

the Bulletin

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



ABOVE: A team of volunteer gardeners planted perennials around the Garfield Veterans Memorial as part of the Love Your Block initiative. Read the full story on page 3. Photo by Jason Sauer

Violence Prevention Is On-Going

By Aggie Brose Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) expresses its condolences to the families and loved ones of victims of the recent spate of gun-related violence in our community. Events like these come as a shock to everyone.

Our community has not been standing by idly, hoping that a safe environment will happen all by itself. People have come together in a number of ways to try to make the neighborhood more secure:

- Valley View Presbyterian Church is holding prayer vigils weekly at the sites where violence has occurred (see photo, page 11). It is also working with residents to organize block parties where people can

get to know one another and share concerns.

- The BGC's Public Safety Task Force has engaged the U. S. Attorney, David Hickton, and County District Attorney Stephen Zappala in stepping up investigative efforts into the main perpetrators of crime in the community. It also has the active cooperation of the city's Bureau of Police and the Mayor's staff in assigning the necessary officers to the area.

- BGC staff have been identifying and meeting with property owners whose tenants may be actively involved in criminal activities, pressuring them to deal in a forceful, legal manner with problems.

See **Violence** | page 11

EDITORIAL

Vote on Tuesday, November 6th Photo IDs Not Required This Year

Of course, almost everyone realizes it's a presidential election year. The polls will be open until 8 p.m. on Nov. 6, and, fortunately, you don't have to present a photo ID this year. If you need a ride to the polls, you can call Pittsburgh United at 412-231-8648. So there's little reason not to vote.

However, in communities like ours, many people will just not bother to go to the polls. They're either not interested, or they don't feel they're well-informed, or they don't want to take the 30 minutes out of their day to do it.

If you're waffling about voting, perhaps we can give you some reasons to change your mind. The federal government is literally broke, borrowing more than \$1 trillion to fund its daily operations in 2012. Although neither of the candidates for president has

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Penn Reconstruction Hits Road Bump

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Penn Avenue – The plans for Phase 1 of the Penn Avenue Reconstruction Project, a revitalization of the four blocks between Mathilda and

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Looking "Sharp" In Garfield

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Garfield – Veda Weathers says she is living her dream, right on Penn Avenue. In May 2012, she opened her first clothing and accessories

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Food Trucks Rally about Vending Laws

By Megan Lindsey *Pgh Mobile Food*

East Liberty – On Oct. 14, a parking lot in East Liberty was transformed into the headquarters for a food truck rally that focused on a

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ABOVE: Zoe, a 2-year-old Vizsla, enjoys herself at the grand opening of the Bernard Dog Run in Lawrenceville. Read the full story on page 16. Photo by John Colombo Photography

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INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST DOCTORS

UPMC welcomes the physicians and staff of Comprehensive Care Associates-UPMC. New patients are welcome at this new internal medicine practice, located in Bloomfield.



Leland T. Henry Jr., MD
Internal Medicine

Board-certified in internal medicine, Dr. Henry received his medical degree from the University of Michigan and completed his residency at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital. He served as a captain in the United States Air Force and a clinical instructor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Dr. Henry specializes in care for adults, diabetes management, cardiac care, and treatment for chronic illnesses.



Frank H. Kush, MD
Internal Medicine

Dr. Kush earned his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He completed his internal medicine residency at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital. Dr. Kush is board-certified in internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine.



Ronald J. Nigborowicz, MD
Internal Medicine

Dr. Nigborowicz is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He completed his medical internship at UPMC Presbyterian, and is board-certified in internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. Nigborowicz is a clinical instructor in medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.



Priya P. Saxena, MD, FACP
Internal Medicine

Board-certified in internal medicine, Dr. Saxena received her medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine, Dominica, West Indies. She completed her internal medicine residency at Maryland General Hospital in Baltimore, where she served as chief resident. She is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and is NCQA-certified in diabetes management.

Extended hours are now available.

Comprehensive Care Associates-UPMC has four locations: Bloomfield, Bellevue, Allison Park, and West View. To schedule an appointment at the Bloomfield office, call 412-315-0400.

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

Penn Ave. from page 1

Evaline Streets, have been moving along on schedule, with the project in the final design stage. Construction is still slated to begin in mid-2013.

Engineers from L.R. Kimball are busy preparing the final design package. The intention is to have final designs ready for PennDOT approval at the end of December. The design will include plans and specifications for the roadway, signage and pavement markings, drainage, traffic control, artistic streetscaping such as benches and tree grates, signalization and lighting. Bimonthly meetings have engaged many property and business owners along Penn Avenue in the process. For those who have not been able to attend, updates are available at www.lrkimball.com/penn-avenue.aspx.

The project has encountered one bump in the road, however: the aesthetic appearance and placement of the utility poles along the avenue. Members of the reconstruction project committee have met many times with Duquesne Light over the past year to discuss removing the rusted old trolley poles and attaching electric lines to the sleek new poles designed for lighting, signage and

signals. Duquesne Light has used this solution along East Carson Street on the South Side.

However, the utility company recently announced it is "committed" not to use this solution for Penn Avenue. Instead, it proposes placing eight to 12 40-foot wooden utility poles between Millvale and Winebiddle, or leaving 11 of the ancient trolley poles in this stretch.

The Penn Avenue Reconstruction Project committee has attempted to engage Rich Riazzi, President and CEO of Duquesne Light, in a discussion about a more suitable and acceptable solution to the issue. At press time, a meeting had not yet been scheduled with Mr. Riazzi.

"We've waited a long time for this reconstruction," said Aggie Brose, chair of the committee and deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, noting that the project is a \$5 million investment that will stimulate economic development for the business corridor, enhance public safety and beautify the avenue. "We don't want ugly wooden poles or the old rusted ones on a newly reconstructed Penn Avenue." ♦

BELOW: Which better suits a revitalized Penn Avenue: corroded trolley poles (left) or sleek modern poles? Photo by Paula Martinac



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

“Love Your Block” Honors Veterans in Garfield

By Kathryn Vargas Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield – This fall, two transformative community projects helped change the face of Garfield – a garden entrance to the Penn Avenue Veterans Memorial, and a much larger planting on the corner of Mossfield and Mathilda Streets, one of Garfield’s most-traveled community gateways. The projects were funded by the “Love Your Block” initiative, a partnership between the office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and the Home Depot Foundation to revitalize the city block by block.

Four separate community events involved more than 30 volunteers in the beautification of these two sites. Participating in the events were members of the Garfield Community Action Team (GCAT), staffed by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) and neighborhood volunteers; students from Chatham University, the University of Pittsburgh and The Academy School; and nearby residents. The project also benefited from the assistance of the City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works, the City Construction Department and the Mayor’s SERVPhg office.

The project called on the expertise of Megan Zeigler, a landscape architect with GTECH Strategies, who volunteered to help design the garden and select the plants that would be successful and sustainable. The plants chosen are perennials that will be able to endure the winter and bloom again year after year. GCAT is dedicated to monitoring and ensuring that the garden remains in order over the long term.

Why do these projects honor veterans? The BGC learned that 25 percent of the residents of Garfield identify as veterans. With such a large portion of the neighborhood represented by veterans of the armed forces, a project that beautifies the neighborhood ultimately also has a positive impact on the environment in which veterans live.

In working on this project, GCAT met with some of the nearby neighbors, including two veterans who actually live in a property adjacent to the new garden. One of these, Keith, a 10-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Reserves, shared his thoughts on the project. “The corner has been overgrown and out of control,” he said. “I think it is great what you are doing.” Keith served in Operation Desert Storm (1991) as a tank operator. He grew up on the North Side but later settled in Garfield. He further explained that now that the Mossfield lot is cleaned up, he is motivated to fix up and repaint the trim of his own house to complement the garden.

The hope is that there are more veterans, like Keith, who will appreciate the beauty of this newly planted lot, and that this project will spark more efforts to keep the landscape and living environment in Garfield beautiful for all residents.

If you would like more information on how to get involved in similar greening activities, please email me at KathrynV@bloomfield-garfield.org or visit the GCAT website at www.gcatpg.com. ♦

the Bulletin

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Bloomfield-Garfield
Corporation



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

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The deadline for the December issue is Tuesday, November 13.

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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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www.bloomfield-garfield.org © 2012 by Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

West Penn Plans for Future

By Paula Martinac The Bulletin

Bloomfield – News about the rift between Highmark, Inc. and West Penn Allegheny Health System (WPAHS) has led to uncertainty and confusion about the future of health-care options in the East End and throughout the city.

