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ABOVE: The community garden at 135 S. Aiken is in full swing. Six to eight families currently use the space for growing food. Photo by Paula Martinac

Plans for S. Pacific Eatery Falling into Place

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Bloomfield – Things are “moving along” at the site of the former Brian & Cooper Food Mart at 300 S. Pacific Ave., according to property owner Nick Redondo.

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New Housing Possible Next to Quiet Storm

By Joe Reuben *The Bulletin*

Friendship – New town homes could be filling in a vacant site next to the Quiet Storm Coffeehouse in the 5400 block of Penn Avenue if a subsidiary of the Urban Redevelopment Authority is

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Extending Art Scene to Friendship Avenue

By Christine Bethea *Bulletin Contributor*

East Liberty – Second Saturdays at Spinning Plate Lofts, located at 5720 Friendship Ave., is a new art experience in the East End. Spinning Plate Lofts resident Richard Claraval is the organizer

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Penn Reconstruction Reaches Milestone

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Bloomfield/Garfield – The reconstruction of Penn Avenue between Mathilda and Evaline streets, scheduled to begin in mid-2013, passed another milestone recently. After engineers from L.R. Kimball submitted the preliminary engineering plans to the City of Pittsburgh, they were notified on May 11 that they could proceed to final design.

In the final design phase, engineers will be fleshing out details of the plans “so that a contractor can take them and build from them,” explained Brian Krul, project manager for Kimball. Preliminary design work was a “product of interaction with the public,” noted Patrick Hassett, assistant director of the Bureau of Transportation and Engineering of the city’s Department of Public Works. Final design, however, is a matter of the engineers fine-tuning those preliminary plans – “doing their thing,” explained Hassett.

The final design package will include plans and specifications for the roadway, signage and pavement markings, drainage, traffic control, streetscape, signalization and lighting. Engineers will be in touch with individual property and

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ABOVE: Abraham Lincoln (aka Rick Miller) made an appearance at the first Juneteenth celebration organized by residents of Penn Fairmont Apartments for seniors. Juneteenth, which falls on June 19, commemorates the official end of slavery for African Americans. Photo by Paula Martinac

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Grocery Retailer Says No to Alternate Site Plan

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Bloomfield/Garfield – The operations division of grocery retailer Food Lion, which is proposing to build a Bottom Dollar grocery store at 5200 Penn Ave., has reviewed an alternate site plan proposed by nearby neighbors and found it lacking.

Food Lion's specific reasons for rejecting the site plan, which flowed out of a design charrette involving a dozen Friendship neighbors, were provided by C. Brantley Tillman, the North Carolina-based developer working to bring the store to Penn Avenue.

The neighbors' plan runs counter to Bottom Dollar's, which situates a parking lot of 51 spaces at the corner of Penn and S. Pacific avenues. Instead, the neighbors propose placing the store itself on the corner, and a parking lot of 50 spaces between the store and the adjoining building at 5224 Penn Ave.

Tillman forwarded the alternate plan to Food Lion and received a response from its operations division in late May, just as the June issue of *The Bulletin* was going to print. He indicated that the operations division has the "final say." Food Lion's detailed annotations on the neighbors' plan pointed to shortcomings in traffic patterns, pedestrian safety and overall site configuration.

"The circulation pattern of the proposed parking lot is unacceptable," noted the operations division. The neighbors' plan provides two possible traffic entry points from Penn: a one-way entry and a two-way entry. With the one-way entry, a customer who drives into the lot and can't find a parking space would have to exit back onto Penn in the middle of the block and then circle around once again. A customer who enters at the two-way access would be unable to turn around if he could not locate a space within that row of parking spaces. He would have to actually back out or turn illegally down the one-way drive.

Similarly, Food Lion's comments noted another major safety issue with the alternate plan: tractor-trailers would have no way to leave the site "without traveling the wrong way down the one-way entrance drive."

The developer's plan calls for an entrance on Penn and exit onto S. Pacific, with a possible traffic signal at the corner for safety (the developer has undertaken a traffic study to determine the need).

That first block of S. Pacific, which is commercially zoned, would be made two-way so that trucks could return to Penn and not have to drive through the residential area of S. Pacific that begins at Coral Street.

A third concern about the alternate site plan raised by Food Lion was that locating the building at the corner would perpetuate "the current... uninviting pedestrian atmosphere" on S. Pacific Avenue – a solid wall. The developer's plan instead calls for trees and decorative fencing at the corner, surrounding the parking lot, to "connect the residential [and] commercial areas."

Although Food Lion did not agree to the neighbors' plan based on these and several smaller concerns, Tillman emphasized that he will entertain other ideas for tweaking the current site plan "that might make us a more attractive neighbor."

As reported in *The Bulletin* in June, the board of directors of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation passed a resolution on April 9 in support of the developer's site plan, based on strong support for a grocery store voiced at a Feb. 23 community meeting attended by about 135 people. The board of the Friendship Preservation Group (FPG) passed a resolution on May 3 that stated, "The FPG supports the proposed food store, but within the limits of the Pittsburgh Zoning Code and the Penn Avenue Master Plan. We support the Near Neighbors in their discussion with the developer to reach a mutually satisfactory solution."

The Penn Avenue Master Plan was a study of the corridor from Doughboy Square to Negley Avenue, funded by the Surdna Foundation and completed by mossArchitects in January 2008. The study encouraged "100% intersections" wherever possible – that is, with buildings on all corners – but did not make these intersections a requirement. Although it recommended locating parking lots away from corners, the study also advised defining and beautifying corners with "architectural, landscape and streetscape elements." To view the master plan, go to www.eastendpartnership.org.

A hearing before the city's Zoning Board of Adjustment regarding the store's site plan has yet to be scheduled, but is expected later this summer. ♦

Public Safety Task Force. The Public Safety Task Force has convened monthly in Garfield since 2000. At the table are representatives from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, the Bureau of Police, other neighborhood organizations, the offices of the Mayor and City Council members, various city and county departments and the state. Community members are invited to bring specific concerns to the PSTF's monthly meeting during the first 15 minutes. The next meeting is July 11 at 4 p.m. at the BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave.

S. Pacific from page 1

After almost three months of refusing to vacate the premises, Brian & Cooper owner Nasir Raess finally closed the store in late May, leaving behind only his outdoor sign. Raess and Redondo, however, are still engaged in a legal tussle over control of the beer license that came with the property.

In early June, Redondo began the considerable task of what he calls "basic demolition" of the interior of the store, with the intent of creating a casual eatery called Friendship Perk & Brew. Although the space is now a tangle of wires and debris, Redondo said he is trying to "turn lemons into lemonade" with an eye to opening his new venue in October.

He said he is finishing up his business plan, but is still falling short on the financing. There were unexpected legal fees in his dispute with Raess, he explained, and he is looking for suggestions of contacts who could help pull the financing into place.

"I keep talking to people in the neighborhood and the neighbors have been really helpful," Redondo told *The Bulletin*. For example, a friend's wife got him a deal on ordering vintage prints from the University of Pittsburgh photo archives. Redondo said he plans to decorate the interior with enlarged historical prints of neighborhood locations – like Friendship Park and the "Bride of Penn Avenue" building back in the 1930s. "They'll be conversation pieces for the neighbors," he noted.

In addition to serving seasonal fare like sandwiches, soups and wraps, the venue will also offer gourmet coffee and – depending on the fate of the liquor license – craft beers.

Redondo said he has a vision of eventually holding coffee and beer tastings, with the proceeds going to local services like Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and the West Penn Burn Center.

Redondo said his dream is to make the eatery "the neighborhood's place... where neighbors congregate and talk. They deserve it, after what they put up with all those years."

Unlike Brian & Cooper, he explained, Friendship Perk & Brew will be "a place you can come with your family ... I want this place to be about 'friendship.'" ♦

BELOW: Anthony Redondo has been helping his father, Nick, with demolition of the interior of the former Brian & Cooper Food Mart. Photo by Paula Martinac



the Bulletin

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Board Meetings are held by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at 5321 Penn Ave. These meetings are open to the public.

