

the Bulletin

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

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JAN 2012



Jaden Williams, working on his contribution to the Virtual Neighborhood at Assemble gallery on Penn. See story on page 13. Photo by Nina Barbuto

Penn Avenue Public Meeting Scheduled

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Bloomfield/Garfield – For well over a decade, the community has been hearing and reading about the proposed revitalization of the stretch of Penn Avenue that runs through Bloomfield, Garfield, and Friendship. With shovels scheduled to begin digging in mid-2013 for Phase 1 of the project, the community will have a chance to learn more about the details of the reconstruction at a public involvement meeting on January 12 at 6 p.m. at the St. Lawrence O'Toole Activity Building, 114 North Atlantic Avenue.

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, is hosting the meeting. Representatives from the City Department of Public Works; the engineering firm of L.R. Kimball and its subcontractors; and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation will be on hand. The meeting location is accessible to the wheelchair public.

Meeting attendees can view preliminary design drawings for Phase 1, which spans the four blocks between Mathilda to Evaline. Drawings will show details such as traffic signals, street lighting, streetscaping (e.g., street trees and benches), utilities, signage, and line and grade (curbs and pavement) information.

See **Public Meeting** | page 2

Community House Breaks Ground

By Margaret Graham ELDI

East Liberty – Crowds packed the sanctuary of Eastminster Presbyterian Church on Friday, November 18, to celebrate East End Cooperative Ministry's (EECM) groundbreaking ceremonies for the

See **page 3**

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Mechanic Benefits from Goodwill Program

By Paula Martinac The Bulletin

Lawrenceville – Julio Benitez came to Pittsburgh in 2006 the way a lot of outsiders do: His spouse, who was originally from the city, wanted to move back to be near her family. Lawrenceville, which he now calls

See **page 11**

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Welcome to Penn Avenue

By Rich Engel Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.

Bloomfield/Garfield – Artisan Tattoo, at 5001 Penn, opened its doors just before the Thanksgiving holiday and the place is already, literally, buzzing with activity. In a few short months, the building's utilities

See **page 12**

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Sarah Chirico, co-owner of Urban Dog, and her dog, Samson, greet customers at the new Butler Street kennel. See story on page 10. Photo by Paula Martinac

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Book Published on 6% Place Project

by Joe Reuben *The Bulletin*

Garfield – An ambitious effort to help one Pittsburgh neighborhood attract and keep so-called “creative workers” has taken book form, with the publication of *6% Place* by cityLAB, a self-described “do” tank.

The 130-page document prescribes 16 different strategies that its author, Eve Picker, contends would help drive a long-term economic renaissance in the Garfield section of the city’s East End, if implemented successfully. Most were identified through interviews with people who presently live or work in Garfield, as well as those who are from other city neighborhoods. Picker also borrowed several ideas from other cities, both in the United States and Europe.

All the ideas were laid out in the October issue of *The Bulletin*, and have been the subject of several community meetings. Their objective would be to lure people engaged in creatively oriented occupations to consider Garfield as a home for themselves, their children, and their businesses. Once their number reaches 6 percent of the neighborhood’s total population, the theory is that it will set the community on a different trajectory that would open up more opportunity and create more amenities for its residents.

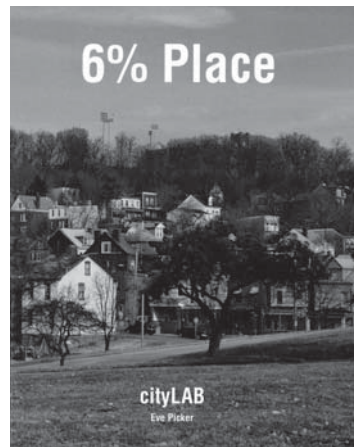
“The book is an impressive piece of work that should fuel conversation and planning discussions for years to come,” Rick Swartz, executive director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, speculated recently. “Although some people have been suspicious of cityLAB’s intent, what with the long-running concern about gentrification in the East End, the document actually proposes to achieve change through the addition of newcomers, and not from the subtraction of those who call Garfield home now.”

In fact, Picker acknowledges the “push-back” that occurred at community meetings against the 6 percent theory, with some attendees resenting the notion that Garfield is a “problem” neighborhood. Others voiced complaints that the

changing nature of Penn Avenue has “taken it away” from long-time residents, and that the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative, a principal tool for attracting new enterprise to the district for the past 15 years, has not delivered new economic opportunities for those living in Garfield. Initiatives culled by cityLAB from all of the public input include a kid-operated café, an annual cook-off, an open-air summer market on Dearborn Street, a hilltop park in Garfield, an Internet-based radio station on Penn, and a business incubator for food start-ups, among others.

“Of course, many of these will require hours of planning by residents and community groups, and money that likely would have to come from unconventional sources, mostly within the private sector,” Swartz observed. “We hope to post a link to the publication on the BGC website, to let Pittsburghers see a vision that exists for uplifting the fortunes of one neighborhood that was down for a very long time. People should stay tuned.”

6 Percent Place is available at <http://www.citylabpg.org> in three versions: condensed, expanded, or the entire book. ♦



ABOVE: Cover of cityLAB’s book on the “6% Project” in Garfield.



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Garfield Resident Honored by “Courier”

By Eileen Kraus Dobratz *Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

Garfield – Grady Roberts Jr., Ph.D., a lifelong Garfield resident, Peabody High School graduate, and former President of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation Board of Directors, was honored on October 27 as one of the *New Pittsburgh Courier*’s “50 Men of Excellence” for his work in education.

The awards reception was held downtown at Fairmont Pittsburgh, and was hosted by Esther Bush of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh. Other honorees included civil rights activist and first African-American head of the Allegheny County Bar Association, Eric Springer, and former Pittsburgh Steeler L.C. Greenwood.

This was only the latest in a long line of honors and achievements for Dr. Roberts. After then-Colonel Roberts retired as one of the highest ranking Social Work Officers in the Army’s history, he went on to a distinguished 35-year career at the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Social Work, retiring in 2003 as Associate Dean of Admissions. He has been recognized previously with the Fr. Leo Henry Award for his dedication to change in the BGC’s incorporated territory; the United Cerebral Palsy Lifetime Achievement Award; and awards from The



Grady Roberts Jr. was named one of “50 Men of Excellence.” Photo by Paula Martinac

American College Personnel Association, National Deans of Social Work Admissions, and Renaissance Publications, to name a few. Capping a lifetime of giving, Dr. Roberts established the Mary E. and Grady H. Roberts Sr. Writing Award, which recognizes scholarly writing, in honor of his parents. *The Bulletin* and the BGC Board and staff join the *New Pittsburgh Courier* in applauding Dr. Roberts’ spirit and achievements. ♦

Public Meeting from page 1

Following a short presentation of the plans and schedule by Kimball, residents and business owners can ask specific questions at three separate information stations: traffic control and detour; streetscaping; and line and grade.

Pizza and soda will be available during the first 30 minutes, with the program

beginning around 6:30 and ending at 8 p.m. For more information, contact Fred Fischer, Manager Streets Division, City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works, at 412-255-2472. To get updates on the Phase 1 reconstruction project, visit www.lrkimball.com/penn-avenue.aspx. ♦

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Abandoned Cars	3-1-1
Weeds/Litter/Bad Sidewalks	3-1-1
Building Inspection	412-255-2176
Public Works Main	412-255-2790
Refuse/Recycling	412-255-2773
Potholes	3-1-1
Graffiti Watch	412-496-2272
Graffiti Busters	412-255-2872
Report Graffiti Happening to You	3-1-1
Report Graffiti in Neighborhood	3-1-1
Report Mail Box Graffiti	412-359-7845
City Planning	412-255-2200
Parking Authority	412-560-7275
City Council	412-255-2142
Environmental Services	412-255-2780
Allegheny County Health Dept.	412-578-8390
Zone 2 Police Station	412-255-2827
Zone 5 Police Station	412-665-3605

Clip and post for your easy reference

Community House from page 1

Community House. The Community House will be a LEED-certified platinum structure, housing 15 of EECM's programs in the same location. The 56,800-square-foot building will include a courtyard, kitchen and dining facilities, a residence hall, and all of EECM's administrative offices, among other things.

