

# the Bulletin

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



Karen Loysen, a principal of Loysen + Kreuthmeier Architects, points out artistic elements of the streetscape design for the Penn Avenue reconstruction project. Photo by Paula Martinac

## Public Weighs in on Penn Avenue Reconstruction

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

**Bloomfield/Garfield** – Residents, business owners and public officials got their first glimpse of the design plans for Phase 1 of the Penn Avenue reconstruction project at a public meeting on January 12.

The City of Pittsburgh, in cooperation with the state Department of Transportation (PENNDOT) District 11, the Federal Highway Commission and the Penn Avenue Reconstruction Committee, hosted the meeting at St. Lawrence O'Toole Activity Center, which was attended by about 60 people. Representatives from the City Department of Public Works (DPW); the

engineering firm of L.R. Kimball and its subcontractors; the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority; and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation were also on hand to field questions from the public.

DPW Director Rob Kaczorowski kicked off the meeting by explaining why his department has not repaved Penn Avenue in several years. "We were holding off for this project," he said, noting that paving would have had to be torn up again. "Now we're looking forward to getting this project done."

See **Penn Avenue** | page 2

## Plans for Beer Distributor Moving Forward?

By Aggie Brose *Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

**Bloomfield** – A major addition to the K-2 convenience store at 4900 Penn Avenue has seen no visible movement since a community meeting called by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) on May 31.

As reported in *The Bulletin* in the July issue, Zeeshan Ahmed, who was managing the site for his father-in-law, property owner Zabir Khan, outlined the expansion plans at a meeting of nearby neighbors. He said that an expanded one-story building would be constructed, along with improvements to the existing façade. Also, the parking lot

would be repaved and the site landscaped. In advance of these changes, he told attendees that he would try to address immediate concerns about the worn appearance of the property.

Ahmed agreed to hold another meeting with the neighbors when the design was finalized, so that they could have input on the drawings. At the time, he noted Freddie Croce as the architect he was working with on the design. He also informed attendees that if nearby neighbors did not approve of his project, he would sell the store and try to

See **Beer Distributor** | page 11

## ENEC to Open Satellite Office

By Melinda Maloney *The Bulletin*

**Lawrenceville** – Lawrenceville United and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation will partner to open a satellite office of the Eastside

See **page 3**

3

## Sousa Cooks Up Two New Restaurants

By Margaret Graham *East Liberty Development Inc.*

**East Liberty** – East Liberty is set to see not one, but two, new restaurants from Salt of the Earth chef Kevin Sousa open in the coming

See **page 4**

4

## Ring the Bells Over Lawrenceville

By Jennifer Kiley *Bulletin Contributor*

**Lawrenceville** – In the urban, inner-city landscape of Lawrenceville, two stately towers rise 140 feet over Our Lady of the Angels Parish's

See **page 13**

13



An image of children in Rosa Grande, Nicaragua, from the February exhibit at Assemble gallery, "¡Crear y Comunicar!" Read the full story about transnational communication through art on page 10.

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PITTSBURGH, PA  
Permit No. 2403

A Publication of The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

the Bulletin



## Garfield Glen Breaks Ground

*Garfield* – The much-awaited, affordable rental development called Garfield Glen will have its official groundbreaking this month.

The community is invited to the ceremony, set to take place at 5131 Dearborn Street at 11 a.m. on Friday, February 24. Refreshments will be served in a heated tent.

The joint initiative of Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and S&A Homes will consist of 45 rental units, which will be a mix of two-, three- and four-bedroom Energy Star-rated homes.

The units will be located on scattered sites throughout the neighborhood. Demolition began in November of existing houses on Dearborn, Broad and Kincaid to make way for the new development, which will fill in blocks on those streets between N. Mathilda and N. Atlantic. With subsidies from public sources, Garfield Glen will be open for rent to households 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 household. ♦

## COMMENTARY

### Why Fitzgerald's Pledge to Fight Re-assessment Process Is Just Plain Wrong

By Rick Swartz *Bulletin Contributor*

While the average property owner in Allegheny County might be tempted to give newly elected County Executive Rich Fitzgerald three hurrahs for his promise to go to the battlements to fight the court-ordered reassessment of real estate, the reality is that he, and others in county government, have created a devil where there is none. With a one-year delay granted by Common Pleas Judge R. Stanton Wettick in utilizing the new assessed values produced by the county's consulting firm, Fitzgerald can claim a victory.

But in doing so, Fitzgerald gives every indication of sticking with a policy long embraced by his predecessor in office, Dan Onorato, which, at best, has gummed up the works pretty nicely. Even if surrounding counties refuse to re-assess their real estate, and are content to hit their taxpayers with higher millage (or tax) rates instead, we should be insisting on a more enlightened approach. The taxpayers of Allegheny County need Fitzgerald to abandon his stance, and to level with them about why property reassessments, like the occasional medical exam, are critical to a well-functioning county government. How so?

First, taxes are generally applied in three ways: on wealth, on income and on consumption or use of a commodity or service. In Pennsylvania, only local govern-

ment and school districts can tax the value of real estate held by people or corporations. This is a wealth tax, pure and simple. Before you protest too loudly that the modest home someone owns in McKees Rocks or Lawrenceville hardly qualifies a person as "wealthy," remember that more than 30 percent of county households do not even own a home of their own. In the poorest communities, the person who owns his or her own home is more likely to be richer, by comparison, than the person who doesn't. To refuse to allow this asset to be taxed, based on a reliable estimate of its real value, is equivalent to saying, "I'm willing to pay sales tax on the new refrigerator I'm buying, but just not on the actual sales price."

Second, incremental growth in the overall tax base, a good thing, will only occur through periodic reassessment of real estate. Why should anyone want to see such growth? The simple answer is to hold millage (or tax) rates as low as possible. When you refuse to allow for any growth in the tax base, and the costs of operating county government continue to increase over time, you are then left with only two other options to balance a budget: (a) cut employees, services, or investments in public infrastructure, or (b) raise tax rates. Onorato was content to go with option "a" for most of his term. But with a possible \$30 million

See **Re-assessment** | page 6

## Penn Avenue from page 1

Patrick Hassett, DPW's assistant director, Bureau of Transportation and Engineering, led a 20-minute presentation of the plans for the reconstruction of Penn from Mathilda to Evaline, then took questions from the audience. He noted that the project first made it on to the city's docket in 1999, but that it wasn't until 2008 that plans picked up steam and began moving ahead. The project is now in final design and engineering, with about one half of the work completed. Actual construction is set to begin in mid-2013.

Hassett explained that, back in 2008, the reconstruction project had been slated to run from 34th Street in Lawrenceville to Negley in East Liberty, but the price tag proved too high. PennDOT, requested that priorities be set for the \$5 million stretch of Penn most in need of repair. L.R. Kimball was contracted to conduct a two-year needs assessment of the corridor, which found the blocks between Mathilda and Evaline in the worst condition in terms of paving, curb and sidewalk conditions, street lighting and street trees.

"These blocks are in horrible physical condition," Hassett observed. Plus, "they need a greater pedestrian presence" to encourage commercial development.

The reconstruction project will tear out and replace the pavement, sidewalks, street lighting, traffic signals, signage, and streetscaping. In addition, it will redirect storm water and replace water service lines from the street to the curb that are calcified or clogged, causing poor water pressure.

Much of the work will attempt to distinguish this stretch of Penn from other commercial districts across Pittsburgh. For example, the four blocks will get sleek black

street lamps, different from other lighting in the city, with trash cans that complement them. The grates covering the "tree pits," which will help with storm-water drainage, will boast unique designs created by artists identified through the city's Office of Public Art. In addition, street benches that are internally lit will grace the avenue in different sizes and shapes.

Hassett also outlined the schedule and plan for the reconstruction. Construction will take place a half-block at a time, starting on the northern side of the street at Evaline and proceeding to Mathilda. When the northern half is completed, construction will begin on the southern side of the street. Although this process will take longer and require two construction seasons, Hassett said it will allow for the least disruption to businesses along the corridor.

Traffic in-bound to the city will follow Penn during the construction period, but outbound traffic will be directed to an alternate route at Penn and Main, detouring to Liberty to Baum to Negley and then back to Penn. Buses that normally run on Penn will run on Friendship in the outbound direction.

Following the presentation, audience members were able to view the plans up close at four staffed information stations: Roadway; Traffic Control; Streetscape; and PWSA. The Streetscape station, staffed by the BGC's Mainstreets Manager, Rich Engel, and Karen Loysen of Loysen + Kreuthmeier Architects, proved the most popular spot in the room, as people crowded around to see plans for the lighted benches and unique tree grates.

Engel told *The Bulletin* that one concern

See **Penn Avenue** | page 4

## Water Line Replacement Opportunity

There's been a lot of discussion about replacement of water lines in the four-block section of Penn Avenue designated for infrastructure reconstruction in 2013. But did you know that only 13 properties on the Garfield side of Penn that sit along the stretch between N. Evaline and N. Mathilda have service lines that are actually tied in to the main on Penn? The rest receive their water service from Gem Way, the alley north of Penn.

The properties on the Garfield side of Penn that *do* receive their water service from Penn are as follows: 4801, 4823, 4825, 4827, 4907, 4909, 4911, 4921, 4925, 5005, 5007, 5025, and 5107. These property owners could petition to have the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) replace the section of the water lateral running from the main to the curb box (or shutoff valve) at the same time that the street and sidewalk are excavated for the reconstruction project, but only if the following two conditions are present: a) the owner has a lead line running from the main to the property, and b) the water flow is measuring at less than 5 gallons per minute.

The property owner in each case would be responsible for replacement of the lateral from the curb box to the meter, but the cost to the owner of doing so would be much less because a good portion of the costs of excavation and replacement of the paved surfaces over the line would be borne by the reconstruction project. The owner's contractor would have to excavate deeper than 2 feet to locate the water line from the curb box to the meter because the laterals generally sit at least 5 feet below the surface to protect them from freezing. According to PWSA officials, the main beneath Penn was last cleaned and cemented for cracks in 1988-89. ♦

## ENEC from page 1

Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) in Upper Lawrenceville this quarter.

According to Lauren Byrne, executive director of Lawrenceville United, 2010 data revealed comparatively high numbers of unemployment in Lawrenceville – and Lawrenceville United will work with ENEC to take a multipronged approach to combating that problem, particularly among young adults.

Byrne said the office will host training courses to “increase the skill sets of the people who are job-searching in our neighborhoods.” It will offer resources on resume-building, workforce development and interviewing, and guide people through the process of finding and applying for jobs, particularly using the Internet.