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

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

As a result of the large number of accidents and near-accidents at the corner of Fisk Street and Penn Avenue, this past winter approximately 200 persons signed a petition requesting either a traffic light or four-way stop sign to remedy the situation. It is ironic that the City insists there are no records of accidents at the intersection in spite of the fact that police, fire department and medical personnel have responded to incidents. Based on the response of emergency personnel and the broad base of support among the petitioners, [it is clear that] the dangerous situation is not a figment of the collective imagination of local residents. The danger is real and needs to be addressed by City Hall immediately before there are serious injuries and fatalities.

I personally brought this issue to the attention of a block watch in Lawrenceville and one in Bloomfield. At both gatherings, residents in the area were in full agreement with the gravity of the situation. Complaints have been lodged with Councilman [Patrick] Dowd's office, and petitions were handed to Councilmen [Bill] Peduto and [Corey] O'Connor with the request they be forwarded to the appropriate departments.

To date, no action has been taken to remedy the issue. We need action, not more studies.

The failure by the City to give attention to this dangerous situation clearly demonstrates that you still need to know someone on Grant Street if you want to get something done.

James Wudarczyk
Lawrenceville

Thank you! The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation would like to acknowledge its NPP partners, PNC Bank and Allegheny Valley Bank. Thanks also to BNY Mellon, Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, The United Way, Dollar Bank, Citizens Bank, and all of *The Bulletin's* advertisers.

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ENEC Helps Retiree Land Job at UPMC

By Carolyn Ristau *The Bulletin*



Garfield – Pat Roccasano's initial application to UPMC East was unsuccessful, but then she found the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC).

After Ms. Roccasano attended the Partnership on Workshop Readiness and Retention (POWRR) sessions at ENEC earlier this year, the staff then worked with her and with UPMC to get her application into the early pool of applicants for UPMC East. This month Ms. Roccasano will be starting a new position as a food service employee.

Ms. Roccasano retired several years ago from her career as a real estate agent to care for her mother, who was in failing health. After her mother passed away in 2010, Ms. Roccasano found that retirement did not provide enough money.

"I will have to work for a long time.... I can still do things," Ms. Roccasano explained. "I like helping people. I do not want to sit behind a computer or a desk." She targeted UPMC East as her ideal employer, conveniently located a few miles from her home in Wilkins Township. She said UPMC provides a good benefits package, plus the type of job she wants – helping people instead of sitting behind a desk.

In the two years since she re-entered the workforce, Ms. Roccasano held several positions, including temporary and seasonal retail positions. She was laid off from her position flagging work-zones for a utility company in January 2012. While

searching for a new position, Ms. Roccasano found the three-step POWRR program recommended for getting jobs with UPMC.

The POWRR program is a partnership between UPMC and community organizations such as the ENEC. It is comprised of three workshops focused on understanding, preparing for and getting a job at UPMC. Candidates who complete all three workshops and meet UPMC job needs and requirements are referred for an interview.

The ENEC was the closest center to Ms. Roccasano with all three POWRR workshops on its schedule. Ms. Roccasano attended the three POWRR workshops as well as some computer courses on Microsoft Word and Excel offered through Pittsburgh CONNECTS, a free technology center that shares space with ENEC. She said the staff at ENEC helped her every step of the way, from registering for the workshops to applying for a job at UPMC East to accepting the job offer that followed.

"I couldn't have done it without the staff at ENEC. They are wonderful people and very knowledgeable. They know exactly what to do for you and what direction to send you," Ms. Roccasano explained.

After two interviews with UPMC East, Ms. Roccasano received an offer of employment as a food service worker. "I thought the first offer was 'take it or leave it,'" she said. However, Bill Freed, workforce coordinator at ENEC, encouraged Ms. Roccasano to negotiate with UPMC. With this encouragement, she negotiated a better hourly rate.

Ms. Roccasano said she is looking forward to starting at UPMC East when it officially opens this month. "Praise to the wind the ENEC," she said. "Nothing is too much for them; they will go to the ends of the Earth for you."

To make use of ENEC's services and workshops, drop by the office at 5321 Penn Ave. or call 412-362-8580. ♦

New Housing from page 1

successful in finding a private developer for the project.

The Pittsburgh Housing Development Corp. (PHDC) will likely be issuing a request for proposals this summer that would allow for the construction of up to three single-family town homes on several properties currently controlled by the Friendship Development Associates (FDA) and Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC).

Two parcels at 5422 and 5424 Penn Ave. have vacant buildings standing on them, both owned by the FDA. The BGC and FDA jointly own a third plot of land next to 5422 Penn that would be consolidated into the first two parcels, creating a site for the three new homes and possibly an outdoor seating area for the Quiet Storm. All three properties would be conveyed to the PHDC prior to any development occurring there.

"We want to take advantage of an improving real estate market on Penn by building homes that would be competitively priced," Rick Swartz, executive director of the BGC, told *The Bulletin* recently. "There are some state grant funds that could be used to help keep sales

prices for what would be 2- to 3-bedroom homes close to what the market would be willing to pay."

Swartz said that in inner-city areas, the cost of new housing development almost always outstrips what people are willing to pay for the product. "It is not uncommon to spend upwards of \$250,000 for a new single-family house that, in the end, can only be sold for \$140,000 to \$150,000," Swartz said the PHDC would be hoping to narrow that gap considerably with this project.

"What most folks don't know is that one of the few areas where the Obama administration has been successful in cutting the federal budget is on spending for single-family housing development in communities where the market has been historically depressed," Swartz added. "So we have to be more strategic about what type of for-sale housing gets built and where."

The PHDC is a non-profit corporation the URA formed a decade ago to take on projects that eliminate blight and give additional capacity to community groups engaged in revitalizing the housing market in city neighborhoods. ♦

BELOW: These two vacant buildings could soon make way for new housing on Penn Avenue. Photo by Paula Martinac



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Youth Mentoring Agency Wins National Award

By Margaret Graham *East Liberty Development, Inc.*

East Liberty – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh (BBBSPGH), located on Penn Circle South, was given two awards by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America on June 12 at the Big Brothers Big Sisters 2012 National Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.

BBBSPGH was awarded the mid-to-large Agency of the Year for 2011. This award is given to one local agency each year, based on the quality of services the agency offers. These services include providing quality mentors who build long-lasting relationships with their mentees, and the professional support given to mentors, youths and their families.

"We are extremely proud of the achievements of Pittsburgh and its success in bringing quality mentoring programs and proven positive outcomes to children," said Cindy Mesko, Senior Vice President of Agency and Program Development for Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

Mesko also said hard work at a local level ensures the effectiveness and accountability of Big Brothers Big Sisters across the nation.

"We are able to hold ourselves account-

able to the children and families we serve, as well as to the donors, volunteers and community partners who provide the resources that make our work possible," Mesko said.

In addition, BBBSPGH was awarded the Pinnacle Award for achieving "Gold Standard" status in its efforts to provide mentoring for children facing adversity. The Pinnacle Award is given to any of the 335 Big Brothers Big Sisters affiliate offices throughout the country that show excellence in services, build long-term mentoring relationships with youths and achieve increased revenues. This is the second year BBBSPGH has received this recognition.

Jan S. Glick, CEO of BBBSPGH, pointed to the teamwork of all stakeholders in the Greater Pittsburgh office as responsible for these awards.

"We are very pleased to be again recognized as the best of the best," she said. "Together with a dedicated network of donors, volunteers, families, partners, board and staff members, we will continue to serve the children of Allegheny, Washington and Greene counties in strong and long-lasting mentoring relationships."



