

# the Bulletin

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



ABOVE: Temujin the Storyteller was featured at the first annual Kwanzaa on Penn. Read the full story on page 16. Photo by John Colombo Photography

## Grocery Chain Remains Committed to Penn Ave. Location

By Paula Martinac  
The Bulletin

*Penn Avenue* – Although an appeal has delayed the construction of a Bottom Dollar store at 5200 Penn Avenue, residents looking forward to the construction of a grocery store in the immediate neighborhood can take heart. The grocery chain still plans to bring a supermarket to that location, according to one of its executives.

As reported in the January issue of *The Bulletin*, on Dec. 3, 2012, four South Pacific Avenue neighbors and the Friendship Preservation Group filed an appeal with the Court of Common Pleas, opposing the decision by the city's Zoning Board of Adjustment to green-light the store. However, Steve Wilson, real estate representative for the North-Carolina-based Bottom Dollar, a subsidiary of Food Lion, confirmed recently by phone, "Our intention is to move forward and to build the store on that property."

Wilson reiterated that the delay caused by the appeal will be about six months, if, as he hopes, the city and Bottom Dollar successfully defend the appeal. That delay will take the opening of the store well into 2014.

Wilson told *The Bulletin* that Bottom

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## Mt. Ararat Moving Services and Programs

By Rick Swartz Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.

*Highland Park* – Long a bastion of stability in the city's Larimer neighborhood, the congregation of Mt. Ararat Baptist Church wants to buy the former Craig House Academy building at

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## Testing Generic Drugs in East Liberty

By Paula Martinac The Bulletin

*East Liberty* – The building at the intersection of Penn Avenue and S. Beatty Street in East Liberty stands out for its brightly colored mural, "Lend Me Your Ears," painted in 2004 by artist

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## Rather Ripped Records Re-Emerges

By Wesley Davis The Bulletin

*Lawrenceville* – In 1969, a long-haired Pittsburgher from the South Side, Russ Ketter, moved to Berkeley to write music. Eventually, he opened a record store, Rather Ripped, which lasted

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ABOVE: Russ Ketter, owner of Rather Ripped Records in Lawrenceville, relocated his iconic story from Berkeley, Ca. Read the full story, starting above. Photo by John Colombo Photography

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the Bulletin

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## Penn Avenue to Get Custom Tree Grates

By Paula Martinac  
The Bulletin

*Bloomfield/Garfield* – The trees lining Penn Avenue from Evaline to Mathilda Streets will be sporting custom-designed grates, thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development (PPND).

Phase 1 of the Penn Avenue Reconstruction Project, set to begin construction in late summer 2013, includes new sidewalks, lighting, signalization and paving in those four blocks. The reconstruction will also incorporate new streetscaping elements, such as benches and tree grates. The grates surround the base of street trees, suppressing weeds and trash and accommodating pedestrian traffic. They can be plain, functional cast iron or more decorative.

While funding from PennDOT and the City of Pittsburgh is earmarked for the manufacture and installation of these grates, it does not include money for their design. “We wanted something ornamental, to distinguish Penn Avenue as an arts district,” explained Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, which applied to PPND for the grant.

The funds from PPND will pay for the design of the grates by artist Natalie Settles, who was chosen from three local artists; she will also approve their fabrication. According to Karen Loysen of

Loysen + Kreuthmeier, the architecture firm in charge of overseeing the streetscaping part of the reconstruction project, Settles distinguished herself during the interview process because she “is very engaged with botany. She even wanted to know about the bark on the trees.”

Settles lives in Lawrenceville and is currently artist in residence with the Tonsor Laboratory for Plant Evolutionary Genetics at the University of Pittsburgh. According to her website, “her work has led to collaborative projects with researchers in biochemistry, botany, physiology, and developmental and evolutionary biologies.” She will develop three different tree grate designs to present to the reconstruction project committee, which will select the final product. The tree grates will be installed in the final stage of reconstruction, probably in spring 2014.

The short-term goal of using decorative tree grates is to integrate art into the community. But in the long term, Loysen said she hopes the project will encourage the City to use artist-designed streetscape elements in other local projects. With that in mind, Loysen + Kreuthmeier, in conjunction with the City’s Office of Public Art, will host an information session in the future for other community development groups and designers. ♦

BELOW: The interior of 300 S. Pacific as it appeared last summer, when owner Nick Redondo first began working on the renovation. See story at right. Photo by Paula Martinac



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

## NEWSBRIEFS

By Paula Martinac  
The Bulletin

### Highmark and WPAHS Strike Deal

*Bloomfield* – The future of West Penn Hospital – and of health-care choice in Pittsburgh overall – seemed much brighter on Jan. 16, when Highmark Inc., West Penn Allegheny Health System (WPAHS) and several bondholders announced that they had struck a deal to ensure the financial future of the health system.

A proposed affiliation between Highmark and WPAHS has been in limbo since late November, when WPAHS broke off its relationship with Highmark, stating that Highmark had breached their contract by trying to force the health system to file for bankruptcy. Such proceedings would have jeopardized the pensions of the 12,000 WPAHS employees, according to WPAHS executives.

The deal announced on Jan. 16 does not require a bankruptcy filing, thus preserving the employees’ pensions and jobs. Instead, Highmark and several bondholders will assume WPAHS’s outstanding debt, allowing the affiliation between the two to move forward for approval by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department.

State Sen. Jim Ferlo, who has headed a group of local leaders and community stakeholders involved in getting the insurance giant and the health system back to the negotiating table, wrote in an email that “I believe this to be extremely positive news based on our enumerated concerns and principles.”

Ferlo further stated that the deal entails no closings of services at West Penn Hospital or the system’s other facilities, according to a source high up at Highmark.

SEIU Healthcare PA, the union that represents more than 2,000 nurses, nursing assistants and other employees at three WPAHS campuses, released a statement in support of the deal. “My co-workers and I look forward to working closely with both WPAHS and Highmark to build a strong, high-quality, cost-effective health system for the people of Western Pennsylvania,” said Cathy Stoddart, RN, president of the union at Allegheny General Hospital.

Highmark and WPAHS will now await a final ruling from Michael Consedine, Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner, regarding their proposed affiliation. Consedine held hearings in April 2012 about the merger, and at press time it was unknown when he would release his decision. ♦

### Opening of Neighborhood Café Delayed

*Bloomfield* – Friendship Perk, the casual, family-oriented café being planned for 300 S. Pacific Avenue, has experienced a setback that will delay opening of the venue for “at least six months,” owner Nick Redondo told *The Bulletin*.

Redondo said his plans for the property, which used to house the Brian & Cooper Food Mart, are for “a nice neighborhood gathering place” that will serve gourmet coffee, unique sandwiches and soups and craft beers. He reiterated his intention to have a patio in front of the shop where customers can enjoy their beverages and food al fresco in warm months. He noted that he had wanted to open the café in October 2012; indeed, when *The Bulletin* visited the property last June, Redondo and his son were heavily engaged in interior renovation (see photo at left).

However, Redondo said he discovered when Brian & Cooper vacated the property that Nasir Raess, owner of the convenience store, had retained possession of the store’s liquor license. Redondo contends the license was only temporarily transferred into the tenant’s name in conjunction with the lease Redondo executed with him. Redondo further stated that his family never intended to relinquish ownership rights to the license. However, Raess, Redondo said, maintains he bought the license outright from a former tenant, which is the source of their dispute.

Redondo said he has discussed the situation with Raess, both through their lawyers and in person, and the Brian & Cooper owner “is willing to negotiate” in order to bring the matter to a close. The liquor license, Redondo noted, “has to be sewn up” before he can secure the financing for Friendship Perk.

“Hopefully, we can get the license back,” said Redondo. “I just want to do things right so everybody’s happy” – even if it means buying back a license he said his family still technically owns. ♦



## Discussion on Legalizing Marijuana Moves Forward

By Carolyn Ristau Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

*Bloomfield/Garfield* – On Jan. 3, State Rep. Dom Costa and representatives from State Rep. Dan Frankel's office, Lawrenceville United, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Pittsburgh NORML and Pittsburgh Community Redevelopment Group (PCRG) came together to discuss legalizing marijuana in Pennsylvania.

Patrick Nightingale of Pittsburgh NORML – the local chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws – presented the history of the criminalization of marijuana in the United States, the current laws regarding marijuana in Pennsylvania and the legislative options for changing these laws. During and after the presentation, audience members asked questions and shared their experiences related to the effects of the criminalization of possession or sale of the drug.

