



The Bulletin

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Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

PATRICK HASSETT (LEFT) MAPS OUT PLANS FOR FOUR BLOCKS OF PENN AVENUE WITH BUSINESS OWNERS.

Business Owners Convene about Penn Avenue Construction Project

Business owners in the stretch of Penn Avenue from Mathilda to

Evaline met with members of the Penn Avenue Corridor Phasing Plan Committee on October 1 to get an update on the project and the projected timeline for construction.

"We want to tighten up the conversation we've been having [with business and property owners] for the last few years," said Patrick Hassett, assistant director of the Pittsburgh Department of Public Works' Bureau of Transportation and Engineering, who presided over two meetings held that day, one in the morning and one in the evening. In Phase One of the project, he said, the corridor from Mathilda to Evaline will be rebuilt at a cost of almost \$5 million. Phase One, Hassett outlined, will include new traffic signals and lighting, streetscape elements, sidewalks, and other major improvements.

In the original plan for Phase One, Hassett said, the revitalization was to

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

extend from Gross Street to Pacific Avenue. Based on input from a community meeting last May, the plan was tweaked to cover the blocks between Mathilda and Evaline instead. Gross was "a minor intersection," Hassett noted, "and starting there would have left a gap between improvements that had already been made with the coming of Children's Hospital to the avenue."

Although the design process is just beginning and reconstruction of the avenue is not slated to begin until the fall of 2011, "decisions are being made now," Hassett said, which will affect businesses along the four-block stretch. Some decisions are already locked in and are no longer up for discussion. For example, after construction, there will be two lanes for traffic and two lanes for parking, with no bike lane. At this time, however, business and property owners can still

See Penn Avenue, page 4

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON
NOVEMBER 3!**

Neighborhood Plan Looks to the Future of Garfield

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

What will Garfield be like in the year 2030? That was the question posed on October 19 at a community meeting on the Garfield I neighborhood plan.

The 20-year plan, now in the early stages, looks at the prospects for new housing and other land uses in a neighborhood that has been in economic and social decline for many years. The aim is to return Garfield to "a place where people want to live," said Stefani Danes, the lead consultant on the project. Danes is with Perkins Eastman, an architectural and planning firm that has a long history of working on planning initiatives for Penn Avenue.

The meeting kicked off with an introduction by Freddie Croce, a member of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's board of directors. The BGC and Garfield Jubilee Association are the two community organizations spearheading the development of the plan. The community meeting held in May, Croce explained, was for information gathering; Danes and her associates took the ideas generated by Garfield residents at that spring meeting and created a preliminary plan for how land might be used in the neighborhood.

"We heard a lot of comments about what a good neighborhood Garfield is," Danes said. "People feel Garfield has a great future."

Two goals most often cited by residents at the first meeting were building of new housing and keeping housing affordable. Also high on residents' lists were beautification and greening efforts, the creation of recreation facilities, and the renovation of buildings along Penn Avenue. Least important was the reduction of traffic, which was only mentioned by two people.

Danes looked at some of the obstacles facing Garfield, which would be addressed by the neighborhood plan.

"People feel Garfield has a great future."

Chief among them was the fact that Garfield property values are only about half of the city average. In one dramatic example, Danes showed photos of some standard Garfield house types. "The same house in different neighborhoods, like Friendship and East Liberty, costs more," she explained.

Other big issues include the steep slopes of Garfield, which make about 40 percent of the acreage "unbuildable," and a high vacancy rate of 13.9 percent (compared to single-digit rates in neighboring communities). In addition, Garfield's high-visibility

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**DECEMBER
DEADLINE!**

The **FINAL DEADLINE** for the **DECEMBER 2009** issue of The Bulletin is **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2009**. This includes **ALL** classified ads, Bulletin Board announcements, story submissions, and ad space reservations. All content is accepted on a space-available basis. For more information, call 412-441-6915.

PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE REPORT

A Clean Neighborhood Is a Safe Neighborhood

On the frigid Saturday morning of October 17, a

By Kathryn Vargas
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

group of about 50 volunteers hit the streets of Garfield to “redd up” the neighborhood. The effort was led by Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation board member, former board president, and longtime Garfield resident Grady Roberts Jr. Volunteers comprised of community members, Garfield CISP program participants, and students from the University of Pittsburgh Pitt Cares program cleaned up Penn Avenue from Mathilda to I egley, and also took on the side streets.

Despite the raw weather, the volunteers were up for the challenge. Armed with bags, gloves, and vests generously donated by PA Cleanways, they took to the streets, picking up any litter and

debris cluttering the neighborhood. In the end, they collected about 60 bags of litter, leaving Garfield cleaner, safer, and healthier. After their work, the volunteers warmed up with a pizza lunch sponsored by Calabria's Pizzeria, a longtime business located on Penn near Millvale.

“These clean-ups are important to the mission of the Bloomfield-Garfield Public Safety Task Force,” said the BGC’s deputy director, Aggie Brose. “A clean neighborhood is a safe neighborhood. By continuing to keep the streets free of litter in Garfield, we can work toward a safer neighborhood.” The BGC thanks all the businesses, organizations, and individuals who made this fall clean-up a big success.



