



The Bulletin

A Publication of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

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Volume 34, No. 10 Serving Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty and Lawrenceville since 1975 October 2009

Sales of New Homes in Garfield Moving Well

ONE OF THE HOUSES
UNDER CONSTRUCTION
(BUT ALREADY SOLD!)
BY THE BGC AND
GARFIELD JUBILEE.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

By Joe Reuben
The Bulletin

Even in a difficult economic environment, people are stepping up to buy the new homes that the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation is building in Garfield, in partnership

with Garfield Jubilee Association, according to Richard Swartz, BGC's executive director. As of mid-September, Swartz said 3 of the 7 new homes are under agreement, and the construction work is not yet finished.

"We're fortunate to have buyers coming from communities like

Garfield and Wilkinsburg who like the deal we're offering," Swartz informed *The Bulletin*. "While the sales prices (\$137,500) would seem high at first glance, buyers can take advantage of some deferred-payment financing from the city's Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) that can bring their monthly payment within range of rents being charged today for 3-bedroom houses in our area."

Swartz said that the U.R.A. loan, which is in addition to the bank loan that buyers still need, comes at a zero-percent rate of interest. As long as the buyer remains the occupant of the home, no monthly payment is required on the principal amount of the loan, commonly known as a "deferred-payment" feature. If and when the homeowner does sell the

house at some future date, the URA will settle up with the owner on the amount originally borrowed, even if it means forgiving a portion of it because there are not enough proceeds from the sale to repay it, Swartz stated.

"To qualify as a buyer, we feel a person should have monthly income of at least \$3,000, be able to put at least \$2,500 from their own pocket towards the purchase requirements, and have a good credit history," Swartz advised. "We also want to be careful that they're not carrying too much in the way of installment debt, such as a large car loan payment."

Another bonus is the commitment by the federal government to award an \$8,000 tax credit to persons who

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PNC and BGC Announce Six-Year Collaboration

At a rainy September 8 ceremony, with a string of new, affordable houses on North Winebiddle as backdrop, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) announced the extension of its 25-year partnership with PNC Bank. With \$600,000 from PNC over the next six years, the BGC will continue to tackle neighborhood blight, increase homeownership and rental opportunities for low-income residents, and provide educational and employment opportunities for young people and adults.

"It's no small thing for PNC to ally itself with a community organization," said BGC executive director Rick Swartz. He praised PNC's effort

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

"to make sure that communities like ours remain relevant."

"You just don't hear about banks in other parts of the country in partnership with community organizations," Swartz said. Groups, he noted, generally "have to rely on the government and a little on foundations, and the rest falls to the community." Even more unusual, he said, was that PNC's support comes with no micromanagement strings attached: "We have the freedom to be advocates."

David Hopkins, PNC's market manager for community development banking in Western Pennsylvania and

cont. page 12



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

RICK SWARTZ OF THE BGC (AT PODIUM) AND DAVID HOPKINS OF PNC BANK ANNOUNCED THE MULTI-YEAR PARTNERSHIP IN FRONT OF NEW HOMES IN GARFIELD.

**NOVEMBER
DEADLINE!**

The **FINAL DEADLINE** for the **NOVEMBER 2009** issue of *The Bulletin* is **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 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

Area Thefts on the Rise

Learn How to Keep Your Property Safe

The Zone 5 arrest report for August (the September report is still in the making at press time), makes it clear that drugs and prostitution are still crimes all too common in our area. However, the crime that is currently on the rise is theft - theft from residences, businesses, autos, and persons. Perhaps it is a sign of our economic times. What is certain is that there are steps we can all take to minimize our theft potential.

- Be aware of your surroundings, particularly when walking alone. Better to seem a little paranoid than be a victim! Some of these thefts are in broad daylight, so please do not zone out just because the sun is shining.
- Alert others to suspicious activity. "Others" can mean neighbors, passersby, the police - whatever is appropriate for the situation.
- Do not store potentially enticing items in view in your car. Your dirty lunch containers may be all that is in your bag, but a thief won't know that until your window is smashed and your bag is gone. GPS units and iPods are theft magnets, as is evidence that you have them. Store the holders and

accompaniments out of sight, otherwise they may entice a thief to break in hoping that the item is stashed in your glove compartment, under the seat, etc. Even if you're parked on a busy street, practiced thieves can easily smash windows and grab items from your vehicle.

- Park your car in a visible, well-lit area if possible.
- Lock those windows and doors, even on upper floors. Recently some thefts have occurred where the perpetrators entered through unlocked second-floor windows.

This list is far from comprehensive, but hopefully will spark some thinking on your part about how to theft-proof yourself and your property.

Youth Curfew Center Opens

Police Ready to Enforce City Ordinance

After months of planning and preparation, the Youth Curfew Center officially opened its doors on Friday, September 4. Three Rivers Youth, an organization with over a century of experience helping at-risk youth in the region, is running the center.

According to Peggy Harris, President and CEO of Three Rivers Youth, the initial focus is the outreach component, which is a critical part of Three Rivers Youth's work with youth and families. Outreach includes a community education program to build support and to ensure that the community is clear about the ordinance and what services the Curfew Center will provide. Outreach also entails building partnerships as part of the continuum of services, and a strong referral base. Three Rivers Youth will seek out

organizations and individuals to inform them about the curfew center ordinance and what they can do to support a safe and healthy community. The outreach will include mailings and direct contact through presentations and meetings.

