



The Bulletin

A Publication of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

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Feeding the "Fightin' 5th"



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

On April 5, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's Public Safety Task Force (PSTF) hosted an appreciation luncheon for the men and women of Zone 5 of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police. Pistella Beer Distributors provided soft drinks and bottled water. Thanks to the diligence of the PSTF working with Zone 5, crime in Garfield has experienced a 10-year downward trend. Zone 5 Commander Tim O'Connor (*above*) and his officers ate lunch quickly so they could get back to their duties.

The PSTF has convened monthly since 2000. At the table are representatives from the BGC, the Bureau of Police, other neighborhood organizations, the offices of the Mayor and City Council members, various city and county departments, and the state. Community members are invited to bring specific concerns to the PSTF's monthly meeting during the first 15 minutes. The next meeting is May 11 at 4 p.m. at the BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 North Pacific Avenue.

Rental Housing Development To Start This Summer

By Joe Reuben
The Bulletin

A nearly three-year effort to bring new, affordably-priced, rental housing to the lower half of the Garfield neighborhood is close to fruition, according to one of the project's co-developers.

"We're within sight of the finish line," Rick Swartz of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation told *The Bulletin* in mid-April. The BGC has partnered with a private homebuilder, S & A Homes, in putting together a 49-unit, scattered-site development that will be centered on Dearborn,

See **HOUSING**, page 6

GARFIELD HOSTS MAYOR

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

On a warm afternoon that felt more like June than early April, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl sat down with members of the Garfield and Penn Avenue business communities for what he called "an informal, candid conversation" about the concerns facing the neighborhood and possible ways for the city to help. "I'll be doing more listening than talking," the mayor observed at the start of the gathering with approximately 15 community stakeholders at The Children's Home and Lemieux Family Center.

Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, kicked off the April 6 meeting with a checklist of concerns. One major issue on which she said she often fields complaints is the poor condition of

Penn Avenue's paving. She noted that, although city-supported reconstruction of the avenue is coming, "It's long in coming" – construction will not actually begin until 2013. (*See page 3 for related story.*) The mayor said he would look into paving the corridor in the interim, but couldn't promise anything.

Brose got a firmer commitment from the mayor to have the Department of Public Works' Redd-Up crew spend five to eight days in Garfield cleaning up problem sites, including illegal dumping on Rosetta Street. Kevin Quigley, assistant director of DPW, was in attendance at the meeting and agreed to a walk-through of the neighborhood in advance of the clean-up effort, to identify the areas in most need.

BGC Board President Bill Cornell

See **MAYOR**, page 2



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

MAYOR RAVENSTAHL AND AGGIE BROSE DROPPED IN AT BFG CAFE ON PENN AVENUE TO TALK WITH OWNER JOHN EDGOS.

The final deadline for all articles, ads, and Bulletin Board items for the June 2011 issue is **FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2011**. Placement is first-come, first-served. For more information: 412-441-6915.

BREAKING NEWS: Update on Past Coverage of 5431 Penn Avenue

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

A year ago, *The Bulletin* reported on an application for a liquor license for 5431 Penn Avenue, the site of the former Horoscope Lounge. Now the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Pennsylvania has provided information about the applicant for that liquor license, updating our prior coverage.

As we reported in May and June of 2010, Michelle Jimenez, a graduate of Robert Morris University and principal of Bely's LLC, entered into an agreement with owner Angelo Restano to rent the property at 5431 Penn for a bar/restaurant. The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation held a public meeting in which Jimenez brought her proposal to the nearby neighbors, many of whom voiced objections to parts of her plan that they believed were too vague.

Subsequently, the BGC received information that Jimenez was in a

relationship with Terrald Bennett, aka Bely, a former Garfield resident with a lengthy arrest record, although she claimed she knew no one in the neighborhood. After further investigation, the BGC discovered that Jimenez had falsified other information, as well. Within a few weeks of these revelations, Jimenez notified the BGC that she was backing away from her plans to open a restaurant and pursuing "another business opportunity."

The Bulletin has learned that, on March 1, Jimenez and Bennett were indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of violating federal drug laws. Two days later, U.S. Attorney David J. Hickton released the names of eight residents of Pennsylvania, including Jimenez, 31, and Bennett, 29, and one resident of Michigan, who were indicted for conspiring to "distribute and possess with intent to distribute one kilogram or more of heroin" between June 2009 and February 2011.

The case, titled *U.S. v. Green et al.*, will be prosecuted by U.S. Attorneys



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

NEARBY NEIGHBORS PACKED THE BGC COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTER IN SPRING 2010 ABOUT A PROPOSED LIQUOR LICENSE FOR 5431 PENN AVENUE.

Craig Haller and Gregory Nescott. The Drug Enforcement Agency and the Internal Revenue Service's criminal division conducted the investigation that led to the indictment.

Jimenez and Bennett are considered innocent until proven guilty. If

convicted, they could each face a sentence of 10 years to life in prison, a fine of \$4 million, or both. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, sentencing in such cases is based on the gravity of the offense and whether the defendant has a criminal record. ♦

announcement

Introducing our newest doctor

The physicians and staff at Health Center Associates-UPMC are pleased to welcome our newest doctor, Michael Bergal, MD, to our offices in Oakland and Harmar.



Michael Bergal, MD
Internal Medicine and Family Practice

Dr. Bergal received his medical degree from St. George's University, Grenada, West Indies. He completed an internal medicine internship at New York Methodist Hospital in New York, and a family medicine residency at the Overlook Hospital, Atlantic Health System in Summit, N.J. Dr. Bergal is fluent in Russian.

To schedule an appointment, or for more information, call one of our offices.

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MAYOR, from page 1

brought up the issue of a regional hilltop park in Garfield, which community members have indicated a strong interest in. The mayor deferred the question to Councilman Ricky Burgess, also at the meeting, who said that the land the community has in mind is already committed to KBK Enterprises for Phase IV of Garfield Commons, a development of mixed-income rental housing.

"You can't stop it," Burgess noted. He said that, although he has set up a meeting with the Housing Authority of Pittsburgh, which owns the land, to discuss a park, he has strong doubts that the HA would break its agreement with KBK. (*See related story, page 3.*) "My advice is to look at multiple projects, ask for several things, and even if you don't get the park, you might get other things."

Meeting attendee Melvin Gay, a 39-year resident of Garfield, talked about wanting "more efforts to improve the quality of life in Garfield.... Beautifying and dressing it up doesn't solve the problems." As examples, Gay noted that "come May 13 we won't have a bank. There's no grocery store.