Photos by Kathryn Vargas/BGC

(TOP) GRADY ROBERTS JR. GAVE THE VOLUNTEERS A PEP TALK BEFORE THE OCTOBER 17 CLEAN-UP; (BOTTOM) STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH’S PITT CARES PROGRAM VOLUNTEERED TO HELP ON GARFIELD’S “REDD UP” DAY.

Neighborhood, from page 1

intersections — for example, the entrance to the neighborhood from the east, at Penn and I egley — “convey the image of decline. People who pass by think that’s all there is to Garfield,” said Danes.

Danes and her team came up with three scenarios, all of which included new and rehabbed housing, a community recreation center, open, green spaces, and a large park at the crest of the hill, near the water tower. The meeting then broke into two groups — based on those who live east of Aiken, and those who live west of it — in which people’s likes and dislikes about the three scenarios were discussed and debated. Danes and her associates made notes about residents’ responses, and will now take the ideas generated at the meeting and create a final plan.

Once the final plan is complete, said Croce, “we will take the plan and develop strategies for how we get there.” The plan will serve as a guide for future development. “If a develop-

er says he wants to build a four-story rental on a certain street, we can point to the plan, which will express the desires of the community.” Once registered with the city, the plan gives the neighborhood leverage with which to rally against unwanted development or exploitation.

About 50 people attended the meeting, voiced their opinions, and filled out surveys about their preferences. “It means a lot to hear from you directly,” concluded Danes. “I went back and forth between the two groups, and I heard lots of consensus.”

“The residents were engaged, and Perkins Eastman will be able to put the finishing touches on the plan based on the ideas that came up,” said Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC. For those who were unable to attend, the preliminary plan is posted on the BGC’s website: www.bloomfield-garfield.org. When the final plan is complete, it will also be available online.

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East Liberty "Graduates" from Operation Weed and Seed

The East Liberty Expanded site (East Liberty, Larimer, and Garfield), a City of Pittsburgh Operation Weed and Seed target area through the administrations of three mayors, recently completed its final year of federal funding. I now designated a "graduated site," the area's community leaders hope to "continue to develop, coordinate, and deliver services that enhance quality of life and improve public safety," as stated in the federal guidelines.

Operation Weed and Seed is a program of the U.S. Department of Justice that aims to prevent, reduce, and control violence, drug abuse, and gang activity in high-crime neighborhoods across the country. In Pittsburgh, the program is a partnership of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, the U.S. Attorney for Western Pennsylvania, and community stakeholders.

"We're all very committed to the sustainability of the program," said Rick Flanagan, Director of Youth Development for Bloomfield-Garfield Organization (BGC), one of the community groups that have been part of the East Liberty Expanded Steering Committee since its inception. Other groups involved include East Liberty Development Inc., Eastside I neighborhood Employment Center (EI EC), East Liberty Concerned Citizens Corporation, the Kingsley Association, and The Union Project, to name a few.

Flanagan ticked off some of the ways in which mini-grants to neighborhood groups of \$5,000 or \$10,000 made an appreciable difference in people's lives in the East End over the years of Weed and Seed funding. "Kids were able to play football because of it," noted Flanagan. "Families became involved in the arts in ways they never had before. Facilities were improved for neighborhood activities. Kids avoided obesity because of exercise programs and equipment." Without a doubt, Flanagan added, "Weed and Seed has had a tremendous impact on thousands of young people and adults in the greater East Liberty area."

BGC Deputy Director Aggie Brose offered examples of neighborhood greening and planting projects, graffiti clean-ups, and the purchase of landscaping equipment that helped give the neighborhoods a facelift. These tangible results, she observed, grew out of the "seeding" part of the initiative, which aims to revitalize neigh-

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

borhoods after criminal elements have been "weeded" out. She further noted that because of Weed and Seed, "there has been a reduction in crimes in our neighborhoods since 1999."

I now the East Liberty Expanded site must move forward on its own, but the foundations for collaboration and sustainability are well in place. "Weed and Seed has been a dynamic force that has encouraged partnerships on projects in the East End," said Flanagan. "After all these years, we're a pretty collaborative group, and it even spills over into non-Weed and Seed projects."

In its final year of funding, the East Liberty steering committee allocated all its funding to the BGC to spearhead a collaborative effort expanding job opportunities in the three neighborhoods. With the theme "Reducing Crime and Stabilizing Communities through Sustainable Job Development, Job Readiness and Entrepreneurial Skill Building Programs for Youth and Adults," the site partners successfully ran a number of trainings, job fairs, and other career events throughout the site area. Events were publicized in three expanded editions of *The Bulletin*.

The jewel in the crown of the strategy for the final year of funding was the Greater East Liberty Job Fair, held in September 2009, which welcomed a record 695 job seekers and 55 employers. Feedback from employers was overwhelmingly positive, and talks are already in the works about a spring job fair.