More than 200 EECM clients, friends, staff, and supporters attended the groundbreaking ceremony. However, the crowd was missing one very important person: Paul DeWalt, EECM's Housing and Hunger Programs Director, passed away just two days before the groundbreaking ceremony.

His absence was evident, especially due to his involvement in the Community House's planning, said EECM's Executive Director Myrna Zelenitz.

"Paul looked through every inch of the architecture and plans," she said. Zelenitz announced that the residence hall in the

community house will be named the Paul DeWalt Residence Hall, to honor DeWalt's legacy and dedication to EECM.

Phil Hallen, Chair of the capital campaign for Community House, explained that the planning for the center began long ago, and was announced to the public in 2009. At that time, the project was "an idea, and a dream." Hallen also recognized partners such as East Liberty Development, Inc., and the Urban Redevelopment Authority for support and assistance throughout the project.

Rev. Darnell Leonard, Associate Director of EECM, said the Community House will be a place for agencies to collaborate to support the residents of East Liberty.

"Across race and class and creed and color, East Liberty will gather as a community," said Rev. Leonard. "We will work to raise the quality of life of each other and everyone who walks through these doors." ♦



ABOVE: Rev. Ricky Burgess, City Council Member for District 9, speaks on the future site of Community House. Photo by Tim Brown/EECM



GARFIELD COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

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

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Monday, January 9th, from 6-8 p.m. at the BGC Community Activity Center, 113 North Pacific Ave.
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Learn more at: www.gcatpgh.com or call for details at: 412-441-6950 x17



Here are the 2012 projects the Garfield Community Action Team (GCAT) we will be discussing on January 10th. New ideas are welcomed!

Garfield & Penn Ave Monthly Clean-Ups * Gardening Coalition * Tree Planting * Garfield Mapping Project * Penn Ave Green + Screen Projects * Lot Improvement Projects ...and More!

the Bulletin

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with the mission of reporting on activities and ideas affecting those communities and offering an opportunity for residents to express opinions and exchange ideas.

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

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

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Lawrenceville Groups Continue to Monitor Liquor Licenses

By Lauren Byrne *Lawrenceville United*

Lawrenceville – Lawrenceville community groups continue to work toward creating a vibrant main street where residents and businesses coexist and thrive. Important action has been taken regarding specific applications for new bars and restaurants on behalf of the Lawrenceville community.

Lawrenceville United (LU), the Lawrenceville Corporation, and Councilman Patrick Dowd have been working with LVW, Inc., the owners of Industry Grill, 4305 Butler Street, to create an agreement that would help mitigate negative impacts the new business may have on the surrounding community.

The Industry Grill, owned by Daniell Vizslay-Walker, David Vizslay, and Tim Linz (LVW, Inc.), called for a special exception to the zoning code, and the approval of a double transfer of a liquor license. Vizslay, Walker, and Linz have worked with the community to address concerns through the creation of a Conditional License Agreement, which was presented to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) as part of their liquor license application process in July.

This agreement, supported by both LU and the ownership group, outlines many conditions and measures that will be implemented by the owners to help address community concerns. Some conditions include: limiting the hours of live entertainment, requiring responsible alcohol training

for staff, stating the hours when recyclables and trash can be dumped in the alleys adjacent to resident homes, outlining public safety precautions and preventative and reactive measures that will be followed to sustain a safe environment inside and outside. At press time, Industry Grill had not received its liquor license.

In May, LU, public officials, and business owners intervened in the liquor license transfer for a proposed gastro-pub, Alchemy N' Ale, at 5147 Butler Street. The proposed gastro-pub would be operated by Big Tree Entertainment, LLC, owned by Kathleen Sheehan and Fred Gardner and managed by David Santa. Although the idea of a gastro-pub with an emphasis on dining was well-received by the community, the inclusion of Santa as its manager was not. Santa's alleged involvement with other clubs and speakeasies caused concern for the community. LU and Dowd had also requested that the PLCB investigate whether there was an undisclosed ownership interest for Santa and any others.

A public hearing was held on December 8 regarding the approval of the liquor license transfer. LU and Dowd appeared as petitioners, represented by legal counsel and supported by the Lawrenceville Corporation, residents, elected officials, and business owners who also attended the hearing.

During the hearing, Santa gave testimony, admitting that he was part of Big Tree Enter-

tainment, LLC, and that he had been a majority owner of Alchemy N' Ale since April 2011, despite Ms. Sheehan's statements that she and Gardner were the only owners and members of Big Tree Entertainment on the liquor license application and during the community meeting in May. Santa also admitted to being involved in after-hours clubs and speakeasies in Pittsburgh.

At press time, a decision had not been made by the PLCB regarding the liquor license transfer application and the future of Alchemy N' Ale.

Please contact LU with any questions at 412-802-7220 or info@lunited.org. ♦

Calling Prospective Homeowners

Lawrenceville United has worked over the past 10 years to confront and eliminate blight and crime throughout Lower, Central, and Upper Lawrenceville by targeting nuisance and problem properties and prioritizing the demolitions, acquisition, and redevelopment of these properties.

As part of this process, LU has acquired and maintained properties throughout the neighborhood by working with the Lawrenceville Corporation, the City of Pittsburgh's Department of Real Estate, Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group's Vacant Property Working Group, and the Elm Street Program, and with support from other public and private agencies and partners.

LU is now launching a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will give potential homeowners an opportunity to acquire a house in Lawrenceville at a subsidized cost. We are inviting responsible and interested people looking to become an owner-occupant of one of our four (4) LU-owned properties to submit written proposals and a bid for one of the four LU-owned properties. LU is seeking interested homeowners with the capacity and creativity to turn these properties to productive residential use. Upon review of submitted materials, the LU Housing Advisory Committee will rate and select proposals that best fit the goal of the project based on the selection review criteria detailed in the RFP. The deadline for submission is Friday, January 27.

To learn more about this program, visit www.lunited.org, drop by 4825 Butler Street, or call 412-802-7220.



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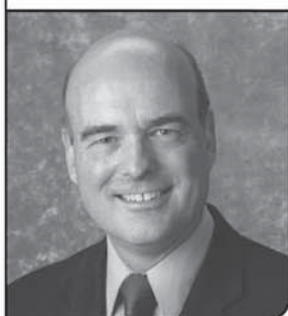
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Persad Reaches Out to Area Youths

By Joshua Barszczewski *The Bulletin*

Bloomfield – Every day, Lyndsey Sickler goes to work in a large, unmarked building at the corner of Penn Avenue and South Evaline Street. Pedestrians and drivers going past this structure may have noticed the building's new orange-and-gray paint job, but how many people actually know what happens within its walls?

The building at 5150 Penn houses the Persad Center, a counseling agency that specifically serves western Pennsylvania's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) community. Persad, which was founded in 1972, is the second oldest GLBT counseling center in the nation.

hosted every Tuesday and Thursday at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center (GLCC), 210 Grant Street, in downtown Pittsburgh. Anywhere from five to 15 young people come to the GLCC to receive tutoring and participate in workshops. "We try to assess what the kids need and then provide it," Sickler said. The afterschool program is free, and although it is focused on GLBT youths, it remains open to anyone interested in attending.

Another program Sickler oversees is Street Outreach Services, a program that trains individuals to provide interventions to homeless youths. "A disproportionate amount of homeless youths—around 40 percent – are GLBT," Sickler said. To that end, Street Outreach Services sends out a team of people each week to build relationships with Pittsburgh's homeless population. "It's important to build relationships because people in crisis will not trust everyone."

The Street Outreach team tries to meet the basic needs of homeless youths by getting them into services and shelters, and providing bus tickets and hygiene kits as necessary. Again, the program is oriented toward the GLBT homeless population, but will work with any homeless person in crisis.

Sickler, who graduated from Chatham University with a degree in psychology and visual arts, is happy to reach out to Pittsburgh's youth population. "That's where my heart is." She has been at Persad since July 2004. During her

time there, she has seen different programs come and go due to the economy and decreases in funding. Still, though, "[Betty Hill, Persad's executive director] and the crew do an excellent job with minimal funding."

