

the Bulletin

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



ABOVE: Dr. Ken Melani, CEO of Highmark, removes the "closed" sign from the West Penn Hospital emergency department. For more on the reopening of the ER, see page 3. Photo by Paula Martinac

Green Roof Sprouts on Bus Shelter

By Margaret Graham *ELDI*

East Liberty – Green roofs are popping up all over Pittsburgh, but how many can you actually see? Thanks to a new installation on Penn Avenue in East Liberty, the details of a green roof are now

See **page 2**

2

New Museum Explores Transgenic Life

By Rich Engel *Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.*

Garfield – The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is considering approving genetically engineered salmon for human consumption, which would be a first on our supermarket shelves. The salmon is

See **page 13**

13

Woolslair Gets Library and Food Pantry

By Melinda Maloney *The Bulletin*

Bloomfield – Pittsburgh Woolslair's library is a vibrant, engaging space. Painted in bright colors, its walls contain quotes from famous authors espousing the joys of reading. Its shelves display

See **page 4**

4

Grocery Chain Renews Interest in 5200 Penn

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Bloomfield/Garfield – Commercial Properties, the North Carolina-based developer for the discount grocery chain Bottom Dollar, signed a sales contract on January 20 with owner Al Panza for the property at 5200 Penn Avenue.

This turn of events comes almost a year after the same developer decided it was "not moving forward" at that time with plans to develop the property as a grocery store. In March 2011, facing objections from nearby neighbors about the site plans, Commercial Properties released its option on the property, but told Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation staff it would be back to revisit the possibility of a Penn Avenue store after the other Bottom Dollar stores in the Pittsburgh area launched.

On January 26, Bottom Dollar held grand openings for seven of the 14 new stores it is opening across the region; four more opened in February. Members of the BGC took a field trip to McKeesport, Pa., to visit one of the new supermarkets, and found it clean, bright and extremely busy. With incentives like a free bag of groceries for the first 200 customers, discount prices on both national and store-brand foods and special appearances by former Steelers, the check-out lines snaked

See **Grocery** | page 2



ABOVE: A storytime area in the library at Pittsburgh Woolslair K-5. Photo by Paula Martinac

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Grocery from page 1



ABOVE: A separate produce room is a unique feature of all Bottom Dollar grocery stores. Pictured here is the new store in McKeesport. Photo by Paula Martinac

through the aisles, and shoppers' carts were piled high.

"We heard that people were lined up at midnight [for the opening]," Kate Tillman Brown, vice president of development for Commercial Properties, told *The Bulletin*. The morning rush was so hectic, Brown said, she and C. Brantley Tillman, the principal of Commercial Properties, were "helping pull in shopping carts from the parking lot."

At press time, Tillman and his engineer, George Haberman of the local firm Civil and Environmental Consultants Inc., were putting the finishing touches on their site plans for a meeting with nearby neighbors on February 23 at the BGC's Community Activity Center. They met with BGC staff a week earlier to review the specifics.

As reported in *The Bulletin* last spring, the store would be built from the ground up, with the developer demolishing the existing structure that houses Schaedler Yesco. "That building is in bad shape," noted Tillman. "The roof is wood and it isn't sound." The new building will abut 5222 Penn, with the parking lot on the corner of South Pacific and Penn – the reverse of the current site configuration. There will be 53 parking spots.

The building will have multiple air conditioning compressors on the roof, which are "very quiet," according to Tillman. "It won't be any different than having a house next door."

The plans include a truck entrance on Penn, with egress onto South Pacific. Tillman said he will hire a subcontractor to do a traffic study of the 100 block of Pacific, with the intention of making it two-way to avoid bringing trucks into the residential area that begins at Coral Street.

Also, in deference to the property's location at the heart of the Penn Avenue Arts District, Tillman is looking at drawings from EDGE Studio, a local architectural firm, for the design of the fence and landscaping around the store. The developer would extend this decorative fence along a portion of Coral, and have a higher wall along the rear perimeter to obscure the loading dock and trash receptacles. Design plans also include moving the colorful glass mural designed by local artist Daviea Davis and currently mounted on 5222 Penn to the façade of the grocery store.

"We want to do everything to be a good neighbor," noted Tillman.

If plans are approved by the city's zoning board, construction would take about seven months, start to finish, said Brown.

BGC Deputy Director Aggie Brose said, "This would be a huge investment of private funds in our neighborhood. It would complement our new housing development, and come at a time when transit cuts threaten to affect how easily our residents can get their groceries."

Tillman said this would be the first Bottom Dollar within the Pittsburgh city limits. It would also be the first grocery store in the neighborhood in 25 years. Watch for updates on this issue in coming editions of *The Bulletin*, including a report on the February 23 meeting and notification of the official hearing before the city's Zoning Board of Adjustment. ♦

Green Roof from page 1

visible to anyone and everyone.

Pittsburgh's first green roof bus shelter has been installed on the corner of Penn Avenue and N. Whitfield Street in East Liberty. Funding came from The Sprout Fund's Spring Program, which is in partnership with The Pittsburgh Foundation. The design and retrofitting of the bus shelter was done by Joel Perkovich, principal at Tsuga Studios.

According to Loralyn Fabian, sustainable projects manager at East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI), the goals of the bus shelter are to foster biodiversity, revitalize East Liberty's commercial core through beautification and green infrastructure and engage and educate local partners and stakeholders about the benefits of green roofs.

This final goal is also what makes the shelter unique, said Fabian. "Not only is this Pittsburgh's first green roof bus shelter," she said, "but as far as we know it's the only one of its kind to provide education about the benefits of a green roof actually on the shelter."

The "education" Fabian is talking about is information located on each panel of the bus shelter. Bus patrons and pedestrians alike can read about the environmental benefits of green roofs, as well as learn about the technology behind the shelter

and the plant species growing on the roof.

The green roof has eight layers, beginning with the roof deck. That deck is followed by insulation, liners, different protection and filter fabrics, and finally the specially engineered green roof soil media (engineered to be lighter than traditional soil). The plants, some native and some just especially hearty, are the icing on the green roof cake.

Located under the bench in the shelter is a cistern, which will hold any runoff from the plants on the roof. Thanks to a solar panel located on the roof, a pump will direct water from the cistern back to the plants on dry days. Any time the cistern is full, the excess will be used to water nearby trees.

ELDI also hosted an informational workshop for local partners, detailing the steps taken to duplicate the shelter in other areas of the City of Pittsburgh. Fabian sees it as another instance of neighborhoods taking the initiative for green infrastructure.

"For the past five years, East Liberty has been a pilot site for green infrastructure projects, in hopes that other neighborhoods would implement their own," she said. "Until Pittsburgh has a city-wide green infrastructure plan, it's up to individual neighborhoods to make green projects happen on the most local level possible." ♦

BELOW: Installation of the city's first green roof bus shelter. Photo courtesy ELDI



Public Safety Task Force. The Public Safety Task Force has convened monthly in Garfield since 2000. At the table are representatives from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, the Bureau of Police, other neighborhood organizations, the offices of the Mayor and City Council members, various city and county departments and the state. Community members are invited to bring specific concerns to the PSTF's monthly meeting during the first 15 minutes. The next meeting is March 14 at 4 p.m. at the BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 North Pacific Avenue.

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Pittsburgh Green House Opens This Month

By Melinda Maloney *The Bulletin*

East Liberty – Three years ago, the Pittsburgh Green House was a pipe dream, says Lindsay Ruprecht, its program administrator. However, this month, the house, ACTION-Housing's newest sustainability program, will open its doors to the general public.

Individuals can visit the house to learn how to make their home-energy consumption more sustainable – and affordable – while professionals can take advantage of the building's many resources, including Building Performance Institute certificate training, to prepare themselves to participate in the green economy.

Ruprecht wants visitors to the house to learn by doing, not just by watching or reading. "We wanted to have as many hands-on activities as possible. We want people to try putting in rope caulking in a window and ripping it back out," she said. For that reason, the house is filled with features that people can touch and experience.