Another vital piece of this year's jobs collaborative was a Weed and Seed-funded mobile computer lab housed at the shared office on Penn Avenue of EI EC and the BGC's Youth Development Program. "This was a major component of the job training initiative," said Bill Woodward, EI EC Projects Director, "as many job seekers looking for good-paying positions lacked basic computer knowledge to search or even respond to positions available on corporate websites or general employment databases."

Groups within the Weed and Seed geographic limits have expressed interest in having the mobile lab available to them at their site to build on their capacity to help job seekers. And, with the closing of the Carnegie Library branch in East Liberty for renovations, EI EC now offers a schedule of free basic computer literacy



MAYOR LUKE RAVENSTAHL TALKS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF UPMC AT THE OCTOBER 14 "MEDICAL CAREER EXPLORATION FAIR." THE EVENT MARKED THE EAST LIBERTY EXPANDED SITE'S GRADUATION DAY FROM OPERATION WEED AND SEED, AND THE MAYOR PRESENTED A PROCLAMATION TO THE BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD CORPORATION AT THE FAIR.

classes, "the only classes taught in the East End of Pittsburgh for adults," said Woodward – all thanks to Weed and Seed.

Moving forward as a graduated site, plans are underway to bring in a federal Weed and Seed consultant to meet with community leadership and help create an organizational model

for continuing the work of the past decade. The BGC is taking a leadership role in this planning process. "The goal is to be self-directed by member groups," said Flanagan. "We hope to be able to leverage dollars to continue the work by speaking with a common voice to funders."

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The Bulletin

serving Bloomfield, Garfield, East Liberty,
Friendship, and Lawrenceville since 1975



The Bulletin is published by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corp. to:

- serve the incorporated territory of the BGC and surrounding communities
- report on activities and ideas affecting those communities
- offer an opportunity to express opinions and exchange ideas

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Don't forget to visit The Bulletin's blog at www.bgcbulletin.blogspot.com for the latest events and happenings!

EYESORE OF THE MONTH

The property at 5472 Kincaid Street in the City of Pittsburgh 10th Ward was nominated for the "Eyesore Property of the Month." According to the Allegheny County Real Estate website, Carol Strother is the recorded owner, and she acquired the property in 1950 for \$0. The owner also applied for Act 1 (Homeowner Tax Relief), which means that, since the property value of the home is less than \$15,000, the owner does not pay county taxes.

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) staff visited the property and found a jungle of weeds and trees covering the house (see photo at right). The front entrance was boarded up, and all the windows were broken, with curtains flying in the wind. The BGC staff could not find a path to check the back of the house due to the weeds and large trees. The adjacent neighbors have kept their property in very good condition, but have to suffer living next to this blighted house, which has been abandoned for years.

The county's website listed an address for Ms. Strother at 5472 Kincaid, but she has an unlisted phone

number, and BGC staff members were unable to contact her for comment. If anyone knows of her whereabouts or that of her next of kin, please contact the BGC office at 412-441-6950 ext. 15.

The BGC also contacted the Bureau of Building Inspection Record Room, and was informed that the property was condemned and would be scheduled for demolition.

Is the problem solved by demolishing the property? The answer is no, because the lot will still be owned by Carol Strother, and will likely not be taken care of.

The problem of abandoned property is all too common in our community. When a house is left abandoned with no future plans, and there is no way to contact its owner, it becomes very difficult for a developer to acquire the land and turn it into something positive.

If a homeowner is living in the property, it is the homeowner's responsibility to have a will that lays out a future plan for the property. Unfortunately, many abandoned prop-



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

erties are a result of homeowners passing away and failing to designate a family member or other person as caretaker of the property.

If you live near an abandoned property, please do not hesitate to report it to the 311 city non-emergency number. It is our duty as residents to keep a check on those property owners who are not respecting our neighborhood by leaving property blighted and abandoned. By continuing to crack down on irresponsible homeowners, the BGC hopes to be able to rid our community of abandonment and turn those spaces into valuable community resources for redevelopment.

Penn Avenue, from page 1

have input on other pieces of the project, like streetscaping.

Hassett estimated that the construction phase will take 18 months to complete, including a winter shutdown. That time frame encompasses everything from setting up cones to getting final approval for the work from the city. During construction, both traffic and pedestrian access will be maintained along Penn Avenue, with access to storefronts through wooden ramps built from the street to the front doors. Hassett pointed out that during construction, the contractor assumes ownership of the sidewalks and becomes liable for any accidents that occur there.

"Parking is going to be the biggest issue," he admitted, noting that when a

block is undergoing construction, there will be no street parking available. The project manager will work with business owners to shift loading zones during the construction phase. "We pay particular attention to deliveries during construction," Hassett emphasized.

Residents and business owners who want to keep abreast of the plans can visit the project website at <http://www.kimballcorp.com/070661>, where documents related to the engineering study and design phase can be viewed and downloaded. Throughout Phase One, the main contact for business owners will be the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's deputy director, Aggie Brose, who can be reached at 412-441-6950 x15.

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Young Chef Bringing Fine Dining to Penn Avenue

By Rick Swartz

Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.

