

the Bulletin

Volume 38, Number 5
MAY 2013

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



ABOVE: Mick McNutt and son Dylan check out Maintenance Matt at the fourth annual GA/GI Fest on April 5. The robot by Donald Jones of Jones Robo Works was on display at EDGE Studio on Penn Avenue. Photo by John Colombo Photography

COMMENTARY

Getting the Facts Straight and the Neighborhoods Together on Bottom Dollar

By Eileen Kraus-Dobratz and Gregory Heisler

Penn Avenue – As residents of Friendship and Bloomfield with strong ties to Garfield, we have been pained by the conflict that's arisen over the Bottom Dollar grocery store proposed for 5200 Penn Ave. The city's Zoning Board approved the store's site plans in November, but some neighbors appealed

See **Bottom Dollar** | page 7

Buyback Aims to Reduce Gun Violence

By Carolyn Ristau

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield – Gun buybacks took place yearly in Pittsburgh from 1994 to 2009, initiated by two doctors at Allegheny General Hospital who were discouraged by the number of gunshot victims they treated. By the time the last buyback was held, more than 11,000 weapons had been taken out of circulation.

Given the recent spike in gun violence in the city, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Lawrenceville United, County

Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, City Councilmen Ricky Burgess and Patrick Dowd, and State Representatives Dom Costa, Edward Gainey and Adam Ravenstahl have joined forces to implement a new gun buyback program. It will be held in June, which is National Safety Month.

The first goal of the buyback is to reduce the number of guns available for criminal use. Last year, Allegheny County experi-

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Mayoral Hopefuls Debate City's Future

By Wesley Davis *The Bulletin*

Highland Park – The Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group hosted a mayoral debate at The Union Project, 801 N Negley Avenue,

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Parade Honors Veterans' Service

By Susan McGrane *St. Mary's & Allegheny Cemetery Association*

Lawrenceville – Lawrenceville is a community known for preserving its history and traditions. One of those beloved traditions is the annual

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Art Found in Aboveground Bunker

By Christine Bethea *Bulletin Contributor*

Bloomfield – A recent post from the BUNKERproject page on Facebook read: "Do you eat canned food? I do, but not nearly enough to

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ABOVE: Community gardener Melissa Taylor chooses seeds at the Seed Swap and Perennial Exchange at Gator Gardens, 5414 Kincaid St. in Garfield, on April 6. Photo by Minette Vaccariello

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the Bulletin

Guns from page 1

enced its highest rate of homicides in five years, with a total of 92 county-wide. Forty of these homicides were committed in Pittsburgh, and 43 percent of those happened in Zone 5, which covers the East End. Garfield was the site of seven shootings between October 2012 and March 2013, which helped spark this initiative.

The second goal of the buyback is to take guns out of the reach of children. The Children's Defense Fund Annual Report 2012 stated that nearly a quarter of children living in households with a gun know where it is and have handled it. Children who learn gun safety and those who do not are equally likely to play with a gun, according to the report.

The gun buyback will provide citizens with an opportunity to be rid of their unwanted weapons anonymously, receiving financial compensation at a neutral site. Compensation will take the form of VISA gift cards, with owners of more dangerous weapons compensated at a higher amount. While police officers will be on-site to identify the weapons, there will be a strict no-questions-asked policy.

"People who turn in guns are never asked to identify themselves or where they live," noted Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC. Once the guns are relinquished, the weapons not identified as stolen will be melted down to permanently remove them from circulation.

For the gun buyback to have a meaningful impact, Brose said, "it is essential to have a significant pool of funds." The organizers would like to collect at least 1,200 weapons, Brose said, and will pay \$100 for handguns and rifles and \$250 for assault weapons. This requires raising \$150,000 to cover the compensation. However, based on experiences in other cities, that may be insufficient to meet the demand. Several gun buybacks have reported running out of funds to compensate the number of weapons brought in. If

funds run out, the organizers will close down the buyback until additional funds can be raised.

In addition to collecting donations from corporations and foundations, a grassroots fundraising component is being set up online so anyone wishing to support the project will be able to donate as much as they are comfortable giving through a link on the Public Safety page of the BGC's website - www.bloomfield-garfield.org.

All funds raised will be directed to an

account dedicated to the gun buyback program set up by the BGC. Checks

should be made out to "BGC Gun Buyback." The funds will only be used to purchase the gift cards and to cover the operating costs of the Buyback. Any funds left over will be available for the use of future gun buybacks in Allegheny County with the approval of the Gun Buyback Fundraising Committee.

The BGC's Activity Center will be one of the collection sites; additional locations are in the process of being identified. Each location will be staffed by police officers and members of community organizations. The police will be responsible for identifying and handling weapons, while community groups will distribute the gift cards.

To have a wider impact on public safety in the community, there will also be a complementary preventative campaign, which will continue after the gun buyback. One of the components of this campaign will be to provide free gun locks, which prevent accidental firing.

"The goal of the buyback is to remove as many guns as possible from our neighborhoods," remarked Brose. "However, we'll consider it a success if one weapon is collected. One less gun in our neighborhoods means one less potential tool for murder and one less potential instrument of harm to a curious child." ♦

Penn Reconstruction Project Out for Bid

By Paula Martinac

The Bulletin

Penn Avenue - "There's no turning back now," announced Patrick Hassett, Assistant Director of the city's Department of Public Works (DPW), at the April 4 meeting of the Penn Avenue Reconstruction Committee. The plans and specifications for Phase 1 of the reconstruction project, which extends from Mathilda to Evaline Streets, were advertised on March 31, with prospective construction contractors given four weeks to get their bids in.

At press time, a contractor had not yet been selected. Early this month, PennDOT will award the approximately \$5.5 million project to one contractor, who will then have 90 days to begin construction. That means shovels in the ground this August, according to Hassett.

"It's been a very long process," said Brian Krul, project manager for L.R. Kimball, the engineering firm in charge of the design and engineering for Phase 1. "But we stayed on schedule."

According to Krul, reconstruction will proceed one block at a time, starting at Mathilda, with work done on the north side of the street first. As previously reported, Phase 1 encompasses repaving of the four-block stretch, plus new sidewalks, signage, lighting, traffic signals and streetscaping such as benches and tree grates. In addition, the Pittsburgh Parking Authority will remove the old, decapitated parking meters and install kiosks.

Michael Baker Corporation, a professional engineering and consulting firm, has been chosen as the construction inspection/management firm - essentially

the liaison between the contractor and businesses and property owners during construction. Baker's chief inspector on the project will be Aaron Pickering.

The Phase 1 team will hold a final community meeting on Thursday, June 27, at the St. Maria Goretti Activity Center at 114 N. Atlantic Ave., from 6 to 8 p.m. The chosen contractor, the inspection firm, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, DPW and Kimball will all have representatives on hand to answer questions about the plans, present the schedule for construction and outline traffic patterns and detours. The final drawings for the reconstruction will be on display, and refreshments will be served.

The project will extend through two construction seasons, ending in December 2014, noted Krul. "We're going to have to be patient," said Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation. "It's a big investment, and this is an exciting time for our neighborhood."

According to Hassett, \$500,000 in federal money has been earmarked for Penn Avenue's Phase 2, the next stage of reconstruction to revitalize Evaline to Aiken Avenue. However, the new mayor elected in November will have to commit more funds to the project in order for reconstruction of that section of the avenue to move forward.

For more information about Phase 1, including detailed plans and committee and community meeting minutes, visit www.lrkimball.com/penn-avenue.aspx. ♦

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Don't forget to vote! The Democratic and Republican mayoral primaries will be held on Tuesday, May 21. The Voter ID Law will not in force during the primary election. For more information, visit www.county.allegheny.pa.us/elect.

Debate from page 1

on April 11. Democratic mayoral candidates Jack Wagner, Bill Peduto and Jake Wheatley took part in the debate; A.J. Richardson did not attend.

Chris Potter from *Pittsburgh City Paper* moderated the debate, and candidates responded to questions from him and the audience.