Immediately through the home's front door is an insulation cavity, where people can "touch and feel" different options. Similar displays exist all over the house. Visitors can compare the performance and resource use of two different types of refrigerators, up to eight different shower heads and a bad attic hatch and a good one. They can test out the most water-efficient toilet that uses water, and leaf through a library of resources in the kitchen. In essence, almost every aspect of the home educates visitors in some way. To enable visitors' self-guided learning, infographics explaining what each item is – and the financial and environmental benefits its use provides – are hung throughout the house.

Although the amount of environmentally friendly items in the house can seem overwhelming, Ruprecht emphasized that most of them are pretty easy for the average person to find. "Most things here we either sourced locally or we could. A good bit of it is from Home Depot. Some of the stuff we can't get at a Home Depot or a Value City, we can get at Artemis in



ABOVE: Lindsay Ruprecht demonstrates how to install insulation. Photo by Paula Martinac

Lawrenceville," she said. They're also practical – an important aspect of the home's mission is to teach people about different changes they can make to save money on their utility bills.

The house will also host more formal educational opportunities and has rooms that can function as classrooms, complete with Internet jacks and a television for presentations. "ACTION-Housing has a robust line-up of different classes, from your basic Home and Energy 101, which educates people about the behavioral things they can do in their own homes to reduce their utility bills, to Energy 102, which deals with what you can do with products and physical things you can do to your house," Christov Churchward, sustainability program assistant at ACTION-Housing, said. ACTION-Housing's community partners will also use the home to teach classes. "We at

See **Green House** | page 10

the Bulletin

A Publication of
Bloomfield-Garfield
Corporation



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

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

Volume 37, Number 3

The deadline for the April issue is THURSDAY, MARCH 15.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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West Penn Emergency Department Reopens

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Bloomfield – In a show of what Dr. Thomas Campbell, chair of Emergency Medicine for the West Penn Allegheny Health System (WPAHS), called "a love of this community," the West Penn Hospital Emergency Department reopened its doors on Valentine's Day.

The ER closed in January 2011, on what Campbell called "one of the saddest days of my career." At that time, the closing was thought to be permanent.

At a press briefing the day before the reopening, Dr. Kenneth Melani, CEO of Highmark, removed the "permanently closed" sign from the ER entrance. The insurance giant is partnering with West Penn to bring the hospital back into full operation. Melani called the ER reopening "a fitting Valentine's Day present to the residents of Bloomfield, Friendship and Garfield."

Melani reviewed the hospital's long history of providing emergency care, dating back to the Civil War, when it was commissioned as a military hospital. He said he fondly recalled spending "many a night" in the West Penn ER during his own medical residency at the hospital.

Campbell outlined the "wow factor" of the ER renovation, which was designed by Astorino, a local architectural firm.

Changes include a new patient entrance, 23 patient beds, all new supplies and equipment, and a state-of-the-art CT scanner, which Campbell compared to having "a high definition TV instead of black and white."

Dr. Keith Ghezzi, interim president and CEO of WPAHS, called the renovation "one of the most beautiful and functional emergency departments I've ever seen."

Campbell described the new ER staff as a mix of veterans and newcomers. For example, Janie Miller, RN, has returned to the hospital to head up the ER nursing staff. At two job fairs held at West Penn last fall, more than 2,000 interested applicants showed up.

Additional plans for West Penn include a renovated and reorganized Mellon Pavilion; expansion of the hospital's capacity to 300-350 private patient rooms; the return of cardiovascular services; and expansion of labor and delivery services. County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, who was among the many local political leaders present for the announcement, praised the reopening of the ER and the future plans as "a benefit to the entire city and county." ♦

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ENEC Fights Unemployment

By Melinda Maloney *The Bulletin*

Garfield – A year ago, Mark Mack was one of more than 7 percent unemployed Allegheny County residents. Today, thanks to the help of the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, he has a job in one of the region's fastest growing fields: the natural gas industry.

Mark Mack walked into the ENEC, located in Garfield at 5321 Penn Avenue, after seeing its sandwich board when he drove by. The ENEC has drop-in hours on week days from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Mack said he decided to stop in simply because "he needed a job." He was "pleasantly surprised" with all the help the ENEC staff provided him.

Much of that assistance came from Usama Al-Teraifi, an AmeriCorp volunteer and workforce developer at the ENEC. Al-Teraifi said that when people come to the ENEC, his first task is to find out about them. "We ask them about themselves. We try to match their interests and make some career suggestions based on their interests and experience," he said.

Then, the ENEC staff takes specific steps to help that person obtain the best-fitting job. In the case of Mack, they "revamped his resume and made it more presentable," Al-Teraifi said. Al-Teraifi also helped Mack develop a cover letter.

In addition to helping him with his application materials, Al-Teraifi taught Mack to avail himself of the ENEC's technological resources. He helped Mack set up an email address, gave him a password so he could use the ENEC's computers to access the Internet, taught him to use the fax machine and assisted him in developing the Internet search skills necessary for finding a job.

Those Internet skills were crucially

important for Mack's job hunt: he found his current job, which he started in late January, on Craigslist.

However, Al-Taraifi emphasized that it was more than Mack's technological know-how that led to his current job. "He was very persistent – he was here all the time looking for jobs," Al-Taraifi said. Mack held several temporary jobs before finding his current position.

Rick Flanagan, ENEC's manager, agreed that Mack's determination was instrumental to his success at finding a job, and said he advises others to pursue their employment searches with similar diligence. "Don't feel like you're a burden to us – just keep coming in until you get the job," Flanagan said.

Although the ENEC helped Mack find his job online, the center has connections with local employers, including PNC and UPMC. In the case of those employers, the ENEC guides candidates through a series of hiring workshops and guarantees interviews to successful applicants.

Individuals can stop by the ENEC for more than just job help. "We have an array of services – not just an employment. We have computer literacy, financial training, and youth programs," Al-Teraifi said.

Although Mack's work isn't easy – he works long hours outdoors in all sorts of weather – he's grateful for the job. In fact, he's encouraging his nephew to take advantage of the ENEC's resources. "I want [the ENEC] to help him like they helped me," Mack said.

Anyone interested in learning more about what the ENEC has to offer can stop by during drop-in hours or call 412-567-3891. ♦

BGC Overhauls Website

Garfield – The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation has launched a completely revamped website at www.bloomfield-garfield.org.

The site, designed by Imagebox Productions of 4933 Penn Avenue, highlights the BGC's many programs and initiatives, including housing, youth development, public safety, Penn Avenue development, employment and more. It also includes a special feature called "Our Community," designed to showcase residents, property owners, volunteers, community organization leaders, business owners and others who are making a difference in the incorporated territory of the BGC. The profiles will rotate every few months.

In addition, the blog for *The Bulletin*, which used to be housed separately at Blogger.com, now resides on the BGC's website. Readers can learn about community events, employment and other opportunities – especially useful for time-sensitive listings that miss the deadline for the paper's monthly issue.

The new website runs with WordPress software, making it easier for staff to update it and keep it current. "Great," "awesome" and "terrific" are just a few of the words community members have been using to describe the redesign. Check it out and see for yourself. ♦



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Woolslair *from page 1*

an inviting selection of new books, and it has both tables and comfortable chairs where students can sit to read, watch a movie or do research.

But less than six months ago, the library looked radically different. Woolslair's librarian, Karen Guthrie, who came to the school from Pittsburgh Greenfield K-8 about three years ago, said, "When I first came here, I almost died – [the library] was in such bad shape." The space was cramped, and its furniture, technology and books were outdated, Guthrie said. All of that changed when Target and the Heart of America Foundation selected Woolslair's library to receive a makeover, complete with new books, furniture, carpeting and technology.

Although the library was closed from September to November while volunteers renovated it – sometimes even coming in on weekends – Guthrie knows it was worth it.

