

the Bulletin

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



ABOVE: County Chief Executive Rich Fitzgerald (left) and Controller Michael Lamb (center) join in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for new for-sale and rental homes on Kincaid Street in Garfield. Read the story on page 2. Photo by John Colombo Photography

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5

Council Candidates Lay Out Positions

By P.J. Maloney

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Highland Park – It was the final gathering in one place of all five candidates for the District 7 City Council seat vacated by the resignation of Patrick Dowd. With the fast approach of the Nov. 5 special election, about 60 residents showed up at the Union Project at Negley and Stanton Avenues on

Oct. 17 to hear the candidates.

The forum was arranged by the Highland Park Community Council and facilitated by the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh. The council hopefuls had 90 seconds each to answer about

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Penn Avenue Strategic Planning Underway

By Paula Martinac

The Bulletin

Penn Avenue – What would you like to see happen in the Penn Avenue commercial district? That question has been the main focus of a series of public meetings this fall to create a strategic plan for the avenue. The meetings have been convened under the auspices of the MainStreets Program of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and moderated by facilitator Karen Brean.

Why does the community need more planning meetings? The BGC's Business

District Manager, Samantha McDonough, explained that the MainStreets Program of the Urban Redevelopment Authority has changed some of its guidelines, making funding available for more projects. Some Penn-related projects have already taken place, like a printed map of the business district, or are close to launching, like a website (www.pennavenue.org) that will feature events listings and a blog.

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Town Square Coming to East Liberty

By Margaret Graham *East Liberty Development, Inc.*

East Liberty – Construction in East Liberty is nothing new these days; it seems like with each new season comes a new project. One project

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Tiny Houses Make Big Impact

By Sara Blumenstein *cityLAB*

Garfield – Bigger is not always better. cityLAB – a “do” tank, not a “think” tank – believes that building small houses can make a big

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Market Gets Creative with Financing

By Maya Henry *Lawrenceville Corporation*

Lawrenceville – 52nd Street Market, located at 601 52nd Street, was established to meet the expressed needs of Lawrenceville residents

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ABOVE: The new bioshelter at Garfield Community Farm is fully operational. Read the story on page 9. Photo by John Creasy

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Housing Developments in Garfield Celebrated

By Joe Reuben
Bulletin Contributor

Garfield – A street once better known for boarded-up houses and vacant lots is gradually acquiring new life with the addition of 22 rental houses and eight owner-occupied homes over the past two years.

Several revitalized blocks of Kincaid Street were showcased on Oct. 15, during a half-hour ribbon-cutting ceremony that recognized the recent completion of two major developments in the Garfield neighborhood. Garfield Glen, which takes in the rental houses on Kincaid as well as another 23 houses on sites scattered across a 12-square block area, brought a private developer together with the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation to entice \$11.5 million in investment in the project. In doing so, according to Andrew Haines, a principal in the project, the use of federal tax credits allowed the homes to be built with a minimum amount of debt. Those tax credits came from the PA Housing Finance Agency.

Haines, a vice-president with S & A Homes, told an audience of 35 people that “the limited partner who purchased those credits provided cash to the project of over \$9.5 million that will enable the ownership entity to offer rents at very affordable prices to the tenants.” After 15 years, Haines said, tenants in any of the homes will be able to purchase their unit for under \$50,000 if they are in a position to do so. Lease-up is completed on Garfield Glen, and a waiting list has started on what Haines hopes will be a second phase of homes in the same area. “Within two years, we hope to be attending another ground-breaking in Garfield.”

Simultaneously, the end of construction of 48 for-sale houses in Garfield was also celebrated. The Homeownership Choice program began as a partnership in 2002 between the BGC and Garfield Jubilee Association, following a lengthy two-year planning process, according to Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC. The two groups were looking to do something “of scale,” Brose told those in attendance, and “we decided to bring banks and foundations into the room together to see who was going to be on

board in helping us realize our ambitious goals.”

What kick-started the project, most agreed, was a \$1 million grant provided to the Urban Redevelopment Authority by the PA Housing Finance Agency. Brian Hudson, executive director of the state agency, said the Garfield development “has been among the more successful ones we were able to do.” The last four houses were built on Kincaid Street this year, and three are under sales agreement, according to BGC officials. The group is selling the units for \$143,500, with the URA providing a soft loan of up to \$55,000 for eligible buyers.

Hudson credited local banks and foundations for the roles they played in both projects. “Without PNC, National City, BNY Mellon and others, it’s hard to see how these developments could have come this far,” he told the audience. “Add in the support from the likes of the URA, R. K. Mellon Foundation, the Pittsburgh Foundation, the Heinz Endowments and the McCune Foundation, and you can see why the BGC was able to keep both the rental and for-sale homes affordable to working-class households.”

County Executive Rich Fitzgerald told the crowd that his goal is to see a stronger partnership between city and county agencies in revitalizing older neighborhoods. “We can probably accomplish more if we work together, than if we stay on separate tracks. We played a small role in helping to remove tax liens from some of the properties that came into these projects, and I’m sure there’s more that we could do in the future.”

City Controller Michael Lamb and Paul McKrell from Mayor Luke Ravenstahl’s office both noted how much the image of Garfield has begun to change because of the diligent efforts of the community groups and the URA. Lamb said the city welcomed the financial benefits being reaped with the addition of 93 houses to the tax rolls. McKrell noted that having lived in Bloomfield during his younger years, he’s had a “front-row seat to all of the change that’s happened, and it’s been exciting.” ♦

Thank you! The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation would like to acknowledge its main corporate partners, PNC Bank, Dollar Bank and Allegheny Valley Bank. Thanks also to BNY Mellon, First Niagara Bank, Allegheny Health Network, Citizens Bank and all of *The Bulletin’s* advertisers.

NEWSBRIEFS

Goodwill Builds Greenhouse

Lawrenceville – Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania unveiled its latest job-training “classroom” on Oct. 3 – an 18-x-30-foot greenhouse. Funded by a \$50,000 grant from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, the new Good-to-Grow Greenhouse is located on the west side of the Goodwill Workforce Development Center (WDC) at 118 52nd Street.

Goodwill clients will train at the greenhouse under the supervision of experienced Goodwill staff members, learning to cultivate and grow fresh produce and flowers year-round. Produce will be used in the nearby Good-to-Go Café, home of Goodwill’s Food Service Training Program, and the flowers will be used for landscaping at the WDC. Both produce and flowers will be sold at the Lawrenceville Farmer’s Market, which operates from May through October in Goodwill’s parking lot.

In connection with the Good-to-Grow Greenhouse, Goodwill plans to develop a series of Lunch and Learn educational programs for clients, staff and community residents on topics such as health, nutrition, healthy lifestyle choices and organic gardening. The Lunch and Learn programs will be held throughout the year, potentially in collaboration with community groups, businesses and other nonprofits.

Exterior construction of the Good-to-Grow Greenhouse has been completed. Work is now under way on the interior, including furnishings and materials such as raised beds, soil, tools, seeds, bulbs, plant starts, lighting and a landscaped pathway. It is scheduled to be in full operation by Dec. 1. – *from a press release*



ABOVE: Goodwill’s Good-to-Grow Greenhouse has been built, and will be in full operation next month. Photo courtesy Goodwill of Southwestern Pa.

Verde Now Serving Lunch

Garfield – To complement the midday-meal scene on Penn Avenue, Verde Mexican Kitchen + Cantina is now offering lunch for both dining-in and take-out on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

According to owner Jeff Catalina, the restaurant has an “expanding number of vegetarian and vegan items on all our menus – lunch, dinner and brunch.”

A special lunch feature called “Via Verde” includes two “quick” courses for \$14. First course options include a choice of soup, quesadilla, chili or Mexican wings. A variety of tacos and sandwiches, a main-course salad and a vegan mac-and-cheese dish are among the entrees. All items are also available a la carte.