ENEC, located at 5321 Penn Avenue, will provide the satellite office's resources and services. “We anticipate a model of providing content training on resume development, job searches and more. The ENEC is an integral part of Pittsburgh CONNECTS, which has additional resources – such as laptops – to bring to the table,” Rick Flanagan, the manager of ENEC, said.

The office will also aim to connect Lawrenceville residents with work opportunities in their neighborhood and throughout the East End. “We’d like to connect our residents with our large employers,” Byrnes said, mentioning West Penn Hospital and UPMC.

She acknowledged the importance of small businesses to bolstering employment numbers as well, saying that, in the past, these businesses have been eager to hire residents of Lawrenceville. She also noted the industrial park along the Allegheny River as a potential source of employment for Lawrenceville residents. Flanagan added that the office could also sign people up for seasonal work as businesses and organizations begin hiring for spring and summer.

Although the office has not yet been selected, Byrne said Lawrenceville United is considering The Zone in Upper Lawrenceville. Eventually, she hopes to open an additional office in Lower Lawrenceville.

The main ENEC office is in Garfield, but it offers resources for all East End residents. “ENEC service areas are Lawrenceville, Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield and East Liberty. It's a natural extension to do outreach into Lawrenceville,” Flanagan said.

Flanagan emphasized that an important goal of the partnership is to encourage Lawrenceville residents to take advantage of the resources at ENEC's main office, which has more extensive hours than the satellite office will.

The satellite office isn't open yet, but Byrne is confident that it will help Lawrenceville residents with “everything that's involved in landing that job that you want or need.” ♦

## the Bulletin

A Publication of  
The 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.

### Volume 37, Number 2

The deadline for the March issue is WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

**Editorial and Advertising Offices** • 5149 Penn Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15224  
412.441.6915 • (Fax) 412.441.6956 • [Bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:Bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org)

**Total Circulation** • 20,500 Copies • 17,500 Mailed • 3,000 Dropped

**Staff** • Paula Martinac, Editor • Patrick Bowman, Assistant Editor • Melinda Maloney, Intern • Martin Pochapin, Advertising • Melinda Maloney and Rick Swartz, Proofreading • Mary Anne Stevanus, Bookkeeper • Garfield CISP, Distribution

**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.

The Bulletin is made possible in part by funding from PNC Bank and the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development.

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



ABOVE: The newest restaurant on Penn Avenue, Verde Mexican Kitchen and Cantina, celebrated its official grand opening with a ribbon cutting on January 13. The restaurant, which features authentic Mexican cuisine and a full array of tequilas and beers, is located in the Glass Lofts at 5491 Penn. State Rep. Joe Preston (center) was on hand to give a thumbs-up to the venture with Verde owners Erin and Jeff Catalina. Photo by Paula Martinac



Children's  
Community Pediatrics  
GIL

Pediatricians In Your Community

**BABY  
BASICS**

LEARN HOW TO BABY YOUR BABY

This free class teaches routine baby care, breast and formula feeding, signs of a sick baby, and other important topics. Questions are always welcome, and being around other expectant parents provides a comfortable, relaxed environment.

**Next free class: Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 6:30pm**  
**Call to Schedule: 412-363-2200**

**Village of Eastside**

**6343 Penn Ave., Suite 201 • Pittsburgh, PA 15206**

Harold M. Glick, MD, FAAP  
Leroy S. Indorato, MD, FAAP  
Sheldon R. Levine, MD, FAAP

Keith S. Somers, MD, FAAP  
Sunita N. Chaudhari, MD, FAAP  
Kim A. Ogle, MD, FAAP

Jamie M. McNanie, MD, FAAP  
James A. Shaver, Jr., MD, FAAP  
Leslie A. Frank, MD, FAAP

Above Trader Joe's, one block from Target

**Thank you, PNC Bank.** We would like to acknowledge the BGC's NPP partner, PNC Bank. Thanks also to BNY Mellon, Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, The United Way, Allegheny Valley Bank, Dollar Bank, Citizens Bank, and all of our advertisers.

- Convenient Free Delivery
- 15 Minute Prescription Service
- Prescription Counter Steps from Door
- We Accept UPMC and BlueCross Plans
- Fun to Shop \$1 Dollar Store

**All Insurances Accepted Including  
90 Day Medicare D Plans**

**The Medicine Shoppe**  
PHARMACY  
Where You're A Name, Not A Prescription Number

**5020 Centre Ave • 412-586-5410**

Near corner of Centre & Morewood (next to Shadyside Hospital)

**LOOKING FOR  
A NEW  
PHARMACY?**

Free Prescriptions on  
400+ Medications for 30  
Day Supply - First fill is  
free, then \$4 for 30  
days, \$10 for 90 days

**FOR EASY  
TRANSFER,  
FREE DELIVERY  
412-586-5410**

**TRANSFER YOUR  
PRESCRIPTIONS  
& GET A CREDIT**

\$10	1 bottle
\$25	2 bottles
\$35	3 bottles
\$50	4+ bottles

Must bring all competitors' bottles in at the same time to get your credit. Not valid on state or federal plans. Offer expires in 180 days.

**M-F 9am-7pm  
SAT 9am-2pm  
SUN 10am-2pm**

## Sousa from page 1

weeks. Both Union Pig and Chicken (220 N. Highland Ave.) and Station Street Hot Dogs (6290 Broad St.) will bring new flavors to an already burgeoning restaurant district.

While Sousa has had the concept of a barbeque restaurant in mind for a long time, he wasn't expecting to open another restaurant so soon after Salt. But after seeing an "Available" sign at the former Steel City Ribs location, he couldn't pass up the chance.

The space was in good shape, but Sousa and his team have made aesthetic changes to warm it up. One of the most notable additions is the 150-year-old reclaimed-wood pine on the wall from Pittsburgh Pine Flooring.

Sousa says that Union Pig and Chicken will be "straight-up, well-executed, consistent barbeque," something he believes Pittsburgh needs. He hopes for Union to become the place for barbeque in the city.

"It's basically smoked meat and classic sides like cornbread, macaroni and cheese and grits," he said.

It seems that the purchase of Station Street Hot Dogs came just as unexpectedly as that of Union Pig and Chicken. After peeking in the windows and remembering

the hot dogs he once had there, Sousa thought, "I have to do this." With the help of his brother, Tom Sousa, and Jay Fanelli, Sousa will revive Station Street Hot Dogs.

"It's kind of kitschy, mid-century, bright and fun," he said. "We aren't going to take ourselves too seriously, just stay true to the concept: hot dogs, French fries and soft-serve ice cream."

Though both are in East Liberty, Station Street Hot Dogs will be different than Union Pig and Chicken. At first, Union won't have any vegetarian options; conversely, Station Street will be almost 50 percent vegetarian.

While readying the Union Pig and Chicken space has taken a few months, Sousa isn't changing anything aesthetically about Station Street. He said the previous owners had completely restored the space and built it to last, and he wants to keep the feel and kitsch factor.

But why East Liberty?

"I've always liked the grittier neighborhoods," he said. "I dig East Liberty, and I always have. I think it's the next neighborhood that's going to see its little renaissance." ♦



ABOVE: Chef Kevin Sousa of Salt of the Earth will open a new restaurant in the kitschy Station Street Hot Dogs on Broad Street. Photo by Paula Martinac

## Penn Avenue from page 2

raised at his station was the loss of several old street trees that provide shade to buildings on the avenue. Hassett said the project would take a look at trying to preserve them.

Another area of concern was the desire for a dedicated bike lane, which Hassett said was studied and cannot be accommodated. However, DPW's Kaczorowski promised attendees that Friendship Avenue would be paved before construction begins, assuring cyclists a smooth, safe alternate route.

Other attendees voiced a dislike of the pedestrian sidewalk bump-outs at intersections, complaining that they will slow

down traffic along Penn. The bump-outs, though, Hassett noted, are designed to make the blocks more pedestrian-friendly. The four-block stretch, which is an arts district, sees significant foot traffic, especially during the monthly "Unblurred" gallery crawl.

Audience members were encouraged to fill out comment cards for the reconstruction committee to review and take into account as the project moves ahead. For anyone unable to attend the meeting and for attendees seeking follow-up information, the project website is [www.lrkimball.com/penn-avenue.aspx](http://www.lrkimball.com/penn-avenue.aspx). ♦

## Free Fair Housing Outreach Session

Sponsored by:  
Fair Housing Partnership of Greater Pittsburgh and  
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

**Date:** Thursday, February 16  
**Time:** 4 to 5 p.m.  
**Place:** BGC Community Activity Center  
113 N. Pacific Avenue (corner Dearborn)

### Find Out About:

- Civil rights legislation, such as the Fair Housing Act and state and local laws
- Types of properties included under these laws
- Protected classes (race, color, gender, religion, familial status, disability and national origin, and within the City of Pittsburgh, ancestry, sexual orientation and gender identity)
- What to do if you are a victim of housing discrimination
- Working with FHP to fight housing discrimination in Pittsburgh



Fair Housing Partnership of Greater Pittsburgh  
2840 Liberty Ave. Suite 205  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
412-391-2535

RIGHT: Drawing of new street lights and coordinating trash cans proposed for Mathilda through Evaline Streets. Photo courtesy Loysen + Kreuthmeier

BELOW: Rendering of lighted benches similar to those proposed for Penn Avenue reconstruction. Photo courtesy Loysen + Kreuthmeier



Follow the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation  
on Twitter @BloomGarCorp!

# OUR PRACTICES HAVE MOVED

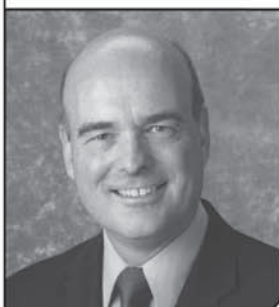
Dr. Bradley Heppner and Dr. John Power have both joined UPMC. They are both seeing patients at their convenient new office location in Bloomfield.



**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](http://UPMC.com).**

5140 Liberty Ave.  
Lower Level  
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

**UPMC** **LIFE  
CHANGING  
MEDICINE**

Affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, UPMC is ranked among the nation's best hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report*.

## Act Now! Transit Cuts Would Slash East End Routes

**East End** – The Port Authority of Allegheny County announced it would cut transit service by 35 percent if there is no solution to the state's transportation funding crisis before September 2, 2012. Some popular routes would be eliminated, while others would see significant cutbacks, such as reduced frequency or loss of weekend service. Fares would increase as well. The plan would eliminate three routes serving East End residents: 64 Lawrenceville/Waterfront, 89 Garfield Commons, and 93 Lawrenceville/Oakland. Service cutbacks would severely affect other neighborhood routes, too: 71A Negley, 71B Highland Park, 86 Liberty, 87 Friendship, 88 Penn, 91 Butler Street, and P2 and P3 (East Busway).

