



The Bulletin

A Publication of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

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Volume 35, No. 12 Serving Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty and Lawrenceville since 1975 December 2010

ALDI Comes to Baum Boulevard

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

It's not just a rumor anymore: ALDI, the discount supermarket, is coming to the East End.

John Odell, a principal of Warner Pacific Properties, a Michigan-based development company, confirmed the story in a telephone interview with *The Bulletin*. Odell's company purchased the historic building that used to house the Day auto dealership on Baum Boulevard at Roup, and will lease the space to ALDI, he said.

Constructed in the 1930s as a Chrysler dealership, the roughly 95,000-square-foot property will undergo a renovation to preserve the historic character of the building. Paul Smith Architects, a local firm, will oversee its transformation. Odell said demolishing the building was never on the table, because his company recognized "the merit of the existing

architecture." Because the structure was built as a car dealership, a unique feature of the new ALDI store will be indoor parking on the second and third floors, with an entrance off of Roup Avenue.

Lenore Williams, chair of the Baum-Centre Initiative and a board member of Friendship Development Associates, said that she has gotten "very positive feedback" from nearby neighbors who attended a community meeting about the redevelopment plan in September. Although there was some initial neighborhood concern about delivery trucks on the side streets, a traffic study indicated minimal impact on the surrounding community. It was subsequently submitted to the City on November 8.

Odell explained that, because ALDI stocks mostly its own products and not a variety of brand names, the truck traffic coming to the store will be minimal. Stock will come in from

the ALDI warehouse in nearby Saxonburg just once or twice a day. "The deliveries will be about one-fourth of what Rite Aid [across Roup] has every day," he said. "This won't be an irritation to the neighborhood."

Williams said she thinks ALDI will make a great addition to the community. "Any way I can save a dollar or two is fine with me," she noted. "I know lots of people go out of their way to go to ALDI." She added that the store is not necessarily a one-stop shopping place, however. "There's no pharmacy, and you do need to go elsewhere for specialty items. It's complementary to other shopping options."

Odell made a "conservative" estimate that renovation would start in the spring of 2011, with the store opening by the end of the year. "Because it's a renovation and not new construction, we may be able to



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

trim a month or two off the schedule," he observed.

Warner Pacific Properties also purchased the building next to Day Auto on Baum, which once housed the offices of National Record Mart. He said his company intends to renovate that, too, into a "Class A office building." But that renovation, Odell noted, will be phased in after the work on the ALDI store building is completed.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

THE EAST END WORKS COLLABORATIVE HOSTED A MASSIVE JOB FAIR IN NOVEMBER, ATTRACTING MORE THAN 1,200 APPLICANTS AND 85 EMPLOYERS. THE LINE FOR ENTRANCE TO THE FAIR CURVED AROUND THE BLOCK FOR TWO HOURS. SEE THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 3.

Committee Works with WPAHS on Health-Care Solutions for East End

At the end of June, West Penn Allegheny Health

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

community groups and political leaders, the West Penn

System (WPAHS) announced major changes, including the closing of the West Penn Emergency Room and anticipated lay-offs of 1,500 employees at the Bloomfield campus by the end of the year. Now, WPAHS has released its final consolidation plan, which includes far fewer lay-offs than first anticipated and a roster of in- and out-patient services it expects to retain in the West Penn facility – positive news for the East End.

Since announcement of the consolidation in the summer, a coalition of

Community Collaborative, has been meeting as a united front with WPAHS officials to address the loss of jobs, impact on local businesses, and effects on community healthcare. The group includes Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, Chief Executive Dan Onorato, U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle, State Sen. Jim Ferlo, Councilman Patrick Dowd, Councilman Bill Peduto, and County Council President Rich Fitzgerald; and representatives of

See WPAHS, page 8

The final deadline for all articles, ads, and Bulletin Board items for the January 2011 issue is **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2010**. Placement is first-come, first-served. For more information: 412-441-6915.

PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE REPORT

GARFIELD CISP CLEANS UP EYESORE LOT

Anyone who has been past the corner of N. Graham and Broad streets has to have noticed the weeds growing out of control over the past several months. Because this is a vacant lot with an absentee landlord, it seemed that the weeds would continue to fester and grow forever. The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation had received numerous complaints about the property. Now, thanks to the efforts of the young people and adult leaders of the Garfield CISP program, a longstanding neighborhood eyesore has been cleaned up.

Neighbors were concerned about pedestrian safety around that lot, especially with students walking down the hill to their neighborhood bus stop. Additionally, this lot sits on the corner of a main neighborhood corridor and gives a negative perception of the community to anyone traveling by. One of the goals of the new 20-year land reuse plan in Garfield is to build on the assets of our main corridors and highlight these areas as the gateway into the community. This neglected vacant lot on a highly visible corner has given a bad first impression of Garfield.

The BGC called on the assistance of its community partner, Garfield CISP (Community Intensive Supervision Program), which stepped forward to cut down the weeds. The lot is now one step closer to becoming a viable green space. "There is still a lot that needs to be done but with the lot," reflects Aggie Brose, BGC deputy director. "But what is important is that the corner is no longer a public safety issue."

This is truly an example of community groups coming together to solve a community problem. Thank you, Garfield CISP, for giving back to the community and ridding our neighborhood of an out-of-control nuisance lot.