A new, 78-seat restaurant is coming to the East End, and its owner is bringing an established reputation for fine cuisine to the table. Kevin Sousa, who has cut his teeth with such popular dining spots as the Red Room Café in East Liberty and Kaya in the Strip District, says his place, "Salt of the Earth," will be a no-frills restaurant where customers can enjoy four-star dishes without the four-star prices.

Sousa, at age 34, apparently has a following of his own, as several dinners he has hosted earlier this year in the still-makeshift space sold out quickly. Patrons were able to sample braised veal cheeks with rosemary grits, softshell crab sandwiches, and a whole hog roasted on a spit. He is targeting a spring 2010 opening for his restaurant, which will be situated at 5523 Penn Avenue, less than 100 yards from I egley Avenue.

About a dozen community residents attended an evening meeting at the end of September, and learned that the restaurant's kitchen will be near the front door, so that customers can sit at a counter and

watch the staff prepare dinners. There will also be a mezzanine level toward the rear once renovations to the premises have been completed this winter. The building's owners, Doug Cruze and Liza Wellman, are architects, and are personally overseeing the improvements to what had been a furniture re-upholstery shop for the better part of three decades.

Initially, Sousa plans to be open seven days per week for dinner only, and has applied for the transfer of a liquor license to the site so that diners can enjoy wine and beer with their meals. A parking lot sits next to the building and will provide space for 15 cars. He said he hopes to line up ancillary parking nearby.

"At the end of the day, I want Salt of the Earth to offer food that is not the kind of routine fare that restaurants in Pittsburgh were known for before 1990," Sousa vows. "The last 20 years have seen a blossoming of establishments in the city that want to create an interesting dining experience for their customers. That's what I want to do, but in a simply decorated, unpretentious space."



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

THE BUILDING AT 5523 PENN WILL SOON BE A NEW RESTAURANT CALLED "SALT OF THE EARTH."



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Contributor Choice #260

Since 1976, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation has been a voice for change and improvement in the Bloomfield, Garfield, and Friendship neighborhoods. The BGC's staff, board, and volunteers work to achieve the physical revitalization of the community, improve its economic assets, and invest in the social well-being of its citizens. Please help the BGC to continue to be strong and responsive to our neighborhoods by directing your **United Way gift to Contributor Choice #260**.

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Pittsburgh Job Corps Goes "Green"



Molly Taleb/courtesy PJCC

On October 1, the Pittsburgh Job Corps Center (PJCC) broke ground for a greenhouse that it acquired secondhand from the VA Healthcare System on Highland Drive. The relocation of the greenhouse is phase one of the "Earth Day Every Day" project, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The greenhouse will be a learning lab for several of the PJCC's trade programs, including heavy equipment operators, facilities maintenance, manufacturing, electrician helpers, and culinary arts. Additional phases of the greening project will include creation of a wind turbine, solar panels, a composting system, and a storm water collection and drainage system.

Pictured from left to right above are: Faith Brown, PJCC Facilities Maintenance student; Mark Douglas, PJCC Director; Jan Lauer, 3 Rivers Clean Energy, Mark Lawecki: PJCC Project Coordinator; Stephen Zumbun, Deputy Youth Policy Manager, Office of the Mayor, City of Pittsburgh; John Shea, Penn State University; Brandon Davis, Office of Pa. State Representative Joe Preston; Mikhail Pappas, Policy & Project Liaison, Office of Pa. State Senator Jim Ferlo; and William Leuthold, Program Coordinator, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. In the background are PJCC students who, along with their instructors, will be involved in implementing this project.

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Cookie Tour Returns to Lawrenceville

Lawrenceville merchants will serve up tasty samples of cookies to visitors during the tenth annual "Joy of Cookies" Cookie Tour, to be held Thursday, December 3, through Sunday, December 6.

The "Joy of Cookies" Cookie Tour began in 1997 as a holiday open house at Jay Design Soaps & Gifts. Driven by a spirit of collaboration among the merchants, the event grew to include more than a dozen Lawrenceville merchants, with cookies added in 2000. This year, the Cookie Tour Planning Committee expects more than 3,000 attendees.

Visitors will be able to experience the many independently owned shops, galleries, and boutiques in Lawrenceville that offer a range of unique, eclectic, and handcrafted treasures perfect for gift-giving. The tour offers the "un-mall" experience for discerning shoppers who don't want to settle for unoriginal gifts - extraordinary and rare items to please every age and style, cookie sampling, and eateries that offer great food and a place to relax. While shopping, visitors can nibble on samples of home-baked cookies at 21 different shops and take home free recipes for their own baking. Cookies will be baked by Bernadette Ogurchak of Heaven's Scent Pastries.

The tour takes place on Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. A list of participating businesses and restaurants/coffee shops ("Take-A-Break" stops) can be found at www.lawrenceville-pgh.com.

On Saturday, visitors can catch a trolley that will be cruising the neighborhood from 34th to 55th Streets and the side streets in between. Also on Saturday, visitors can attend a Cookie Mall bake sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Augustine's Church, located on 37th and Butler.