Pittsburgh Bureau of Police indicated it was enforcing the curfew ordinance as of September 14. The number of actual clients brought to the center will depend on how aggressive the police are about enforcing the curfew. Three Rivers Youth "are not going to just wait for kids to show up," says Harris. Part of the outreach will be to youth so they can avoid curfew center appearances.

Any resident or organization that would like to get more information on the Curfew Center should contact Three Rivers Youth at 412-441-5020.

PENN AVENUE BUSINESS OWNERS' MEETING

Calling all business owners along Penn Avenue, from Mathilda to Evaline! Learn how the infrastructure revitalization coming in 2011 will affect businesses along the corridor. Come to one of two meetings to be held on **Thursday, October 1**, the first at 8 a.m. and another at 6 p.m., at the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Avenue (at Dearborn). Business owners can choose the meeting that best suits their schedules; there is no need to attend both. At the meetings, a business owners' task force will be created to deal with concerns and issues as the revitalization plan progresses. Call Aggie Brose at 412-441-6950 x 15 for more information.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Library Needs Support

Dear Editor:

When my husband and I bought our house in Lawrenceville in 1997, it was within walking distance of a pool, a supermarket, and a public library.

Today, the pool is closed, the supermarket is gone, and the Lawrenceville Branch Library is in danger of closing.

Facing severe budget shortfalls, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh may have to make very hard choices. The Lawrenceville branch is the only library in the East End that has not been renovated, so if branches have to be closed, Lawrenceville seems especially vulnerable.

I don't have to tell you how devastating it would be for the community to lose our library. Not only would we lose access to books, computers, CDs, DVDs, and library activities, but our

property values would suffer. Good neighborhoods need libraries.

How can students fulfill their end of the Pittsburgh Promise without library resources - especially during the summer?

Let's do everything we can to keep a library in Lawrenceville. I joined the Friends of the Lawrenceville Branch Library, and I encourage everyone who cares about the library to do the same. You can contact them at 412-682-3668.

Rebecca O'Connell

In Praise of "Voting"

Dear Editor:

I saw Gloria Forouzan's article ("Voting's the Ticket to Making Your Voice Heard," *The Bulletin*, Sept. 2009) and thought it was a great idea to publish it. I hope you will publish more from Gloria - she knows *tons* of

stuff about politics and is a great person to write about it for the masses.

Laura Staniland

Dear Editor:

Thank you for the article in the September issue of the newspaper concerning voting, written by Gloria Forouzan. As a member and officer in VoteAllegheny, I have bookmarked the issue to help with educating young persons concisely how elections work.

Of course, the rest of the newsletter always duly appreciated as well.

Audrey N. Glickman

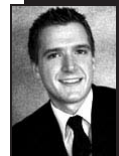
Dear Editor:

As a former *Bulletin* advisory committee member, I still look forward to the arrival of each issue. And the

September issue held an article about voting that caught my attention. I think this sort of information is good to include and helpful for readers of all ages.

Anne Davis

As a resident and investor in Lawrenceville, I'm ready to help you with your real estate needs today!



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East End Job Fair Draws Huge Crowd, Many Employers

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Seven hundred people crowded the meeting halls of Eastminster Presbyterian Church in the late afternoon on September 9 for the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center's second annual "Greater East Liberty Job Fair." Attendance was up almost 20 percent from last year, possibly reflecting the downturn in the economy.

Fifty-five local employers, ranging from banks and universities to retail establishments like Giant Eagle to small businesses, staffed tables free of charge looking for new employees and taking applications on-site. Helen L. Winston, Monroeville branch administrator for Parkvale Bank, marveled that "so many people" had come through the doors. Like other employers, Parkvale used the job fair as an opportunity to undertake a "pre-screening process," said Winston, who was looking for full-time and part-time tellers.

And that was a good thing for applicants like Andrew Blackwell of Larimer, who told The Bulletin that his "main goal is to get into banking." Blackwell had once done physical labor, but, after an accident, he

retrained and got an associate's degree in business management at CCAC. He attended the job fair because he is "looking to get back into the workforce."

Some employers said they took a table at the event because they had a good experience at last year's fair, or with the ENEC and BGC's 2009 summer youth employment program. "The BGC really helped us," said Aisha O'Neal, owner of Aisha's Beauty Salon on Penn Avenue. She said that the summer intern assigned to her salon, Erica Wofford, worked out so well that she offered her a permanent position. "It was a great experience," Wofford said of her internship. The salon came to the event looking for licensed stylists and barbers.

Feedback from employers was overwhelmingly positive. "They said the event was such a success that ENEC should also have a Spring Job Fair, and they would be willing to pay for their tables to make this a sustainable community activity," said ENEC Projects Director Bill Woodward. "Great thanks to the City of Pittsburgh's Operation Weed & Seed for helping this successful economic development function get started."

Also offered this year was a work-



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

ALMOST 700 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE GREATER EAST LIBERTY JOB FAIR IN SEPTEMBER.

shop for people "with barriers to employment," said Woodward. Conducted by Corina Phillips, director of Career & Development Center East, the goal was "to help people understand and maneuver around those barriers in order to find employment," Woodward explained. Some of the barriers addressed were having ex-offender status, being out of the workplace for a while, changing careers, or having personal family problems. The workshop was offered twice during the fair, and about 30 people attended.