DETER THEFT FROM CARS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

At the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's November Public Safety Task Force meeting, Zone 5 Police Commander Timothy O'Connor noted an alarming statistic: 42 thefts from autos took place in our neighborhoods in October alone. Most of these thefts, the commander said, could have been avoided if owners had been vigilant about locking valuables, like laptop computers and GPS systems, in their trunks before leaving their cars unattended.

With the holiday season upon us, you may be tempted to leave packages and valuable items on the seat of your car while you dash into a store for "just a minute." In no time at all, however, accomplished thieves can break into your car, either smashing a window or manipulating the lock with a tool.

To protect your possessions and your car, be sure to lock personal items in your trunk or take them with you when you park. Remove your GPS and also its mount, which can alert thieves to its existence and send them searching for it in your glove compartment. Although you're busy and rushing around at this time of year, the extra minutes you take to foil potential thieves will pay off in the long run.

NEXT PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE MEETING

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

4:00 p.m.

Community Activity Center

113 North Pacific Avenue, Garfield

Community residents may bring specific issues to the attention of the task force from 4 to 4:15 p.m.

Afterschool Programs Make a Difference for Students, Working Families

By Paula Martinac

The Bulletin

Several hundred students, parents, teachers and community members filled the Pittsburgh Peabody High School Auditorium on October 21 for the annual Lights on Afterschool, an event that raises awareness about the important work of afterschool programs around the city and country. The celebration, co-sponsored locally by Wireless Neighborhoods, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and Pittsburgh Public Schools, was one of 7,500 such events held nationwide this year.

According to the Afterschool Alliance, a national organization that advocates for afterschool programming, millions of children are on their own every day between the hours of 3 p.m., when classes let out, and 6 p.m., when their parents come home from work. Current estimates are that 26 percent of K-12 students in Pennsylvania are unsupervised during this critical time; 32 percent of those not attending afterschool would do so if a program were available to them.

Afterschool programs play a vital role in keeping kids both safe and out of trouble during those vulnerable hours, thus helping working families. As an added benefit, students in afterschool programs actually have



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS GATHERED AT PEABODY HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ANNUAL LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL EVENT.

improved school attendance, achieve better test scores and grades, and show a higher level of engagement during school hours. They also improve social and interpersonal skills that will help them succeed in the future, and reduce their likelihood of turning to drug use and crime.

"Time after school is equally important as time in school," Evan Frazier, Senior Vice President of Community Affairs for Highmark, told the Lights On Afterschool audience. Frazier, a Peabody graduate,

recalled his own time spent in an afterschool program called Junior Achievement, which he credits with jump-starting his business career. "By the time I went to college, I had four years of learning how to run a business," he noted. If students want to be successful in life, he concluded, "it's in your hands."

Dr. Dara Ware Allen, Executive Director of YouthWorks and a Pittsburgh School Board member, told the audience that she has "a special passion for what goes on after

school." A Pittsburgh Perry grad, Dr. Allen pointed out that afterschool programs "empower young people to expand their circle of relationships," which can help long after graduation. "Afterschool," she said, "is the first step in building your network. Make sure that there are people in your circle who care about your success and use them to help further your goals."

State Rep. Jake Wheatley also stressed the importance of afterschool programs in his own life. "I had recreational places growing up, like the Y," he noted. "We cannot have a future for our children without nurturing spaces after hours." The final speaker was Robert Nelkin, president of the United Way, who organization is supporting afterschool programs in the East End through Wireless Neighborhoods.

In addition to speakers, the afternoon's events included performances by the Peabody cheerleading squad; Pittsburgh CAPA students; Afterschool Buddy & The Gang, with the Rainbow Kids; and Hip Hop on L.O.C.K., an afterschool music program. Community partners highlighted their afterschool-related projects in a provider fair in the auditorium lobby, and afterschool students led tours of several "Best Practices" rooms, where attendees got to see some of the local programs in action.

Job Fair Connects Employers, Applicants

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

More than 85 employers and 1,253 applicants crowded the halls of Eastminster Presbyterian Church on November 9 for a colossal job fair. A partnership of local organizations called East End Works headed the planning, recruitment and implementation of the fair under the leadership of the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC).

The line to enter the job fair started snaking from the entry around the block even before the doors opened at 3:30 p.m. As the crowds grew, attendees were allowed in three or four at a time to prevent overcrowding the building. People were still queuing up until 20 minutes before the fair ended.

Applicants said they were putting out feelers for first jobs, new jobs, and replacements for jobs they had lost. "I can do anything," said Tyrone, a young applicant from Swissvale who waited patiently in line with his friends to enter the fair. "I was doing youth work, but I lost my job and I'll do anything."

His friend Teeoina from Homewood said she was also eager to find work. "I'll do anything that's not fast food," she remarked, noting that she saw an ad for the fair in *The Bulletin* and came armed with her resume.

The wait was worth it for many, as the employers inside the fair ranged from banks to retail to universities to hospitals and nonprofits – a diverse range of opportunities across the city. Representatives from unions, construction, senior-care organizations and the city and county were also putting the word out about available positions, many at the entry level. Target, which is building a new store in East Liberty, was in attendance, and Owner Site Representative Dennis Knopick said they would be gearing up for having to fill numerous staff positions next spring and summer.