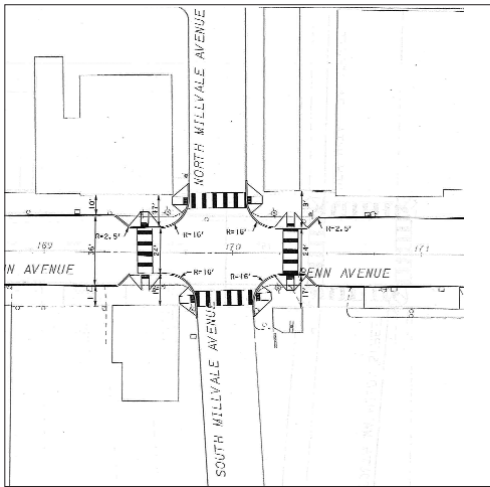
Services in other communities are right there."

Holly McIntosh of the Mayor's Office asked Gay to help come up with a concrete list of action items that the mayor could work on to meet some of his concerns. Brose passed around form letters for attendees to sign that the BGC will send to the federal agency that oversees banking, expressing concern about the closing of the PNC branch on Penn Avenue. Even the mayor signed one.

Rev. Chad Collins of Valley View Presbyterian Church brought up the divide between different parts of the Garfield community. "Things on the avenue don't appeal to folks up the hill," he observed. He also expressed concern that property values in some parts of Garfield are not growing at the same rate as in other neighborhoods.

At the close of the 90-minute meeting, the mayor strolled across the street to meet and have his photo taken with John Edgos, proprietor of BGF Café, who provided refreshments for the gathering. The mayor complimented him on the spread, and took a menu for his staff. ♦

Preliminary Plans Drawn for Intersections in Corridor Reconstruction Project



PRELIMINARY DRAWING SHOWING RAMPS AND BUMP-OUTS AT THE PENN AND MILLVALE INTERSECTION.

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

The Penn Avenue Reconstruction Committee (PARC) met on April 7 with members of the local business community to review plans for the \$5 million Phase 1 reconstruction of the blocks between Mathilda and Evaline. Although construction will not begin until 2013, design and engineering decisions that will affect businesses along the corridor are being made now and will soon be set in stone – or more accurately, concrete.

At the meeting, Brian Krul of L.R. Kimball, the firm contracted for the design and engineering of Phase 1, presented preliminary plans for the intersections situated in the four blocks. The reconstruction project will include updating all the signalized intersections so that each will include pedestrian countdowns and audibles, making pedestrian safety a top priority.

The signalized intersections will also be getting ADA ramps for people with disabilities that meet federal standards. In addition, the intersections at Millvale, Winebiddle and Evaline will be redesigned with “bump-outs” – a widening of the sidewalks for safety, visibility and aesthetics. At the intersections that have bus stops, the plan may include benches for those waiting.

At Gross Street, which is a T-intersection and not signalized, there will be a bump-out across from the intersection to prevent parking. Krul

explained that this is in accordance with city code. Following construction, parking meters or kiosks will be placed along the avenue. “There’s been no discipline in parking on Penn Avenue” since vandals took the heads off the parking meters, noted Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), who chaired the PARC meeting. There will also be new bike racks installed in various locations.

Brose said that property and business owners with properties directly on the intersections will be invited to a separate meeting to discuss the specifics of the bump-outs and accessibility ramps and how these changes will affect them and parking for their establishments. The BGC will contact owners directly to set this up. In the meantime, all property owners in the four-block stretch are invited to the next PARC meeting on Thursday, June 2, at 8 a.m. at 113 North Pacific Avenue.

Krul also went over the details of the driving detours that will be in place during construction. At that time, there will be just one lane inbound to downtown and one parking lane along Penn Avenue. Outbound, drivers will have to take alternate routes, such as Friendship Avenue and Dearborn Street. This detour will be in effect for the length of construction.

The project will also affect outbound bus commuters. Bus stops on Penn will move to Friendship Avenue, so that riders commuting from downtown will have a few extra blocks to walk. ♦

Garfield’s Recreational Needs Still Not Met

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

A hilltop park was a need the Garfield community set forth in its 20-year plan, completed in 2009, called “Garfield 2030.” But during an April 18 meeting with community stakeholders, A. Fulton Meachem, executive director of the Housing Authority of Pittsburgh, made it clear that he did not see a hilltop recreational park as a necessity.

The Housing Authority owns most of the land in the vicinity of the water tower, which sits on a plateau atop the neighborhood. Meachem said all of that land is under contract to KBK Enterprises to build Phase 4 of a mixed-income rental development on the site of the former Garfield Heights housing project. (See related story, page 7.) Residents and community

groups had hoped to persuade Meachem that a recreational field for the young people of Garfield and nearby neighborhoods might fit into the plans for the hilltop acreage. Right now, the Garfield Gators have to play at the run-down Pittsburgh Ft. Pitt field, which in the rain earns the nickname “The Swamp.”

“We’d like to see a way to accommodate both visions,” said Rick Swartz of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC). “Is there some way to get some acreage for a combination football and softball field?” Swartz noted that approximately 1,000 children under age 18 live in Garfield. “We owe it to them to provide the best possible recreation programs in their neighborhood.” When Garfield youths have gone for

See PARK, page 4

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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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our advertisers.

The Bloomfield-Garfield
Corporation holds its monthly
board meeting on the second
Monday of each month at 5321
Penn Avenue, starting at 7 p.m.
These meetings are open to the
public.

PARK, from page 3

recreation in nearby neighborhoods, several attendees noted, they have encountered persistent racism.

The BGC proposed that a small portion of the land be turned into a park, with 12 or more of the proposed rental units moved down the hill onto sites that the city already owns in other parts of Garfield. They would blend well, Aggie Brose of the BGC said, with the affordable, scattered-site rental development called Garfield Glen, which is being built in the lower part of Garfield, closer to Penn Avenue. (See story, page 1.)

"Life might actually be a little easier for future tenants off of the hill," Swartz noted. Garfield resident Gary Cirrincione pointed out that, with the new transit cuts, "You can't get a bus up there on Saturday or Sunday."

Meachem, however, remained firm throughout the meeting. "To change at this point would be catastrophic. We could be sued," he asserted. "I'm not opposed to parks, but we're too far gone" to have a

park on that site. He explained, however, that Phase 4 would include passive green space, including an overlook of the city, similar to the Mt. Washington overlook.

Meachem said he sees a sharp distinction between the housing plans for the site and the dream of a recreational area. "Houses are much more important than any field we could build," he said. "Housing is a need, but recreation is a want."

Bob Jones of Garfield Youth Sports, took objection. "For me growing up, recreation was a need," he pointed out. "Without playing football yourself, you might not be here. Recreation is a need in neighborhoods like this."

Other residents reminded Meachem that there had been strong objections to Phase 4 of the new development, called Garfield Commons, when plans were presented back in 2006. "People said very clearly that dense rental housing at the top of the hill was not a good idea," said Kendall Pelling, a

resident of upper Garfield who works with East Liberty Development, Inc.

Meachem reiterated that the door was closed on a hilltop park. "Let's brainstorm for other things we can do together," he offered.