The ENEC fair was organized through the partnership efforts of

Wireless Neighborhoods, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, City of Pittsburgh's DiverCity 365, Career and Workforce Development Center East, Community LEARNS, East Liberty Development Inc., Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh Career Link, Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, Pittsburgh Partnership, PA Careerlink, YouthLINK, and City of Pittsburgh's Operation Weed and Seed, which is a partnership of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, the U.S. Attorney for Western Pennsylvania, and community stakeholders in designated Weed and Seed sites.

FALL "REDD UP" DAY

Help to "fall clean" Penn Avenue and surrounding streets! As part of the citywide "Redd Up" events during the last weekend in October, a community clean-up is planned for Saturday, October 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Come to the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center, corner of Dearborn Street and N. Pacific Avenue. Volunteers are needed to help remove litter. Gloves and bags will be provided, as well as a light breakfast and lunch. Please RSVP to 412-441-6950 x 17 so that we can be sure to have enough supplies and food.

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The Bulletin

serving Bloomfield, Garfield, East Liberty,
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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

October 2009 • Vol. 34, No. 10

Total circulation:

20,000 copies
16,700 mailed
3,300 dropped

Editorial and Advertising Offices:

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Distribution: Garfield CISP

The opinions expressed herein are
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We Would Like to Acknowledge
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BGC's funding partners, including
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Neighborhood Development,
The United Way, National City Bank,
Allegheny Valley Bank, Dollar Bank,
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Don't forget to visit The
Bulletin's blog at
www.bgcbulletin.blogspot.com
for the latest events
and happenings!

ER Visits Increase at Halloween Tips to Keep Children Safe and Healthy

By Jennifer Middleton, MD, MPH
and Amy DiPlacido, MD
Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health
Center

Fall is here, and it's almost Halloween. Trick-or-treating is a tradition that gives most kids fun memories for a lifetime. Every Halloween, though, hospital emergency departments see trick-or-treaters who choke on treats, get stomach aches from too much candy, and are injured by falls and cars. Here are some simple but important safety tips that parents and community members should all be aware of to help keep kids safe.

Costume safety:

- Kids' costumes should allow for free movement, so that they can move easily and quickly to avoid sidewalk and street hazards. Make sure your child can walk and jump easily in his/her costume.
- Kids need to be able to see clearly if they are wearing a mask. If using a purchased store costume, make sure that the eye holes are large enough that your child can see to the sides and below as well as straight ahead.
- Reflective strips that stick to costumes are available to make it easier for drivers to see your children in the dark. Glow sticks also increase your children's visibility.

Trick-or-treating safety:

- Even older children should have an

adult following them as they trick-or-treat. Adults can keep an eye out for safety issues (cars, strangers, etc.) while the children focus on having fun.

- Trick-or-treat only in neighborhoods where it is safe to walk after dark.
- Do not approach houses where the lights are off.
- Children should not eat any treats until they get home so that their parents can check them.

Community members:

- Drive with extra care during trick-or-treat night. Excited children may not be thinking about traffic laws and about safety crossing streets.
- If you are handing out treats, have your house well lit from the inside and turn your porch light on.
- Consider handing out healthier alternatives to candy. Dried fruit can now be bought in single-serving pouches in many grocery stores; granola bars are another healthier treat. Children can enjoy little games or toys (small deck of cards, yo-yos, etc.) for far longer than just Halloween night; just make sure there are no small parts that young children can swallow or choke on.

Parents:

- If your child is trick-or-treating with other children, make sure that you know the children's families and that a responsible adult is going with them.



- Check all treats immediately after your children come home. Throw away any treats with damaged wrappers or that appear different than usual.
- Children under the age of 6 should not be given nuts or hard candies because of the risk of choking.
- Limit the amount of candy children eat at one time to avoid upset stomachs and constipation. Candy should be a rare treat in a regular, well-balanced diet. It's okay to store Halloween candy for a couple of months in the refrigerator so that kids eat it slowly.
- If your child is being treated for overweight by his/her family doctor or pediatrician, talk with your doctor before Halloween about how many treats are okay for your child to eat.
- Make sure children brush their teeth thoroughly after eating candy, as well as every morning and again before bed.

Keeping these points in mind, your children – and the community's children – will have a safe and healthy Halloween!

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BGC Annual Luncheon Will Honor Two Distinguished Community Advocates

On Friday, November 6, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) will host its annual fundraising luncheon at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association (PAA) in Oakland. The theme of this year's event is "Advocate," which refers to a supporter or defender, a person who argues for a cause. The "advocates" honored at the luncheon for their staunch support of East End communities will be Henry S. Beukema, executive director of the McCune Foundation and the Pitcairn-Crabbe Foundation, and State Senator Jim Ferlo.

A grantmaker in western Pennsylvania for the past 29 years, Beukema has headed up the McCune Foundation for 17 of those years. With assets of approximately \$350 million, McCune will make grants of approximately \$20 million in 2009. About 80 percent of those grants will be made in southwestern Pennsylvania, with program emphasis on pri-

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

vate education, health and social services, the humanities, and civic affairs, including regional and economic development.

"We are honored to have Hank Beukema as our featured speaker this year," said Rick Swartz, executive director of the BGC. "If you've heard stories about neighborhoods that have 'turned the corner' or 'reinvented themselves,' know that at some point the McCune Foundation was involved in their rebirth."