Many employers had been to the job fair in previous years, when it was called the Greater East Liberty Job Fair and sponsored by the City of Pittsburgh Weed & Seed. "It's a good way to keep in touch with this community," commented Dave Perry, Human Resources Coordinator for the Omni William Penn Hotel downtown. Perry said that the hotel has 10 to 30 job openings at any given time, and operates an automated telephone job line for applicants to hear the latest listings. But the job fair, he said, "gives us a bigger pool of applicants" from a different part of the city.

Kannu Sahni, Supervisor of Recruiting for the University of Pittsburgh, agreed that the fair provided a "great chance to meet a lot of applicants. We're here because we're



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

very engaged in the community." Pitt only accepts applications online, given its need to manage thousands of employees, so representatives at the fair were offering potential applicants an introduction to the process. "We're here to just have a quick interaction and point them to jobs they might be a match for," Sahni said. At present, Pitt has about 300 job openings, many in research, but also a number of general positions.

"The East End Works job fair was made possible by the collaborative

efforts of our community partners from churches and hospitals to schools and local businesses," said Rick Flanagan, Program Manager for the ENEC. "We are confident that a number of job-seekers will gain employment from the direct interaction with employers. East End Works is now committed to engaging the many registrants at the job fair with follow-up employment assistance to help them from the start of the job searching process to the final stage of getting employed."

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The Bulletin

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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

December 2010 • Vol. 35, No. 12

Total circulation:

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

Editorial and Advertising Offices:

5149 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
Phone: 412-441-6915
Fax: 412-441-6956
Email: Bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org

Editor: Paula Martinac

Advertising: Martin Pochapin

Proofreading: Rick Swartz
Michael Rebinski

Bookkeeper: Mary Anne Stevanus

Distribution: Garfield CISP

The opinions expressed herein are
not necessarily those of the publisher.
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Acknowledge the BGC's NPP
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Neighborhood Development, The
United Way, Allegheny Valley Bank,
Dollar Bank, Citizens Bank, and all
our advertisers.

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

New Learning Center Focuses on Enrichment of Minority Students

By Paula Martinac

The Bulletin

There's a new tenant on Penn Avenue, and it's not a restaurant or art gallery. Occupying two floors above the PNC Bank at Penn and Winebiddle, Kanmas Educational Support Center (KESC) is a nonprofit, licensed private academic school offering tutoring support to K-12 students.

"When I saw it, I said this is the place," remarks KESC President and CFO Dr. Enefaa Wosu. She first became acquainted with Garfield in 2002, when she was a consultant for Garfield Jubilee Association. Since that time, "a desire to serve this community has been on my mind," she says.

She shared that dream with her husband, Professor Sylvanus Wosu, a mechanical engineering professor and Associate Dean of Diversity at the University of Pittsburgh, who serves as KESC's chief educational consultant. Together, they founded KESC in 2006 in Gibsonia, and finally realized their dream of opening a Garfield center in October of this year. "The need is here," Professor Wosu notes.

"KESC is a new kind of learning center," Dr. Wosu says of the after-school program, which focuses on

reading, math, and science, and accepts both Supplemental Education Services (SES) and private pay. The core of the mission, she explains, is to help students learn how to address their individual academic needs, strengthen areas where they are weak, and improve their skills to become individual learners. All this is accomplished through computer-based learning alternated and reinforced with hands-on tutoring. The ratio of students to tutors is three to one.

The program is "based on research I did on how to best reach academically challenged students," says Professor Wosu, who is originally from Nigeria but has been in this country for 36 years. Students' skills are assessed at the beginning of the process and after every 12 to 15 hours of tutoring to enable a customized learning plan. The ultimate goal, he says, is "the enrichment of minority students. A lot have been told you can't learn math. I'd like as many of them as possible to become engineers."

The Wosus see the center as a tool for helping students meet their yearly adequate progress, as required by the No Child Left Behind Act, and also to be better prepared for college. "But they have to have the mindset to learn," Dr. Wosu points out. She says they have seen excellent results with the students they have worked with since founding KESC. Most show significant improvement after just 24 hours of tutoring; the program guarantees progress after 45 hours.

In addition, she says the relationship between students and the KESC staff goes far beyond regular tutoring. "Kids don't want to go home," Dr. Wosu explains. "They're so embedded in the program, they can't wait to come back. Children know if you care about them, and they love to be around you. I've had students come and hug me."

KESC will be holding rolling open house events throughout the month of December. For more information, stop by the office at 5100 Penn Avenue, 2nd floor, or call toll-free 1-888-676-8459. Information about the KESC approach to tutoring is available at www.kanmaseducation.org.

Showcase of the Month returns with a "splash" in January!

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helps low-income people pay their heating bills through home heating energy assistance grants and crisis grants paid directly to your utility company. You need not have an unpaid bill to receive home heating energy assistance. If you or someone you know is finding that money is tight this winter, help is available.

You can receive this money without being in the Cash Assistance program—a family of four with an annual income of up to \$35,280 can qualify for assistance. This year, the minimum grant has been increased to \$300 from \$100 to provide significant relief to households and minimize the need for CRISIS services.

The fastest way to apply is by applying through www.compass.state.pa.us or by calling Allegheny County at 412-565-2146 for an

By Sen Jim Ferlo
38th Pa. Senatorial District

application. To apply, you will need to provide names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers and proof of income for all household members, plus a recent heating bill.

If service to your home is currently off or an emergency repair is needed due to broken heating equipment or leaks, you can apply to CRISIS by contacting Allegheny County Department of Human Services at 1-800-851-3838.