By Amy DiPlacido, M.D.
Bloomfield-Garfield Family
Health Center

There are many things you can do to try to prevent illnesses or to diagnose diseases early on. The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) is one organization that makes recommendations for screening tests for the general public. Here are some examples of health maintenance testing, according to the USPSTF and other groups.

Women should consider the following:

- Cervical cancer screening (pap smear and/or human papillomavirus testing) starting by age 21

- Breast cancer (mammography) screening starting at age 40
- Osteoporosis screening starting around age 60

Also, women of child-bearing age (who plan to have children) should take supplemental folic acid to decrease the risk of neural tube defects like spina bifida in newborns.

Men should consider:

- An abdominal ultrasound in male smokers between ages 65 and 75 to screen for an abdominal aortic aneurysm
- Prostate cancer screening discussion

Both men and women should consider the following:

- Colorectal cancer screening starting at age 50, by colonoscopy or other method
- Periodic blood pressure monitoring
- Cholesterol monitoring
- Screening for the misuse of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs
- Screening for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV
- Regular vision and hearing checks
- Regular dental care
- Weight checks to calculate the body mass index (also known as BMI)
- Depression screening
- Taking a baby aspirin each day (with the okay of your health care provider)

Remember the old saying: an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Fair Focuses on Medical Careers and Training



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

Three hundred and seventy-five people attended the Eastside I neighborhood Employment Center's (EI EC) "Medical Career Exploration Fair" on October 14 at the Kingsley Association in Larimer, funded by the City of Pittsburgh's Operation Weed and Seed. Mayor Luke Ravenstahl stopped in to talk to attendees and recruiters (*see photo, page 3*).

Attendees were able to take part in workshops such as "Health Careers Awareness" and "Barriers to Employment," and to learn how to apply online to available positions at UPMC. Also on hand were recruiters from a variety of UPMC departments, including Senior Care, Presbyterian/Shadyside Hospitals, Temp Services, Health Plan, and Western Psychiatric. Because October was "Dignity and Respect Month," the UPMC reps passed out information, tips, and giveaways to promote the initiative.

Also at the fair were representatives from various local educational programs, such as CCAC, UPMC Nursing Schools, Bidwell Training Center, Goodwill, and the City of Pittsburgh's EMS program. They staffed tables to talk to attendees about getting the proper training for medical careers.

Using laptops from EI EC's mobile computer lab (*see photo above*), attendees were able to get assistance searching for available jobs within the UPMC system. Also available for preview was the East Liberty Employment Databank, an upcoming online technology for area job seekers and employers.

"The long-term view for EI EC in its relationship with UPMC is to understand the future staffing needs of our partner," said Bill Woodward, projects director for EI EC. "We also want to assist our clients in determining how to develop the skill sets needed for tomorrow's jobs with the region's largest employer."

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UPCOMING COMPUTER CLASSES AT EASTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD EMPLOYMENT CENTER

Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) is conducting beginner computer classes at its offices at 5321 Penn Avenue in Garfield. Computer equipment used in these classes has been supplied by the City of Pittsburgh's Operation Weed and Seed. The class schedule in November is as follows:

Tuesdays	Intro to Computers	10 a.m. – Noon
Tuesdays	Intro to Windows	1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Thursdays	Intro to the Internet	10 a.m. - Noon
Thursdays	Intro to Word	1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

To register for a class and to find out about pre-requisites, call ENEC at 412-362-8580 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Maximum class size is 10, so register early! No admittance to class if more than 10 minutes late. Classes are free to Allegheny County residents.

Friendship Poet Wins G-20 Contest

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

*we harvest leaflets
blown like autumn leaves: our hopes
speak truth to power*

With those three lines, Friendship resident and activist Angele Ellis won the Pittsburgh Filmmakers' G-20 haiku contest, a competition designed to showcase poets' responses to the recent global summit in the city. Ellis' elegant 17-syllable poem was displayed on the marquee of downtown's Harris Theater – one of Filmmakers' three theaters – from Sept. 23 to 26.

"I found out about the contest through a post that Filmmakers made on its Facebook page," said Ellis, author of the poetry collection *Arab on Radar*, "and I entered on a lark. I had fallen in love with very short forms of poetry, and had been writing a haiku a day since August." Her interest in the classic Japanese poetry form meshed with her own strong feelings about the G-20 Summit to create the winning entry.

Ellis explained that traditional haiku makes reference to nature and "ties nature to the speaker's frame of

mind," so she chose the image of autumn leaves "as a bow to the masters." The line "speak truth to power," she said, "is an old leftie phrase... I was thinking about my friends protesting the summit."

Sometimes, Ellis noted, haiku's briefness can lend itself to light, humorous poems, but she purposely kept hers more serious. "I added a bit of hopefulness, too... because of my desire to see world change come out of the summit."

Ironically, she did not actually get to view her poem on the marquee because Downtown Pittsburgh was in virtual lockdown during the summit; even "the Harris didn't show any films." But the contest and her win drew some national media attention; the story was covered in the *Wall Street Journal* and on NPR Radio in Boston.

Ellis said she is continuing her practice of writing a haiku a day. "I find it clears my mind in the morning," she said. "Haiku deals with one thought, one image... I of all of mine are good. It's kind of like photography – you have to take many shots before you get a good one. But haiku has made me realize that the act of writing is why I write."