Nightingale explained that in 1972, the Nixon administration set up the bipartisan Shafer Commission – chaired by former Pennsylvania Governor Raymond P. Shafer – to investigate the effects of marijuana usage. The commission, Nightingale said, "found that 'neither the marijuana user nor the drug itself can be said to constitute a danger to public safety'" and "recommended 'decriminalization of possession of marijuana for personal use on both the state and federal levels.'"

The Shafer Commission concluded that marijuana possession should not be criminal "and should be taxed like alcohol," Nightingale said. President Nixon, however, shelved the report. To this day in Pennsylvania, "any possession is criminal. Even possession of a seedling plant is a felony and treated the same as a heroine dealer," said Nightingale.

The arguments Nightingale presented for the legalization of marijuana include his beliefs that it "protects children far better than prohibition" and that people "can't die from marijuana consumption." In addition, he said, since other vices such

as gambling have been legalized to generate revenue for the state, the same can be done with marijuana.

According to Nightingale, there are three legislative options in Pennsylvania to change the current laws. First is instituting a medicinal marijuana law, which permits doctors to prescribe marijuana to patients. Nightingale noted that marijuana has fewer side effects than other prescription medications. Second is the decriminalization of marijuana. This changes the possession of marijuana from a misdemeanor to a summary offense with a fine and the confiscation of the drug as punishment. In this scenario, possession is not a felony and there are savings in enforcement costs as there is no incarceration. Third is full legalization. In this case, the development and sale of marijuana are taxed and regulated, with the potential to bring in significant revenue.

Rep. Costa engaged in the subsequent discussion, asking questions and sharing his encounters with marijuana possessors when he was a police chief. Toward the end of the discussion, he said, "I will co-sponsor the medical marijuana bill when it comes up again" and continue participating in the discussion around other options. After the meeting, Rep. Costa followed through with his statement and co-sponsored HB 1663, the Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act, reintroduced by State Rep. Mark Cohen.

Separately, State Rep. Daylin Leach, D-Montgomery, introduced a bill for the full legalization of marijuana on Jan. 4.

The discussion about changing the marijuana laws will likely continue. Katie Hale from PCRG invited Nightingale to present at the Safe Neighborhoods Network meeting on January 12, and Rep. Costa and Erika Frike from Rep. Frankel's office also talked about bringing together the state representatives from Allegheny County to listen to Nightingale's presentation and expand the discussion about changing the marijuana laws. ♦

## the Bulletin

A Publication of  
Bloomfield-Garfield  
Corporation



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

### Volume 38, Number 2

The deadline for the March issue is Thursday, February 14.

**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** • 21,000 Copies • 18,000 Mailed • 3,000 Dropped

**Staff** • Paula Martinac, Editor • Wesley Davis, Intern • Martin Pochapin, Advertising • Wesley Davis and Rick Swartz, Proofreading • Mary Anne Stevanus, Bookkeeper • Typecraft Press, Printing • 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 Ave. 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.

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## Public Safety Task Force Reviews 2012

By Carolyn Ristau

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield – The Public Safety Task Force (PSTF) has convened monthly in Garfield since 2000. At the table are representatives from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), the Bureau of Police, other neighborhood organizations, the offices of the Mayor and City Council members, various city and county departments and the state.

The PSTF works to maintain the safety of residents of Garfield and neighboring areas and to address blight and abandonment in the community. At the meeting on Jan. 9, members shared several positive developments.

- Brandon Sewell was arrested in October a week after the shooting of Ne'Ondre Harbour at 408 N. Aiken Ave.; Sewell is the suspected perpetrator in this incident. George Johnson was arrested in December in connection with the retaliation shooting of Thomas Bey.

- Investigations are on-going into the 2012 shootings on N. Fairmont Street and the 5400 block of Broad Street and at Garfield Commons.

- While there were three murders in Garfield in fall 2012, they were the first in the neighborhood in two years. The police department at Zone 5 stepped up its enforcement efforts in the neighborhood, engaging with federal law enforcement as well. As a result of these efforts, criminal activity calmed down for the remainder of 2012.

- 730 Edmond Street has been boarded up and the owner has moved out of the city. In the past, this property was a magnet for disruptive activity.

- The BGC, in conjunction with the Mayor's Office, is exploring the option of holding a gun buy-back this year, similar to ones held in the North Side community in previous years.



ABOVE: An upscale, Hawaiian-themed restaurant called Saiman will be located at the Penn Avenue address once occupied by the nightclub Envy. Photo by Paula Martinac

- The Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) reported that demolition contracts are being put out for bid on the following abandoned houses: 5436 Hillcrest St., 5304 Hillcrest St., 5324 Hillcrest St., 5334 Hillcrest St. and 5408 Black St.

- BBI also reported that in 2012, 26 buildings in Garfield were demolished, most to make way for new housing. There are currently 26 condemned properties in Garfield.

- The BGC announced it will be doing a "windshield" survey of Garfield this year to determine which buildings should be condemned and demolished, which should be renovated and which are in good condition as is.

- A liquor license has been approved for Saiman, a new restaurant featuring Hawaiian cuisine coming soon to 4923 Penn Ave. (See photo.) The father and two sons who are partners in the new restaurant engaged with BGC and the nearby neighbors throughout the process of applying for the license.

- Finally, mark your calendars for the following Public Safety dates: June is National Public Safety Month; Aug. 6 is National Night Out; and Oct. 6-12 is National Fire Prevention Week.

Community members are invited to bring specific concerns to PSTF's monthly meeting during the first 15 minutes. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 4 p.m., in the BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave. ♦

## Mt. Ararat from page 1

Stanton and N. Negley Avenues and convert it into a program and outreach center.

At a hearing in front of the City's Zoning Board of Adjustment on Jan. 10th, Rev. William Curtis and his staff outlined their intentions for the property at 753 N. Negley Ave. if the City approves the change in use from what had been, most recently, a school for children with special needs. Rev. Curtis told the board that the church's programming has outgrown its space on Paulson Avenue in Larimer, and that the new site would better enable them to serve their various constituencies in the East End.

"We would move our day-care and after-school programs to the new facility, along with recreation activities for children and adults in the community," Rev. Curtis told the board. "We have grown from a congregation of 450 members when I started at Mt. Ararat to one of over 9,000 today."

In addition to these services, Rev. Curtis said the new site would also house a food and clothing bank, a computer technology center, a mentoring project and a summer day camp. The hours of operation would typically be 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on most days. However, Curtis did state that the church will continue to "assess the needs in the community, so there is the possibility we could be adding some evening programming if we find that there's a demand for it."

The appearance at the zoning board hearing comes on the heels of several meetings with residents of Highland Park and representatives from three community organizations. Officials from the Highland Park Community Development Corporation and the Highland Park Community Club attended the zoning

hearing and spoke in favor of the church's application.

David Hance, a Highland Park CDC board member, said, "We feel the track record of Mt. Ararat is a good one from what we've learned in those meetings, and appreciate the fact that church officials were willing to sit down with community interests and share their plans for the site." He did acknowledge that his group would prefer that the change in use, if approved by the board, be allowed to expire if and when Mt. Ararat were to discontinue its programs at the facility and place the property up for sale or lease.

"The site is zoned for residential use, and there is a plan for Negley Avenue that was developed 15 years ago that advocates for it to remain as such," Hance informed the board. "While we're confident that Mt. Ararat will be a good neighbor, we think the best use of the property, long-term, is residential." Monica Watt, president of the community club, echoed Hance's comments.

However, Kirk Burkley, a zoning board member, advised the neighborhood representatives that there is no provision within the zoning code for a change in use to expire if Mt. Ararat were to sell the property to an entity that intended to continue with the same use.

Craig House Academy moved its school from Highland Park in 2010 to a new facility at S. Negley and Friendship Avenues less than a mile away, renaming it Friendship Academy in the process. The building was eventually sold by the Watson Institute, the parent arm of Craig House, at auction in 2011 to a private investor. However, a recent search of Allegheny County's assessment registry failed to locate any record of the building. ♦



ABOVE: Mt. Ararat Baptist Church hopes to move some of its programs and services to the vacant Craig House Academy building on North Negley Avenue. Photo by Rick Swartz

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## Staff Turns Over at BGC

By Wesley Davis  
The Bulletin

*Garfield* – Kathryn Vargas, outgoing Assistant to the Deputy Director at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, said she feels comfortable with her move because she is “leaving Aggie (Brose) in great hands.” Those hands belong to Carolyn Ristau, a former intern with *The Bulletin*.