My office is available to help you to prepare applications, and I encourage eligible residents to apply. No one should go without heat this winter, and by applying early and getting help quickly, our residents will remain safe and warm throughout the coming season. Contact my office at 412-621-3006 with any questions, or find more information on LIHEAP at www.senatorferlo.com.

MEET THE BGC BOARD



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

On October 27, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation elected its 2010-2011 board of directors. Returning board members talked about their strong commitment to the organization. "I only feel better about being here after a year on the board," was how director John Florio summed it up. Incoming directors spoke about "wanting to be part of Garfield on the up and up," as Zach Kurtz phrased it. "There is a certain resilience here," observed new director Vaughn Tarrant. Pictured above are: (back row, from left) Zach Kurtz, Vaughn Tarrant, Lauren McKibben, John Florio, Jason Wilburn, and P.J. Maloney; (front row, from left) Mitchell Miller, Jamita Poston, Jim Maloney, Callie Byford, Catherine Curry, Zuleikah Bjork, and Eileen Kraus Dobratz. Missing from the photo are Kenya Boswell, Bill Cornell, Freddie Croce, and James Moore.

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Lawrenceville Set for 11th Annual Cookie Tour

By Patrick Bowman
Lawrenceville Corporation

Lawrenceville merchants will serve up tasty samples of cookies to visitors during the eleventh annual Joy of Cookies Cookie Tour, December 2 through 5 at participating businesses along Butler Street, Penn Avenue, 43rd, 44th, and Hatfield Streets.

Visitors will experience the many independently owned shops, galleries, and boutiques that offer a range of unique, eclectic, and handcrafted goods. The tour aims to offer the “un-mall” experience, an alternative for those looking to do their holiday shopping in one of Pittsburgh’s historic business districts. Lawrenceville is a place where shoppers can also experience the local eateries that offer great food and a place to relax among his-

toric, artistic, friendly feel of the neighborhood. Visitors are encouraged to try samples of home-baked cookies at 21 different shops and take home free recipes for their own baking. Cookies will be baked by Alissa Miller, and a map with participating businesses and restaurants/coffee shops (“Take-a-Break” stops) can be downloaded at www.lvpgh.com/joyof-cookiestour.

The tour happens Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Saturday, visitors can catch a trolley cruising the neighborhood from 34th to 55th Streets and side streets in between. Also on Saturday, visitors can attend a Cookie Mall bake sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Teamsters Temple, located at 47th and Butler

Streets. The bake sale, organized by the Lawrenceville Rotary, will benefit local community groups.

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

than 3,000 attendees.

“The Cookie Tour is getting better with age,” Mary Coleman, lead organizer and owner of Gallery on 43rd Street. “Each year we add new businesses to the tour and this year we have 29 Cookie Tour stops. Last year most shops reported an increase in the number of shoppers as well as an increase in business during the four days of the event. We hope for the same results this year!”

Website Offers East Liberty News, Info

Curious about what’s happening in East Liberty? Check

out the East Liberty Post at www.east-libertypost.com. Though the website is managed by East Liberty Development, Inc., it belongs to the community. The Post is updated daily with events, news stories and even deals from East Liberty business owners.

This has been a busy year for East Liberty; new trees were planted, new shops were opened and more are on their way. Updates on all of this and more can be found on the Post, as well as opportunities to volunteer at tree plantings, mulchings and much more.

The project about which most people are asking is the current Target construction. The store is slated to open July 24, 2011. The Post is frequently updated with photos and text describing the building process, step by step. As the opening date draws near, more information will be available regarding Target career opportu-

By Margaret Graham
East Liberty Development, Inc.

nities on the Target page of the East Liberty Post.

In May, East Liberty released an updated Community Plan, “Many Voices Driving Neighborhood Change.” The full text of this document, in PDF form, can be found on the Post. In the same spirit, the “Developer Info” page has information regarding design standards, the East Liberty Master Plan and the Town Square vision.

For those new to the East End, the Post offers a detailed history of the area. Also located on the website are parking locations and directions to the neighborhood. East Liberty businesses and their websites are also found on the “Business Directory” page. Looking to open a business in East Liberty? There’s information on commercial space as well.

Be sure to check the East Liberty Post for all of the latest news in East Liberty and the East End.

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Bulletin Honored by Job Corps



THE BULLETIN'S EDITOR PAULA MARTINAC (ABOVE CENTER) WAS HONORED AT A COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL AND ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD LUNCHEON AT THE PITTSBURGH JOB CORPS CENTER IN OCTOBER. PJCC RECOGNIZED THE BULLETIN FOR ITS CONTINUING COVERAGE OF THE CENTER. ALSO PICTURED ARE DOROTHY SWEENEY, PJCC BUSINESS COMMUNITY LIAISON, AND MARK DOUGLAS, PJCC DIRECTOR.

Courtesy PJCC

THE BULLETIN: Into the 21st Century

Second of a two-part series honoring the 35th anniversary of *The Bulletin*

By Michael Rebinski
Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.

1984-1989: Branching Out

After Sister Sally Witt's tenure, six different editors helped *The Bulletin* bring the 1980s to a close. During this time, circulation expanded from fewer than 7,000 copies to more than 15,000, with increases made under each new editor. The number of pages fluctuated from 12 to 28, with election season accounting for the expanded issues. The content reflected the concerns of the time: public safety, problem bars, lingering vacancy, and the health of the business district.