ABOVE: (from left) NBC's Kate Snow, BBBSPGH Board Treasurer Greg Burd, CEO Jan Glick, CFO Sharon Southlea, and Chief Community Affairs Officer Tom Baker at the National Leadership Summit in June. Photo courtesy BBBSPGH

BBBSPGH served nearly 1,200 children impact a child's life, visit in 2011. To learn how you can positively www.bbbspg.org ♦

Agreement Reached to Develop Iron City Brewery Site

by Patrick Dowd *City Council, District 7*

Lawrenceville – Standing dormant at 3400 Liberty Ave. in Lawrenceville is the former Iron City Brewery, which has remained quiet since Iron City ceased brewing operations at that location three years ago. The former brewery is now set to be redeveloped through a community-informed master planning process, following extended efforts by the District 7 City Council office and community organizations.

At a recent meeting, Matt Galluzzo, executive director of the Lawrenceville Corporation, Collier Development, the owner of the 10-acre property, and my office arrived at an agreement to engage in a community-informed master-planning process for the future development of the historic property.

The buildings on the property date back to 1861, when the Iron City Brewing Company formed as the result of a merger of more than 20 regional breweries. These buildings have been designated as historic landmarks, and have been the subject of frequent debate and speculation regarding re-use and redevelopment. The complex was sold to Collier, a Bridgeville-based company, in early February 2012.

Under this new agreement, the former brewing site will be redeveloped with

regular input from community leaders and public officials representing the diverse range of neighborhoods affected by the site's re-use. According to the agreement, the Lawrenceville Corporation will work to create and facilitate a steering committee to help plan and oversee the project. The committee will be composed of representatives from local community organizations, relevant City of Pittsburgh departments and elected officials.

New activity on the site will serve to make the property a transportation nexus, with the possibility of connecting Polish Hill, Oakland, Lawrenceville, the Strip District, Bloomfield and Downtown. A transparent master-planning process will be well-suited to creating a plan that develops the area as a fundamental link in the City's Allegheny Riverfront Vision Plan. This plan will connect the Allegheny Riverfront through a proposed commuter rail system, bus lines and bicycle and pedestrian transportation initiatives.

The terms of the agreement provide community members with a forum for voicing opinions and concerns surrounding the site's development, as well as with transparency in all development activity – one of the most important pieces of a successful public-private development project. ♦



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EYESORE OF THE MONTH

A House Built of Ivy and Weeds

By Aggie Brose Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.

Bloomfield – The eyesore of the month is in Bloomfield, 8th Ward, City of Pittsburgh, at 456 S. Atlantic Ave.

According to the Allegheny County real estate website, the recorded owner is Andreas M. Schilit, whose mailing address is P.O. Box 212, Lynn, MA 01905-0312. Tax bills are being sent to Everhome Mortgage Co., Jacksonville, FL 32256. Schilit acquired the property in December 1988 for \$38,000. The property is not tax-delinquent.

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's (BGC) staff visited the house and did not have a hard time finding it, as it is the only one in the immediate vicinity not being maintained. The house is almost completely obscured by overgrown ivy, bushes, trees and weeds. It is impossible even to get to the front door, as dense bushes obstruct the walkway and steps leading to the porch.

As the staff walked along the side of the house, they noted all the window frames are rotted, as are two back doors and the rear porch ceiling and floor. There are missing bricks around the back door frame. Needless to say, the property could easily be cited for multiple code violations.

The rear yard is a jungle of overgrown trees and weeds. In the middle of the yard are an abandoned shopping cart and trailer. There is also a garage on the property, obscured by ivy and weeds.

BGC staff contacted the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) record room and found that the owner took out a building permit in 2008, which is still posted in a front window. The city condemned the

property on August 25, 2008. The most recent action pending was a May 2012 complaint to 3-1-1.

BGC staff contacted Schilit in Lynn, Mass. about his plans for the property. He told us his plans were to sell the property as soon as he had resolved some personal issues. He also stated that he has potential buyers who want to acquire and rehab the property. He permitted us to publish his phone number for additional interested buyers: 631-721-8750. BGC will continue to monitor the progress Schilit makes in selling the property so it can be rehabbed.

BGC also contacted Everhome Mortgage Company to inform them of the condition of the property and the fact it is condemned. We will be mailing them a copy of this issue of *The Bulletin*.

Again, one of our neighborhoods has fallen victim to an out-of-town owner who seemingly displays little interest in being accountable to our city. In this and other cases, the City of Pittsburgh has the opportunity to implement Act 90. This allows the City to collect costs and fines related to all code violations on a property by filing a judgment against a property owner himself rather than simply liening the property. The legal liability for property conditions can follow the owner, rather than just the chain of title to the property.

Through implementation of Act 90, absentee property owners could be given a wake-up call by the courts to take their responsibilities to our neighborhoods more seriously. ♦



ABOVE: The front porch and door of 456 S. Atlantic Ave. are completely hidden by thick bushes and ivy. Photo by Paula Martinac

Summer Public Safety Tips

By Kathryn Vargas Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.

East End – In the month of May alone, there were 15 thefts from autos and seven home burglaries in the East End neighborhoods of Bloomfield, Garfield, Friendship and East Liberty, according to a detailed offense report provided by Zone 5 of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police. The number of incidents may seem high, but the mild weather and longer daylight hours create an environment in which thefts can thrive.

How can you keep your personal property safe in the summer? The best thing to do is to be proactive and you are less likely to be a victim. The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation Public Safety Task Force would like to offer the following tips to ensure you have a safe summer.

- **Lock your car, even if you are only going to leave it for a second.** Many of the "theft from auto" occurrences happen because of easy access. Simply locking a vehicle will greatly decrease the chances someone is going to break into your car to steal something.
- **Do not keep valuable goods out and visible to the public.** If you have to leave something valuable in your car, keep it in the trunk so it does not entice a thief by being left on the seat.
- **Make sure you close your first-floor windows when you leave your house.** Screens can be easily removed. If you have a first-floor air conditioner, make sure it is installed securely.
- **Keep an eye out for suspicious activity.** Neighborhood thefts are difficult to catch in the act. Your attention to any unusual activity can help lead to successful arrests. ♦

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More Changes Afoot for New Parish

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Bloomfield – The Rev. Regis Farmer may be a newcomer to the neighborhood, but he has almost 40 years of experience in the priesthood to inform his new job as pastor of St. Maria Goretti Roman Catholic Parish.

The parish was established June 4 from the combination of St. Lawrence O'Toole in Garfield with Immaculate Conception-St. Joseph in Bloomfield. Father Regis, who will be officially installed as pastor on July 8, is living in the St. Joseph Rectory along with three other priests who will "help out," he said, but have other jobs in the diocese. A deacon, Gary Yaniello, was recently assigned to the reconfigured parish.

A native of Overbrook, Father Regis has had a variety of assignments during his priesthood, including a stint about 30 years ago as headmaster of Lawrenceville Catholic High School. For the past 18 years, he has been pastor of St. Catherine of Sweden Parish in Allison Park, where he oversaw a \$12 million building project that resulted in a new church, hall and administration center. After two decades with no new assignment, he said he thought "the bishop forgot about me."

But priests are like soldiers – they go where they are assigned without question. Asked how he ended up in the Bloomfield-Garfield parish, Father Regis said, "The

bishop saw me at a meeting and..." He crooked his finger and made a beckoning gesture.

His new position comes with many challenges, chief among them "bringing knowledge [about the changes taking place] from the head to the heart." He physically marked the space between his head and his heart area with his hands: "This is the longest drive in the world," Father Regis said the parishioners of the newly formed parish need to "grieve and let go and start again. This is no longer a tight-knit ethnic community. We have students, we have many different people now. This is not about buildings – this is about faith."

He was referring to the nine buildings that are part of the new parish by virtue of blending three parishes into one. Some parishioners, he noted, are tied emotionally to specific church buildings. "We don't need nine buildings," he explained. He said he estimates the costs of deferred maintenance to all the buildings at about half a million dollars.