Peduto touched on his family's working-class background and Pittsburgh's need for "leadership that has vision and experience to move us forward" in his opening comments. Wagner began by emphasizing his long career in local politics, which began when he sought to improve the water supply in his home district of Beechview. Wheatley pointed out that while Pittsburgh has seen modest development in recent years, "not all citizens have benefited from that growth," which was his main talking point during the debate.

The candidates expressed a need for a safer, more efficient and centralized transportation system. Wheatley talked about infrastructure needs, saying "I can tell the neighborhood I'm in by the sidewalk I'm running on. We would clean that up right away."

Wagner noted his experience as Pittsburgh's Auditor General. He said that Pittsburgh's check-processing system is antiquated. "It takes weeks for a check written to the City to get into the bank to start collecting interest," he noted.

The three candidates expressed a need for an improved Bureau of Building Inspection and a more efficient way of addressing nuisance properties. Wheatley joked that in spite of his connections in government, he has been unable to file a successful grievance against his neighbors for their lack of home maintenance.

Wagner said the City needs to "hire a Director of the Bureau of Building Inspection," noting that the acting director has filled the position for three years. Peduto echoed these comments, saying, "We've lost control of the Bureau of Building Inspection."

The candidates were asked what they planned to do to help Pittsburgh develop, specifically in African-American communities. Wheatley pointed out that his district is very diverse, about half white and half black, saying, "We have to make sure that you know regardless of where you live, you're safe and secure." Wagner said that the City should ensure block grants are distributed properly to help African-American communities.

Peduto said that housing development should focus on refurbishing houses instead of just looking to build new properties. He pointed to the Homewood Renaissance Program as a good example of a project that successfully renovated blighted properties.

On the subject of food deserts – large areas that do not have easy access to grocery stores – Peduto suggested that trucks and farmers markets selling produce might be a way to combat this deficit in some parts of the city.

Wheatley left prior to the end of the debate to make a TV appearance. Before he exited, he said, "Take a chance and vote for something different."

After Wheatley's exit, Wagner and Peduto came to a slight disagreement over plans for the City to potentially tax non-profits like UPMC. Peduto argued that all non-profits that don't meet certain qualifications should be subject to taxes. Wagner countered by saying, "UPMC is in a different class. They're not the Little Sisters of the Poor."

Wagner suggested the city do more lobbying in Harrisburg and Washington to raise funds, while Peduto argued for the City to purchase everything from electricity to police cars collectively in order to receive discounts.

In closing, Peduto encouraged residents to "get involved." Wagner ended the evening by saying, "We can take Pittsburgh to a higher level." ♦

the Bulletin

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Corporation



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

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

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Sweet Dreams



Bloomfield – Dreaming Ant, the DVD rental store located inside the Crazy Mocha on Liberty Avenue and specializing in indie films, has closed its doors after 10 years. "We've held on as long as possible, but business has been progressively slower each month for at least a couple years," wrote owner Dean Brandt on the store's website. "We're proud to be the final remnant of the once strong brick-and-mortar home-entertainment business in Pittsburgh, having endured some of the heaviest competition ...: the Internet."

Dreaming Ant is selling its DVDs through the end of the month; to inquire about specific titles, email sales@dreamingant.com. Store fixtures are also for sale. A farewell party took place at Artisan Tattoo on Penn Avenue in Garfield on April 13, with Dreaming Ant staffers (in photo above, from left) Andrew McKeon, Ben Rod, and Brick, and owner Brandt celebrating the store's decade-long run. Photo by John Colombo Photography

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



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COMMENTARY

What's in a Name?

By P.J. Maloney Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

East End – We often hear from outsiders about how wonderful Pittsburgh is, and one of the reasons is its distinctive neighborhoods. For those of us who've lived here all our lives, it's hard to conceptualize the notion of living in a city without areas that have their own style and name.

We at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation take pride in the neighborhoods we serve. What are those neighborhoods? Sometimes that question raises interesting discussions about city geography. Most people know where East Liberty is, and Point Breeze and the South Side and Oakland and Brighton Heights. But where are the boundaries to these neighborhoods? Do you live in Point Breeze or Homewood? Oakland or Schenley Farms? Friendship or Bloomfield?

These are great issues for those of us who like to argue, because most of the time there's no correct answer. Neighborhood maps differ, and the only codified boundaries are those for city, county and school district representation, and wards and voting districts.

So, when people ask what neighborhoods the BGC represents, we tell them: a portion of Bloomfield and all of Friendship and Garfield. But the BGC name doesn't mention Friendship, you may point out. Well, when the BGC first came into existence nearly 40 years ago, people who lived in the area bounded by Baum/Liberty and S.Negley and Penn and S. Mathilda for the most part considered themselves members of the Bloomfield neighborhood. Since then, the Friendship neighborhood has taken on its own identity. Some maps show Friendship bounded by S.Negley and Penn and Roup and Baum. Others show it extending farther west beyond Roup, and some folks think Friendship goes all the way to S.Millvale.

At the BGC, we get into those discussions, too. But for us, the most important boundaries are the ones in our charter, formed in 1976 when the organization was first founded (Black Street to the north, Mathilda Street to the west, Liberty Avenue and Baum Boulevard to the south and N. Negley to the east). These were pretty much the same boundaries as the former St. Lawrence O'Toole parish in Garfield, whose members and pastor, Fr. Leo Henry, created the BGC. Within that area, places north of Penn Avenue were considered Garfield, and south of Penn was referred to as Bloomfield. Hence the name Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation.

So, whatever you call it, whether it's Garfield, Bloomfield or Friendship, we are proud of the work we've done in these neighborhoods: assisting with nuisance complaints about a convenience store/beer tavern at Friendship and S. Pacific; creating an environment in which top-of-the-line restaurants like Salt of the Earth and Verde are comfortable calling Penn Avenue home, plus, we hope, attracting a grocery store to the corridor; staffing an afterschool program at Pittsburgh Woolslair in Bloomfield; matching residents to job opportunities through the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center; helping residents with filing their tax returns; and undertaking advocacy on issues such as public safety and the future of West Penn Hospital.

This is a very short list of the projects we work hard on, with the help of our members and neighbors, for the benefit of our entire service area. When one of these things happens, all neighborhoods benefit one way or another. Whatever we do at the BGC, we do with the entire area in mind, whether you call it Bloomfield or Friendship or Garfield. ♦

Boys & Girls Club Selects Youth of the Year

by Paula Martinac

The Bulletin

Lawrenceville – Grason Woods, a senior at Career Connections Charter High School, was named 2013 Youth of the Year by the Estelle S. Campbell Boys & Girls Club in Lawrenceville. He represented the club at a statewide competition held at Latitude 40 in Robinson Township in early April.

Fourth in his class and co-captain of the basketball team at CCCHS,

Woods is "a very impressive young man," says Paul Pish, executive director of the club. Woods has been involved in different Boys & Girls Clubs in Pittsburgh since he was 6 years old. "I found a second home here," he explains. He is now working part-time as a counselor to younger kids at the Lawrenceville club. Woods says he believes "everybody has the capability of being a leader. You just have to get them to feel comfortable with themselves."

Woods will report to Ft. Benning, Ga., this summer to serve in the Army



ABOVE: Youth of the Year Grason Woods is flanked by Jim Barry, Executive Vice President, Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Pa., and President/CEO Mike Hepler. Photo by Paul Pish

National Guard. "I wanted some excitement and the chance to travel," he says of the choice to enlist. During his stint, he will also be earning money to put toward tuition at Slippery Rock University, where he will be enrolled as a physical therapy major when he returns from active duty next year. ♦

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In addition to our monthly litter pick-ups, we'll be working on our green spaces along Penn Ave; planting and weeding the garden beds. Join the fun and help make Garfield beautiful! More dates at: <http://gcatpgh.com/calendar/>

GCAT Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, May 15, at 6:00 p.m. at Assemble Gallery, 5125 Penn Ave.

Help us plan our summer projects for Nelson Mandela Peace Park & more!