A series of front-page articles, for example, reported on the effort to hold Giant Eagle accountable for the security of patrons and the condition of its store on Penn Avenue. *The Bulletin* began to publish more development news, as the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) expanded its efforts to include more development activities: the first home building

projects, a small business loan program, and financial education classes.

Toward the close of the 1980s, the newly christened *Bulletin* ("Bloomfield-Garfield" was dropped from the name) was at its most expansive, covering "Bloomfield, Garfield, Friendship, Lawrenceville and Polish Hill." *The Bulletin* covered Friendship residents as they battled to keep "Baum Grove" from becoming "Baum Parking Lot," and as they struggled to preserve the character of their neighborhood through a change in the zoning code.

The October/November 1989 issue put the spotlight on revitalization in Lawrenceville. Lawrenceville's long-term plan envisioned the Butler Street business district from 34th to 56th streets as "a vital and successful neighborhood shopping area" containing "food, crafts, gifts, restaurants, and cultural, art and entertainment activities," and considered "adding shops that might expand into other craft media [than woodworking]."

1990-1999: A Change of Pace

Perhaps as a reflection of cooled-down conditions in the neighborhood, *The Bulletin* of the 1990s took a break from confrontational tactics and turned an eye toward Garfield's many positive achievements. Instead of heated campaigns and nostalgic reverie, *The Bulletin* hailed the revitalization of the avenue, the arrival of new businesses, arts festivals, youth achievement, and community events. The paper continued to follow new development happenings, including projects of the BGC and Friendship Development Associates, and took a renewed interest in East Liberty, where seeds were being planted for a major commercial revival.

At various times, *The Bulletin* advertised its territory as the usual Garfield, Friendship and Bloomfield, plus Lawrenceville, East Liberty, Polish Hill, Stanton Heights, and even just "Pittsburgh's Eastside." Having already jettisoned the Bloomfield-Garfield moniker, the new paper gained some color graphics on the front page (usually just two-color, rotated monthly to give each issue a distinct look), and took on some new features. Under editor Michael Romanello, *The Bulletin* began selling classified ads and started a community bulletin board.

In 1994, Bill O'Driscoll, currently the Arts and Entertainment Editor of *Pittsburgh City Paper*, took over as editor and added many features, including the still popular "Eyesore of the Month."

"Penn Avenue was much different then," O'Driscoll recalls. "The only 'arts' place on the block was the Garfield Artworks....Getting businesses to stay or come in was big." He tackled issues like personal finance, small businesses, and "throwaway

properties" in many monthly front-page features.

Martin Pochapin joined the paper in 1995 as part-time ad sales rep, and has continued in that capacity to the present, helping to bring in income that keeps *The Bulletin* in print.

2000-Present: Maturity in Action

Into the early years of the 21st century, *The Bulletin* was still being prepared for print by hand, using X-acto knives and hot wax – the same method utilized by the paper's first staff. Editor Stacie Chandler recalls that she "pasted it up every month and it was hell!" She oversaw the transition to modern, computer-aided production. Chandler also covered the increase in art happenings on Penn Avenue and in Lawrenceville and profiled artists and residents.

Paula Martinac took over as editor in 2007, and brought *The Bulletin* into the social-networking era with a regularly updated blog that posts news and events that miss the monthly print deadline (www.bgcbulletin.blogspot.com). Currently in the works is a collaborative effort among various community-based organizations in the East End to improve the coverage of the paper and perhaps expand the distribution (currently 20,000) into neighboring Larimer. A 35th-anniversary survey of the readership has been guiding this effort, which may include a new logo and design and use of four-color printing.

"We want to keep the mission of the paper – to be a voice for community organizations and individuals – intact," says Martinac. "But as revitalization and neighborhood development in the East End become more collaborative, our hope is that *The Bulletin* can position itself to serve all of the East End better."

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You can read back issues of *The Bulletin* online at
www.bloomfield-garfield.org/Pages/Bulletin.html.

Community Groups "Collaborate" at BGC Luncheon



The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) hosted its annual luncheon on November 12 at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association in Oakland. This year's theme was "Collaborate," in recognition of the growing collaboration among East End community groups. Keynote speaker Grant Oliphant, President and CEO of The Pittsburgh Foundation, told the audience of about 140 that "our power comes from working together." Mary Lou Tenenbaum, Manager of the Real Estate Department of the City of Pittsburgh, received a Distinguished Public Service Award. At the end of the event, community leaders posed for a group photo: (from left) Colin Kelley, NeighborWorks Western Pa.; Ernie Hogan, Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group; Joann Monroe, Garfield Jubilee Association; Karla Owens, Bloomfield Development Corp.; Matthew Galluzzo, Lawrenceville Corp.; Rick Swartz, BGC; Kevin Mickens, East Liberty Development, Inc.; Kenneth Stiles, Friendship Preservation Group; Lauren Byrne, Lawrenceville United; Margaret Lanier, City Treasurer; Aggie Brose, BGC; and Kim Graziani, the Mayor's Office.

WPAHS, from page 1

Bloomfield Citizens Council, Bloomfield Development Corporation, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Consumer Health Coalition, Friendship Development Associates, and Lawrenceville United.

"We've all come together to address this on behalf of the community," said Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation who has attended all the meetings with WPAHS. "We've been working toward a common goal of keeping healthcare and jobs in our neighborhoods. The unity has just been great."