For drinks, the midday menu features a “skinny” margarita, billed as “a guiltless, yet delicious, margarita with half the booze.” Wine, beer and non-alcoholic beverages are also available.

Verde is located at 5491 Penn Ave. For reservations or take-out, call 412-404-8487. Menus are available online at verdepg.com. – *Paula Martinac, The Bulletin*

Children's Home to Expand

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin



ABOVE: Artist's rendering showing the vertical expansion of the west wing of Children's Home of Pittsburgh. Photo courtesy VEBH Architects

Bloomfield – The Children's Home of Pittsburgh & Lemieux Family Center has been at 5324 Penn Ave. since 2007, and the organization is experiencing some growing pains. In particular, the need for its in-patient pediatric specialty hospital is on the rise, reported Pam Schanwald, the organization's CEO, at a community meeting held on Oct. 15.

A 10-year Master Plan filed with the City of Pittsburgh in 2004 gave CHP an "envelope to expand," and Schanwald explained that the plan allows CHP to build two more floors on top of the west wing of the existing building. The new floors will add 11,000 square feet to the property, and include 14 private patient rooms with bathrooms.

"It's not going to change what the building looks like," she said.

Because the two additional floors were shown in the original Master Plan, Schanwald said CHP does not need further approval from the city's Zoning Board of Adjustment. As a result, there will be no public hearing before the board.

Schanwald said she expects a groundbreaking no sooner than January 2014,

with construction taking 14 to 16 months. According to Josh Amrhein, CHP operations manager, there will be no disruption of client services during construction. "Current services will be completely operational," he told *The Bulletin*.

At the community meeting, Schanwald and Amrhein stressed that CHP has worked closely with contractor P.J. Dick to ensure that the construction project remains sensitive to the neighboring community. Although 10 staff parking spaces will be lost during the construction, staff has been arranging alternate parking with nearby businesses so as not to take parking spots from nearby neighbors. In addition, trucks will come onto the site from Penn Avenue, and not through the residential area.

Schanwald also pointed out that the problem with noise that neighbors experienced with the HVAC units on the original building will not reoccur. In the new design – done by VEBH Architects – a single HVAC unit will be in the attic space; with the condenser inside, the neighborhood will be shielded from noise, said Schanwald. ♦

TRAFFIC UPDATE: Construction Barricades and New Parking Enforcement on Penn

Due to delays, the traffic pattern along Penn that was advertised to the community has been altered for a short time. Traffic is now flowing inbound on the north side of the street but will revert to the south side of Penn in a few weeks. Traffic flow will remain inbound only for the duration of the construction schedule.

As of Nov. 1, the Pittsburgh Parking Authority will be enforcing all posted two-hour parking limit signs on Penn, and tickets will be issued for violations. All businesses, residents and visitors on both sides of the street should be careful to pay attention to where two-hour parking signs are posted regardless of on which side the barricades are placed.

the Bulletin

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

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Penn Avenue from page 1

“We won’t be eligible for more funding if we don’t do a strategic plan,” noted Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC at the initial meeting held at the Saint Maria Goretti Activities Center on Sept. 24. “We have no business sending plans to the URA or the state without the input of the community. People who live and work here can have a large say in this.”

The strategic plan looks ahead to what the business district could be like in 2018. At the Sept. 24 meeting, which was attended by about 40 participants, Brean asked attendees to come up with words and ideas that would make them excited about being on Penn Avenue in five years. Phrases that popped up again and again included “unique,” “safe,” “welcoming,” “family-friendly,” “clean” and “vibrant.” One person summed up the avenue in a single sentence: “We are not Walnut Street.”

Participants talked about wanting a diversity of businesses on the corridor to meet the needs of residents – everything from clothing stores to alternative health providers, both high-end and affordable businesses. One attendee offered, “I just love this street, but we need some big-box stores.”

People also favored a commercial district that is well-defined, with stores and galleries offering regular business hours. They said they envisioned an avenue in 2018 in which all the storefronts are fully occupied.

Residents also expressed concern about maintaining Penn Avenue as an affordable place for artists, and not squeezing them out in the planning process. “Don’t forget that we were brave and lived across from the Horoscope when no one else would,” noted one meeting attendee.

A small Strategic Planning Committee, composed of about a dozen residents and stakeholders, met separately after the September meeting to distill the ideas into a draft vision statement for the avenue, which they presented for comments and revision at a second meeting on Oct. 15.

At the October meeting, attended by about 20 people, Brean charged the participants with brainstorming specific ideas in four main areas: programming (what should happen on Penn); marketing (how to talk about Penn); physical identity (what Penn should look like); and business development (how to attract new businesses and grow existing ones).

“We want to dream a little bit, but we want to get to doable, presentable ideas,” she instructed – concrete projects that might be accomplished in one, three or five years. One example of a doable project that was accomplished this past year was the Garfield Night Market,



ABOVE: Posting ideas about the future of Penn Avenue at the Sept. 24 meeting. Photo by John Colombo Photography

which showcased local vendors and lent a family-friendly atmosphere to the regular monthly Unblurred event.

The meeting participants dreamed big and small for about an hour, and the ideas they conjured up will once again be sifted through and distilled by the committee and presented at a final community meeting on Nov. 4 at 6 p.m. at St. Maria Goretti Activities Center, 140 N. Atlantic Ave. (just off Penn). For more information or to get involved in the strategic planning process, contact Samantha McDonough at bgcmainstreets@gmail.com. ♦

They were missed then. They're missed now.



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Charter High School Fights for Its Life

by Paula Martinac

The Bulletin

Lawrenceville – Back in 2012, the Pittsburgh Public Schools board voted against renewing the charter for Career Connections Charter High School (CCCHS), located at 4412 Butler St., stating that the school had not stayed true to its original charter and that standardized test scores had gotten worse.

CCCHS fought back, appealing the decision to the Pennsylvania Charter School Appeal Board in September 2012. But a year later, on Sept. 24, 2013, the Appeal Board delivered a second blow – it upheld the earlier PPS decision and recommended revoking the school’s charter as of January 2014, the middle of the school year.

“I was very surprised,” Tim McElhone, CEO of the school, told *The Bulletin*. “We presented a preponderance of hard evidence refuting the allegations. Our evidence book looked like the Manhattan phone book.” In contrast, he said, the evidence book for PPS was very slim.

McElhone said that the board cited six findings for nonrenewal. Among them was the same allegation leveled by PPS – that the school had deviated from its charter. “We originally had classes called Humanities 1 and Civics,” McElhone gave as an example. “The content is still being taught, just under different titles.”

The board also stated that CCCHS was not interdisciplinary in its curriculum, only in its activities, but McElhone disagreed. “We submitted evidence that showed we are interdisciplinary.”

To buy time, the school filed an application for a stay – a temporary measure to allow CCCHS to remain open until an appeal can be heard in Commonwealth Court, the state’s highest court. The school had to demonstrate that students and parents would suffer “irreparable harm” if CCCHS was forced to close mid-year; it also had to show that a stay would not harm PPS. On Oct. 15, McElhone got word that the Appeal Board had unanimously approved the stay, which will likely keep CCCHS’s doors open through the remainder of the school year.

McElhone said he remains optimistic about the appeal. “We have a real good chance of success in Commonwealth Court,” he said. Closure of the school, he explained, would have a profound effect on the neighborhood, further limit parents’ choices and force students into schools they rejected in the first place.

“Plus, we have 46 employees who would be out of work,” he added.

The final appeal process may take more than six months. ♦



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Town Square *from page 1*



ABOVE: Artist's rendering showing the plan for the Town Square project. Penn Avenue is at the top of the drawing. Courtesy East Liberty Development, Inc.

sits at the heart of the neighborhood: the “East Liberty Town Square” plaza in the yard of East Liberty Presbyterian Church (ELPC) at the corner of Highland and Penn Avenues.