The two health-care entities were on a path to an official affiliation that, if approved by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department, would have shored up health-care choices in the region. That deal is now on hold.

On Sept. 28, WPAHS announced it would terminate its agreement with Highmark, citing “breach of contract,” and enter into talks with other potential partners. WPAHS alleges that Highmark is attempting to force the hospital system into bankruptcy in violation of the terms of their affiliation agreement, while Highmark contends it wanted the health-care system to simply “restructure” its debt. The two have since filed lawsuits against each other.

The feud brings into question the stability of West Penn Hospital in Bloomfield, where many East End residents get their health care. Community members want to know whether it is prudent to schedule surgeries or other procedures at West Penn, or if the facility is on the verge of closing its doors.

State Sen. Jim Ferlo and State Rep. Dom Costa have reconvened the consortium of local community leaders, stakeholders and politicians, which first began meeting when the West Penn Hospital emergency department closed at the end of 2010. The

group is advocating to get WPAHS and Highmark representatives back to the table to work through the current impasse.

According to Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), which is part of the consortium, “We want them [WPAHS and Highmark] to commit to the original affiliation agreement. We aren’t taking sides, but we’ll be monitoring the process to see what transpires if and when they sit down to talk.”

In the meantime, Duke Rupert, President and CEO of West Penn, attended a BGC board of directors meeting on Oct. 8 to deliver the strong message that the hospital is still very much open for business and needs clients to keep itself viable.

Rupert outlined the many vital services West Penn continues to offer, including its newly renovated, state-of-the-art emergency department; a 292-bed medical center featuring private rooms; and specialty services such as cancer care, diabetes treatment, neurosurgery, orthopedics, bone marrow transplantation, bariatric surgery, burn care, reproductive care and more.

Looking ahead, “people should be confident that we’ll be here to meet their needs,” Cheryl Kelly, Community Marketing Manager for West Penn, told *The Bulletin*. “We are adding surgeons, like Dr. Howard Edington, a world-renowned surgical oncologist who specializes in skin and breast cancer. We are looking forward and planning for the future.” ♦

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ESL Students Nurtured at Arsenal PreK-5

By Judith Flaherty Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5

Lawrenceville – Many Pittsburghers may not realize the number of international students who attend Pittsburgh Public Schools. Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5 is one of four elementary regional sites in the district for English Second Language (ESL) learning.

There are 60 students attending Arsenal from 20 different countries. The variety of cultures, languages, and experiences enhance learning and character development. ESL students contribute to a unique student population.

The learning process for the ESL student begins with a home language survey and then an English proficiency test. Students attend the closest neighborhood ESL school and are placed in proficiency level groups. The curriculum is called "Avenues" and incorporates pictures, practice and opportunities to build skills.

An integral factor to the success of a student learning English is the literacy level of the parents. Learning is easier for ESL students if parents speak English and if the children have received an education in their native countries.

Assimilation is quicker if ESL students are exposed to a variety of American experiences.

At Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5, ESL students participate in one to three ESL classes a day, depending on their levels.

Newcomers usually attend three classes. As students progress, their ESL instruction decreases.

Ms. Ginger Manker and Ms. Nicole Odorisio are the ESL instructors at Arsenal. Ms. Odorisio teaches newcomers and grades 1, 2 and 3. Ms. Manker teaches kindergarten and grades 3, 4 and 5. The support that these ESL teachers contribute goes well beyond the classroom curriculum, assisting ESL families with personal problems and being dedicated advocates for all English language students. ♦



ABOVE: ESL students at Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5 pose with their teacher, Ms. Odorisio. The students are from left to right: Yeshoshat Niyokwizigira, Mgaza Awad, Abuda Mohamed, Turki Almalki, Marmed Zine, Musa Salat, Jibril Hussein, Channele Akimana, Bakal Ali and Faris Aldoja. Photo by Judith Flaherty

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

City Offers Resources for Winterization

by Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

City of Pittsburgh

Colder weather is coming, but there's still time to prepare your family and home for the winter months. By weatherizing your home, you can protect it – both inside and out – from nature's elements, like rain and rodents, and save money by reducing energy use and allowing your home to run more efficiently. We realize that winter can be difficult for many residents, and I encourage you to learn about the City's helpful resources and programs.

The average house has cracks and gaps, allowing cold air to sneak in through these spaces. Closing these gaps will help keep your home at a comfortable temperature while preventing things like water seepage and insect and rodent problems. Simple solutions for weatherizing your home include adding insulation around air ducts, caulking around windows and adding weather stripping around doorways. A few simple tweaks can help prevent problems and protect your family. For more information, visit pittsburghpa.gov/green.

The City provides many resources to help residents save money and protect their homes. The Pittsburgh Green House is a training and education facility that provides information about do-it-yourself projects, energy and water saving, and retrofit financing. The Sustainable Home Improvement Partnership offers weatherization assistance as well as health and safety upgrades, handicap accessibility upgrades, and plumbing, electrical and utility improvements to those who qualify. Everyone should be warm this winter. If you need assistance with repairs or utility costs, please contact my servePGH office at 412-255-4765 or servepgh@pittsburghpa.gov, or visit pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh.

Snow Angels is a program that helps minimize the hardships of snow removal by pairing volunteers with elderly or disabled to assist with snow removal. Volunteers are provided a shovel, de-icing salt and a safety vest, and recipients are matched by location. Pittsburgh is a city well known for its neighbors helping neighbors. To request a Snow Angel in your neighborhood or to become a Snow Angel, visit pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/snowangels.

As the City of Pittsburgh prepares for winter, I encourage all residents to prepare as well. Remember that weatherization provides a long-lasting solution to reducing energy bills, and that the City and our dedicated residents are ready to help neighbors in need. Together, we can ensure that this winter is a pleasant and enjoyable season for all. ♦

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GCAT CHAT

Community Clean-Up

Saturday, November 3, at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Ave.

Kite Hill Park Family Celebration

Saturday, November 3, at 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. meet Kite Hill Park on the 5210 block of Rosetta St. Enjoy a fall day at the park with an outdoor photo studio for kids & families. Put on some fun costumes & take some photos! Keep warm with hot cider & donuts!

GCAT Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, November 28, at 6:00 p.m. at BFG Cafe 5335 Penn Avenue.

Interest in a Community Garden in Garfield?

We are looking into bringing a community garden back to Garfield. If you are an interested resident or gardener we would like to hear from you. Please call us and leave your information and we will get back to you regarding our first meet-up. Call GCAT if you are interested in a community garden: 412-450-0371

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Children's Hospital Looks Ahead

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Lawrenceville – Almost 10 years after the creation of its original master plan in 2003, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC sought input from the community on its proposed updates to the plan at a public meeting on Oct. 9, focusing on the next 10 years of growth for the hospital.

Eric Hess, Vice President of Operations for Children's Hospital, kicked off the presentation by observing that "we've built a pretty impressive campus" that has received numerous national honors. This year, for example, the hospital was named 10th on a list of "The 25 Most Beautiful Hospitals in the World" compiled by HealthExecNews.com.

Although the surrounding neighborhood had expressed concerns before the hospital was built about possible increased traffic, "I don't get a lot of complaints about traffic," Hess noted. However, nearby neighbors continue to experience problems in other key areas.

Noise, Hess said, "is an ongoing concern. We've spent a lot of money trying to mitigate that," but with little success. Several neighbors in attendance at the Oct. 9 meeting talked about excessive noise from the air conditioning units' fans negatively affecting their quality of life, with noise getting louder on weekends when fewer people are in the buildings.

Two other ongoing issues Hess said the hospital continues to focus on and struggle with include hospital staff

parking in the community and LifeFlight emergency helicopters that hover overhead and rattle neighborhood homes.

Hess said that, given the size of the campus, "not a whole lot of growth" is planned for the coming decade in Lawrenceville. Instead, the hospital is concentrating on opening satellite outpatient centers to serve children in areas throughout western Pennsylvania and into the neighboring states of New York, Ohio and West Virginia. Expansion also includes being at the forefront of telemedicine, in which doctors in outlying regions can tap into the Lawrenceville campus Emergency Department through telecommunications to get answers to problem cases from specialists.