With the master plan announced on October 29, the Community Collaborative has made one of its top priorities the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with WPAHS officials - an agreement that defines the partnership moving forward - with a goal of sustaining the health-care system as a whole and ensuring that the parts of the West Penn facility left vacant by the changes are reused for the benefit of the community. The collaborative is also looking at the funds available in the West Penn Hospital Foundation

account, which could be used as a source of funds for the partnership's reuse plans.

According to the plans released by WPAHS and presented to the collaborative, 400 employees from across the system are losing their jobs as a result of the consolidation; they have been offered severance packages. Of those, 352 were employed at West Penn. An additional 210 employees of the system as a whole whose jobs are being eliminated have accepted available positions within WPAHS. Sixty-five current West Penn employees are being shifted to Allegheny General. Finally, 220 employees have resigned, presumably to accept other jobs.

Although the West Penn emergency room is indeed closing as of December 31, the WPAHS master plan outlines that many services that will remain on the Bloomfield campus, which will be reconfigured as a sort of "diagnostic center." The facility will support in-patient services for the system's Women's and Infants Center, which includes obstetrics, gynecology, gynecologic oncology,

See WPAHS, page 12

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Writer Brings Mystery to Lawrenceville

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Lawrenceville resident Michael Ayoob started writing a novel set in Pittsburgh, his hometown, in 2001, when he was living in New York City. For streets and intersections he couldn't quite remember, he relied on Google Maps to get it right. But, he says, "I never would have pulled [the novel] through if I hadn't moved back" – which is what he decided to do in 2004.

The move paid off: this October, Minotaur Books published his mystery, *In Search of Mercy*, whose action takes place largely on the streets of the Strip District and in Brookline, where Ayoob grew up. "Just being able to walk around the Strip District made a huge difference [to the writing]. The little details pull readers in" – like, he says, the phoenix on the side of the Otto Milk Building at 24th Street and Smallman.

Ayoob says he "always knew I wanted to write," from the time he was little. He majored in creative

writing at Carnegie Mellon University and then got his MFA at Columbia University. An early version of *Mercy* was his master's thesis.

After finishing the manuscript, Ayoob tried unsuccessfully to get the novel published. But it wasn't until he moved back to Pittsburgh and did a massive rewrite – including changing the voice from third person to first – that he had any luck. The rewrite, he says, took another two years. "I thought, if I can't sell this version, I'm going to do something else with my life." He started looking into alternative jobs for writers, like grant writing.

Then, by chance, he saw a notice for a contest sponsored by St. Martin's Press and the Private Writers of America for Best First Private Eye Novel. He entered and won the prize – a one-book deal from Minotaur Books, an imprint of St. Martin's.

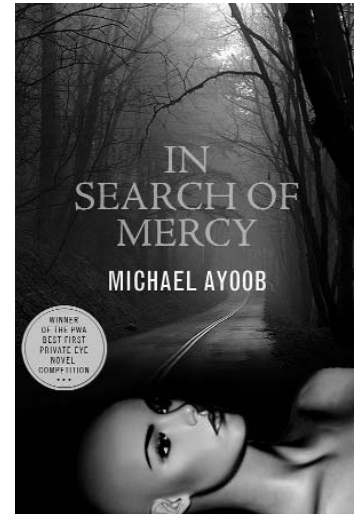
The novel explores the relationship between protagonist Dexter Bolzjak, a former high school hockey star, and Lou Kashon, an alcoholic business owner he meets while

working for a produce supplier in the Strip. Dexter agrees to help Lou find the love of his life, former movie star Mercy Carnahan, who hailed from Western Pennsylvania and disappeared at the height of her career.

"I wanted a friendship between an older and younger character," Ayoob explains. "The Lou character is based on my great-uncle." Dexter's character, he says, was largely drawn from a nightmare he once had about being a goalie unprepared for a big game. Ayoob himself is a hockey fan, though he never played anything but street hockey.

Ayoob says he didn't know at first that he was writing a mystery, but once he created the character of Mercy, it quickly turned into that. By giving the text so many rich, atmospheric details, he says he wanted both to appeal to Pittsburghers and "to make people who aren't from here curious" about the city.

Mercy is a stand-alone novel and not the first of an on-going series; Ayoob says he is "done with these characters and this story." His next



novel is a revenge thriller set in a fictional small town on the Monongahela, similar to Braddock or Monessen. He says he's enjoying living in Lawrenceville, where he moved last June. "It was a neighborhood I kept gravitating to," he explains. "My friends and I would go bowling on Thursday nights. I always said when I had the opportunity, I'd move here."

Have you had a pregnancy or child loss?

You are Invited

*to participate in West Penn Hospital's Worldwide Child Remembrance Day
and
24-Hour Wave of Light Candle Lighting Service and Reception*

West Penn Hospital Wintergarden (1st floor)
4800 Friendship Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224
Sunday, December 12, 2010

Gather at 6:30 p.m. in the Wintergarden
Candle Lighting 7 to 8 p.m.
Remembrance Activities and Light Refreshments

RSVP by December 6, to the West Penn Hospital Bereavement Line (412-578-5763)
or Lorra Hess, RN, Obstetrics (lhess@wpahs.org).

Parking information will be provided.