"We got over 2,000 books, from picture books to fiction to nonfiction," Guthrie said. The library also received a SmartBoard, and simultaneously acquired new computers from the school district.

The library's renovations have made a big difference to Woolslair students, who rely on the library for more than just books. Woolslair, a K-5 school, is one of a few schools lacking a playground, so students often come to the library to watch movies on the SmartBoard during recess.

The school's staff and parents, as well as

students, avail themselves of the library's resources. One set of shelves contains books directed toward adults, with advice on parenting, professional development, financial management and more. Parents and school staff can visit the library and check out titles like "The Six-Day Financial Makeover," "Superparenting for ADD" and "Pay It Down."

Woolslair's parents and students alike benefit from the Target Meals of Mind food pantry, which was an additional part of the grant. "They hooked us up with the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. Once a month they come to the school, and we have a food pantry. Families can potentially receive up to \$100 or \$150 worth of food," Woolslair's principal, Lisa Gallagher, said, noting that each family's allotment depends on its number of children.

Principal Gallagher learned about the opportunity to apply for the renovation grant from the school district. On Woolslair's library being selected for the makeover, Gallagher said, "[Target and Heart of America] narrowed it down to three schools in this district, and they visited each of the schools in one day and met with a team of teachers and principals. They decided that day, and came back to the school and told us we were selected."

Both Guthrie and the Woolslair students are grateful that they were. "Oh, [the students] just love it. The kids are just more excited – we have brand new books for them to read," Guthrie said. ♦

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Garfield's Awesome Books Pops Up Downtown

By Melinda Maloney *The Bulletin*

Downtown - Awesome Books, known for its whimsical Penn Avenue storefront and, of course, its diverse selection of books, has opened a new location Downtown.

As part of Project Pop-up, Awesome Books, co-owned by Laura Jean McLaughlin and Bob Ziller, received a year's free use of a Downtown storefront, as well as a grant to finance the expansion.

Project Pop-up is a joint program of the mayor's office, the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the Department of City Planning and the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership. It aims to revitalize Downtown by filling vacant storefronts with tenants, including art installations, nonprofits and retail businesses.

Awesome Books was one of 12 finalists selected from more than 90 applicants to occupy a space Downtown - and Ziller and McLaughlin believe their 929 Liberty Avenue store fills a notable void in the city center's retail landscape.

"There were no bookstores Downtown on the ground level. The Cultural District wasn't really a Cultural District without a bookstore," Ziller, who mainly runs the Downtown store, said.

The primary difference between Awesome Book's Downtown and Garfield locations is size, with the Downtown store noticeably larger. For this reason, Ziller envi-

sions shifting more readings to the Liberty Avenue store. "The last few readings at Garfield were really packed - with people standing," Ziller said. Awesome Books frequently hosts readings by both local and national authors.

However, McLaughlin noted that authors will have control over where they do their readings. "Some people like the more intimate environment - one author from California chose [the Garfield] store because she said it looked like something out of 'Harry Potter,'" she said.

The Downtown bookstore also has longer hours than the Garfield one, staying open from noon to midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. It will also be open from noon to 9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The Garfield store is open from noon "til the cows come home," which is usually when it gets dark, according to McLaughlin.

The opening of the new location coincides with another, more gradual change at Awesome Books - the shift to carrying more new books. The two Awesome Books locations split orders of new books, which they buy directly from publishers, allowing them to sell them at low rates. They also can take orders for individuals. Overall, the focus of both stores is selling quality books - both used and new. McLaughlin joked that for its used books, Awesome Books relies



ABOVE: The Awesome Books storefront at 929 Liberty Avenue. Photo by Paula Martinac

"on a team of ninja bibliophiles," but said that patrons are welcome to drop off books in good shape off for store credit.

Ziller and McLaughlin plan to maintain a Downtown storefront after their rent-free year.

"I'm cautiously optimistic," Ziller said, on keeping the store's second location,

mentioning that he has considered partnering with another business, such as a coffee shop, to split the rent.

For more information about upcoming readings and events at either Awesome Books location, visit the website: www.awesomebookspittsburgh.com. ♦

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EYESORE OF THE MONTH

Neighbor Babysits Abandoned Property

By Aggie Brose Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield – This month's nomination for eyesore property owner of the month is in Garfield at 5353 Broad Street – just down the street from last month's showcase. According to the Allegheny County real estate website, the owners of record are Stanley C. and Anna M. Fields.

According to the county website, the Fields acquired the property in April 1994 for \$46,000. Tax bills are going to the owners at 462 South Atlantic Avenue, Apt. 4. The Broad Street property is unoccupied and heavily tax delinquent.

When Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) staff visited the property, our first impression was that it was not as bad as other nominations received for eyesore of the month. But we soon realized that the condition of the property was deceiving at first glance.

The owner of the adjacent property, Brian Moffitt, joined us in our inspection, and identified himself as a lifelong resident of Garfield. Mr. Moffitt explained how he had been taking care of the property. He cut its grass because when it was knee-high, it attracted raccoons and rats. He also boarded up the first-story doors and windows in the back of the house so no one could enter the house and start a fire. He put white caution

tape around the front porch (see photo), because the floorboards are rotted. He said he did not want neighborhood children to climb up and get hurt.

In essence, Mr. Moffitt has been "babysitting" this abandoned property.

Upon contacting the Record Room at the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI), the BGC learned that the property was cited in March 2010 for a "laundry list" of code violations that have not been abated – bad foundation, mortar erosion, soffit and fascia missing and rotted, roof and rafters deteriorated, siding on the left exterior wall missing, chimney mortar erosion, windows missing glass and front porch deck and joists rotted.

There has been considerable deterioration to the house since that 2010 citation, resulting in additional code violations. The property may need to be condemned and demolished for the good of the neighborhood.

Mr. Moffitt also told the BGC staff that, when he boarded up the kitchen window, he spotted a considerable amount of black mold inside. Among many other concerns he has is that the porch is shifting "and is going to come through onto my property



The neighbor next door to this abandoned property at 5353 Broad has tried to secure it to keep it from being broken into or set on fire. Photo by Paula Martinac

some day," he noted. We joined him in the street to look up through the second-story window (which has no glass), and saw that the third floor has begun to collapse into the second.

This property is stealing the quality of life not only from the Moffitts, but from all the good neighbors in the 5300 block of Broad Street. It is robbing them of their property value and peace of mind. Mr. Moffitt, who

is a city firefighter, said he is constantly fearful of someone entering the house and starting a fire.

The BGC was not able to reach the Fields by press time, but will continue to try and contact them to ask how they intend to address their Broad Street property, which they have shamefully walked away from and left to rot. ♦

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Penn Ave Green + Screen Workshop
Wednesday, March 14, from 6:30-9 p.m. at the BGC Community Activity Center, 113 North Pacific Ave. Participate in a workshop that focuses on new designs for the next Green + Screen project on Penn Avenue. Learn more at: <http://www.ecodesignersguild.org>

GCAT Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, March 28, at 6 p.m. at BFG Cafe, 5335 Penn Ave. Be part of the Garfield Community Action Team (GCAT) and help with projects that improve the neighborhood. For other events, check the GCAT Calendar: <http://www.gcatpgh.com/pages/calendar>

*** Upcoming Projects for 2012! ***

On January 10th, Garfield residents came together to discuss neighborhood issues and to brainstorm ideas for improvement projects. These ideas were voted on and will be the focus for GCAT in 2012. Here are the top projects:

Garfield & Penn Ave Monthly Clean-Ups * Fix-up N. Evaline Street Park* Restore Kite Hill Park * New Resident Welcome Events * Adopt a Trash Can Project

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

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Neighborhood FOCUS

The Record Goes Round and Round

How 720 Music, Clothing and Café reinvented itself time and time again

By Patrick Bowman *Lawrenceville Corporation*

Lawrenceville – 720 Music, Clothing and Café has spent its first year settling into the 4400 block of Butler Street, gradually integrating itself into the community based on a limber business plan, faithful clientele and beautifully built-out store front.