The board will meet April 27 to vote on the cuts. The public comment period runs February 5–March 9. Send written comments to Port Authority Fare & Service Proposals, Heinz 57 Center, 345 Sixth Avenue, Floor 3, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2527, or visit [www.portauthority.org](http://www.portauthority.org) for an online comment page. **There will be an all-day public hearing on fare increases and service reductions at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center downtown (1000 Ft. Duquesne Blvd.) on February 29 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.** Individuals wishing to testify should pre-register by calling 412-566-5437 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on weekdays.

Mayor Luke Ravenstahl told *The Bulletin* the cuts will negatively affect the economy of the entire city. "I am encouraging all residents and business owners to lend their voices on February 29 to this critical issue," he said.



## Re-assessment from page 2

deficit looming for 2012, County Council got tired of cost-cutting and passed a 21 percent increase in the tax rate. Think what might have been avoided if we had allowed the tax base to grow by just 21 percent over the past 10 years, when reassessments were stopped altogether. We wouldn't have today's uproar, with a rushed-through "reassessment" filled with many wild misses as to the true market value of real estate.

Finally, Fitzgerald is helping to create a new class of protected persons in our society – namely, property owners. No longer can they be trusted to make decisions about whether they want to pay taxes to live in, say, Shadyside, as opposed to Morningside. Or in a mansion as opposed to a bungalow. Why not indulge property owners in the illusion that there is a large ball and chain on their legs that has them "trapped" in their property, with the tax man busily punching holes in the foundation?

The truth, of course, is that rising property values mean future gains in wealth for those fortunate enough to own homes or commercial buildings in communities where this is happening. Declining property values means that taxes will be dropping if re-assessment is permitted to occur on a periodic basis. Property owners are not the hapless victims county leaders would have us believe. They can cash in their chips at any time and become renters. And there remains the instrument of an assessment appeal they can wield to achieve tax justice

if re-assessment gets it wrong. Fitzgerald will create real victims in the person of new arrivals to any community where values have been rising. Because assessments are commonly re-set when properties change hands, invariably that will mean long-time residents will receive much more preferential tax treatment on their wealth than those who are just buying in, if a freeze on overall re-assessment is allowed to perpetuate.

Rich Fitzgerald needs to move from proclaiming the sky is falling to acknowledging he is now running a government that must become increasingly self-sustaining. The days of state and federal hand-outs for the county's operating and capital budgets are over, as Onorato himself recently admitted. It's going to be harder to make the case to state lawmakers for help of any kind if one of the wealthiest counties in the Commonwealth refuses to ask its own residents to pay their fairly calculated share of taxes on their collective wealth. Fitzgerald would be better advised to get on with the task of setting up a system that allows property re-assessment to be done as accurately as possible, on a schedule that everyone can live with, and not confuse the fun of playing to the crowd at the local tavern with the task of running a government. ♦

*The writer, a Friendship resident, was a Democratic primary candidate for County Executive in 2007.*

### Leading in the Community Through Quality, Compassionate Care

James Rossetti, DO  
Hematologist/Oncologist



For more than a century, West Penn Hospital has been a source of economic vitality, employment and, of course, outstanding healthcare services in the Bloomfield community. Part of providing high-quality healthcare means making sure facilities are up to date and helping patients better access services. West Penn Hospital is focused on creating a "brighter future" for your community through a series of planned renovations and the reopening of the Emergency Room in early 2012.

We have your individual healthcare needs covered, from routine checkups for you and your family to highly specialized care – all close to home. We're always here for you, whenever you need us.

When doctors lead, better care follows –  
call 412.DOCTORS (362.8677).



THE WESTERN  
PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL

[wpahs.org](http://wpahs.org)

## SHOWCASE OF THE MONTH

## Building an Estate on Broad Street

By Aggie Brose and Paula Martinac Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

*Garfield* – If you still think of Garfield as all row houses and vacant lots, the showcase properties for February will make you think again. This month, we are highlighting a neighborhood “estate” – the twin houses at 5321 and 5323 Broad Street and their adjacent side lots, whose recorded owners are Grady H. Roberts Jr. and his sisters, Barbara J. and Bertha M. Roberts.

The Roberts family has owned the two principal properties for 72 years, according to Dr. Roberts, who is retired as a U.S. Army colonel and as a professor and dean at the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Social Work. His parents bought 5321 to live and raise their family in, while the property next door was a rental.

“Underlying their story is sacrifice,” Dr. Roberts explained to BGC staff. Neither of his parents went to high school – his father was a galvanizer at Hubbard & Co. in Lawrenceville, and his mother was a homemaker – but they worked hard and made numerous sacrifices to send all four of their children to college. Mr. Roberts said he learned the value of hard work from them – he worked all through college and graduate school and held two jobs for most of his professional life. He estimated that he and his sisters, who were all teachers, “contributed a combined 150 years to education.”

The Roberts offspring also learned from their parents that “real estate is a healthy investment,” Dr. Roberts said. He went on to acquire six properties on either side of 5321 and 5323, which are fenced in and have been beautifully landscaped and maintained by Sestili Nursery in Oakland for more than 25 years. They have also cleaned up Jordan Way behind their properties and rehabbed four garages and a toolshed.



ABOVE: The twin houses at 5321 and 5323 Broad Street and adjoining gardens are a testament to the hard work and pride of their owners. Photo by Paula Martinac

Asked why he and his sisters made this commitment to Garfield, Dr. Roberts replied, “You cannot relocate the emotional component.” But he also noted the central location of the neighborhood, saying that he was able to walk to work at Pitt on snowy days. He said he appreciates being able to go downtown or to East Liberty quickly, and that he thinks many people will eventually move back into the city from the suburbs for convenience and walkability.

“Garfield’s the hidden secret. It has the potential to be one of the most livable areas based on location,” Dr. Roberts observed. Plus, he said, you can’t beat the view. “The higher you go, the better the view.” He said he is pleased with all the commercial and residential development, and about the potential of a supermarket on Penn. Still, challenges remain. “We have to rework the percep-

tion of Garfield. It’s not a ‘hood’ or a ‘ghetto.’”

Not only have they beautified their own properties on Broad Street and Jordan Way, but Dr. Roberts and his sisters are often seen picking up litter and keeping the rest of the block “redd up.” “It’s a pride and respect issue,” he explained. “I believe it’s your responsibility to keep the environment clean. You do it for the neighborhood, but you do it for yourself, too.”

Dr. Roberts said that the work he and his sisters have done on the 5300 block “is an inspiration to me and hopefully to others” and that “it’s not done yet. The best is yet to come.” Sestili will resume planting in the spring, and Dr. Roberts

remarked that he “can’t wait till things bloom.” He summed up his philosophy of hard work and personal pride with a favorite quote from a book by actor Hill Harper, *Letters to a Young Brother*: “Do what you can with what you have, in the place you are, with the time you have left.”

Our thanks to Dr. Roberts and his sisters for all they have accomplished in “the place that they are” – Garfield – and for investing so proudly in their community. ♦



ABOVE: The gate to the side lot of 5323 Broad, which has been turned into a beautiful, peaceful garden. Photo by Paula Martinac



## CAREER CONNECTIONS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

YOUR CONNECTION. YOUR FUTURE.

ANNOUNCING FOR THE 2012/2013 SCHOOL YEAR ...



PLEDGE

4412 BUTLER STREET PITTSBURGH, PA 15201 PHONE: (412) 682-1816 FAX: (412) 682-6559

WWW.CCCHS.NET

# NeighborhoodFOCUS

## Tear the Poem Apart

The monthly Steel City Poetry Slam has been Pittsburgh's ground zero for spoken word performance since the late 90's.

By Patrick Bowman *Lawrenceville Corporation*

*East Liberty* – For more than a decade, the Shadow Lounge in the heart of East Liberty has been ground zero for spoken word performance in the city of Pittsburgh. On the third Tuesday of every month, a tight patchwork of passionate writers, performers and listeners assembles in the main room of the Baum Boulevard haunt for the Steel City Poetry Slam, Pittsburgh's preeminent poetry competition.

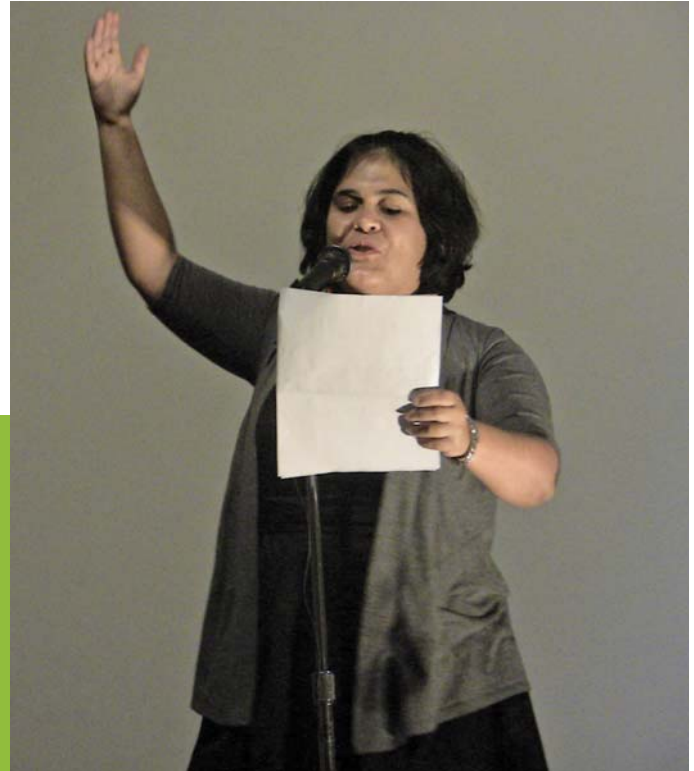
Unlike a quiet, coffeehouse poetry reading, a poetry slam has specific rules and guidelines built for writers to compete against each other. According to Poetry Slam Inc. (the governing body for competition poetry and host of the National Poetry Slam), there are three rules to the competition: the reading must be from an original work, each reader gets three minutes, and readers cannot use props or instruments. Readers are scored by six judges on a scale from 1 to 30.