Individuals in the East End can benefit from Persad's location on Penn. Sickler wishes that Persad could expand its programs beyond its current location, though. "Ideally, I'd like to see more resources at more places in the community. Pittsburghers don't always want to cross bridges, which is unfortunate, since there are bridges everywhere." ♦

**for more info, visit
www.persad
center.org**



*The Persad Center is a fixture on Penn Avenue.
Photo by Paula Martinac*

Yet, counseling is not all that Persad provides. It is also an AIDS service organization that provides STD testing and a community education provider that offers professional training in GLBT issues to human services workers.

As with many nonprofits, some of its programs have unexpectedly lost funding. Such was the case with Youth Empowerment Project (YEP), an HIV and STD prevention program in which Pittsburgh youths went into community spaces such as gay-friendly bars to provide condoms and safer sex education. Sickler, the Youth Services Coordinator for Persad, did not know exactly why YEP lost its funding, but said, "I hope it comes back next year. It was the only program in the area to specifically target GLBT youths."

Sickler's plate is still full, though, organizing Persad's many other youth-oriented programs. Persad's afterschool program is

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Former Mayor Extols BGC's "Determination"

By Joshua Barszczewski *The Bulletin*

Garfield – “For the past five years, I’ve been traveling to cities around the world, and it’s given me a renewed appreciation for how special Pittsburgh is,” former Pittsburgh mayor Tom Murphy said in his keynote address at Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation’s annual luncheon. Murphy, who was mayor from 1994 to 2006 and is currently a Senior Resident Fellow at the Urban Land Institute, spoke to approximately 160 funders, community groups, and BGC staff members at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association on December 2.

The event was called “Determined” to highlight the determination of the BGC’s efforts over the past 35 years. Bill Cornell, President of BGC’s Board of Directors, explained that the title reflected the effect government budget cuts will have on community development. “We all imagine that in the next couple of years, to continue growth in Garfield and the East End will require determination.”

Councilman Patrick Dowd read a proclamation from City Council declaring December 2, 2011, “Bloomfield-Garfield

performance by The Neighborhood Academy’s West African Drum and Song Ensemble, and the presentation of honors to four individuals for their contributions to the area – Jim Brenner, the supervisor of Youth Services for the Pittsburgh Partnership; two Penn Avenue business owners, Jennifer Quinio-Hedges and Laura McLaughlin; and one homeowner, Charles Bronson.

Murphy’s speech focused on how cities, particularly Pittsburgh, can continue to redefine themselves in coming years, despite a harsh economic climate and reductions in state support. He pointed to “Generation Y,” Americans between the ages of 18 and 32, as one reason for continued optimism about the fate of urban areas. According to him, 75 percent of people in that generation prefer to live in cities with “walkable neighborhoods, where they can go get a cup of coffee without having to get in a car.” However, Murphy stressed, redevelopment will not just happen on its own. “Changing Pittsburgh was an intentional decision. People came together to improve their lives.”

Murphy pointed to the East End, an area he says was “largely written off after a failed urban renewal development” as a site where communities intentionally chose to work together to improve their neighborhoods. “We have an opportunity to create a remarkable city beyond what it is today. And the choice is ours to make.” ♦



ABOVE: BGC Board Member and Treasurer Catherine Curry examines artwork supplied by *Awesome Books*, *Modern Formations*, *Most Wanted Fine Art*, and *Pittsburgh Glass Center* during the “Determined” silent auction. Photo by Paula Martinac

Corporation Day” in the City of Pittsburgh. Other events during the luncheon included a videotaped message from Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey Jr., a silent auction of artworks from Penn Avenue galleries, a drum and dance

Tree Pittsburgh Branches Out

By Suzanne Pace *Bulletin Contributor*

Garfield – After a year of steady preparation and planning, Tree Pittsburgh has officially launched the Tree Pittsburgh Urban Forest Master Plan process, and will begin an intensive community outreach and education initiative over the next two months to complement the planning activities.

Davey Resource Group, an Ohio-based forestry firm, has been contracted to lead what will be the most comprehensive plan for developing and maintaining Pittsburgh’s urban forest to date. The Davey team of arborists and scientists will work closely with the Tree Pittsburgh team throughout the entire planning process. Pittsburgh-based consulting firm Jackson/Clark Partners is assisting with community outreach.

For over a year, Tree Pittsburgh has been leading an extensive pre-planning effort with a dedicated steering committee, local and regional stakeholders, and forestry experts from around the country in preparation for the larger planning work. The 2011-2012 Tree Pittsburgh Urban Forest Master Plan is intended to unite the Pittsburgh community around a shared vision for protecting, growing, and maintaining the city’s urban forests for future generations, creating substantial returns from a singular investment. The core of the plan aims to: address growing environmental challenges; create a coordinated vision for Pittsburgh’s urban forest; develop baseline metrics and clear goals; cultivate long-term advocates and increase civic participation in support of the plan; and develop efficiency and cooperation with all Pittsburgh tree organizations and City partners.

Executive Director Danielle Crumrine says of the planning process, “This massive undertaking could not have been done

without the vision and support of our committed steering committee, the R.K. Mellon Foundation, and our local, state, and federal government partners who provided technical and financial support. The plan marks an exciting time in Tree Pittsburgh’s history, as it will chart a long-term course for increasing our impact across the city and county and provide our partners and the public with tangible goals to work toward.”

Public outreach activities planned over the next two months will include community meetings, events, prize giveaways, and a citywide “Tell Us Your Tree Story” video



ABOVE: Volunteers aid Tree Pittsburgh with East Liberty planting. Courtesy Tree Pittsburgh

project that will ask every Pittsburgh resident to share his or her personal tree story. Check your local listings for more information about these events.

Outreach will start with a series of four “Tree Lover” volunteer drop-in meetings in early January and four larger citywide community meetings in late January. All Pittsburgh residents are invited to come and learn about how they can help.

The “Tree Love” meeting in the East End will be held at Tree Pittsburgh’s offices, 5427 Penn Avenue, on Wednesday, January 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more details, visit www.treepittsburgh.org or call or call 412-362-6360. ♦



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Neighborhood FOCUS

Deep Impact

Deeplocal is changing the advertising game one unique idea at a time

By Patrick Bowman *Lawrenceville Corporation*

East Liberty – This past fall, the East Liberty-based “post-digital” design shop Deeplocal was tasked to deliver a project for implementation in the lobby of the Time Warner Center in New York City, and have it arrive seven days before the TBS late night talk show Conan was to begin filming a handful of episodes in the very same building. Their client, TBS, requested they design an interactive installation that could communicate to fans that Conan O’Brien truly and sincerely missed the city of New York from his days as the host of *Late Night with Conan O’Brien*.

After kicking around a few ideas in the old Liberty Bank Building on Penn Avenue (some sort of interactive bar tab was at one point discussed, and then dismissed) Deeplocal Senior Creative Engineer Patrick Miller and his team came up with the idea of a robotic loveseat. The seat would be capable of hugging fans, talking to them in Conan’s voice, and allowing them to share the experience with friends and family through social media. After soliciting help from Beaver, Pa. robotics outfitters RoPro Design, and the Strip District-based master upholsterers Gene Sanes and Associates, assembling of the Conan Hugging Loveseat began.

“At the end of the day we wanted something simple that people could see, understand, experience, and be compelled to share in some way. With this project, I guess we were a little inspired by *Pee-Wee’s Playhouse*,” said Miller, referencing the famous children’s show in which an entire living room was populated with animated furniture possessing quirky personalities.

“But I mean, who isn’t inspired by *Pee-Wee’s Playhouse*?” he added.

And while constructing a piece of furniture that was designed to endearingly



Above: The Deeplocal team tests out the Conan Hugging Loveseat. Photo courtesy of Heather Estes

“Building a robot that’s hugging people, there’s a fine line between hugging and crushing.”

embrace its participants, for a marketing campaign no less, seems like a fairly unusual piece of business, it was simply another day at the office for the folks of Deeplocal.

Since its founding by CMU graduate Nathan Martin in 2006 (who himself has an extensive background in art, music and technology), Deeplocal’s primary goal has been to “connect the digital and physical worlds.” With the help of a small, passionate team of artists, engineers, and designers, the East Liberty

See next page

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Deeplocal makes a Deep Impact, cont.

company has been responsible for some of the most innovative and talked-about promotional campaigns in the advertising and design world.