Decisions about issues like which buildings to keep and which to sell will be made after two parish councils – the Pastoral Council and the Finance Council – meet over the summer to assess the situation. Father Regis said he is in the process of

accepting and reviewing resumes of parishioners to sit on these two councils.

Ideally, the two councils will arrive at a slate of recommended changes by the end of August. Until then, it's business as usual at the three locations. Each church will keep the same mass schedule, but Father Regis noted "it cannot be maintained forever" because that would require him spending "20 hours a week just on liturgy." In addition, the schedule of sacraments at all the locations, such as marriages and baptisms, will be maintained through the end of 2012. After that, "it's up to the councils" how the parish will run – and from which location(s).

Father Regis, who turns 66 this month, said this will be his last pastoral assignment. "I'm not packing again," he stated. His job, as he views it, is to bring his accumulated knowledge to bear on the challenges facing a parish with a declining population, scat-



ABOVE: With a history of important assignments throughout the diocese, Father Regis Farmer is no stranger to administration.

tered across three sites, with as many as 50 percent of its parishioners no longer even living in the neighborhoods.

"Did I learn anything in 40 years?" he wondered aloud. "I'm not new to administration, and in many ways, this is peanuts" compared to other assignments he has held. "The city has changed. The neighborhood has changed. We need to fit the clothes to the new body." ♦

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Finding the Beauty in Old Things

Open Hand Ministries Wins YPA Promise Award for Preserving Homes for Low-Income Homeowners

By Carolyn Ristau *The Bulletin*

Garfield/East Liberty —The Young Preservationists Association (YPA) awarded Michael Stanton and Open Hand Ministries (OHM) the Michael Eversmeyer Promise Award for their work rehabilitating homes in Garfield and East Liberty for low-income, first-time homeowners. The award was presented on June 2nd at YPA's 10th Anniversary Celebration at the Union Project in Highland Park.

In his acceptance speech, Stanton said there is a "great beauty" in the neighborhoods of Garfield and East Liberty that is overlooked when people see the statistics and physical condition of the area. When talking with *The Bulletin*, he described this beauty further as the dedication and love of the residents for their families and neighbors and their perseverance despite adverse circumstances. He explained, "People driving through Garfield don't see the beautiful man who has lived here his whole life, and survived, endured and persevered. He takes care of the elderly woman two doors down, shoveling her walk and knocking on her door." Stanton said OHM "works to preserve the integrity and beauty of the neighborhood."

Stanton, a resident of Garfield since 2005, started OHM after participating in Hosanna Industries' East End Blitz in the summer of 2007 during which five houses were rehabbed. Inspired by the success of the Blitz, Stanton decided to continue rehabbing houses for low-income families year round. The first work day was held



ABOVE: Open Hands Ministries volunteer coordinator Emily Rosenthal, volunteer Terron Paxton and founder Michael Stanton accepted the Promise Award at YPA's 10th Anniversary Celebration. Photo by Carolyn Ristau

"People driving through Garfield don't see the beautiful man who...takes care of the elderly woman two doors down."

on a Saturday in December 2007. Since then, OHM has completed 10 homes for 10 families, and is now working with their 11th house and family.

YPA established the Promise Award in 2005 to acknowledge emerging leaders who show great promise for the future of preservation through new or recent work while also engaging youth. Dan Holland, a Friendship resident and founder of YPA, explained that when YPA designed the award, "We didn't want a lifetime achievement award to give to an established leader. Rather, we wanted to recognize work not yet recognized." Previous winners of the Promise Award include The Union Project of Highland Park in 2005 for its preservation of the church at the corner of Negley and Stanton avenues as a community center and the students at Peabody High School in East Liberty in 2011 for their work in researching, writing and publishing a book on the history of their community.

Holland first became aware of Stanton's work with OHM through an article in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* from April 29, 2012. Holland said, "Stanton exemplified what the award is about." The three guidelines for the Promise Award are preserving buildings, working with low- and lower-income communities and exhibiting a commitment to youth involvement. Holland explained that Stanton and OHM "fit the profile by not just fixing houses, but by being focused on families of modest means and recruiting young people to help."

"When it comes to preservation, children are not programmed to see old things as beautiful," Stanton told *The Bulletin*. "It takes time to look at a building and

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<C 3445 Butler Street Lawrenceville
Tripp Merchant - 412-471-4063. 3rd floor office space in award-winning historical renovation. 2,700 sq. ft. For lease \$18/sq. ft.

5817 Blackberry Way - Lawrenceville R>
Joe Edelstein - 412-913-0092. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upscale townhouse renovation. Fenced-in patio. \$169k



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Ted Harchick - 412-833-5405. Storefront with second floor office space and apartments in the heart of Bloomfield. \$208k

5811 Rippey Street R>
East Liberty Brian Surgi-Cufman 412-901-6900. Newly remodeled condos in restored Victorian mansion. \$224k



Finding Beauty in Old Things continued

understand what it was." Stanton said he enjoys the opportunity to teach local youths the beauty of older housing as they help with gutting and rehabilitating homes in Garfield and East Liberty. He explained that when the plaster walls are torn out and all that is left are 10-foot high walls uniformly covered in hand-nailed strips of lath, the youth volunteers "discover the building's significance and understand the need and importance of preserving it."

Terron Paxton, a young man who lives in Garfield, started volunteering with OHM over a year ago. After meeting Stanton at Valley View Church, Paxton started volunteering every Wednesday and every first Saturday with OHM. Paxton said he likes working with people on the workdays and "helping people out." He has learned many new skills through volunteering with OHM such as drywall,

carpentry and electrical work.

In addition to presenting Stanton with a plaque, YPA donated \$500 dollars to OHM through the sponsorship of PNC Bank. "We wanted to contribute financially to the organization," Holland explained. "We are thrilled to honor Stanton and his work. He is dedicating his life to improving our neighborhood."

Stanton said, "When I realized the prestige of YPA and their impact on the region and indirectly nationwide, I felt very honored and humbled to receive this award."

Volunteers of all skill levels are welcome to join OHM for its first Saturday of the month workdays. Visit <http://openhandedpittsburgh.org> for more information. To learn more about YPA visit www.youngpreservationists.org. ♦

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Pittsburgh Obama Junior Wins Film Contest

By Carolyn Ristau *The Bulletin*

East Liberty – The winners of Steeltown Entertainment's "Take a Shot at Changing the World" contest included Renee Eddy Harvey, a junior at Pittsburgh Obama 6-12. Her film documenting Jonas Salk's invention of the polio vaccine won in the "Pittsburgh Polio" category for which she received a certificate and prize money.

Steeltown Entertainment is an organization that supports and promotes the film and media industry in Pittsburgh. The contest was open to middle and high school students who were invited to make a film addressing one of four categories: Pittsburgh innovators, how you would change the world, Pittsburgh and polio, or Pittsburgh and the environment.

This was Eddy Harvey's first film contest. She saw it advertised in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and said she thought "it looked interesting." While she is involved in her school's theater productions, this was the first time she made a film. She chose the subject of Jonas Salk because she had heard about Salk, but did not know that he developed a vaccine for polio that was used globally. Making the project was a good learning

experience. "I didn't know how bad polio was before and how Jonas Salk really impacted the world," she explained.

The film opens and closes with photo montages of newspaper headlines about polio. The opening sequence announces the outbreak and spread of polio in the United States, while the ending sequence announces the success of Salk's vaccine. Eddy Harvey chose to use the montages to provide background information for the audience.

In between the montages, Salk's story is presented in a re-enactment, from the time he arrived at the University of Pittsburgh in 1947 through the successful testing of the vaccine. Eddy Harvey said using a re-enactment allowed her to interpret the facts and imagine how it might have happened. "The hardest part was figuring out how to show his hard work and that people doubted him," she explained.



ABOVE: A still from Renee Eddy Harvey's winning film about Jonas Salk.

Eddy Harvey's family supported her in making this film. Her mother and two brothers acted for the film, and her parents helped with the filming.