Forum Builds Community Involvement To Boost Graduation Rates

By Wesley Davis
The Bulletin

Bloomfield – On April 9, the Neighborhood Learning Alliance and Pittsburgh Public Schools' staff hosted a forum at West Penn Hospital called "Everybody Graduates." An NLA pamphlet explained that the event was part of a larger movement meant to be a "community-wide strategy to build a culture in Pittsburgh where the community is actively involved in supporting the successful graduation of students."

"Pittsburgh Public Schools is in an amazing place. I've seen it transform over the past few years," NLA CEO Stephen McIsaac said, kicking off the event. Attendees included teachers, parents, concerned city residents and others in the education field.

Participants subdivided into five groups, rotating among presentations on different aspects of how to encourage

students to succeed. Presenter J Wester of NLA warned attendees that "a lot of students think, 'I could just go to summer school,' [but] that might not be true," because of ever-looming budget cuts. Malcolm Thomas, also from NLA, said, "There are a lot of [graduation] requirements that parents don't know about." Thomas and Wester highlighted the prerequisites for the Pittsburgh Promise scholarship program: entering the Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) by ninth grade, residing in Pittsburgh, maintaining a 2.5 GPA and having a 90-percent attendance record.

NLA's Jose Rodriguez gave a presentation on NovaNet, "a computer program that helps students recover credits if they failed a class." Rodriguez emphasized that the program is self-paced and works best when students are motivated to recover

credits for a limited number of classes. The program is free, and students use it with the assistance of a teacher or tutor. NovaNet is available at all PPS high schools and at the Pittsburgh CONNECTS center, 5321 Penn Ave.

Allison McCarthy from PPS discussed curriculum and state testing changes. PSSA state tests will be eliminated in favor of Keystone Exams. The new tests are based on the Common Core Standards, McCarthy explained, benchmarks meant to be consistent across the country so students can move from one part of the country to another and receive a similar level of education.

Passing the Keystone Exams will be a graduation requirement, she said. McCarthy added that students "are going to read more informational texts and fewer novels" in English classes in hopes of preparing them for the Keystone Exams. The NLA "Everybody Graduates" pamphlet says that "students graduating in 2015 and beyond are required to meet proficiency on the Keystone Exam." For more information on the Keystone Exam and the Common Core Standards, visit pps.k12.pa.us.

McCarthy added that students must complete a graduation project, in class, in

either 11th or 12th grade to receive their diploma.

PPS's Pete Lavorini and Eddie Wilson explained that many PPS students are eligible for an SAT waiver, which will let them take the college-entrance test for free and also apply to college for free. They encouraged mentors to ask students about their plans for the future and help them find accurate information on the college application process for those who want to attend college. Information on the SAT can be found at sat.collegeboard.com.

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's Youth Development Director, Rick Flanagan, closed the event by encouraging all to cooperate and help in any way possible to support the graduation effort. "If we're just working in little cells in our agencies, we're not going to make progress," he said.

Parents of PPS students were asked to complete a quick survey to help the district better assess student needs: PPSParentSurvey.com. For more information on how to help students succeed in school, call the NLA's Chrissy Wusylko at 412-363-1910, or visit neighborhoodlearning.org and click on the "Get Involved" tab. ♦



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NEWSBRIEFS

Residential Façade Program Is Back

Garfield – Garfield residents are eligible again this year for a residential façade program through the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA). The rules are slightly different from last year's program.

The URA's Residential Façade Improvement Program makes matching grants available to residential property owners who wish to improve the front face of their homes in five targeted neighborhoods, including Garfield. The program's emphasis is on restoring the historical or architectural character of homes and enhancing the overall appeal of the neighborhood. The award is a 50 percent match, with a maximum grant of \$5,000.

To be eligible for this grant, the property owner must be the applicant, and the project property must not have any outstanding municipal debt. The property owner must submit a completed application and await its approval before beginning work on the project.

The project must enhance the front or street-facing façade. Properties situated on corners may be eligible for both street-facing sides. Eligible improvements are limited to the home and may include painting masonry work, windows, doors and so on. Landscaping, roof work (except mansard roofs) and sidewalks are not eligible.

Eligible residential properties can be owner-occupied, mixed residential/commercial or rental. Non-residential properties, condominiums, associations and co-ops are ineligible. The total cost for the project must be at least \$500. The property owner is responsible for 50 percent of the costs and any excess costs if they exceed \$10,000. There is a \$150 application fee per property.

Applications will be reviewed as they are received, until program funds are exhausted. For more information on applying for this grant, email carolyn@bloomfield-garfield.org or call 412-441-6950 x17. – *Carolyn Ristau, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

Volunteers Complete Windshield Survey

Garfield – Fifty volunteers from Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) and a handful of neighbors came out on April 6 for the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's (BGC) windshield survey of residential property in Garfield. After a brief training, the volunteers poured into the streets and sunshine full of enthusiasm. An hour later, they came back even more excited about what they saw and learned.

"It was really cool to see the transformation of the neighborhood," said Raina Bradford-Jennings, a CMU junior majoring in professional writing.

Sahana Kumar, a sophomore design major, said, "It was very interesting seeing the renovated properties right next to the vacant." Kumar and her friends said they were very impressed with the work the BGC has done in the neighborhood, and they could see the difference it is making.

Tammy Lew, one of the team leaders from CMU, wrote, "We would just like to thank you once again for such an amazing time on Saturday afternoon. You guys were more than welcoming and helpful with everything, and we really appreciate the effort you put in to make the time enjoyable.... You really showed us how big of a difference we were able to make, and for that we are very grateful." – *Carolyn Ristau, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

Arts in Motion Arrives in June

Penn Avenue – On June 15th, Penn Avenue Arts Initiative will host the first-ever Penn Avenue Arts in Motion fair from noon to 6 p.m. in the block of Penn Avenue between Pacific and Atlantic Avenues.

Highlighting Pittsburgh's best artists and performers, Arts in Motion will feature a stage with live music, artists, crafters and makers, as well as food booths from eateries along Penn Ave and the greater East End area. The musical lineup, which should provide entertainment for many musical interests, includes the Van Allen Belt (electropop), the Terpentiners (bluegrass), Vox Lumina (folk), Mega-Def (hip hop) and Geen Stovall (R&B acoustic), and a dance performance by the talented youths of the Hill Dance Academy Theater.

Families with children will find plenty to enjoy with activity tables provided by the Carnegie Museum of Art Children's Studio, Assemble and the Irma Freeman Center for Imagination. There will also be a special "I Made It! Market" nested within the fair. Mark this on your calendar and come celebrate the dawn of a new spirit of arts celebration. – *Samantha McDonough, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

Art Cars Will Ride Again on Penn

Garfield – Pittsburgh, the birthplace of pop art, will host the second annual Pittsburgh Art & Car Festival this September 28 from 12 to 4 p.m. The Penn Ave Arts Initiative, which sponsors Unblurred, the monthly art event and gallery crawl, will be celebrating not just art, but cars.

Anyone can bring a car down to this event and be part of the festivities for free. Mobile masterpieces get their moment in the spotlight in this artistic car show. Automobile enthusiasts are invited to display decked-out whips, frankenrods, muscle cars and rare vintage. There will be a special award this year – the best/most creative "wooden" pickup truck bed. To register, email Most Wanted Fine Art: mostwantedfineart@yahoo.com

If you don't have an art car, there are lots of other ways to participate in the festival. There will be outdoor space for vendors and crafters. Bring your own table and registration is free. To register, email mostwantedfineart@yahoo.com.

Pittsburgh's finest creators will demonstrate Art in Action. Want to make a splash as part of a live painting segment? Email Josh Suchoza from Tattoo Noir and Art Attack: joshdestruction666@gmail.com.

Decorated bikes will be able to show off their spokes in an organized ride during the festival. To be included, email Meliora Angst: meliora.angst@gmail.com.

In addition, there will be children's activities, musical performances, food and more. Various galleries in the Penn Avenue Arts District (4800-5500 Penn Ave.) will open their doors to showcase a variety of artwork and performances. Participating art venues will represent all mediums of art – glass, dance, sculpture, clothing, paintings, clay, spoken word and a vast array of music. There will be a little taste of everything on Penn Avenue. – *Nina Gibbs, Most Wanted Fine Art*

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Bottom Dollar from page 1

the decision, and we won't know until June what the court will decide.

