



The Bulletin

A Publication of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

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Volume 36, No. 7 Covering Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty and Lawrenceville since 1975 July 2011

K-2 Manager Outlines Plans for New Beer Distributor

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

What's up at K-2 convenience store on Penn Avenue? In early May, the gasoline tanks were dug out and removed, replaced by huge mounds of dirt, which were then hauled away the first week in June. On May 31, about 20 nearby neighbors got a preview of the property manager's plans to expand the business by opening a beer distributorship on the site.

Zeeshan Ahmed has been managing the property for the past four months, since the owner, Zahir Khan, who is his father-in-law, suffered a stroke. At the May community meeting, convened by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and held at ModernFormations Gallery on Penn Avenue, Ahmed told neighbors that the "gas station was not economically profitable... It lost money." He had the tanks removed and the soil

checked for contaminants. Although "there is no contamination," he is still waiting for final paperwork.

The new plan for the property is to retain the convenience store and expand the building so that it also houses a beer distributorship, with the two businesses sharing a facade. Ahmed said he asked Freddie Croce of inter*ARCHITECTURE, who lives and works directly across Penn Avenue from K-2, to conduct a preliminary feasibility study to assess how the site might be reconfigured. Croce will eventually be drawing plans for the extension to the existing building.

The structure, Ahmed said, will remain one-story, but the façade will be improved, the parking lot repaved and the site landscaped. There will be separate entrances and staff for the convenience store and the distributor. The beer distribution business will be

See K-2, page 13



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

BRIDE MURAL GETS FACELIFT

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

She's graced Penn Avenue for 15 years, and looks a little worse for wear, with visible chips and flaking. Now "The Bride on Penn Avenue," the iconic mural on the side of a building at Penn and Graham, is getting a facelift that will "extend its life another 15 to 20 years," according to Rick Swartz, executive director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, who owns the building.

"It's starting to show signs of seri-

ous deterioration," says Swartz of the mural. This summer, local mural artist Ashley Hodder, assisted by Zandra Specter, will undertake the task of returning the artwork to its original glory. The price tag of restoration is \$37,000, of which the BGC has raised all but \$7,500.

Back in 1995, the BGC commissioned the local architectural firm of Arthur Lubetz Associates to restore the four-story brick building at 5437 Penn. Jill Watson, a partner in the firm, was in charge of the restoration,

See BRIDE, page 15

FAREWELL TO PEABODY AND CLASS OF 2011

Senior class president Amber Craig (left) welcomed the crowd to the final graduation ceremony for Pittsburgh Peabody High School on Sunday, June 12. Read more on **PAGE 5**.



Kathryn Vargas/BGC

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

Calling All Volunteers!



Garfield Map Project

Please submit your pictures and stories about your favorite places in Garfield! Garfield Community Action Team (GCAT) is starting an exciting new project to map out both the historic and the new exciting places to see in Garfield. We welcome you to submit your favorite place in the neighborhood and let us know why this needs to be included in the project. All ideas are welcome! We will use these locations to map out walking routes of interest in the neighborhood. They will also help preserve and record the rich history and new innovation in the neighborhood. In your submission, please include the location, a new and old picture (if possible), the reason why this part of the neighborhood is important to you, and your contact information. There are many ways to submit: online at <http://gcatpgh.wufoo.com/forms/garfield-map-project/>; by mail: Bloomfield Garfield Corporation, ATTN: Kathryn Vargas, 5149 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224; or phone: 412-441-6950 x 17. You can just call and share your story!

Clean Streets Team Monthly Clean-Up

Take some time this month to give back to the neighborhood and help us keep the streets clean. Saturday July 30th, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The group meets in front of Edge Studio, 5411 Penn Avenue. Gloves and bags are provided for all volunteers.

Green and Screen 5111 Build Day

Volunteers are welcome to join us in constructing the newest Green & Screen project for Penn Avenue. There will be two build days in July. On Saturday, July 23rd, and Saturday, July 30th, at 10 a.m., we will meet at 5111 Penn Ave (next to Awesome Books). Please contact: ecodesignersguild@gmail.com for more information about the build day and the project. www.ecodesignersguild.org.

Garfield Community Action Team (GCAT)

Want to be part of planning and organizing community projects? Please join us for our upcoming planning meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 27, at 6 p.m. at the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Avenue.

Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center

Various volunteer opportunities are available at the ENEC, located at 5321 Penn Avenue, including: assisting clients with Internet job searches, online applications, resumes and professional cover letters; and conducting mock interviews to assess strengths and weaknesses and build confidence. Additional assistance with data entry and receiving/answering telephone calls is also needed. Please contact Rick Flanagan at 412-441-9833.

If you have a volunteer need for the month of August, or have any questions about what is currently listed, please contact Kathryn Vargas at kathrynv@bloomfield-garfield.org, or 412-441-6950 x 17 by July 15 to have it added to next month's listing.

The BGC is now on Twitter! Follow @BloomGarCorp

Noise from Air Conditioners at Children's Home Abated

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Nearby neighbors can hear the birds singing again, thanks to a collaboration of city council members, the Mayor, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), the Children's Home of Pittsburgh (CHP) and residents of Friendship on a noise issue related to the air conditioning equipment at CHP.

The noise problem began soon after CHP moved into its new \$21 million facility at 5324 Penn Avenue in 2007. Nearby neighbors reported loud noise from the air conditioning units on the roof of the building, and CHP installed new compressor wraps and fan blades in an effort to alleviate the problem. Although the sound changed after the installation, the neighbors said it actually grew worse, becoming an insistent "pulse." They engaged Aggie Brose of Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation as a mediator between them and CHP.

The neighbors requested a "sound wall" that would direct the noise up instead of out into the streets. But with the financial obligations brought on by the construction of its new facility, CHP said it had limited resources to implement this solution, which cost

approximately \$40,000. After several meetings with the neighbors, the CHP board voted to contribute up to \$20,000 to the effort if the neighbors would raise the remainder of the funds.

Councilman Patrick Dowd of District 7 offered to pitch in toward the effort, and asked his fellow Councilman Bill Peduto of District 8 to join him. Councilman Ricky Burgess of District 9 lobbied the Mayor's office on the community's behalf and secured additional funds from Mayor Ravenstahl, bringing the total from the community's side to \$20,000.

Installation of the sound wall was completed on May 20, with positive results. "I feel the project has been successful in reducing the overall noise and bringing the 'pulse' to a level that is not noticeable," Mike Dolan, one of the Friendship neighbors, told *The Bulletin* in an email. "The litmus test that I was using was, 'Can I hear the birds in my backyard when it is above 75 degrees?' The answer is yes."

Dolan added that he is "hopeful City Council can construct legislation [see article below] that can help other city residents avoid this unfortunate situation in the future." ♦

Making Noise About Noise

By Patrick Dowd
City Council, District 7

I am honored to serve as co-chair, with Councilman Bruce Kraus, of the City Council Noise Ordinance Task Force. Tools have been established to help citizens share their grievances about noise in the City of Pittsburgh. The Noise Ordinance Task Force will use the input to help shape new municipal noise legislation. Some common noise irritants may include: industrial machinery; residential construction; parties; music; car and motorcycle engines; and car stereos, alarms and horns.

Citizens are urged to phone, text or write to us about any issues of noise pollution that they experience. The noise line and task force website is noisetaskforce.pittsburghpa.gov and the email address is noisetaskforce@gmail.com. Phone and text messages should be sent to 412-223-7620. The postal delivery address is c/o Councilman Patrick Dowd, 510

City County Building, 414 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

This development stems from the Task Force's research into best practices of noise legislation around the country. The Task Force has also completed a comprehensive review of noise issues in the current City of Pittsburgh municipal code; researched relevant technical issues in acoustics; researched legal issues in writing a noise ordinance; and reviewed the legal and practical issues of enforcement, including the issues that have come up for the police in enforcing the current legislation.

In January, Council President Darlene Harris created the Noise Ordinance Task Force to study various noise issues in the City, and to develop mechanisms of control that are practicable and easily understandable by various agencies and the general public. Other council members on the Noise Task Force are Theresa Kail-Smith and Daniel Lavelle.

See **NOISE**, page 4

Milestone Reached in Penn Avenue Reconstruction Project

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Although the start of construction is at least 18 months away, the Penn Avenue reconstruction project is making progress on the design plans for Phase 1, which encompasses the four-block stretch between Mathilda and Evaline. The \$5 million project hit a milestone on June 1 when engineers submitted the "Line, Grade and Typical Section" plans to the City's Bureau of Transportation and Engineering.