When asked how she felt about winning the contest, Eddy Harvey said that she felt accomplished. "I realized I was pretty good at it and I enjoyed it," she explained. "I might enter more contests or do film for fun."

To view Eddy Harvey's film, visit <http://www.takeashotcontest.org/jonas-salk-and-polio-vaccine>. ♦



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Zombies Ravage City in Bloomfield Writer's Novel

By Carolyn Ristau *The Bulletin*

Bloomfield – Bloomfield resident Lucy Leitner's first novel, *Working Stiffs*, was published in June by Necro Publications as part of the Fresh Flesh series featuring new authors of modern horror. This novel, in which zombies take over Pittsburgh's South Side, finds the humor in a zombie apocalypse amid tributes to all things Pittsburgh.

"As a kid, I wanted to be the first woman to play major-league baseball," Leitner said. However, after taking a writing course her first year at the University of Pittsburgh, she decided to become a writer instead. Since then she has tried most forms of writing, from creative non-fiction and journalism to technical writing and marketing copy. She also wrote and sold a couple of horror screenplays. Now she blogs on Hollyburgh, which discusses Pittsburgh's contributions to film, including movies filmed in the city, and *The Daily Ghoul*, a new site documenting the world after the zombie apocalypse.

In *Working Stiffs*, the zombies who work the production line at Pro-Well Pharmaceuticals get loose. They feast

on or convert most of the office workers in the company and everyone on the South Side. A small band of misfit employees manages to avoid being eaten or converted by barricading themselves in a conference room. However they are determined to get out of the office alive before the end of the workday.

Leitner held an office job in 2007, which inspired much of *Working Stiffs*. Almost all the characters in the novel are based on people she knew. Two purely fictional characters are Hank, the disgruntled employee who hates everyone and everything, and Marshall Owens, a former meth dealer and owner of Pro-Well. The company and production plant were inspired by a Ukrainian pharmaceutical company that hired Leitner's father as president.

Though Leitner originally considered setting the story in Flagstaff, Ariz., it soon became clear that it could not be set anywhere but Pittsburgh. "Because I live in Pittsburgh, it would be defecting to set the novel anywhere else," Leitner explained. "This is a very horror-oriented city. And they say 'write what

you know,' and I know Pittsburgh."

Leitner first fell in love with Pittsburgh when she came to the University of Pittsburgh as an undergraduate in 2001. The neighborhoods and character of the city attracted her and convinced her to stay. She has lived in Oakland and the South Side, and last year bought a house in Bloomfield. She says she loves her new location because of its affordability and convenience to all the East End neighborhoods, Lawrenceville and the Strip.

Working Stiffs is currently available online at Amazon.com and through the publisher, but will be arriving in bookstores soon. Leitner is now working on two more novels – a dystopian story and a darker novel about a serial killer. ♦



Parading Their Literacy Skills



ABOVE: Arlene Sheffey and Jaquawndai Montel display their decorated vocabulary words in the Third Annual Vocabulary Parade at Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5. Students chose robust vocabulary words and made costumes to represent the meanings, then paraded through the community. The parade was the culmination of Literacy Week, May 14-18, when students celebrated their year-long work toward improved literacy. Throughout the week, the students and staff participated in Penny Battles, a collaborative fundraising effort with nearby Allegheny Center Alliance Church, to benefit the building and development of the Karen Library in Kenya, Africa, which is the homeland of many Pittsburgh Arsenal students. Photo by Judith Flaherty



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Festival Returns to Allegheny Cemetery

By James Wudarczyk *Bulletin Contributor*

Lawrenceville – The acclaimed “Doo Dah Days: Stephen Collins Foster Music and Heritage Festival” returns to Lawrenceville on July 14 with four hours of musical entertainment, tours of Allegheny Cemetery, food and historical re-enactments.

Doo Dah Days is more than a musical festival – it is a celebration of Pittsburgh's pre-industrial past via lively music, family entertainment and historical tours, and a throwback to earlier times with people

for trolley and horse-drawn buggy rides, with the first trolley tour beginning at 11:30 a.m. Each docent will bring a wealth of knowledge about the architecture and famous people interred in the cemetery.

The festival celebrates the life and work of Stephen Collins Foster, who was born in 1826 in what was then the independent village of Lawrenceville. Over the course of his short life, he became America's most beloved composer, leaving a legacy of 286



ABOVE: A scene from the 2011 Doo Dah Days. Photo by Kristien Petersen / Lawrenceville Historical Society

dressed in period costumes talking about life in days gone by.

The 2012 festival runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with all events starting at the gatehouse in the 4700 block of Butler Street. This is the seventh year the Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association and the Lawrenceville Historical Society are co-hosting Doo Dah Days.

Entertainment will include authentic Civil War-era music, bluegrass, Irish folk tunes, country music, waltzes, reels and patriotic songs by performers such as Home Front, Wayward Companions, the Harpers Ferry Minstrels and the Pittsburgh Banjo Club.

Docents from the Lawrenceville Historical Society will conduct a series of trolley tours of the historic cemetery grounds. The concerts are free, but there is a minimal fee

for songs and musical compositions. He is best known for songs like “Camptown Races,” “Old Folks at Home,” “Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair,” “Beautiful Dreamer” and “Hard Times Come Again No More.”

Foster produced musical compositions until his untimely death in 1864. He was found with only pennies in his pocket, in part because the Southern states suspended royalty payments to Northern authors and composers during the Civil War. Since Foster's music had been more popular in the South than in the North, the loss of revenue from his earlier compositions was a financial drain on the composer.

Foster's popularity re-emerged after his death, and today he is regarded as a superstar of the 19th century.

For more information about the festival, visit www.doodahdays.com ♦

Penn Reconstruction from page 1

business owners if specific issues arise concerning their properties.

While final design is underway, property owners in the four blocks between Mathilda and Evaline whose water lines have less-than-standard pressure have the opportunity to request a water line test by calling 412-255-2409 or -2429 before the start of reconstruction. The Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority (PWSA) will test lines for free for eligible addresses. If water pressure tests low, residential customers can get a line replacement at no charge during reconstruction; commercial property owners will have to pay for the replacement themselves, but at a greatly reduced cost. Refer to the June issue of *The Bulletin* for all eligible addresses and other details.

One design issue that has not been settled is whether overhead electric lines in the four-block stretch will be buried. Duquesne Light met with staff of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) and indicated it would not pay for this expense, and the budget for the reconstruction project does not include this cost. Property owners would have to

unanimously decide to have the lines buried during reconstruction and incur the costs themselves. However, Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC, said that other outside funding for burying the lines may be possible; contact her at 412-441-6950 x 15 for more information.

If all goes according to schedule, final design plans should be ready for City review and approval in late October, and then go on to PennDOT for approval at the end of December. There will be one final community meeting to present the final design and discuss traffic patterns during construction; that meeting will probably take place in early 2013.

A contractor should be selected in April 2013, with construction actually beginning in mid-August. Penn Avenue business owners affected by the reconstruction are invited to attend the next meeting of the Penn Avenue Reconstruction Committee on August 9 at 8 a.m. at the BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave. To follow developments or read an archive of meeting minutes, visit www.lrkimball.com/penn-avenue.aspx. ♦

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Art Scene from page 1



ABOVE: The first-floor gallery of Spinning Plate Lofts is enjoying renewed artistic life. Photo courtesy Richard Claraval

of this event, which adds to the art programming already established in the East End with Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn.

Claraval, age 60, is a sculptor and artist who won two recent Juror's awards at Associated Artists' exhibitions. He has lived at Spinning Plate Lofts "since its inception" more than 13 years ago. Over the years, he has displayed his personal work in the building's gallery space and become well known in the corporate as well as the arts community. Dave Edwards of Art Energy Design said, "I really enjoy Rick's 2D and 3D figurative works. His style – particularly his compressed drawings – reminds me of the old masters in his attention to the beauty and form of the human body."