Lawrenceville's only record store, 720 has added a unique dimension to the neighborhood's healthy collection of retail businesses, incorporating amenities like the sale of new and vintage fashion, a cozy café in the front part of the store, and a performance space that has hosted a wide variety of events, from music performances to poetry readings.

"I like Lawrenceville a lot, and I still feel like it's growing, but I think we brought [720] in at the right time to grow with the neighborhood," said co-owner Nate Mitchell, who also owns the Natural Choice barbershop in Oakland. Mitchell went on to say the climate was perfect to incubate a business that has had several different iterations since its original inception almost a decade and a half ago.



ABOVE: The storefront of 720 Music, Clothing, and Café on Butler Street. Photo by Patrick Bowman

Since the late 1990s, 720 Music has been a pillar of Pittsburgh's revered record-collecting community. Over those years, owner James Scoglietti has been curating a choice selection of hip-hop, funk and soul vinyl, filling a niche in the East End while record stores like Jerry's Records and Paul's CDs focused on used vinyl and newly released vinyl, respectively.

The original 720 Music was located on the second floor of a building on Oakland

See **next page**



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This program was made possible through the generous support of The Heinz Endowments and the Scaife Family Foundation.

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The Record Goes Round continued

Avenue near Pitt's campus, and then moved to the corner of S. Highland and Penn Avenue in East Liberty. In 2006, there was a shaky resurgence in demand for vinyl, and 720's online sales supported its brick-and-mortar operation. But that year, with the stagnant economy, the bottom fell out for the Oakland store. Finally, there was one last move to a space directly adjacent to Jerry's Records in Squirrel Hill until 2009, when Scoglietti closed up shop and focused on 720's online presence exclusively.

But Scoglietti wanted one more shot at storefront retail, and after a discussion with Mitchell, his friend from Allderdice High School, a new idea for 720 was slowly hatched.

"James came down to the barbershop, and I was cutting his hair, just like I have been for the past 20 years," said Mitchell. "And I listened to him whine about [the volatility of vinyl sales], and finally he said, 'If we open a store again, it's got to be different.'" Scoglietti knew of Mitchell's desire to open a coffee shop and pitched him on the idea of a combination record store and café.

Once Mitchell's wife, Jovon Higgins Mitchell, got involved, she suggested featuring new and vintage fashion alongside the records in the retail section. With Andrew Burger and Paul Dang, who has strong ties to Pittsburgh's DJ and music community, "the team was set," said Mitchell.

The group found their location at 4405 Butler Street as a half-finished shell, with abandoned drywall frames, cement floors, and decaying dropped ceilings.

"Someone came in to this space,

framed out a few spots for some dry wall and just rolled out, left in the middle of the night," said Mitchell. "The building sat like that for five years." Mitchell and his partners completely renovated the first-floor storefront by themselves, finishing the drywall proper, laying down new wood flooring and tearing out the drop ceilings to reveal a 9-foot clearance. Mitchell even built the wooden counter for the café himself. The last piece was the construction of a small stage in the back corner, giving the new 720 a chance to establish itself as a community performance space.

"I would say the stage [is what makes this space special]. We have an open-door policy, we want bands to come in and perform, we want this to be a multi-purpose space," said Mitchell. And over the past year, the stage has hosted wedding receptions, fashion shows, private parties, concerts, book signings, and poetry readings, and began hosting movie nights with four films for Black History Month.

In the end, the success of 720 Clothing, Music and Café rests on its ability to be versatile and dynamic in an economy that is tough on all new businesses, especially brick-and-mortar retail stores. By incorporating several different business elements and doing them all well, Mitchell thinks 720 is heading in the right direction.

"It's been a tough year financially but it's been a fun ride," he said. "If you read any retail periodicals right now, they repeatedly talk about how you have to experiment [with your business model] and try different things ... it's establishing that staying power and gathering momentum. We're not going anywhere."



BELOW: The café leads into the record and vintage fashion area. Photo by Patrick Bowman



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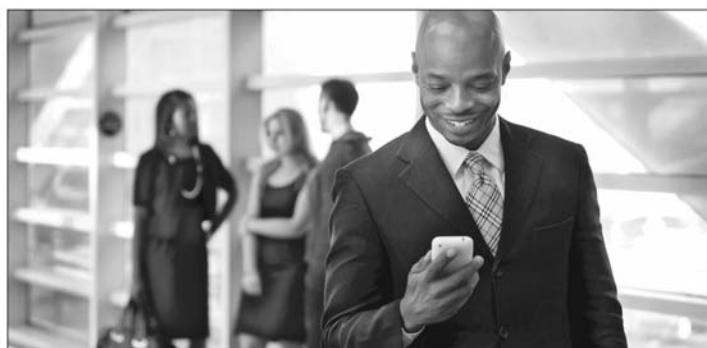
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UPMC LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE

Green House from page 3

ACTION-Housing aren't professing to know everything. We don't want to usurp other organization's niches," Churchward said. Ruprecht agreed, noting that individual community members with a specific skill set they'd like to share will be able to teach classes at the Green House.

For professionals – or would-be professionals – the Green House will also provide hands-on training. "We'll be training people in the neighborhood and community. Green jobs are on the rise," Churchward said. Ruprecht pointed out that the Green House provides a more realistic environment for contractor training than some other programs. "A lot of training exists, but in much more institutional type spaces, where contractors try things in 'perfect' settings," Ruprecht said. In contrast, the Green House is just what its name implies: a real house, with conditions that contractors might see on the job.

ACTION-Housing had to do some work to convert the East Liberty space into a realistic single-family home. Previously, the 110-year-old home had been broken into four apartment units. "We've really tried to unify the space again. You come in, and you envision being able to do this in your home, or homes you're working on," Ruprecht said.

The house's age also ensures that it reasonably represents the possibilities for a home in this region. In Pittsburgh, the average home is 80 to 100 years old, which presents challenges as well as benefits. "Even though Pittsburgh houses are old, that's an asset. The homes are beautiful, they're well-constructed," Churchward said. The Green House illustrates how residents can maintain the unique features of their old houses, while making their energy consumption more environmentally and economically sustainable.

Although ACTION-Housing's work focuses on low- to middle-income individuals, the Green House welcomes anyone interested in learning. "We want everyone and anybody to come through and learn what they can do to save money on their utilities and save money on their home and make it healthier," Churchward said.

For more information on the Pittsburgh Green House, including a calendar of classes, visit www.pghgreenhouse.org. The home, located at 308 N. Sheridan Ave., will be open on Wednesdays from 4 to 7 p.m., Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Fridays 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. ♦

Green+Screen Seeks Community Input

By Rich Engel Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield – On Wednesday, February 15, members of the ecoDesigners Guild held a community meeting about the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's Green+Screen program, to get input on future projects.

Several neighbors were in attendance, including an architect who lives near the closed Rogers Middle School, a teacher at the Waldorf School and her CAPA-enrolled daughter, an Oakland resident who has shown work at Penn Avenue galleries and a retiree from Highland Park who owns property and operates a business with his wife on Penn. For some, a quick review of G+S was in order.

G+S projects are "green" because they use recycled or sustainable materials and often include planted landscapes. They "screen" by blocking the view of empty lots or parking lots, either continuing and echoing the façade of neighboring buildings, or using median strips between sidewalk and paved lots.

In the first three years of the program, G+S installed six projects, at 4903, 5105, 5160, 5111, 5200 and 5416 Penn Avenue, and participated in a cleanup of 4810 Penn. With the help of more than 60 volunteers, especially students from Summit Academy, and donations of more than \$10,000 in materials from 15-plus businesses, these

projects have significantly affected the landscape of Penn Avenue.

Future projects will employ a partnership with Penn State University's landscape architecture program, using its students, tools and studio space. The PSU students toured the avenue on February 24, and their first project will begin this month, likely at the southeast corner of Penn and Aiken Avenues.