The benefits of the East Liberty Town Square are two-fold. First, it creates an outdoor community space in the heart of East Liberty. Second, it will be the largest storm-water mitigation pilot project in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Pittsburgh has a problem with combined sewer overflow (CSO) – when heavy rains fall, the excess rainwater floods the sanitary sewage system, sending overflows into creeks and rivers. Oftentimes, pipes cannot handle the influx of water, which leads to flooding. This flooding can have tragic results, as when stormwater runoff on Washington Boulevard resulted in the deaths of four trapped motorists in August 2011.

There are two possible solutions to Pittsburgh's CSO problem. The first solution is “gray infrastructure,” or putting larger pipes in the ground. This solution makes sense intuitively. The pipes are too small? Make them larger! But it is very expensive. Instead, East Liberty is exploring opportunities around “green infrastructure,” which involves capturing or slowing down storm-water runoff so it doesn't go into the sewer system. Water can be “captured” in a number of ways, including through rain gardens and other penetrable surfaces (such as permeable pavers, which allow water to pass through paving stones and into the ground, instead of repelling water to flow to the sewer).

In the Town Square project, water not captured by rain gardens will be slowed as it runs off the roof of the church. Water will flow through a series of pipes and be held in retaining basins, then slowly released into the sewers at a more manageable rate.

The Town Square is just one part of a larger East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) green initiative, said Investment Officer Skip Schwab. Through the East Liberty Green Vision, ELDI is dedicated to putting rain gardens and rain barrels throughout the historic enclave in the neighborhood.

The landscaping redesign will turn the front yard of ELPC into an inviting public plaza. As the project progresses, it will include enhanced lighting and public seating.

“It will create a public space so people can sit, have lunch, read a paper and enjoy a cup of coffee,” said Schwab.

The Town Square project has been in the works for many years, and has received funding from 3 Rivers Wet Weather, East Liberty Presbyterian Church, the Heinz Endowments, the Laurel Foundation, the Pittsburgh Foundation, the Richard King Mellon Foundation and the MainStreets Program of Pittsburgh's Urban Redevelopment Authority. The construction is being done by Eisler's Landscaping, a women-owned business enterprise, with demolition work subcontracted to Steele City Contracting, a minority-owned business enterprise. ♦

SHOWCASE OF THE MONTH



Personality on Penn

By Aggie Brose

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield – The showcase of the month is located on the Garfield side of Penn Avenue at the corner of Penn and North Pacific. The owner is Minette Vaccariello, who acquired 5201 Penn in June 2007.

Ms. Vaccariello’s row house has a personality that sets it apart. The front of the house has a bright red door, an inviting porch swing, well-tended flower boxes and a perennial garden watered from a rain barrel. The owner even extended her beautification project beyond her own lot and planted sunflowers at the corner of North Pacific and Penn Avenues.

Plus, Ms. Vaccariello’s efforts haven’t stopped at her front facade. The Pacific Avenue side of the house is beautifully landscaped with perennial flowers and shrubs. The back yard boasts vegetable beds and potted plants, and the wooden fence enclosing the property is adorned with blue fish cut-outs – creating an oasis that takes you away from the hustle and bustle of Penn. “The fish were painted by friends and neighbors at my birthday party I had this year at Assemble [gallery],” Ms. Vaccariello explained.

Properties such as Ms. Vaccariello’s add value to the community. We congratulate her for her creativity and thank her for investing in Garfield. ♦

ENEC Team Likes a Challenge

by Kristin Douty
The Bulletin

East End – For the past 25 years, the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) has worked to create a strong workforce for the East End community. The ENEC, located at 5321 Penn Ave. in Garfield, helps people with different backgrounds gain the skills that they need to succeed in Pittsburgh’s competitive job market, including earning a GED, building career goals, developing a resume and gaining computer skills.



ABOVE: The ENEC team is comprised (left to right) Karen Holden, Asia Carter, Usama Al-Teraifi and Wesley Davis. Photo by Paula Martinac

To meet the needs of each individual job seeker, the ENEC uses a multistep process that starts with evaluating employment history, updating a resume and determining possible employment options. A team is available to assist job seekers and to provide information on job openings in the Pittsburgh area.

Usama Al-Teraifi, an AmeriCorps member, has spent the past two years as a workforce developer at the ENEC. He conducts the different programs offered at the center, including organizing community events and assisting anyone who wants help with finding a job.

Al-Teraifi works with two other employees, Asia Carter and Wesley Davis, to organize events at the ENEC. Davis is a former intern of *The Bulletin*. He is an AmeriCorps member who started his position as a workforce developer at the ENEC two months ago, shortly after graduating from the University of Pittsburgh.

Carter has worked with the ENEC for two years. She first got involved with the ENEC through its youth program in 2011, which connected her to a job with Pittsburgh Filmmakers. She is now a student at Point Park University, where she majors in Cinema Production. She says that the youth program helped her learn how to work with different kinds of people, a skill that she currently uses as an employment coordinator for the ENEC. Computers are also a strong suit for Carter. At her job, she says she uses her computer skills “to help ENEC visitors gain knowledge of technology.”

An important recent event hosted by the ENEC was the American Association for Retired People (AARP) Recruitment on Oct. 23. AARP is a non-profit organization that assists people aged 50 years or older with job searches, financial plan-


ning, health information and paid training, to ensure that aging is a positive and fulfilling experience. AARP works closely with the ENEC to connect unemployed, lower-income seniors in Allegheny County to jobs with local non-profit organizations. After a period of six months, the older worker can transfer to another non-profit organization in the local area.

Karen Holden is a new ENEC team member who came through AARP. The ENEC is her first non-profit job; she works as an executive assistant for 20 hours each week, receiving paid training for clerical work. Holden said AARP is a great organization because it helped her gain a stable income, something that is important at any age.

Working at the ENEC can sometimes be difficult, the team noted. Carter explained, “Some people come to the ENEC to find a job, but they do not want to deal with the process of job searching, like writing resumes and interviewing.” She said that patience is important in these situations because “people just want to work right away and skip the search.”

All of the ENEC employees agreed that the most rewarding part of their jobs is helping homeless people to find employment and shelter and to gain a stable livelihood. Helping veterans and people with criminal backgrounds is also a high priority, since these people can have an especially difficult time with employment and financial resources.

“Seeing someone who is homeless be able to own a truck in two months is a great feeling,” said Al-Teraifi. “It makes my day.” ♦



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ADVOCACY ALERT

Next Steps in Gun Control

By Julie Collins

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield – The gun buyback event on Sept. 21 at the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center was held to reduce the number of guns on the street that could be used to commit crimes. The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) and gun buyback partner Lawrenceville United (LU) recently brainstormed some preventative measures that could be taken for a more sustainable, long-term solution to gun violence after the buyback event. BGC and LU have partnered with CeasefirePA to become advocates for two important pending bills.

House Bill 1010 was introduced in March of 2013 and would require a background check for all firearms, expanding the current legislation to include long guns such as assault rifles and shotguns. House Bill 1515 was introduced in June 2013 and would require all gun owners to

report their guns as lost or stolen.

The BGC and LU believe that these pieces of legislation are important measures to help gain more control over the guns in our neighborhoods. The public is invited to join BGC, LU and CeasefirePA in a campaign to promote smart gun legislation.

Below is a template that can be cut out of *The Bulletin* and mailed to local elected officials to show your support for the bills and encourage state representatives to become co-sponsors. BGC, LU and CeasefirePA encourage you to fill out this template, or create your letter, and send it to State Representative Dom Costa at 6808 Greenwood St., Suite 2, Pittsburgh, PA 15206, and/or State Representative Adam Ravenstahl at 3689 California Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212. ♦

Dear State Rep. _____:

I am a concerned constituent who is writing to ask for your support of HB 1010 (mandatory background checks on all firearm purchases) and HB 1515 (a statewide “lost or stolen gun” reporting law) so that there will be better accountability around the ownership of guns in our communities. We need your help to make our communities safe.