Spinning Plate Lofts offers residents an exhibit space on the first floor to showcase their artwork. Claraval and many other local artists got their first taste of producing solo exhibitions here. However, since the previous gallery curator, Frank McNutt, moved from the building nearly eight years ago, the first-floor gallery has gone mostly unused. No one else seemed to have the time or energy to do anything about it until Claraval decided to take it over.

Now the Spinning Plate shows are booked for Second Saturdays through August 2013. There is no jury process and no application fee for artists to show their work. Claraval admits that means the art is not always stellar, but he believes in

giving artists of all levels, emerging and advanced, an opportunity.

"I put the word out on craigslist that we were looking for art. It turned out to be a double-edged sword," Claraval explains. "Some people have sold art very well here and we picked up some wonderful performers. But now, we can't take any further proposals for a while."

Claraval says he does not think the new event competes with the good things happening at Unblurred, since Spinning Plate Lofts is too far from Penn Avenue to directly benefit from that now-iconic event. Claraval does encourage his artists to connect with the Penn Avenue galleries, however.

On July 14, Second Saturdays at Spinning Plate Lofts will host Michelle Frangos, who will have a one-day installation, video projections and performance on the objectification of women. On Aug. 11, David Flynn, a local abstract painter, will be featured at the gallery. On Saturday, Sept. 8, artist Michael Walter will present a "tableau vivant," which literally translates from French as "living picture." Several actors will present themselves as characters from his painting. Second Saturday will typically host a variety of arts and performances, including classical music, folk arts and poetry readings. All events are free and begin at 7 p.m.

For more information, visit Spinning Plate Gallery on Facebook or contact Claraval at rclaraval@gmail.com. ♦



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GCAT CHAT

New Neighbor Welcoming Team

Tuesday, July 3, at 6:00 p.m. at 5429 Penn Avenue

Want to help welcome newcomers to the neighborhood? Join the new neighbor team and help us welcome and get to know new neighbors!

Community Clean-Up

Saturday, July 7, at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Ave.

Restoring Nelson Mandela Park

Saturday, **July 14 & 21**, at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. meet at the corner of Evaline & Dearborn Street.

Let's fix-up Nelson Mandela Park (on N. Evaline Street)! We will be painting, building, and cleaning. All are welcome! If raining that day, we will not meet.

GCAT Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, July 25, at 6:00 p.m. at Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Ave.

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Saturday, July 28, at 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 5201 Penn Avenue.

Join the Garfield Gardeners as we **clean-up** and **green-up** the neighborhood!

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Saturday, August 4, at 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. meet at the corner of Evaline & Dearborn Street.


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the Bulletin BOARD

Local Events Classes Announcements Fundraisers

July 5

FRIENDSHIP**Master Class**

Dancer, choreographer and Point Park University graduate Luke Murphy will offer a master class at The Alloy Studio, 5530 Penn Ave. from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The master class fee is \$10. Visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org to register.

July 6

GARFIELD**Poetry Slam**

Enjoy the creative expressions of others during this Poetry Slam. This event is part of Unblurred on Penn Avenue from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and will be held at the BGC Community center at 113 N. Pacific Ave. Contact Libba at 412-362-8580 for questions about the event or to sign up to read your work. Space is limited for readers, interested writers should call early.

HIGHLAND PARK**Relative Positions**

Relative Positions will be a multi-disciplinary live performance at the Union Project, 801 N. Negley Ave. The VIP event will run from 6 to 7 p.m. with general admission from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for the VIP event and \$15 for general admission. For tickets and more information visit www.shanasimmonsdance.com or email shanaesimmons@gmail.com.

July 9

EAST LIBERTY**PreK Program on Bats**

From 6 to 7 p.m., Carnegie Library-East Liberty will host Bats at Night, a program for children ages 3-6 accompanied by an adult at 130 S. Whitfield St. Activities will include listening to stories about bats and decorating an origami bat.

GARFIELD**Aramark Recruitment**

Come to the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC), 5321 Penn Ave., at 2 p.m. to learn about positions in food service such as concessions, catering, and culinary staff with Aramark at Heinz Field. Call 412-362-8580 for registration and details.

July 10

GARFIELD**Youth Computer Gaming**

If you're up to 14 years old, come to a head-to-head gaming night from 5 to 7 p.m. at PittsburghCON-

NECTS, 5321 Penn Ave. Race and wreck others in Armegetron, based on the movie *Tron*. Call for registration or details at 412-362-8580. This event will also be held on July 24.

LAWRENCEVILLE**Lights, Cameras, Discuss**

In this month's selection for films for adults at Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 270 Fisk St., a climatologist tries to figure out a way to save the world from abrupt global warming. Can he make it to New York and rescue his young son and his friends before the end comes? He only has until the day after tomorrow. The viewing starts at 6 p.m.

July 13

GARFIELD**Networking Happy Hour**

The Pittsburgh 48 Hour Film Project will host a networking happy hour event at 6:30 p.m. at the Most Wanted Fine Art Gallery, 5015 Penn Ave. Come to this event to ask questions, meet people, join or create a team for the 48 Hour Film Project, or just hang out.

PITTSBURGH**Small Scale Orchard**

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tree Pittsburgh and Grow Pittsburgh will present Small Scale Orchard with Michael Phillips, author of "The Apple Grower" and most recently "The Holistic Orchard: Growing Tree Fruits and Berries the Biological Way." The cost for this event is \$50, \$40 for Grow Pittsburgh Members and Tree Tenders and some reduced rate scholarships available. Register at www.treepittsburgh.org/smallscaleorchard or call 412-362-6360. Class materials, light breakfast and lunch are included. This event will also be offered on July 14th.

July 14

LAWRENCEVILLE**Low-Cost Rabies Clinic**

State law requires that all pets over 3 months of age be vaccinated against rabies, with non-compliance resulting in fines of \$300 per day. In order to protect pets and people, Big Easy Animal Hospital, 5328 Butler St., will host a low-cost Rabies Clinic from 2 to 4 p.m. Pet vaccines are available for just \$10 cash. All dogs and cats over 3 months of age will be vaccinated on a first-come, first served basis. For safety reasons, all dogs must be on leashes and all cats in carriers. For more information call 412-908-9301 or visit www.tbcah.com.

Church Picnic

New Bethel Baptist Church will host a Family, Friends, and Neighbors Weekend Church Picnic at Arsenal Park, 39th Street between Butler Street and Penn Avenue, from noon to 6 p.m.

July 15

GARFIELD**YWCC Program**

At 4 p.m. at the Young Women Christian Council Program, Mother Loretta Clark, State Supervisor for the Western PA First Jurisdiction, will be speaking at the Morningside Church of God in Christ, 5173 Dearborn St. All are welcome to attend. For more information call Denise Taylor at 412-361-9865.

Fab LAB Blab

Get to know other Literary Arts Boom (The LAB) volunteers and distribute flyers to local families about upcoming youth programming that involves writing, art, technology, and communication. Meet at Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., at 2 p.m. The event will last until 4 p.m. Call 773-425-1531 or email literaryartsboom@gmail.com for more details.

LAWRENCEVILLE**Church Services**

For the Family, Friends and Neighbors Weekend at New Bethel Baptist Church, 221 43rd St., Pastor Johnathan Wilson will preach a morning worship service at 10:30 a.m. and Rev. Cordell Fountain, pastor at the First Baptist Church in Midland, PA, will preach an afternoon service at 3:30 p.m. Dinner will be served between the services.

July 16

GARFIELD**Social Security Benefits**

Come to the ENEC, 5321 Penn Ave., to attend an informational session about Social Security starting at noon to learn about the application process, appeals, and general information. These SSI benefits are for individuals with mental disabilities and those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Veterans Place

Come meet with Karen Watkins of Veterans Place at the ENEC, 5321 Penn Ave., at 10 a.m. to learn about their supports for Veterans, get help finding job opportunities, complete a VP application, and participate in a pre-enrollment overview. Call ENEC to register at 412-362-8580.