"I think a lot of agencies win their work with their 'A-team,'" but their 'B-Team' are the ones actually doing all of it," said Director of Marketing Heather Estes. "At Deeplocal, we don't have a 'B-team.' We have a fantastic group of engineers and designers who are all of a really high caliber."

"We've done a really good job of getting people who are maybe a little bit crazy, and get bored easily," said Miller. "[We have a group of people] who always wants to try new things and are always pushing to do projects that are very cool, [and subsequently] successful."

Projects like the Praylee Toyota Prius concept bicycle, which with the assistance of a neuro-headset, allowed riders to shift gears with their minds, and Gap's Project Reindeer, which used the GPS tracked movements of reindeers in Lake Crystal, Minn., to determine the different types of sales in Gap stores over the holidays, show the wide range of ideas and endless amalgams of technology used routinely by Deeplocal to satisfy their clients' needs and make lasting impressions.

Their most famous project would be the Nike Chalkbot, a Twitter-fed, chalk spraying hydraulic robot that traveled the 2009 Tour De France course, using the roads as a canvass to write approximately 36,000 inspiring messages to

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the riders from spectators. The Nike Chalkbot ended up winning a spot in advertising trade magazine The One Club's Top Ten Digital Campaigns of the decade.

"I like to think we are technology agnostic," said Miller. "We can stand on the shoulders of all these different products and technologies and use them in different ways. It's a really efficient way to invent. We'll use any technology we can to solve a problem."

And with Deeplocal, solving problems with technology is an everyday task. Creating, manipulating, and inventing new uses for technology almost always come with a list of obstacles to address. Looking back at the development process for the Conan Hugging Loveseat, Miller admitted there were numerous issues to address as Deeplocal, RoPro, and Gene Sanes embarked on building a robotic couch to interact with humans.

"Building a robot that's hugging people, there's a fine line between hugging and crushing," said Miller with a laugh. "When you're hugging

you want to feel force, but we of course don't want to hurt people. But also, you don't want to give participants a set of ground rules like, 'Okay, don't touch the arms when they are coming in' or 'Don't place your hand there.'"

Eventually, Miller and his team got the perfect level of friendly embrace from the robotic, integrated couch's social media components, and upholstered the whole thing in bright, blazing orange. After the finished product opened to the public on October 24th, the couch ended up hugging close to 10,000 fans over a two-week period, with 40 percent of those sharing their experience on Facebook, Twitter and beyond.

It was another runaway success for the trailblazing design shop. For Miller, the Conan Hugging Loveseat was a reminder of why he loves working at Deeplocal in the first place.

"I really love that playing, that experimentation," said Miller. "It's amazing there's a market to build these things [at Deeplocal]. I feel very lucky to be apart of that." ♦

Attend Events, Volunteer Your Time, and Meet Your Neighbors! Check out the Bulletin Board. See pages 15-16

Lifelong Dog Lover Opens Kennel in Lawrenceville

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Lawrenceville – Sarah Chirico is not yet 30 years old, but she says she is already living her dream. Last October, she and her business partner, Emil Radinick, launched Urban Dog, a doggy daycare, grooming, and boarding facility in a 7,000-square-foot former warehouse at 5601 Butler Street.

Chirico envisioned Urban Dog as a place that would allow busy city dwellers to be able to have dogs. “People might have no back yard,” she says. “They might be professionals working outrageous hours. They should still be able to enjoy having a dog, and we make that possible.”

Plus, daycare is good for the animals. Daycare helps prevent boredom, separation anxiety, and depression in pets left alone for too many hours. “Dogs are pack animals,” Chirico stresses. “They shouldn’t be alone. They need consistent play.”

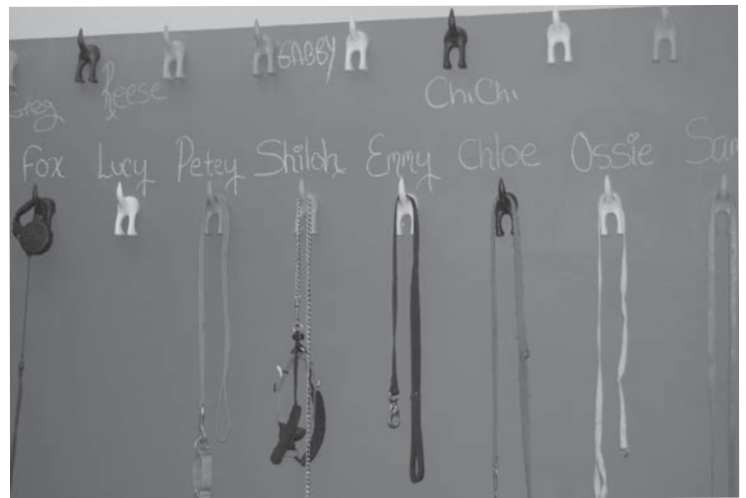
Chirico grew up in nearby Stanton Heights with a passion for dogs; she currently has five. “I love dogs... I worked at kennels in high school and college,” she notes. “I was a veterinary technician for a while.” Her business partner studied animal nutrition at Penn

State and worked for many years in the dairy industry.

Their shared commitment to animals shows in the new venture. Urban Dog is not just any old kennel. “We don’t have 50 dogs in one pen,” she says. “That causes anxiety and stress.” Instead, dogs are grouped for play according to size, age, and temperament, so one person’s little dachshund won’t be terrorized by another’s Jack Russell or pit bull. Each dog has an initial one-hour evaluation to determine its specific needs and disposition.

Chirico also emphasizes the facility’s sanitary conditions. Although some dog owners might think AstroTurf and grass are more inviting surfaces for a kennel, “we used concrete, cement or tile, which we can clean up immediately. AstroTurf is unsanitary.” To divide the 1,500-square-foot dog runs, Radinick designed movable panels made from a high-grade, anti-microbial, anti-fungal plastic used on dairy farms. Chirico says these dividers are safer and more sanitary than chain link, which is popular in other kennels.

In addition to full-day and half-day care, Urban Dog offers a range of



A board designed by Urban Dog co-owner Sarah Chirico creates order for leashes. Photo by Paula Martinac

grooming and spa services – everything from basic bathing and brushing to high-end blueberry facial treatments and mineral mud scrubs. A small shop in the front of the facility carries high-quality dog food and other supplies, including a line of Steeler doggy gear.

The facility recently extended its hours to accommodate the schedules of Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh employees. Daycare is available from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

Urban Dog will also board your canine friend. Dogs with anxiety about staying overnight in a kennel can actually go home with Chirico, who lives in a loft a couple of blocks away.

Special programs are on the horizon, including a Sunday afternoon group play through the winter – “like an indoor dog park,” says Chirico. Urban Dog will also begin holding dog training classes this month, and eventually offer pet CPR for owners. For more information, visit www.urbandogusa.com. ♦

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To find out more about the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, visit us at www.bloomfield-garfield.org, or call us at 412-441-6950.

Goodwill from page 1

home, is a far cry from Brooklyn, where he was from. "It's real nice, very calm," he remarks. "Everyone helps everyone."

Benitez does auto repair out of his mother-in-law's garage to support himself, but says he wants to get his GED, or high school equivalency, so that he can eventually work in the HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) trades and better his position. Noticing the changes in the economy, he says he wants to acquire a trade that can't be outsourced. "I'm good with my hands," he notes, "and I love troubleshooting."

He found his way to Goodwill Southwestern Pennsylvania, which has been providing free educational programming to adults for 25 years, says Goodwill's Literacy Coordinator Danielle Blanchard. "People don't realize what we offer," she observes. "I tell people I work at Goodwill, and they think I mean one of the stores."

For Benitez, a day starts with three hours of classes at the Goodwill facility on 52nd Street, together with a handful of other students – many of whom have become his friends. Instruction is geared to the students' need to pass the GED exam, which measures skills in reading, writing, math, science, and social sciences. Benitez entered the program last February and should be ready to take the test this month or next, Blanchard estimates. "I've progressed a lot with the help I get," Benitez says.