WEST PENN ALLEGHENY HEALTH SYSTEM

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

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Our Lady of the Angels Parish in Lawrenceville will hold their annual breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 4, from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$5 per person, which includes a hot breakfast, crafts, games, a photo with Santa, a treat bag, and a chance to win great prizes. New location: St. Mary's Lower Lyceum on 45th Street. For ticket information, please call the office at 412-682-0929. No tickets will be sold at the door.

NEW L'VILLE HOSPITALITY ASSOCIATION

Announcing the Formation of the Lawrenceville Hospitality Association, Lawrenceville's newest incorporated nonprofit organization. The purpose of the association is to engage in activities, such as the Lawrenceville Hospitality House Tour, that promote the positive aspects of residence in the community. Residents and business owners are encouraged to join the association and provide input and ideas for future activities and events. An initial membership meeting will be held in January 2011. All are welcome. For additional information on membership contact Kate Bayer at kb_4738@yahoo.com or by calling 412-600-2068.

LESLIE PARK POOL UPDATE

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 1, from 7 to 9 p.m. The Urban Design Build Studio of Carnegie Mellon University's School of Architecture will be presenting to the Lawrenceville community their design options for a new community center on the site of the decommissioned Leslie Park Pool on Butler Street. This is the third and final community meeting in the series. After

the student/professor presentations we will get the community's comments and impressions. Those ideas will then be incorporated into designs that will be presented to City Planning and the Art Commission later in December. This is the next step in the process of envisioning new uses and activities for the site that begin with Accordion Pool Party in September 2009, and continued with five events this past summer. Meeting location: Stephen Foster Community Center, 286 Main Street, in Lawrenceville. For more details, contact: Susan Englert at 412-559-1861 or susan_englert@hotmail.com; Deborah Knox at 412-344-3966 or knoxconsulting@gmail.com; or John Folan at jfolan@andrew.cmu.edu.

UNWRAPPED 2010

Everyone is welcome to join in Union Project's community "Unwrapped" celebration on December 11 from 7 to 11 p.m. at UP's 801 North Negley home. The event features local food and drink, alternative holiday shopping, live music, interactive activities, an artist market, and the official unveiling of our community-restored stained glass windows. Guests will take home ceramic handmade birds to put on the tree, hang in the window, or give as gifts. Each simple bird is unique, made by many different hands, and offers an opportunity to give an alternative gift that also supports Union Project. "Unwrapped" tickets are \$30 general admission, \$20 for students; they are now available for purchase at www.unionproject.org or by phone at 412-363-4550 x 21.

RIDE SHARING

Instead of driving solo, consider sharing a ride. Transit, carpools, vanpools and bikepools provide a way for people to get to and from common destinations while allowing sharing the costs of gas and parking expenses. CommuteInfo is a program of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, coordinated in partnership with transportation management associations, transportation providers, businesses and non-profit service organizations throughout South-western Pa. CommuteInfo is dedicated to increasing the number of commuters in Southwestern Pa. sharing a ride to work or school. The goal is for commuters living, working or attending school within the 10-county SPC region to choose ridesharing

at least twice a week. Think of CommuteInfo as a restaurant menu of commuting choices. It's free to register, and benefits include informational updates and, for those who join a "pool," participation in the Emergency Ride Home service. The CommuteInfo website includes a cost calculator where commuters can calculate the cost of their commute. Contact CommuteInfo at 1-888-819-6110 or register on-line at www.commuteinfo.org.

DANCE CLASSES AND SHOWCASE

Winter classes at Pittsburgh Dance and Theatre Arts, 4740 Liberty Avenue, Bloomfield: Zumba, Yoga, Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Ballroom, Acting, and Pre-dance classes for kids (ages 3 and up), adults, and professionals. Visit www.pgh-dance.com or call 412-681-7523. PDTA holds its Winter Showcase featuring student danceperformances and Pittsburgh Junior Theatre's "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," December 18

at 4 p.m. at Winchester Thurston School, 555 Morewood Avenue. Tickets \$10 through December 11 at PDTA, \$12 at the door.

VIEW, CHAT AND CHEW

Family movie night at Stanton Heights Church every First Friday of each month. Come join us December 3 at 7 p.m. Enjoy free popcorn and drinks. Bring your family and friends for a quality time with neighbors. Stanton Heights Church, 4721 Stanton Avenue.

HOLIDAY EVENTS AT KELLY-STRAYHORN

You're invited to join Kelly-Strayhorn Theater for a celebration with friends, fun, and special performances, December 15, 6 to 8 p.m. at 5941 Penn Avenue. This past year was the most successful for the Kelly Strayhorn, with higher attendance, exciting programming, and more press attention than ever. We presented 135 performances, and launched

CARNEGIE LIBRARY HAPPENINGS - DECEMBER

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

Terrific Tales for Babies & Toddlers

For ages 6 mos. to 2-1/2. Fridays, December 3, 10, 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Family Study

Buddies: Multicultural Holidays

For students in grades K-5 with their parents. Saturday, December 4, 10 a.m. This event is a series of monthly programs for children and parents to learn to work together to encourage students' school success in kindergarten through fifth grade. Registration required.

Kids Create: Origami

For ages 6-12, but adults are welcome too! Saturday, December 18, 3:30 p.m.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Lawrenceville Branch
279 Fisk St. 412-682-3668

Drop-in Art Club: Holiday Crafts

For all ages. Saturday, December 4, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Kids of all ages get ready for the winter holidays with crafts to give as gifts - or keep for yourself!