Very truly yours,

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

Arsenal Park Planning Needs Input

By Lauren Byrne, *Lawrenceville United*

& Randall Sulkin, *Friends of Arsenal Park*

Lawrenceville – Next year, the Lawrenceville community plans to celebrate its 200th anniversary by master-planning for one of the community’s most historic sites: Arsenal Park.

The 200th anniversary of the founding of the Lawrenceville community coincides with the founding of the Allegheny Arsenal. The Allegheny Arsenal, in part the site of present-day Arsenal Park, served as a supply and manufacturing center for the Union Army during the American Civil War. The park is still bounded by its historic stone wall, and features artifacts and structures that serve as an under-maintained yet significant reminder of Lawrenceville’s history.

In 2012, residents and stakeholders interested in the revitalization of Arsenal Park came together to form the Friends of Arsenal Park. The group, dedicated to improving the overall condition of Arsenal Park, began working with Lawrenceville United, the Lawrenceville Corporation, the Department of Public Works, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, elected officials and other stakeholders to address current conditions within the park.

The Arsenal campus is a large and unique tract of land replete with acres of grossly neglected and underutilized park space, historic buildings and culturally significant landmarks and infrastructure. The park currently lacks any real connection to the neighborhood feeder schools, and does not offer residents accessible routes to enter and enjoy the space. As the geographic heart of the community, the park is central to the future health and revitalization of the Lawrenceville and East End communities at large.

Friends of Arsenal Park, with support from local community organizations and leaders, began a campaign to fund a master plan that would reflect a community-created and community-supported vision that respects and restores the historic park and creates new connections with neighboring institutions. The overall goal of the project is to bring the park to a new level of usability, safety, beauty and popularity while preserving its historical significance for current and future generations.

Luckily, former Councilman Patrick Dowd also believed that the plan would be crucial to the park’s preservation and revitalization and allocated a CDBG grant to the project before leaving his District 7 council seat. The \$70,000 grant was awarded to the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy to manage the planning project in coordination with Friends of Arsenal Park and Lawrenceville United. The project is guided by a steering committee of community leaders and residents, and driven by the community’s vision and values.


The project will commence with an introductory meeting on Thursday, Nov. 21, at 6:30 p.m., in the Arsenal Middle School Auditorium, 220 40th St. The meeting will provide an overview of the master-planning process, and generate ideas about how the community can engage in that process; feedback is imperative. Many current and former residents, as well as visitors, use the park and have a wide variety of ideas on how to improve it.

For more information on the meeting or the Arsenal Master Plan, please contact Lawrenceville United by calling 412-802-7220, or emailing info@Lunited.org. ♦

BELOW: Arsenal Park’s historic Civil War-era magazine has fallen into disrepair. Photo by Jill Harkins



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Neighborhood FOCUS

Move Over, Leonardo da Vinci

Gallery Owner Sees Art Cars Helping to Revitalize Penn Avenue

By Kristin Douty *The Bulletin*

Garfield – Cars lined the intersection of Penn Avenue and Winebiddle Street for the second annual Pittsburgh Art & Car Festival on Sept. 28th. The cars were anything but ordinary – one spewed fire from its roof, while another was covered in Polynesian-inspired bamboo.

Most Wanted Fine Art gallery owner Jason Sauer hosted the event, called “Vehicular Abstraction,” an outdoor exhibition that celebrated art with 12 customized cars.

Artists brought cars from far and wide. Hailing from Columbus, Ohio, Greg Phelps started participating in art car events in 2011. For “Vehicular Abstraction,” Phelps created what he calls “That Car,” a vehicle that defies the imagination with glimmering mirrors and colorful shapes in mosaic patterns on each door. He won third place at this year’s festival.

Art cars are unique from the inside out. “That Car” features ornate knickknacks and sparkling crystals along the interior, windows and dashboard. Other art cars



ABOVE: Melanie Harris' “Tiki Car” won second place in the Art & Car Festival with its Polynesian-inspired design. Photo courtesy Most Wanted Fine Art

“I want to tour Europe in an art car ...”


in the exhibition can be seen in the mirrors of “That Car,” a detail that reflects the mission of the owner. Phelps said, “All the details on the car are a tribute to the other art car artists.”

Melanie Harris, who hails from Toledo, Ohio, also participated in “Vehicular Abstraction.” She said that her creation, “Tiki Car,” was first inspired in 2007 by a local Polynesian restaurant. After four years of work, “Tiki Car” was armored in thick bamboo with an interior lined in leopard print. Miniature Easter Island statues were placed along the interior. Harris received second place at this year’s festival.

The Pittsburgh Art & Car Festival had a successful second year, according to Sauer, but he said he has bigger ideas to encourage people to see Penn Avenue. Sauer hopes that his gallery, Most Wanted Fine Art – located at 5015 Penn Ave. – and the art car exhibitions will revitalize Penn Avenue as a tourist attraction. He spreads his ideas about art cars and community improvement at different events across the country.

This past summer, Sauer traveled with his wife, Nina Gibbs, and their son, Rowdy, in their art car on a 1,500-mile tour to different cities, including Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York City. He said that his goal for the trip was to emphasize that art cars are High Art, of the same aesthetic value as sculptures and paintings. “I want to tour Europe in an art car in the same way as other artists that are written about in history books,” said Sauer.

Continued on page 9



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Bioshelter Up and Running at Farm

By John Creasy

Garfield Community Farm

Garfield – It was three years ago that Garfield Community Farm first envisioned a bioshelter at the top of the hill in Garfield. Actually, the idea goes back even further than three years, to Carol Walsh, who was involved in the early stages of sustainable urban agriculture in Pittsburgh.

In 2008, Ms. Walsh introduced me and others from the Open Door Church to permaculturalist and farmer Darrell Frey of Three Sisters Permaculture Farm. At the time, Frey was hard at work on his first book, “Bioshelter Market Garden: A Permaculture Farm.”

Frey had been farming on 6 acres north of Pittsburgh in Sandy Lake, Pa., for around 20 years. On his 6 acres is a large bioshelter where a diversity of food crops grow year-round. Frey and his farm quickly became resources for Garfield Community Farm as we began planning our own small farm with the hopes of “being a blessing to the Garfield neighborhood.” Finally, after three years of hard, sometimes very frustrating, work, our small bioshelter stands at the top of the hill on our 2+ acres of food-producing gardens.

What is the difference between a bioshelter and a regular greenhouse? A bioshelter is quite simply an ecologically



ABOVE: The interior of the new bioshelter at the Garfield Community Farm. Photo by John Creasy

designed and managed greenhouse. The Garfield Community Farm’s bioshelter is designed for passive solar heat gain, uses insulation instead of a furnace, harvests thousands of gallons of rainwater, is partially earth-sheltered and will very soon create all of its own electricity.

The farm will be using the bioshelter to grow seedlings each spring and salad crops and herbs all winter long. These crops will go to a wide diversity of people, including the Valley View Presbyterian Church food pantry, the farm’s CSA members and Salt of the Earth restaurant on Penn Avenue.

Those who are interested in volunteering at the farm, want a tour of the bioshelter or desire general information should contact me at garfieldcommunity-farm@gmail.com. ♦

Gators Triumph on Homecoming Day



ABOVE: Konota Gaskins of the Garfield Gators takes the ball around right end in a game against Homewood on October 12 at Fort Pitt Field in Garfield. Gaskins’ Mighty Mites team won, 27-0, on Homecoming Day for all of the Gators’ teams. Photo by Rick Swartz

Move Over, da Vinci continued

The city of Baltimore was a major source of inspiration during the art car tour, Sauer noted. During his visit, he learned that Baltimore funds the arts in its local communities by constructing large apartment complexes with gallery spaces, thus enabling urban artists to live comfortably and creatively while supporting themselves with their art. Sauer said he believes Pittsburgh should adopt a similar model in order to revitalize the Penn Avenue arts district.