"There's something electrifying about slam, and I don't know if it's the judges, or the time limit, or what," said Adriana Ramirez, Steel City Slam "slammaster" and professor of journalism at the University of Pittsburgh, "but, there's something a slam can do that an open mic just can't."

The monthly event is not just a proving ground and practice arena for members of Steel City Slam team (which has been competing at the National Poetry Slam since 2003) but also a venue for local writers looking to try out new material in a venue that is more energetic than a regular poetry reading.

And for an example of the eclectic work on display at a slam, look no further than poet William James, who as a member of Steel City Slam (and co-slammaster) has competed at the national level since 2010, and released his fifth book, *Thieves Get Rich, Saints Get Shot*,

See page 9



Above: Steel City Slam "co-slammaster" and spoken word poet Adriana Ramirez in mid-performance at one of Steel City Slam's recent events. Photo: Brian Francis



- Visa® Check Card
- No minimum balance
- No monthly maintenance fee
- No per check fee
- Unlimited check writing
- eStatements

Member FDIC



### Why should you open a Fidelity Bank Carefree eChecking Account?

#### Every NEW Fidelity Bank Checking Account includes:

- Thank You Gift\* at account opening
- Outstanding Customer Service
- 24-Hour Online Banking
- 24-Hour Telephone Banking
- Freedom ATM Alliance®
- Direct Deposit
- Automatic Payments
- Customer Care Center

COMPACT  
INDOOR GRILL\*  
Current Gift



\*Available when you open a new checking account and add one of the following: Direct Deposit, Online Banking, Bill Pay or Visa® Check Card. We reserve the right to substitute an item of similar value.

### Open your account online...in 10 minutes or less!

Enter Promotional Code: 01512CHK

Bloomfield Office  
4719 Liberty Avenue  
412.682.0311 • 1.800.242.2500  
[www.fidelitybank-pa.com](http://www.fidelitybank-pa.com)



## Tear the Poem Apart continued

and *God Doesn't Always Answer Your Prayers*, in 2011. James is a mountain of a man with a thick beard and tree trunks for arms, whose stage presence more closely resembles the frontman of a hardcore punk band than it does a poet.

"A lot of my writing came initially from wanting to be involved in the punk and hardcore music scene, but if you can't play guitar, can't play the drums, you're limited to being the singer," said James about his start in poetry. "But I knew I wanted to do something with words, and I had my periods ripping of Wes Eisold [lead singer of the punk band American Nightmare] and Henry Rollins [spoken word performer/former lead singer of the punk band Black Flag], and trying really hard to be someone else. But I did my homework, eventually discovering [slam poet] Buddy Wakfield, and the world of slam poetry and realized this something I can do."

Ramirez, who got her start as member of

the Rice University slam poetry team as an undergrad, found herself scouring Pittsburgh for slam poetry venues when she moved to the city in 2006. Eventually she reached out to Steel City Slam founder/former slammaster D.J. Brewer and discovered the tight-knit community of writers who called the Shadow Lounge home every month.

"I think the reason why slam caught on [in Pittsburgh] was because people like D.J., [Steel City Slam founder] Christina [Springer], and Justin [Strong, owner of the Shadow Lounge and slam poet] were so invested in the East End community," said Ramirez. "Having a good relationship with your venue is tantamount to the sustainability of an event like this, and Justin understands the importance and value of Slam [as a positive force in the neighborhood]."

And while the Steel City Slam team is gearing up for the National Poetry Slam this

summer, it also unveiled the youth poetry event Young Steel at the end of January, which gives high school-aged boys and girls a chance to learn and perform poetry in a safe environment. This project marks yet another chance for the Steel City Poetry Slam to make a lasting, positive mark on the community, while providing an all-ages poetry event, in lieu of the 18-and-over rule at the Shadow Lounge.

"It's nonsense that someone of a certain age is shut out from something that could be important in their lives," said James. "If you go to any poetry slam in the world, you are going to hear someone preach, in a certain way, about something they feel is a profound truth. I've always felt that if you're approaching poetry as if you have a message, that message should be open to everybody."

## RealEstateHighlights

Check out our monthly picks of the top residential (R) and commercial (C) properties available in our neighborhood.



**<C 4907 Penn Ave. Bloomfield**  
Jesse Clark - 412-916-7928  
1800 sq. ft. per floor, 1st floor and basement with large garage entrance, for sale \$170k.



**5491 Penn Ave A203 R>**  
Friendship glassloftspgh.com  
Newly built, loft unit with terrace and private garage. For sale \$182k.



**<C 3822 Butler St. Lawrenceville** Chris Senko - sansomandsenko@gmail.com  
Brand new commercial storefronts in the heart of Lower Lawrenceville from 500-2,000 sq. ft.



**249 39th Street R>**  
Lawrenceville  
Wylie Holdings 412-621-4689  
Four bedroom, one bath, new renovation, large rear yard. For sale \$195k.



**<C 4801-4809 Penn Ave. Garfield** Henry Pollack- 412-394-9840  
Flex commercial space on Penn Ave., free off street parking, 3,150 sq. ft. - 22k sq. ft. Rental/sale price negotiable.



**5349 Waterford St. R>**  
Garfield Rick Swartz -412-441-6950  
Detached, single-family home, three bedroom, remodeled, deferred payment mortgage financing available for ura for qualified buyers. Sale, \$68.5k.



**<C 4300 Butler St. Lawrenceville** David Glickman 412-0165, Great corner storefront/restaurant in the heart of Central Lawrenceville, available for lease 3,200 sq. ft.



**5351 Waterford St. R>**  
Garfield Rick Swartz - 412.441.6950  
Detached, single-family home, three bedroom, remodeled, deferred payment mortgage financing available for ura for qualified buyers. Sale, \$68.5k.

### WHAT IS IT?

Beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, Career Connection Charter H.S. is making a pledge to students that if they achieve academic success they will be given valuable tools and resources aimed at enhancing their high school experience.



### HOW DOES IT WORK?

Upon successful completion of the ninth grade and re-enrollment at C.C.C.H.S. for tenth grade each student will receive a \$150 gift card to be used for the purchase of approved products that enhance their educational, health, and/or hobby based endeavors.

Upon successful completion of the tenth grade and re-enrollment at C.C.C.H.S. for eleventh grade the gift card will be valued at \$200.

Upon successful completion of eleventh grade and re-enrollment at C.C.C.H.S. for twelfth grade the gift card will be valued at \$250.

Upon meeting graduation requirements each student will receive a commemorative gift.

### WHAT ARE APPROVED PRODUCTS?

Examples include E readers such as Nook or Kindle, Texas Instrument calculators, digital cameras, digital note takers, internet tablets, and I-phone photo cube printers.

Students can also use the cards for school activities, school uniforms, and school trips. Students will also have the option of requesting approval for items in which they have particular interest. (e.g. musical instrument)

**WWW.CCCHS.NET**

**4412 Butler Street Pittsburgh, PA 15201**  
**Phone: (412) 682-1816 Fax: (412) 682-6559**

## Pittsburgh and Nicaraguan Youths Communicate Through Art

By Melinda Maloney *The Bulletin*

*Garfield* – It might not seem like Rosa Grande, Nicaragua, and Pittsburgh have much in common. Rosa Grande, a village in Nicaragua's northeastern region, is "very small, very rural, with about several hundred families," according to Marielle Saums, one of two project leaders of Students in Free Enterprise: Nicaragua, a student group at Carnegie Mellon University that travels annually to Nicaragua.

Yet SIFE: Nicaragua's upcoming "¡Crear y Comunicar!" workshops and exhibit at Assemble, a community space for arts and technology, are "going to be geared toward combining knowledge of Nicaragua and commonalities between Nicaragua and Pittsburgh," said Saums.

The free workshops will be open to all children within the greater Pittsburgh community and will take place at Assemble, 5125 Penn Avenue, on Saturdays, February 4, 11 and 18, from noon to 3 p.m. The series will conclude with a workshop on Thursday, February 23, from 5 to 8 p.m. The interactive workshops, which will utilize media such as video, photography and projections, will be "all about communication," said Saums – specifically, communication between Pittsburgh and Nicaraguan youth.

SIFE: Nicaragua will also host a related gallery opening at Assemble on Friday, February 3, beginning at 6 p.m. The exhibit will be on view until February 24

and will feature work from both Nicaraguan and Pittsburgh workshop participants.

The Nicaraguan artworks in the exhibit were produced when SIFE: Nicaragua members visited Rosa Grande last summer. The group traveled with Bridges to Community, a nonprofit development organization, but had freedom to come up with some of its own projects for the trip. SIFE: Nicaragua is interested in "empowering communities in new and innovative ways," according to Saums – and exposing youth to art is one way to achieve this goal.

SIFE: Nicaragua members brought eight cameras to the village's young residents and gave students photo assignments with local emphases. As Saums said, "The more familiar [the assignment] is, the easier it is for the kids to get excited about it." And the kids certainly got excited – the eight cameras took about 2,500 photos. Not all art projects were photography-based, and included a mural that students made for their school.

Before traveling to Nicaragua, SIFE: Nicaragua conducted a similar art project

in Homewood in the spring of 2011. According to Saums, the resulting art from Homewood and Rosa Grande, which will be on display at Assemble, reveals "interesting parallels" between the lives of Pittsburgh and Rosa Grande youth.

The Assemble workshops will reflect these commonalities, and ultimately aim to foster a dialogue between the two communities. "A lot of the assignments in the workshops are variations and expansions upon the projects we gave to kids in Rosa Grande," Saums said, adding that some prompts would be about relaying messages to Nicaragua. She also noted, "Kids in the workshop can leave knowing that kids in Nicaragua will be seeing their

work. And in turn, the kids in Nicaragua will be responding the projects." SIFE: Nicaragua will return to Rosa Grande this summer.

Nina Barbuto, executive director of Assemble, agreed that the workshops and exhibits will reveal similarities between life in Pittsburgh and Rosa Grande. "It's looking at ourselves, on Penn Avenue, in the Garfield-Penn Avenue arts district and bringing another level of geopolitical awareness of what's happening in another country," she said. "Even though it's so far away, there are so many similarities we have."

Like Saum, Barbuto stressed that the workshops will be interactive and communicative. She said they'll be "all about participation. Everyone is the artist, everyone is the maker, everyone is the technologist." ♦

*"Everyone is the artist,  
everyone is the maker..."*

They give you  
**funny**  
advertising.