City Councilman Ricky Burgess, who had arranged the meeting with Meachem, voiced his dreams for recreational facilities in the East End – which do not include a hilltop park. "My dream is a regional facility shared by two or three communities, not far from here," he said; the park would probably in Larimer. "I'd like to redo the Ft. Pitt field. And I'd like to purchase an indoor athletic facility for Garfield."

Refurbishing "The Swamp," however, would mean the Gators would be without use of it for two football seasons. And so far no likely indoor facilities are for sale. The meeting adjourned with no firm plans for how to move forward with Burgess's ideas for Garfield. ♦

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Eyesore/Showcase of the Month" will return in the June issue.

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ON "TARGET" FOR JOBS IN THE EAST END

By Kirk Meyers

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

The excitement over the new Target store in East Liberty is buzzing with the latest news that online applications were launched on April 14. The anticipation surrounding the new store location has been growing since the site was announced almost a full year ago. After months of careful planning between Target and local organizations, the East Liberty department store is ready to hire more than 200 new employees.

The new Target will lead to employment for many East End residents due to the unique collaboration between the East End's community organizations, city officials and neighborhood development groups. Mayor Luke Ravenstahl highlighted the continuing collaboration of these community groups at the first Target Recruitment Event, held on Thursday, April 14th at the East Liberty Presbyterian Church. One of the staunchest supporters for local hires throughout the Target negotiations has been Councilman Ricky Burgess,

District 7, who was also a key speaker at last week's event. Among the groups working on the Target employment initiative are East Liberty Development Inc., Mosites Co., Pittsburgh CareerLink, Larimer Consensus Group, COR, Kingsley Association, and many other local employment agencies.

As the first round of applicants finished up their online applications early this week, there was a high level of enthusiasm for the open positions offered at Target. One East End resident that had applied recently stated, "I am excited about the large number of opportunities at Target. There are customer service positions, cashier positions and so many other choices for a job that fits your interests." There is still time for interested candidates to apply as many neighborhood employment centers' will be hosting application assistance workshops in the coming weeks.

For those seeking employment with Target, there will be special events hosted by current Target employees to give inside information on interview preparation, dress for success and office culture at Target. The following are the dates and times

for those exciting upcoming events:

- **May 5:** There will be two sessions of Target job readiness workshops at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the East Liberty Presbyterian Church Social Hall, 116 South Highland Avenue, in East Liberty
- **May 12:** There will be two sessions of Target job readiness workshops at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the East Liberty Presbyterian Church location

For those interested in applying to Target today, the online application

can be accessed at www.target.com/careers or contact your local employment agency for assistance. Each local employment agency offers a partnership program with Target for all incoming East End applicants. Don't miss the opportunity to be a step above the competition in the Target hiring process. Call your nearest agency today! More information on the upcoming events and Target hiring process can be obtained through the employment sites listed below. ♦

LOCAL TARGET EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center: 412-362-8580
 Garfield Jubilee Association Inc.: 412-665-5200
 Goodwill of SWPA: 412-632-1742
 Hill Oakland Workforce Collaborative/Job Links: 412-621-3821
 Hill District First Source Center: 412-392-4410
 Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh: 412-456-5000 x1048
 YMCA Career & Workforce Development Center East:
 412-241-2811 x35



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HOUSING, from page 1

Broad and Kincaid streets, west of North Atlantic Avenue. Garfield Jubilee Association has also been part of the planning process, and will play an active role in the project. It will consist of detached houses and townhomes, and will offer 2-, 3-, and 4-bedroom rentals for households earning less than \$35,000 annually.

The development takes its cue from the 20-year housing and land-use plan for Garfield that was formulated with input from neighborhood residents, beginning in May 2009. The plan calls for 500 units of new housing to be added over time to replace much of the housing stock lost to demolition since 1970, with most of it to be built along streets that border major arteries like Penn Avenue, North Negley Avenue, and Black Street.

"This is another step in ensuring that Garfield remains a home for working-class households, even as newer residents move in who add to its economic diversity," Swartz said. "It will complement the work of the city Housing Authority and KBK Enterprises in the upper half of the neighborhood to replace a former public housing project." That development, started in 2006, has succeeded in constructing 175 townhouses for a mixed-income population on the site of what was once a 330-unit, government-owned complex. Known as "Garfield Commons," the first three phases are situated on one contiguous tract of land, and are leased and managed by KBK, a Columbus, Ohio-based firm. (See related story, page 7.)

The scattered-site plan, to be known as "Garfield Glen," needed a major boost from the PA Housing Finance Agency last July, when it awarded the developers \$1.17 million in federal tax credits that are to be sold to private investors, who, in turn, will commit almost \$10 million in

equity funding to the project. "The key word there is 'equity,' which allows these homes to be built without a massive amount of debt," Swartz noted. "We are then obligated to manage the 49 homes for 15 years as affordable rentals, after which occupants will have a chance to buy them outright." The BGC and S & A must find an investment firm or bank within the next 30 days to take the credits and sell them to individuals and companies looking to reduce their tax obligations to the federal government over that same time period.

"This is how much of the new housing we've seen built in East Liberty around Penn Circle has been done," Swartz said. "It is intricate in that the IRS monitors these projects on an on-going basis to ensure that the developers live up to their commitments. There is a good deal of reporting that must be done, some would say unfortunately."

Swartz said the city's Urban Redevelopment Authority will decide this month on whether to make a \$1.9 million loan to Garfield Glen to round out the rest of the financing needed. If it does, then the developers can move towards a July 1 ground-breaking. "With federal and state budget cuts in the wind, we feel the window of opportunity is rapidly closing on projects of this nature," he said. "Many of us doubt the URA will be in a position to support this kind of initiative a couple of years from now."

As with any development of this size, there are numerous requirements to be met. S & A Homes and the BGC must make a concerted effort to find laborers from the community to work on the construction of the homes. They have asked Garfield Jubilee to help coordinate this process, and a public meeting is scheduled for

See HOUSING, page 15

GET "EXTRA HELP" WITH MEDICARE EXPENSES

By Sen. Jim Ferlo
38th Senatorial District

My office fields many inquiries daily to help our constituents access beneficial government programs. One program our staff consistently gets questions about is the Medicare Low Income Subsidy/Extra Help Program. Some states previously referred to this as the Medicare Buy-In program.

In the past, the program's application and available information were confusing to many older adults and individuals with disabilities. Some were led to believe they would need to change their primary health-care provider or that it might take away their PACE prescription benefits. Nothing could be further from the truth. This program complements both your Medicare health coverage and PACE, and the only change to you will be more savings in your pocket.

Federal legislation mandated that the program's application be simplified and the program be made uniform so that more individuals would be able to access it readily. Kathleen Burk, Medicare Outreach Coordinator of Allegheny County Department of Human Services and The Allegheny Link, was kind enough to share details with us on how the program works.