Photo courtesy Pittsburgh Filmmakers

ANGELE ELLIS' HAIKU WAS DISPLAYED ON THE MARQUEE OF THE HARRIS THEATER DOWNTOWN FOR THREE DAYS.

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Give Thanks

On Thanksgiving we are supposed to give thanks.

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and not dwelling on what you don't have.

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many reasons to be thankful for.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



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FDA Rounds Out Two Decades of Community Development

By Sarah DiLeo

Friendship Development Associates

On October 2, as part of "Un-blurred: First Fridays on Penn," Friendship Development Associates (FDA), along with longtime funders, supporters, and community members, celebrated 20 years of hard work and development in Friendship and along Penn Avenue. The birthday party was held in FDA's grandest project to date, the Glass Lofts, with the construction site transformed into a wonderland of art, flowers, and lights.

FDA was established in 1989 following an incident in which a local car dealership purchased a beautiful Victorian home with plans of demolishing the home and creating a car lot. Concerned Friendship residents joined forces to try to stop the demolition. Unfortunately, neighborhood action came too late, and the home was destroyed. But FDA was born. Today, along with its sister organization, Friendship Preservation Group, the two organizations work together on real estate projects, advocacy, zoning, beautification, public safety,

youth, families, and education to continue to make Friendship a great place to live.

FDA has been widely successful in its real estate endeavors over the past 20 years. It has leveraged more than \$15 million in private homeowner investment and has been instrumental in the success of the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh's Housing Recovery Program (HRP). FDA has constructed 142 housing units, ranging from very low to moderate target categories, and has renovated and/or developed 68,000 square feet of commercial space. The group has been recognized both nationally and locally for its successes, including the receipt of a Fannie Mae Foundation Maxwell Award for Excellence in the category for homeownership for the Clarendon Place development in 2003.

In 1995, FDA partnered with Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) to create the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative (PAAI), a strategy to revitalize Penn Avenue by utilizing the arts. Since the creation of PAAI, the vacancy rate has decreased from

78% to 21.1%; PAAI has converted nearly 150,000 square feet of vacant property into artist live/work space, attracted nearly \$56.5 million in investment along the Avenue, and disbursed \$230,000 through the Artist Loan and Grant Fund.

The anniversary celebration included refreshments from East End Brewing, wine donated by Friendship community members, and a delicious spread of food donated by Whole Foods Market. Music from 1989, the year FDA was created, filled the air while neighbors mingled.

A short ceremony featured an array of speakers, including Councilman Patrick Dowd, who earlier in the week issued a proclamation in collaboration with Councilman Bill Peduto proclaiming October 2 as Friendship Development Associates Day in the City of Pittsburgh.

The party continued with flame-working demonstrations by the Pittsburgh Glass Center, and Jamal Krolowitz of TWEED clothing silk-screened one-of-a-kind T-shirts on site at the event. A silent auction fea-



Matt Hannigan

THE GLASS LOFTS CONSTRUCTION SITE TWINKLED FOR FDA'S 20TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

tured artwork from several Penn Avenue artists and gift certificates from some of the best hot spots in Pittsburgh.

More than 200 guests joined FDA for the celebration, and the evening proved to be a night to remember.



What Does Your Child Think About Movies?

The RAND Corporation in Pittsburgh is conducting a research study to learn about what children (ages 11-14) think about movies. Participation requires two 90 minute visits to the RAND offices. Children who complete the study will be compensated for their time and effort with up to \$40 in gift certificates. Parking and travel compensation will be provided. If you are interested and want to learn more about the study please call: 412-683-2300, ext. x4444.

The Rand Corporation is a non-profit institution that helps improve policy and decision making through research and analysis.



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THE BULLETIN BOARD

The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, announcements, fundraising events, and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Send announcements to Bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org or mail to The Bulletin, 5149 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224, by the 15th of each month. We do not accept listings on the phone. Information is published on a space-available basis.

FREE FLU SHOTS

Guard against the agonizing symptoms of the flu by getting a flu shot early (not swine flu). Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health Center is offering a **free flu shot** to area residents 65 and older; \$15 charge for those under 65 who do not have a chronic health condition. Children under 18 will not be vaccinated. No appointment necessary; just come to the health center at 5475 Penn Avenue on Thursday, Nov. 5, from 9 a.m. to noon, or Thursday, Nov. 17, from 4 to 6 p.m. Call 412-361-7562 for more info.

CONCERTS AT ELPC

Don't miss these upcoming **musical events** at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland Ave.: "An Evening of Transcriptions," with Jon Tyillian, organist, Monday, Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m.; "Wednesdays in Advent," Dec. 2, 9, 16 at noon; "Children's Festival Chorus," Sunday, Dec. 13 at 4 p.m. Call for more info: 412-441-3800.