Vargas also started as an intern with the BGC, working first with Rick Flanagan on the BGC’s health partnership with UPMC/St. Margaret and then with Deputy Director Brose, helping to mobilize volunteers and resources for the Elm Street program.

The Elm Street program is a residential revitalization effort to create sustainable reuses of land and improve public image and property values. After funding from the state ended, it morphed into the Garfield Community Action Team. Vargas beamed about how GCAT has taken on a life of its own, building gardens and beautifying public spaces. Formerly a catalyst for the group’s projects, she is now merely a facilitator. On the recent GCAT renovations to Kite Hill Park in the 5400 block of Hillcrest Street, Vargas directed praise to local volunteers who “are making those things happen.” She said she plans to continue volunteering with GCAT.

One of Vargas’s fondest memories of working at the BGC was her effort to motivate and organize community members to attend the zoning hearing on the Bottom Dollar grocery store proposed for Penn Avenue. She said she enjoyed her “engagement with the neighbors” and

admired the fortitude of the mostly female group.

Vargas left the BGC in early January to become the Manager of Programs for Children and Youth at the United Way. She said she will work with many of the same organizations she was involved with while at the BGC, including the Neighborhood Learning Alliance. Money donated to the United Way “is going to the areas of highest need,” she noted.

Prior to interning at *The Bulletin*, Ristau managed elementary after-school programs at the Centre Avenue YMCA, in cooperation with the Neighborhood Learning Alliance and AmeriCorps. She said community issues in the Arlington neighborhood, like the lack of a grocery store and reliable bus service, surprised her. She also rehabbed houses as a volunteer with Open Hand Ministries, which operates out of Garfield and East Liberty.

Given her interest in education and housing in the East End, Ristau said she “loved the stories” she read in *The Bulletin* when she went to the doctor’s office. She said they “made going to the doctor worthwhile” and influenced her decision to pursue an internship. Transitioning to writing her own articles for *The Bulletin* was natural. She said she enjoyed the research and detective work, especially probing into the struggling energy and environmental center built last year in Larimer “that didn’t seem to be doing what it was supposed to be doing.” (See “New EECO Center Off to Slow Start,” *The Bulletin*, Aug. 2012.)



ABOVE: Kathryn Vargas (left) has departed and Carolyn Ristau has joined the BGC staff as assistant to Aggie Brose. Photos by Paula Martinac

Ristau said she bounced around while growing up, spending time in Cleveland, rural Connecticut and Stroudsburg, Pa. She said Pittsburgh always felt like home because of the frequent visits she made to visit her grandparents here. Given her passion for housing and redevelopment, she said she is “really thrilled to be back here at the BGC. I can’t imagine a better spot for me to be right now.” While working part-time at the BGC, she will also spend her mornings working in City Councilman Bruce Kraus’s office.

Ristau’s interests and passions are diverse. She said she likes “solving puzzles and seeing something happen, a physical change.” The BGC’s comprehensive involvement in community issues excites

her: “It’s not just housing, it’s not just employment, it’s not just environmental issues.”

Ristau said she was able to spend a few days training with Vargas. Being Brose’s assistant can be hectic. “It definitely is still a learning process,” she noted.

On Ristau’s ability to meet the challenges of the position, Vargas said, “She’s going to be great,” and advised her to “learn as much as possible because Aggie has a wealth of knowledge and experience.” Ristau and Vargas shared praise for Brose’s strong will. Ristau said, “I don’t think there’s anything that intimidates her. She’s very fierce.” ♦



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# National Arts Conference to Tour Penn Avenue

By Paula Martinac  
The Bulletin

*Penn Avenue* – A national arts conference is coming to Pittsburgh this June, and participants will get the chance to visit the Penn Avenue Arts District and rub elbows with local artists and gallery owners.

According to Ashley Paulisick of the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, the Americans for the Arts (AFTA) conference will take place Downtown at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center from June 14 to 16. There will also be a pre-conference on the 13th. The opening reception on the evening of the 14th will fill the Andy Warhol Museum on the North Shore to capacity, she said, and coincide with many other events in Pittsburgh that weekend, including the annual Three River Arts Festival and the LGBT Pride Festival.

"Pittsburgh will be literally busting at the seams," Paulisick said.

The conference, she explained, has been running for more than 10 years, annually attracting 1,000 to 1,500 participants. Each year, the event takes place in a different city. In 2013, Pittsburgh's bid won out over those of Chicago and other larger cities "because we're way cooler," Paulisick told Penn Avenue gallery

owners at a meeting on Jan. 17 at Most Wanted Fine Art. "Accolades to Pittsburgh for being as awesome as we are."

Paulisick compared the format of the arts conference to the One Young World Summit, a gathering of young people that took place in Pittsburgh last fall. Like that earlier event, AFTA participants come from all over the country and even from across the globe. Artists, arts agency and council staffers, arts educators and other leaders and professionals make up the ranks of attendees. California, New York and Pennsylvania, she said, tend to have the most representatives.

Conference-goers who want to get out and about and meet local artists – "to see what people are doing on the ground," as Paulisick put it – will be able to pick one of nine tours of different neighborhood arts districts on the afternoon of Saturday, June 15. Participants will be allotted two hours to get to know Penn Avenue and all it has to offer. "There's more to see here," she said. "Other neighborhood stops won't be that extensive."

Although she praised the Downtown Cultural District for its many amenities, Paulisick noted that "Pittsburgh has so



ABOVE: Americans for the Arts brings its national conference to Pittsburgh in June.

much more to offer ... in neighborhoods where arts have revitalized a region."

Samantha McDonough, Mainstreets Manager for the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation who oversees the Penn Avenue Arts District, noted that Penn Avenue could put together a map or brochure for the visitors, to orient them to

the corridor. "Maybe we could even have a special Saturday afternoon Unblurred," she suggested.

Registration for the conference opens on Jan. 31 for everyone. For more information, visit [www.convention.artsusa.org](http://www.convention.artsusa.org).



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## Generic Drugs from page 1

Jordan Monahan with a commission from the Sprout Fund. But some people may not realize that inside the block-long building is Novum Pharmaceutical Research Service, which conducts tests on new drugs for pharmaceutical companies.

One of the leading pharmaceutical testing companies, Novum got started in 1975 in Pittsburgh and now also has offices in Houston and Las Vegas. The company has been at its East Liberty location since the early 1990s. CEO Chris Chamberlain told *The Bulletin* that the building, which encompasses roughly 20,000 square feet, houses five clinics in which separate tests take place.

Much of Novum's work involves testing generic drugs for "bioequivalence" – the FDA requires proof generics are equivalent to name-brand "reference" drugs in order to approve them. That means they must be absorbed, metabolized and excreted in the same way as the brand names. Generics, Chamberlain points out, constitute about 80 percent of the drug market and have made prescription medications affordable for many people. Although for confidentiality reasons Chamberlain could not divulge which drugs they have tested or which pharmaceutical companies they represent, he said the drugs tested run the gamut from pain medication to smoking cessation to topical dermatologic treatments.

Novum conducts both outpatient and overnight testing, and is always actively recruiting healthy volunteers to be part of its trials. Depending on the drug being tested, the length of the trial and the number of times volunteers have to return to the clinic, payment can vary from \$150 to as much as \$2,000.

"We try to be as warm and welcoming as we can," Chamberlain said. Volunteers in overnight trials stay in dormitory-like accommodations on-site, and have all their meals provided. They can bring laptops and smartphones with them, and they have access to pool tables and other recreational amenities that can make their

stay seem like a mini-vacation, said Novum's Marketing Manager, Gabrielle Proffitt. "There's no responsibility. They just eat, sleep and play." Much of the testing in Pittsburgh does not involve blood draws, she noted, but is related to dermatologic treatments, such as ointments and patches.

Chamberlain stressed that safety for test participants is Novum's primary concern. "We have a well-trained medical staff," he explained. "The process is very regimented. The staff makes sure people have a smooth experience." The fact that Novum has a lot of repeat customers, he said, speaks to the care the company takes with them.

What this boils down to, Proffitt added, is, "You're not a lab rat."

When volunteers apply to Novum, they first have to undergo a thorough medical screening to determine if they are generally healthy – much like a regular physical. Participants are warned about potential side effects upfront. Novum screens volunteers for illegal drug use, and most tests have alcohol restrictions, said Chamberlain. In general, the company is not able to accommodate individuals with chronic medical conditions, or anyone under age 18 or over 65.