Depending upon income and assets, many older adults and people with disabilities can save money on their Medicare insurance premiums and co-payments. There are now two separate government programs that can help.

The Medicare Savings Program

The Medicare Savings Program can cover the cost of the Part B premium, and possibly co-payments and deductibles, depending upon the applicant's level of income. To qualify, an individual's monthly income must be no greater than \$1,218, with resources no greater than \$6,680. (For a married couple, the combined monthly income should be no greater than \$1,639 with resources no greater than \$10,020.)

The resources that are counted include money in the bank, stocks, bonds or other types of investment. The lower the amount of income and resources the applicant has, the greater the level of assistance available.

The "Extra Help" Program

"Extra Help" provides assistance with Medicare Part D (prescription drug) premiums and co-payments, and keeps people out of the coverage gap known as "the donut hole."

In order to qualify, an individual's income must be no greater than \$1,353 per month with resources no greater than \$12,640. (For a married couple, the combined monthly income should be no greater than \$1,821 with resources no greater than \$25,620.)

For more information and to apply, contact Allegheny County Medicare Outreach Coordinator Kathleen Burk at 412-350-7079. We also have applications in my office and would be happy to assist you in this process. If there's anything I can help you with, please contact my office at 412-621-3006 or visit my website at www.senatorferlo.com. ♦

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KBK Foundation Boots Up Computer Program



By Tisha Germany
KBK Enterprises

The KBK Foundation announced that the first five families of Garfield Commons (*above*) received free home computers, including an inaugural special gift, a printer and one year of free Internet service in a celebratory reception on March 23. This is part of The Foundation's technology initiative launched in July 2010. Access to technology will provide Garfield Commons residents with a competi-

tive advantage in today's market for themselves and their children.

In January 2010, Keith Key, chairman of foundation, announced that each family who moved into Garfield Commons during Phase 1 would be eligible for a new computer – a donation to the community for 90 residents, totaling up to \$100,000. All residents 6 years old and up were required to attend a three-week, six-class computer course in order to receive this free incentive, in addition

See KBK, page 16

College Graduates Take the "PULSE" of Garfield

By Margaret Graham
East Liberty Development, Inc.

The Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience (PULSE) announced on April 15 its plans for expansion in the East End to the Garfield neighborhood.

For 16 years, PULSE has been bringing young college graduates to Pittsburgh. Based in East Liberty, the program places young professionals at year-long service oriented jobs in nonprofits throughout Pittsburgh.

In the past two years, the number of qualified applicants has increased five-fold. In order to accommodate the amount of interested young grads and increased interest from employers, PULSE has decided to expand from eight participants to 12.

"PULSE is doing better than ever, and it's the right time to expand to a second location," said Executive Director Chris Cooke.

PULSE participants live together in community and budget as a group for meals, transportation and cultural activities. In addition to their service at nonprofit organizations, participants engage in weekly

seminars focused on personal and professional development. They are also encouraged to spend time in their community and with their neighbors.

"My time as a PULSER has been a great experience," said Anna Pawsey, a current participant. "I've enjoyed my placement at Union Project and the time spent with my housemates exploring East Liberty and Pittsburgh."

PULSE began in 1994 to attract college graduates to the city, in response to the "brain drain" of graduates leaving Pittsburgh to find jobs in other areas. Since its inception, more than 100 PULSE participants have served 200,000 hours at more than 80 nonprofits. Many participants receive full-time offers from their placement sites after ending their PULSE year.

"By adding a second house in Garfield, we're able to bring more young people to Pittsburgh while also connecting with one of Pittsburgh's most exciting neighborhoods," said Cooke.

Currently, about 40 alumni still live in the city. Eighteen of those live alumni within a half-mile of the East Liberty house in which the program began. ♦

announcement

Introducing our newest doctor

Mona Anand, MD, and the staff at Magee Internal Medicine-UPMC are pleased to welcome our newest doctor, Anju Arora, MD, to our office in Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC.



Anju Arora, MD
Internal Medicine

Dr. Arora received her medical degree from the Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, India. She completed her residency in internal medicine at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital/Temple University School of Medicine Clinical Program. She is board-certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and licensed in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS).

To schedule an appointment,
or for more information, call 412-641-7370.

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ELDI Attends National Conference

On March 29, through April 1, East Liberty Development Inc.'s Skip Schwab and Kevin Mickens participated in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services conference in Bethesda, Maryland, for the Community Economic Development (CED) and Job Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals (JOLI) program. ELDI, in a joint venture with another local developer, represented the East Liberty Target, which is bringing more than 200 jobs to the neighborhood come this summer.

The Department of Health and Human Services is the federal government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. The conference convened all grantees with active CED or JOLI projects to learn and to share experiences and best practices to identify challenges and formulate creative solutions for implementing their grants. Additional topics included industry best practices, financing in the current economy, and effective evaluation procedures.

For more information about CED or JOLI projects, please visit www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/joli/index.html. For information about ELDI and neighborhood events and activities, please visit www.eastlibertypost.com. ♦

Farmers Market Celebrates 70 Years at Same Site

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

If you've never been to the Farmers Market Cooperative in East Liberty, it's time you set your alarm on Saturday morning and got yourself to this indoor, year-round market carrying everything from local meat and free-range eggs to apples and soaps. This summer, the market will celebrate 70 years in its current location at 344 Sheridan Avenue, right across from The Home Depot.

The market has a venerable history, dating back to 1929. That year, a group of farmers from Allegheny and nearby counties opened an indoor market in a building at the corner of Broad Street and Larimer Avenue. In those days, the farmers transported produce, breads, jellies, butter and eggs by horse and buggy, and started selling at 5 a.m. Customers brought their own baskets.

In the early 1940s, the cooperative lost its lease on that space but was able to purchase a property on Sheridan Avenue that had been the

Menzie Stable and Feed Store, built in 1904. The farmers received a certificate of occupancy on July 5, 1941, and did extensive renovations to transform it into a usable space for a market. According to an account written by Betty Metzler, the daughter of one of the charter members, the farmers sold their goods outside the new building until the space was ready to open in October of that year.

Fast forward 70 years, and the market is still opening its doors at 5 a.m. Some of the faces are direct descendants of the original farmers. John and Val Kennedy, who run the J. L. Kennedy Meat Stand, are the fourth generation at the market. James L. Kennedy, John's father, is the current president of the cooperative. "I grew up in here," recalls John, whose children are now raising animals and waiting on customers, too. "I started cutting chickens when I was 8." Val says her husband gets up at 2 a.m. and is at the market by 3:30 getting the stand cold for the meat. By 10:30, the Kennedys' meat, which many people pre-order by phone, is sold out.