One thing that has puzzled us are claims that the developers have been unresponsive to input from residents on how to make the store fit better into the neighborhood and the Penn Avenue Plan. Having been involved in many of the community meetings, we do not see it that way, and with the help of *The Bulletin*, have compiled a list of many (though probably not all) of the accommodations Bottom Dollar has made, remedying almost all of the neighbors' concerns.

To begin, over the past two and a half years, high-level representatives of the store have publicly met with the community on six separate occasions, and have fielded phone calls and emails from smaller contingents of neighbors. As a result, Bottom Dollar has made many accommodations. Here are some, in chronological order:

1. In its first meeting with residents in December 2010, residents of Coral Street objected to a proposed truck delivery egress onto their street. Bottom Dollar's developer drew up new plans with the parking lot moved to S. Pacific, and an exit onto that street instead of Coral. This new site plan was presented at a February 2011

community meeting, at which some different residents turned up to object to the exit onto South Pacific.

2. At the February 2011 meeting, Bottom Dollar's developer agreed to work with local designers and artists to make the exterior of the store and the parking lot more attractive. The developer committed to installing a glass mosaic on the side of the building, and encouraged landscape design ideas from the community. The process was facilitated when Rich Engel, the Penn Avenue Mainstreets Manager, approached EDGE Studios about creating a decorative fence and landscaping around the store, which the studio did pro bono. Bottom Dollar liked EDGE's design ideas and incorporated them into their official site plans. The store also agreed to extend the decorative fence along Coral Street and to construct a higher wall along the rear perimeter of the store to obscure the loading dock and trash receptacles.

3. Although Bottom Dollar's developer initially refused to participate in a design charrette with members of the community, he later did engage with the group through phone calls and emails. He also submitted the group's proposed site plans to the Operations Division of Bottom Dollar for review and comment.

4. In May 2012, the developer engaged a local firm to do a traffic study to determine if a traffic signal was needed at the corner of Penn and S. Pacific. In an unusual move, the developer agreed to pay for a traffic signal at the corner if it was deemed necessary.

5. In September 2012, Bottom Dollar:

- Facing objections that the back of the store building was only 5 feet from a residential property, increased the space to 9 feet. To do this, they had to completely rework their interior layout at added expense. (The next-door residents subsequently withdrew their objection to the site plan.)

- Added more trash receptacles to the parking lot to address concerns about possible litter.

- Incorporated more mature trees and shrubs into the EDGE landscaping plan to shield the lot from the residential neighborhood.

- Moved the HVAC units further from nearby homes and agreed to provide additional acoustical screening. This necessitated redoing the structural plans, at significant cost.

- Added a gate to prevent cut-throughs behind the building.

- Removed the lighted store sign from the Coral Street façade of the building.

- Changed the fencing behind the store into a box-style wooden fence that would discourage graffiti.

At present, the appellants are demanding that the proposed wooden fence be replaced with an 8-foot masonry wall along Coral and halfway up South Pacific. On this item, we must agree with the store that this change would not be an improvement, but rather a detriment, both in safety to pedestrians on S. Pacific, and in creating a walled, fortress-like atmosphere. Yet it is the insistence on this wall that is currently preventing the store from moving forward.

We both love living in a diverse urban neighborhood and are distressed by this conflict. It is causing a rift that can undo much of the community building we all, including the appellants, have worked so hard to achieve. More than the specifics of the changes requested, the misperception that Bottom Dollar has not been a "good neighbor" has fueled this problem. We hope that looking carefully at the facts will encourage all of us to see Bottom Dollar as a good future neighbor, and welcome it to our diverse community. ♦

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Neighborhood FOCUS

Taking a Fresh Look at Pierogies

Cooks Whip Up Vegan Versions of a Pittsburgh Classic

By Wesley Davis *The Bulletin*

Lawrenceville - For the past two years, Tomasz Skowronsky and Kate Lasky have organized and prepared monthly, all-you-can-eat pierogi dinners at different venues in the city. At the latest event, Tomasz, Kate and a dedicated group of friends prepared 1,200 pierogies and countless sushi rolls for 215 hungry customers.

This particular Pierogi Night was organized through the Pittsburgh Vegan Meetup, a local group that hosts different vegan-themed events around the city. The Meetup is mainly focused on “potlucks and restaurant outings,” according to its website. “The food is always vegan, but you don’t have to be. Our members are vegans, vegetarians and even an odd omnivore or two.” The group also hosts book clubs and discussion groups to share tips on living a healthy, vegan lifestyle.

The March Meetup was held at the Stephen Foster Community Center on Main Street. All-you-can-eat pierogies and sushi cost \$10. The line of hungry pierogi lovers ran out the door of the Community Center, with many of them holding their already-used plates for another serving.



ABOVE: Tomasz Skowronsky prepares a filling for the vegan pierogies he creates with partner Kate Lasky. Photo by Peter Leeman

**“I believe in the Golden Rule,
and I wouldn’t want
to be eaten.”**

Two types of pierogi fillings were available. One contained wok-fried cabbage, onion and mushroom. The other option was stuffed with arugula, spinach, sweet potato and cashew. The vegan sushi options included a roll made of miso, mustard greens, shiitake mushrooms and cucumber. Another roll was made of eggplant, scallion and tempura ginger. The sushi was so popular that Lasky and Skowronski ran out of rice. They bartered with a local restaurant to procure enough rice to make it through the evening, according to Skowronski.

Lasky and Skowronski first started holding pierogi dinners for much smaller crowds than the Meetup, but soon needed more room. Skowronski said, “We short-circuited every place we were in; it keeps getting bigger and bigger,” adding that the Stephen Foster Community Center’s large kitchen helps them meet the capacity of their growing fan base. “They’re kind enough to let us use the space,” Skowronski said. Lasky explained how she and Skowronski don’t advertise the events, but people find out through word of mouth and on local message boards. The list of venues that they have outgrown includes their own home, Assemble on Penn Avenue in Garfield and the Blue Moon, a Lawrenceville bar where they got their start.

Explaining why he and Lasky decided to hold monthly pierogi events, which involve quite a bit of planning and labor, Skowronski said, “We don’t play instruments but we wanted to have parties, and we can cook.” Lasky added that she and



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Parade from page 1

Memorial Day Parade, organized by the all-volunteer St. Mary's & Allegheny Cemetery Association.

The 2013 parade, now in its 105th year and one of the longest-running Memorial Day parades in the nation, takes place May 27 at 10 a.m., beginning at 40th and Butler Streets, and ending at Allegheny Cemetery. It is a day to honor all deceased veterans.

The event originated when local Veterans of Foreign Wars organizations decided to work together to produce a parade to commemorate their fallen comrades. Today the parade is a community effort that engages city officials, police, fire, paramedics, local neighbors and businesses and former military personnel who deployed and came back home wanting to be involved. The parade is not funded by the city or state, but relies on the generosity of donations to keep it running.

Hundreds of people will line Butler Street to watch the parade. More than 40 groups will participate this year, including Gold Star Mothers, Wounded Warriors, military color guard, veteran organizations, military vehicles, Pittsburgh police, firefighters and paramedics, Shriner

Motor Corps, clowns, Boy Scouts, Morningside and 9th Ward Little League organizations, sports mascots and the Pittsburgh Power football team. The parade will last approximately one hour.

In the past, many local school bands took part in the parade, bringing their majorette and drill teams, but currently no school bands are scheduled to march.

Immediately following the parade, there will be a ceremony in Allegheny Cemetery at the Soldiers Memorial. Parade-goers walk along a scenic winding road, passing graves adorned with small American flags placed by volunteers – a beautiful and sobering sight. The service features military tributes, speakers, musical selections, a wreath-laying, military flyover and a 21-gun salute.

Parade organizer and First Sergeant Jim McGinley said he wants to remember families who lost loved ones in the wars. "One of the things I think is forgotten are the mothers of these soldiers, Marines, sailors, who have to carry the burden for 10, 20 years or longer," McGinley said. The parade is dedicated to the men and women who served this country and paid the ultimate price, he noted.