State Senator Jim Ferlo is a Democrat from Highland Park, representing the 38th State Senate District. Among his many accomplishments, Sen. Ferlo has been an active proponent of community and economic development programs such as Main Street, Elm Street, and those providing resources to community-based urban renewal. The senator is also board treasurer of the city's Urban Redevelopment Authority.

The event, which runs from 11:30

a.m. to 2 p.m., will be emceed by P.J. Maloney, a KQV newscaster and a member of the BGC's board of directors. The PAA will serve a three-course luncheon, with a choice of a chicken or vegetarian entrée; individual tickets are available for \$55. For more information or to purchase a ticket, call Aggie Brose, the BGC's deputy director, at 412-441-6950 x 15.

FREE COMPUTER CLASSES

Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center is conducting beginner computer classes that were previously offered at the East Liberty branch of Carnegie Library: "Intro to Computers," "Intro to Windows," "Intro to Email and the Internet," and "Intro to Word." Call 412-362-8580 for class days and times and to register. Hurry - maximum of 10 students per class!



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- * **ATTEND WORKSHOPS**
Health Careers Awareness, How to Apply Online, UPMC Center for Inclusion
- * **GAIN ACCESS TO TRAINING PROGRAMS**
JobLinks, CCAC, UPMC Nursing Schools, Bidwell, Goodwill
- * **MEET RECRUITERS**
...and apply online at fair!

For more information please call ENEC at 412-362-8580

Operation Weed and Seed is a partnership of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, the U.S. Attorney for Western Pennsylvania, and community stakeholders in federally designated Weed and Seed Sites



Energy Conservation Improvements Help Homeowners Save Money

By John Horchner

Friendship Preservation Group

Regardless of your position on the global warming issue, there is one thing we can all agree on: wanting to power our homes cheaply, and to find additional ways to save on our electric or gas bills.

In an attempt to do just that, the Pennsylvania legislature passed Act 129 in the fall of 2008 to require all the state's electric power companies to draft proposals for energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C) programs by Jan. 15, 2009. The thinking was that the cost savings from spending on energy conservation of businesses and homes comes cheaper than all other forms of power generation, including what some in the state always claim is the cheapest option: burning more coal.

If the utility companies take Act 129 seriously, and it appears that they

have (most are scrambling right now to implement programs), we in the residential sector will soon be enjoying a new round of rebates and a wider variety of program options for energy conservation in our homes and schools.

In its initial filing with the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission, Duquesne Light mentions "a low income program, a residential rebate program, a residential and schools educational program and a refrigerator recycling program..." with about 25 million dollars in funding towards these programs, including 10 million in residential rebates, which could cover up to a third of the cost of energy-efficient products for the home, from programmable thermostats to Energy Star-rated fridges.

Even without these incentives from the utilities, home energy performance work done before Dec. 31, 2010, will earn tax credits from the federal

government of 30% of the cost, up to \$1,500 per year. (So if you spend \$4,500 on Energy Star-rated home insulation or windows, you would get back \$1,500.)

Given this fact, or perhaps more importantly, since winter is on the way, is now the time to act and make your home more energy-efficient? Yes, because in the long run, greater energy efficiency will be your least-cost option, according to the experts.

But don't run out for new windows or even insulation just yet, or even make a giant list of necessary improvements, before taking a whole-house approach, according to the experts, including the folks running the government's EPA's Energy Star programs (www.energystar.gov).

They suggest having a professional do a home energy audit. A professional will, according to a January 2009 brochure, "often use equipment such as blower doors, which measure the extent of leaks in the building envelope, and infrared cameras, which reveal hard-to-detect areas of air infiltration and missing insulation."

A professional will have additional training and certification from organizations such as RESNET and BPI (Building Performance Institute - www.bpi.org), and when they are done with their three- to five-hour assessment, will help you decide what are the most important investments to make, from light bulbs to where to put more insulation.

Conservation Consultants on the South Side has been working with utilities and non-profits for the past 30 years on weatherization programs for



homes, and is now capable of doing such audits by trained and certified staff for around \$400 (for a limited time, you might even get a rebate on this). For more information, Conservation Consultants can be reached at 412-431-4449. Basic questions can also be answered by a quick perusal of their website: www.getenergysmarter.com.

It is hoped that the marketplace of certified Energy Star Home Performance Professionals will grow further, especially once all the new rebates from our utilities hit. After professionals helps homeowners determine their best course of action with a home energy audit, there are low-interest loans available in the state through the Keystone Help Home Energy Program (www.keystonehelp.com).

Added up, the savings you achieve, potential rebates from the government and utilities, and low-interest loans for Energy Star products should outweigh the costs. Further, making these changes is good for the environment.

If you live in Friendship, where homes tend to be large, there is a great opportunity to save on energy; but any size of home can realize savings. Please e-mail communications@friendship-pgh.org with any thoughts, experiences, or expertise you may have on the home energy front that you are willing to share with others in the neighborhood.

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Vote Smart: How to Learn About Candidates Before Election Day

By Gloria Forouzan
Bulletin Contributor

These days, there is a lot of information available on candidates for political office. Please keep in mind that most information sources generously baste their opinions with their particular point of view. Keep the old saying, "You're only as good as the company you keep," in mind during your research. Remember, too, that what's not said is sometimes as important as what is said.

There are four main ways to gain information on candidates:

1. The candidates and their campaigns

Candidates and their websites and staff provide some information. Some are also using Facebook and Twitter to spread the word.