We give you great  
**insurance.**

**Kris Dickey**  
**MoneySmart Agency**  
247 1/2 42nd Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15201  
412-417-7309  
www.moneysmartagency.com  
kris.dickey@gmail.com




**Erie**  
**Insurance**  
Above  
all in **SERVICE**

S1513 Not all companies are licensed or operate in all states. Not all products are offered in all states. Go to [erieinsurance.com](http://erieinsurance.com) for company licensure and territory information.



**"Like" the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation**  
on Facebook for the latest neighborhood information and community photos.



**"I'm too young to worry about it."**


Planning your own funeral is an easy topic to put off.

But actually the best time to do it is while you are in good health and in the right frame of mind.

The old saying goes, "with age comes wisdom."

So make the wise decision and call us to answer your questions and to receive a free planning brochure.

After all, if not now, when will be the best time?



WALTER J  
**ZALEWSKI**  
FUNERAL HOMES INC.  
"Exceeding Your Expectations"

LAWRENCEVILLE  
Walter J Zalewski, Supervisor  
216 Forty-fourth Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15201-2893  
412 682-3445

POLISH HILL  
Joseph M Lapinski, Supervisor  
3201 Dobson Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-3735  
412 682-1562

©MMX Zalewski F.H., Inc.

## Beer Distributor from page 1

open a beer distributorship at an alternate site.

At the time of that meeting, the Pa. Liquor Control Board (LCB) told the BGC staff that the liquor license was still "pending."

Now flash forward to the present. The state Liquor Control Board (LCB) staff informed the BGC in December that the liquor license for the proposed beer distributor at 4900 Penn was placed into "safekeeping" on October 17 for three years.

In a phone interview, also in December, Ahmed told the BGC he still plans to move ahead on the entire plan as summarized at the May meeting. He stated, however, that he had engaged a construction company to manage the project instead of Croce, with construction possibly starting in March and taking approximately six weeks. He said he might be able to begin operation of the beer distributor as early as spring 2012, contingent on final inspection of the construction by the LCB to release the liquor license. The LCB requires that the building is at least 1,000 square feet, and that there is a bathroom for employees and an office.

Ahmed further confirmed other details outlined at the May 31 meeting: namely, that there would be separate entrances and staff for the convenience store and the beer distributor; that the beer distributor would be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. but hours for

the convenience store would stay the same; and that the entrances to the parking lot would change, with an entrance on S. Millvale Avenue and exit on Penn.

The BGC was prepared to run this update in the January issue of *The Bulletin*, but then received an emergency email from Ahmed reading, "I would like you to avoid any names and references to particular companies at this point, as this would affect the proposals and contracting process. In short, I would like to request to postpone this article for the next issue/month."

For the February issue, the BGC left phone messages on Ahmed's work and cell phones and sent numerous emails, but had no response. There have been no visible improvements to the property to address neighbors' concerns, and Ahmed has not released the name of the construction company he has engaged, nor indicated when the public can view his design plans. An employee at K-2 told the BGC that Ahmed is only on-site "sometimes."

At press time, Iram Khan, Ahmed's wife and the daughter of the owner, informed the BGC that her husband is no longer the manager of the store and that no contracts have been signed for the project. She said they are seeking finances, and agreed to keep the BGC abreast of their plans. ♦

## New Venture "Catapults" onto Penn

By Rich Engel Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield – Catapult, a new co-working space, opens February 1 at 5139 Penn Avenue (or, in local parlance, "the old Don's Appliance"). Although high-speed Internet and siphon-brewed coffee will be available, founders Elliott Williams and Kevin Boyle aren't planning to run another coffee shop.

In October 2011, Catapult "popped up" for just a month in the handsome space at 5151 Penn, using a grant from the Sprout Fund to launch one of the first co-working spaces in the city. (The Beauty Shoppe in East Liberty, co-owned by East Liberty Development Inc, also opened in 2011.) They reached their goal of 10 members before they'd been open four weeks.

The new space is nearly twice the size, and has been remodeled from top to bottom for their arrival by building owner Ed Sauer Jr. However, now Williams and Boyle, both 29, must re-start their membership drive after their late-fall hiatus.

"A place like Catapult is great in that it promotes interaction and cultivates ideas. Working from home, alone, can sometimes be self-alienating," says Boyle. Williams might know, having started Pink\* Service Design on Graham Street in Friendship after graduating from Carnegie Mellon University with a degree in human-computer interaction four years ago.

Rates are \$15 per day or \$150 per month. Members paying by the month will have 24-hour access to the space, which will be open – "no cubicles," they say – with a separate conference room, a full kitchen, and printing equipment.

"We want to reach a state where there's a community at Catapult," Williams says, "not just a better workplace. And a community is



ABOVE: Major interior renovations are going on to create the new Catapult space at 5139 Penn. Photo courtesy Catapult

what we see already growing organically on Penn Avenue." He cites a prospective member who's already gotten at least one new freelance gig through a Catapult connection. "The space is about who is going to be there," avers Williams, "and what they're going to do."

Catapult has received funding from the Sprout Fund. "Sprout supported Catapult with a Seed Award to help independent or freelance workers find each other," says Mac Howison, funding programs manager for Sprout. "Ideally, it will strengthen the community of independent workers and add a valuable dimension to Pittsburgh's array of work environments."

While Web developers, writers, designers, animators and graduate students are the likeliest workers to coalesce upstairs, there are also tentative plans to host a neighborhood tool-sharing co-operative in the basement. ♦

**THE BIG EASY ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

### NEW OFFICE HOURS!

Walk-In Hours: Mon, Tue, Thu  
9-11:30am and 3-7pm  
Fri 9-11:30am and 3-6pm

Appointment Hours:  
Wed 3-7pm Sat 9am-12pm  
CLOSED Sunday

We offer a wide range of services, such as:

**Surgical and Dental Procedures  
In-House Diagnostic Lab &  
X-Rays for Rapid Results**

**Located in the Trendy  
Neighborhood of Lawrenceville**

Along with providing medical and surgical expertise and exemplary customer service, we are also committed to treating you and your pet with utmost care and compassion.

**www.tbeah.com  
5328 Butler Street  
412-908-9301**

## Laurentian Hall Apartments

Apartment Living for Senior Citizens in an Elegant Setting



### Offering These Amenities:

- ♦ Equipped Kitchens
- ♦ Nightly Meals Catered by Nova Café
- ♦ All Utilities Included
- ♦ FREE On-Site Laundry
- ♦ FREE Parking
- ♦ On the Busline
- ♦ Section 8 Available for Qualified Applicants

**Immediate Openings -  
Efficiencies, 1-bedrooms  
and 2-bedrooms!**



For more  
information, call  
**412-361-4462**



**GARFIELD  
COMMUNITY  
ACTION TEAM**

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

**SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING!  
WWW.GCATPGH.COM  
\* Be Part of the Action! \***

## GCAT CHAT

### New Resident in Garfield?

Sign-up for your free **Welcome Packet** and receive coupons to local businesses, get a bag of groceries from Wholefoods Market, and learn about events and activities for kids and families. Email Kathryn Vargas to sign-up: [kathrynv@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:kathrynv@bloomfield-garfield.org)

### Garfield's Got Talent

Saturday, February 4, from 5-8 p.m. at the BGC Community Activity Center, 113 North Pacific Ave. Sign up at the door, share your talent, and win prizes!

### GCAT Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, February 29, 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. For other events, check the GCAT Calendar: <http://www.gcatpgh.com/pages/calendar>

## What Will You Do Differently This Year?

By Kathryn Vargas Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

*Garfield* – During the past year, a resident-led volunteer movement has been budding in Garfield. What started out as a component of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's Elm Street District, a statewide program that inspires sustainable community building, has grown into the Garfield Community Action Team, or GCAT.

GCAT is a group of Garfield residents and business owners committed to volunteering to implement community events and initiatives that keep the neighborhood clean, green and safe. In 2011, GCAT held monthly meetings and community clean-ups, planted street trees along Dearborn and Winebiddle streets, scheduled tree care days, planted a sunflower garden on the corner of Broad and Graham, began to repaint the bleachers at the Garfield Gator field and volunteered at the BGC holiday party.

From Lawrenceville to East Liberty, there are many ways to get involved in your community and focus on the issues that are important to you. Why volunteer? It's easy: you can decide how frequently and in what capacity you want to work. Want to help out with one project? Want to become part of a group like GCAT that meets regularly? You decide what level of

volunteerism you can handle. The important thing is that, by volunteering, you contribute to your community's well-being. Real community change happens when residents take ownership of their neighborhoods and dedicate time and energy to sustaining it.

On Tuesday, January 10, GCAT held a community meeting to try to get more community members involved in volunteering in 2012 and find out what type of community projects are of interest to the neighborhood. The meeting brought together a number of new faces and new ideas. The hope is that new initiatives will catalyze a larger movement of resident engagement and volunteerism in Garfield. Some of the activities suggested include:

- Renewing the parks in Garfield
- Creating a Garfield garden coalition
- Hosting more community events
- Developing a method for welcoming newcomers to the neighborhood
- Planting more street trees
- Creating opportunities for youth involvement

GCAT is looking forward to working to make some of these things happen in Garfield, but needs to hear from you. Please vote for the community projects most important to you by visiting the GCAT website at [www.gcatpgh.com](http://www.gcatpgh.com). Most importantly, if you want to get involved at any level, fill out the electronic form on the website, email [kathrynv@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:kathrynv@bloomfield-garfield.org) or call 412-441-6950 x 17 to be added to the mailing list. ♦

**for more info or to  
volunteer, visit  
[www.gcatpgh.com](http://www.gcatpgh.com)**



ABOVE: GCAT volunteers planting trees on Dearborn Street. Photo by Kathryn Vargas

## Thousandth Tree Tender Sought

By Melinda Maloney The Bulletin

*Garfield* – Tree Pittsburgh, an environmental nonprofit focused on protecting and growing the urban forest, will resume its Tree Tenders courses this March and continue them on several Saturdays throughout the year.

The topics taught in Tree Tenders courses prepare citizens to help newly planted street trees survive and live longer, healthier lives. Caitlin Lenahan, education and outreach coordinator of Tree Pittsburgh, compared planting a tree to making an investment of time and money, saying, "If you don't take care of [a newly planted tree], it'll die and you'll lose your investment."

The course covers urban forestry, tree planting and proper tree maintenance. Additionally, attendees will learn about tree biology basics, tree identification skills, proper pruning techniques and tree planning practices. The course also prepares Tree Tenders to organize tree plantings and care in their own communities.

Lenahan noted that the benefits of trees to city residents increase as they grow – and the Tree Tender course helps ensure that tree growth occurs by instilling a sense of responsibility and ownership in attendees. "The trees in the public are assets to everyone in the city. They're city owned, which means they're tax-payer owned. They belong to all of us," Lenahan said.