Proffitt noted that Novum is trying to become more involved in the surrounding community. During the holiday season, for example, the company put tables out on the street and served cookies and hot chocolate to shoppers and passersby. "We think it's important to support the community and give something back," she said, stating that Novum plans to be more involved in neighborhood festivals and events in the future.

Chamberlain politely declined *The Bulletin's* request to take a tour of the facilities. "We take confidentiality very seriously," he stated. "Just as seriously as safety." ♦

*For more information about being a volunteer in a Novum trial, call 1-800-586-0365.*



ABOVE: The building housing Novum Pharmaceutical Research Service is immediately recognizable for its colorful mural, "Lend Me Your Ears." Photo by Paula Martinac

## Grocery from page 1

Dollar has gotten an extension on its option to buy the Penn Avenue property, which was due to expire on Jan. 14. Wilson said he did not wish to divulge the specific time frame of the extension, due to the pending appeal. *The Bulletin* has learned that the owner, 1017 Fifth Avenue Partnership, did not increase the sales price of the property in granting the extension.

The building on the property has stood vacant since last August, when Schaedler Yesco Distribution, its occupant for the

last five years, relocated to RIDC Park in O'Hara Township.

At press time, the two sides had not yet met with the judge in the case – likely to be the Honorable Joseph M. James – for what is called a "status conference." That meeting will be an attempt to settle the differences between Bottom Dollar and the appellants and come to a resolution out of court. If the two sides cannot come to an agreement at that time, a hearing before the judge will be scheduled. ♦

The Board and Staff of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation extend their sincere condolences to the family of Patricia Sweeney Maloney, 76, who passed away peacefully at her home on Jan. 17. The matriarch of a large Irish-Catholic family, she was a founding member of the BGC in 1976, and her son James Maloney of Bloomfield has been an active BGC board member for several decades. Donations in her memory can be made to Autism Speaks, 8035 McKnight Rd., Suite 301, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.



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# Neighborhood FOCUS

## Blending Tea at the Top of Garfield

**Healcrest Creates Specialty Teas and Other Treats in Its Evolving Business Plan**

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Garfield – Tea lovers, take note: Healcrest Urban Farm, located in Garfield on approximately 2 acres bounded by Hillcrest Street and North Atlantic and Pacific Avenues, recently switched its focus to producing blended teas using herbs and fruits grown primarily on the land.

It's hard to get more local than that. Business partners Maria Graziani, who founded the farm in 2004, and Dana Launius, who joined with her in forming an LLC entity last year, made the shift in focus when they discovered that “herbal teas were the biggest sellers on the farm's Etsy site,” according to Launius. A \$5,000 interest-free loan from Kiva Zip, a site that allows people to make direct loans to entrepreneurs, has helped them to expand this new focus.

The last time *The Bulletin* reported on Healcrest back in November 2011, Graziani was still on her own, making the transition from vegetable farming to mainly medicinal and culinary herbs. At that time, she was focusing on creating herb-based salves and lip balms under a label called “Mother Moon,” which primarily offered prenatal products.

“There was too much overhead,” Graziani explains of the shift away from cosmetics. “People want beautiful labels and packaging,” and her own packaging was barebones.

Graziani admits that she spent time feeling her way over the years, trying to find a sustainable business model that would support the farm. Although Healcrest will continue to produce a limited number of skin-care products, tea is the wave of its future. Graziani is a certified herbalist trained in blending teas for medicinal purposes, so she knows her stuff. Her mentor was Rosemary Gladstar, one of the co-founders of the Traditional Medicinals line of teas currently for sale at stores like Whole Foods and the East End Food Co-op.

Launius, who studied Sustainable Community Development in college, oversees the marketing end of the business. She says that she and Graziani have been friends for years, and that her personal interests in healthy living and wellness made them a perfect fit as business partners.

The farm had a successful holiday season at various local venues, such as I Made It Market. “We went to market with samples of the teas, and we always sold out of the ones we let people sample,” points out Launius. They also took orders for custom-blended teas based on customers’ favorites herbs and fruits; the buyers got to name their blends, and the farm will keep the recipes on file for re-orders.

Although most of their teas are herbal blends, the bestsellers, says Graziani, include a black tea made with chocolate mint and raspberry leaf, and a coconut chai made with a green tea blend that is low in caffeine. Other ingredients from the farm that they use in their teas include perennial herbs such as nettle leaf, red clover, calendula, several mints, sage and rosemary, plus fruits such as raspberries, black-



ABOVE: Healcrest Urban Farm offered custom-blended teas at last year's holiday markets. Photo courtesy Maria Graziani/Dana Launius

“We’ve come a long way in terms of this farm.”

berries, grapes and apples. They also raise their own bees and have started producing local honey.

“We’ve taste-tested a lot on people,” Graziani explains of how they derive their tea blends. “We tend to focus on what’s in season, what we have a lot of.”

All the teas are packaged loose in small boxes, and come with 10 natural tea sacs, for convenience in brewing. The boxes sport an attractive new logo designed by Michael Balzer, a former co-worker of Launius’.

Debuting this summer will be another product that the two women are still keeping under wraps – they will only divulge that it will be a “sweet, cold treat” manufactured commercially with herbs and fruits from the farm. The business was recently awarded an Awesome Pittsburgh grant that will go toward the purchase of a food cart for selling the treat at festivals and other outdoor events. They will also be serving iced tea blends on the cart by the cup.

Other plans for the business include looking into a possible regular venue at the Pittsburgh Public Market.

Even while immersed in this new venture, which they are both visibly excited by, Graziani and Launius say they are deeply committed to the upkeep of the farm's acreage, some of which Healcrest still does not own. Their goal in 2013 is to raise funds to purchase three remaining lots connected to the current farm area, to collaborate with the city's Department of Public Works to clean and trim trees on the lots that are city property and to manicure and maintain the borders of the farm.



## Blending Tea in Garfield continued

Graziani says they are also applying for a two-year fellowship from Echoing Green, a national nonprofit that provides seed money for social entrepreneurs, which would afford them the capital and time to manage the land better.

"When the land is managed well, people will be able to take tours," she says. Other plans down the line include having the complete farm acreage in production, with more employees and interns.

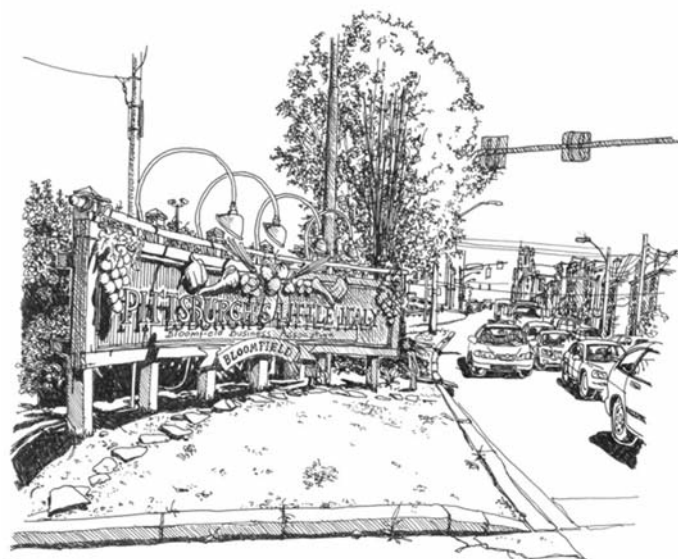
"We've come a long way in terms of this farm," says Graziani. ♦

To order Healcrest Urban Farm teas, visit [www.etsy.com/shop/TheHealingMoon](http://www.etsy.com/shop/TheHealingMoon).

BELOW: Healcrest Urban Farm uses fruit grown on the land in its specially blended teas. Photo courtesy Maria Graziani/Dana Launius



## East End on Display



Guglielmo Botter is an architect and artist from Treviso, Italy, who has been drawing since he was 6 years old. His mother was an American artist who lived and worked in Pittsburgh from the late 1950s to the early '60s. Botter is now in the process of moving to Pittsburgh with his wife and daughters. He is showing his work, including drawings of the East End made during a summer sojourn in the city, at GalleriE CHIZ, 5831 Ellsworth Ave., in Shadyside through Feb. 23. "Because I am Italian-American, I love to walk on the sidewalks in Bloomfield and enter the smart Italian shops," Botter says of his favorite spots in the East End. Gallery-goers can view his work 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. For more information about Botter, visit [www.guglielmobotter.com](http://www.guglielmobotter.com).