Pittsburgh's 2009 mayoral candidates' information is available through these sources:

Kevin Acklin: 412-481-3150 and www.acklinforpittsburgh.com
Franco "Dok" Harris: 412-620-8823 and www.harrisforpittsburgh.com
Luke Ravenstahl: 412-288-6086 and www.lukeformayor.com

2. Debates, forums, and meet-&-greet events

In Pittsburgh's local elections, most candidate forums occur during the spring primary season. Typically, pro-

fessional organizations, issues-oriented groups, unions, and community organizations hold forums and debates.

During both election cycles, opportunities to meet candidates in a social setting are sponsored by groups such as Progress Pittsburgh and Green Drinks.

3. Endorsements and candidate questionnaires

Some groups endorse races in specific governmental arenas: federal, state, or local government. Organizations' recommendations generally aren't objective. After all, it would be surprising if the Sierra Club endorsed a candidate who was pro-strip mining, or if the Libertarian Party endorsed a candidate who believed in big government.

Although they don't endorse, the League of Women Voters, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization, provides an excellent, comprehensive Voters' Guides for local elections. Information is available at www.palwv.org/pittsburgh or by calling 412-261-4284.

Political parties' local chapters endorse candidates, (see last month's issue of *The Bulletin* for contact information). Several Pittsburgh unions make endorsements, including the Firefighters and the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers.

Bike Pittsburgh, Planned Parenthood, Just Harvest, and other

community groups publicize candidates' responses to their organizations' questionnaires.

The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and *City Paper* publish voters' guides, which are available in print and on their websites. The *Post-Gazette* also endorses candidates.

Is it just me, or does it seem like there's been an explosion of judicial candidates and races this year? The Allegheny County Bar Association offers its nonpartisan recommendations on judicial candidates at its website: www.acba.org.

4. Take the bull by the horns

You can also contact candidates directly. Invite them to your home for a meeting with neighbors or to your block watch, or ask neighborhood event organizers if candidates are welcome to drop in and talk with voters.

Do your own research – check candidates' voting records online and in newspapers. See if first-time candidates have been involved in activities such as boards, organizations, and community efforts (for example, clean-ups or tree plantings), or if they've fund-raised on behalf of a cause.

If very little information turns up on a particular candidate, that, too, tells you something.

A word on protecting your vote

While paranoia at the polls is not warranted, being prepared to protect your vote is.

Politicking – that is, handing out any type of campaign material – isn't allowed in the polling area; it must take place at least 10 feet from its entrance. Only authorized election officials (inspectors and poll watchers) and voters are allowed in the polling area. No one may enter the voting booth with a voter unless the voter's card is marked "assistance required."

If you experience problems at the polls, call these organizations for assistance on Election Day:

Allegheny County's deputies: 412-350-4701

Vote PA: 412-558-0252

The third article in this series on voting will appear in the January 2010 issue and will look at the spring primary. Your comments and questions are always welcome; please email gtforouzan@gmail.com.

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October 19 Date Set for Next Meeting on Garfield Community Plan

By Joe Reuben
The Bulletin

A plan that will set long-term goals for the development of housing and the use of land in Garfield is beginning to take shape, and the community groups that are spearheading the effort want to invite residents and other stakeholders back to the table on Monday, October 19.

"We need to have people see how the input that was given at two community meetings in May is now translating into concrete recommendations for shaping the neighborhood's future," said Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, who, along with Garfield Jubilee Association, is directing the process. "I've seen an initial draft, and the level of analysis and information is something that's never been contained before in one document."

Brose believes that the upcoming meeting, which will begin at 6 p.m. at the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center, located at the corner of Dearborn Street and N. Pacific

Avenue, is a chance for those who work or live in Garfield to make the plan their own. "It won't cater to just one group of interests," Brose said. "We hope there will be something in the plan for just about anyone who wants Garfield to be a sustainable environment for people to inhabit and enjoy."

Because Pittsburgh as a whole has shrunk in size over the past 40 years, neighborhood advocates feel that Garfield will never again hold the population that it once did. But that doesn't mean there won't be some ambitious goals in the plan around preserving a supply of housing for working-class households, Brose affirmed. "Even subtracting for hill-sides, farms, gardens, and possible recreation sites, there will still be many opportunities over the next 20 years for rental and homeowner units to be built or renovated. But it will be up to the neighborhood to decide when, how, and where", she explained.

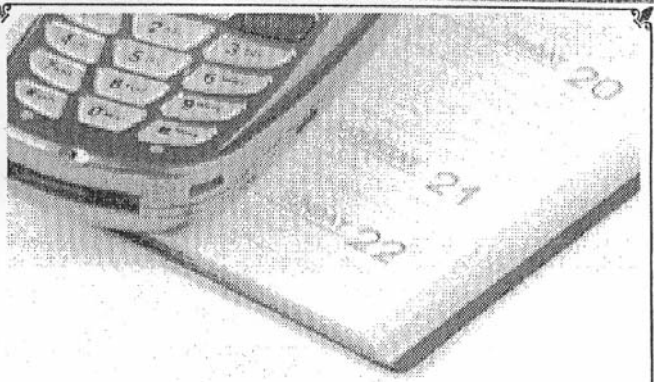
Perkins Eastman, a Downtown architectural and planning firm, has facilitated the community process to

date and prepared the draft plan. Stefani Danes, a principal with Perkins, has a long history of involvement with Garfield, and wants to see the process educate participants about why a housing and land-use plan can be a valuable tool.