Nearly a thousand Pittsburghers have become Tree Tenders through previous courses – and Tree Pittsburgh expects to cross the thousand-person threshold during this year's Saturday courses. The



"Trees ... belong to all of us." Photo courtesy Tree Pittsburgh

courses will take place on March 10 at Carlow University's Tiernan Hall off Fifth Avenue in Oakland; on June 16 at the Rothschild Doyno Collaborative at 2847 Penn. Ave. in the Strip District; and on September 15 at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy at 800 Waterfront Drive in Washington's Landing. Each course lasts from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Course registration, which is required, is now open at [www.treepittsburgh.org/become-tree-tender](http://www.treepittsburgh.org/become-tree-tender). The \$40 registration fee includes materials, a meal at each session and a T-shirt upon course completion. A reduced rate option is available for those on a limited income. Contact Caitlin Lenahan at [Caitlin@treepittsburgh.org](mailto:Caitlin@treepittsburgh.org) or 412-362-6360 for details. ♦

Call today for a  
**Free Spinal Consultation!**

**Cutitta Chiropractic**  
"We treat the whole person"

Now offering Massage Therapy, Rehabilitation, and Nutrition Counseling

We can give you the relief you need from:



Dr. Michael Cutitta

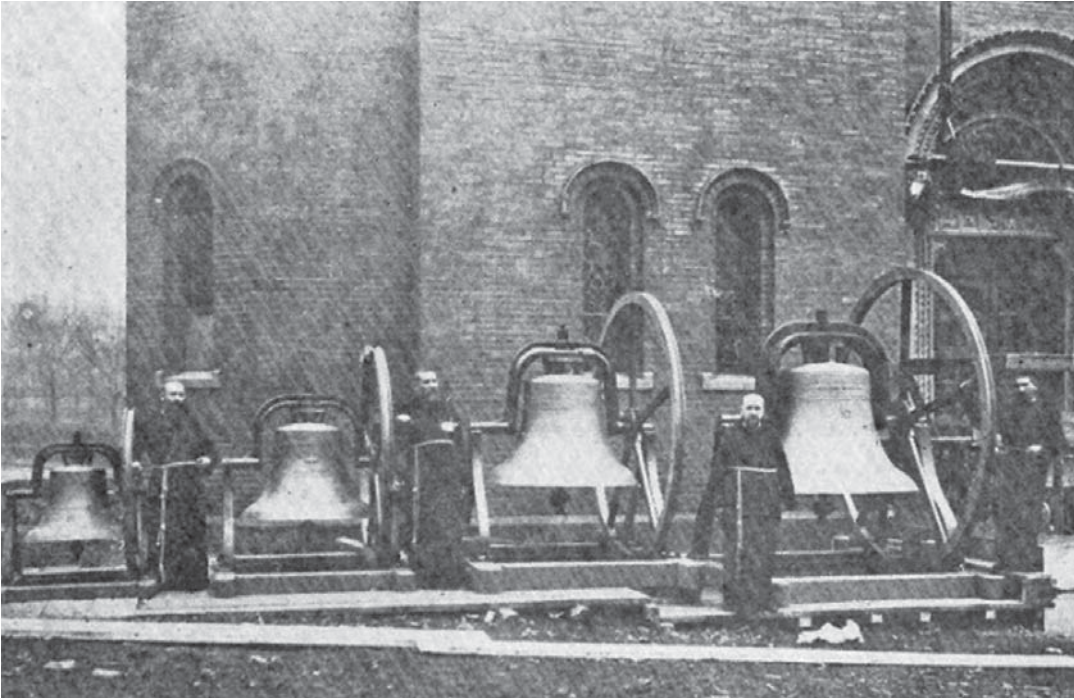
Headaches  
Neck Pain  
Auto Accidents  
Injuries from Work  
Low Back Pain  
Chronic Stress  
Fatigue  
Arthritis  
Bursitis  
**without any drugs or surgery!**



4733 Butler Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

**412.325.4100**  
[www.cutittachiro.com](http://www.cutittachiro.com)  
Most insurance plans accepted

## Ringling the Bells from page 1



St. Augustine Church on 37th Street, standing watch over the community, as they have since 1899.

The four great bells within the towers, though, remain mute, silenced for a number of years by structural damage from the ravages of time and forces of nature, so that they can no longer be safely rung.

The pastor, Fr. John D. Harvey, OFM Capuchin, notes, "Ever since I arrived in September of 2010, I have been approached by both parishioners and neighbors asking, 'When can we get the bells ringing again?'"

For more than 100 years, the pealing of the bells beckoned all within hearing range to worship, rejoice, mourn and pray for both liturgical and civic events. The daily ringing at 6 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. served not only as a reminder for people to pray the Angelus, but also as a neighborhood-wide clock of sorts, marking times to rise or head home for lunch or supper.

The momentous occasion of the bells arrival at St. Augustine's on November 29, 1899, was marked by a solemn procession from the Chaplin-Fulton Foundry at Penn Avenue and First Street, where they had been cast.

*ABOVE: When the bells first arrived at St. Augustine's, four friars posed next to them to show their size. From left, St. Raphael Bell with Rev. Raphael Mary Schwartz, OMCap.; St. Joseph Bell with Rev. Patrick Leinsle, OMCap.; St. Mary Bell with Rev. Charles Speckert, OMCap.; and St. George Bell with Bro. Ivo Litsch, OMCap. Courtesy Our Lady of the Angels Parish*

Horse-drawn wagons bearing the bells were preceded by a "mounted guard of 55 prancing horses, with uniformed riders," the entire parish, the Knights of St. George, Church societies and organizations, two bands and visiting clergy, according to the Diamond Jubilee booklet of St. Augustine Church.

The bells named St. George (5,500 pounds), St. Mary (3,000 pounds), St. Joseph (1,800 pounds) and St. Raphael (750 pounds) made their way with their honor guards from the foundry to the parish, accompanied by the joyous pealing of the bells of St. Philomena and St. Stanislaus Churches.

Our Lady of the Angels Parish, according to Fr. John, hopes to raise \$60,000 to \$80,000 to complete the needed work, so that once again the bells will announce religious and civic events in Lawrenceville.

On Saturday, March 10, from 6 to 10 p.m., Our Lady of the Angels Parish and the Lawrenceville community will host

"Ringling the Bells over Lawrenceville" at Engine House 25, 3339 Penn Avenue, an evening of entertainment, wine, food, live and silent auctions, sale of commemorative bottles of Engine House Wine and a history display detailing the original placement of the bells in 1900.

Only 150 tickets, at \$100 each, will be sold, and may be purchased at the parish office or church, 225 37th Street, or online at [www.oloa.org](http://www.oloa.org). For more information, call 412-682-0929. ♦



**Charie E. Daviston, LSW**

Licensed Social Worker  
Christian Centered Counseling  
Anxiety, Depression, Grief

211 N. Whitfield Street  
Suite 470  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
412-577-8978  
[chariedavistonls.wweebly.com](http://chariedavistonls.wweebly.com)

**White Ape**  
Baiyuan Tongbei  
at Steel Dragon  
Sometimes known  
as "Black Hand" for its  
strong fighting style.  
Classes 7-9pm  
Tuesdays  
Thursdays  
Also  
Ying Jow  
Tai Chi  
Lion Dance  
info@steel-dragon.org  
Steel Dragon Kung Fu & Lion Dance  
100 43rd St #113 Lawrenceville 412.362.6096

The Original  
**SAUER BROTHERS**  
We've been installing boilers and  
furnaces for more than 50 years...  
**LET US  
INSTALL YOURS**  
HEATING • COOLING • BOILERS  
Since 1949  
Originally  
Located in  
Garfield  
637 Butler St.  
412-661-5588  
Pittsburgh  
412-782-1100

44th & Butler / 412.683.5992  
**ARSENAL LANES**  
Over 21 - 9pm to Midnight  
**GAME NIGHT**  
Every Sunday  
WRCT'S DJ MOCKSTER  
SUPPLIES THE SOUNDTRACK & HOSTS  
Games that take you back!  
Bingo • Connect 4  
Twister • Trivia  
& More!  
While You Bowl!  
**SUNDAY ONLY**  
9pm-Mid 9pm-Mid  
Must be 21 or older with valid ID  
**\$4 All You Can Bowl**  
Sunday's 9pm-Midnight Only  
\*Valid on Sunday Only. Not valid with any other offer.  
No cash value. Offer End 2/29/12 Must Present This Ad for Special Pricing

**Learn About Events, Volunteer Your Time and Meet Your Neighbors!**

**Check out the Bulletin Board.** Starting on page 14

# the Bulletin BOARD

## Local Events Classes Announcements Fundraisers

### February 1

#### BLOOMFIELD

### Cancer Support Group

The Cancer Caring Center will host a Head and Neck Cancer Support Group the first Wednesday of every month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Cancer Center in Bethel Park. Anyone interested can call the Center at 412-622-1212 for more information.

#### GARFIELD

### Career Workshops

From 10:30 a.m. to noon at 5321 Penn Avenue, the ENEC will offer free career planning basics overview classes led by Bill Freed, a United States Department of Labor best practice author, and a licensed career development professional. Learn a 3-step career and life success planning process and about available career services and education facilities. Find out how to find a job or college major that suits your skills, interest, aptitudes, and learning style. Additional workshops will be held at the same time on Wednesday, February 15, and Saturday, February 25. Call 412-362-8580 or leave a message at 412-465-0858.

### February 3

#### PENN AVENUE ARTS DISTRICT

### Unblurred

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

### February 4

#### GARFIELD

### Garfield's Got Talent

The Community Activity Center, at 113 North Pacific Avenue, will host Garfield's Got Talent from 5 to 8 p.m. Performers can sign up for free at the door. All acts are welcome! Attending this event is free, and refreshments will be provided.

#### LAWRENCEVILLE

### Night at the Races

Lawrenceville United will host a "Night at the Races" at St. Mary's Lyceum, 330 45th St., from 7 to 10:30 p.m. The event will feature the excitement of pre-recorded horse races, door prizes, and instant bingo, as well as beer, soda, and a buffet. Attendees may bring their own alcohol to the event – mixers will be provided. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Attendees may place \$10 bets on a horse or jockey for the chance to win \$50. Bets should be purchased prior to the event. There will also be an auction race. Proceeds from "Night at the Races" will benefit the Lawrenceville Fireworks Committee's

68th Annual 4th of July Celebration. To place bets in advance, purchase tickets or get further information, contact Lawrenceville United at 412-802-7220, Barb Kelly at 412-576-7133 or Ron Deutsch at 412-979-3456.

