.

"This is the program that comes closer to bringing us students who go on to become performers," remarks Chapman. "It's at a higher level," he notes, than other classes, and has a lot of students who either attend Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts 6-12 (CAPA) or aspire to.

It's also the program that Chapman says they can "take on the road." For example, Hat Co opened last year for renowned jazz vocalist and musician Esperanza Spalding at a Hill House event, and will take part in the WYEP Holiday Hootenanny on Dec. 13. The students also perform for Halloween Mayhem and Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater across the street from the church. The school year concludes with a major theater

production, which in 2013 will be "Wiley and the Hairly Man," from June 14 to 16, 2013.

Another fairly new program of the Hope Academy is the Community Engagement Orchestra (CEO), which draws its 30 members from students, their parents and several teaching artists. Under the direction of conductor Federico Garcia of Alia Musica Pittsburgh, students not only learn their instruments but get to perform with others.

HAT Co and CEO will perform together at the Hope Academy's Winter Concert on Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. at the church, and again at a Valentine-themed performance on Feb. 16 at 7 p.m.

For more information about the Hope Academy, visit their website at [www.HopeAcademyArts.com](http://www.HopeAcademyArts.com). ♦

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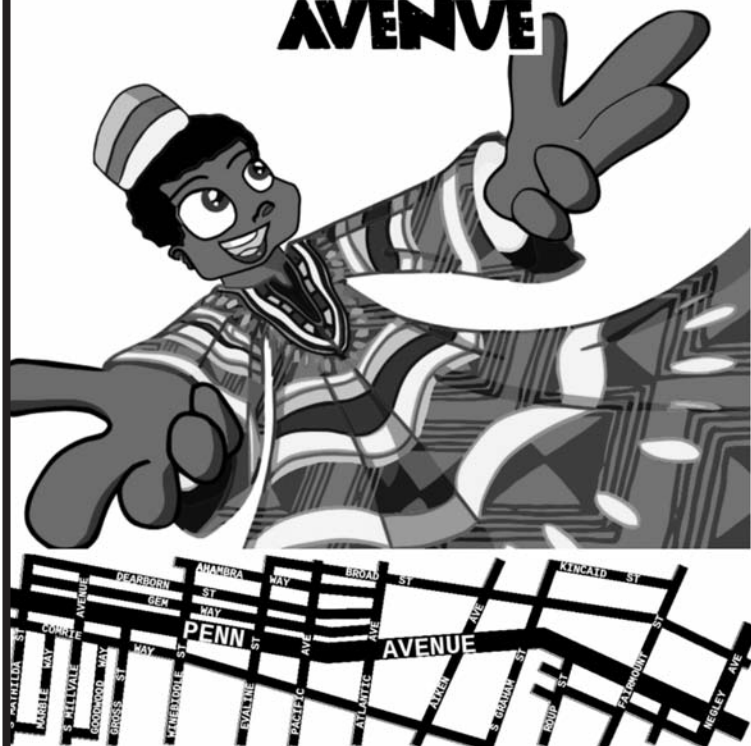
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**Condolences** The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation extends its deepest condolences to the family of State Sen Jim Ferlo. Sen. Ferlo's sister, Daloretta Ferlo Wilson, 59, died at her home in Maryland on November 14. Donations can be made to the Worcester County Humane Society, P.O. Box 48, Berlin, MD 21811 or to the Diakonia homeless shelter, 12747 Old Bridge Rd., Ocean City, MD 21842.



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# the Bulletin BOARD

## Local Events Classes Announcements Fundraisers

December 1

## GARFIELD

**Beat Cabaret**

The Beat Cabaret, a celebration of spoken word, theater and everything in between returns for a "holly jolly" showing at Modernformations, 4919 Penn Ave. This month's episode, co-hosted by Beat impresario Michael McGovern, and Stand-Up Philosopher Tim Sedwick, will offer a variety of spoken word artists, music and the premiere of Beat Theatre. The grand finale of the evening will be the premiere of Michael McGovern's comic play "Preparing Banquo" – a finalist in a short play festival sponsored by The Red Bull Theatre, an Off-Broadway classical theater that specializes in Jacobean and Shakespearean productions. The cabaret starts at 8 p.m.; tickets \$5 at the door.

**Crafternoons: Paper-making**

Join Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., for our new Saturday Crafternoon series. Local "experts" facilitate kid-focused (though all ages are welcome) craft workshops and other creative activities. Crafternoons may involve arts & craft projects, music-making, and more. This is a drop-in event, meaning that folks can stop by at any time between 1 and 4 p.m. to complete a project or participate in a fun activity and leave whenever they need to. Free fun for kids and makers of all ages. Today's crafternoon is a papermaking workshop – did you know that some insects make paper? Ever wonder where paper comes from? Come and create a paper art piece with artist and teacher Barbara Dahlberg.