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## The Bulletin Gets Seconds of Fame



Movie-goers who didn't blink while viewing the Pittsburgh-shot film *Jack Reacher*, starring Tom Cruise and Rosamund Pike (above), got to see a cameo appearance by *The Bulletin*. In the second half of the movie, when Pike's character, attorney Helen Rodin, reaches to answer a call from Jack Reacher, the camera briefly focuses on a copy of *The Bulletin* sitting right next to her phone. Rodin clearly likes to stay informed about East End news and events!

In other "fleeting fame" news, Jason, Nina and Rowdy Sauer of Most Wanted Fine Art on Penn Avenue were all featured in a new music video, "Everything," by hip hop royalty Public Enemy. Also appearing in the video were Justin Strong of Shadow Lounge in East Liberty and Davon Magwood, who runs First Friday Stand-Up Comedy Nights at Toro's on Penn Avenue. You can view the video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cok88P0AUlc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cok88P0AUlc).

## Tending Trees in the East End

by Margaret Graham

Tree Pittsburgh

*Garfield* – Are you interested in joining nearly 1,200 fellow Pittsburghers to plant and care for the City's trees? Take a course offered by Tree Pittsburgh, whose offices are located at 5427 Penn Ave., and become a Tree Tender this year.

All courses are taught by Tree Pittsburgh staff and ISA Certified Arborists. The Tree Tender training is an eight-hour course to learn about urban forestry practices, tree biology and health and proper planning, pruning and maintenance of trees. Participants also learn how to lead and organize their neighborhoods through tree plantings and tree care.

This year's Tree Tender course in the East End will be held Saturday, March 2, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Homewood Library Lecture Hall, 7101 Hamilton Ave., Homewood. Can't attend that day? Don't worry – there are three other opportunities to take the course in other areas of the city throughout the year.

The course costs \$40, which includes registration, materials, lunch and instruction. There are also scholarships available – call 412-362-6360 for more information. To register or see other courses offered by Tree Pittsburgh (including tree identification walks and nursery talks), visit [www.treepittsburgh.org/2013classes](http://www.treepittsburgh.org/2013classes). ♦

BELOW: Learn the proper care of urban trees at a training session with Tree Pittsburgh. Photo Janelle Bendycki



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## Records from page 1

until 1980. Ketter recently opened a smaller version of Rather Ripped in Lawrenceville. In between opening a record store on both sides of country, he experienced worlds of music and lost a hair or two.

Ketter first worked in Berkeley as a van driver for a non-chain record store, Leopold's. His independent spirit shone through when he talked about his refusal to "play the record company game" and chronicled disputes between Leopold's employees and UC-Berkeley students attempting "a coup" to take control of Leopold's. "You don't come and tell a collective what to do," he said.

The California incarnation of Ketter's store hosted shows and autograph parties with legends such as Patti Smith, the Police and Japanese pop star Osamu Kitajima. Rather Ripped often held "birthday parties" for its customers at local clubs, inviting artists like Eddie Money to perform.

While Ketter never found success as a musician, he influenced the Berkeley music scene, as his store became a local landmark. According to Ketter, esteemed rock historian Greil Marcus told one of his UC-Berkeley classes, "If you don't start shopping at Rather Ripped, you'll fail this course."

Ketter said he keeps an open mind in his approach to music from different genres and time periods. He pointed to a Cab Calloway album, explaining that if you haven't heard that record before, it's new: "Every record is a new release." The magic of music trumps the collectible value of records, in his view. Ketter noted that he often removes the plastic wrapping from new records and CDs if serious customers wish to sample them. Records start at \$1, and CDs at \$2.

Ketter moved back to Pittsburgh to care for his mother about six years ago. He sold records and CDs at Trader Jack's Flea Market, but couldn't resist the urge to get back into a storefront business. Rather

Ripped opened in December, and so far, he said business is good. Coverage in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and *Pittsburgh City Paper* raised awareness about the store with customers around the city. Locals in Lawrenceville have steadily trickled in. A psychedelic-rock band from Pittsburgh, The Cynics, is a top-seller in the store, along with classic acts.

Ketter expressed affection for Pittsburgh and California, saying that driving through the Fort Pitt Tunnel into the city "is magic. It looks like San Francisco." The vibrant community atmosphere and scarcity of large chains attracted Ketter to Lawrenceville, who said it reminds him of how the South Side was in his childhood. While Ketter said he misses California's sunshine, the affordability of living and opening a business in Pittsburgh enticed him, along with the down-to-earth friendliness of his new neighbors. Pittsburgh's environmental progress and the way "people are starting to stay here after college" impressed him, too, he said.

The Lawrenceville location doesn't have a loft for shows the way the Berkeley store did. Ketter said he still hopes to host performances and other events, using the storefront's display ledge as a makeshift stage.

The name Rather Ripped originated from a friend's comment on his mind state while smoking pot. Music fans will also recognize it as the title of a 2004 Sonic Youth album. Ketter's former employee, Ray Farrell, worked for Geffen Records when Sonic Youth released their album. Ketter said Farrell was inspired by the store, but the name of the album mainly references the rise of illegal music downloading.

The store is floored with colorful wooden tiles. Gesturing to the Hawaiian shirts, leather jackets and vintage music posters that decorate the walls (and are for sale), Ketter said, "Everything here is part of my personality." Ketter said he aims to contribute to the growing community of



ABOVE: The view into the store from Butler Street. Photo by John Columbo Photography

record stores dotting the city, rather than competing with it.

Rather Ripped is located at 4314 Butler St. and is open from Thursday to Monday,

11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Contact the store at 412-353-3445, [Ratherripped.com](http://Ratherripped.com) or [ratherrippedrecords@gmail.com](mailto:ratherrippedrecords@gmail.com). ♦



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## Senior AdvantAGE Program Gets Underway

By Patrick Gibson

Lawrenceville United

Lawrenceville – Lawrenceville United (LU), in conjunction with Lawrenceville's Healthy Active Living Center and with support from the McCune Foundation, is launching the Lawrenceville Senior AdvantAGE program.

This program focuses on the needs of our residents aged 60 and older, and concentrates on bridging gaps between the older and younger populations, as well as the long-time and newer residents.

Seniors are the fastest growing population segment both in the United States and Allegheny County. As the number of seniors increases, it is more important than ever to connect them to available resources and identify service and resource gaps and ways in which to address them. At block watch meetings and community events in Lawrenceville, older residents have stated they want to stay engaged and remain involved in the community as it evolves and grows. "An active and involved senior population will benefit our entire community," said Lauren Byrne, LU's executive director.

Senior AdvantAGE will present opportunities for seniors to connect with each

other, as well as with new residents and new businesses throughout the neighborhood. As part of the program, a "Senior AdvantAGE Living Guide," containing information about educational opportunities, aging within the community and contacts for resources and agencies will be available for all who register for the program. AdvantAGE groups, clubs and events will be held monthly, and an AdvantAGE discount card, providing discounts and incentives at local Lawrenceville businesses, will be available.

This month, LU will be distributing the AdvantAGE cards and will be hosting a series of "Speed Neighboring" events for participants. Residents enrolled in the program will be invited to get to know their neighbors – those who may have moved into the house a few doors away, or around the corner. There will also be "matchmaking" between residents in need and volunteers who can help with daily chores or errands.

This program is free to all Lawrenceville residents born in or before 1953. For enrollment information, contact Lawrenceville United at 412-802-7220. ♦

## Landlord Assistance Program Launches

By Lauren Byrne

Lawrenceville United



ABOVE: Community leaders answered questions from participants during the Landlord Assistance Program. Photo by Lauren Byrne

Lawrenceville – Lawrenceville United has been working since early 2010 with the Lawrenceville Public Safety Action Team to confront blight and crime in the Lawrenceville community and to encourage community revitalization. Most recently, this team put together a Landlord Assistance Program to help foster responsible property management in the neighborhood, where 56 percent of housing consists of rental properties.

The Team was formed to sustain the progress made in the Lawrenceville community through the federally funded and locally administered Weed and Seed Program, from which Lawrenceville graduated in 2009 with evidence of significant achievement. Lawrenceville's crime rate, for example, decreased by nearly 56 percent between the years 2005 and 2010.