“Vehicular Abstraction” was one step toward making Penn Avenue a core for the arts in Pittsburgh. “I want to know why Baltimore has such a huge artists-in-residency scene, while Pittsburgh does not,” Sauer said. “I want to see it in Garfield and all over Pittsburgh.” ♦

For more about Most Wanted Fine Art and its programs, visit most-wantedfineart.com.

BELOW: The interior of Greg Phelps’ “That Car.” Photo by Kristin Douty



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ACT NOW! SPACE IS LIMITED!

Tiny Houses *from page 1*

change in a neighborhood like Garfield, and will begin studying how to bring tiny houses to Garfield in coming years.

The idea of tiny houses was an outcome of cityLAB's 2011 6% Place study, which examined how Garfield and its residents could benefit from a systematic effort to attract new residents with creative talents and inclinations. Now cityLAB has been awarded a grant by the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development to try to bring this idea to fruition.

The tiny house project responds to several issues identified by cityLAB, along with its partners at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation. First of all, Garfield is bracing itself for an increase in vacant land over the next five years with the pending demolition of a number of unsalvageable vacant houses, including several

along Rosetta Street. cityLAB believes that tiny houses will help to fill the holes in the neighborhood's fabric more quickly than conventional houses, since they will be more affordable to build. They could also reach a new market more effectively, because they will be more affordable to purchase and maintain.

Another reason why cityLAB thinks tiny houses may be a good idea for Garfield is that buying or building a new house is an increasingly expensive proposition in Pittsburgh. With tiny houses, cityLAB wants to see if a new market for inexpensive homes can be created in Garfield so that the neighborhood becomes a destination for a type of housing people can't find anywhere else – in effect, to make Garfield an alternative housing incubator. Tiny houses could



ABOVE: Map showing parcels of land along Rosetta Street under public control. Courtesy Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

draw people to Garfield because of the quiriness, sustainability and thrift embodied in living “small.”


The tiny house movement drew attention during the financial crisis of 2007 to 2010, because small houses offer affordable acquisition and maintenance costs and are ecologically friendly. The movement is an architectural and social one that advocates living simply in small homes. Many small houses range in size from just 350 to 900 square feet.

Research shows that many people are interested in living smaller. A 2013 study by the Urban Land Institute, “America in 2013”, reported that more than half of the Americans surveyed prefer neighborhoods that are close to shops, have a mix of incomes and have public transportation; 61 percent of respondents said they would prefer a shorter commute and a smaller home to a longer commute and a larger home.


Garfield has many of the amenities that

respondents prefer, with its accessibility to public transportation, central location and community assets. With the funding received for this project, cityLAB will work with a committee of residents and other stakeholders to research and define the tiny house market in Garfield (and Pittsburgh) and design, develop and price three tiny house designs.


Over the past year, cityLAB, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and the 6% Place Advisory Committee have embarked on the implementation of a series of projects related to the 6% Place, including the Garfield Creative Census and the Garfield Night Market. The team will continue to work jointly on the Tiny Houses project. If you are interested in being a part of a brainstorming session later this year or want to know more about the project, get involved by contacting cityLAB at info@citylabpgh.org or 412 434-7080. Learn more about the 6% Place at www.citylabpgh.org. ♦



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Arsenal Afterschool Provides Exercise, Art

By Dave Breingan

Lawrenceville United

Lawrenceville – As the school day at Pittsburgh Arsenal Middle School winds down, Dan Brenner and James Graham begin moving nearly 15 bicycles from a closet in the locker room to the soccer field. It's Wednesday, and that means that in just a few minutes, students will come running out to find their bikes, strap on their personally decorated helmets and start another session of Positive Spin, a free afterschool program in its second year at Arsenal that focuses on fitness, mentoring, and broadening student access to all Pittsburgh has to offer.

The kids cruise around Arsenal's soccer field for a few minutes to get reacquainted with their bikes before Program Coordinator Julie Mallis convenes them for a quick safety talk, reminding them to use hand signals when they're turning, pass each other on the left and stay between adult supervisors. The kids nod patiently, ready to start exploring Pittsburgh on their bikes. While other days of the program have included bike repair workshops from Free Ride or a trip to the Carnegie Science Center to see the BIKES exhibit, their route today takes them across the Washington Crossing Bridge, down to the Three Rivers Heritage Trail, where the kids get a rigorous workout while enjoying the beautiful views alongside the Allegheny River.

As they pedal along the sidewalks past cars caught in Butler Street traffic on this mild afternoon in autumn, the adult motorists turn their heads with what appears to be a twinge of envy. The smooth and steady line of bicyclists is briefly held up when a new student pops a chain on the bridge, but an experienced boy behind him hops off his bike to quickly reset the chain for him. The group pauses for a water break along the trail, with a stunning view of the Pittsburgh skyline and the Allegheny River, where crew teams are practicing. Although they're only a relatively short distance from their school, most of the kids say they've never been here before.

When they arrive back at Arsenal a little under an hour after they left, they've biked more than 3 miles of often steep terrain. One student, Elijah, has persevered despite being in an arm cast that prevented him from joining other sports. "I had so much fun today!" he tells Mallis.




ABOVE: Participants in Positive Spin at Arsenal Middle School have fun out and about on two wheels. Photo by Dave Breingan

It's time for the kids to catch their buses home, but the students hang around the bikes as if wanting more time.

Luckily for some of the participants, they only need to wait another day for more fun afterschool activities, this time in the form of Arts in Action, a program in its 7th year at Arsenal Middle School that uses art as a medium for youths to become empowered activists in their community. Over the next few months, the kids in Arts in Action will design and create costumes and accessories that they will march with on Pittsburgh's First Night Parade. The program, along with Positive Spin, is offered at Arsenal by MGR Youth Empowerment, a non-profit committed to creating innovative programs that positively impact communities in the areas of health, environment and the arts.

In addition to the afterschool programs, MGR Youth Empowerment offers an artist-in-the-classroom residency program, where artists spend 10 weeks in a classroom to support the curriculum with creative art projects. Additionally, the non-profit recruits local artists to mentor Arsenal 8th graders who want to attend Pittsburgh CAPA. The mentors help the students compile a portfolio, which is required for applying to the arts magnet. Last year, three of the five Arsenal 8th graders with mentors were accepted into CAPA for 9th grade.

Arts in Action and Positive Spin are just two of the afterschool programs offered at Arsenal Middle School. Others include KRUNK Movement and a variety of interscholastic and intramural sports, including cross-country, volleyball and swimming. "One of our goals as a school is to provide students with as many opportunities to explore their interests as possible," says Principal Patti Camper. "You just never know what could spark a dream in middle school." ♦



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Market from page 1



ABOVE: Dora Walmsley (left) and Deirdre Kane opened 52nd Street Market to serve a need in the Upper Lawrenceville neighborhood. Photo courtesy 52nd Street Market

hoping to have more local amenities in the community. The proprietors, local residents Deirdre Kane and Dora Walmsley, will provide grocery staples, including non-food items, fresh produce and prepared foods.

Kane and Walmsley's interest in fresh food was ignited through their work with the Lawrenceville Organic Community Garden. A portion of the revenue generated from the market will benefit local community garden initiatives. 52nd Street Market will also have a small seating area where neighbors can meet over a cup of coffee from the brewed coffee bar. Free Wi-Fi will also be available for patrons.

The market concept was developed from a series of community meetings that took place during the Upper Lawrenceville Community Visioning Plan. EvolveEA completed the visioning plan with support from the Lawrenceville Corporation, Lawrenceville United and the Design Center.

The plan guides Upper Lawrenceville to a more vibrant future while respecting its historic past. As fate would have it, a vacant corner store sat blocks away from where these community meetings took place. Kane and Walmsley's passion and commitment to the community gave the building owners the confidence needed to change their original intent for the space, and 52nd Street Market was born.

Accidental entrepreneurs, Kane and Walmsley had not planned nor saved the

start-up capital needed and had to look for creative ways of financing their dream. The first step was an Indiegogo campaign that raised over \$8,000 of crowd-sourced funds by offering rewards such as 52nd Street coffee carafes, screen-printed aprons and reusable totes of fresh foods.