LAWRENCEVILLE**Super Science Camp**

Join a 4-day super science camp, July 16-20 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., for school-age children entering grades 1-5 in the fall at the Lawrenceville Library, 279 Fisk St. Explore different areas of science with hands-on experiments. Please participate in all four days. Call 412-682-3668 to register.

July 17

GARFIELD**Bank Recruitment**

Come to the ENEC, 5321 Penn Ave., at noon to meet with regional recruiters from First Commonwealth Bank, learn about job opportunities and complete an application. Call 412-362-8580 to reserve a spot.

July 18

EAST LIBERTY**Two-Day Dance Intensive**

Internationally celebrated dancer/choreographer Miguel Gutierrez presents a two-day intensive dance workshop today and Thursday, July 19, from 3 to 6 p.m. at The Alloy Studio, 5530 Penn Ave. Pre-registration is required. The fee for both days is \$50. Visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org for registration and more information.

GARFIELD**Diabetes Awareness**

Join PittsburghCONNECTS from 6 to 8 p.m. at 5321 Penn Ave. for information about diabetes awareness, prevention and treatment. Presenter and BGC-ENEC staff member Usama Al-Terafi researched diabetes in ethnic groups for his MD studies and is an expert in the disease. Call 412-362-8580 for details or to sign up.

July 19

EAST LIBERTY**Dance Performance**

Be among the first to see the dance performance of Mash Up Bodies as a work in progress on at 8 p.m. at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Ave. Tickets are \$10. Visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org for more information.

LAWRENCEVILLE**Free Lecture**

The Lawrenceville Historical Society will host Mary Frailey Calland, author of the book "Consecrated Dust: A Novel of the Civil War," which examines the events of Sept. 17, 1862, at Antietam Battlefield and the deadly explosion at the Allegheny Arsenal. The event, which is free and open to the public, will take place in Canterbury Place's McVey Auditorium, 310 Fisk St., at 7 p.m.

July 20

PITTSBURGH**48 Hour Film Festival**

On July 20 through July 22 join hundreds of Pittsburgh filmmakers who will make a movie in 48 hours. That's right... write, shoot, edit and score a short film in 48 hours. Contestants will compete with teams from around the world for the title of "The Best 48 Hour Film of 2012." Register before July 10 for the early bird registration fee of \$160 per team. After July 10, the registration fee is \$175 per team. For more information and to register visit www.48hourfilm.com/pittsburgh.

July 23

GARFIELD**Achieva Recruitment**

Come to the ENEC, 5321 Penn Ave., at 10 a.m. to learn about open positions at Achieva, a non-profit organization serving individuals with disabilities, including home care aides, job coaches, and many

Sorry, we do not accept listings over the phone.

The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, fundraising events and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Listings published on a space-available basis. **Announcements for the AUGUST issue are due MONDAY, JULY 16, via email submission to bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org.**

Volunteer Opportunities & Services

more. Call 412-362-8580 to register or for more information.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Meet and Greet

The Pittsburgh 48 Hour Film Project will host a meet and greet at Hambone's Pub, 4207 Butler St., from 2 to 4 p.m. This event provides an opportunity to meet with actors and other interested team members for the 48 Hour Film Project.

July 25

EAST LIBERTY

Super Science

Join The Outdoor Classroom at Carnegie Library-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St., from 6 to 7 p.m. and learn about the stars in the sky in a dark room with star projections. Constellations and stars will be discussed and children will make their own constellation and story. The program is for ages 4 and up and is limited to 20 children. Registration required. The event will be cancelled by performer if fewer than 10 children sign up.

July 28

EAST LIBERTY

Fun with Shadows

Explore how shadows work, watch a video, make a craft and more at Carnegie Library-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St., from 11 a.m. to noon. This event is for children ages 3-8 accompanied by an adult. Please register by calling 412-363-8274.

July 29

LAWRENCEVILLE

Television Host Speaker

At 11 a.m. in Saint Augustine Hall, 218 37th St., noted author, distinguished editor, and host of eight television shows on EWTN, Mike Aquilina will examine the brutal world of ancient Rome and the emergence of Christianity as the dominant religion in the empire in "The Martyrs' Cup." The event is free and open to the public. No reservations are necessary. A continental breakfast will be served compliments of the Holy Name Society of Our Lady of the Angels Parish.

July 30

GARFIELD

Giant Eagle Recruitment

Visit the ENEC, 5321 Penn Ave., at 2 p.m. to meet a recruiter, learn about open positions with Giant Eagle and complete your online application. Bring a resume and work experience materials. Call 412-362-8580 to reserve a spot.

Caseworker Recruitment

Come to the ENEC, 5321 Penn Ave., at 10 a.m. to learn about A Second Chance, Inc., an organization seeking caseworkers, transportation aides, and many more. Call 412-362-8580 to reserve a spot.

July

BLOOMFIELD/LAWRENCEVILLE

Volunteer Clean-up Days

Come to Cats and Dogs Coffee, 4059 Penn Ave., every Sunday (July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29), weather permitting, to clean up the streets in Lawrenceville and Bloomfield from noon to 2 p.m. Gloves, garbage bags, and rolling trash cans will be provided. Remember to bring water and a friend.

EAST LIBERTY

East Liberty LIVE

East Liberty LIVE is an exciting mix of dance, music and theater events at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Ave., through August. Performances are at 11 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays and at 7 p.m. on Fridays. All shows are pay-what-you-can. Participate in Car-Free Fridays and received two complimentary tickets to a future show. For information, www.kelly-strayhorn.org or 412-363-3000.

FRIENDSHIP

Summer Dance Classes

Dance classes at The Alloy School are ideal for dancers of all skill levels. These classes are fun and educational. Experienced instructors teach classes in salsa/merengue, contemporary/modern, Bhangra (Indian with hip-hop influence), belly dancing and classes for kids. The studio is located at 5530 Penn Ave. Classes are \$25 for the drop-in rate or class cards are \$75 for any 4 sessions. East Liberty neighbors receive a 20% discount on class cards. For more information, visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org or call 412-363-3000.

GARFIELD

Experi-Mondays

Assorted writing and art workshops and activities for youth ages 6-18 will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. every Monday at The LAB at Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave. Experi-Mondays are free and snacks are provided. Call 773-425-1531, visit www.literaryarts-boom.org or email literaryartsboom@gmail.com for details. If you plan to bring a group of students, please notify The LAB in advance.

GED Open Prep

On Mondays and Wednesdays, work on your GED with a free program (including practice exams) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Pittsburgh CONNECTS, 5321 Penn Ave. A math and science instructor will be available on Mondays for tutoring assistance. Increase your possibility for a better job with this opportunity. Call 412-567-3891 to sign up.

Adult Computer Basics

Come and learn the basics of computers, from 1 to 2 p.m. on Mondays and 3 to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, at Pittsburgh CONNECTS, 5321 Penn Ave. Bring any questions and the HandsOnTech staff will be here to answer them and teach you the basics of using a computer. Call 412-567-3891 to sign up.

Internet Basics

Learn about the possibilities the Internet can provide through basic navigation skills and how to use the internet to your advantage at Pittsburgh CONNECTS, 5321 Penn Ave. from noon to 1 p.m. Call 412-567-3891 to sign up.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Flea Market

Every Saturday, the Zone Café holds a flea market at 5217 Butler St. from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sellers and shoppers are welcome. To sell your own items, sign up with the Zone by calling 412-784-1895, emailing thezone5217@gmail.com, or stopping by. A \$10 non-refundable fee is required of all sellers.

Teen Summer Reading

Drop everything and head to Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St. Hang out in the teen space every Wednesday at 2 p.m. and connect with other middle and high school students.

Stories and Crafts

Stop by Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., on Saturdays at 1 p.m. for a special family fun program for all ages. Staff will read a story and lead a craft based on what was read.