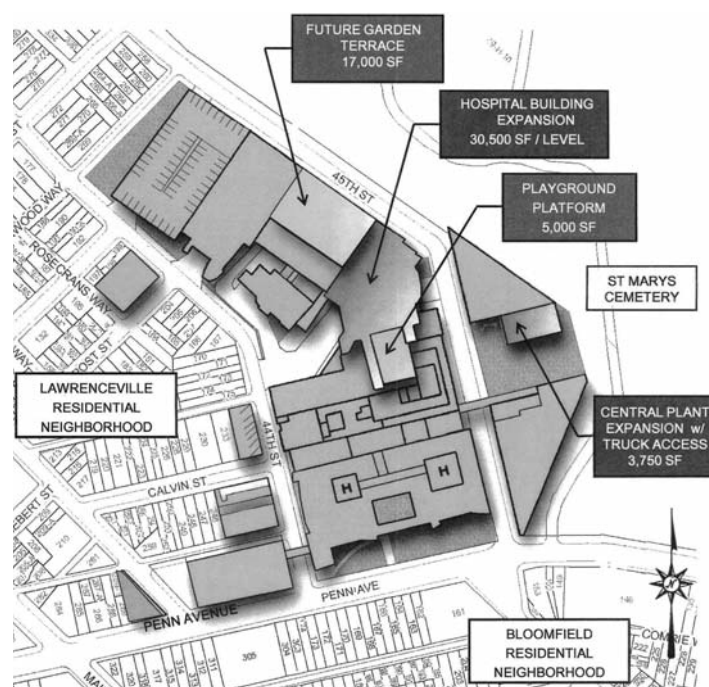
"We're pulling some of the best pediatric specialists to Pittsburgh," Hess observed. Families from all over the country are now seeking care from Children's Hospital.

Scott Hazlett, Senior Associate with Stantec, an engineering and architectural firm, showed the audience plans for a controlled amount of physical growth at the Lawrenceville campus (*see rendering below*) over the next 10 years. For example, there would be an expansion of an existing building on 45th Street with the addition of four floors and a playground platform for kids. This would also require an addition to the boiler structure across the street.

In spring 2013, the neighborhood will

See **Children's Hospital** | page 6

BELOW: Drawings of proposed additions to Children's Hospital's Lawrenceville campus. Courtesy Stantec



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Cinema/Bottle Shop Planned for Starr Discount

By Melinda Maloney *Bulletin Contributor*

Lawrenceville – Brian Mendelsohn's latest project combines his personal and professional interests. The principal of Botero Development, a Pittsburgh development and construction firm focused on Lawrenceville, Mendelsohn also lives in the neighborhood. Although he enjoys many of Lawrenceville's qualities, there were two things he said he thought the neighborhood was missing: a movie theater and a bottle shop. So, he is filling the void.

Mendelsohn acquired the property at 4115 Butler Street, which formerly housed the Starr Discount, in August of 2012, after working with the previous owner for more than a year. He plans on converting the building to a multi-use space, which will contain not only the movie theater and bottle shop, but a restaurant and six apartments as well.

The restaurant space is currently available for lease, but Mendelsohn knows for sure that the bottle shop and movie theater will go into the building. "I think they should be there, and I had the opportunity to do something about it," he said about his decision. He added, "My wife is really a beer connoisseur, and I am a movie connoisseur, so the two really made sense to do because of our passions."

The one-screen 72-seat theater will be 100-percent digital. "We're going to focus on both modern-day and old-school classics, and we're going to present them in a marathon-style format," Mendelsohn said. That means programming will be thematic.

For example, the theater might feature a series of films directed by Stanley Kubrick or movies filmed in Pittsburgh.

The bottle shop will feature craft and import beers, aiming to celebrate local brews.

Mendelsohn left a zoning hearing in early October with a positive feeling about the project. "It seemed to go pretty well," he said. "We've had a good response from the neighborhood, which is exciting. We've adequately addressed the concerns that were raised, so we went to the zoning hearing with a positive recommendation from the neighborhood."

Parking was the primary concern about the development project, and Mendelsohn has been working with local groups to address that.

He noted that Botero Development did not ask for a reduction in the required parking spaces and will supply the number needed on site. However, he said he believes Lawrenceville must address at the neighborhood level the long-term problems with lack of parking.

As such, he has supported Lawrenceville United and the Lawrenceville Corporation's efforts to create long-term solutions for parking for destination visitors.

Although Mendelsohn did not know the results of the zoning hearing at press time, he said he aims to have the theater open on September 1, 2013. ♦

Children's Hospital *from page 5*

see the addition of a pedestrian bridge connecting the administrative building at 44th Street and Penn Avenue to the hospital building itself. "That is advancing toward construction," Hess reported.

Cynthia Jampole of Trans Associates Engineering Consultants, Inc. outlined a transportation study currently being conducted for the hospital. Staff are collecting data, which will be analyzed to see what needs to be fine-tuned in terms of intersections, bicycle racks and parking garages and lots. "We're looking at safety in all the intersections," she

assured the audience.

At a follow-up community meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 20, Children's Hospital officials will recap the components of the master plan and review the results of the transportation study. This meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Lower Lyceum on 45th Street, just south of the hospital campus, and is open to the public.

For more information regarding these meetings, email info@lunited.org. Minutes to the community meeting on Oct. 9 are available at www.lunited.org. ♦

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Garfield Hosts One Young World Delegates

By Kathryn Vargas

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield – From October 18 to 21, Pittsburgh opened its doors to the international One Young World Summit. One Young World brought together approximately 1,500 young leaders in their 20s from around the world in an exchange of information and ideas about some of the most pressing global issues. Pittsburgh was selected as this year's host for the event.

Garfield-based Neighborhood Learning Alliance (NLA) and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation hosted a group of 11 delegates at the Pittsburgh CONNECTS community technology center at 5321 Penn Ave. on Saturday, Oct. 20. The session was called "Internet as a Human Right" and led delegates through a discussion about the digital divide and how it affects education and the life fortunes of individuals in the global community.

Delegates were given a tour of the

Garfield lab, one of four Pittsburgh centers funded through a grant to NLA from the federal Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program (BTOP). The purpose of the BTOP centers is to provide free and open access to the Internet in neighborhoods where use of this technology is typically low. The Garfield lab provided the perfect backdrop for a discussion among the One Young World delegates about how technology impacts lives around the world. Delegates also toured the neighborhood to put the work of Pittsburgh CONNECTS into the context of the community.

One of the moderators of the session, Jim Lenkner, program manager for Pittsburgh CONNECTS, reflected, "I was impressed by the number of countries represented, from developed to underdeveloped countries, from Europe to the Middle East and Africa. The discussion revealed how tech-



ABOVE: Eleven delegates from the One Young World Summit took a tour of Garfield and then discussed issues about Internet access around the globe. Photo by Kathryn Vargas

nology is affecting all the countries regardless of the level of wealth."

Discussion centered on how the Internet has changed the global community and what that means to individuals who do not have or do not take advantage of technology. Everything from social networking to education and employment opportunities are greatly impacted by how involved people are in the online world. While the divide is decreasing, delegates from all the countries represented said they struggled

with how to close the technology gap.

The conversation also allowed delegates to share their local solutions. "This was a valuable experience. We were able to learn from them as much as they learned from us," stated Stephen MacIsaac, executive director of NLA. After leaving the session, many of the delegates headed to another Garfield techie space, Assemble, for a home-cooked dinner and a chance to interact with the creative arts and technology organization. ♦



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Fidelity Bank Opens Window to Home Loans

By Joe Reuben *The Bulletin*

East End – Fidelity Bank has quietly launched a program to help would-be homeowners combine the funds they need to purchase the house of their dreams with the money they need to make critical repairs and improvements.

According to Jeni Cooper, manager of Fidelity's Shadyside office, the bank is looking at loan applications on a case-by-case basis. "It's a niche that we think makes sense for a community bank like us," Cooper told *The Bulletin* recently. Fidelity is scheduled to be bought by WesBanco, a Wheeling, West Va.-based financial institution, if federal regulators approve the acquisition. Cooper said she hopes the new owners will retain the program, at least in the Pittsburgh market.

To date, Fidelity has made so-called "purchase-rehab" loans to borrowers in Lawrenceville and East Liberty. As much as possible, Cooper said she would like to see the program used primarily in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods, as they often have the toughest time attracting private capital. A mythical homebuyer purchasing a home for \$40,000 could do another \$40,000 or \$50,000 in repairs and improvements, and end up with one loan payment for the combined amount. Cooper

said buyers would need to have 5 percent of the project costs as their down payment in a typical transaction, and an appraisal would have to document there is sufficient value in the property to secure the loan upon completion of all the work.

Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, said, to her knowledge, only Huntington Bank offers a comparable conventional loan product in the Pittsburgh area, but the amount available for renovations is capped at \$25,000. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development does help private lenders underwrite loans for purchase and rehabilitation of 1- or 2-family homes, but many borrowers shy away from it because of the heavy paperwork requirements. The Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group, a consortium of over 40 neighborhood groups and community development corporations, is negotiating with several banks, including Fidelity, and the city's Urban Redevelopment Authority to start a similar program in the city next year.

To learn more about Fidelity's program, interested parties can contact Cooper at JCooper@fidelitybank-pa.com or at 412-325-8107 X 27. ♦

Neighborhood FOCUS

Uncovering the Potential of Old Furniture

DIY Designer “Upcycles” Furniture Pieces in Need of TLC

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Friendship – An introduction to the “upcycling” work of Emily Bush may have you taking a second look at the vintage dresser you inherited from Aunt Sally or the shabby table you picked up in the alley on trash day.

Trained in architecture and urban design at Carnegie Mellon University, Bush now breathes new life into old chairs, tables, dressers and other furniture, not just making them better, but creating something unique in the process – finding their “hidden potential,” according to her website.

Bush started the company Urbane Reclamation out of her home in Friendship last spring. “I’d been doing it as a hobby for a long time,” she told *The Bulletin* recently in her front parlor, which doubles as her showroom. “I didn’t want another office job, so I thought, ‘Why not just try it?’” She said she saw a void in the furniture market in Pittsburgh, which included high-end antiques and new furniture but not a lot of affordable pieces that were also unique. Her husband built her website, and she was off and running.

The new venture brings all of Bush’s talents and interests into alignment. After



ABOVE: Before and after photos of a step stool that was a custom upcycle for a client who wanted to incorporate her love on honeybees into one of her grandparents’ vintage pieces. Photo by Emily Bush

graduating from CMU, she worked for several years for an urban design firm in Pittsburgh. She then went on to study fashion design at Parsons The New School for Design in New York City and Environmental Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

Bush takes on commissions from customers and also creates pieces from furniture she finds at Goodwill, estate sales, thrift stores and “even the curb.” She has learned that early in the week is a better time to look for likely pieces. “What I make is often dictated by what I find.” She follows both her instincts and certain criteria for choosing furniture to upcycle.

“It has to have good bones, good structure, an interesting look,” she explained. “Solid wood is better than particle board or veneer, which can flake and chip.” She said she sells more upcycled chairs than anything else, as “they can be fixed fairly easily. As long as the wood or metal frame is good, I can replace the cushions.” Chairs can be “a little more inventive and fun,” she observed.

Bush said she “tries to reuse as much as I can,” getting fabric seconds from the Center for Creative Reuse and pieces of spare wood from Construction Junction, both in Point Breeze. Her process marries her design background with a DIY bent and an interest in sustainability. “In an urban environment, you need to think about how much you have and where it comes from,” she noted.

For Bush, however, upcycling doesn’t mean just slapping on paint or a new cushion. It may also involve transforming a piece into something unexpected and one-of-a-kind. One of her commissions, for example, involved the complete metamorphosis of an antique rocker. A client approached her with the chair, which he bought at Construction Junction and decided didn’t need to be used for seating. In Bush’s total overhaul, which included the meticulous removal of hundreds of upholstery tacks, the chair’s seat actually became a bookshelf.

Bush said she is moving into doing more custom pieces of that sort. Her first commissioned piece was a coffee table that utilized the owner’s collection of soda pop bottle tops. “He’d been collecting them for years, so we incorporated them into the tabletop,” she explained.



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The Potential of Old Furniture continued

She also has a number of already-completed pieces that she shows on her website and in her home by appointment. She admitted that it is "a little unusual" to have people come to her, but she said she enjoys working out of her home because it gives her more flexibility with her time.

"You sand and you have to wait," she observed. "Then you paint and you have to wait." In between, she can do other tasks or errands.

Somewhere down the line, she said she might like to have a real showroom and even some employees. "I'd like to have a crew where everyone's working from their own ideas," she noted.

In the meantime, you can view her pieces online at www.urbane-reclama-



ABOVE: Emily Bush with a few of her for-sale creations. Photo by Paula Martinac

tion.com – a name she said she picked for its suggestion of chic plus urban ... which pretty much sums up her approach to furnishings. ♦

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Annual Luncheon To Honor Community “Dreamers”

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Garfield – This Dec. 7, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation will have its head in the clouds. The community development group will applaud the “Dreamers” and visionaries in the community at its annual benefit luncheon that afternoon at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association.

Co-chairing the luncheon are Joseph A. Massaro III, President of Massaro Corporation, and Dr. Grady Roberts Jr., a former BGC board president and retired professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work.

The keynote speaker for the “Dreamers” luncheon will be Rob Stephany, past executive director of the Urban Development Authority and current director of Community and Economic Development at The Heinz Endowments. A little-known fact is that Stephany started his illustrious development career as an intern at the BGC.

“Rob has long been accused of being a dreamer, and deservedly so,” said Rick Swartz, executive director of the BGC, of the choice of speaker. “It’s a tough occupation, but he remains undeterred. If you’ve ever worried when you talk to Rob that you’re going to sound like you don’t have both feet on the ground, you can rest easy – he’s got his head in the clouds, too.”

As part of the luncheon program, the

BGC will honor Kevin Sousa, chef-owner of Salt of the Earth restaurant in Garfield, with a Pioneer Award. “Kevin is a perfect example of a dreamer. He took a risk by putting an upscale restaurant on Penn Avenue,” noted Aggie Brose, BGC’s deputy director. “His vision paid off, and it’s encouraged other investment on the avenue, like Verde. And he also gives back to the community by supporting Garfield Community Farm.”

Barry Canada of the county’s Community Intensive Supervision Program (CISP) will receive the BGC’s Public Service Award. CISP’s East End satellite center, located on Baum Boulevard, works with nonviolent juvenile offenders in a program that combines counseling, community service, academics and mentoring. “Barry and the CISP kids have helped us with everything from delivering *The Bulletin* to distributing fliers,” said Brose. “He also finds a Santa Claus for our neighborhood holiday party each year.”

As an added feature of the luncheon program, the BGC will host an Art Raffle of artwork from Penn Avenue galleries – purchase your arm’s length in tickets for \$10, and take a chance on beautiful paintings and artworks from local and international artists.

Also on tap is a performance by The Neighborhood Academy Young Actors



ABOVE: The Neighborhood Academy West African Drum and Song Ensemble rocked the room at the BGC’s 2011 fundraiser. This year, the school’s Young Actors Ensemble will entertain luncheon guests. Photo by Paula Martinac

Ensemble. All this and a three-course lunch, too – and the incomparable flair of emcee P.J. Maloney, KQV Radio morning newscaster.

The Pittsburgh Athletic Association is located at 4215 Fifth Avenue in Oakland. The luncheon begins in the main dining room at 11:30 a.m. and concludes at 2:00 p.m.

Don’t miss your chance to be a dreamer, too. Individual tickets are \$70, and sponsorship and advertising opportunities are still available. For more information about this event, call 412-441-6950 x15 or email aggie@bloomfield-garfield.org. ♦

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Dowd Introduces Legislation to Regulate Gas Drilling

By Nathaniel Hanson Office of Councilman Patrick Dowd

Pittsburgh – On September 25th, City Councilman Patrick Dowd (District 7) introduced legislation that, if passed, would create strict zoning protections for Pittsburgh residents by regulating and restricting natural gas drilling in the city. Dowd's legislation would establish procedural requirements and land-use standards to regulate drilling and protect citizens and their environment.

The legislation allows for the creation of "Mineral Extraction Districts." In order to be approved, proposed MEDs would have to meet specific acreage requirements, as well as engage in an extensive public process that would include mandatory public hearings and the approval of both the City Planning Commission and City Council. Dowd said he believes the creation of regulatory procedures would ensure protection of the city's land and water, as well as the health and safety of residents.

These points have led to questions about

how Dowd's proposed legislation relates to the current ban on natural gas drilling in the City. When passed by City Council, the drilling ban in Pittsburgh was a political statement, one without sustainable or enforceable provisions. Enactment of zoning legislation would provide for tangible, legal protection for City residents, according to Dowd.