The community was asked to look at inspirational photos of public art and green installations around the world and vote on which they liked or disliked. On the "like" side: growing or edible installations; clouds of lights; projects with motion and variation; bold colors; and projects blending with the commercial nature of the Avenue. And on the "dislike" side: static, strictly gridded, or overly repetitive plans; high contrast with immediate environs; and designs that require maintenance or are too easy for wear and tear to disrupt. ♦

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Environmental Nonprofit Comes to Penn Avenue

By Melinda Maloney *The Bulletin*

Garfield – The Group Against Smog and Pollution, one of Pittsburgh's oldest environmental nonprofits, has joined the increasingly vibrant community on Penn Avenue.

GASP, which was founded in 1969, moved into 5135 Penn Avenue in late October after outgrowing its former location in the Wightman School Community Center in Squirrel Hill.

"We liked our old space, but we outgrew it. We're a small nonprofit, but we needed a space that was both large enough for our needs and reasonably priced," Rachel Filippini, executive director of GASP, said.

GASP's Penn Avenue office meets those requirements, and its location provides other benefits. "Penn Avenue is convenient to Downtown and the Health Department, where we have a lot of our meetings. Our staff can bike or walk to meetings," Filippini said.

Although the space required updates, GASP wanted to maintain some of its unique features, such as a large chandelier in its front room. "We wanted to preserve it, but spruce it up," Filippini said.

"All of the windows were frosted. We really wanted natural lighting, so our landlord replaced them. Now in the back room, we barely ever have to turn on the lights," Filippini said.

Because the space previously was an office building, GASP's landlord, Ross Perilman, said it required minimal other renovations – beyond replacing the ceiling. "The funny thing was, the ceiling was collapsing because [the previous tenant] put a huge fixture on it. For all those years he put up with this thing that could have collapsed at any time," Perilman said. The space's previous tenant, a real estate holder, had been there for 50 years.

Perilman worked closely with GASP to ensure that the building met the group's needs – both spatially and environmentally. "It had to be green. I'm very green anyway in most of my properties, and I'm environmentally conscious. But they needed me to be even more environmentally conscious," Perilman said.

As such, the building's interior was repainted with paint containing few to no volatile organic compounds (VOCs), potentially harmful chemical compounds that leak into the air from the objects containing them. Similarly, the carpeting was replaced with hardwood, which is lower VOC than other flooring options.

GASP is a Pittsburgh-based group, focusing on air quality issues specifically affecting southwestern Pennsylvania. The group has a multi-faceted approach to addressing environmental issues, relying on education, advocacy and policy making and watchdog work. "As a watchdog group, we ask, 'Is local industry being a good neighbor?'" Filippini said.

As GASP settles into its new space, Filippini looks forward to reaching out to the new neighbors. She said it will have an open house sometime this spring, so community members can stop in and learn about GASP's work and also mentioned the possibility of participating in Unblurred. In the meantime, people can find out more about GASP at its website, gasp-pgh.org, and in its quarterly newsletter.

Filippini noted that Garfield is an up-and-coming area, with a strong community of nonprofits as well as restaurants and bookstores, making it an exciting place for GASP. Perilman agreed, saying, "I think this place is really starting to get activated." ♦

I "Heart" Afterschool

By Kathryn Vargas *Neighborhood Learning Alliance*



ABOVE: Participants in the United Way of Allegheny County's recent program on the importance of afterschool programming. Photo courtesy Neighborhood Learning Alliance

Pittsburgh – Statistics estimate that 15 million youth across the nation do not have a safe place to go after school. Pittsburgh is lucky to have a vibrant afterschool and youth-serving community rich in resources and the expertise of caring adults. Despite the great need to continue these programs, afterschool programming is one of the many social services struggling to navigate a tough economic climate.

On February 14, the United Way of Allegheny County's Allegheny Partners for Out of School Time held an event called "I 'Heart' My Afterschool Program," with the goal of communicating to elected officials and communities that afterschool programs are an important component of a young person's educational experience. The program had more than 70 people in attendance and brought in national, state and local policy experts to share information about the current funding climate for youth-serving programs. The expert panel made two things very clear: funding for afterschool programming is getting tighter, and communities need to come together and stress the importance of

retaining support for these programs.

Why are they important? Afterschool, or out-of-school-time, programs inspire learning, keep kids safe and help working families. Afterschool complements the school day and provides kids with added support they might not get in the school day. Also, afterschool programs often provide greater opportunities for youth to express creativity. For example, many of the programs use art as a tool for experiential learning.

Afterschool touches a wide and diverse audience. It is the working parent who cannot be home right after the school day for his or her children, the student struggling to graduate from high school, the child looking for an outlet to cultivate creativity and the professional working with a mission to provide a unique and enriching out-of-school-time learning experience. Together, the community is afterschool.

If you would like more information on how to become an advocate for afterschool, visit www.afterschoolpgh.org. ♦



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Neighborhood Learning Alliance Expands Afterschool Programming

By Kathryn Vargas *Neighborhood Learning Alliance*

East End – In January, Neighborhood Learning Alliance (NLA) received a grant for \$1.4 million over three years from the Pennsylvania Department of Education to open eight new 21st Century Community Learning Centers based in Pittsburgh public schools.

Dubbed Pittsburgh LEARNS by NLA, these afterschool programs will serve approximately 500 K-5 students for the next three years. New programs are set to begin this spring at Fort Pitt ALA, Arsenal, Woolsclair, Fulton, Lincoln, Miller, Mifflin and Stevens. NLA was one of two organizations in Pittsburgh to receive this funding.

NLA currently facilitates six programs in the Pittsburgh region, and a majority of them serve middle- and high-school-aged youths. NLA's program delivery model remains largely the same across different targeted age groups.

By partnering with the school district and local community youth-serving organizations, NLA is able to bring this important resource to a number of Pittsburgh communities. In all of NLA's afterschool programs, it contracts with a community organization to provide the direct service at the school, making the

program model a collaborative effort.

"We could not do this work without the dedication of our community partners," said Stephen MacIsaac, executive director of NLA. "We may secure the funding, manage the grant and report the outcomes, but our community partners bring with them knowledge and expertise built from years of experience working with youths and families in their communities."

Each participating young person is provided with a comprehensive program that includes academic remediation, homework help, enrichment opportunities and a warm meal. The program is designed to help some of the district's struggling learners improve academic proficiency and performance in the classroom. Of course, the program also includes fun. For every two hours of instruction, youths also participate in an hour of recreation.

Have a child that could use afterschool academic assistance? Want to find out how to get involved? If you are interested in more information about NLA programs across the district, please call 412-363-1910 or visit www.neighborhoodlearning.org. ♦

Transition Planning for East End Schools

By Judith Flaherty *Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5*

Lawrenceville – Monthly meetings have started to prepare for the merger of Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5, Pittsburgh Fort Pitt PreK-5 and McCleary Early Childhood Center.

Arsenal has established a transition team that consists of a group of teachers, administrators, parents, and community members. The team will meet the third Tuesday of each month for the remainder of the school year to create and implement an action plan.

The plan is to ensure a smooth transition for students and parents moving to Arsenal Elementary when Fort Pitt and McCleary close at the end of this school year. Community members consist of representatives from Lawrenceville United, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and other community members that are interested in the schools.

The collaboration among school staff, parents and community members has designated four key goals during the transition: providing support for students and families,

providing staff with information and support, communicating the transition plan and timeline widely and often, and recognizing the past and celebrating the new opportunity.

During January, Arsenal Principal Ruthie Rea met with parents and staff members at McCleary to share information about the transition. Parents submitted questions about their concerns and wonderings. Mrs. Rea collaborated with Fort Pitt's principal, Ms. Ola Flowers, and both schools have shared their transition plans and committed to engaging in school visits and joint family events in April and May of this year.