December 3

## GARFIELD

**Experi-Mondays**

Literary Arts Boom [The LAB] hosts assorted writing workshops and activities for kids aged 6 to 18 that involve art, technology and communication. Experi-Mondays are free and snacks are provided. At Assemble: 5125 Penn Ave., 4 to 6 p.m. Today, Paper-making; Dec. 10, Book-making; Dec. 17, Comics. Call 773-425-1531, visit [www.literaryartsboom.org/calendar](http://www.literaryartsboom.org/calendar) or email [literaryartsboom@gmail.com](mailto:literaryartsboom@gmail.com) for more details. If you plan to bring a group of students, please let us know.

December 4

## GARFIELD

**Free Homework Help**

Literary Arts Boom [The LAB] invites youths aged 6 to 18 to get homework help from volunteer mentors and work on creative projects. Snacks provided. At Assemble: 5125 Penn Ave., 3:30 to 6 p.m. Also on Dec. 11 and 18. Call 773-425-1531,

visit [www.literaryartsboom.org/calendar](http://www.literaryartsboom.org/calendar) or email [literaryartsboom@gmail.com](mailto:literaryartsboom@gmail.com) for more details. If you plan to bring a group of students, please let us know.

December 7

## 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 and showcase the work of a variety of artists and performers. For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/pennavenuearts](http://www.facebook.com/pennavenuearts).

## GARFIELD

**Hyperlocal Show + Bazaar**

Come to Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., from 6 to 11 p.m. for a special showcase of artwork, crafts and technology by your neighbors. This event aims to show off what the people who live in Garfield, Friendship or Bloomfield (within a 10-block radius of Assemble) can do. See work by residents of all ages. For more information call 412-432-9127.

## BLOOMFIELD

**Doll Exhibit**

Presenting an amazing variety of artistic doll interpretations, Joyce Compton, Emily Eckel and Chris Fondi transform the tradition of doll-making into something new. Ranging from traditional embroidery to contemporary assemblage, the doll assumes identities that demand attention. The Jane Street Art Doll Collective works are on view in Art Dolls3 at the Irma Freeman Center for Imagination, 5006 Penn Ave., through January 4th. The opening reception is tonight from 7 to 10 p.m. For more information call 412-924-0634.

December 8

## GARFIELD

**Tech Day**

Volunteers will provide free repair services for individuals who bring their computers or laptops in for a checkup to the Pittsburgh CONNECTS computer lab, 5321 Penn Ave. No monitors please. No hardware repairs. Also, learn how to keep your PC free of viruses and spyware. No drop-offs; owners must participate in the repair process. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 412-441-9833 for more information.

**Crafternoons: Zines**

Stop by Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., from 1 to p.m. to make your own zines and minicomics. Learn the basics with local cartoonist Bill Volk and then let your creativity soar. Take home your creations or share them with friends. Free and open to all. See

Dec. 1 for more information on the "Crafternoons" series.

## EAST LIBERTY

**Mother Goose**

Kids aged 3 to 7 are welcome to be part of Mother Goose's Holiday Kitchen: Look Who's Cooking Now, at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St., 11 a.m. Please call to register: 412-363-8274.

December 12

## GARFIELD

**Public Safety Task Force**

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

**Veterans Workshop**

The Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Ave., is sponsoring a workshop conducted by Karen Watkins, career counselor at Veterans Place. Time: 11 a.m. Issues for discussion include: employment services, housing, financial literacy, detox and rehab, transportation assistance, relationship and life skills and medical and legal assistance. To register, call 412-362-8580.

December 14

## GARFIELD

**Family Holiday Party**

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation holds its annual family-friendly holiday celebration from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave. Cookies, hot chocolate, photos with Santa and more! Free and open to the community.

## PITTSBURGH

**Magnet Schools Deadline**

Magnet and Career and Technical Education (CTE) options in the Pittsburgh Public Schools are schools and programs that provide a specific education model, such as the Montessori Method (Pittsburgh Montessori – Friendship), or a theme-based program focusing on a student's specific interests, such as International Baccalaureate program (Pittsburgh Obama – East Liberty). The District currently offers 24 magnet options. Families must submit applications to the District no later than today. Applications and more information are online at [www.pps.k12.pa.us](http://www.pps.k12.pa.us). Paper applications are available by calling 412-622-7920.