If the current ban were to be challenged in court, Dowd said he feels there is a very good chance it would be overturned. Without zoning legislation in place to regulate and restrict drilling activities, the overturned ban would leave almost no municipal regulations for where, how and when drilling could take place in the city. The creation of zoning regulations and restrictions, including requirements for a master planning process; informed neighboring community support; and baseline soil and water testing requirements would

allow for additional comprehensive protections for city residents, Dowd stated.

Why would Dowd's zoning legislation would be better equipped than the drilling ban to withstand a court challenge? The answer lies in the recent ruling by Pennsylvania's Commonwealth Court on state law Act 13. Act 13 attempted to give state government the authority to override the power of cities and municipalities to individually zone and regulate drilling activities at the local level. In its decision, the Commonwealth Court ruled that municipal governments have the fundamental right to zone at the local level based on the unique needs of their residents. The Act 13 ruling provides judicial precedent for Dowd's zoning legislation, allowing for

better-guaranteed protections for city residents than the drilling ban, for which there is little legal support.

Dowd said he believes his zoning legislation will provide increased legal protection for the City of Pittsburgh, while also ensuring there are strictly defined procedures holding natural gas companies accountable and our environment clean.

The councilman said his office can answer additional questions about the proposed legislation, as well as about the current ban. Email district7@pittsburghpa.gov or call 412-255-2140. Stay updated on the issue by checking www.pittsburghpa.gov/district7 for more information. ♦

Violence from page 1

- Brothers and Sisters Emerging, a new nonprofit, now operates the Garfield Gators football program that gives 150 boys between the ages of 5 and 14 access to structured recreation and other activities that reinforce positive social behaviors.

- The Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, managed by the BGC, placed more than 200 residents of the East End in part- and full-time jobs this year. The ENEC also helped qualify more than 300 youths for the city's summer youth employment program.

- The BGC sponsors after-school programs and work internships for 75 students attending University Prep High and Career Connections Charter High Schools.

We are also fortunate to have the strong support of our own Zone 5 police station, currently helmed by Lt. Reyne Kacsuta while Commander Tim O'Connor is away at training.

There is a role for everyone to play, and you don't have to be afraid to come forward with information to prevent another tragedy in our neighborhoods. The BGC office number is 412-441-6950 x 15 for public safety matters. We need you to be involved, too. ♦

BELOW: Memorial for Ronald Somerville on Broad Street. Photo by Paula Martinac



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New Hot Yoga Studio Opens in Lawrenceville

By Myra Aronson *Bulletin Contributor*

Lawrenceville – Bikram Yoga Pittsburgh (BYPGH), home of the “original” Bikram Hot Yoga, is now open at its new location at 3418 Penn Avenue, across from Doughboy Square in Lawrenceville.

The new handicap-accessible facility features 17-foot-high ceilings and a modern, industrial décor that still maintains some of the original character of what was once the Penn Theater, which operated in the 1930s and 40’s.

“It’s fitting,” says Zeb Homison, studio owner, “that a site like a theater which provided so much entertainment in the past and holds such good energy has been repurposed and will continue to provide such a service for years to come.” With 1,700 square feet in the yoga room alone, the studio is one of the largest in Pittsburgh.

When Homison first took over operations of BYPGH in the Strip District three years ago, he says he never foresaw what was in store for the school. From a small local studio with a few classes a day, BYPGH transformed into a hub of the Pittsburgh yoga community and now boasts 36 classes per week, with growing demand to add more.

Once the new location was selected, BYPGH made staying true to the building’s character a priority. The soaring ceilings are accented by the exposed original support beams and concrete floors,

lending the feel that is so reminiscent of the city of Pittsburgh at its industrial zenith.

With the help of the Urban Redevelopment Authority and the Lawrenceville Corporation, the bigger school became a reality. Homison says, “It’s a testament to how strong Pittsburgh’s economy is that great, community building projects like this can still happen.”

The facility provides the prescribed “hot” room that Bikram Yoga is known for – 105 degrees and 40 percent humidity is the average. Bikram Yoga includes 26 postures in each 90-minute class. The sequence was selected and developed by Bikram Choudhury who brought it to the United States more than 40 years ago. The program works every part of the body, giving all the internal organs, veins, ligaments and muscles everything they need to maintain optimum health and maximum function.

Since every class is a beginner class, people at all levels can practice together. As Bikram says, “It’s never too late, it’s never too bad, and you’re never too old or too sick to start from scratch once again.”

Bikram Yoga Pittsburgh is an affiliated Bikram Yoga Studio; all instructors are certified by Bikram himself. Further information about what to expect in a first class, as well as schedule information, can be found at bikramyoga.com. ♦



ABOVE: Students practicing Bikram Yoga in the new studio. Photo by Suzan Harper

Kwanzaa Celebration Coming to Penn

Penn Avenue – This December, Penn Avenue Arts Initiative, hosts the first-ever Kwanzaa on Penn event, a two-day celebration on Friday, Dec. 28 and Saturday, Dec. 29. Mark your calendars for this special celebration of family, community and art. The event embraces each of the Nguzo Saba (seven principles) of Kwanzaa and is an important step in bringing the communities and residents surrounding Penn Avenue together.

Festivities kick off on Dec. 28 with Ujima (oo-JEE-mah), “Collective Work and Responsibility,” as the theme of the opening day. That evening, a candle-lighting ceremony will be led by performance artist and hostess Dr. Goddess, along with a screening the acclaimed documentary *The Black Candle*. Following these events will be a community dinner and entertainment by local performers.

On Saturday, Penn Avenue celebrates Ujamaa (oo-JAH-mah), or “Cooperative Economics.” The corridor will become a marketplace and activity hub with a number of family-oriented crafting opportunities, more performances and the art and wares of local African-American artists, crafters and makers.

Kwanzaa on Penn is seeking a number of volunteers for planning and set-up and a few paid staff members (see *classifieds*, page 15); the event also needs African-American performers and vendors to participate. Youth group performers are strongly encouraged, as are musicians (all genres), storytellers and dancers. There is no charge for vendors, but they may need to supply their own tables.

If you are interested in participating in this event, call Mainstreets Manager Samantha McDonough at 412-389-5521 or email at kwanzaaonpenn@gmail.com by Nov. 15. ♦

Editorial from page 1

offered much in the way of specifics as to what they’ll do about this situation, you better believe they’ll be dealing with it come January. And if you think this is not going to affect you or your loved ones, think again. Nearly 80 percent of the 2012 federal budget went for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and national defense.

Part of reducing the deficit is going to involve increasing the amount of money going to (or staying in) Washington to pay the bills. Whether that’s done by raising taxes, closing tax loopholes or eliminating generous tax deductions or credits, nearly all working Americans will feel the effects. Which route do you think the government should take? Which presidential candidate will take up your cause? How much are you willing to sacrifice? Of course, if you don’t vote, then what you think really won’t matter in the end.

Finally, there are wars and rumor of wars to come. With more than \$660 billion spent on national defense in 2012, what can the nation sustain in the way of a global security plan? Can we afford to attack Iran if they develop nuclear weapons capability? What will happen if other parts of the world fall into open conflict, or a country starts a campaign of genocide against its own people? Is there the money to pay for the costs in getting involved? For weeks? Or months? Or years? While we’re on the topic of costs, how free should we be in committing the lives of people in the military to maintaining the global presence you’d like to see?

If you’re registered to vote and you simply don’t show, then you don’t get a say in answering any of these questions. Most important, you’re walking out on your responsibility – shame on you. ♦

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November Is American Diabetes Month

By Lorraine Starsky RN, BSN

Allegheny County Health Department

Pittsburgh – November is American Diabetes Month, which highlights the seriousness of diabetes and the importance of prevention and management of this disease. Nearly 26 million adults and children in the United States have diabetes, while an estimated 79 million are at risk for developing it. Poorly controlled diabetes is the chief cause of new cases of blindness among adults under age 75, non-injury related foot and leg injuries and kidney failure.

Diabetes (sugar) is a chronic condition that affects how the body uses food to produce energy in the body's cells. When diabetes is poorly controlled – which means that glucose (sugar) is too high on a regular basis – it can lead to complications such as stroke, heart disease, foot ulcers, kidney failure, blindness and other problems.

The Allegheny County Health Department joins the American Diabetes Association and other organizations in raising awareness that the risk for diabetes can be reduced by quitting tobacco, having a healthy diet with fruits and vegetables and performing regular physical activity. In addition, these lifestyle changes can help control the disease in people who already have it and lessen their chances for complications so that they can live active lives.