In February, the Fort Pitt and Arsenal transition teams met to conduct a joint Parent School Community Council (PSCC) meeting. Also in February was an informational breakfast meeting for Arsenal parents to address their concerns and questions about next year. ♦

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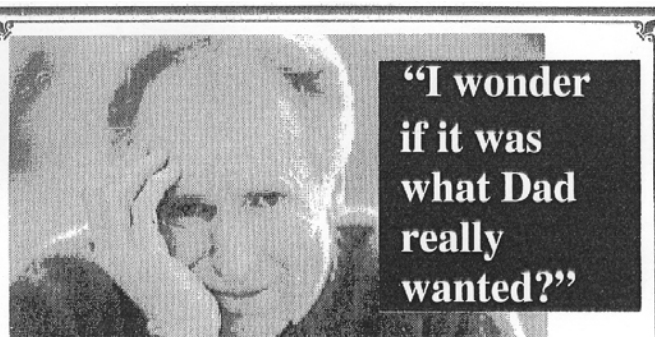
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Museum from page 1

engineered to produce growth hormones year-round that cause it to grow at twice the normal rate. Is this going to make people eat fewer wild salmon and make food more plentiful and inexpensive? What if the genetically engineered fish get loose in the wild? Are questions like these important to ask?

The Center for PostNatural History (CPNH), opening March 2 at 4913 Penn Avenue, certainly thinks so. Founded and curated by Richard Pell, this new, small museum seeks to educate the public about biotechnology and how researchers and private companies are using modern science to go beyond "traditional" breeding of plants and animals.

Examples of "post-natural" life you can learn about and see at the Penn Avenue museum include mosquitoes genetically engineered to block the transmission of the malaria-causing parasite to humans; highly profitable Roundup Ready corn and soy; and even goats that produce spider silk in their milk for use in manufacturing bullet-proof armor and fishing line.

Pell has lived upstairs at 4913 for several years. "The neighborhood's been good to me," he says. "I like the mix of people." He has rented the first-floor storefront for a year, preparing to open CPNH. Previously,

the first floor operated as Tweek Clothing. Back in the '80s, it was Russell's Irish Pub, which hosted strippers on Friday nights. Now, you can find fruit flies pinned down in vitrines and lit by the tiniest of LEDs.

Pell's undergraduate stint in Carnegie Mellon University's art department was marked by study under Steve Kurtz, whose biotechnology-related art famously came under scrutiny by the Joint Terrorism Task Force. "I was a computer hacker who wound up in art," Pell avers. He then decamped for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to pursue a master's degree, where he found "a critical mass of high-functioning eccentrics," including art performers The Yes Men and electronic musicians like Jesse Stiles, who created the soundtrack for the museum and is currently on staff with Merce Cunningham Dance Company.

Pell returned to Pittsburgh to teach art at CMU, but insists the PostNatural project "is not a CMU-backed project and isn't beholden to the school. It's not a frame I want people to use when seeing this place." The CPNH grand opening event, though, is part of CMU's Miller Gallery exhibition "Intimate Science."

Regular hours planned for the Center are Sundays, noon to 6 p.m. For more information, visit postnatural.org online. ♦



ABOVE: Artist's rendering of the facade for the new Center for PostNatural History. Courtesy CPNH

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Local Events Classes Announcements Fundraisers

March 2

LAWRENCEVILLE

Spaghetti Dinner

From 4:30 to 9:30 p.m., come to the Teamster Temple at 4701 Butler Street to enjoy entertainment, raffles, Italian music and more at the Lawrenceville Gourmet Spaghetti Dinner. The dinner benefits the Bernard Dog Run community initiative, which seeks to establish a community-based off-lease dog park in Lawrenceville. Tickets are \$11 in advance, \$13 at the door, and children younger than 10 are free. Purchase tickets at www.bernarddogrun.org/spaghetti-dinner, the Gallery on 43rd Street, or Lawrenceville United, 4825 Butler Street.

March 3

GARFIELD

Free Hip Hop Show

From 7 to 11 p.m., Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Avenue, will host a free hip hop show featuring Middi & Money with D.J. Good Night & Swaggnation. Call 412-328-4737, email mostwantedfineart@yahoo.com, or visit most-wantedfineart.com for more information.

March 4

LAWRENCEVILLE

Installation Service

The New Bethel Baptist Church, 221 43rd Street, will celebrate the installation service for Rev. Johnathan M. Wilson at 4 p.m. Rev. Wilson and his family previously worshipped at New Bethel Baptist Church, and his installation service will mark his return to the church.

March 7

GARFIELD

Find a Career or Major

Did you know you can find a job or major in college that is matched to your skills, interests, aptitudes, and learning style? Come to this FREE career planning basics overview class, at the ENEC at 5321 Penn Avenue, led by a US Department of Labor Best Practice Author, Bill Freed, from 6 to 7 p.m. Call 412-567-3891 for more information.

March 8

GARFIELD

PowerPoint Basics

From 6 to 7 p.m. at Pittsburgh Connects, 5321 Penn Avenue, learn how to make professional looking presentations with Microsoft PowerPoint in this free course. Use the same tool that businesses and students use to present projects and ideas.

March 9

EAST LIBERTY

Her Voice

Women of Color HERstory Month presents Her Voice: Stories, Tales, and Myths of Women of Color, at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Avenue. Tickets will be \$10 to \$15. Visit womenofcolorherstory.org for more information.

March 13

EAST LIBERTY

Microsoft Word Basics

Microsoft Word can be used to build resumes; create calendars; design business cards, mailing labels, schedules, budgets, fliers, certificates; and much more. From 2 to 3:30 p.m., this course will teach you how to justify text, create columns, customize borders, and insert WordArt and pictures. The course is offered at the Carnegie Library East Liberty, 130 South Whitfield Street, 15206. Call 412-254-4007 to sign up via message.

March 15

GARFIELD

Microsoft Word Basics

Need to learn formatting techniques for typing up a resume, calendar, or any general word document? From 6 to 7 p.m., come to Pittsburgh Connects, 5321 Penn Avenue, to learn how to turn those projects into a Microsoft Word document, and make them look as good as possible with this free workshop.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Heinz History Lecture

The Lawrenceville Historical Society will host Sandra Baker, of the Senator John Heinz History Center, who will speak on the topic: "Taming the Tomato, The History of the H. J. Heinz Company." The event, which is free and open to the public, will take place in Canterbury Place's McVey Auditorium, 310 Fisk Street, at 7 p.m.

March 16

EAST LIBERTY

The Big Read

At 4 p.m. on Fridays, March 16 and 23, the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Avenue, joins students from Community College of Allegheny County for The Big Read, a celebration in song, interpretive dance, and literary readings inspired by the classic novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God," by influential African-American novelist, Zora Neale Hurston. Enjoy a free screening of the film "Their Eyes Were Watching God" and panel discussion following the film. For tickets and information, visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org.

these relate to your personal choice of careers, schools, and in-demand jobs.

March 18

MORNINGSIDE

Annual Usher's Day

The Morningside Church of God in Christ at 5173 Dearborn Street will celebrate Annual Usher's Day at 4 p.m. All are invited to attend this spiritual program, during which evangelist Roberta Watkins of the Deliverance Temple Church of God in Christ will speak. For additional information, please contact Mary Reed at (412)361-9865.

March 19

GARFIELD

CenterStage

Seasoned and emerging artists are invited to learn, network, and collaborate as a monthly series of free workshops for arts managers continues from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Kelly Strayhorn theater at 5941 Penn Avenue. This month's topic is "Build Your Team." To register or for more information, visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org.

March 20

GARFIELD

Microsoft Excel Basics

Ever tell yourself, "I wish I understood Excel better, everyone uses it?" Now you can! Our free Excel classes, at 5321 Penn Avenue, can teach you how to make a budget, track your spending, and more!