Tim Hileman, who owns Kistaco Farm, is the third generation from his



Courtesy Farmers Market Cooperative


ELIZABETH AND JOHN FREDERICK SELLING THEIR APPLES AT THE EAST LIBERTY FARMERS MARKET, CA. 1947-48.

family to be part of the cooperative. Tim sells apples and apple cider all year round, and peaches and "a full line of vegetables" in the summer. He also carries fresh peanut butter in different flavors and flaxseed, plus bread from the Wood Street Bakery in Wilksburg.

Rick Zang of Zang's Greenhouse

is also third generation. Zang says his aunts, uncles and grandparents were all involved in the market from the early days. In addition to his own vegetables, plants and annuals, he carries some produce from other local farmers that he brings from the Strip

continued on page 9




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FARMERS MARKET, from page 8

District. This gives his booth a year-long selection that "makes it better for them and me," he explains.

Compared to the others, Ina and John Greenawalt of Greenawalt Farm are "the new kids on the block," as Ina puts it, having been with the cooperative for about 20 years. Their booth spans half the length of the indoor market, and stocks fresh chicken and goose eggs, jellies and jams, pasta, raw milk, quilts and plants. Ina says that they used to run a large-scale commercial chicken farm with 48,000 birds, but, because of "changing

times," now operate a smaller farm in which 200 to 300 chickens roam freely. The Greenawalts' daughter takes in mending at the market; customers can drop off items and pick them up the following week.

Mrs. Jones' Multi-Purpose Sauce has been part of the market for about five years. Mrs. Jones says the recipes for her potato salad and a sauce that "enhances everything" from ribs to beans came from her mother-in-law. Her booth also carries an array of fresh doughnuts from Better-Maid Donuts in the West End.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

JOHN KENNEDY (IN WHITE CAP) OF J. L. KENNEDY MEAT STAND IS THE FOURTH GENERATION OF HIS FAMILY AT THE FARMERS MARKET.

David Lagnese runs Kew Park Coffee Bar, and also sells olive oil and local cheeses. Although not a farmer himself, his wares are "direct from the farm" – his coffee, for example, comes straight from a grower in Jamaica with no middleman taking a cut from the farmer. He started out as a market customer 15 years ago, but within the past few years decided to open his own booth, which he runs with his wife and kids. "The social aspect sucked me in," he says, referring to how customers stop and chat while they're shopping.

A fire in 2007 brought the market to a halt, with arsonists causing about \$50,000 worth of damage. "It was a catalyzing event," Lagnese says, but

with the determination of the farmers and the support of loyal customers, the market has come back to life. Lagnese is now actively involved in trying to promote the market to the Greater Pittsburgh area through a website and weekly email newsletter. "Make the market a part of your Saturday routine" is the new promotional tagline.

A typical Saturday will see anywhere from 300 to 500 customers, and the day *The Bulletin* visited, the place was hopping. Come see for yourself, every Saturday from 5 a.m. to noon. ♦

For more information on the market and the vendors, visit www.farmers-marketcooperativeofeastliberty.com.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

MRS. (MARLENE) JONES (IN WHITE HEAD SCARF) HAS BEEN MAKING HER SAUCE AND POTATO SALAD FOR 50 YEARS. FAMILY MEMBERS SHIRLEY AND HANK HELP OUT AT THE BOOTH. HER SAUCE SOLD OUT BY 10:30 A.M.

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Friendship Flower and Folk Festival Returns



K.R. Siles

SCENES FROM 2010'S FLOWER AND FOLK FESTIVAL IN BAUM GROVE.

Friendship's annual Flower and Folk Festival will take place on Saturday, May 7, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Baum Grove, located at the intersection of Harriet, Fairmount and Roup. Join the Friendship community for this laid-back, family-friendly event featuring a fabulous selection of perennials, bedding plants and vegetables for sale; music by local artists; ongoing demonstrations; raffles and delicious food. Get your garden started and purchase beautiful locally grown flowers, herbs, vegetables and special Mother's Day Baskets. Proceeds support the maintenance of Baum Grove, Friendship's community green space.

In addition, this year's festival will present acoustic, folk and jazz sounds from Tim Ruff, Dave Arndt and many

of the best local performers at the amphitheater at Baum Grove. Kid will enjoy several activities including a moon-walk, yoga with the Yoga Hive, sidewalk chalk and a raffle.

There will be live demonstrations on sustainable practices from Penn Futures and Tree Pittsburgh. Duquesne Light plans to distribute free CFL light bulbs. Check out Friendship's website, www.friendship-pgh.org or [facebook.com/friendship.pittsburgh](https://www.facebook.com/friendship.pittsburgh) for news and updates about the festival and a link to an downloadable order form for plants. ♦



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GARFIELD COMMUNITY FARM POISED FOR GROWTH THIS SEASON

By John Creasy

Open Door Presbyterian Church

Three years ago, The Open Door Presbyterian Church and Valley View Presbyterian Church began working on a project in sustainable agriculture now known as Garfield Community Farm. It's been an exciting journey over the past three growing seasons to move from a small garden project at our two churches into a small farm growing over 1,000 pounds of vegetables for the residents of Garfield in 2010. If you want to visit the farm, or get a bearing on exactly where it is, just look up the hill at the giant blue water tower. Our gardens are located just under the water tower on the southeast-facing hillside.

This spring we are continuing two of our most successful aspects of the project – our CSA (community supported agriculture) and our Thursday night volunteer opportu-

nities. The CSA is a vegetable subscription program through which residents can receive a box of vegetables from the farm from June through the second week of October. We run the CSA on a sliding scale for those who can donate a fair market value and for those who may struggle to donate a full price. Currently we're looking for a few more of our neighbors to sign up, especially those who may not have the income to buy fresh, organic and local produce at Whole Foods or Giant Eagle – we want to get vegetables to your family all summer long.

Over the past few months, we have also received some exciting project grants. In December of 2010 we were awarded a generous Spring grant from the Sprout Fund. This grant is being used to build an ecologically designed and managed greenhouse called a bio-shelter. The bio-shelter will help us grow more food on a year-round basis. It will also serve as an amaz-



WEEK 2 FRESH PRODUCE IN LAST YEAR'S CSA PROGRAM AT GARFIELD COMMUNITY FARM.

ing teaching tool toward sustainable building design, ecological farming, and the creation of a local food system. We're excited that this small but innovative building will serve the neighborhood of Garfield.

For more information on the farm, how to volunteer, and especially for more information on our CSA vegetable subscription program, please email garfieldcommunityfarm@gmail.com. ♦

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Q&A with Tony Ceoffe

Democratic Party Endorsed Candidate For Pittsburgh City Council District 7

Why do you want to be the council representative for District 7?

During the course of my involvement in making our communities a better place to live, I have become increasingly aware of the quality of life issues that our residents currently face. I want to be the districts number one advocate and problem solver on all city related issues. I feel the time has come to put the needs and the concerns of the residents first again and return council to the communities.

When elected what will be your priorities?