Adult Book Discussion Group

Monday, December 6, 5 to 5:45 p.m. This month's title is *Wishin' and Hopin'* by Wally Lamb.

Lunchtime Learning Computer Basics, Part I: Introduction

Tuesday, December 7, 12 to 12:45 p.m. This intro will include basic tasks such as using the mouse and keyboard, and navigating the desktop screen. No prior computer or typing experience needed. Space is very limited; call to register.

Teen Advisory Council

Saturday, December 11, 2-3 p.m. Middle and high school students, join the Teen Advisory Council and help us make CLP-Lawrenceville a great place for you, your families, and your neighbors.

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.

several new programs. Join us as we open our doors and celebrate a successful year and more fun to come. Mix and mingle with artists, presenters, audiences, volunteers, donors, board members, staff, and all who make KST possible. Also, KST will host a Holiday Bazaar with crafts, food, and performances on December 11 from 12 to 6 p.m. For more info, www.kelly-strayhorn.org.

PATF ANNIVERSARY

The Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (PATF) will host its 25th anniversary luncheon on Wednesday, December 3, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets are \$35. The luncheon will be held at The Rivers Club downtown. Special guest speakers will be Marty St. Clair, the researcher who discovered the effect of AZT on HIV, and Ron Stall of the

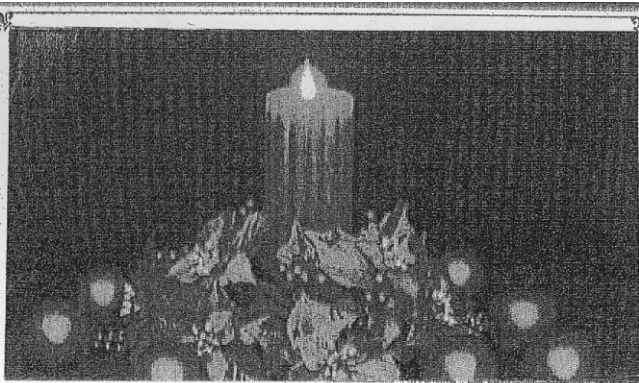
University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health. For more info, call 412-345-0593.

FUSED GLASS ART

Fused glass art, functional ware, and jewelry from Art with Heart, LLC at Pittsburgh Glass Center Winter Glass Sale: Friday, December 3, from 6 - 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, December 4 and 5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 5472 Penn Avenue.

LAWRENCEVILLE HOLIDAY EVENT

Come to "Light Up Lawrenceville" on Friday, December 3, at 7 p.m. at the Teamsters Temple, 4701 Butler Street, for music, food, games, crafts, and Santa. Hosted by Lawrenceville United.



Our Remembrance Candle

During this Holiday Season, more than ever, our thoughts and prayers turn to those who have lost a loved one this past year. We are lighting a candle in our funeral home in remembrance of all the families that we have been privileged to serve. And it is in this spirit that we simply, but sincerely say... May the Peace and Joy of the Christmas Season be yours throughout the New Year.



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The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation is looking for individuals who would like to help their neighbors with filing their federal, state, and local tax returns this winter.

This free service will be offered every Saturday from noon until 4:30 p.m., beginning February 4, 2011, and continuing through April 16, 2011.

Volunteers will be able to come on a rotating basis, so you don't have to give up every Saturday.

If you've ever felt daunted by trying to do your own tax return, this is the chance for you to become more expert about tax laws and the benefits they hold for lower-income households and college students. You will also be trained in the filing of returns online.

To help out, you will need to participate in two training sessions offered on Saturday, December 11, and Saturday, December 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Avenue, in Garfield. Lunch will be provided. We would strongly encourage you to attend both. We will have a specialist from the Internal Revenue Service as our trainer. Following these sessions, you will need to take and pass an IRS test that will certify you to prepare basic returns.

RSVP your interest in attending the training sessions and volunteering in 2011 by calling Rick Swartz at 412-441-6950 x 11, or e-mailing RickS@bloomfield-garfield.org.

It's a simple, yet important way, for you to help folks in your community!

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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Please send ad with full payment to: The Bulletin, Classified Dept., 5149 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15224

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IN MEMORIAM

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation mourns the passing of Betty Jane Ralph, a founding member and former chairwoman of the Manchester Citizens Corporation from 1970 through 1993. Mrs. Ralph was a tireless community organizer for her neighborhood and her city, and a great friend and partner to the BGC. Our condolences to her family, including her husband of many years, Arthur.

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation United Way 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.**


WPAHS, from page 8

and neonatal intensive care; and for the Burn Unit and rehabilitation services. Emergency services related specifically to the programs staying in the facility, like the Burn Unit and obstetrics, will be available 24/7. West Penn will also retain its helicopter.

Out-patient surgeries will be available in the following areas: general, vascular, orthopedic, otolaryngology, colorectal, plastic, podiatric, ophthalmologic, and urologic. The Bloomfield campus will continue to house physicians' offices and out-patient services such as the gastroen-

terology lab, pharmacy, radiology unit, pain management institute, sleep clinic, radiation oncology, breast imaging center, pelvic floor center, the Lupus Center for Excellence, the Joslin Center for Diabetes, and the Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine.

All other services will begin to transition to Allegheny General after the first of the year, although the moves will be phased in to accommodate a \$60 million renovation of that facility. As a result, some services may not leave the Bloomfield building until next summer.



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