To mark American Diabetes Month, the American Diabetes Association is holding its annual Diabetes EXPO on Saturday,

November 10 at the David Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh from 9 am to 4 pm. The Diabetes EXPO, which is free and open to people of all ages, provides an opportunity for those with diabetes or who have family members with the disease to learn about how to live healthy. The EXPO features free health screenings, healthy cooking demonstrations, a wealth of information and fun, engaging activities for families and children.

In addition, this year's EXPO will again present the Divabetics. This innovative program combines style advice, music and games with diabetes education for women. The Divabetics program is the brainchild of Max Szadek, the former personal assistant to the late Luther Vandross, who had diabetes and succumbed in 2005 to complications from a stroke.

For people with diabetes who do not have health insurance, the Allegheny County Health Department offers its Guide to Health Services for Uninsured & Underinsured, which can be downloaded from the Health Department's website at www.achd.net. Free printed copies are available by calling 412-687-ACHD (2243). People who want to learn more about diabetes and the American Diabetes Association EXPO can call 1-800-DIABETES (800-342-2383) or go to www.diabetes.org.

Sharp *from page 1*



ABOVE: Veda Weathers turned a space that had been a barbecue restaurant into a designer resale store. Photo by Paula Martinac

resale shop, That's Sharp, at 5165 Penn, in the spot that used to be Z-Best Barbecue.

Weathers lives in Wilkensburg, but she's no stranger to Garfield. "I grew up here," she says. "But when I was 7, we moved to Stanton Heights." Several years back, her brother bought a house on Broad Street in Garfield and then moved her parents in with him, so she became reacquainted with the neighborhood.

When she started thinking about opening her own shop, Weathers says she was naturally drawn to Penn Avenue. "I wanted to be here because of all the development I see going on." John Edgos, owner of BFG Café, steered her to the vacant Z-Best storefront, and "When I saw it, right away that was it."

Weathers trained as a dental hygienist and then spent more than 20 years in the health-care industry, working first for UPMC and later for Highmark. "It wasn't my passion, but it paid the bills," she notes. "I was stable."

In her spare time, she fed her artistic spirit by doing flower arrangements for weddings and haunting resale and vintage clothing shops, perfecting her personal style.

"I learned myself by dressing," she observes. "I became an artist through figuring out my own style. Over the years, I kept collecting clothes, purses, shoes. My style got more bold and edgy." She defines her style today as "classy, edgy princess."

It took a leap of faith to leave her job with Highmark, and she says some of her friends thought she was crazy. "The truth is, I didn't know how much longer I could do it," she states. "This was in my heart."

Transforming a barbecue shop into a designer resale store required "a lot of

renovations. There were walls everywhere," she recalls. "There was a partition in the middle of the store." She got some bids from contractors on doing the interior makeover, but then her nephew, Tarue, said, "Let's go get a sledgehammer." He did all the demolition himself in one day, while she was at work at Highmark.

Weathers decorated the store herself in soft colors, with flowing curtains her mother made, benches she upholstered herself and sparkling chandeliers she found in her travels through antique stores. She changes the display window regularly. An outdoor sign that had been on order finally appeared in mid-October.

That's Sharp carries "a little bit of everything" for both women and men – from jeans and shorts to gowns and jewelry. "Nothing is more than \$50." Her stock consists of newer resale items, not vintage. She also has some glassware and other home decor items.

Weathers says she's steadily building her clientele, and already has about 20 steady customers "who buy lots of stuff." She has started staying open for Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn until 11 p.m. and says her first experience with that event in September was "great. People actually did come and buy."

The store's regular hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Her family helps out by working in the store when she can't be. "My sister Donna comes in between her shifts," she says, and her nephew is around every day.

"This is my dream, and I'm going to make it work," she says. "I'm going to keep on moving. My mom had a saying: 'Onward, forward and never backward.' That's my motivation." ♦

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Local Events Classes Announcements Fundraisers

November 1

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Juicing for Health

The Nuin Center, 5655 Bryant St., kicks off its First Thursdays series on health and wellness with a free screening of the documentary *Fat, Sick and Nearly Dead*, with Paula Martinac, M.S., nutrition educator. The film follows the cross-country trip of a man who decides to juice his way to good health – and a smaller waistline. Screening at 6 p.m.; juicing demonstration and samples will follow. For information, email Paula.NutritionU@gmail.com.

BLOOMFIELD

Winter Clothes Drive

Until Nov. 16, you can donate new or slightly used winter hats, coats, scarves, gloves and sweaters to "Keep Them Warm," a clothing drive by West Penn Hospital, Allegheny General Hospital and the STAR Center to benefit those less fortunate in the community. Bring items to Room S-118 on the first floor of West Penn Hospital School of Nursing Building, 4900 Friendship Avenue. Also needed are toiletries such as shampoo, body wash and soap. For more information, contact Erica Just at 412-578-5272.

EAST LIBERTY

Baby and Me

Parents and babies up to 24 months old are invited to special programming at Carnegie Library-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St. at 10:30 a.m. Also offered Nov. 8, 15, and 29. Call to register 412-363-8274.

GARFIELD

Omni Hotels Recruitment

Recruiters will be at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Ave., at noon to talk about hospitality and tourism positions. Positions are available as housekeepers, front desk attendants, banquet service workers and many more. To register, call; 412-362-8580.

November 2

PENN AVENUE

Unblurred

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

GARFIELD

Characters of the Bible

Morningside Church of God in Christ, 5173 Dearborn St., presents its annual event bringing Bible character to life. 7 p.m. Everyone welcome. For more information: 412-361-9865.

November 3

BLOOMFIELD

Fall Festival

St. Maria Goretti Parish will hold a Fall Festival from 5 to 10 p.m. at 300 Edmund Street, in the Social Hall. Pulled pork, pierogies, cole slaw, dessert, coffee and iced tea, along with beer will be served, or BYOB. Come for good food, fellowship, door prizes, Chinese auction, 50/50 raffle, bake sale and an evening of fun. Tickets are \$10. Walk-ins welcome. Call 412-687-1752 or 412-681-0283 for tickets or more info. Proceeds will benefit the Ladies of Charity in the Parish.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Sauerkraut Supper

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church will host its annual Sauerkraut Supper Benefit at 237 37th Street from 4 to 6 p.m. This event is open to the community. Tickets are \$8 and the dinner features sauerkraut, roast pork loin, mashed potatoes and gravy, baked beans, applesauce, dessert and a beverage. All proceeds benefit Lawrenceville United Summer Youth Camp Programs. For more information or tickets, call the church at 412-621-2720 or Lawrenceville United at 412-802-7720. Visit Zion at www.zionevangelicallutheran.org.

GARFIELD

Saturday Crafternoons

Join Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., for free art, technology, and mess-making every Saturday from 12 to 3 p.m. This is open to all ages, but sometimes there are special events specifically for teens. Got a great idea of what you want to make on a Saturday? Want to share your craft? Email Jess for more info at outreach@assembleph.org

November 5

GARFIELD

Write a Novel

November is National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo). Join us at Literary Arts Boom [The LAB] at Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., every Monday in November from 4 to 6 p.m. to prepare and to write. Open to youths in grades 1 to 12. Snacks, guidance and support provided. The Lab will host a celebration and reading on Nov. 30. This is a free event, but please register for sessions: email literaryartsboom@gmail.com or call 773-425-1531. Visit www.literaryartsboom.org/calendar for more details.

EAST LIBERTY

VolunTEENs Advisory Council

Earn service hours and make Carnegie Library-East Liberty a fun place for teens - spend time planning

programs, parties, and more. 130 S. Whitfield St., 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Ask your librarian for an application or just come to our first meeting and pick one up there. Registration is required for this event: 412-363-8232.

Lego Night

Imagination Builders: Lego Night at Carnegie Library-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St., is for ages 4 and up with family. 6 p.m. Call to register: 412-363-8274.

November 6

EAST LIBERTY

Teen Time

This is your time just to hang out with your friends and have fun at Carnegie Library-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St., every Tuesday (also Nov. 13, 20, 27) from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Featuring a rotating schedule of games, crafts, cooking, movies, and free-form book clubs. Check with your librarian or in the teen space to see what's going on this week. Come to Meeting Room 2 to check it out. Info: 412-363-8232.