### February 6

#### GARFIELD

### Internet Basics

Pittsburgh CONNECTS will offer a free introductory course in using the Internet and the latest online tools and technologies from 6 to 7 p.m. at 5321 Penn Avenue. An additional course will be held on February 20.

### February 7

#### GARFIELD

### Excel Basics

Pittsburgh CONNECTS offers a free course in basic Excel from 6 to 7 p.m. at 5321 Penn Avenue. The course will teach attendees how to make a budget, track spending, and make charts. An additional course will be held at the same time on February 21.

### February 9

#### GARFIELD

### Excel Beyond Basics

From 6 to 7 p.m., Pittsburgh CONNECTS will offer a free Excel course at 5321 Penn Avenue. The course will build on basic Excel knowledge, and participants will learn how to make charts and graphs from numerical data. An additional class will be held on February 23 at the same time.

### February 11

#### LAWRENCEVILLE

### Pancake Breakfast

The Lawrenceville Rotary is hosting its 9th annual Pancake Breakfast at St. Mary's Lower Lyceum on 45th Street in Lawrenceville. Heart-shaped pancakes, sausage, bacon and eggs and real maple syrup will be served from 9 a.m. to noon. Tickets will be available at the door or at Slaughterhouse Gallery and are \$7 for adults and \$3 for kids 10 and under. Proceeds will fund local nonprofits and Rotary International Projects.

### February 12

#### LAWRENCEVILLE

### Celebration of Love

The New Bethel Baptist Church's Women's Ministry will present their annual Celebration of Love service at 3 p.m. at 221 43rd Street. Its theme

is "Abiding in the Amazing Love of God" and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

### February 14

#### GARFIELD

### Microsoft Word Basics

From 6 to 7 p.m., at 5321 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh CONNECTS will offer a course on basic Microsoft Word.

#### EAST END

### Best Winter Date Spots

CBS Pittsburgh recently named three East End venues to their list of "Best Winter Dates Ideas." Top of the list was Salt of the Earth restaurant, 5523 Penn Avenue in Garfield; second was Stagioni restaurant at 4770 Liberty Avenue in Bloomfield; and third was Arsenal Bowling Lanes at 212 44th Street in Lawrenceville. "Loosen up and try something different," CBS writer Ashley Close wrote. Congratulations to these three neighborhood businesses! Make a date at one of them or another East End venue with your honey for Valentine's Day.

### February 16

#### EAST LIBERTY

### SoulScapes

The Kelly-Strayhorn Theater will head to the AVA Lounge at 126 S. Highland Avenue and Baum Blvd., for an intimate evening of spoken word and music in SoulScapes. Starting at 7 p.m., this annual showcase will feature local artists. Tickets are \$5.

### February 17

#### GARFIELD

### Living Debt Free

At 11 a.m., the author of Help Your Child Make Millions (And Live Debt Free), will host a workshop at the ENEC's office at 5321 Penn Avenue. Learn to make a budget and earning plan, as well as learn a systematic approach to gaining better jobs. Create a powerful database to guide you or your child to a fulfilling career and earnings to fit their desired lifestyle. Leave a message at 412-204-6227 to RSVP.

### February 20

#### EAST LIBERTY

### Program for Artists

Seasoned and emerging artists are invited to learn, network, and collaborate as a monthly series of free workshops for arts managers continues at 7:30, at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater at 5941 Penn Avenue. This month's topic is "Build Your Team." To register or for more information visit [www.kelly-strayhorn.org](http://www.kelly-strayhorn.org) or call 412-363-3000.

### February 22

#### GARFIELD

### Career Workshop

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 5321 Penn Avenue, the ENEC offers the second section of its new career

success workshop service. Attendees will examine their interests, aptitudes, personal/learning/team work styles and how they relate to career and educational choices. RSVP at 412-362-8580 or leave a message at 412-465-0858.

### February 24 & 25

#### EAST LIBERTY

### Srithi Dances of India

Celebrated Odissi choreographer Sreyashi Dey and her company and the Spilling Ink Project will premiere Samudra: Churning Ocean at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater at 5941 Penn Avenue. On Friday, February 24, at 10 a.m., there will be an artSEEDS student matinee – tickets for that performance are \$2.50. At 7 p.m. there will be a pre-show mixer with a panel discussion on contemporary art in India, followed by the premiere of Samudra: Churning Ocean at 8 p.m. On Saturday, there will be a performance at 9 p.m. Tickets to the evening performances are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, \$15 for 15206 residents, and \$10 for students and artists. To purchase advance tickets or for group sales discounts, visit [www.kelly-strayhorn.org](http://www.kelly-strayhorn.org) or call 412-363-3000. Srithi Dances of India with Spilling Ink Project is part of KSTmoves.

### February 25

#### LAWRENCEVILLE

### Doubt Night

East End Ecclesia, a church located at 4905 Butler Street, will host a Doubt Night every fourth Saturday of the month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Doubt Night will address questions from the community about life, God, and the Christian faith. Consider sending any questions to [doubt@e3pittsburgh.com](mailto:doubt@e3pittsburgh.com) and visit [E3pittsburgh.com](http://E3pittsburgh.com) for more information.

### February 28

#### GARFIELD

### PowerPoint Basics

From 6 to 7 p.m. at 5321 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh CONNECTS will offer a course on basic PowerPoint. Expect to learn how to make great looking presentations and slide shows.

### February 29

#### GARFIELD

### Goal-Setting Workshop

At the ENEC's office at 5321 Penn Avenue from 10 a.m. to noon, learn to plan realistic goals and get free tools and templates to help you and your family or organization set goals, strategies, and projected outcomes. RSVP at 412-362-8580 or leave a message at 412-465-0858.

### February

#### BLOOMFIELD

### Crafters Group

Crafters, knitters, quilters, and hookers are invited to 433 Ella Street on the second and fourth Sundays of the month anytime between 2 and 4 p.m. Work

**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 March issue are due FEBRUARY 15 via email submission to [bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org).**

# Volunteer Opportunities & Services

on current projects, meet new friends, and enjoy snacks, conversation, and coffee. Attendees can also participate in a charity project for Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. For more information, contact Tracey Russell at [preachergirl@sanctuarypittsburgh.org](mailto:preachergirl@sanctuarypittsburgh.org). This group is sponsored by Sanctuary: [www.sanctuarypittsburgh.org](http://www.sanctuarypittsburgh.org).

## EAST END

### Parenting Warmline

Family Resource's offers a confidential Parenting Warmline at 412-641-4546. The Warmline provides information, referrals, and support for any non-medical parenting concern and answers from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

## GARFIELD

### Typing Certification

On Mondays, February 13 and 27 from 6 to 7 p.m., and Wednesdays February 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 3 to 4 p.m., Pittsburgh CONNECTS will offer a class on typing quickly and accurately and the opportunity to get officially certified in typing. Class are at the Pittsburgh CONNECT's center at 5321 Penn Avenue

## GARFIELD

### Email with Gmail

On Februarys in Wednesday starting February 8th, Pittsburgh CONNECTS will offer a free class on using a Gmail account and the other features of Google. The class will run from 12 to 1 p.m. at 5321 Penn Avenue

## GARFIELD

### Youthlink

From 5-8 p.m. every Wednesday, the ENEC will host Youthlink. Youthlink offers help to teenagers looking for jobs, applying to college, exploring career options, and more. To register, call 412-362-8580 or leave a message at 412-465-0425.

## GARFIELD

### UPMC POWRR

On Thursdays at 10 a.m., ENEC will host UPMC POWRR workshops. These workshops are designed for people interested in working with UPMC but who are frustrated by the application process. To register, call 412-362-8580 or leave a message at 412-465-0425.

## EAST LIBERTY

### Library Events

The East Liberty branch of the Carnegie Library, 130 S. Whitfield St., will host a variety of events this month. On Saturday, February 11, at 11 a.m., the library will feature "Kids Create: Valentine Cards" for all ages – create a card for family and one for a local veteran too! On February 22, at 6:30 p.m., 3 to 7 year olds with adult chaperones can enjoy a pre-k program: "What's the BIG Idea? Math and Science for Preschoolers." On Saturday, February 25, at 11 a.m., it will host "Family Fun: African Storytelling with Puppets" for ages 4 and up. On that day at 1 p.m., the library will feature a Macaroni and Cheese Taste Off. See how the celebrity judges think your recipe stacks up the competition – entries are limited to the first 15 macaroni and cheese dishes. Call 412-363-8274 to register for any programs.

## LAWRENCEVILLE

### Library Events

Each Wednesday at 4 p.m., the Lawrenceville branch Carnegie Library at 279 Fisk Street hosts Teens Connect! Hang out with other middle and high school students. This month, Teens Connect! will feature a teen book discussion, video games, crafts, and a teen advisory council, starting on February 1. On Tuesday, February 14, the Lawrenceville Film Discussion Club will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. – get your film fix and meet like-minded movie buffs to screen and discuss movies. The Independent Film Series will continue on February 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. to watch and briefly discuss an independent film or documentary.

## LAWRENCEVILLE

### Art All Night Planning

The leadership team of Art All Night Lawrenceville 2012 seeks new planning team leaders for the 15th annual Art All Night event, to be held April 28-29. If you would like to get involved, email [info@artallnight.org](mailto:info@artallnight.org). The team meets approximately every other Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Stephen Foster building at 286 Main Street. Learn more about Art All Night at [www.artallnight.org](http://www.artallnight.org).

## GARFIELD

### Yoga Hive Events

The Yoga Hive, 5491 Penn Ave., will offer 29 amazing days of yoga this month with its February Yoga Challenge, which starts February 1. On February 18, from 1 to 3 p.m., the Yoga Hive will also conduct a hip opening workshop. On February 26, from 2 to 4 p.m., you can learn the triangle pose with Richard Gartner. The women's Kundalini yoga group will meet on February 11 and 25 from 3 to 5 p.m. Details can be found at [yogahivepg.com](http://yogahivepg.com) or by emailing [info@yogahivepg.com](mailto:info@yogahivepg.com).