"In other parts of the country, residents have lost control of their neighborhoods to outside interests," Danes said. "Some cities, like Houston, have allowed the real estate industry to dic-

tate the course of events. That hasn't been the case as much in Pittsburgh, because there has been such a strong tradition of efforts like this."

Brose said a light dinner will be available at the meeting. For those interested in viewing the plan in advance, a draft will be available for viewing on the BGC's website, www.bloomfield-garfield.org, beginning October 1.



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and events!

New Shop/Gallery Creatively Rebels Against Capitalism

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Just off Penn Avenue, tucked onto North Graham behind Oscar's Barber Shop, is a new enterprise with the provocative name "Rebellious Nature." Co-owner Bill Brocco describes the business as "a radical T-shirt and fair trade shop... with a gallery," a project launched by him and his wife, Christine, this past August.

Since 2004, the McKees Rocks-based couple have been operating the website Anarchtee.com, on which they sell U.S.-made, organic cotton T-shirts that they design themselves. The adult T-shirts bear radical leftist slogans, such as "FEAR IS CONTROL - SMASH YOUR TV" and "KILL THE MALL" (which, when read quickly, Brocco said, looks like "KILL THEM ALL"). The children's shirts have milder sayings like "PEACE" and "HOPE FOR THE FUTURE."

"We were not necessarily looking for a space to rent," Brocco explained of the new venture. But they had been playing with the idea of a store for their designs, and the North Graham spot was "a cool space... It really spoke to us."

Besides T-shirts, the shop also car-

ries items like handbags made from recycled plastic, and women's printed skirts. "Everything is made by collectives in different countries," Brocco said, pointing out unique wallets crafted by survivors of landmines. Everything in the shop is reasonably priced, with adult T-shirts selling for \$15.

"Our goal is to keep people from going to the malls," Brocco said. "We carry unique stuff that's worth buying," products that touch on a variety of working-class political issues. The name of the store, he explained, "seemed fitting. We're rebellious because we're participating in capitalism, but using it to serve more people."

The front of the store houses a large gallery space, with exhibits changing every month. September's exhibit, "Out of the Blast Furnace," was the owners' G-20-themed photographic look at 20 deteriorating Pittsburgh communities. The photos contrasted neighborhood blight with government-supported "development," such as PNC Park and Three Rivers Casino. "Development for who?" Brocco asked. "Only the corporations are doing well."

The final photos in the exhibit were of two community garden projects, because "we wanted to end on a posi-



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

REBELLIOUS NATURE'S CO-OWNER BILL BROCCO WEARS ONE OF THE MANY T-SHIRT DESIGNS SOLD IN HIS NEW GARFIELD-BASED SHOP.

tive note." Brocco personally wrote to all the G-20 leaders, inviting them to the exhibit while they are in town.

Artists scheduled for October and November are John Freyvogel and Arianna Mason, respectively. The Broccos are also planning a "\$50 and Under" art sale for December, where patrons will have the opportunity to "pay a fair price for art... making it more accessible."

So far, most of their marketing has

been grassroots and word-of-mouth. "We need to get more people in the door," Brocco said. He encouraged people to "support local businesses, because if you don't, we're gone very soon."


Rebellious Nature is located at 104 North Graham Street; phone: 412-576-1883. Hours: Tue-Sat, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.


City's First Glass Mural Debuts on Penn



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

Pittsburgh's first glass mural, presented by the Moving the Lives of Kids Community Mural Project (MLK) and Pittsburgh Glass Center (PGC), was unveiled during "Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn," on September 4. Located at 5212 Penn Avenue, the glass mural was designed and executed over four weeks this past summer by Pittsburgh mosaic artist Daviea Davis and 10 boys from the Garfield Community Intensive Supervision Project (CISP), a program operated by the Court of Common Pleas, Family Division, Juvenile Section. Additional support for the mural was provided by Keystone Metal Inc. and Entrepreneurship Youth (E Youth). The glass mural is comprised of five (36" x 80") panels of stained glass mosaic, with a design that depicts Garfield when it was known as "Black Horse Hill."





Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation
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.**

Here's just some of what the BGC does:

- * Builds new single-family homes and rental properties
- * Renovates older houses and buildings
- * Coordinates a planning process to upgrade the infrastructure along Penn Avenue in the coming decade
- * Operates one of the largest year-round youth employment programs
- * Runs after-school and summer programs for kids
- * Publishes a monthly community newspaper, *The Bulletin*
- * Works with law enforcement agencies and the courts to improve public safety

When you make a **United Way Contributor Choice #260 to the BGC**, you make a personal investment in the future of your neighborhood!

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.

"OLDER AND WISER" SERIES FOR SENIORS

State Rep. Don Walko, D-Allegheny, is sponsoring a series of "Older and Wiser" presentations to provide seniors in the 20th Legislative District with information on legal concerns. The series will be held at the Lawrenceville Senior Center, 4600 Butler St. On Wednesday, Oct. 7, 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., the topic will be Medicaid; on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., the topic will be power of attorney. To reserve a spot, seniors should call Walko's office at 412-321-5523.

FREE FLU SHOTS

Guard against the agonizing symptoms of the flu by getting a flu shot early. Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health Center is offering a free 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, Oct. 8, from 9 a.m. to noon. Call 412-361-7562 for more info.