Meeting monthly in 2010, and then bi-monthly in 2011 and 2012, the Team helped continue the positive momentum built through the Weed and Seed program by addressing the quality of life issues that can sometimes hinder growth and revitalization. Members of the Team include representatives from Mayor Luke Ravenstahl's Office, Councilman Patrick Dowd's Office, the Department of Public Works, the Bureau of Building Inspection, Zone 2 Police, the Lawrenceville Corporation, the Housing Authority, Juvenile Probation, and other public safety agencies who partner on issues specific to their area of interest.

Through its discussions, the Team concluded it would be beneficial to coordinate a program in which landlords could review their responsibilities, the resources available to them, and the local laws, codes, and ordinances in place to encourage responsible property management. The goal of the program would be to connect landlords with local resources and help preserve affordability in rental properties by educating investment property owners on available and local housing programs.

And so the Landlord Assistance Program was born; it launched on December 8, 2012, with a half-day educational event hosted by Goodwill of Southwestern Pa. in its offices at 118 52nd Street. Twenty landlords representing more than 200 Lawrenceville properties were in attendance. The curriculum for the program included information sessions prepared by many partner agencies.

For example, Jay Dworin of the Fair Housing Partnership discussed applicant screening. First Commonwealth Bank, the sponsor of the event, talked about specific products and affordable programs for investment property owners. There was also an educational report about the specifics of the City of Pittsburgh's Disruptive Property Ordinance and a presentation by Narcotics and Vice Detective John McBurney.

At the close of the program, landlords had the opportunity to discuss current trends and neighborhood issues with leaders, as well as make recommendations for local policy and identify challenges they face as investment property owners. District Justice Anthony Ceoffe, Councilman Patrick Dowd, Lawrenceville Corporation Executive Director Matthew Galluzzo and Mayor Ravenstahl's community liaison, Liz Style, participated in the dialogue.

In 2013, Lawrenceville United and the Lawrenceville Public Safety Action Team plan to coordinate more sessions similar to the introductory one, as well as specific programs dedicated to the topics landlords seemed interested in learning more about. The Team will also explore holding similar sessions for renters.

If you are interested in attending a future program, or would like a copy of the Landlord Assistance Guide that was produced for the event, please contact Lawrenceville United at 412-802-7220 or email [info@Lunited.org](mailto:info@Lunited.org). ♦

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## Bringing Ibsen to East Liberty

By Margaret Graham

East Liberty Development Inc.

*East Liberty* – A man, two sisters and a Ponzi scheme: This is the story of “John Gabriel Borkman,” the latest production from Quantum Theatre coming to East Liberty February 1 to 24. The production will take place in the beautifully renovated Hart Building, located at 6022 Broad Street.

Written by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen (of “Hedda Gabler” fame), “John Gabriel Borkman” is story of the show’s title character and the love triangle he creates with his wife and his former mistress – who happens to be his wife’s sister. The play takes place over the course of one night, following Borkman’s release from prison for involvement in a Ponzi scheme. The tensions carried by his wife and her sister for some 25 to 30 years come to a head, and the couple’s son gets dragged in as well. Despite the play’s dark premise – and its setting on a dark, cold night in Norway – director Martin Giles says the show is humorous.

“It’s funny and horrible,” said Giles. “It’s a good drama.”

Bringing the play to life are actors Malcolm Tulip, Robin Walsh and Bridget

Connors in the three main roles.

Quantum Theatre is in East Liberty again as part of their Neighborhood Initiative, a program bringing the company’s productions to neighborhoods along the Penn Avenue corridor. Previously, productions of “Maria de Buenos Aires” and “Ainadamar” were staged in East Liberty during the Neighborhood Initiative.

“We’re psyched to be a part of East Liberty,” said Karla Boos, Quantum Theatre’s artistic director.

Quantum provides ways for play-goers to interact with each other in addition to seeing the show. Wednesday, February 6, is Ladies Night, featuring a pre-show women’s social and professional networking reception at Harvard & Highland (220 N. Highland Ave.), followed by a ladies-only viewing of the show.

For those Quantum patrons with an interest in wine, attend Grapenuts Night on Friday, February 15. Grapenuts Night is a pre-show (6:30 p.m.) wine tasting and reception held at the performance location and hosted by Quantum Theatre

Board Member Jack Brice. Keeping with the love triangle theme, the reception will feature a tasting of wines made from a trio of grapes.

“John Gabriel Borkman” will be performed Wednesdays to Saturdays at 8 p.m. or Sundays at 7 p.m. through February 24. The Hart Building is located one block off North Highland Avenue. For tickets, visit [www.quantumtheatre.com](http://www.quantumtheatre.com) or call 1-888-71-TICKETS. Tickets are \$35 to \$45, or \$48 for opening night. Students with valid ID can purchase \$18 tickets for select performances. ♦



ABOVE: Malcolm Tulip plays the title role in the Quantum Theatre production of Ibsen’s “John Gabriel Borkman.” Photo courtesy Quantum Theatre

## Hoop Dreams at Arsenal PreK-5



*Lawrenceville* – Intramural basketball started in January at Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5 under the direction of Trevor Weller, physical education teacher. The 4th- and 5th-grade girls and boys are on separate teams and play a total of eight games on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Teams play four games at Arsenal and four away. The playoffs, championship and all-star games will be held this month. Before the actual season started, the students practiced learning the fundamentals of basketball and team building. Students not only learn basketball moves and positions but how to treat each other with respect. They are also coached in how to show good sportsmanship when they win and lose. Pictured above are Cynsair Ford, Traynell Paxton, Kayvon Howie, Tyree Searcy, Izahaki Nesphoro, Abdi Haji, Hamadi Mganga, Naron Weaver, Jaylen Campbell, and Jaquawndai Montel before their first practice in their Arsenal All-Star T-shirts. Photo by Judith Flaherty

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#### PENN AVENUE

### Unblurred

The first Friday of each month, from 6 to 11 p.m., various venues in the Penn Avenue Arts District, 4800-5500 Penn Ave., open their doors and showcase the work of a variety of artists and performers. For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/pennavenuearts](http://www.facebook.com/pennavenuearts).

#### EAST LIBERTY

### Spaz and Spazion

Come see "Spaz" & "Spazimon," a collaboration between Spaz and Melissa Ciccocioppo, and a retrospective of past and present work by Spaz at the Irma Freeman Center for Imagination. Event features special guest North Star (holy folk), who will sing and play her ukulele, folk songs with Stewart James, and thrash violin by Joey Molinaro. Food and drinks will be available. 5006 Penn Ave. 7 to 10 p.m.

### February 2

#### LAWRENCEVILLE

### Night at the Races

This year, Lawrenceville United's Night at the Races has moved to a bigger venue, the Teamsters Temple, 4701 Butler St. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door, which includes food and complimentary beer. Raffles, instant bingo, Super Bowl squares, and more. Proceeds benefit the 69th annual Independence Day celebration. Event takes place from 7 to 10:30 p.m. Potential event sponsors should contact LU at 412-802-7220.

#### GARFIELD

### DIY Lava Lamps

Join the Saturday Crafternoon team from 1 to 4 p.m. to travel back to the 1960s for some fun with science and art. Make wave bottles and kid-safe "lava lamps" using household items. Put all of the ingredients together, and watch as the colors dance around in your bottle or jar. Learn about the science behind it, plus take home your creation. All materials provided. Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave. [assemblephg.org](http://assemblephg.org).

### February 4

#### LAWRENCEVILLE

### Pajama Party Story Time

Wear your PJs and bring your favorite stuffed animal for bedtime stories at Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk Street, at 7 p.m. For more information: 412-682-3668.

### February 6

#### GARFIELD

### Hiring Event

Home Instead Senior Care has been devoted to providing the highest-quality senior home care. Compassionate Home Instead CAREgivers are an invaluable resource in helping families eliminate worry, reduce stress, and re-establish personal freedom. Come find out about joining the team at 10 a.m. at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Avenue. To register for the event, please call 412-465-0425 and leave a message.

### Music Learning Party

Are you a mash-up noisemaker? Want to make SOUND waves? Can you feel the music? Rock out at this free Music and Sound Learning Party. Meet musicians, sound engineers, otolaryngologists, and mathematicians. See sound move particles with Cymatics. Participate in fun, hands-on activities led by local makers, scientists, artists, and technologists. All materials provided. Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave. 4:30 p.m., [assemblephg.org](http://assemblephg.org).

### February 7

#### GARFIELD

### Diabetes Advice

Usama Al-Teraifi will share his expertise and provide you with information that will help you battle diabetes. Come learn about prevention, screening, treatment, management, testing, diet, and exercise at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Avenue, at 2 p.m. To register for this event, please call 412-465-0425 and leave a message.