## EAST END

### East End/East Liberty Historical Society

This nonprofit community organizing, entering its 10th year, is dedicated to honoring our area's history and working toward its improvement. Annual membership dues are \$20, including quarterly update bulletins called Bit of History. To join, send your name, address, phone number, email address, and a check, to 5907 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA, 15206. Questions can be directed to Al Mann, the organization's president, at 412-661-5947 or [Alfred.mann@verizon.net](mailto:Alfred.mann@verizon.net)

## EAST LIBERTY/ LARIMER

### Fundraiser for Animal Rescue League

Rock Hard Treats, a Cleveland-based T-shirt company, and Hope Armstrong, a Lawrenceville artist, are organizing a T-shirt fundraiser to benefit the Animal Rescue League of Western Pennsylvania to support the ARL's continued efforts to help animals in need. Armstrong will design the limited edition T-shirts, which will be available on [www.RockHardTreats.com](http://www.RockHardTreats.com) from February 13 and March 5, 2012. T-shirts will also be available during ARL's World Spay Day B\*ches Ball on February 28 from 6 to 9. Tickets are \$40 at the door or \$30 online. For more information or to buy tickets, visit [www.animalrescue.org/events](http://www.animalrescue.org/events).

## GARFIELD

### Weekly ENEC Events

The ENEC provides a wide range of free employment services, including partnerships with UPMC, Children's Hospital, and PNC, career counseling, job readiness training, and resume helps. Stop in at 5321 Penn Avenue today to learn more about how you can apply for new jobs and learn new career skills. Every Tuesday at 10:00 am, the ENEC will host PNC Bank Partnership Workshops. Here you can take the first steps toward your new career in banking. Attend the full workshop series and assessments, and gain a guaranteed interview if you're a good match and fit for a finance career. Every Thursday at 10 a.m., the ENEC will host UPMC Partnership of Workforce Readiness and Retention Hiring Workshops. The workshop has guaranteed interviews for successful candidates who match job and hiring needs and pass the POWRR steps and job requirements. ENEC has copies of all job postings so call us or stop in for these excellence workshops at our area's largest employers. To RSVP for these workshops 412-362-8580 or leave a message at 412-465-0858.

## GARFIELD

### ENEC Employer Services

The ENEC provides wide range of free employer services, including partnerships with UPMC, Children's Hospital, and PNC Bank, where it helps prepare people for their career paths and offers youth subsidized wages. ENEC helps recruit and pre-screen applicants, and offers career and social service counseling and linkages, career matching assessment, job readiness training, paid work experience, and resume/application help. ENEC will help you fill your jobs with IT skilled workshops and help your existing employees learn new skills. It can also team up your company with youth paid work experience, job shadowing, and internships. Stop in today to learn more about employer HR support services, to discuss and basic trainings needed for your employees, youth career connections and more at 5321 Penn Avenue or call Bill Freed at ENEC Workforce Development at 412-362-8580!

## GARFIELD

### Pittsburgh CONNECTS Help Wanted

Pittsburgh CONNECTS has paid part-time and full-time staff and volunteer positions available. Duties would include helping people access the Internet, general computer workshops, and helping with workshops. Must be personable, reliable, and comfortable using and explaining how to use computers at the Internet. Weekend hours available. To apply, visit the ENEC office at 5321 Penn Avenue or email your resume to [bgc.enec@gmail.com](mailto:bgc.enec@gmail.com)

## GARFIELD

### Employment Outreach Associate Sought

Do you desire a career helping people with employment or working to help companies recruit and find qualified candidates and job seekers? Can you write well and help people with resumes and jobsearch? If so, consider applying for the ENEC Employment Outreach Associate position. The position is dynamic and diverse, and provides support for the ENEC to implement the employment component of ENEC and the Pittsburgh CONNECTS Lab, various youth and adult programs, and collaborating employers. To apply, please visit the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center or email your resume to [bgc.enec@gmail.com](mailto:bgc.enec@gmail.com).



Read the listings for February events at Pittsburgh CONNECTS Tech Center/ENEC, 5321 Penn Avenue. Photo by P.J. Maloney

## March

## GARFIELD

### Yoga Hive Events

Join the Yoga Hive and warm up your chilly March. In addition to Yoga Hive's regularly scheduled classes, women's Kundalini yoga workshops will meet on March 10 and 24 from 3 to 5 p.m. On March 11, Lilith from Yoga is My Health Insurance will conduct a neck and shoulder workshop from 1 to 4 p.m. On March 23 from 6 to 8 p.m., Richard Gartner will conduct a workshop on nurturing the neglecting body. On March 25, from 1-3 p.m., the Yoga Hive will host a yoga intensive with music, and on March 31, from 1 to 3 p.m., the Yoga Hive will host a back bending workshop. Details can be found at [yogahivepg.com](http://yogahivepg.com) or by emailing [info@yogahivepg.com](mailto:info@yogahivepg.com).

# Classifieds

For pricing, email [bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org) or call 412-441-6915.

## For Rent

Braddock house, rent to own with deposit. 2 bedrooms, updated, yards, patio, near everything. 412-271-9343.

## Services

### A Hauling Job?

We clear basements, yards, garages, attics, estates

**Fast. Reliable. Reasonable**

Also demolition work, minor repairs, grass cutting, salvage credit.

412-687-6928 **Call Walt** 412-773-0599

## DEADLINE

Email Bulletin Board listings for  
March by February 15 to  
[bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org)

# Weaving Art into the Community

by Christine Bethea Bulletin Contributor

*East End* – As a weaver, teacher, quilter, fashion and jewelry designer, LaVerne Kemp wears all her hats equally well. While others believe in picking one thing and doing it well, she is proof positive that more than a single path can lead to contentment and success.

Kemp is Highland Park resident who has taught widely in organizations and public schools in the East End, including Lemington, Reizenstein (now Obama 6-12) and Peabody. She also worked with a Somali women's program in Lawrenceville in which art helped bridge communication gaps caused by the women's resettlement in the Pittsburgh area. One of her proudest accomplishments is a quilt called "Tree of Hope," created with young people from Abraxas Youth & Family Services and the Home-wood YWCA, which currently hangs on the sixth floor of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in Lawrenceville.

The formation of Kemp's many artistic talents began decades ago in her hometown of Cecil, Pa., where her family lived in what they called "the hollow."

"We were wa-a-ay out where there was nothing to do but fish, watch TV and speculate on cloud formations," says Kemp. Hers was a very entrepreneurial and creative family that often gave her inspiration.

"My grandfather created new bikes from nothing but scrap," she recalls. "My father owned what was probably the first African-American Cadillac dealership in western Pennsylvania." In addition, Kemp's mother and grandmother were stylish women, who always wore fantastic jewelry and full make-up. Kemp got used to seeing how to make something high-end on a limited budget.

By the time her parents separated and she moved with her mother to Pittsburgh at age 13, Kemp had a seasoned artist's heart. Her mother approved because it kept her out of harm's way. Kemp wove pot holders at the kitchen table with a toy loom, and says she practically lived in a nearby craft supply store in East Hills.

High school fueled Kemp's artistic growth, because her home economics teacher recognized her budding talents and encouraged them. Later, at California State University, art professor Leslie Parkinson became her mentor. "Leslie enjoyed that I was willing to do large-sized work like she did and that I held the same high standards for the finished product." For one project, Kemp took huge ropes apart through hours of unbraiding, and monopolized the art department's dyeing tub for days with her work. She did little of the socializing and party-going most of her peers enjoyed. "I was happy to be in

my studio," says Kemp.

After graduation with an art education degree, Kemp did just about anything that came her way – odd jobs, making and selling woven clothing, and finding interesting pieces she could sell at flea markets in the area. When her mom passed, Kemp had a revelation. "I had a talk with God," she explains. "I didn't want to work for anyone ever again and asked if he could make it possible for me to live on my art skills alone."

Twelve years later, she couldn't be happier, because she says she has worked with incredible people and an impressive number of organizations, including Three Rivers Youth, Hill House, the August Wilson Center, the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council, the Society for Contemporary Crafts and many others. She gets called back time after time because of her passion and her special way of teaching children.

"When I teach, I want to give these kids a kind of confidence that will carry through into everything else in their lives,"



ABOVE: LaVerne Kemp's quilt "Tree of Hope" hangs in Children's Hospital in Lawrenceville. Photo courtesy LaVerne Kemp

she says. "It's not about just doing art."

Kemp is modest about the praise people give her. "Art fills my empty spaces," she explains. "It is simply a part of who I am. It's such a thrill to bring a bunch of strings to life, by weaving them into something special, or to take practically nothing and create something beautiful."

For more information about Kemp's work, visit [thewarpedweaver.blogspot.com](http://thewarpedweaver.blogspot.com). ♦

## Did you know there is one place...



- Where you can support after-school programs for kids who need a little extra push to complete their schoolwork or get their diploma?
- Where you can support job readiness training and placement services for young people and in need of real employment?
- Where you can support a new, free technology center to help residents gain skills to keep pace with the changing economy?
- Where you can support work with residents and business owners concerned about criminal activity on their block or street?
- Where you can support efforts to renovate and build new homes for first-time buyers and renters alike?
- Where you can support plans to improve the Penn Avenue business district through major private and public investments?
- Where you can support a free community newspaper that has brought local information to the East End for 36 years?

That place is the **Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation**, and if your employer is part of the annual **United Way campaign**, you can do it a little bit at a time through each paycheck you get. The United Way allows you to target your payroll deduction to the agency of your choice. All you need to know is **our contributor choice number: 260**. And the nice thing is, your contribution can be a deduction on your federal tax return if you itemize. The United Way's website ([www.uwac.org](http://www.uwac.org)) will take you step by step through the contributor choice process.

To find out more about the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, visit us at [www.bloomfield-garfield.org](http://www.bloomfield-garfield.org), or call us at 412-441-6950.

## Fourth Grader Wins MLK Essay Contest

by Judith Flaherty Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5

*Lawrenceville* – "We should work together at everything we do. No matter what color we are, we can still be friends." This quote is an excerpt from the essay "How I Can Fulfill Dr. King's Dream," written by Arbay Salim, a fourth grader at Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5. Arbay was one of the winners of Citizens Bank's "Expressions of Freedom" writing contest, sponsored in partnership with Pittsburgh Public Schools, *New Pittsburgh Courier*, WPXI, and KISS-FM. A total of 24 winning entries were selected – eight each from elementary, middle school, and high school.

This year's challenge was to write an essay about how young people can fulfill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream. As a winner, Arbay was awarded a \$100 savings bond and given the opportunity to record a portion of her essay at KISS-FM. The recordings from the winning essays will be broadcast on WPXI-TV or KISS-FM throughout the month of February in honor of Black History Month. A reception to honor the



Arbay Salim. Photo by Judith Flaherty

winners was also held at the August Wilson Center for African American Culture. ♦