"ARBOR AID" EVENT

Arbor Aid celebrates trees as a living resource in the City of Pittsburgh and encourages the possibilities they present for a longer, sustainable future as furniture, flooring, artwork, and beyond. For this year's event, all works will incorporate light! Date: Friday October 30, 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Location: 6th floor of the historic

Guardian Storage Building, 2839 Liberty Avenue. Featuring: Music by Life in Balance and The Turpentiners, local food and libations, a silent auction, and, of course, incredible artwork incorporating salvaged urban wood and light by local artists and woodworkers. Artwork will be for sale. Tickets: \$20 for Tree Tenders, \$25 all others ahead of time, \$30 day of the event, available online at www.pittsburghforest.org/arboraid2009, or by calling 412-362-6360 or visiting the Friends storefront at 5427 Penn Avenue. All proceeds benefit Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest, an environmental non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the City's vitality by restoring and protecting City trees.

PEDIATRIC SPECIALTY HOSPITAL BBQ

You're invited to the 25th Anniversary BBQ and Carnival for the Children Home of Pittsburgh's Pediatric Specialty Hospital (formerly Transitional Infant Care (T.I.C.®)). Join us for this fun and family-friendly celebration. The event will be held on Saturday, October 17, from 2 to 8 p.m., in the backyard of our facility at 5324 Penn Avenue in Friendship. Sally Wiggin from WTAE will serve as emcee and guests will enjoy live music, home-style BBQ favorites, a strolling magician, carnival games, and plenty of kid's activities. Live music selections will include a banjo and keyboard duo to start off the day, an acoustical sampling from Aju Band, classic rock in the evening from the Soul Searchers, and Eric Wenning of Wenning Entertainment to keep the tunes going between shows. For more information, sponsorship info, or to purchase tickets, please contact our Development Director, Daniel Musher, at 412-441-4884 or via email at dmusher@chomepgh.org.

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION SEMINAR

"Family Violence in Difficult Economic Times: Preventing Violence, Abuse and Neglect of Children, Partners, and the Elderly" is a seminar for health and human services professionals being offered at West Penn Hospital on Friday,

October 9, from 8 a.m. to noon in the Conference Center on the first floor. This free workshop will discuss prevention, causes, and solutions. A continental breakfast will be served, followed by breakout sessions and a keynote speech by Walter Smith, executive director of Family Resources. You will have a choice of breakout sessions: elder abuse or domestic partner abuse; and perpetrator intervention or child abuse. To register, call 412-DOCTORS by October 6.

FDA 20TH ANNIVERSARY BASH

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Friendship Development Associates, and it's time to celebrate. Please join us for a birthday party on October 2 as part of "Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn." The evening begins at 6 p.m. at the Glass Lofts, corner of North Fairmount and Penn, with a short ceremony acknowledging the work that FDA has done over the past 20 years. The fun continues through the night with delicious food from Whole Foods Market, drinks, music, dancing, and a silent auction, including artwork from several Penn Avenue artists and gift certificates

from some of the best hot spots in Pittsburgh. Various Penn Avenue artists will showcase ongoing demonstrations including TWEED clothing, which will be silk-screening one-of-a-kind T-shirts, created exclusively for this event. Come celebrate with your neighbors the hard work of FDA and its investment in the neighborhood and along Penn Avenue! Tickets for the event are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. This is one party you don't want to miss! For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <http://friendship-pgh.org/fda/20th-birthday-celebration/> or call 412-441-6147 x 7.

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Preschool Storytime

Ages 3 to 5; Thursdays, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 10:30 a.m.

Adult Book Discussion

Monday, October 12, 5 p.m.

American Rust by Philip Meyer

Baby/Toddler Storytime

Ages birth to 3; Tuesdays, Oct. 6, 13, 11 a.m.

The Family Playshop

Ages 6 months to 3 years with parent; Tuesdays, October 20, 27, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required.

Safari Survivor Saturday

Ages 4 to 8; Saturday, October 24, 1-3 p.m.

East Liberty Branch Events @ Borders EastSide

Preschool Storytime

Ages 3-5. Wednesdays, Oct. 7, 21, 10:30 a.m.

Family Storytime: Fall Discoveries

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2 p.m. 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.

T H E B U L L E T I N B O A R D

FRIENDSHIP QUARTERLY COMMUNITY MEETING

The Friendship Quarterly Community Meeting will take place at the Fourth Presbyterian Church, corner of Friendship Avenue and Roup, on Thursday, October 15. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. (bring a dish to share), presentation at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is open to all – babysitting available! Topic: "Create Your Dream - Taking the Fear Out of Bath and Kitchen Remodeling." Following the success of the 16th annual house tour, where numerous residents showcased fantastic, renovated kitchens and bathrooms, the speakers will be Steve Baker, President, Crescent Baths & Kitchens, Suzanne B. Baker, Showroom Manager, and Liz Murphy, an interior designer who has worked with Crescent on various projects. The presentation will include a question/answer period, and will encourage dialogue about experiences members of the community may have had. Contact membership@friendship-pgh.org with any questions or for more information.