## FRIENDSHIP

**"Private Places" Premiere**

Inspired by the intense emotional management demand placed upon flight attendants, "Private Places" examines notions of order – how we order,

categorize and distort it. Audience members sit among the performers who seduce, engage and entertain us. Performance includes nudity. Seating is limited. The Alloy Studios, 5530 Penn Ave., 8 p.m. Also showing on Dec. 15. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door. Residents of 15206 Zip code pay \$20. Students/artists are \$15. Purchase tickets in advance by visiting [www.kelly-strayhorn.org](http://www.kelly-strayhorn.org) or by calling 412-363-3000.

December 15

## GARFIELD

**Youth Employment Program Deadline**

Don't miss your chance to apply to the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation Out-Of-School Youth Employment Program, for young people ages 17 to 21. If you are a high school graduate or have your GED, and you meet certain income requirements, you can get help with resume writing, interview skills, career guidance and job placement. Plus, participants get biweekly pay and a free bus pass. For more information or to find out if you qualify, call 412-204-7164 or stop by the office at 5321 Penn Ave.

**YouthBuild Deadline**

Garfield Jubilee Association is proud to announce that GJA YouthBuild is back in full recruitment swing. For the 2013 class, GJA is looking for youths between the ages of 18 and 24 who are interested in a better tomorrow. Young people have the opportunity to get a GED, paid work experience, construction training certification and job placement, and to build a career and a future. The deadline is today for applications. Make a difference in your life – call 412-665-5200.

## FRIENDSHIP

**Holiday Bazaar**

Kelly Strayhorn Theater's fifth Annual Holiday Bazaar will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Alloy Studios, 5530 Penn Ave. This year, the halls will be decked with indie artisans, food vendors, festive entertainers and much more. Visit [www.kelly-strayhorn.org](http://www.kelly-strayhorn.org) for details.

**I Witness**

A group of East End churches is coming together at Fourth Presbyterian Church, 5450 Friendship Ave. at 6:30 p.m. to present "I Witness: Accounts of Jesus' Birth." Live band, choir, carols and drama will tell the story of Christmas. For more information, or to participate in the event, call 412-661-7414.

## EAST LIBERTY

**Kids Create: Origami**

Everyone is welcome to come learn how to make origami, folded paper creations. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St., 3:30 p.m. Please call to register: 412-363-8274.

**Winter Concert**

Join the Hope Academy of Music and the Arts for their annual concert, featuring performers from the academy's teen theater company (HAT Co) and Community Engagement Orchestra (CEO). 7 p.m. East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland Ave. Call 412-441-3800 x 12 for more information.

**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 JANUARY issue are due FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, via email to [bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org).**



# Volunteer Opportunities & Services

December 28

## EAST LIBERTY

### Family BINGO

Children aged 3 to 12, accompanied by an adult family member, are welcome to join in Winter BINGO, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St., 11 a.m. Please call to register: 412-363-8274.

December

## LAWRENCEVILLE

### Door of Hope

Come visit the Door of Hope Community Church, 5225 Holmes Street, Lawrenceville every Sunday at 11 a.m. for Church Service. Also offering Sunday School for all age groups, plus Christians in Recovery, at 10 a.m. For any additional information, please call 412-781-6440 or email dohcc@dohcc.net.

## GARFIELD

### Pop-Up Coffee Bar

Throughout December, tazza d'oro will be partnering with Artisan Tattoo Gallery in their stunning first-floor space at 5001 Penn Ave. with a pop-up coffee bar featuring hand-poured coffees that use various brewing methods and freshly pressed apple cider from Kistaco Farm. More info available at [www.tazzadoro.net](http://www.tazzadoro.net), twitter- @tazzadoro or on Facebook - tazza d'oro.

January 17

## LAWRENCEVILLE

### Lincoln Lecture

The Lawrenceville Historical Society will kick off the first of the 2013 public lecture series with James Wudarczyk speaking on the topic of "Salmon P. Chase: Financier of Mr. Lincoln's War." The talk deals with the confrontations between Lincoln and his Secretary of the Treasury. Lecture takes place in the McVey Auditorium of Canterbury Place, 310

Fisk Street, at 7 p.m. Event is free and open to the public. No reservations needed.

## Opportunities

### GARFIELD

#### Gardening in Garfield

Interested in having your own garden in Garfield? Or maybe you're an avid gardener already and have run out of space? Garfield Community Action Team (GCAT) is pursuing an opportunity to reactivate an old community garden on Rosetta Street and we're looking for interested people to help with planning. We'll be meeting over the winter to start planning for spring 2013. If this is something that you are into, call 412-450-0371 and leave your name, email & phone; we'll contact you when we're planning our first meeting.