As your council representative, I pledge that your concerns will always be my number one priority. In these difficult fiscal times, I will work to ensure that city services are delivered in a timely and effective manner. Public safety must be a top priority throughout the district. When it comes down to it, all things are possible once our communities become and remain safe. With ever-dwindling city resources we must be imaginative in our thinking and use all resources that are available to us. For example we must come to rely even more on the abundance of active neighborhood volunteers throughout our district that have, and will continue to, take the initiative in making our communities better places to live. Be it planting trees, holding community clean-ups, coaching youth activities, or finding creative uses for abandoned city properties, we must work together to continue and surpass the recent strides that district 7 communities have made. I will not take credit for their hard work, but will find ways to facilitate and help them by leveraging city services and programs to ensure their success in making and keeping the east end clean, safe and green.

How will your votes reflect the wishes of the community?

Much has been said about the gridlock that infighting and personal political ambition has reeked on the passage of important legislation in city council. I too believe that over the past several years, important aspects of city government have stalled because of the inability of council representatives to put aside their differences and political aspirations and do the work of the people they represent. I pledge to you that I will not be a rubberstamp vote for the administration or any faction of council. I will bring the issues to the community and listen to what you have to say and vote accordingly. I will work with my colleagues on city council to reach consensus. To ensure that political ambition does not cloud my decision making processes, I pledge to you that I will not run for any other office during my term as your council representative.

ON MAY 17TH – VOTE DEMOCRATIC ENDORSED CANDIDATE TONY CEOFFE FOR CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 7

Courting East End Seniors



Jonathan Cox

Attorney Eleanor Bush, a candidate for Judge of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, visited the Vintage Senior Center in East Liberty in April. She also spoke with seniors at centers in Lawrenceville and Bloomfield. Bush told seniors about the work she has done to help children and families for the past 22 years and her goal of serving in the Court's Family Division. "Quite a few seniors have had direct involvement with the foster care and adoption systems," said Bush, "so they care a lot about strong, healthy families."

LYMPHEDEMA SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN FORMING



Courtesy Cancer Caring Center

The Cancer Caring Center and Allegheny Chesapeake Physical Therapy are fulfilling the need for a lymphedema support group in the Greater Pittsburgh Area. Lymphedema is a swelling in the arms or legs caused by the accumulation of lymphatic fluid in the tissues, often following breast cancer surgery. (See photo above.) The new support group for adult women will meet May 24, June 28 and July 26, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Center, 4117 Liberty Avenue in Bloomfield. This group will provide education and community about this painful condition. Friends, family, and caregivers are welcome, too, and participation is free. Facilitated by Suzanne Cavanaugh, PT, DPT, CLT-LANA, Certified Lymphedema Therapist. Call the Cancer Caring Center to register: 412-622-1212.

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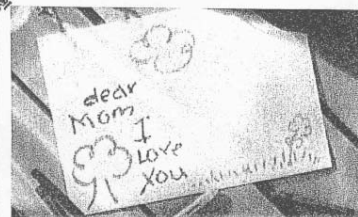
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Reflecting on Mother's Day

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

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

We would like to offer the following suggestions:

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



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GA/GI Festival Energizes Garfield and Friendship for Second Year

By Brenda Brown

Passports: The Art Diversity Project

April got a double dose of eco, art and technology in the Penn Avenue Arts District as the second wave of the Geek Art/Green Innovators Festival landed for two days, April 1 and 2, with a slightly reinvented name and a unique festival philosophy — showcase anything innovative in art, digital or dirt. “Share the cool” is what the GA/GI Team requested of their participants.

From behind university walls, up from suburban basements, and out of urban labs, poured dozens of creative people eager to show their projects and programs to John Q. Public. To name a few featured at GA/GI:

Professor Das and students from CMU’s chemistry department highlighted the International Year of Chemistry with “A Taste of Science.” The staff of the Quality of Life Tech Center tested wheelchairs for people with disabilities. GA/GI launched the world premiere of “Visible Cities,” an outdoor game with LED lights coordinated by Adam Nelson of Obscure Games, who used a Facebook page to round up more than 75 players. Also, there was geometric sidewalk art created by Alberto Almarza and his CAPA students, as well as many other fascinating programs and demos.

New to the Penn Arts District’s “Unblurred” was Assemble, a community for art and technology exhibits now open at 5125 Penn Avenue, the space that was formerly Thomas



Larry Rippel

CHERYL CAPEZUTTI'S GIANT PUPPET DANCES AT THE GLASS LOFTS.

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MODEL AT THE ECO/TECH FASHION SHOW IN A TEA PACKET DRESS BY AMANDA GROSS.

Merton. Newcomer Rich Pell, a Smithsonian fellow, gave GA/GI-goers a sneak preview of his Center for Post Natural History at 4913 Penn, which officially opens in May and will showcase the odd and interesting effects humans have on nature. Other new faces at the 2011 GA/GI Festival included The Sierra Club, I Made It Market, Underwood Solar Future and David Bear’s Gigapan Project doing its first GA/GI-pan of the audience at the Pittsburgh Glass Center, which hosted an eco/tech fashion show sponsored by the national beverage company FUZE.

“I don’t know how much more exciting we can make this,” said festi-

val founder Christine Bethea. “But we intend to try each and every year. I can’t thank everyone involved enough. And amazingly, our growing family of Penn avenue galleries and businesses outdid themselves again.”

Local sponsors and supporters included Highmark, The Cotton Factory, Union Project and the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative through the partnership of Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and Friendship Development Associates, with support from the Urban Redevelopment Authority’s Mainstreets Pittsburgh. Look for more information and photos on the website www.gagifest11.blogspot.com. ♦

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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 by the 15th of each month. We do not accept listings over the phone. Listings published on a space-available basis.

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YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM

Build your community and get paid while in training! Earn your G.E.D. or high school diploma, and learn skills to increase your income. Join Garfield Jubilee's YouthBuild Program, in partnership with Hill House Association and Housing Authority of Pittsburgh. To apply, you must be interested in learning construction trades and in further education; serious and committed; between 16 and 24 years old; unemployed and out of school; and a resident of Pittsburgh. To qualify, you must have a birth certificate, proper ID and Social Security card. For more information, contact Renee Robinson or Tonya Daniels at Garfield Jubilee Association, 5315 Hillcrest Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15224 or 412-661-6275.

L'VILLE BLOSSOM TOUR

The 2011 Lawrenceville Blossom Tour is a celebration of spring and Lawrenceville's dedication to local goods and services. Travel down Butler Street on May 7 and 8 to see all that our local artisans, craftsmakers, businesses, bakers, and more have to offer. Sustainability starts at home, and what better way to take action than to plant your own garden? At each official Blossom Tour stop, we're giving out free seed packets. These seeds are responsibly and sustainably grown, and the selection is specially designed for our climate. If you plant all of them, you'll have a bountiful garden that can feed an

entire family. The Blossom Tour is free. For more information, visit <http://blossomtour.wordpress.com>.