HISTORY OF ALLEGHENY VALLEY BANK

"History of Allegheny Valley Bank" will be the subject of a lecture presented by Lawrenceville Historical Society on October 15. Andy Hasley, president of Allegheny Valley Bank, will be talking about their history of over 100 years in Lawrenceville. Members are encouraged to attend and vote for the next year's board. Non-members are also welcome to attend. It's free and it's happening at Canterbury Place, McVay Auditorium (1st Floor), 310 Fisk Street, Lawrenceville. Starting time for all presentations is 7 p.m. For more information, e-mail us at info@LHS15201.org.

"ART WITH HEART" AT UNBLURRED

"Art with Heart, LLC" will take place during "Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn." Oct. 2, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at 5469 Penn Avenue. Calling all fused glass groupies! Come add to your glass collection; find a new treasure to share with a friend. Once you see it, you will be hooked. 10% off with this listing; true glass groupies (i.e., repeat buyers) get an additional 10% off. Contact: 412-441-1029 or sase-junk@hotmail.com.

FIRST ANNUAL POWERTALK MEETING

Council 8 of Powertalk International will have its first annual meeting, with a "Health Issues" theme, on Saturday October 10, at the East Liberty Presbyterian Church on S. Highland Avenue. Topics covered will be Osteoporosis and Arthritis. Registration and coffee will be at 9:30 a.m. \$15.00 donation includes lunch. For more information please call 412-681-0283. Powertalk is an organization that prepares members on how to plan a meeting and an agenda, parliamentary procedures, make a presentation and communicate effectively.

L'VILLE ARTISTS' STUDIO TOUR

Mark Oct. 17, 2009 on your calendars and plan on spending the day in Lawrenceville. This is the date for the 5th annual Lawrenceville Artists' Studio Tour. Tour guests are invited to see 17 studios throughout the neighborhood. From woodworking and stained glass to painting, pottery and photography, visitors will be able to see the creative process and where these artists work. Also on the list are artists and craftsmen who will show unique handmade books, jewelry, soap making, weaving, fiber arts, sculpture, video performance, collage, and furnishings from recycled materials. This is a self-guided tour beginning at 10 a.m. and continuing to 6 p.m. It is free and open to the public. To view a slide show of the artists in their studios and to download a map, please go to www.lawrenceville-pgh.com. If you have questions, please call 412-683-6488.

DOWD HOLDS "COUNCIL TO GO"

Meet Councilman Patrick Dowd (District 7) at Council to Go, his mobile district office. Councilman Dowd and his staff will be available to hear your concerns, provide news on issues in Council, and help you access city services. October's sessions will be held on Friday, Oct. 18, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Perk Me Up at 4407 Butler Street in Lawrenceville, and Wednesday, Oct. 28, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Morning Glory Coffeehouse at 1806 Chislett Street in Morningside. For a full schedule as well as more information about Council to Go and Councilman

Dowd, visit www.pghgov.com/district7 or call 412-255-2140.

VEGAS IN LAWRENCEVILLE

Saturday, October 24, from 6 to 11 p.m. marks the opening of Lawrenceville's hot spot for gaming, fine food, music, dancing, and fun! Holy Family Social Hall at 256 44th Street will be transformed from school cafeteria to "Club OLA" for this one fabulous night! Only \$25 per person. Lots of ways to win, win, win! Gourmet buffet by Cole Café's own Diner Lady, Donna Cole, and Chef Thomas Johnson of Cole's Specialty Catering. Dinner includes dessert and beverages. Wine and beer will be available for purchase. Tickets

for this not-to-be-missed event are limited and can be purchased at Our Lady of the Angels Parish (220 37th Street). For more info, call 412-628-0929 or go to www.olapgh.org.

INTERFAITH MEETING

The Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network (PIIN) is having its annual public meeting on Thursday, October 29, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Epiphany Catholic Church (1018 Centre Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-3596). We will be addressing the issues of health care reform, transportation, comprehensive immigration reform, and economic development. Free and open to public. Contact - PIIN office phone: 412-621-9230; or email office@piin.org



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All interested parties, contact Charis Rose at 412-441-9833. The Out-of-School Youth Employment Program is located at 5321 Penn Avenue in Garfield.

Sales, from page 1

purchase a home of any kind by December 1, 2009. "That incentive by itself can convince people who are renting, and have little to show for it, that this is the moment to make the transition to homeownership," Swartz said. "Our homes carry the federal EnergyStar rating, which means that much of what they're now paying in utility bills could go to a mortgage payment instead. The savings they will see on their gas bills alone will surprise them."

Each home has 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, a full basement, and an integral garage or parking pad at the rear. Parkvale Bank and BNY Mellon Community Development Corporation provided construction financing, along with the URA, the PA Housing Finance Agency, and the McCune Foundation.

Persons interested in learning more should contact Barbara Murphy at Garfield Jubilee Association: 412-665-5208.

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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

PNC, from page 1

Eastern Ohio, said that the bank has long shared the BGC's "commitment to addressing the quality of life" in lower-income neighborhoods. He pointed out that the BGC and PNC share a similar philosophy of community revitalization by addressing not just housing, but employment, education, and public safety. "Now we're just making our commitment a bit deeper."



THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL

RECOGNIZED LEADER IN BURN CARE

The West Penn Burn Center is a recognized leader in the prevention and care of burn injuries. In fact, West Penn Burn Center is the only burn center in the region -- and one of just four in Pennsylvania -- to receive verification honors from the American Burn Association and American College of Surgeons.

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For more information on West Penn Burn Center or to schedule an outreach program,

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