TREES AVAILABLE IN EAST LIBERTY

East Liberty between Egley and Highland, and Stanton and Rural is a designated Elm Street District. Through the state-funded Elm Street Program, we have **free trees** available for the residents living in the designated area. If you would like to have a tree planted in your front yard or sidewalk, please contact Erin Stacy at 412-361-8061 x 20 or erin.stacy@eastliberty.org. There are a limited number of trees, and all plantings are subject to a professional site assessment. Also, a TreeVitalize planting

will happen this fall along Stanton Avenue. We need volunteers! Come out on November 7 to help plant 55 trees along Stanton and adjoining streets. Meet 9 a.m. at 5635 Stanton Ave (the corner of Mellon and Stanton). We will provide tools, snacks, lunch, water, and the trees. Please wear long pants and sturdy shoes, and come dressed for the weather! If you are interested in **helping to plant trees** or want to pass flyers out about the event, please contact erin.stacy@eastliberty.org with your subject line titled "Tree Volunteer."

"BEHIND THE CURTAIN" AT DAT

Friendship's only destination for dance works, **Dance Alloy Theater**, has a month full of exciting events leading up to its mainstage performance in December. First up is the organization's signature "Behind the Curtain" series, voted one of the Best Cultural Buys in the City. For only \$5, come be part of an informal studio showing of works by this season's two guest choreographers, Pearlann Porter and Gwen Ritchie. The evening includes wine, cheese, and conversation. On November 20 and 21, DAT presents "Alloy on Alloy," featuring world premieres of Dance Alloy's own company dancers' works. Admission is \$10. All events begin at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30), and take place at DAT's state-of-the-art home studios at 5530 Penn Ave (corner of Penn & Stratford).

LECTURE HONORS MISSIONARY NUN

On Sunday, November 29, at 9:30 a.m., in St. Augustine Social Hall of Our Lady of the Angels Parish (220 37th Street in Lawrenceville), Sr. Rosaire Kopczenski will speak on the life of Sr. Marianne Cope, a Franciscan nun and **early Hawaiian missionary** who cared for patients with leprosy. A renowned artist and member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mount Alvernia in Millvale, Sr. Rosaire recently won a competition for designing a statue honoring Sr. Marianne Cope. The statue will grace a Hawaiian harbor and will be the first major monument honoring the life of this extraordinary woman. The event is open to the public; no reservations required. The parish's Holy Name Society will serve a complimentary continental breakfast.

SPEND A NIGHT WITH ELVIS

Put on your blue suede shoes and spend the evening with Elvis! Our Lady of the Angels Parish presents **Elvis impersonator** Randy Galioto for a night of song, food, and fun. Saturday, November 7, at St. Augustine Social Hall, 220 37th Street, Lawrenceville. Doors open at 7:15 p.m.; show starts at 8. Tickets are \$10 in advance (available at the OLA Parish Office or by calling 412-651-2423), \$12 at the door. Admission includes hors d'oeuvres, beer, soda, and a chance at door prizes (feel free to bring your own beverages or snacks). There will also be a Chinese auction, a 50/50 raffle, and other chances to win!

LHS LOOKS AT CML WAR MAPMAKER

Lawrenceville Historical Society's lecture series continues in November with a look at the paintings and memoirs of Pvt. Robert Knox Sneden. Bob Gorczyca will examine the artwork and memoirs compiled by Sneden during the four years that he served in the Army of the Potomac as a mapmaker. The Virginia Historical

Society, which owns his work, characterizes it as the most important **collection of Civil War materials**. The Society has published two books illustrating his work. The event, which takes place on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m., is free and takes place at Canterbury Place, McVay Auditorium (1st Floor), 310 Fisk Street, Lawrenceville. For more information e-mail info@LHS15201.org.

BAKERS WANTED!

Lawrenceville Rotary is once again running the **Cookie Mall** as part of The Joy of Cookies Tour. The community-wide bake sale will be held on Saturday, December 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Augustine's Hall, 37th & Butler Streets. We want it to be even bigger and better than last year so we need more non-profits to sign up, bake, and sell. Contact Don Reed at aikidokapa@verizon.net (preferred) or 412-782-6474.

FDA WANTS BOARD MEMBERS

Friendship Development Associates is looking for **board members** for service in 2010. If you are interested in contributing to your community and

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Preschool Storytime

Ages 3 to 5; Thursdays, Nov. 5, 12, 19, 10:30 a.m.

Adult Book Discussion

Monday, November 9, 5 p.m.

Mrs. Kimble, by Jennifer Haigen

Baby/Toddler Storytime

Ages birth to 3; Saturdays, November 7, 14, 21, 28, at 11 a.m.

The Family Playshop

Ages 6 months to 3 years with parent; Tuesdays, November 3, 10, 17, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required.

Family Fun Event: Give Thanks

Children 3 to 9 and their families; Saturday, November 21, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

East Liberty Branch Events @ Borders EastSide

Storytime

Ages 3 to 5. Wednesdays, November 4, 18, 10:30 a.m.