Scrabble Tournament

Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville is looking for up to eight two-person teams to participate in a Garden Thyme Scrabble Tournament set up in the community garden at 279 Fisk St. on July 16, 23, 30 and Aug. 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. The team with the most points accumulated over the four evenings will win Scrabble Gardening Edition and a copy of The Scrabble Wordbook. Please register prior to July 16 by calling 412-682-3668.

Flea Market Sellers

New Bethel Baptist Church's Sister-to-Sister Women's Ministry will host a community flea market and vendor showcase on Aug. 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Space is available for six-foot tables. To secure space to sell items, contact Catherine

Curry at 412-441-5968 for an application. The application and \$15 fee per table are due by July 30.

PITTSBURGH

Healthy Start Programs

Healthy Start Inc. offers free programs for women who are pregnant, new parents and families who have children up to age 2. All residents of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County are eligible for these programs. Call 412-247-1000 or visit www.healthystartpittsburgh.org for more information.

Further Out

GARFIELD

Vehicular Abstraction

Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Ave., will be hosting Vehicular Abstraction: An Art Car Event from 1 to 5 p.m. on Oct. 6. This includes several events all of which require registration. The events are already decorated cars, live car painting and children's activities. Vendors are welcome. For more information or to register for these events, register as a vendor, sponsor the event or donate a car visit www.most-wantedfineart.com or email mostwantedfineart@yahoo.com.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Hospitality House Tour

The annual Lawrenceville Hospitality House Tour will be held on Sunday, Oct. 7, from noon to 5 p.m. The planning committee is accepting nominations for houses at this time. If you know of a house in Lawrenceville's 6th, 9th or 10th wards, please contact Kate at kateb1950@gmail.com or call 412-600-2068. Volunteers to help on the planning committee and the day of the event are also needed. For more information, visit www.lha15201.org.

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Center Shines Light on Prenatal Education

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Lawrenceville – Deena Blumenfeld uses the word “serendipity” to explain how she ended up opening Shining Light Prenatal Education at 3701 Butler St.

She was meeting someone for coffee just down the street at Espresso a Mano and noticed the empty storefront at the corner of 37th Street, which had once housed the gift store Divertido. The property was “everything I wanted” – two classrooms, with a side entrance to make it possible to use both rooms at the same time. The space was even painted in the colors of her logo – red, orange and yellow, which represent the three chakras, or energy centers in the body, associated with fertility, pregnancy and childbirth.

Then, also by chance, Maya Henry of Lawrenceville Corporation enrolled in one of the prenatal yoga classes Blumenfeld was teaching in Shadyside. Henry facilitated the lease negotiations, the landlord did the construction needed to turn the space into a yoga studio and everything fell into place.

Shining Light has been open since January in the bright, sunny space, providing education for parents “for the childbearing year” – fertility through birth and the immediate post-partum period. “There’s nothing like it in the city,” observes Blumenfeld, emphasizing the center’s integration of prenatal yoga with Lamaze childbirth instruction. Blumenfeld is certified to teach both.

She says her business model is “a new paradigm for childbirth education.” Most of this education now occurs in hospitals, and “the classes are insufficient,” since hospitals focus on a medical model of childbirth. “They’re not geared toward other types of

birth,” such as midwife-assisted home birth.

The classes at Shining Light are also smaller and more flexible than hospital classes. “We’re all-inclusive, too,” says Blumenfeld. “We welcome same-sex couples and single parents, who might find going to hospital classes awkward.” In addition to classes in her studio, Blumenfeld offers private sessions on-site or in clients’ homes, to accommodate their schedules.

And why is there a need for prenatal yoga? Blumenfeld notes that training for regular yoga teachers includes just one unit on prenatal concerns. “They follow basic guidelines – skip the inversions, no lying on the stomach,” she says. But at a certain point in women’s pregnancies, they benefit from more specialized instruction. “We do strength training, we address balance issues, we have postures for back pain. We do breathing and meditations that will actually help with childbirth... We focus on mental relaxation and focus.”

Blumenfeld received her prenatal yoga certification when she was 32 weeks pregnant with her second child. She went back to teaching six weeks after giving birth. Some of her prenatal yoga students began requesting childbirth education, then breast-feeding instruction. Her students’



ABOVE: Deena Blumenfeld found the perfect storefront on Butler Street by chance. Photo by Paula Martinac

needs, combined with her own experience of having a son via cesarean section and then a daughter by vaginal birth, compelled her to launch the center.

In fact, the name of the center was inspired by her daughter. When Blumenfeld was pregnant, her father was very ill. “I was looking for a name for her that meant ‘hope’ or ‘joy,’” she explains. She settled on the name Elaine, which she discovered is

Greek for “shining light.”

In addition to prenatal yoga and Lamaze, Shining Light offers a host of related classes and workshops, such as bellydancing, baby sign language, prenatal nutrition, baby food preparation and “Great Expectations – Or, I’m Pregnant, Now What?” There is also a lending library for students’ use. For a complete schedule and more information, visit www.shininglightprenatal.com. ♦

GA/GI Fest Scores Citywide Honor

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Bloomfield/Garfield – In June, amid the cheers of hundreds of supporters, the Geek Art/Green Innovator’s Festival, otherwise known as GA/GI Fest, received one of the highest honors given out in the city.

The tech- and eco-inspired festival, which took place the first weekend in April in collaboration with Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn, received a Design, Art and Technology Award (DATA) from the Pittsburgh Technology Council, in the category Community: Art + Tech for Our People and Places.

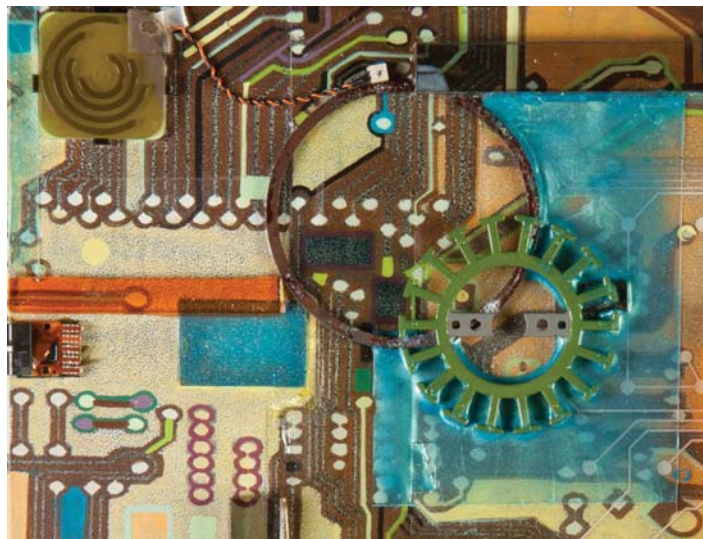
“There was stiff competition in the Community Art and Tech category,” said Kim Chestney Harvey, director of the Art and Tech initiative. “But Penn Avenue and Christine Bethea truly deserved to win.”

Bethea, the owner of ARTica gallery and boutique at 5110 Penn Ave., is the founder of GA/GI Fest. “I’ve never seen a community with so much heart,” said Bethea. “Whatever you ask of Penn Avenue people

they’ll do to the fullest. When we first came up with this festival concept three years ago, it was unprecedented in this city. Penn Avenue got it. And they continue to support it 100 percent.”

There were seven categories on the award slate, each with three or more contenders. GA/GI Fest won over the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Carnegie Mellon University School for Creative Inquiry’s High Point Pittsburgh Project and the VIA Music and New Media Festival.

GA/GI event sponsors included Passports Art Diversity Project, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Friendship Development Associates, the Pittsburgh Glass Center, Union Project, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, Art Energy Design, Google, University of Pittsburgh, Toonseum, Kelly-Strayhorn Theater and the Lawrenceville Corporation, as well as the many Penn Avenue galleries and businesses. ♦



ABOVE: The DATA award presented to GA/GI Fest was designed by Sandy Kessler Kaminski. Photo by Kim Chestney Harvey