ABOVE: Marine Corps Color Guard at the 2012 Memorial Day Parade in Lawrenceville. Photo by Susan McGrane

In addition to the parade, a tribute ceremony is planned for Sunday, May 26, at St. Mary's Cemetery on 46th Street.

For more information on the parade, contact Jim McGinley at 412-559-8743 or aohdiv23@aol.com. ♦



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Brewing Something New in Lawrenceville

By Wesley Davis
The Bulletin

Lawrenceville – Twelve years ago, when lifelong Pittsburghers Bill and Michelle Larkin bought a house at 300 39th Street in Lawrenceville, they had no intention of turning it into a commercial cider-tasting room.

But in early 2010 that is exactly what they did, opening Arsenal Cider House & Wine Cellar on the first floor of their home, with a production facility in the basement. Bill, Michelle and their two children live upstairs.

The Larkins moved to Lawrenceville before much of its recent development. Michelle said, “We decided to pick a neutral neighborhood,” since Bill is from Bloomfield and she is from Polish Hill.

“It was a hobby that he decided to turn into a business,” Michelle explained. Although they hire some help, it’s common to see Bill or Michelle at the counter pouring cider, which is pulled from a tap like beer.

On why they chose cider instead of craft beer or wine, Bill said, “We didn’t want to do what every other Pennsylvania winery was doing.” They sell both cider and fruit wine by the keg and in growlers, which are shaped like a beer bottle but closer in

volume to a wine bottle.

“We’re the first winery in the state to use the growler system,” in which customers return the bottles for a discount on their next purchase, Bill said. “We’re probably the only winery in Pennsylvania that makes a dry fruit wine,” he added, explaining how fruit wine is normally much sweeter. They get their apples from Soergel’s Orchards in Wexford, and procure their other juices from the region, too.

The Arsenal Cider House sports a Civil War theme, playing on the historical importance of the nearby Allegheny Arsenal. “We built this bar and cut those barrels in half to put on the wall,” Bill noted. The Larkins were able to keep the cost of their home renovation down by completing most of the construction themselves. Michelle detailed how she carefully blowtorched the wood paneling behind the bar to give it a distressed, historical feel.

After peeling away several layers of plaster, Bill noted that the bricks looked distressed but were still in good condition, so he decided to make it a part of the place’s ambience.

Bill recommended that aspiring business owners “share their idea with others” and be wary of plans that don’t garner strong, positive responses. He pointed to his experience as an accountant and landlord in explaining how he and Michelle were able to turn their home into a place of business with very little outside support. They noted, though, that the process of changing their classification from residential to mixed commercial/residential and obtaining the proper variances from the City was challenging.

This year, Bill says they “hope to start bottling in champagne-style bottles.” Arsenal also plans to expand its business by bringing its products to local bars and restaurants. Industry Public House and Franktuary carry Arsenal’s ciders, along with other local bars with rotating taps.

Since they opened in 2010, Michelle noted how much Lawrenceville has



ABOVE: The Arsenal Cider House decor plays off a Civil War theme. Photo by Alexa Verink

changed. “The hospital [Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC] was just the icing on the cake,” she said. Bill observed proudly, “We’re kicking a** as a neighborhood. Going from a defunct mill town to where we are now, it’s pretty incredible.”

For information about hours, current offerings and which local bars carry Arsenal’s products, visit arsenalciderhouse.com or call 412-260-6968. ♦

How Does Your Garden Grow?

By Kate Bayer

Lawrenceville Hospitality Association

Lawrenceville – Residents of Lawrenceville have demonstrated that anyone with an interest in gardening, whether they have a green thumb or a brown one, can share in the joys of planting a seed and watching it grow. This year’s Lawrenceville Garden Tour, showcasing the neighborhood’s unique backyard gardens, will be held on June 22 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Lawrenceville community has opened its residential gardens for public view sporadically in past years, but sustaining an annual event requires the passion and hard work of a core group of volunteers. The idea for the tour took root in 2010 when Molly Johnson of Hatfield Street approached the Lawrenceville Hospitality Association about hosting the event. The tour is an opportunity for Lawrenceville residents to showcase neighborhood hospitality and to promote creative gardening in small spaces.

Johnson says the Garden Tour gives gardeners and non-gardeners alike an opportunity to view creative uses of space partnered with unique outdoor artwork. The event is more than a garden tour, she notes; it is also a “backyard” tour.

“I love the creative challenge of urban gardening and how it lends itself to conversations with friends and neighbors,” Johnson says. To her, livening up an outdoor space with color, oxygen and a

sense of pride makes for great a conversation-starter and enhances the gardening experience.

Particular challenges for Johnson have included getting her plants to survive the winter and finding the time to research and learn what works and what doesn’t. This year, her next steps are to build raised beds and to consult all possible resources available to make the best gardening choices for her garden.

Dori Shoffstall, a life-long gardener and longtime resident of Fisk Street, says she feels the small spaces of urban backyards make the gardening experience easier to handle and manage. While she isn’t able to attain the scale she might like, she is able to experiment and try new things each year because her space is manageable in size.

Shoffstall says her garden helps her escape the noise of the city by providing a peaceful and aesthetically calming environment. Each year she likes to try something new and is currently investigating planting lavender. Her word of advice to any backyard gardener is to beware of invasive species such as mint or creeping Jenny, which will quickly take over a growing space and make it their own.

The Community Garden in Allegheny Cemetery at 4734 Butler Street is the starting point for this year’s Garden Tour. The garden is managed by resident Dierdra Kane as a “labor of love” with some support



ABOVE: A garden on Howley Street on last year’s Garden Tour. Photo by Kate Bayer

from Allegheny Valley Bank and the Lawrenceville Hospitality Association. The garden relies on volunteers who plant, seed, weed, water and share in the bounty of the harvest. She can be reached at lvarden@yahoo.com for more information or how to get involved.

Maps of the featured gardens and backyards will be available at the Community Garden on the day of the tour, along with interesting information related to the outdoor gardening experience. The Lawrenceville Garden Tour is free and open to the public. ♦

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Dancer Comes Home to Bloomfield

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Bloomfield – Holly Dayton-Kirby remembers going to the movies at the Plaza Theater on Liberty Avenue when she was a kid. Now the girl who grew up on Friendship Avenue in Bloomfield has a key to the building, as the owner of Pittsburgh Dance Center, located on the second floor of the old theater.

"This floor wasn't here," Dayton-Kirby notes. The building owner put in the second floor after buying the shuttered theater in 2003; Starbucks and Quest Diagnostics occupy the first floor. "You would be sitting in the theater seats and you could look up and see this ceiling."

And what a magnificent ceiling it is, dating back to the early 1900s, with the original beams and plaster molding that Dayton-Kirby says took 40 gallons of paint to cover during the renovation of the space. Designed by the architect to trap bass, the ceiling has been an acoustical boon to the dance studio, which has an elaborate sound system specially designed for its classes and performances.

Dayton-Kirby opened her studio in the 5,000-square-foot space in fall 2012, after extensive renovations that included installing hardwood flooring, two bathrooms, all the utilities, two furnaces and duct work, and two air conditioning units

that had to be brought in through the roof with a crane. "It was a really 'big girl' project," she jokes.

The studio is a dream come true for Dayton-Kirby, who says she grew up in a single-parent household where there was never a lot of spare cash. Her mother worked as a nurse at the now-closed St. Francis Hospital, then moonlighted as a housekeeper at C.S. Kim Karate Studio on Liberty Avenue in exchange for her daughter's lessons there. Dayton-Kirby also took dance classes at the YMCA.

Then in third grade, she won a dance scholarship underwritten by former Steeler Lynn Swann, which gave her a solid footing, so to speak, in ballet. From then on, she was hooked on dance, trying and becoming accomplished in different kinds – from ballet to Irish step dancing to salsa and finally ballroom dancing. She honed her skills further as an apprentice with Dance Alloy Theater.