Family Storytime: Give Thanks

Saturday, November 21, 2 p.m. Please join the East Liberty Children's Librarian at Borders/EastSide for stories and activities.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Main PC Center

4400 Forbes Avenue
<http://www.carnegielibrary.org/locations/pccenter/main/>

For more information about all our free computer classes, call the PC Center-Main Library at 412-578-2561.

making a difference in your neighborhood, board membership may be just the thing for you. We are particularly looking for people with backgrounds in finance, law, architecture, real estate development, art, and small business. If you are interested, please contact Thresa Joyce by December 1st at tajoyce13@comcast.net for more information. To find out more about FDA, please visit our website at friendship-pgh.org.

GARFIELD HEIGHTS RENTALS

Garfield Heights Townhomes is accepting applications. Interested applicants can contact Janice White, Property Manager, at 412-661-0416, Monday-Friday between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Call today to get more information; we look forward to hearing from you. Garfield Heights is an Equal Housing Opportunity Provider. Some Income restrictions apply.

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ALL TEXT ADS are \$5 for 15 words, and 10 cents for each additional word. We **DO NOT** run personal ads.

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The Penn Avenue Arts District (4500-5500 blocks) is the destination to get unique, **handcrafted gifts** by talented local artists! Shop Penn Avenue on November 6 and December 4, during "Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn." For a complete schedule of gallery openings and events visit www.pennavenuearts.org or pick up a handbill/map at participating locations.

NEW BETHEL EVENTS

New Bethel Baptist Church, 221 43rd Street, celebrates **Women's Month** with a Prayer and Praise breakfast, Sat., Nov. 7, at 9:30 a.m. The annual celebration of women's service is Sun., Nov. 15: guest messenger, Pastor Diane Hobson, Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, 10:45 a.m.; Rev. June Jeffries preaching at 3:30 p.m. Thanksgiving service will be held Mon., Nov. 23, at 6 p.m., with a community dinner served on Tue., Nov. 24, at 6:30 p.m. All welcome!



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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship..... 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday Prayer 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday Evening Bible Band .. 7:30 p.m.
Friday Evening-YPWW (Young
People Willing Workers).. 6:00 p.m.
Friday Evening Evangelistic Service
7:00 p.m.

"For with God all things are possible." Mark 10:27

WEST PENN REHABILITATION SERVICES



The Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit at West Penn Hospital is a 51-bed unit specially designed to assist patients in achieving their maximum functional abilities in living skills, mobility and communication. Under the direction of Barbara Swan, MD, the Unit is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and is staffed by highly trained and qualified specialists in the field of Rehabilitation.

These specialists utilize a comprehensive, multidisciplinary team approach and develop care plans to address the individual needs of each unique patient. Features of this state-of-the-art unit include an ambulation hall for gait-training; a multi-use space equipped with Nintendo Wii for recreation and therapy; simulated living space with a fully equipped kitchen, bathroom and bedroom; private rooms; bariatric equipment; and more.

For more information about rehab services at West Penn Hospital, please visit www.wpahs.org or call

1-877-284-2000.



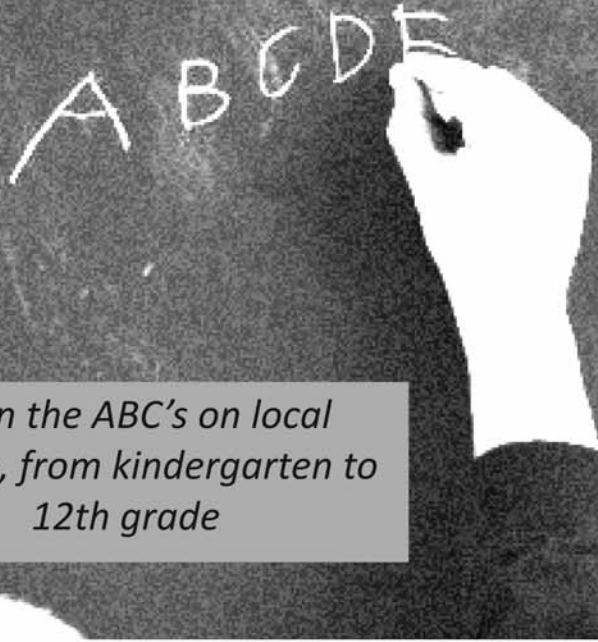
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Deadlines to apply to schools for the 2010-2011 academic year are approaching! If you don't choose a school for your child, one will be chosen for you... and it might not be the best fit. Come meet representatives from local schools (public, private, parochial, and charter) to discuss such topics as the mission of their schools, diversity of faculty and students, classroom size, school safety, after-school programs, transportation issues, and financial aid.

**Tuesday, November 10, 2009, 4 to 6 p.m.
St. Lawrence O'Toole Activity Center
140 N. Atlantic Avenue (just off Penn)**



Schools participating so far:

The Campus School at Carlow University
Career Connections Charter High School
Central Catholic High School
City Charter High School
The Ellis School
Imagine Environmental Charter School
Manchester Academic Charter School
The Neighborhood Academy
Oakland Catholic High School
The Oakland School

The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School
Pittsburgh Allderdice High School
Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5
Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8
Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12
Pittsburgh Ft. Pitt ALA
Pittsburgh International Baccalaureate 6-10
Pittsburgh Langley High School
Pittsburgh Miller African Centered Academy
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