Next, they worked with Kiva Zip to secure a no-interest loan to purchase software, hardware and services. Kiva Zip is an experimental site, launched by Kiva – a non-profit organization with a mission to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty – that enables lenders to make direct loans to entrepreneurs in Kenya and the United States. Loans can be as little as \$25. Over time, as the loan is repaid, lenders get their money back, and can then withdraw it, or re-lend it to another entrepreneur.

This was the first loan endorsed by the Lawrenceville Corporation, who has recently become a Kiva Zip trustee. The Kiva Zip loan for 52nd Street Market was funded by 53 lenders from all over the United States as well as Europe and Asia in just five days.

To donate to the market, make checks payable to 52nd Street Market and mail them to 601 52nd Street; you can also donate via Paypal using dora@52ndstreet-market.com.

For more information, visit www.52ndstreetmarket.com or lawrencevilleorganicgarden.wordpress.com. ♦



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Saturday, November 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Avenue

GCAT Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, November 21, at 6:00 p.m. at Assemble Gallery, 5125 Penn Avenue

FREE! Fall Family Fun Day @ Kite Hill Park

Saturday, November 2, from 1-3 p.m. at Kite Hill Park, 5400 block of Rosetta Street

Enjoy a slew of fun fall activities for all ages. We'll have hot cider and donuts, pick-up basketball games, and storytelling hopscotch with The LAB. You can also participate in a needlepoint poetry public art project with Assemble's Saturday Crafternoon team!

More info at: <http://gcatpgh.com/2013/10/16/fall-family-fun-day/>



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Council from page 1

10 questions, ranging from how to solve the city's pension liability issues to getting more police officers on city streets.

Here, in alphabetical order, are the five candidates and their answers to some of the questions:

Tony Ceoffe: former city employee and community advocate from Lawrenceville. To improve public transit, Ceoffe said he would lobby the state for bigger subsidies, and wants to increase the number of bus routes to under-served neighborhoods. Although he supports the city's fracking ban, he said he feels it's unenforceable and City Council should write zoning laws that would protect private property. Ceoffe supports the residency requirement for city police and other employees, and wants the administration to train and hire the number of police officers stipulated in the budget. He supports moving forward with the city's lawsuit contesting UPMC's non-profit status and wants to create a task force that would regularly review the status of city non-profits.

Tom Fallon: a community developer from Morningside and former aide to State Sen. Jim Ferlo. He feels the city should be removed from Act 47 oversight. Regarding neighborhood blight, Fallon said he advocates expediting the process of putting vacant houses into the hands of owners who would renovate them for occupancy. He supports the city's fracking ban and would take steps to protect all of Pittsburgh's natural assets. Fallon says city officials need to negotiate with the large non-profits for payments in lieu of taxes, and the city should urge UPMC in particular to pay its employees higher wages. He wants the city to bring in an outside negotiator to work out labor contracts with unionized city employees, and advocates a state take-over of the city's employee pension system.

Deb Gross: a community organizer and planner from Highland Park. She said she supports commercial development in the city but wants to see developers re-investing more in city neighborhoods. She said she favors a system of tax credits that would encourage homeowners to main-

tain their properties. Gross supports the city's fracking ban and opposes gas drilling in county parks. She wants the administration to hire the full allotment of police officers in the city budget and says it's the administration's responsibility to recruit more officer trainees. Gross supports finding a way to require the city's large non-profits to pay taxes for which they are now exempt. She is also against privatizing assets like the Parking Authority in order to generate revenue.

Dave Powell: a libertarian from Morningside. Powell said he wants to do away with the current system of taxing property and create a land value tax, so homeowners aren't penalized for improving their houses. Although he is a free-market advocate, he said he "cautiously" supports the city's fracking ban because there are still safety issues. And he said he feels the drilling industry should be paying more taxes than current laws mandate – their "fair share." Regarding the controversy over big non-profits like UPMC and their non-profit status, Powell says even governments should be paying taxes and that his proposal for a land value tax with no exemptions would solve the problem. To improve public safety, Powell wants to put more desk police officers out on the street.

James Wudarczyk: a management supervisor and local historian from Lawrenceville. Regarding public transit, Wudarczyk says the city needs more buses on the streets, not an expensive transit center in East Liberty. He supports the city's fracking ban, citing the need to know the long-term effects. He said he wants to hire a new police chief from within current ranks, supports the current residency requirement and insists the administration hire the full number of police officers allotted in the budget. Regarding the city's efforts to balance the pension fund, he says administrators need to be more careful with its investments and the city needs to be tougher with unions in changing the way pension benefits are awarded. ♦

Best of Pittsburgh 2013

Congratulations to Penn Avenue art galleries ModernFormations and Most Wanted Fine Art, which took second and third place, respectively, in the category "Best Gallery for Local Artists" in Pittsburgh City Paper's "Best of Pittsburgh 2013" competition. ModernFormations is located at 4919 Penn Ave. and MWFA is at 5015 Penn. Visit them online at www.modernformations.com and www.most-wantedfineart.com.

COMMENTARY

Learning Together in Garfield

By Alyssa Creasy

Bulletin Contributor

"Why?"

That is the number one question people ask me when they learn that my husband and I homeschool our children. I have learned to sum up my answer to this question by saying, "It fits our family's DNA."

Let me explain that a bit.

Our family – me, my husband, John, and our three children, Téah, Micah and Lyle – enjoys being together. We like learning together. We find importance and value in in these things. For us it is very natural to continue and encourage education in our home and as a family.

In our current culture and society, it is very easy for families to feel pulled in many different directions. Everyone in the family has a different place to be at a different time. It happens very quickly (as we are learning). I am not saying we stay home all day, every day. John works (mostly) out of our home. Our kids are involved in activities beyond our home. But we do our best to pull together as a family unit and learn together.

However, our learning doesn't often look like traditional school-style learning. We learn through many everyday activities, including cooking, gardening, playing games and sometimes even cleaning. My children often accompany John to Garfield Community Farm, where they have hands-on science lessons. We have found that often the best lessons come when our kids are involved in our daily activities and processes. Some of these are traditional reading, writing and arithmetic, but a lot are life skills that schools miss or simply cannot teach in a school setting.

Do we have "sit down" lessons? We do. Some families that homeschool don't. There are different styles of homeschooling and we have found that a combination works well for our children. It also helps me focus on making sure they are learning what they need to in order to be the best people they can be. There are times when structured lessons and activities facilitate great learning. It is also a time to teach more life skills such as organization and discipline.

The biggest criticism about home-



ABOVE: The Creasy family in December 2012.
Photo by Mary Alice Creasy

schooling I often hear is "your kids won't be socialized." We have found that to be very far from the truth. The truth is that no, my children do not socialize day-in and day-out with kids their own ages. They have time and friendships with people of many different ages and social perspectives. We have found that our children are quite comfortable in a variety of social settings in ways I wish I had been at a young age. They are not afraid to enter new settings and are comfortable befriending someone brand new who may or may not be like them.

My kids have their personalities and their quirks. (Don't we all!) But homeschooling has given us the freedom to help them begin to learn more about their strengths and who they are as people and who they would like to become.

Here is one word of caution. Homeschooling is not the right choice for every family. Every family is different and every situation is different. We recognize that we are fortunate to be able to make this choice for our family. You have to find what fits your family's DNA. For us, homeschooling has been that choice. ♦

For anyone who chooses to homeschool in the city of Pittsburgh or surrounding areas, there is a wealth of resources and classes for homeschoolers. A few examples include classes at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, the Carnegie Science Center and organizations like PALS (People Always Learning Something; www.pals-enrichment.info).

the
Bulletin **BOARD**

Local Events
Classes
Announcements
Fundraisers

November 1

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 artists and performers. For more information visit facebook.com/pennavenuearts.