But "dancing was always just a hobby," she notes. Moving around from Pittsburgh to Cleveland to Baltimore, she primarily made her living as a respiratory therapist, although she continued to study dance. When she, her husband and three children decided to move back to Pittsburgh, Dayton-Kirby was finally in a position to



ABOVE: Holly Dayton-Kirby dances with a participant in the Embrace Dance Project for amputees. Photo courtesy Pittsburgh Dance Center

make dancing her full-time job.

The Pittsburgh Dance Center has 35 instructors and hosts four dance companies. Dayton-Kirby also rents the space for weddings and band and orchestra rehearsals. In addition to offering everything from swing to salsa to belly dance to afterschool ballet and karate, she has a few signature programs that are especially popular.

In the "Aerial Silks" class, participants

perform acrobatics while suspended on lengths of silken fabric, à la Cirque du Soleil. "Every class is full to capacity," Dayton-Kirby says, adding that she is the only teacher who offers this instruction in the city.

She has also originated a new form of exercise called Swag Fitness, which she predicts "will be bigger than Zumba." Classes are just \$5 for what she describes as a "catchy" mash-up of dance and fitness designed for adults and kids alike.

Dayton-Kirby has also created a nonprofit arm of the dance studio, which she calls Embrace Dance Project. "A guy walked in one day with a limp and said, 'Can you teach an old guy how to dance?'" With backup from her husband, an M.D. who practices physical and sports medicine, she was able to create a free dance program that is offered a couple of Saturday afternoons a month for amputees and those with gait dysfunction, who are in wheelchairs or have prosthetic limbs.

The tagline for the Embrace Dance Project is "Dance! Because it's cheaper than therapy!" The energetic, buoyant Dayton-Kirby may just be a living advertisement for the transformative power of dance. ♦

Pittsburgh Dance Center is located at 4765 Liberty Ave., 2nd floor; the space has an elevator for wheelchair access. For more information, call 412-681-0111 or visit www.pittsburghdancecenter.com.

Empowering through Technology

By Dror Yaron
CMU Robotics Institute

Garfield – Youths at Arsenal Middle School in Lawrenceville used and built robots to tell their personal stories. Literary Arts Boom (The LAB) participants in Garfield created kinetic poetry combining words on paper, digital imaging and robotic technologies. If you pick up electronic tin-can telephones at Espresso a Mano, Oh Yeah! and the Lawrenceville branch of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, you can hear the students talk about their school, and join the conversation.

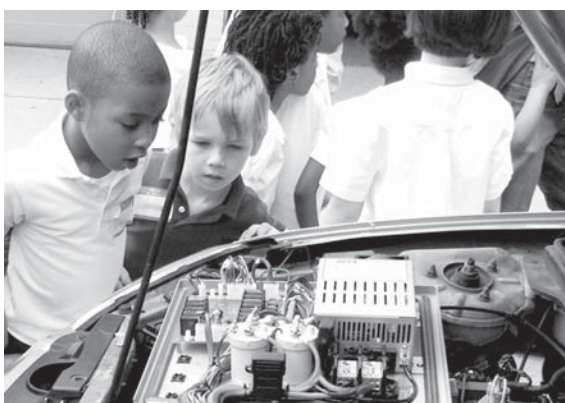
These are some of the interactions the Carnegie Mellon University Community Robotics, Education and Technology Empowerment (CREATE) Lab and its partners have had with area communities so far. CREATE is now moving into Garfield for the month of May.

Throughout May, Assemble gallery at 5125 Penn Ave. will host "See for Yourself," a showcase of CREATE Lab's programs with community partners and robotic technologies developed at the lab. CREATE Lab explores socially meaningful innovation and deployment of robotic technologies. Its partners use and assemble such technologies to measure,

express, share, advocate and change by making visible what is often invisible.

At Assemble, visitors will be able to count pollution particles in the air and water. They will follow electricity inside an electronic toy, or under the hood of an electric car. They'll listen in to hear what students think about their school and what changes they demand, and be able to join the conversation. They will also witness robots interpreting poetry, light and temperature, explaining anatomy or telling a story about Garfield's community garden, Kite Hill Park and Penn Aiken Dairy. What's more, they will be invited to add their own voices to the story and their own robots to the show.

The "See for Yourself" opening reception takes place on May 3 from 6 to 10



ABOVE: Under the hood of an electric car, one of the technology projects of CREATE Lab. Photo by Dror Yaron

p.m. For the complete schedule of events, visit bit.ly/see4schedule. Learn more about CREATE Lab, its projects and partnerships at cmucreatelab.org. For stories, pictures and videos from past CREATE projects in communities served by The Bulletin, visit bit.ly/bulletinbots. ♦



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Residents Invited to Host Rising Opera Stars

By Scott Timm

Bulletin Contributor

Lawrenceville – Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, the Lawrenceville-based chamber opera company celebrating its 35th year, is seeking local residents interested in hosting singers for its annual SummerFest, which runs for three weeks from July 6 to 21.

As part of Opera Theater's mission to serve as a training ground for opera singers of tomorrow, the company invites 30 young singers from around the world to Pittsburgh for coaching, master classes and performing opportunities. These young artists, generally ranging in age from 22 to 32, are graduates of some of the finest university programs and conservatories in music, and stand at the threshold of their professional opera careers. At SummerFest, they take the stage with distinguished local, national and international singers in performances of opera

classics, contemporary American works and new commissions.

"Host families can offer these artists a comfortable and welcoming introduction to Pittsburgh," says program director and Bloomfield resident Laura SanBoeuf. "The singers spend all day and most evenings in grueling rehearsals, and the support of a local family helps them survive the residency."

While most singers arrive for rehearsals beginning in mid-June and remain in residence through July 21, host families are not obligated to provide housing for this entire period. "We welcome any length of a home-stay offer, and can coordinate partial accommodations for the singers," SanBoeuf states. Host families are not expected to provide local transportation.

Host families receive complimentary

tickets to SummerFest productions, and invitations to special events with the artists, including the closing-night cast party. A deeper benefit is the opportunity to build a personal relationship with a young singer who might soon be performing in the world's great opera houses. "There's such a rush of pride when your artist takes a bow on opening night," SanBoeuf exclaims. "You know that you've played some small part in his or her success."

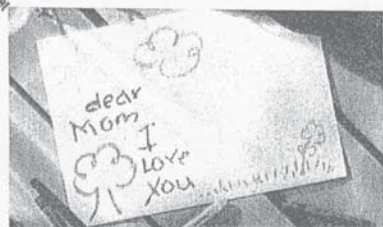
SummerFest 2013 takes place in the historic Twentieth Century Club in Oakland. Mainstage productions include an innovative retelling of Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann*; Daron Hagen's 1993 work *Shining Brow*, which details the life of American architect Frank Lloyd Wright and his tragic love affair with the wife of a client; *The Secret Gardener/La finta giardiniera*, a rarely performed opera composed by 18-year-old Mozart; Stephen Sondheim's Broadway favorite *A Little Night Music*; and *Night Caps International*, a series of four short comic operas newly commissioned for the



ABOVE: A scene from Opera Theater of Pittsburgh's 2012's production of "Carmen—The Gypsy." Photo by Patti Brahim

festival, each set in the same hotel room on subsequent nights. All works are sung in English with a live orchestra.

Local residents interested in opening their home to a SummerFest singer can find more information by visiting Opera Theater's website at otsummerfest.org/ adopt. There, potential hosts can "audition" young artists by viewing photos, resumes and audition videos. For additional information, please call Opera Theater at 412-621-1499. ♦



Reflecting on Mother's Day

Mother's Day can be a sad time for those whose mothers are no longer living.

Whether this is your first Mother's Day without your mother or if it has been years since she has died, there are many ways to honor your deceased mother or grandmother on Mother's Day.

We would like to offer the following suggestions:

- Talk about your mother with people who remember her.
- Bring out pictures of your mother, and show them to other family members.
- Consider taking flowers to the cemetery.
- Do something your mother would have enjoyed.
- Give a Mother's Day donation to your mother's favorite charity in her name.
- And finally, bring back the tradition of wearing a single white carnation in memory of your deceased mother.