With his diploma in hand, Benitez says he hopes either to attend CCAC for an associate's degree or enroll in the apprenticeship program run by The Builders Guild of Western Pennsylvania. As a skilled tradesman, he'd like someday to mentor young people looking to better themselves. He currently has a small group of neighborhood kids, aged 8 to 12, whom he mentors,



Julio Benitez says he has found educational help, support, and friends at Goodwill's Lawrenceville facility. Photo by Paula Martinac

demonstrating his auto repair skills while also letting them get some hands-on experience. "Their parents like it that they have some-

thing to do," he notes of the kids who hang out at his garage. "They come with their bikes that need fixing. I've got a Mickey Mouse toolbox for them."

He himself was raised in an orphanage, but says he has moved on and doesn't dwell on that part of his past. "Every day is a learning experience," he says. "There's always hope. You've just got to ask the right questions."

Blanchard says that Benitez has been "an inspiration to the other students," citing his "consistent attendance, rising test scores, and peer teaching in class." His performance, Blanchard says, "shows his motivation to achieve his goal."

For more information about GED instruction or other programs offered by Goodwill, visit www.goodwillswpa.org, or drop in at the facility at 118 52nd Street, just off Butler. ♦

A+ Schools Publishes Report on PPS

By Joshua Barszczewski *The Bulletin*

East End – "We find more progress than we have seen in the years since we began publishing this report," says the *2011 Report to the Community on Public School Progress in Pittsburgh*, a publication of the advocacy group A+ Schools.

The annual report publishes information about every school in the Pittsburgh Public Schools district. The report includes: PSSA scores, racial achievement gap statistics, and average SAT scores, among other benchmarks. The report does not include information on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), the federal government's major rating criterion, because A+ Schools finds the benchmark inadequate for measuring progress. "One school not making AYP may actually have made great progress, while a school surpassing the AYP threshold may be stagnating." Despite the overall good news, the report cautions, "Much more work remains to be done to make sure that for every child, in every school, school works, regardless of family background or circumstances."

A full copy of the report can be found at www.aplsschools.org. The following are highlights of the report on East End schools:

Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5: Arsenal fifth graders score more than twice as high on the PSSA reading test in 2011 than in 2010 (48.3 percent to 21.4 percent). A smaller gain of 7 percent was made on the math test.

Pittsburgh Dilworth PreK-5: 90.4 percent of fifth graders tested "advanced" or "proficient" in reading in 2011, up from 80.4 percent in 2010. Math scores for fifth graders declined during that same period: 69.2 percent advanced or proficient in 2011 as opposed to 84.3 percent in 2010.

Pittsburgh Fort Pitt PreK-5: Fifth graders at the soon-to-be-closed elementary school

showed small gains in reading scores (32.6 percent in 2010 and 36.7 percent in 2011) and a larger gain in math (60.5 percent in 2010 and 80.6 percent in 2011).

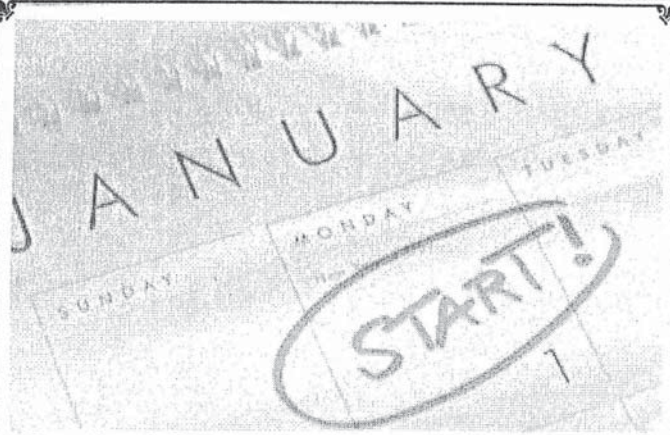
Pittsburgh Woolsair K-5: Fifth graders at the Bloomfield elementary school continued three years of test score increases in reading, with 43.9 percent of students rating advanced or proficient. 56.1 percent of students scored advanced or proficient in math.

Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-8: Fifth graders at the Friendship magnet school made increases in both reading and math scores. Similarly, eighth grade reading scores increased from 81 percent in 2010 to 82.4 percent in 2011. However, eighth grade math scores dropped from 68.4 percent in 2010 to 52.9 percent in 2011.

Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8: Eighth graders' scores in reading dropped slightly, from 56.2 percent in 2010 to 54.3 percent in 2011. Math scores went up, from 49.6 percent in 2010 to 55.6 percent in 2011.

Pittsburgh Obama 6-12: 86 percent of eighth graders and 75.2 percent of eleventh graders scored advanced or proficient in reading; 72 percent of eighth graders and 65.4 percent of eleventh graders scored advanced or proficient in math.

The report also included information about charter schools. The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School in East Liberty saw 82.8 percent of fifth graders score advanced or proficient in reading and 89.6 percent score advanced or proficient in math. Career Connections Charter High School in Lawrenceville saw 42.6 percent of eleventh graders score advanced or proficient in reading, compared to 18.5 percent in math. ♦




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Penn Avenue from page 1

and interior finishes have been massively improved by owner Jason Angst and a small army of inked colleagues and contractors. New roofs were paid for with \$8,500 cash plus a \$7,000 loan from the Artist Loan and Grant Fund, administered by BGC and Friendship Development Associates.

Angst is an in-demand tattoo artist originally from Port Vue, PA. He's worked previously in Philadelphia, Minneapolis, and Milwaukee; for local Red Star Ironworks; and until recently for three years in Bloomfield as part of the co-op shop Tattoo Noir. Angst has travelled to conventions in Berlin and Barcelona to tattoo, and this year's itinerary includes L.A. and Copenhagen.

Angst's wife, Meliora, manages their new shop. They married on November 11, 2011 in their new building. Mel came to the city from northern Michigan in 1998 to attend the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. Mel and Jason share a home in Larimer with Mel's daughter, Lydia, and Lydia's dad, Mike Drew. Lydia is being homeschooled now, but was until recently in CAPA's visual arts program. Mike is an editor for InventHelp and is planning to open Artisan Coffee on the first floor at 5001 Penn by summer 2012.

Other artists at the second-floor tattoo shop include Michael Patrick, whose color work is vivid, formerly of Jester's Court tattoo on Pittsburgh's South Side; and apprentice

Nathan Mould, until recently a designer and printer at Tee Rex Cotton Factory (also on Penn Avenue). Mould did much of 5001's new interior build-out. Patrick's hyper-realistic painting of a bee represented the shop at the recent Hyperlocal art show at Assemble (see story page 13).

The building's first floor is used weekly for classes and modeling sessions by the Conservatory of Oil Painting. The third floor is a



(l to r) Nathan Mould, Meliora Angst, Jason Angst, and Michael Patrick. Photo courtesy Artisan Tattoo

studio apartment. And the Angsts have jumped into Unblurred full swing, with three already under their belt, showing local art on the first floor and drawing good crowds.

Artisan is open Tuesday through Saturday, 12 to 7 p.m. Learn more at 412-661-0503 or online at facebook.com/pages/Artisan-Tattoo-Coffee-Gallery/27805165562050. ♦

Property Notes on Penn

Sold: The building at 5226 Penn Avenue, a former hair salon, was purchased by Ed McCabe Jr. of McCabe Brothers Funeral Homes. It is available for lease – please contact mainstreets@bloomfield-garfield.org for more information.

Sold: The historic Lackzoom Acidophilus building at 5438 Penn was purchased by Stephen Streibig and Samantha Ginsburg. They're the proprietors of Tee Rex Cotton Factory and Iontank next door at 5440 Penn. Immediately following the purchase, substantial interior demolition was done. Stabilization projects are next for the building, before the future use can be determined.

Leased: The long-empty and dilapidated yellow-brick storefronts, attached to the front of the handsome red-brick house at 5452 Penn Avenue. Longtime owner Perry Lewis has died, and his son Gus has taken over management of the property. The new lessees are Nico Hartkopf and colleagues. Nico is a graduate of the CMU architecture program, and his plans for the property tentatively include four small, architectural-services businesses.