#### LAWRENCEVILLE

### Snuggles Storytime

A program of books, rhymes, songs, finger-plays and fun for babies and toddlers, and their caregivers at Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk Street, at 10:30 a.m. Also on Feb. 14 and 21. For more information: 412-682-3668.

### February 9

#### LAWRENCEVILLE

### Pancake Breakfast

The Lawrenceville Rotary is holding its 10th annual Pancake Breakfast at St. Mary's Lower Lyceum, 329 45th St. Tickets, available at the door or the Slaughterhouse Gallery, are \$7 for adults and \$3 for kids 10 and under. Pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs and real maple syrup will be served from 9 a.m. to noon. Proceeds fund local nonprofit organizations and Rotary International projects.

#### EAST LIBERTY

### Youth Revival

Pastor Thomas Spencer presents "It's Your Time" at the Lincoln Ave. Church of God, 404 Lincoln Ave., from 4 to 7 p.m. There will be dancing, singing and a mime. Speakers include Minister Mark Dotson and Sister Regina Robinson. Bring your friends to be blessed. For more information, call 412-361-7748.

### February 10

#### LAWRENCEVILLE

### Celebration of Love

The Women's Ministry at New Bethel Baptist Church, 221 43rd St., will present its Annual Celebration of Love Service at 3 p.m. The theme is "No Greater Love": Galatians 2:20. Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

### February 11

#### EAST LIBERTY

### Clementine Hunter

Learn about African American folk artist Clementine Hunter and make an art project in her style. Takes place at Carnegie Library-East Liberty at 6 p.m. For children ages 6 to 10. 130 S Whitfield St. Call 412-363-8232 for more information.

#### GARFIELD

### Hands-On Hangout

Join LAB and Mad Science Supply volunteers at 5125 Penn Ave. from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for Hands-On Hangout – a time to meet, socialize, and snack while learning about games, projects, and tools that would be fun for LAB youths. Felice Cleveland, Director of Education at the Mattress Factory, will show a variety of DIY books. Materials on hand so you can give them a try. Discussion will focus on how to use these book-making activities with youths during workshops and Homework Help at The LAB. RSVP to [litteraryartsboom@gmail.com](mailto:litteraryartsboom@gmail.com) or 773-425-1531. Join the event on facebook: <http://bit.ly/Hands-OnHangout>. Got ideas for future volunteer development sessions? Let us know.

### February 12

#### LAWRENCEVILLE

### Lunchtime Computer Classes

For three consecutive days, this basic computer instruction class will focus on getting an email account, basic word processing, and basic Internet searching. Registration is required, and please register for all three days if possible. 12 p.m. through Feb. 14. Register online or call 412-682-3668.

### February 13

### Social Security Workshop

Will Social Security be there for me? How can I maximize my benefits? Will Social Security be enough to live on in retirement? Learn what baby boomers need to know to maximize their retire-

ment income. Hosted by retirement specialist and registered representative Chris Gonzalez, from Western and Southern Financial Group. To RSVP, call 412-376-9262, or email [1gonz1@gmail.com](mailto:1gonz1@gmail.com). 5321 Penn Ave. 5:30 to 7 p.m.

### February 14

#### EAST LIBERTY

### Celebrate Heart Health

Come to the Carnegie Library-East Liberty at 3:30 p.m. to learn about the heart and heart shapes in math, science, and more. For adults and children ages 2 to 5 years. 130 S Whitfield St. Call 412-363-8232 for more information.

### February 16

#### LAWRENCEVILLE

### Wreckless Arcade Tournament

PLAY Parlour is hosting a free arcade-game tournament. Now is your chance to prove once and for all that you are the king or queen of dueling darts, skeeball, mini-golf, and wackamole. This event takes place at 5258 Butler St. from 3 to 10 p.m. Doors open at 2 p.m. Anyone 18+ is welcome to enter. DJ Zombo of WRCT fame will be the emcee and DJ. Refreshments will be provided. For more details and to register, visit the tournament page on our website: <http://www.PLAYparlour.com/tournament>. Early registration gives you advantages in the tournament; just be sure to respond to our confirmation email one week before the event to hold onto them.

#### EAST LIBERTY

### The Hallelujah Flight

Families with children ages 5-10 are invited to the Carnegie Library-East Liberty branch to learn about the famous flight of James Banning and Thomas Allen, the first African Americans to make a coast-to-coast flight. Make foam gliders and experiment with paper airplanes. 130 S Whitfield St. 11 a.m. Call 412-363-8232 for more information.

#### GARFIELD

### Mini Art Installations

Wonder what it's like to be an artist or work in a museum? Join artists and educators from the Mattress Factory Museum at Saturday Crafternoon. Create your own installation box and imagine what it might be like to be an artist at the Mattress Factory. All materials provided. Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., 1 to 4 p.m. [assemblephg.org](http://assemblephg.org).

#### BLOOMFIELD

### Poe's Valentine's Day

"Edgar Allan Poe: Love and Death" will be the least traditional way to spend Valentine's Day. Edgar Allan Poe is portrayed in this one-man performance by literary historian and playwright Rob Vellela, who has been performing in-character as Poe for several years, notably on a three-state cemetery tour. Irma Freeman Center, 5006 Penn Ave., 5 p.m. Admission for the performance is \$6 per person, or \$10 for couples. Recommended for ages 13 and up. For more information, visit [www.irmafreeman.org](http://www.irmafreeman.org).

**Sorry, we do not accept listings by phone.**

The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, fundraising events and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Listings published on a space-available basis; we cannot guarantee placement.

**Announcements for the MARCH issue are due Thursday, February 14, via email to [bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org).**



# Volunteer Opportunities & Services

February 18

## LAWRENCEVILLE

### Elephant & Piggie Party

Celebrate author and illustrator Mo Willems and his wonderful books. Make crafts, play games and eat snacks that Elephant & Piggie would enjoy. Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk Street, at 7 p.m. For more information: 412-682-3668.

February 19

## EAST LIBERTY

### Be a Mentor

By volunteering just a few hours a month as a Big Brother or Big Sister, you can make a difference in the life of a child. BBBS of Greater Pittsburgh is the region's leading donor and volunteer supported one-to-one youth mentoring program. We are looking for adults who can spend consistent time with children in need of positive role models. Learn more about becoming a mentor at this information session. BBBS Office, 5989 Penn Circle South; starts at 6 p.m. and lasts approximately one hour. Pizza will be provided. To register, contact Tom Baker at tbaker@bbbspgh.org or 412-204-1217.

### Healthy for You

Bruce A. Macleod, MD, will give a presentation on "Exercise & Your Heart" as part of the West Penn Healthy for You program at the LA Fitness in Bakery Square, 19 Bakery Square Way, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. He will share strategies you can use to improve your health immediately, at any age. Space is limited, so call to register: 412-330-4469.

## BLOOMFIELD

### Healthy for You

Bruce A. Macleod, MD, will give a presentation on "Keeping Your Heart Young" as part of the West Penn Healthy for You program at West Penn Hospital, 4900 Friendship Avenue, 1 to 2:30 p.m. He will share strategies you can use to improve your health immediately, at any age. A healthy recipe demonstration presented by Mark Staley, Healthy Eating Specialist at Whole Foods Market, will be offered. Space is limited, so call to register: 412-330-4469.

## GARFIELD

### Job Fair

LGC Associates, a temp agency, needs workers in hotels and banquet halls as room attendants, in food service, and more. At this free recruitment session, you will listen to a presentation by LGC recruiter, fill out an employment application, and be interviewed by recruiters. Presentation from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today and again on Feb. 20 at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Ave. Call 412-362-8580 to register today.

February 22

## LAWRENCEVILLE

### Gallery Opening

Gallery on 43rd Street introduces a new painter, Jonelle Summerfield of Indiana, Pa., in an exhibit titled INTERIORS. Cats and interiors have been

recurrent subjects in her work. Exhibit runs through March 20. The opening reception tonight from 7 to 10 PM. For more information, [www.galleryon43rdstreet.com](http://www.galleryon43rdstreet.com), or 412-683-6488.

February 23

## EAST LIBERTY

### Super Science

Elementary school-aged children are invited to the Carnegie Library-East Liberty branch to learn about the inventions of African-American scientists Elijah McCoy and Gregor Crum. Fun activities included. 130 S Whitfield St., 11 a.m. Call 412-363-8232 for more information.