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Pierogies from page 8

Skowronski enjoy cooking partly because "we're vegan and there aren't a lot of vegan places to eat."

Lawrenceville residents, Lasky and Skowronski said they hope to open a pierogi restaurant somewhere in the neighborhood or on Penn Avenue. Skowronski said they will call it Apteka, a word that means "pharmacy" in multiple Eastern European languages. The name was Lasky's idea, Skowronski said, explaining how a pharmacy is often the marker of the beginning of an ethnic neighborhood. He added that Apteka's consistent meaning across different languages and its pronounceability make it an ideal name for a pan-Eastern-European restaurant.

Although Skowronski's family is from Warsaw, "they never made pierogies." He went on to explain how pierogies and the polka are a stronger part of rural Polish culture than urban.

Lasky and Skowronski do all the cooking together. Making as many of the ingredients as possible by hand is a habit they said they hope to bring to a brick-and-mortar restaurant. Lasky said

she enjoys "making a flavor from the beginning," noting how in preparation for making the vegan sushi they "pickled radishes and made miso sauce."

Both cooks challenged the idea that a pierogi recipe needs to have sour cream and other dairy products. They stressed how pierogies are meant to be a simple recipe. "It's a blue-collar, hearty food," Skowronski said. As an example of how versatile the pierogi is, Skowronski and Lasky suggested trying a "dessert pierogi" involving fresh fruits and a bit of sugar. They always encourage pierogi purists to try their pierogies before passing judgment.

When asked about his choice of veganism, Skowronski said, "I believe in the Golden Rule ["Do unto others as you would have others do unto you"], and I wouldn't want to be eaten."

Lasky and Skowronski will be serving their pierogies on May 6 at Bar Marco in the Strip District. More information can be found at facebook.com/pieroginight. A list of the Pittsburgh Vegan Meetup's other events is at meetup.com/pittsburgh-vegans. ♦



Wednesday, May 8, 2013
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
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 (Across from Home Depot)

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**Early Access for Veterans, Foster Care Youth, and People with
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*Call "NOW" to 412-362-8580 in order to find out if applications for the
 2013 City of Pittsburgh Summer Youth Employment Program are presently available
 at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Avenue.*

Resume Help---- EASTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD EMPLOYMENT CENTER
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This event is co-hosted by the ENEC, Lawrenceville United, Neighborhood Learning Alliance, East Liberty Development, Inc., and BGC PittsburghCONNECTS, and supported by BNY Mellon, PNC Bank, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Poise Foundation, and the City of Pittsburgh.

the

Bulletin BOARD

Local Events Classes Announcements Fundraisers

May 3

PENN AVENUE

Unblurred

The first Friday of each month, from 6 to 11 p.m., various venues in the Penn Avenue Arts District, 4800-5500 Penn Ave., open their doors to showcase the work of a variety of artists and performers. Visit facebook.com/pennavenuearts.

BLOOMFIELD

"SAFE LIGHT"

The Irma Freeman Center for Imagination, 5006 Penn Avenue, presents the final performance of "SAFE LIGHT," a Father-Son, multi-media collaboration between Nick and Dennis Childers, exhibiting digital prints and an experimental video installation. 7 to 10 p.m. For more information visit irmafreeman.org.

May 4

BLOOMFIELD

Coach Purse Bingo

Come to the Saint Maria Goretti School Social Hall, 321 Edmond St., at noon to play bingo for Coach brand prizes. Proceeds will go to the Saint Maria Goretti School. Tickets cost \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Seating is limited. One Coach purse given away per game. Call 412-621-5199 for tickets and more information.

GARFIELD

Candle-Making for Kids

Assemble will host a free, drop-in candle-making workshop for kids from 1 to 4 p.m. at 5125 Penn Ave. Kids will work with local artist Suzanne Trenney to make candles using recycled materials. All materials provided. Contact outreach@assemblephg.org for more details.

PENN AVENUE

Pick Up Penn

Volunteers are welcome to help out with the Pick Up Penn neighborhood cleanup event. Meet at 10 a.m. at Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Avenue.

May 7

EAST LIBERTY

MS Excel Intermediate

Learn how to make a budget, track your spending and more using MS Excel at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St., from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Class also takes place at 5321 Penn Ave. on May 9th from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. To view Pittsburgh CONNECTS's entire catalogue of free computer courses visit main.pghconnects.org.

May 8

GARFIELD

Public Safety Task Force

The Public Safety Task Force has convened monthly in Garfield since 2000. At the table are representatives from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, the Bureau of Police, other neighborhood organizations, the offices of the Mayor and City Council members, various city and county departments and the state. Community members are invited to bring specific concerns to PSTF's monthly meeting during the first 15 minutes. Meeting starts at 4 p.m. at BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave. For details: 412-441-6950 x15.

May 10

LAWRENCEVILLE

Blossom Tour

Celebrate spring and Mother's Day by collecting packets of seeds from 27 different businesses. Continues through May 12. For more information and a map go to lvphg.com or call 412-683-6488.

May 11

FRIENDSHIP

Friendship Festival

Friendship's community groups will hold their annual open-air festival from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Baum Grove, between Baum Boulevard and Roup Avenue—featuring children's activities, flowers and plants, food, raffle items, a book table and craft vendors. Donations of gently used books and fully wrapped and themed gift baskets will be accepted at Baum Grove at the festival. Donations will also be accepted for the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. For the Center's current wish list, call 412-687-8005 or go to www.wcpittsburgh.org. For festival information, contact materry@pitt.edu.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Texas Barbecue

From noon to 2 p.m. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 237 37th St., will host its 2nd Annual Texas Barbecue to benefit the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh-Lawrenceville. Tickets are \$9 and may be purchased in advance by calling 412-621-2720. No tickets sold at the door. All proceeds will go to the library. All are welcome. For additional information, e-mail pastor@zionevangelicallutheran.org.

GARFIELD

Zine-Making for Kids

Assemble will host a free, drop-in zine-making workshop for kids from 1 to 4 p.m. at 5125 Penn Ave. Kids will work with local writer and crafter

Sarah LaPonte to make their own fabulous zines. All materials provided. Please contact outreach@assemblephg.org for more details.

May 16

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free Historical Lecture

The Lawrenceville Historical Society will host mystery writer Kathryn Miller Haines. Speaking on "The Home Front During World War II," Haines used this period as the background for her critically acclaimed Rosie Winter series. Lecture takes place in the McVey Auditorium of Canterbury Place, 310 Fisk Street, at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. No reservations required.

GARFIELD

Freelancing and the Law

Lessons from the 6% Place is a free business education series for freelancers and other creative entrepreneurs. The series seeks to make the business part of running a creative business (e.g., contracts, incorporating, and accounting) less scary with spirited workshops led by subject experts with an affinity for the creative community. In the first session, attorney Eric Davis will discuss the legal aspects of running a creative business at Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Email info@citylabphg.org for more information.

May 18

GARFIELD

Scratch Day for Kids

Assemble will host a free, drop-in craft workshop for kids from 1 to 4 p.m. at 5125 Penn Ave. Kids will make cat masks, cat toys and do a fun Scratch activity with CREATE Lab. Representatives from Animal Friends will discuss best practices for caring for a cat. All materials provided. Contact outreach@assemblephg.org for details.

May 19

GARFIELD

Senior Housing

Laurentian Hall, the senior housing complex located at 5321 Penn Ave., will hold an open house from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for prospective tenants. Facilities include efficiency, 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom apartments, with a resident manager on-site. Full kitchens, free laundry and parking. Section 8 possible for qualified applicants. For more information call 412-361-4462.

May 23

GARFIELD

Literary Reading Series

Join the Literary Arts Boom (LAB) at 5125 Penn Avenue for Homunculus, a series of literary readings that double as mini-fundraisers for the free youth programming provided by Assemble. Ed Steck and Nikki Allen will read, as well as others. Contact 773-425-1531 or literaryartsboom@gmail.com for more information.