Queer Film Series

The Kelly Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Ave., presents My People Film Series, a three-part series (continuing Nov. 13 and 20) highlighting the lives and experiences of queer people of color through award-winning films, performances and discussions. While the films focus primarily on queer people of color, My People seeks to affirm underserved and underrepresented groups and help identify strong, active, and vibrant communities. Screenings and performances start at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for all three programs or \$10 for one. The artSEEDS student matinee program will be presented on Nov. 20 at 10 a.m. at a cost of \$2.50 per ticket. Visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org or call 412-363-3000 for registration information.

Election Day Drop-In

Decorate a book mark, vote for your favorite book or take a quiz testing your knowledge of the presidents at Carnegie Library-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St., 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For everyone. Call to register: 412-363-8274.

GARFIELD

Homework Help

Literary Arts Boom [The LAB] invites students ages 6 to 18 to get homework help from volunteer mentors every Tuesday from 3:30 to 6 p.m. or to work on creative projects. Snacks provided. At Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave. Call 773-425-1531, visit www.literaryartsboom.org/calendar or email literaryartsboom@gmail.com for more details. If you plan to bring a group of students, please let us know.

November 7

GARFIELD

PNC Recruitment

Recruiters from PNC Bank's branches, call center and operations department will be at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Ave., at 1 p.m. to talk about available positions with the bank. These include part-time and full-time

tellers, customer service reps, branch assistant managers and managers and call center employees. Recruiters will also review the hiring process, how to search for PNC jobs online, preparation for an interview and tips and strategies to make you stand out as an applicant. To register, call 412-362-8580.

EAST LIBERTY

Creative Labs at CLP

Check out Labs programming at Carnegie Library-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St., every Wednesday (also Nov. 14, 21, 28) from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Teens learn creatively with movie-making, music-making and other technology. Info: 412-363-8232.

November 10

DOWNTOWN

Diabetes EXPO

Whether you are newly diagnosed with diabetes, already accustomed to living with the condition or at risk, this is a can't-miss one-day event. You'll not only be educated about diabetes but also entertained at the popular Divabetic area, showcasing this year's theme of Gillian's Island Experience – a tropical stage show with self-care games, fitness demonstrations and diabetes care advice from the experts. Schedules for the workshops, healthy eating demos and Divabetic, plus pre-registration for this free event at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center are online at www.diabetes.org/expopittsburgh. For more information call 1-888-DIABETES, x 4608.

November 12

FRIENDSHIP

Free Dance Class

To introduce the community to the many styles of dance classes at The Alloy Studio, the community is invited to sample one free class from now until Nov. 17. Classes being offered include: Hip Hop; Belly Dancing, Modern 1 & Modern 2; Ballet, Salsa/Merengue; West African. There are four creative movement classes for children. Space is limited and participation is based on availability. The Alloy Studio, located at 5530 Penn Ave., is a program of the Kelly Strayhorn Theater. For more information, visit kelly-strayhorn.org/classes or call 412-363-3000.

November 14

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. The meeting starts at 4 p.m., BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave.

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 DECEMBER issue are due TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, via email to bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org.

Volunteer Opportunities & Services

November 15

LAWRENCEVILLE

Polish Hill Remembered

Hampton High School English teacher Mary Lou Ellena, whose students produced the book *Polish Hill Remembered*, will be keynote speaker at a public lecture series sponsored by the Lawrenceville Historical Society. The free event takes place at 7 p.m. in the McVey Auditorium at Canterbury Place, 310 Fisk Street, and is open to the public.

November 16

EAST LIBERTY

Luke Murphy – Drenched

Point Park University graduate and choreographer/dancer Luke Murphy explores how we navigate relationships in his newest creation, *Drenched*, at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Ave. at 8 p.m. Through playful lightheartedness and self-deprecating humor, dancers Murphy and Carlye Eckert navigate a romantic relationship set against a backdrop of iconic cinematic images (*Gone with the Wind*, *Titanic*). A poignant, ordinary romance emerges. Performance contains sexually explicit images. Come early to enjoy the pre-show mixer starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door; residents of 15206 Zipcode pay \$20, and students/artists pay \$15. This will also be performed on Nov. 17. Visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org or call 412-363-3000 for tickets.

November 19

BLOOMFIELD

Ovarian Support Group

Teal Hearts Network, an ovarian cancer support network, meets on the third Monday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Cancer Caring Center, 4117 Liberty Ave. Please call the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition at 412-661-1095 to register.

November 20

LAWRENCEVILLE

Community Thanksgiving

New Bethel Baptist Church, 221 43rd St., will hold its annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This year's feast is in memory of Sister Maria Green and Rev. LeRoy Walker. All are welcome! Info: 412-621-2155.

November 24

EAST LIBERTY

"Suite Life"

Join trumpeter Sean Jones and Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra for this fifth annual celebration of the life of internationally acclaimed jazz musician Billy Strayhorn, one of the namesakes of the Kelly Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Ave. Suite Life: A Billy Strayhorn Birthday Bash takes place at 8 p.m. at the theater and features big-band sounds of the 15-member ensemble, including two vocalists and spoken-word tributes. Visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org or call 412-363-3000 for tickets and details.

November 27

GARFIELD

Call for Artists

Join Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., for the 2nd annual HyperLocal Show + Art Bazaar. If you are a maker, artist or technologist who lives in Garfield, Friendship or Bloomfield (within a 10-block radius of Assemble), you are invited to submit one work that you have made. This is open to all ages. Please drop off your work at Assemble between 4 and 9 p.m. from now until Dec. 4 for the show on Dec. 7. With your submission, include your name, address, age, price of artwork and a statement of why you like to make things. For more information, email assemblegh@gmail.com or call 412 432 9127.

November 28

LAWRENCEVILLE

Light Up Lawrenceville

This year, Light Up Lawrenceville and the Joy of Cookies tour will continue to work together to bring something for everyone to the holiday season. A free tree lighting ceremony will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. tonight to launch the weekend of festivities. The traditional Light Up Lawrenceville event will be held with the Cookie Mall on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Teamster Temple, 4701 Butler St. Santa will be available for pictures and to present gifts to each child, and there will be fun activities and games for all families to enjoy at this free event. Please contact Lawrenceville United for more details: 412-802-7220.

EAST LIBERTY

PreK Program

"What's the Big Idea?" is a math and science program for children aged 3 to 7 with an adult. Held at 6:30 p.m. at Carnegie Library-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St. Call to register: 412-363-8274.

November

LAWRENCEVILLE

Celebrate Women's Month

New Bethel Baptist Church, 221 43rd St., announces a full program of events in celebration of Women's Month: Nov. 3, Prayer & Praise Breakfast at 9:30 a.m.; Nov. 7, 8 and 9, S.A.S.S. Services (Saved & Serving Sisters Revival) at 7 p.m. each evening; Nov. 10, Round Table Discussion with Pastor Johnathan Wilson on "Men, Marriage and Money" at 12 noon; Nov. 11, Celebration of Women services at 10:30 a.m. (Rev. Debra Hearn) and 3:30 p.m. (Rev. June Jeffries). Info: 412-621-2155.

MORNINGSIDE

Be a Scout

Boy scouting is a program designed for boys in Grades 1-5 (Cub) and ages 11-17 (Boy) that emphasizes leadership, citizenship and personal fitness while developing character, family understanding and community service. It's camping, canoeing, archery, BB shooting, campfires, fun with friends and more. A nearby cub scout pack meets on Wednesdays at St. Raphael School in Morningside

at 6:30 p.m. The Boy Scout Troop meets at St. Raphael School on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. If interested in either unit, call Commissioner Beth McKinstry at 412-661-2963 or go to www.BeaScout.org for a group near you.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Hot Yoga

Bring in this listing to receive special introductory pricing for a month of Hot Yoga at Bikram Yoga Pittsburgh at 3418 Penn Ave. \$30 for 30 days – new students only please. Visit BYPGH.com.

December 1

STRIP DISTRICT

Toys for Tots

For the third year in a row, Guardian Storage at 2839 Liberty Ave. in the Strip District will be Santa's official warehouse and distribution site for the local Toys for Tots program, which gives free toys to families in need. If your family is in need of Christmas toys, visit <http://north-versailles-pa.toys-fortots.org> to sign up. You can also donate new, unwrapped toys to the Toys for Tots drive at any one of the many Pittsburgh area Guardian Storage locations or visit Guardian Storage at 750 South Millvale Ave. from noon to 4:00 p.m. today for a Holiday Open House. If you bring a toy, you'll be entered to win a holiday gift basket.