Leased: 5139 Penn, formerly a scratch-and-dent appliances store, has been extensively rehabbed by owner Ed Sauer. Leasing the space is Catapult, a shared-office project of Elliott Williams and his partner, Kevin Boyle, which was launched in October with aid from the Sprout Fund. Look for an early January re-opening.

Leased: 5429 Penn, currently occupied by Grow Pittsburgh, will be leased to the Neighborhood Learning Alliance, beginning in February 2012.

Closed: Z-Best BBQ, located at 5165 Penn, has closed due to slow business. The restaurant was cited by the health department for violations, but was re-inspected November 9 and passed inspection. It is available for lease – please contact mainstreets@bloomfield-garfield.org for more information.

In court: The three properties owned by David and Cheryl Killian at 5009, 5011, and 5019 Penn were in Magistrate Ronald Costa's housing court on November 18. Several neighbors testified to the problems they are encountering with the properties; Rick Swartz of BGC testified to their worsening condition. The Killians were given 30 days to clear the rear yards of the properties and seal the buildings to prevent trespassing.

In court: 4827 Penn was in housing court December 6, according to owner Charlotte Onyundo. On the same date, the Bureau of Building Inspection informed BGC the building was condemned. The most recent of several conversations with Ms. Onyundo was held at BGC offices on December 13. She says she would like to fix the building, but has no means to do so. On December 13, Ms. Onyundo agreed to list the property with a commercial realtor.

Free Tax Prep Puts "Money in Your Pocket"

By Jodi S. Kieblick

United Way of Allegheny County

East End – Now that the holidays are over, money is tighter than ever. But there is hope – and help – on the horizon. IRS-certified volunteers can prepare your taxes for free and you can get your refund in as little as nine days.

Beginning on January 9, eligible Allegheny County residents can call 2-1-1 (or 412-255-1155) to schedule their free appointment for free tax preparation. United Way of Allegheny County and the Money in Your Pocket Coalition will be providing free quality federal and state income tax preparation assistance to eligible families earning up to than \$40,000 annually and individuals making up to \$20,000 a year.

The Money in Your Pocket Coalition is a group of nonprofit and government agencies in Pittsburgh that offer free tax preparation and financial education services for Allegheny County residents. Last year, the Coalition completed more than 6,000 tax returns with the assistance of 95 volunteers, and provided assistance in getting \$9.7 million in tax refunds for Pittsburghers, including \$3.5 million in Earned Income Tax Credits.

Free tax preparation services will be available at multiple locations through Allegheny County. Advance appointments are required to have your taxes done for free. Appointment lines for free tax preparation will open on January 9 through 2-1-1 and partner sites. In the East End, sites are located at Family Resources in East Liberty, Goodwill Industries of Southwestern PA in Lawrenceville, and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation office on Penn Avenue.

For more information or to see a complete list of participating tax preparation sites, including information on the sites in the Bloomfield and Garfield area, please visit www.pgfhreetaxes.org, or call 412-255-1155 or 2-1-1. ♦

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Gallery Hung Up on Local Artists

By Sara Ginsburg Bulletin Contributor

Garfield – Assemble, an art venue at 5125 Penn Avenue, debuted its first locally themed art installation, HyperLocal Show + Art Bazaar, on December 2 during the Unblurred art crawl along Penn Avenue's arts district. The show resulted from a call to artists who make their home within a 10-block radius of the space.

Assemble opened in April as a place where artists and the public can interact. Along with art shows that change monthly, there are regular workshops and other events where the public can participate in craft projects that explore the relationship between art and technology.

For the non-juried HyperLocal show, Assemble director Nina Barbuto wanted to explore a diverse range of media while sticking to a limited geographical area for contributors. She sent out an open call to Assemble's neighbors through social networking, and put up fliers at businesses along Penn Avenue and at homes within the surrounding communities of Garfield, Bloomfield, and Friendship. She sought art-makers working in fine art, crafts, and technology.

The result was a show of artists in a variety of disciplines and traditions, from the classically trained to the self-taught, from Jon-Jon Cassagnol's large-format black-and-white photograph "Rose," to Arlene Coles'

Christmas ornaments made from repurposed light bulbs. Many contributors were veterans of Pittsburgh's art scene. For some, such as 8-year-old Maryellen Wilcox, who contributed an untitled drawing, it was their first time ever showing a work for sale. A computer program called Retina, which is being taught to paint by the engineer Ciarán Ó Conaire, had an abstract piece in the show. "HyperLocal is important because it showcases the neighborhood to a vast and diverse audience," explains Barbuto.

At the show's opening, visitors danced to DJ Juan-Augusto Lafontaine. Occasionally, someone would break off from the crowd to try on headphones and watch a video of Kevin Clancy's "Babel," a video documenting the artist making music by tapping on a typewriter whose keys had been rigged to strike a note on a nearby piano. Visitors also contributed to "Virtual Neighborhood," which sprawled across one wall of the space. On it, the public was invited to add to an imaginary map constructed from craft materials.



ABOVE: Arlene Coles and Sandra Thompson, featured artists in "HyperLocal" at Assemble gallery, admire the eclectic work of their neighbors. Photo by Nina Barbuto

Each artist was asked to make a statement about why he or she enjoys making things. Eric Lidji, who contributed the drawing "My View (July 2010-July 2011)" wrote, "Making things makes my brain buzz and my heart hum." Another artist, Seth LeDonne, said, "When I'm creating, I feel as though I'm moving in a forward direction. I strive to consider the possible impact of my work on others and how it can be some way to provide a positive experience." Local artist Ryan McCormick simply stated, "Because art is magic." ♦

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Bulletin BOARD

Local Events Classes Announcements Fundraisers

January 3

DOWNTOWN

LIHEAP Crisis Centers

The Pennsylvania Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will open its Crisis Program Center at One Smithfield Street, with a tentative closing date of March 30. The center will be open from Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. or until capacity is reached. For more information, call the Allegheny County Department of Human Services at 1-800-851-3838 or visit www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/liheapfactsheet.aspx.

January 7

MORNINGSIDE

Ceili Club Dance

The Pittsburgh Ceili Club will be holding an Irish Ceili Dance at the Morningside VFW, 1820 Morningside Avenue. A workshop will begin at 7 p.m. and the dancing will begin at 8 p.m. The cost is \$5 for club members, \$8 for non-members, and an additional \$3 for the workshop. For more information, visit www.pittsburghceiliblue.org.

January 9

LAWRENCEVILLE

Adult Book Club

At 6 p.m., the Adult Book Discussion Group at the Lawrenceville branch of Carnegie Library, 279 Fisk Street, will discuss *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks.

January 11

GARFIELD

Hyperlocal Mapping Party

Visit Assemble's Hyperlocal exhibition from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Assemble, 5125 Penn Avenue, to see art and technology created by local artists of all ages. Meet artists and creative cartographers who will help you and your favorite grown-up create artistic, geographical, mental, and informational maps of your favorite places like your neighborhood, school, home, or more! Learn to read maps, use a compass and give directions. Use artistic media to help Assemble build a virtual neighborhood sculpture of buildings and streets that cover the walls.

January 12

LAWRENCEVILLE

Evacuation Team

The American Red Cross Southwestern Pennsylvania Region is recruiting members for a

Community Evacuation Center Team to serve Lawrenceville and the surrounding areas in the event of a disaster. Community Evacuation Center Teams are composed of individuals from within specific communities who are trained by the Red Cross and are equipped with the necessary equipment to open evacuation centers and emergency shelters when disasters strike. Those interested in becoming a part of the team are invited to attend an informational meeting at the Stephen Foster Community Center, 286 Main Street, at 7 p.m. If you are unable to attend the meeting but still want more information, contact Victor Roosen at 412-263-3144 or RoosenV@us.redcross.org.

GARFIELD

Career Focus

Guest speaker Paul "Mac" Jones of the 3rd Presbyterian Church will be giving a special presentation at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Avenue. Jones runs Career Focus, a specialized career coaching program for experienced professionals and people possessing a bachelor's degree or higher. If you feel your job search is stuck and want to learn some new techniques, come to this special presentation. To register, please call 412-362-8580 or leave a message at 412-465-0425.