APPLY FOR A HABITAT HOME

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh's mission is the elimination of substandard housing in Allegheny County and throughout the world. Habitat homes are built in partnership with the homeowner and the community and sold to families with an interest-free, 30-year mortgage. Beginning in 2011, HFHGP will be building as many as four homes in Garfield. Applications for homeownership are now being accepted! Please visit www.pittsburghhabitat.org or contact Stephanie Raufer at sraufer@pittsburghhabitat.org or 412-466-6710 x10 for more information on this new homeownership opportunity in Garfield.

KST DANCE FESTIVAL

The Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Avenue, hosts the newMoves Contemporary Dance Festival, May 12-15. 4 Days. 15 Choreographers. 4 Selected Emerging Choreographers. 6 Distinct Programs. 1 Showcase for Young Artists. And more talented dancers than you can count! Festival pass, \$45; single tickets, \$20. For more info: www.kelly-strayhorn.org.

READY, SET, GRILL!

Get ready for summer barbecues. Your grill is no longer just for hamburgers and hot dogs. Gas-Lite Manufacturing, your outdoor grill headquarters, along with Weber-Stephens Products, is hosting a second annual Outdoor Chef demonstration of grilling tips and tricks on Saturday, May 14, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 3701 Charlotte Street in Lawrenceville. All are welcome!

WOMEN'S DAY

Morningside Baptist Church, 4846 Sullivan Street, celebrates its Annual Women's Day, on Sunday, May 15. Speaker at 11 a.m.: Rev. Lola Cherry, Sixth Mt. Zion Baptist Church; Speaker at 3:30 p.m.: Sister Tiffany Robinson, First Lady, Revival Temple Fellowship Ministry. Afternoon devotions led by the Praise Team, Rising Star Baptist Church, under the direction of Rev. Karen Jones.

LAWRENCEVILLE URBAN GARDEN TOUR

The Lawrenceville Hospitality Association will sponsor a free, self-guided walking tour of interesting and unusual urban gardens and back yards in the later part of June (date to be announced). If you have an outdoor space you would like to showcase, please contact paul.alessio@yahoo.com for specific information. Creative use of space, unusual and atypical flora, as well as more traditional gardens are welcome to participate.

FREE COLON CANCER PRESENTATION

The UPMC St. Margaret Lawrenceville Family Health Center will host a free presentation on colon cancer, presented by Lorraine Starsky, RN, of the Allegheny County Health Department's (ACHD) Chronic Disease Prevention Program, Thursday, May 19, from 7 to 8 p.m. at the health center, 3937 Butler Street. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States. The ACHD's presentation will focus on a brief overview of colorectal cancer along with its risk factors, prevention strategies, and screening options. To register for this free presentation, please contact the UPMC St. Margaret Lawrenceville Family Health Center at 412-622-7343 no later than Thursday, May 12. Refreshments will be served.

CCAC SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH JOB CORPS

The U.S. Department of Labor through the Pittsburgh Job Corps Center has 200 full scholarships available to the Community College of Allegheny County. These sponsored scholarships are available to young persons 17 to 24 years of age, and are fully comprehensive, covering tuition, books, and a bus pass. All enrolled receive a monthly stipend and completion bonus. Tutoring and academic support are available. Students can use these sponsorships

to obtain a two-year Associate Degree or a one-year certificate program. Students can enroll in four main areas - Engineering/Science, Medical/Pharmacy, Social Services or Business/Computer Science. Participants must have completed high school or earned a GED. New and current students can apply. Many students transfer to a four-year college after attending CCAC. These CCAC scholarships are valid at all five campuses: North Side, North Hills, South Hills, Boyce/Monroeville or Homewood. No residency requirement or future obligation. For more information, contact Job Corps Admissions at 412-441-8779 or Comer.Josh@jobcorps.org.

HOMEBUYER EVENT

Looking to buy a home? Don't know which lenders can help? Are there other housing resources available? These questions and more will be answered at "Spring Forward: Make the Homebuyer Choice" on Saturday, May 21, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Social Hall of East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland Avenue. This free event will showcase the latest homebuying practices and new resources available to the public. Participating lenders, real estate agencies and housing organizations will be there to meet with the community. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided so stop by and learn more about the benefits of becoming a home buyer this year.

DANCE CLASSES AND SUMMER CAMPS

Pittsburgh Dance & Theatre Arts is offering Contemporary Ballet Master Class on Sunday, May 1, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. with Mami Tomotani, internationally acclaimed dancer from the Matthew Bourne Contemporary Ballet. Cost: \$15. PDTA is also offering 6-week Summer Performing Arts Camps for kids. Spend your summer learning the performing arts and getting fit with us - camps include Fitness Camp, Manners Camp, Musical Theatre Camp, Dance Camp, and World Beat Camp. This is Pittsburgh's most diverse multicultural

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

al camp for kids. Children will explore different cultures through storytelling and dance. Also registering kids and adults for Ballet, Pointe, Jazz, Tap, Belly Dance and Kids Acting. 6-week session runs from June 20 to July 30. All classes at Winchester-Thurston School. Please email pittsburghdancetheatre@gmail.com or call 412-681-7523 to register for these camps and classes.

A PLACE TO BELONG

Come visit the Door of Hope Community Church, 5225 Holmes Street, Lawrenceville, every Sunday at 11 a.m. for church service. We also offer Sunday school for all age groups, plus Christians in Recovery, at 10 a.m. For additional information, please call 412-781-6440, email us at doorofhopecommunitychurch@verizon.net or check out our Facebook page for our calendar and updates on activities.

CONSTRUCTION JOBS WITH GARFIELD GLEN

A public meeting will take place on Thursday, May 12, for individuals interested in qualifying for construction labor jobs with Garfield Glen, a 49-unit rental housing development being planned for Garfield. The meeting will be held at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's Community Activity Center, 113 North Pacific Avenue, starting at 5:30 p.m. Workers hired for the project will be paid at federally prevailing wage rates. Construction is slated to begin in summer 2011. For more information, please call Garfield Jubilee Association at 412-665-5213.