## LAWRENCEVILLE

### Celebrate Black History Month

Celebrate Black History Month at Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk Street, by making your own art in the style of famous African-American artists. 2 p.m. For more information: 412-682-3668.

On-Going

## MORNINGSIDE

### Senior Tax Services

Representative Dom Costa's office will be doing Income Tax Returns for seniors at his district office located at 6808 Greenwood St. every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. To qualify you must be 65 or older with an income under \$35,000. At this time we can also file your LIHEAP and Property Tax/Rent Rebate if you have not already done so. You must schedule an appointment. Space is limited. Call 412-361-2040.

## LAWRENCEVILLE

### Art All Night

The planning committee for Art All Night 2013, which will occur on April 27-28, meets nearly every other Wednesday at the Stephen Foster Community Center, 286 Main St. The organizers are presently seeking new team members to help organize this year's event. If you love Art All Night and want to ensure that this shindig tops last year's, come join the team that makes it happen. Find out the meeting schedule at our website at [www.artallnight.org](http://www.artallnight.org), by liking us on Facebook: Art All Night: Lawrenceville, or following us on twitter: @artallnight.

## BLOOMFIELD

### Stand-Up Comedy

Every Friday night, Toro's hosts Stand-Up Comedy Night featuring local comedians and great food. Comedians perform from 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is free. Must be 21 to enter. 5128 Penn Ave.

## GARFIELD

### Free Homework Help

1st-graders through 12th-graders are invited to drop in at The LAB, 5125 Penn Ave., for homework help and writing practice from 3:30 to 6 p.m. every Tuesday. Volunteer mentors assist students with their schoolwork and also lead writing activities that range from creative to expository. Student writing will be published in small chapbooks to share with

families and friends. Snacks provided. Parents must complete a student application: <http://bit.ly/LABStudentApp>. If you're unable to print it out in advance, we will have copies on hand at The LAB. Visit [www.literaryartsboom.org/](http://www.literaryartsboom.org/) calendar for other upcoming events and activities.

## Announcements

## GARFIELD

### LAB Seeking Interns

Literary Arts Boom (The LAB) relies upon volunteers and interns to add expertise and energy to its educational youth programming, community engagement efforts, and mad science machinations. For details about internships, visit [literaryartsboom.org/interns](http://literaryartsboom.org/interns). For more information about volunteer opportunities, visit [literaryartsboom.org/get-involved/volunteers](http://literaryartsboom.org/get-involved/volunteers). Contact The LAB at [literaryartsboom@gmail.com](mailto:literaryartsboom@gmail.com) or 773-425-1531.

### Life Is a Lab

Storytellers: Literary Arts Boom [The LAB] seeks stories from folks in Bloomfield, Garfield, and Friendship about a time you tried something new. Share a snippet and we may get in touch regarding an oral history & comic book project. If you know somebody we should reach out to, do tell! Classrooms: Are you a teacher or parent of 3rd - 8th grade students in Bloomfield, Garfield, or Friendship? We're looking for classrooms to partner with on a storytelling and comics project in March or April. Contact [literaryartsboom@gmail.com](mailto:literaryartsboom@gmail.com) or 773-425-1531. Visit [www.literaryartsboom.org](http://www.literaryartsboom.org) for more information.

### GED Prep

Pittsburgh CONNECTS, in collaboration with the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council (GPLC), is offering free help for people interested in taking the General Equivalency Diploma exam (GED). Beginning in 2014, all GED tests will be computer-based. Individuals who never completed high school can study at the Pittsburgh CONNECTS computer center, 5321 Penn Ave., using both human tutors

and computer technology to prepare. Under this special arrangement, GPLC provides assessment, training materials and sample tests to individuals enrolled in the GED study program. GPLC is also an approved testing provider and will arrange for students to take the GED exam. For more information, call 412-465-0858.

### School Credit Recovery

Is your child behind in school and at risk of not graduating? NovaNET is an online program that allows your child to recover failed credits. It can be accessed at Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's Pittsburgh CONNECTS computer lab at 5321 Penn Ave., Monday through Friday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. and weekends from 12 to 6 p.m. For more information, call 412-204-6182 or email [NovaNETrecovery@gmail.com](mailto:NovaNETrecovery@gmail.com).

## OKLAND

### Sleep Study Enrollment

The University of Pittsburgh is seeking healthy individuals to participate in study on short-term sleep loss and its effect on brain functioning. Must be 18 to 30 years old, right handed, in good physical and psychological health, and have good sleep history. To learn more, please contact 412-246-6862, or visit [veteranssleep.pitt.edu](http://veteranssleep.pitt.edu). Parking and compensation are provided.

## EAST LIBERTY

### Historical Exhibition

The East Liberty Valley Historical Society will hold an exhibition in May featuring paintings, decorative arts, and historic artifacts celebrating the impressive history and works of individuals and institutions in the East Liberty/East End area from the 18th century to the "Glory Days." The Historical Society is asking residents to share documents and artifacts for the exhibition. To discuss any possibilities, contact Alfred Mann, President, East Liberty Valley Historical Society, at [alfred.mann@verizon.net](mailto:alfred.mann@verizon.net) or 412-661-5947.

# Classifieds

For information on classified ad rates, please email [bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org) or call 412-441-6915.

## Schools

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# Kwanzaa Comes to Penn

By John Colombo

Bulletin Contributor

*Friendship* – The Penn Avenue Arts Initiative hosted the first-ever Kwanzaa on Penn in The Dance Alloy Theater Space on Dec. 28. The idea to hold the event on Penn came from Michele Morris, board president of the Friendship Development Associates, back in 2011, and was executed this year by Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's Mainstreets Manager, Samantha McDonough.

The festivities were hosted by Kimberly C. Ellis, Ph.D., artistically known as Dr. Goddess, and Temujin, a storyteller. Dr. Goddess began the celebration with a question-and-answer session, explaining what Kwanzaa is and why it was created. She asserted that Kwanzaa is just as valid a celebration as other traditionally honored holidays, and explained each of the seven principles of Kwanzaa to both the youths and adults in attendance.

Kwanzaa, she said, is an often-misunderstood holiday, even within the African-American community, and has developed a reputation as "Black Christmas." In fact, it's not a substitute for Christmas at all, but a time to honor African culture.

Kwanzaa, which means "first fruits of the harvest," was created by Maulana Karenga in 1966 as the first specifically African-American holiday. The celebration lasts for seven days, and each day a different principle is celebrated. The prin-

ciples are Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia Kuumba (Creativity (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity) and Imani (Faith). Teenagers in the audience were asked to light the seven candles (*mishumaa saba*), each of which represents one of the principles of Kwanzaa.

After the candle-lighting ceremony, everyone came together to enjoy a sumptuous meal prepared by Roxanne's Take-Out & Catering in Bloomfield, which included fresh fruits, cheeses, meatballs, lasagna, chicken fingers, beef and green beans. Additionally, some members of the community brought a dish with them to share with everyone.

After the meal, everyone reconvened in the theater to enjoy some beautifully performed and highly charged African dance, presented by Balafon West African Dance Ensemble of Pittsburgh. The costumes the dancers wore were designed and made by Balafon's artistic director, Kadiatou Conte-Forte, who also dances



ABOVE: Chrisala M. Brownone and the Balafon West African dancers performed at Kwanzaa on Penn. Photography by John Colombo Photography

with the company. Immediately after, Temujin engaged and intrigued the listeners by telling a traditional African story about collective work for the good of all.

Finally, Kwanzaa on Penn screened "The Black Candle," a landmark film that focuses on Kwanzaa as a celebration of the African-American experience. The film was narrated by world-renowned poet

Maya Angelou and directed by award-winning author and filmmaker M.K. Asante, Jr.

A second day of family-friendly events had been planned for Dec. 29 at various art galleries on Penn Avenue, but was canceled due to bad weather. Look for Kwanzaa on Penn to return next year with even more entertainment. ♦

## FREE HELP WITH PREPARING & FILING 2012 TAX RETURNS

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service, will once again be assisting individual taxpayers with filing their federal and state returns online. There is no charge for this service, which will be offered every Saturday, beginning February 9th and ending Saturday, April 13th. Taxpayers will need to make appointments in advance, and then come to:

**BGC COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTER  
113 NORTH PACIFIC AVENUE, GARFIELD**

between the hours of noon and 5 p.m. We are not able to assist business filers or individuals who have rental income or capital gains to report. City residents will also be able to receive help in filing their city tax returns if needed.

Call Rick Swartz at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, 412-441-6950 x 11, to schedule an appointment.

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