January 13

PITTSBURGH

Request for Proposals

The Summer Dreamers Academy, a free camp launched by the Pittsburgh Public Schools in 2010, is seeking Activities Providers who can provide students in grades K-8 with unique summer activities in Summer 2012. Activities providers submitting a proposal must demonstrate an outstanding commitment to children. Examples of summer activities include kayaking, ceramics, drama, debate, urban gardening, and more. Organizations wishing to become Activities Providers should submit their proposal by 5 p.m. Proposals will be selected by their ability to meet the criteria outlined in the Request for Proposal, which can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/sFR1EM>.

January 14

GARFIELD

Career-Finding Workshop

Attend a workshop that can help your child answer this age-old question: "What are you going to be when you grow up?" Capture a neglected source of a huge amount of career-finding information needed for identifying your child's passion. This system is adapted from Walter Fortson's financial literacy book *Help Your Children Make Millions (And Live Debt Free)*. Learn how to use this system to analyze and record every classroom experience, volunteer activity, work experience, and hobby. Create a powerful and useful database that will guide your child to a fulfilling career. Pittsburgh

CONNECTS, 5321 Penn Avenue, 11 a.m. RSVP: 412-204-6227 (leave message).

GARFIELD

"Other Animals" Show

The Irma Freeman Center for Imagination, 5006 Penn Avenue, is hosting a juried art exhibition called "Other Animals." Artists can enter up to 3 pieces of found, collected, constructed, created art or artifacts related to animals or parts of animals. All media is acceptable, including sound, video, photography, performance, drawing, painting, and sculpture! Each piece submitted has a \$15 submission fee. All art should be ready to hang or free standing and able to be put on a pedestal. If your work is conceptual, please provide images and a description of your idea. Artist description and biography limited to 50 words. Artists will receive 50% off the gallery price. Contact: Sheila Ali at 412-924-0634 or sheiladali@irmafreeman.com. Drop off is between 2 and 5 p.m. Postmark deadline is January 9. Exhibition receptions are February 3 and March 2.

January 16

EAST LIBERTY/HIGHLAND PARK Honoring MLK Jr.

The Kelly Strayhorn Theater and Union Project will partner to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a full day of activities. The celebration begins at noon with a host of family-friendly, free activities at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Avenue, including performances by Hope Academy and Dreams of Hope and activities in the lobby until 4 p.m. Between 4 and 5 p.m., the group will hold a Peace March that departs from the Kelly Strayhorn Theater and ends at the Union Project, 801 N. Negley Avenue. The free activities continue at Union Project with a community mosaic project, storytelling, and dramatic readings. The day concludes with a community meal for everyone. Visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org or www.unionproject.org for more information.

January 17

GARFIELD

PNC Bank Interviews

PNC Bank is looking for tellers and customer service agents. Representatives will be at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Avenue, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Timeslots for interviews are limited. To register, please call 412-362-8580 or leave a message at 412-465-0425.

January 18

GARFIELD

"A Lot of Green"

Garfield Jubilee Association, Inc. will be hosting a community meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Avenue. The meeting will focus on the "A Lot of Green" grant awarded to the Garfield community. Other issues to be discussed are: location of a new parklet, community involvement, lot layout contest, a possible project timetable, and creating a community taskforce. For more information, please contact Garfield Jubilee Association, Inc. at 412-655-5220 and ask for Keelyn Young.

January 19

LAWRENCEVILLE

2012 Lecture Series

The Lawrenceville Historical Society kicks off the 2012 Lecture Series on January 19 at 7 p.m. in the McVey Auditorium of Canterbury Place, 310 Fisk Street, with Dr. Stanley States, Director of Water Quality and Production for the Pittsburgh Water and Sewage Authority, who will give a presentation on the history of Pittsburgh's water supply system. The event is free and open to the public.

January 25

GARFIELD

Dress to Impress

Interviewing is not just about what you say, but also about making an impression. Join the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Avenue, for a special workshop focusing on your dress, body language, grammar and other important etiquette techniques to make your next interview a success. To register, please call 412-362-8580 or leave a message at 412-465-0425.

January 23

EAST LIBERTY

Monday Night Rounds

In this month's Monday Night Rounds, a forum for arts professionals, the topic to be covered is creating a plan and a budget. The free session will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Avenue.

January 24

GARFIELD

AARP Worksearch

Are you aged 55 and older and out of work? The AARP Worksearch Program may be for you. The program assists individuals with obtaining the experience and training necessary to get a job. An information session will be held at 1 p.m. at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Avenue. To qualify for the program, individuals must be 55 years-of-age or older, be currently unemployed, have a low income and be a resident of Allegheny County. Those attending must bring with them a Pennsylvania State ID or Driver's License, a Social Security card, a resume, and documents showing family income over the past twelve months. To register in advanced, please call 412-363-8580 or leave a message at 412-465-0425.

January 25

GARFIELD

Applying to College?

Come to Pittsburgh CONNECTS, 5321 Penn Avenue, to learn how to make getting into college less daunting. This workshop will help sort out the long "to do" list when it comes to applying for college. We will cover college essay and application "dos and don'ts," where to find SAT and ACT prep

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 February issue are due JANUARY 13 via email submission to bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org.**

Volunteer Opportunities & Services

help, and how to pay for it all. This workshop will held from 6-7 p.m.

January 28

EAST LIBERTY

Next Stage showing

See tomorrow's hottest choreographers today. The Kelly Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Avenue, is proud to present emerging choreographers and their new works in the Next Stage Showing at 8 p.m. For tickets and information, visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org.

January 30

EAST LIBERTY

Dance Classes

The 10-week spring semester of Community Dances Classes begins at Dance Alloy Theater, 5530 Penn Avenue. 12 classes are being offered, including ballet, belly dancing, hip hop, West African, modern jazz, salsa/merengue, modern dance, danz/yoga, and several creative movement classes for kids from toddlers to age 8. Adult classes are \$175 (\$215 per couple for Salsa/Merengue); all kids' classes are \$125, except for Creative Movement which is \$150. To register or for more information, visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org, or call 412-363-3000.

January

FRIENDSHIP

Local Writer Publishes

Author K.M. Chinwe's first novel, *My Soul is Resting*, is now available from XLibris. Ms. Chinwe spent 25 years composing this story about a 36-year old African American single mother. To place an order, call 1-888-795-4274 or fax 1-610-915-0294. Orders are also available through email at orders@xlibris.com or on websites such as amazon.com. The cost of the paperback is \$15.99; it is also available in hardback for \$24.99.

GARFIELD

Yoga Boot camp

Feeling sluggish? Tired? Want to try something new? The Yoga Hive, 5491 Penn Avenue, is offering

our beginner yoga boot camp again this January. For four Saturdays in January, join The Yoga Hive for yoga immersion. This is great for beginners and those who think they are "not flexible" or "too out of shape." Yoga just takes a commitment to show-up on your mat. Details can be found at yogahivepgh.com or by emailing info@yogahivepgh.com.

GARFIELD

Weekly Events at ENEC

During January, the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) will host PNC Bank Partnership Workshops every Tuesday at 10 a.m. Take the first step towards your new career in banking! Attend two workshops to learn about PNC Bank, and the ENEC will help you with your application. Every Wednesday, the ENEC will host Youthlink from 5-8 p.m. Youthlink has programs just for teenagers—help looking for jobs, applying to college, exploring career options, and much more. Every Thursday, ENEC will host UPMC POWRR workshops at 10 a.m. These workshops are designed for people interested in working with UPMC but who are frustrated by the application process. To register for any event at the ENEC, please call 412-362 8580 or leave a message at 412-465-0425.

EAST LIBERTY

Library Events

The East Liberty branch of Carnegie Library, 130 S. Whitfield Street, has a number of exciting events in January. January 17 at 4 p.m. will be "School Age Fun: Happy Birthday Martin!" for kids aged 6-10. On January 18 at 5:30 p.m. will be Imagination Builders: My Pittsburgh. Recreate the Pittsburgh skyline using Legos, wood blocks, and more. For ages 4-12 with family. On January 25 at 6:30 p.m. will be "What's the BIG Idea? Math and Science for Preschoolers." This event is open for kids aged 3-7 with an adult. On January 28 at 11 a.m. will be "Family Fun: Penguins are Cool!" for ages 3-10 with family. Please call 412-363-8274 to register for any program.