December 6

HIGHLAND PARK

Natural First Aid

Give the gift of health and confidence this year. Join Betsy Reiling, 20-year veteran of Homeopathy, as she shares the how's and when's of her new Natural First Aid Kit. It feels good to be prepared! The Nuin Center, 5655 Bryant Street, 6 p.m. Free to the public; no registration required.

Classifieds

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

Help Wanted

Penn Avenue Arts Initiative is seeking to hire six Kiongozi (event leaders) to be responsible for recruiting and leading teams of volunteers for the first-ever Kwanzaa on Penn event. Teenagers and senior citizens are strongly encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to Garfield residents who are interested in community involvement. Positions are seasonal. Please contact Samantha McDonough at 412-389-5521 or email kwanzaaonpenn@gmail.com by Nov. 15.

Penn Avenue Arts Initiative is seeking Kuji-tolea (volunteers) to participate in the first-ever Kwanzaa on Penn event, to be held on Dec. 28 and 29 to help with planning, set-up, clean-up and being event ambassadors. Please contact Samantha McDonough at 412-389-5521 or email kwanzaaonpenn@gmail.com if interested by Nov. 15.

December 14

PITTSBURGH

Magnet Deadline

Magnet and Career and Technical Education (CTE) options in the Pittsburgh Public Schools are schools and programs that provide a specific education model, such as the Montessori Method (Pittsburgh Montessori – Friendship), or a theme-based program focusing on a student's specific interests, such as International Baccalaureate program (Pittsburgh Obama – East Liberty). The District currently offers 24 magnet options. Families must submit applications to the District no later than December 14. Applications and more information are online at www.pps.k12.pa.us. Paper applications are available by calling 412-622-7920.

December 15

FRIENDSHIP

I Witness

A group of East End churches is coming together at Fourth Presbyterian Church, 5450 Friendship Ave. at 6:30 p.m. to present "I Witness: Accounts of Jesus' Birth." Live band, choir, carols and drama will tell the story of Christmas. For more information, or to participate in the event, call 412-661-7414.

Announcements

Rom-com Novel Set in Lawrenceville

Local author Janice Lane Palko has published her first novel, *St. Anne's Day*, set primarily in the neighborhood of Lawrenceville, but featuring other Pittsburgh locations as well. The comic novel is about the romance between a nurse and a Lawrenceville bar owner, which is described as "Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* meets the TV sitcom *Cheers*." *St. Anne's Day* is available for sale on Amazon, the Kindle store, Barnes & Noble Nook and Smashwords. For more information, visit <http://www.thewritinglane.blogspot.com>.

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ABOVE: Six Pittsburgh food trucks held a "roundup" in East Liberty in mid-October in support of amending the local mobile vending laws. Photo by Todd Caldwell

Food Trucks from page 1

small group of entrepreneurs and their campaign to change Pittsburgh's mobile vending code.

Six food trucks were present, serving everything from beet-flavored ice cream to foie gras burgers to okonomiyaki, a savory Japanese pancake.

Across the country, other cities with vibrant food scenes offer regular "roundups" – some with as many as 40 food trucks – to foodies and neighbors eager for a casual, inexpensive meal in an outdoor, community-friendly setting. Pittsburgh truck owners have organized themselves as Pgh Mobile Food and are hoping that reform of city code, which currently places significant restrictions on hours and location, will encourage more entrepreneurs to start food truck businesses and join the roster.

Pgh Mobile Food was founded by Tim Tobitsch and myself, co-owners of Franktuary restaurant and food truck, and Tim Cook, director of Saxifrage School, an alternative higher education start-up, to promote mobile food and communicate about it from one convenient platform. The website enthusiastically states its mission as "Freeing food trucks to feed the people!" and lists most area trucks with a short description and booking information for each.

The organization hosted a two-part lecture series in early October entitled "How to Change a Law," which attracted more than 100 attendees including food truck owners, restaurateurs, foodies, lawyers and aspiring entrepreneurs. The first lecture was presented by Robert Frommer of the Washington, D.C.-based

Institute for Justice and focused on competition law and the U.S. Constitution. The second was led by Matt Barron, Policy Director for City Councilman Bill Peduto, and covered the process of amending legislation. Following Barron's presentation, attendees participated in a robust discussion, proposing practical changes to the current laws.

All present were interested in improving the city's food truck legislation, which requires operators to move every 30 minutes, prohibits serving from a metered parking space, mandates that food trucks maintain a distance of 500 feet from any storefront selling similar merchandise and limits the hours a food truck can serve its customers.

At the Oct. 14 rally, just three days after the community discussion, Councilman

Peduto and his staff stood in the parking lot handing out printed copies of the proposed changes to the current laws. Peduto spoke briefly to the crowds lined up at each food truck, saying "Pittsburgh should be like this every day...we need your support to make it happen!"

Operators of the trucks present – Dozen Bakeshop, Pittsburgh Pierogi Truck, BRGR, Fukuda, Franktuary and Oh My Grill! – collected signatures from customers at their ordering windows and encouraged their hungry fans to continue supporting mobile food.

Residents who missed the rally still have the opportunity to sign the petition on the Pgh Mobile Food website: www.pghmobilefood.com. ♦

Dogs Have Their Day in Lawrenceville

by Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Lawrenceville – On a sunny October 4th, happy dogs of all breeds turned out with their owners for the official opening of the Bernard Dog Run.

The dog run is named for the late Jay Bernard, a Lawrenceville community activist, rescue-dog advocate and author of *The Bulletin's* "Good Dog" column for many years. The park, which is slightly larger than 1 acre, occupies a picturesque spot along the Allegheny riverfront, just past the 40th Street Bridge. It includes separate fenced-in recreational areas for large and small dogs.

This community-based initiative has been in the works for four years, with volunteers holding different public events to raise funds for the project. The most recent was the March 2012 Gourmet Spaghetti Dinner, which drew 450 guests to the Teamsters' Temple in support of the dog park. The City of Pittsburgh's Department of Parks and Recreation also stepped in as a partner.

Even with considerable support, funds still ran short. Then, syndicated radio personality Delilah – heard locally on WISH 99.7 FM – picked Lawrenceville for her "Paint the Town" initiative this year, and supplied the final, vital component needed for the park to open – the cyclone fencing.

The emcee for the ribbon cutting, WISH morning host Ron Antill praised Delilah and remarked on how difficult it is "to get people to come together in a sense of community." He cited the Lawrenceville volunteers for sticking it out through a "very long process" to make the dog run a reality. Rev. Greg Cox of the United Methodist Church gave the blessing, noting that October 4 is St. Francis of Assisi Day – appropriately, he is the patron saint of animals.

Lauren Byrne, executive director of Lawrenceville United, voiced her admiration for Lawrenceville, with its "huge population of dedicated residents ... who make things happen." Also on hand to celebrate the opening was Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, who commended the community-driven project as "what Pittsburgh is all about."

The Bernard Dog Run has a posted list of rules and regulations for owners and dogs using the park, such as waste clean-up and the use of leashes outside the fenced-in areas. This is the second dog run to debut in the city in 2012, said Mayor Ravenstahl. The first opened on the South Side, and the City is also in talks to bring a dog run to Mt. Washington. ♦

Celebrating a "Suite" Life

by Pam Golden *Kelly Strayhorn Theater*

East Liberty – Jazz great Sean Jones will lead the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra in a tribute to internationally acclaimed pianist and composer Billy Strayhorn on Saturday, November 24 at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Ave.

"Suite Life: A Billy Strayhorn Birthday Bash" features a 15-piece instrumental and vocal ensemble treating the crowd to renditions of numerous Strayhorn compositions as well as jazz favorites by other composers.

This one-night-only tribute celebrates the life of pianist, composer and arranger Billy Strayhorn, who began his musical studies as a youth in the Homewood neighborhood of Pittsburgh. At age 22, he joined Duke Ellington's band. Among their most famous collaborations over the next 25 years were "Take the A Train" and "Lush Life."

The \$75 VIP ticket package to "Suite

Life" includes two tickets to the performance, admission to the private pre-performance reception and VIP seats.

Tickets to the performance only are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, \$20 for residents of 15206 or \$15 for students with ID or artists. For tickets, visit kelly-strayhorn.org or call 412-363-3000. ♦

BELOW: Pianist Billy Strayhorn achieved fame as an arranger and composer for Duke Ellington's band. Photo courtesy the Kelly Strayhorn Theater