EAST LIBERTY

Microsoft Excel Basics

Microsoft Excel uses a grid of cells arranged in numbered rows and letter-named columns to organize data. Excel can be used to manage finances while creating a budget or operate business expenses while keeping inventory. From 2 to 3:30 p.m., this course will teach you how to work with a spreadsheet, create and manage a budget, and input basic formulas. The free course is offered at the Carnegie Library East Liberty, 130 South Whitfield Street. Call to sign up via message: 412-254-4007.

March 21

STANTON HEIGHTS

Neighborhood Meeting

From 6:30 - 8:00 pm at Sunnyside Elementary, residents will discuss plans to create a new community park on the corner of Stanton Avenue and Woodbine Street. For more information visit <http://stantonheightswordpress.com>.

GARFIELD

Doing What You Love

From 6 to 7 p.m., attend this ENEC workshop at 5321 Penn Avenue to take a deeper look at KNOWING YOURSELF, your interests, aptitudes, and teamwork styles, assess your PRIDE Experiences and potential Barriers to Success, and how

March 22

GARFIELD

Microsoft Excel

From 6 to 7 p.m., come to Pittsburgh Connects, 5321 Penn Avenue, to learn the beauty of turning hard data into graphical charts in a free course. It is easy, it is fun, and once you know it, it makes understanding a set of numbers much easier.

March 27

EAST LIBERTY

PowerPoint

Microsoft PowerPoint is a presentation program that is used to easily create powerful professional presentations. From simple to advanced designs, PowerPoint will provide the tools you need to present any type of information on any subject to any type or size audience. This course is offered at the Carnegie Library East Liberty, 130 South Whitfield Street from 2-3:30 p.m. Call to sign up via message: 412-465-0858.

March 28

HIGHLAND PARK

Nutrition for Stress

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

March 29

GARFIELD

Excel for Finance

From 6 to 7 p.m., come to Pittsburgh Connects at 5321 Penn Avenue to learn to use advanced formulas of Excel to find out how much you need to pay monthly for a general loan, to calculate principle and interest per loan payment, find the future value of an investment, and much more, in this free course.

Throughout the Month

PITTSBURGH

Comment on Transit Cuts

If you're unhappy about proposed transit cuts in the East End and throughout the city, now is the time to let the Port Authority know. The PAT Board will vote on the cuts on April 27, and the public comment period ends March 9. To make your voice heard, send written comments to Port Authority

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 April issue are due THURSDAY, MARCH 15 via email submission to bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org.**

Volunteer Opportunities & Services

Fare & Service Proposals, Heinz 57 Center, 345 Sixth Avenue, Floor 3, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2527. You can also visit www.portauthority.org for an online comment page.

Public Allies Pittsburgh

Public Allies Pittsburgh is an intense 10-month Apprenticeship Program designed to develop the next generation of civic leaders. They are seeking dedicated, service-minded Allies to begin their ten-month apprenticeship in nonprofit organizations in the Pittsburgh area. Deadline for early application is March 16; closing application deadline is April 6. For more information, contact Laura Pollanen at laurap@publicallies.org or 412-258-3024 or visit <http://www.publicallies.org/Pittsburgh>.

Toddlers Wanted

The University of Pittsburgh Early Social Development Research Lab is seeking healthy, typically developing children between 12 and 48 months of age to help with research on the development of positive social behavior, such as helping and sharing, or the development of body perception. All research is play-based, and children enjoy toys and activities. Parents remain with their children at all times. Reserved parking at the University of Pittsburgh is provided at no cost, and sib-minding is available as necessary. Please visit our website at www.pitt.edu/~toddlers or call us at 412-624-4957 for more information or to sign up.

Behavioral Health Services Available

Patients of the UPMC St. Margaret New Kensington; Bloomfield-Garfield, 5475 Penn Avenue; and Lawrenceville Family Health Centers, 3937 Butler Street, have access to additional health care services thanks to a \$265,000 grant awarded to the St. Margaret Foundation. The grant money assisted the health centers in adding a part-time psychiatrist and a full-time behavioral specialist to their staff.

EAST LIBERTY/LAWRENCEVILLE

Expanded Library Hours

In direct response to customer feedback, the Carnegie Libraries of Pittsburgh have restored their hours. In East Liberty, the library is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. The Lawrenceville library is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

EAST LIBERTY

Library Events

On March 5 and March 20 at 7 p.m., the library will host Baby & Me – for working moms and dads and babies up to 24 months old missing their morning programs. On March 13, at 6 p.m., East Liberty's Carnegie Library at 130 S. Whitfield St. invites students in grades K-5 and their parents to participate in Family Studies Buddies – Science Theme. Come see what resources the library has for help with your science homework. On March 21 at 5:30 p.m., children ages 4 and older and their families are invited to Imagination Builders: Lego Night. On March 28 at 6:30 p.m., children ages 3 to 7 accompanied by an adult are invited to "What the BIG Idea? Math and Science for Preschoolers." Please call 412-363-8274 to register for any program.

SUNSTAR Music Series

On Fridays March 2, 9, 23 and 30, the SUNSTAR Music Series at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Avenue, will celebrate the best female emerging and established music makers through concerts, storytelling, parties, and discussions, as well as a workshop specially designed for young women. This series previews the SUNSTAR Music Festival to take place in 2013. For tickets, artists, and information, visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org or call 412-363-3000.

Master Classes

On Wednesdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m., professional dancers looking to heighten their skills, network with other dancers, or discover the latest techniques can come to Master Classes at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater at 5941 Penn Avenue. At \$10 per class, these classes feature seasoned, well-known instructors. To register or for more information visit: www.kelly-strayhorn.org or call 412-363-3000.

Coaching Intensives

One-on-one coaching intensives provide short-term coaching and technical assistance for individual artists or arts managers. Participants receive four one-hour sessions from Susan Blackman, long-time arts manager and fundraising guru, at no charge over a four-week period. Application is required and the application deadline is March 2. For more information visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org.

GARFIELD

Yoga Hive Events

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

PNC Hiring Workshops

Every Tuesday at 10 a.m., you can take the first steps toward your new career in banking as a teller, customer or financial service associate, or sales consultant at the East Side Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Avenue. Attend the full series of free workshops and assessments, and gain a guaranteed interview if you're a good fit for a banking or finance career. Call 412-567-3891 for more information.

UPMC Hiring Workshops

Gain an interview with UPMC by going through the Workforce Readiness and Retention (POWRR) Hiring Workshops. UPMC has many career options every day (over 1500), and this ENEC effort, every Thursday at 10 a.m. at 5321 Penn Avenue will bring you right to UPMC and also has guaranteed interviews for successful candidates who match job and hiring needs and pass the POWRR steps and job requirements.

Adult Computer Lessons

Mondays from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., come to Pittsburgh Connects, 5321 Penn Avenue, and learn the basics of computers in this free course. Bring questions: our HandsOn Tech staff will be here to answer and teach you the basics of using a computer.

Email with Gmail

Wednesdays from 12 to 1 p.m., learn about the advantages of Gmail and how Google products can benefit you and your interests from a free course at Pittsburgh Connects, 5321 Penn Avenue.

Typing and Computer ABCs

Wednesdays from 3 to 4 p.m., come to Pittsburgh Connects at 5321 Penn Avenue and learn how to type while also discovering the basics of the computer in a free course.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Sunday Church Service

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

Library Events

Every Wednesday from 4 to 5 p.m., Lawrenceville's Carnegie Library, 279 Fisk Street, welcomes teens to come hang out in its Teen Space and connect with other middle and high school students. Do what you want to do, talk about what you want to talk about, and make the library your place! Stop by the library at 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays for a special program for all ages. We'll read a story and do a craft based on what we read. The Independent Film Series will continue on Tuesday, March 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. On March 5, from 7 to 7:45 p.m., the library will host Pajama Party Story Time – come in your PJs with your favorite stuffed animal for bedtime stories.