Ongoing

GARFIELD

Credit Counseling

NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania, a non-profit 501(c)(3) that offers financial education as well as

credit and budget counseling, will be available at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Avenue, one day a week. Our free services include private sessions with certified counselors to assess credit reports and develop spending and savings plans. Call 412-281-9773 to make an appointment.

GARFIELD

Microsoft Office Training

Classes in Microsoft Office programs are offered at Pittsburgh CONNECTS, the BGC's tech center, 5321 Penn Avenue, at beginner and advanced levels. Excel basics will be offered on January 10 and 24; advanced Excel will be offered on January 12 and 26. Microsoft Word basics will be January 17; PowerPoint basics will be offered January 19. All classes are from 6-7 p.m.

GARFIELD

Computer Lessons

Pittsburgh CONNECTS, the BGC's tech center, 5321 Penn Avenue, holds weekly computer lessons. "Email with Gmail" will go over all the things one can do with a free email account, such as save documents and pictures. It will be held from noon until 1 p.m. every Wednesday. "Computer ABCs" will introduce you to computers in a friendly, slow-paced environment. The class is held from 3-4 p.m. every Wednesday. "Protect Yourself Online" will go over information on how to stay safe online and prevent identity theft. It will be held from 6-7 p.m. every Wednesday. "Internet Safety and Tips" will also go over information on how to stay safe online and prevent identity theft. It is held on Mondays from 1-2 p.m.

GARFIELD

Med Students Q&A

Has it been years since you've been to the doctor? Don't have any insurance? Have you gone to the Emergency Room for small health problems? Come to Pittsburgh CONNECTS, 5321 Penn Avenue, to ask young doctors any questions you have. The medical students will be available on January 9 and 23 from 6-8 p.m.

GARFIELD

Workshops for Kids

The Irma Freeman Center for Imagination, 5006 Penn Avenue, will have two ongoing classes for kids aged 5-13 during January and February. "Trash and Treasure" will take place over six Fridays (January 6, 13, 20, 27, February 3 and 10) from 3:15-5 p.m. Kids in this workshop will make their own fantasy island using found, collected, recycled, and natural materials to create trees, animals, buried treasure and more. The cost is \$100. "Children's Workshop" will take place over four Saturdays (January 7, 14,

21, 28) from 12:30-2 p.m. Kids in this workshop will make a variety of fun hands-on projects, investigations, and experiments. The cost is \$60. Children under the age of seven, in either workshop, must be accompanied by an adult. Scholarships are available. For more information, call 412-924-0634 or email sheiladali@irmafreeman.com.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Afterschool programs

Every Wednesday, the Lawrenceville branch of Carnegie Library, 279 Fisk Street, will be welcoming middle and high school students to its Teen Space. Teens can do what they want to do, talk about what they want to talk about, and make the library their space. Events for January include a teen book discussion, video games, crafts, and a teen advisory council. Every Thursday, the library will host School Age Fun: After School Recess. For kids in grades 2-5, the library will have crafts, games, and more.

GARFIELD/EAST LIBERTY

Tree Pittsburgh Activities

Tree Pittsburgh has announced the official launch of the Tree Pittsburgh Urban Forest Master Plan, and will begin an intensive community outreach and education initiative over the next two months to complement its planning activities. Residents in the East End can attend the Tree Lover Volunteer Drop In on Wednesday, January 4 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 5427 Penn Avenue or attend the Community Tree Meeting on Monday, January 23 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Union Project, 801 N. Negley Avenue. For a complete schedule of community events, meetings and planning schedule, please visit the Tree Pittsburgh web site at www.treepittsburgh.org or call 412-362-6360.

PITTSBURGH

Jackie Robinson Contest

The Pittsburgh Pirates 2012 Jackie Robinson Essay and Poetry Contest is now accepting submissions. In celebration of Jackie Robinson, the Pittsburgh Pirates invite youths to express their creativity. Any student in grades three through eight in the Pirates market area can enter. Students have two opportunities to enter, with either an essay or a poem. Winners receive tickets to Pirates games plus other prizes. For more information, contact Chaz Kellem at 412-325-4731 or chaz.kellem@pirates.com.

Email listings for February
by January 13 to
bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org.

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A Glass Act: Artists Re-imagine Penn Avenue's Art District

Christine Bethea *The Bulletin*

Friendship – As one of only a few glass centers in the nation, it's hard for the Pittsburgh Glass Center at 5472 Penn Avenue to top itself, but somehow it keeps doing it.

Case in point: PGC's latest exhibition, open now through February 17 and entitled "Ten More Years on Penn," features installations by artists Gwyllene Gallimard and Jean-Marie Mauclet. French-born Gallimard and Mauclet, currently working out of South Carolina, are internationally known and have received support from a number of influential institutions, including Ministère de la Culture (France), Spoleto Festival, the Humanities Council, Alternate ROOTS, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The two are especially noted for their bold work surrounding issues on gentrification. One installation that garnered particular success was titled "I still don't get it: why do they want to be rich without us?" A large-scale installation, it previewed in the City Gallery at Waterfront Park in South Carolina in 2007. The two artists also created a culinary phenomenon in the area when they created a French fast food restaurant that did so well their employees recently bought the business from them.

"We came to Pittsburgh because of its strong commitment to the arts," said Gallimard. "Jean and I have been in partnership in one way or another for over 30 years. We've traveled all over the world. When we walked down Penn Avenue during 'Unblurred,' we understood how far the revival still had to go but also that only the arts could have brought it this far.

Art is the constant pioneer. This is one destination and experience we're glad we didn't miss."

Mauclet agrees. "We saw art all along Penn Avenue every day and how people appreciate their neighborhood. It was uplifting," he said. "People in the community and the Glass Center staff were fantastic. We would do this all again anytime."

Previous installations by Mauclet and Gallimard have been informed by a community-based approach to art derived from research, community interaction, and oral history. In the East End, they met with residents from both geographic sides of Penn Avenue including Garfield, Friendship, and Bloomfield, interviewing key stakeholders. Both artists had worked in a wide range of materials – stone, steel, rope, canvas, and video. Cast resin was another recent medium. But never had they worked in glass until their residency at PGC.

As part of the organization's bridge program, which challenges professionals to explore their medium, the two resident artists found the work extremely physical and the glass occasionally temperamental to work with. However, there were other discoveries as well. They learned glass had a humanity all its own. And the malleability and almost limitless possibilities of the art form made their efforts completely worthwhile. With assistance from hot-shop collaborators like PGC's Brian Engel and working to put literary gems in batik from community partners like Michele Morris of Friendship Development Associates, Gallimard and

Mauclet filled the Hodge Gallery with incredible work that speaks to the heart and soul.

"This exhibition is especially meaningful to us because it illustrates how artistic intervention has changed the Penn Avenue corridor and how bright the future looks for our neighborhood. We're excited about opening our doors to the community for another decade and keeping the conversation going," said PGC Executive Director Heather McElwee.

In fact, an expansive table where people can congregate has been set up inside the gallery just to facilitate those conversations. Said Mauclet, "Come look and talk. Think and meet with your neighbors."

"Ten More Years on Penn" is a voyage into the district's past and potential future, but it also stays true to the present, paying homage to iconic small businesses like Carl's TV and Kravnick's Bike Shop, Bride's Row, and the Glass Lofts. And while it's true the gentrification debate



ABOVE: A new take on landmarks on Penn, like Carl's TV. Photo by Nathan J. Shaulis

may still percolate here and in other well-meaning cities, one thing is for sure: Penn Avenue and the Pittsburgh Glass Center are hard acts to follow.

For more information on the artists: fastandfrench.org; and on the exhibition: pittsburghglasscenter.org. ♦

BELOW: The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation once again hosted a holiday party for the Garfield neighborhood, held at the Community Activity Center on December 9. In addition to enjoying cookies and hot chocolate, kids got the chance to have their photos taken with Santa, and to make their own Christmas tree ornaments. Photo by Paula Martinac



FREE HELP WITH PREPARING & FILING 2011 TAX RETURNS

IT'S TAX
TIME!

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 11 and ending Saturday, April 14th. 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 4 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.