#### GED Prep

Pittsburgh CONNECTS is partnering with the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council (GPLC) to help people who did not complete high school earn a General Equivalency Diploma (GED). Individuals can study at the Pittsburgh CONNECTS center, 5321 Penn Ave., using tutoring and computer technology to prepare to take the GED exam. GLPC provides assessment, training materials and sample tests to individuals enrolled in the GED study program. GPLC is also an approved testing provider and will arrange for students to take a GED exam when they are ready. For more information call 412-441-9833.

#### Seeking Creative Types

Literary Arts Boom [The LAB] relies upon volunteers and interns to add expertise and energy to its educational youth programming, community engagement efforts, and mad science machinations. Artists, writers, educators, technologists, scientists, architects, engineers and other creative types are needed. For more information, check out <http://literaryartsboom.org/get-involved/volunteers>, visit us at 5125 Penn Ave. during open hours ([www.literaryartsboom.org/calendar](http://www.literaryartsboom.org/calendar)) or get in touch: call 773-425-1531, or email [literaryartsboom@gmail.com](mailto:literaryartsboom@gmail.com) for more details.



**GARFIELD COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM**

\* GCAT is an initiative of the Bloomfield Garfield Corporation Elm Street District \*

**SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING!**  
[WWW.GCATPGH.COM](http://WWW.GCATPGH.COM)  
**\* Be Part of the Action! \***

## GCAT CHAT

**Pick-up Penn Ave**  
 Saturday, December 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Ave.

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**Holiday Party Decoration Night**  
 Tuesday, December 11, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave.  
 Help us decorate for the Garfield Holiday Party! Pizza will be provided.

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**BGC Holiday Party!**  
 Friday, December 14, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave.  
 Get your photo taken with Santa Claus! Enjoy hot cocoa and cookies, make some festive crafts, listen to some holiday music, and more!



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**  
 From the Garfield Community Action Team



# The joy Christmas brings...

glows like the lights on a tree. It's like a beacon, shining so bright the entire family can feel it.

We sincerely hope you have a happy holiday season, filled with joy, from our family to yours.

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## Hope Academy Brings Performing Arts to East Liberty

By Paula Martinac  
The Bulletin

*East Liberty* – Founded by East Liberty Presbyterian Church in 1999, Hope Academy for Music and the Arts was designed to tie into the revitalization of the East Liberty neighborhood that was just beginning to get underway. The idea was to offer quality, low-cost art and musical instruction to young people in the neighborhood who might not have access to it.

What started as a modest effort with just a few teachers and students has grown into a broad-based educational program serving about 200 students this year. Some new initiatives have helped broaden the scope so that the program is now beginning to see graduates who actually go on to careers in the performing arts.

"I love teaching and being involved with music," says Michael Chapman, who has been working with the Hope Academy since 2003 and has been its full-time Music Director since 2010. He works closely with Linda Addlespurger, the academy's director since 2001. "This is a place where I felt comfortable."

Chapman came from Trinidad and Tobago in the mid-1990s to study music at Duquesne University, where he earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in music. He is proficient on guitar, bass and drums. Performance runs in his family – his two young daughters attend ballet classes and take private lessons in piano through the program, and his wife is a singer and an assistant in the academy's very popular ballet classes, which are taught by Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre

instructors.

The academy offers a full range of programs for young people ages 4 to 18, with some classes taking place after school during the week and the majority occurring on Saturdays. Class offerings include pre-ballet and ballet, ballroom dancing and several levels of musical theater. About a quarter of the students come from the 15206 zipcode, while the rest travel from across the greater Pittsburgh area to take classes.

In addition, the academy has a roster of teaching artists who offer private lessons after school and on Saturdays. "With more and more limited music options in schools," Chapman notes, these lessons have become "much needed." Kids can learn to play piano, organ, string instruments and brass for the low rate of \$16 per half-hour. Scholarships are available through funding from The Heinz Endowments and an anonymous foundation. The private instruction culminates in a year-end recital for all students, which will take place next spring on May 18, 2013.

Within the past three years, the Hope Academy has developed two new programs that are all about performing. "I think students should not just learn something, but they should get a chance to do what they're studying, too," states Chapman. Hope Academy Theater Company, or HAT Co, is geared toward grades 6 through 12, and is an intensive, audition-required program that gives students experience in the performing arts of singing, dancing, instrumental music

See **Hope Academy** | page 12

BELOW: Hope Academy Theater Company (HAT Co) presented its end-of-year performance "Full of Noises" at the East Liberty Presbyterian Church in May 2012. Photo by Linda Addlespurger



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