Art All Night

The annual celebration of arts, community and creativity—is back for its 15th year on April 28 and 29, this time at The Warehouse on 40th and Willow. The planning committee seeks volunteers, artists, performance artists, bands, and contributions for this year's event. If you'd like to assist in any way, please email info@artallnight.org. Artists, start your entries. Each artist is invited to submit one (and only one) piece of artwork. Bands and other performance artists are also welcome to sign up to perform during this one-of-a-kind neighborhood event attended by over 12,000 people each year. Additional information about this event, including artist registration, will be available soon at www.artallnight.org.

Lenten Offerings

Our Lady of the Angels Parish, 225 37th Street, welcomes its neighbors to come to the church this Lent on Wednesdays from February 29 to April 4. Join them February 29 for the Stations of the Cross and Benediction, on March 7 for scriptural readings, prayer and song, on March 14 for meager meal and a Q&A session, on March 21 for evening prayer, reflection, and benediction, on March 28 for communal reconciliation service and opportunity for individual confessions, and April 4 at 7:30 for Tenebrae. Mass is at 6:30 PM in our Parish House

Chapel Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and in the Church at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays and First Fridays in the Church. There will be Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at 6:30 PM in the Church. For more info call: 412-682-0929 or visit www.olaoa.org.

ENEC Drop-In Sessions

Every Thursday from 9 to 1 p.m., Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center offers a weekly drop-in session to help you work on resume writing and format, cover letter development, job application process, job search and more! This is offered at The Zone in Lawrenceville, 5217 Butler Street. Call 412-465-0850 to sign up via message.

EAST END

Parenting Warmline

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

FRIENDSHIP

Call for Vendors

The Friendship Folk and Flower Festival, located in Baum Grove, will be on May 12 and seeks vendors who would like to participate. This is a great opportunity to sell handmade goods – for children and adults – or anything appropriate for this family festival. For \$25, vendors will get a table and two chairs all day the day of the festival. If you are interested, contact Kathy Farrington at farringtonk@me.com or 412-362-0862.

April 1

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free Walking Tour

The Lawrenceville Historical Society's spring walking tour will explore the architecture and stories of the "Historic Sixth Ward." The tour will begin near Iron City Brewing on Liberty and Herron Avenues on Sunday, April 1 at 1 p.m. and will last approximately 1.5 hours. Wear comfortable shoes. Rain date is set for April 15. Tour is free and open to the public. No reservations needed.

Find more listings throughout the month on our blog: www.bloomfield-garfield.org/blog

Classifieds

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

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ToonSeum Brings Mini-Convention to Penn Avenue Festival

By Christine Bethea *Bulletin Contributor*

East End – The Geek Art/Green Innovators Festival, or GA/GI (pronounced gah-gee), is celebrating its third year with the Unblurred art crawl along Penn Avenue on Friday, April 6, and it promises to be bigger than ever. As a bonus this year, the ToonSeum, the renowned cartoon and comic-book museum located downtown, is presenting an Indy Mini-Con, the first in a series of “pop-up” comic and cartoon conventions it is producing around the city.

Originating in 2010 as one of the key Pittsburgh events of “World Environment Day,” GA/GI was dubbed an “arts and technology barn-raising” by Charlie Humphrey, director of Pittsburgh Center for the Arts and Pittsburgh Filmmakers. Humphrey understood the collective grassroots effort needed to carry off the festival by the Friendship, Bloomfield and Garfield communities.

Partners in the event have included Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh, the City of Pittsburgh’s Mainstreets program, the Pittsburgh Foundation and the nationally known beverage company FUZE, which have all contributed funding and services for the project. Through this on-going support, GA/GI has mushroomed into one of Pittsburgh’s most vibrant and unique events, attracting art, eco and technology fans from both coasts.

Joe Woos, director of the ToonSeum, explained that the Indy Mini-Con will

feature Pittsburgh’s up-and-coming cartoon and comic-book artists, who will share their animated creations and artwork. “This is a chance to showcase some of the new artists in Pittsburgh’s comic book scene, and [for the public to] meet some of the established creators in the genre of Independent Comics,” said Woos.

“It will be a stellar event within an outstanding venue,” said Brenda Brown, co-founder of Passports Art Diversity, the main coordinator of the GA/GI Festival. “This is our third big year working with the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative, and we’re fortunate to have ToonSeum, one of city’s crown jewels, joining us and designing with our team.”

In addition to the Indy Mini-Con, some of the festival’s new faces will include Gordon Kirkwood, who does art with “lightening” effects, and artist L.J. Swiech, who creates amazing digital images. Both are working with Anne Chen to exhibit at EDGE Studio.

The Irma Freeman Center for Imagination will feature children’s activities and the futuristic airship models of Ryder Henry, and Assemble plans to bring in Benjamin Rice, a visiting artist from Virginia Tech University. Other festival highlights include the annual Edinboro University students’ art-from-salvage show at Most Wanted Fine Art, and eco/fashion at the Pittsburgh Glass Center.

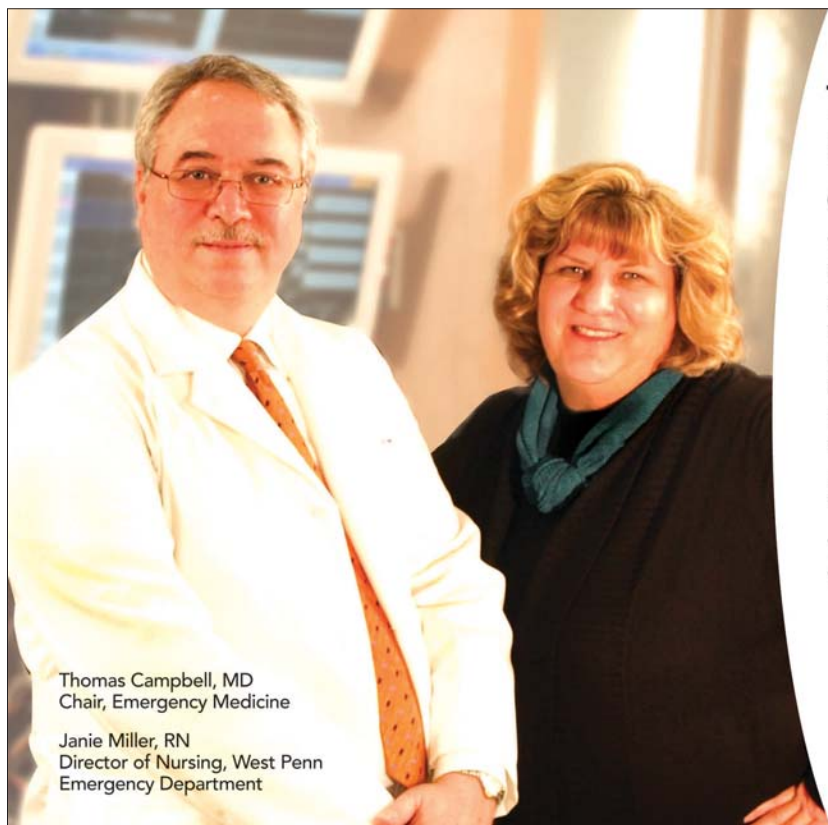


Courtesy Joe Woos, ToonSeum

“We also have a lot of returning organizations, like the Union Project,” said Brown. “It will also be good to see Dave Edwards again from Art Energy Design, who recently designed and installed some incredible public art pieces on Penn Avenue. And the 80-foot-long Pitt Mobile Science Lab is always a hit with GA/GI-goers.”

The festival kicks off with an evening at

ToonSeum’s Indy Mini-Con at the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Center, 113 N. Pacific Avenue, on Thursday, April 5, and continues on Friday with GA/GI at Unblurred, which runs from 4500 to 5500 Penn Avenue. For more information and updates on special children’s activities, visit gagifest12.blogspot.com. ♦



Thomas Campbell, MD
Chair, Emergency Medicine

Janie Miller, RN
Director of Nursing, West Penn
Emergency Department

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

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

When doctors lead, better care follows – visit www.wpahs.org today for more information.



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