BLOOMFIELD

Closing Reception

At the Irma Freeman Center for Imagination, on 5006 Penn Avenue, there will be a closing reception from 7-10 p.m. for Pittsburgh by Pittsburgh Artists III. Music by the legendary Anita Fix, Sigh Mellingstar and the Darkroom. For more information, call 412-924-0634 or visit www.irmafreeman.org.

November 2

LAWRENCEVILLE

Lawrenceville Studio Tour

The 9th annual Lawrenceville Artists' Studio Tour will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. This year's self-guided tour is the largest ever – visit 17 studios and meet 42 artists. For a list of studios and a map, "Like" Lawrenceville Artists' Studio Tour 2013 on Facebook or call 412-683-6488.

Puzzle Saturday

Each Saturday in November, come to the Adult Reading Room of Carnegie Library- Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., to help complete a jigsaw puzzle. Available to anyone who wants to work on it, whether it's only placing a couple of pieces or seeing it through to completion. Until completion, the puzzle will be rolled up and stored until the following week. Continues Nov. 9, 16, 23 and 30. 12-3 p.m.

EAST LIBERTY

Decorate a Mug

Kiln-N-Time's Sandy Simon is bringing ceramic mugs to decorate at Carnegie Library-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St. Come decorate your own. Cost is \$6 per mug; the library covers other costs. 12 p.m. For more information: 412-363-8274.

GARFIELD

Needlepoint Poetry

As part of its Saturday Crafternoon program, Assemble will be hosting the second part of its Community Needlepoint Poetry workshop at Kite Hill Family Day from 1-3 p.m. Kids and families can stop by Kite Hill Park (5400 block of Rosetta at Hillcrest) to contribute to a needlepoint poetry tapestry. Fiber artist Meg Prall and Literary Arts Boom (The LAB) will be assisting. Snacks and materials

provided. Please contact Jess at 412-450-5349 or jess@assemblepgh.org for more information.

November 7

EAST LIBERTY

Novel Writing for Teens

Literary Arts Boom [The LAB] is hosting National Novel Writing Month workshops for high school and middle school students who want to write, write, write! National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) happens every November! It's a fun, seat-of-your-pants writing event where the challenge is to complete an entire novel in just 30 days. Students who want to attend should call 412-906-9522. Continuing Nov. 14, 21 and 24. 4-6 p.m., Carnegie Library-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St.

November 8

LAWRENCEVILLE

Mosaic Show

The next show at Gallery on 43rd Street, 187 43rd St., is Pieces Together, mosaics by Stevo. This show runs through Dec. 31 and features the mosaics of Steven Sadvary, who studied weaving and textiles at Edinboro University and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh. The opening reception is 7 to 10 p.m. For more information, visit www.galleryon43rdstreet.com or call 412-683-6488.

November 9

BLOOMFIELD

Yoga Mixer

Come to a 75-minute Power Vinyasa yoga class at 7 p.m. at Clay Yoga, 4519 Liberty Ave., followed by food, wine and dancing. It's a great way to spend a Saturday night, meet some new friends and get a great yoga practice in. Cost is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Call 412-335-1332 or visit www.clayyoga.com for more information.

EAST LIBERTY

Fun with Curious George

Preschoolers can have fun with Curious George at 11 a.m. at Carnegie Library-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St. For more information: 412-363-8274.

GARFIELD

Hyperlocal Crafts for Kids

As part of its Saturday Crafternoon program, Assemble will be hosting a free, drop-in craft workshop for kids from 1 to 4 p.m. at 5125 Penn Ave. Kids will work with local crafters to make awesome paintings, prints and mixed media art to display at Assemble's upcoming Hyperlocal Show. For kids ages 5-10 and their families. Snacks and materials

provided. Please contact Jess at 412-450-5349 or jess@assemblepgh.org for more information.

November 11

EAST LIBERTY

Pajama Storytime

Preschoolers can come in their jammies for storytime at 6:30 p.m. at Carnegie Library-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St. For more information: 412-363-8274.

November 12

GARFIELD

Jobs with CLASS

Community Living and Support Services (CLASS) is looking for CNAs and Personal Care assistants to assist individuals with disabilities at many locations in Allegheny County. The hiring event, hosted by the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, will be held at 1 p.m. at the Bloomfield-Garfield Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave. Employees can receive full-time and part-time positions with excellent benefits including healthcare and retirement packages. To register, call 412-362-8580 or visit www.enecpittsburgh.org for details.

November 13

GARFIELD

Alorica Recruitment

The Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) will host a recruitment session for customer service representatives for Alorica at 1 p.m. at 5321 Penn Ave. Alorica will provide two weeks of paid training; an average of \$250-\$300 a month in bonuses/incentives; a 401(K) plan; and tuition reimbursement. To register, call 412-362-8580 or visit www.enecpittsburgh.org for details.

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. at BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave. For more information: 412-441-6950 x15.

BLOOMFIELD

Thanksgiving Table

Get ready to have a great Thanksgiving by setting a beautiful table. Urban Cottage, 4602 Penn Ave., will be giving you ideas to make your table special. Demonstration at 7 p.m. by retired florist Carol Nawrocki on putting together a centerpiece for your table. For more information, call 412-683-1950.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Crafting Circle

Open to all creators, from knitters to jewelry makers. The beginning of each session features a

short presentation by a local crafter. Bring a project to work on and enjoy snacks and conversation with other crafters. 6 to 8 p.m. at Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St. For more information: 412-682-3668.

November 15

GARFIELD

Veterans Event

The Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) is proud to sponsor an event for Veterans at the ENEC at 5321 Penn Ave. at 11 a.m. The presentation will provide information for veterans on the different ways to overcome barriers to employment. To register, call 412-362-8580 or visit www.enecpittsburgh.org for details.

Spelling Bee

The Great Pittsburgh Spelling Bee for adults takes place at Assemble, 5125 Penn Avenue, from 7-9 p.m. This is the first spelling bee of its kind in Pittsburgh and 60% of the proceeds will go toward supporting Literary Arts Boom. The first place winner receives 40% of the registration fees, second and third place winners receive super awesome secret prizes. Deadline to register is Nov. 3. Sign up now at pghzinefair.com/spelling-bee. If you have any questions, email pghspellingbee@gmail.com. Once you have registered, you will get more details about what to expect at the spelling bee. Note: you're welcome to attend even if you're not a contestant. J

November 16

GARFIELD

Kids' Mapping Project

As part of its Saturday Crafternoon program, Assemble will be hosting a free, drop-in community mapping (cartography) project from 1 to 4 p.m. at 5125 Penn Ave. Kids will work with local artist Eric Lidji to make a community map featuring local stories and histories. This project involves a partnership with Garfield Commons and the final project will be displayed there. For kids ages 5-10 and their families. Snacks and materials provided. Please contact Jess at 412-450-5349 or jess@assemblepgh.org for more information.

November 18

LAWRENCEVILLE

Tech Storytime

Join Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville for a tech storytime using both print and digital books. After, explore iPads with a parent or caregiver and learn how to support literacy development using technology. 279 Fisk St., 7-7:45 p.m.

November 19

GARFIELD

Jobs for Ex-offenders

Ed Stevenson, an expert from Neighborhood Legal Services, will give a presentation, hosted by Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, on how to get a job with a criminal background. Held at Bloom-

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 12, via email to bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org.**

Volunteer Opportunities & Services

field-Garfield Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave., at 2 p.m. The presentation will address barriers to employment including: criminal records; employment discrimination; unemployment compensation; and how to overcome these barriers. To register, call 412-362-8580.

November 20

EAST LIBERTY

Pre-K Math

What's the BIG Idea? is a math and science program for preschoolers at Carnegie Library-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St., 6:30 p.m. 412-363-8274.

November 21

LAWRENCEVILLE

Musical Performance

At 7 p.m. in the McVey Auditorium of Canterbury Place, 310 Fisk Street, the Lawrenceville Historical Society will host author, local legend and country singer Slim Forsythe performing "An Evening of Pennsylvania Songs." Forsythe's CDs will be available for sale. The event is free and open to the public. Call 412-622-9000 for more details.