HOUSING, from page 6

Thursday, May 12, to talk with individuals interested in qualifying for these jobs. It will be held at the BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 North Pacific Avenue, starting at 5:30 p.m. Workers will be paid at federally prevailing wage rates, another requirement. And Swartz estimates that at least one-third of the total construction cost will be awarded in contracts to minority and women-owned firms. Firms wishing to learn more about these opportunities can contact Cory Lovrak of S & A Homes by e-

6TH LAWRENCEVILLE BLOSSOM TOUR

The Lawrenceville Blossom Tour returns for 2011 with demonstrations, events, and a seedling sale on Saturday, May 7, and Sunday, May 8, and a renewed commitment to celebrating local merchants and sustainable agriculture. Mayor Luke Ravenstahl will preside over the opening of the tour with the dedication of a new public park in Lawrenceville on Saturday, May 7. Now in its sixth year, the Blossom Tour is a celebration of spring and local goods and services. Local businesses will be handing out free vegetable and flower seeds, conducting a variety of demonstrations, and holding special events. This year, the seeds distributed for free on the Blossom Tour are all certified Non-GMO (genetically modified) and are handpicked for the Pennsylvania climate. By collecting all the free seed packets and planting them, you'll have a hearty garden that can help feed the whole family. The tour starts at 34th and Butler and travels all the way up to 54th and Butler, with 24 businesses participating. For more information on the Blossom Tour, including a full list of participants, please visit www.blossomtours.wordpress.com. Be sure to come to the Blossom Tour kick-off party at Eclipse Lounge, 3705 Butler Street, on Thursday, May 5, from 5 to 9 p.m. to benefit Grow Pittsburgh, a local organization dedicated to promoting urban gardening. The merchants of Lawrenceville will be guest bartending, and a raffle for a gift bag full of goods from local merchants will be held.

mailing him at clovrak@sanda-homes.com, Swartz said.

"Once this development is in the ground, we want to continue with the implementation of our housing and land-use plan by looking at where we could do a second project of this nature in Garfield," Swartz concluded. "The part of the neighborhood east of North Atlantic Avenue would certainly be an area that we would want to consider, if residents feel it would be worthwhile."♦

CARNEGIE LIBRARY HAPPENINGS - MAY

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - East Liberty Branch
130 S. Whitfield St. 412-363-8274
All programs are free

Baby & Me

For ages birth to 2. Thursdays, May 5, 12, 19, 26, 10:30 a.m.

Special Event: Penny's

Playmates

A multi-lingual fable with Lalka Theater puppets. For families of all ages. Saturday, May 21, 2 p.m.

Kids Create: Origami

For all ages. Saturday, May 21, 3:30 p.m.

Pre-K Program: What's the BIG

Idea? Math & Science for Pre-schoolers

Wednesday, May 25, 6 p.m.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Lawrenceville Branch

279 Fisk St. 412-682-3668
All programs are free

Children's Yoga + Creative Movement

For ages 2 to 5. Tuesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 11 a.m.

Drop-In Art Club

For all ages. Saturday, May 7, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Teen Time

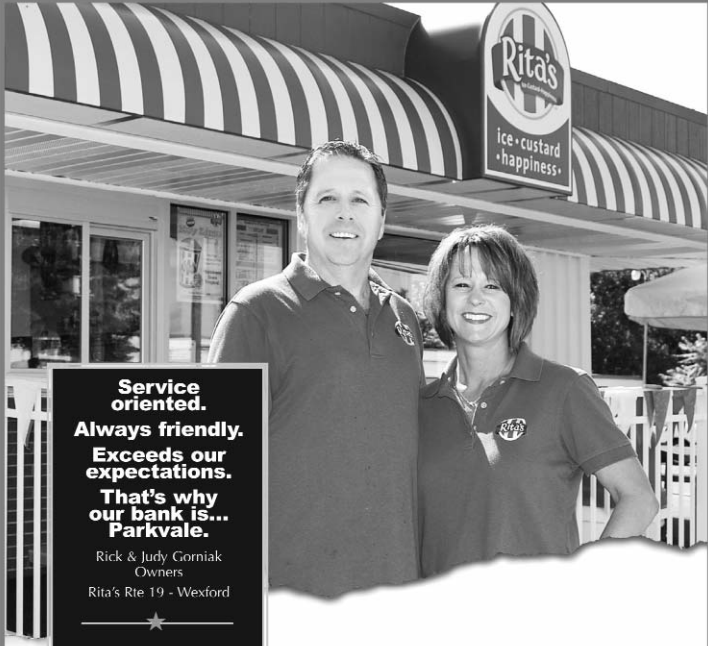
For middle and high school students. Wednesday, May 25, 4 p.m. Video games? Board games?

Crafts? What we do is up to you!

After-school Recess: May

Flowers

For grades 2 to 5. May 19, 4 p.m.



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Garfield Hosts Spring Clean-Up



Kathryn Vargas/BGC

More than 30 Garfield residents and volunteers participated in the Garfield Community Clean-up on April 16 from 9 a.m. to noon. Despite the rainy weather, the group collected 52 bags of trash. The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation would like to thank all of those people who made this clean-up a success!

PATF Event Sets Fundraising Record



Courtesy PATF

Broadway, film and TV star Alan Cumming (who currently co-stars as Eli Gold on CBS's *The Good Wife*) brought his star power and charm to a performance for the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force's 25th Annual Benefit at the Pittsburgh Public Theater on March 16. The event set a new record in PATF's fundraising history. With more than 400 attendees, PATF raised \$150,000. Cumming is pictured here with PATF executive director Kathi Boyle. The PATF fundraiser was co-chaired by Tony and Linda Bucci.

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412-526-2156

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Looking for walking and/or biking partners. Flexible times. Females or males. Call Lance: 412-583-7039.

The BGC is now on Twitter!
Follow
@BloomGarCorp

KBK, from page 7

to being in good standing with property management. The KBK Foundation serves youth and seniors by providing services and resources designed to improve the quality of life for those communities served by KBK Enterprises.

In January 2010, Keith Key, chairman of foundation, announced that each family of Phase I of the Garfield Commons community would be eligible for a new computer – a donation to the community for 90 residents, totaling up to \$100,000. All residents 6 years old and up were required to attend a 3 week /6 class computer course in order to receive this free incentive, in addition to being

in good standing with property management.

Key said, "The KBK Foundation has been an essential partner to achieve KBK Enterprises' commitment to change lives by going beyond bricks and sticks. The donation of computers is but one of many programs anticipated for the community. Our total computer commitment will be as much as \$250,000."

Garfield Commons is a new residential community located in the Garfield neighborhood of the city of Pittsburgh on the former Garfield Heights public housing site. Since 2007, the 326 former barracks-style units have been demolished and

rehabbed into town home units. Currently, the first two phases, consisting of 135 units, are complete and fully leased; the third phase is under construction and will be ready to begin leasing in August 2011. Construction of the fourth and final phase is slated to begin in the fall of 2011. The services the foundation provides are reshaping the housing landscape and creating a sense of neighborhood and ownership in the Garfield community.

The foundation has contributed \$50,000 for washers and dryers to new residents of Garfield Commons. In 2010, the Foundation sponsored the community's first "Get To Know Your

Neighbor" fun day, provided Thanksgiving turkeys for senior residents, and awarded a \$250 gift card to a lucky family during the holiday season.

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh awarded KBK Enterprises the development contract for Garfield in 2006. This award was the largest ever given to a minority contractor in Pittsburgh's history. At its completion, the project is estimated to cost \$78 million in development. ♦

For more information, contact KBK Enterprises at 412-363-4401.