May 25

LAWRENCEVILLE

Art of Dog Training

Lacey Grundler, dog obedience instructor, from the Animal Rescue League and Wildlife Center, will speak about her animal training expertise and much more at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., at 2 p.m. She will bring a dog to demonstrate how to teach your dog basic commands. For information call 412-682-3668.

GARFIELD

Relief Printing for Kids

Assemble will host a free, drop-in printmaking workshop for kids from 1 to 4 pm at 5125 Penn Ave. With the help of local artist Callie Garp, kids will create original doodles in Styrofoam and then print their images in spring colors. All materials provided. Contact outreach@assemblephg.org for more details.

May 26

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free Lecture

A powerful speaker and prolific writer, Mike Aquilina will speak on "Getting to Know Angels." The author will autograph his books. This free lecture, sponsored by the Holy Name Society of Our Lady of the Angels Parish, will take place in Saint Augustine Auditorium, 218 37th Street at 11 a.m. No reservations needed; refreshments served.

Notices

EAST LIBERTY

Historical Exhibition

The East Liberty Valley Historical Society will hold a major exhibition in August 2013. The East Liberty Historical Association seeks historic documents, pieces of commemorative silver, historic clothing, military paraphernalia, artifacts of historic interest, something belonging to a notable person, photographs, a first edition book, etc., with a connection to the East End area. To discuss possibilities, please contact Al Mann, President, East Liberty Valley Historical Society, 1251 N. Sheridan Ave., alfred.mann@verizon.net or 412-661-5947.

Find a Job

Looking for a career change? The Coalition of Organized Residents of East Liberty (COR) helps those looking for employment opportunities at COR's computer lab. Get help with resume building and cover letter writing. Contact COR for more details at 412-661-2600.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Summer Camp

This summer Lawrenceville United will host a Summer Celebration Day Camp from June 24 to August 2 for children ages 4 to 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8, 220 40th Street. Lunch and afternoon snack will be provided for all children. Campers will have access to Arsenal's pool, patio, soccer field, gym and bathrooms. Swim lessons are also available for an additional fee. For

Sorry, we do not accept listings by phone.

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

Announcements for the June issue are due Wednesday, May 15, via email to bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org.

Volunteer Opportunities & Services

more information about the camp and how to register call 412-802-7220 or open the application electronically lunited.org/documents/CampRegistrationFlyer_distribute.pdf.

Children's Yoga

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., will host children's yoga classes on Fridays at 11:30 a.m. Using play, stories, singing and games, Yoga Instructor Laura Herrmann will lead kids through breathing exercises, stretches and yoga poses. Recommended for children age 2-5. Due to limited space, registration is required. To register call 412-682-3668.

BLOOMFIELD

School Fundraiser

Support St. Maria Goretti School's service to students by donating unwanted clothing, shoes and accessories. There will be a storage container at 300 Edmund Street throughout the year to collect donations.

Summer Camp

Earthen Vessels Outreach and Seeds of Hope Church are celebrating 12 years of summer sports, field trips, arts, games, education & fun at their Summer Day Camp. This 6-week camp runs from June 17 through July 27 and is held Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Mornings are spent on Bible, math, reading and healthy living courses. Afternoons are spent on physical activities such as dance performing arts, sports and crafts. For children ages 3 to 14. \$240 to \$360. Call 412-681-7272 to register. call 412-682-3668.

GARFIELD

Learn Computer Skills

Pittsburgh CONNECTS, 5321 Penn Avenue, hosts weekly computer classes. Intro to Computers, Mondays from 10 to 11:30 a.m., covers the basics of the computer from clicking the mouse to saving and attaching files. Internet and Email Basics, Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. covers basic internet navigation skills. For information on these offerings and Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel classes visit main.pghconnects.org.

Free Homework Help

Students in grades 1 through 12 are invited to drop in at 5125 Penn Ave. from 3:30 to 6 p.m. for homework help and writing practice at The Literary Arts Boom. Volunteer mentors assist students with their schoolwork and also lead writing activities that

range from creative to expository. Parents must complete a student application: bit.ly/LABStudentApp. If you're unable to print it out in advance, we will have copies on hand at The LAB. Call 773-425-1531 for more information.

Garfield Night Market

The Garfield Night Market seeks vendors for the summer who will sell a mix of food, local produce, and handmade items. For its pilot year, vendors will be free to sell their goods at the Night Market for no fee. Those interested in vending, volunteering or sponsoring at this event should visit nightmarket.citylabpgh.org. For more information contact info@citylabpgh.org or 412-434-7080.

FRIENDSHIP

Tied Together

On Fridays at the Octopus Garden, 136 South Aiken Street, from May 3 through June 28 kids are welcome to a series of fun, hands-on workshops. Tied Together engages kids and adults in learning about where their food comes from, while making an eco-educational, mosaic art sculpture. Workshops feature themed activities and conversations with master gardeners, conservationists, artists, composting specialists, eco-enthusiasts, chefs and kids. At Mosaic Madness on May 19 from 2 to 5 p.m. kids will make, break and place tile. May 31 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. kids can build a kaleidoscope.

PITTSBURGH

Utility Savings

Want to keep your house healthy and comfortable? GTECH Strategies' ReEnergize program can help you make your home more comfortable and save money on your utilities. Lawrenceville residents contact Cleo Zell at ReEnergize.Lawrenceville@gmail.com or 412-638-7576; Bloomfield residents contact Erin Pischke at ReEnergize.Bloomfield@gmail.com or 412-400-6417. For more information, visit ReEnergizePGH.org.

Parenting Warmline

Call the confidential Parenting Warmline at Family Resources for support, information and referral, 412-641-4546. It is a free, live, confidential service where you can find information, referrals and support for any non-medical parenting concern. The Parenting Warmline answers from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

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Bunker from page 1

gather all the aluminum cans I will need for an installation debuting at Unblurred ... PLEASE BRING ME YOUR ALUMINUM CANS ..."

Not exactly Ellis Island's call for tired or huddles masses, but not an unusual request if you do what this arts organization does. The BUNKERproject, newly located at 5106 Penn Ave., is an experimental gallery and residency program devoted to supporting artists by providing them with a living laboratory. The lab is actually a raw, attic-like space just a flight of steps above the Roboto Project. But what it may lack in aesthetics it makes up in the nurturing and encouragement given to emerging artists by the organization's founders, Cecelia Ebitz, Jessie Rommelt and Abbigael Beddall.

The group chose as its first artist-in-residence a Penn State student, Annalisa Barron, who debuted at April's Unblurred during the Geek Art/Green Innovator's Festival. Her installation, "Incarnate," was a dark but whimsical multimedia piece that included stop-animation film, a cache of vintage lamps, trash balloons and a salvaged art dummy.

Barron says she finds a peculiar relationship between people and their things.

Objects and possessions are used to denote a person's class, ideas and even moral fiber. She says she feels people have a need to belong, which greatly influences the selection of things they choose to live with. While people build their identity by what they collect, they also want to impress. Her work was an investigation into the parodies of cultural ornamentation and the human impulse to have more than we need.

The people of the BUNKERproject are pleased to give shelter to art experiments, like Barron's, that might never see the light of day if the artists had to depend on money or an art pedigree to be accepted into a traditional gallery. It's this artist-colony sentiment shared by several venues in the Penn Avenue Arts District that makes Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn the most unique art crawl in the city. Galleries on Penn that often feature emerging arts include Modern Formations, Assemble, Most Wanted Fine Art and the Irma Freeman Center for the Imagination.

"Artists can also live in our studio space if they need to," said Ebitz. "This allows us to bring in people from universities like Penn State or artists from other states,



ABOVE: Artist Annalisa Barron with her multimedia installation, "Incarnate," at GA/GI Festival in April. Photo by Thomas Verscharen

who either don't have money to stay at hotels or simply prefer to work and create in the same environment."

The seeds of the organization began in 2012, and currently the BUNKERproject plans to get some much-needed capital through the online fundraising site

Indiegogo. In the near future, the BUNKERproject hopes to use its space to host not only a diversity of art and art forms, but talks, dinners and community exchanges. Artists looking to use the space or to apply to be an artist-in-residence should visit bunkerprojects.org. ♦

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