West Penn Meeting

State Sen. Jim Ferlo, Highmark officials and medical staff of West Penn Hospital will host a Town Hall Meeting at the Teamsters Temple, 4701 Butler St. The meeting is free and open to the public, and will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Highmark and West Penn Hospital officials will report on their progress in promoting health and sustaining vital medical services to insure the success of West Penn Hospital.

November 22

GARFIELD

City Recruitment

The Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center is hosting an event with City of Pittsburgh Human Resources representatives for the public to learn about current open positions and their locations; availability of full- and part-time positions; pay rate and benefits; and how to apply. The recruitment session will be held at the Bloomfield-Garfield Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave., at 4:30 p.m. To register, call 412-362-8580. For more information, visit www.enecpittsburgh.org.

BLOOMFIELD

Pittsburgh Poems

Literary Arts Boom has collected poems about Pittsburgh from around the city. At 6:30 p.m. at East End Book Exchange, 4754 Liberty Ave., The LAB is hosting a literary reading to celebrate the poems that were selected by a teen editorial board for the first Pittsburgh Poems publication. Visit www.literaryartsboom.org/calendar for more information.

November 23

GARFIELD

Free Thanksgiving

A free Thanksgiving dinner will be served at Morningside Church of God in Christ, 5173 Dearborn

St., from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The menu will include turkey, beef roast, greens, yams, mac and cheese and sweet potato pie. Come and enjoy a mouth-watering meal! For more information call 412-361-9865.

Photobooth Party for Kids

Assemble will be hosting a free, drop-in photography workshop for kids from 1 to 4 p.m. at 5125 Penn Ave. With the help of local photographer and crafter Sarah Laponte, kids will create exciting photobooth backdrops, take photos, and learn about the art of photography. For kids ages 5-10 and their families. Snacks and materials provided. Please contact Jess at 412-450-5349 or jess@assemblepgh.org for more information.

November 27

Computer Classes

Have you heard about MS Word? Do you want to get an email address? Do you know how to find what you want online? Sign up for a lunchtime computer session at Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., and get the answers to your questions. Registration required. Call Steve at 412-682-3668 or email bankss@carnegielibrary.org.

November 30

EAST LIBERTY

SAT Prep Class

Are you planning to take the SATs? Let Pittsburgh Prep help you get up to speed on test-taking strategies and more. The Carnegie Library of East Liberty offers an intensive afternoon of exam preparation in partnership with Pittsburgh Prep from 1 to 5 p.m. at 130 S. Whitfield St., in meeting room 3. A light snack and refreshments will be provided. Registration is required and spaces are limited. To register, visit www.carnegielibrary.org or call 412-363-8232.

All Month

LAWRENCEVILLE

New Bethel Women's Month

New Bethel Baptist Church, 221 43rd St., will host events in celebration of Women's Month: Nov. 2, Prayer and Praise Breakfast at 9:30 a.m.; Nov. 6, 7 and 8, "S.A.S." (Saved & Serving Sisters) Revival at 7 p.m. each evening; Nov. 10, Celebration of Women at Bidwell Presbyterian Church (Pastor DeNiece Welch) at 10:30 a.m. and at New Life Baptist Church (Pastor June Jeffries) in Apollo, PA at 3:30 p.m.; Nov. 26, Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner (in memory of Pastor Leroy Walker and Sister Maria Green) at 6:30 p.m. For more info: 412-621-2155.

EAST END

Parent Feedback Wanted

Are you a parent of school-aged children in the East End? We want your feedback! PEP Rally is interviewing parents to get input on local schools and to think about how we can work together to support and strengthen our schools. Contact Dave Breingan at Lawrenceville United at 412-802-7220 or Dave@LUnited.org to offer your input or get involved.

Volunteer with NLA



"It has been a fantastic opportunity for someone like me to get a feel for what being involved in education would be like," says Leon Siguenza, a Neighborhood Learning Alliance (NLA) volunteer (pictured above, center). Siguenza, a University of Pittsburgh student studying microbiology, helps students stay on track in their courses during the afterschool program at Pittsburgh Sci-Tech High School in Oakland. NLA runs afterschool programming in Pittsburgh Public Schools across the city and is always looking to add new volunteers to its ranks. Interested in helping students navigate the road toward graduation? Contact Rachel Zadnik at 412-363-1910 or Zadnik@wireless-neighborhoods.org.

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Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, November 5! For voting information or to locate your polling place, visit www.alleghenycounty.us/elect/index.aspx or call 412-350-4500.

An “Awesome” Way to Fund Creative Projects

By Emily Keebler

Bulletin Contributor

Pittsburgh – Awesome Pittsburgh came together in 2011 to increase awesomeness in the City of Pittsburgh \$1,000 at a time. The organization is a chapter of the Awesome Foundation, a global network of people devoted to promoting awesomeness in the universe.

How exactly is this awesomeness accomplished? Awesome Foundation chapters grant money – cold, hard cash – to people or groups with exciting and innovative ideas, projects, events or workshops, no strings attached. More than 80 chapters around the world fund new projects every month.

Pittsburgh, already a hotbed of awesomeness, brims with smart, passionate, creative people. Awesome Pittsburgh's team of trustees wants to hear the best ideas for making the Pittsburgh region stand out in the global economy, connecting communities, celebrating art or technology, making the region a better place to live, work, and play, or simply surprising and delighting fellow Pittsburghers. The team is excited to fund projects with a local impact and sincerely believe that grant-winning ideas will inspire and motivate others to become innovative themselves, thus making Pittsburgh an even more vibrant and awesome place.

Awesome Pittsburgh's trustees have different takes on what inspires them. "I'm excited that our awardees and friends are connecting to support each other's

awesome ideas," says Tony Macklin. "For example, our food-based awardees appear together at community events, and our broader network of friends and fans have donated to many awardees' crowd-funding campaigns and fundraising efforts. A few people making monthly contributions has quickly grown to a thriving community of people forwarding the interest of awesomeness in the Pittsburgh area."

"I am impressed most with ideas that are based on someone's resolve not to conform to an undesirable situation," notes trustee Carolina Pais-Barreto Beyers. "For example, the G.L.A.D. (God's Love and Devotion) project originated from one woman's determination to give foster children dignity by ensuring that their belongings are carried in something other than trash bags, which is the current norm. Her simple idea to provide foster children a duffel bag during transitional periods will help in far-reaching ways, ways we can't imagine."

The specific projects mentioned above are a few examples from the vast array of grantwinners Awesome Pittsburgh has funded. Awesome Pittsburgh has awarded projects ranging from crepe-making on city streets to salvaged art workshops to a social media platform that facilitates the borrowing of clothes, shoes, and accessories among friends to a popsicle cart for Healcrest Urban Farm in Garfield. It's a broad range of projects, but



ABOVE: Healcrest Urban Farm used its Awesome Pittsburgh grant to buy a freezer cart for its artisanal teapops. Photo courtesy Awesome Pittsburgh

the common denominator is that all the grantwinners' ideas are awesome. To be inspired by past grant awardees or learn about the application process, visit the Awesome Pittsburgh home page – www.awesomepgh.com.

Awesome Pittsburgh is hosting a party at Hough's Taproom and Brewpub at 563 Greenfield Ave. on Thursday, Nov. 7, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to celebrate awesomeness

in Pittsburgh, and all are invited. Recent grantwinners will present their projects and trustees will be available to give feedback to past and future grant applicants. Additional details about the party and Awesome Pittsburgh can be found online at www.awesomepgh.com, @AwesomePittsburgh and www.facebook.com/awesomepgh. ♦

The Board of Directors of the
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and
Event Co-Chairs Erin & Jeff Catalina and
Dr. Mona Generett

invite you to a luncheon celebrating the achievements of
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KATHLEEN KANE
Pennsylvania Attorney General

Friday, November 22, 2013

11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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