Patrick Hassett, assistant director of the bureau, explains that the design plans "define the curb line, where cars go, where pedestrians go. It establishes the boundary between the two." According to Brian Krul, Project Manager with the engineering firm of L.R. Kimball, the submission represents 30 to 40 percent of the overall design, which keeps the project on schedule.

The next milestone, Krul says, will be the submission of a

Maintenance and Protection of Traffic plan, or MPT. This document will outline traffic control plans during construction, such as how to keep traffic and pedestrians moving and businesses accessible. The MPT will show sections of what the four blocks will look like during the construction phase and the signage that will direct people to businesses.

Preliminary design should be completed by the end of the year, says Krul. In late fall, the plans will be presented to the public at a community meeting.

Other engineering and design tasks are currently on-going. Within the next couple of months, for example, drilling will be taking place at various locations as part of the project's "Geotechnical Investigation." This will determine pavement depth at different spots along the avenue. "With the drills and water, it might look like

"With the drills and water, it might look like Marcellus shale drilling, but...it's not."

Marcellus shale drilling, but don't worry, it's not," explains Krul.

Another part of the design process involves planning for what is called the "streetscaping," which includes landscaping, trash and recycle bins, benches, bike racks, and poles for signals and signage. Karen Loysen of Loysen + Kreuthmeier, an architecture firm located at 5115 Penn, is utilizing the urban catalog created for the streetscaping, and will eventually present the plans for endorsement by the City's Art Commission, which advises on all projects involving public right-of-way.

While engineering and design have been moving along, Rich Engel, Mainstreets Manager for the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, has been holding meetings with property and business owners at all the intersections between Mathilda and Evaline, to talk to them about changes that will affect their businesses.

Carl Kirschbaum, owner of Carl's TV at Penn Avenue and Winebiddle, says he has been well-informed by the engineers about the changes to his intersection. "The engineers have been in two or three times, and I'm satisfied," he told *The Bulletin*; he

says the BGC also sent him minutes of the Penn Avenue Reconstruction Committee meetings. The entrance to his parking lot is now on Penn, but to accommodate a pedestrian bump-out at that intersection, the entrance will move to Winebiddle with "No Parking" signs erected to keep it clear for customers. "That's all fine," Kirschbaum noted. "The reconstruction's a good idea. It's 100 percent positive."

One big change that will come from the reconstruction project is tighter control of parking along the corridor. Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC, points out that there have been many missing meter heads along the Phase 1 stretch for about 12 years. After completion of reconstruction, "It's not going to be the Wild West of parking anymore," says Hassett, noting that either new meters or kiosks will be in place and enforced.

To keep abreast of Phase 1 plans and progress, community members and business owners can access information at the project website: www.lrkimball.com/penn-avenue.aspx. "There are currently six tabs where you can visit and download PDFs of documents that have been approved, including agendas, meeting minutes, monthly status reports, newsletters, reports from the phasing plan and the Project Schedules," notes Ryan Sheran of L.R. Kimball. ♦

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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

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

EYESORE OF THE MONTH

WANTED

Our eyesore of the month is in Garfield at 555 N. Aiken Avenue, 10th Ward, the City of Pittsburgh. According to the Allegheny County real estate website, the recorded owner is Ostara Exteriors, LLC. The property was acquired in March, 2009, at a sales price of \$4,500. The property is now tax-delinquent.

BGC staff visited the site and was appalled at the neglected and blighted condition of the house, which is in a row with houses on either side occupied.

BGC staff contacted the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI), which reported that several citations were written for this property in December, 2010, and sent to P. O. Box 100272, Pittsburgh, PA 15233 – the tax mailing and property owner address listed on the county website. The citations were returned as undeliverable. The list of code violations is very extensive. Rear and right side walls have mortar erosion; windows are broken and open; downspouts are missing; the rear porch and guard rails are missing; the deck is rotted; the front porch gutter is rotted, leaking and hanging off the building; the porch roof is rotted and collapsing; the property is vacant and open; and there are overgrown weeds and debris. And these are only the exterior code violations.

The BGC contacted Mark J. Krauland, Esq., who handled the filing for Ostara Exteriors LLC. Krauland informed the BGC that Ostara Exteriors principal Kelly Kerr filed a Consent to Appropriation of Name on December 23, 2008, and



**555 NORTH AIKEN HAS AN EXTENSIVE LIST OF CODE VIOLATIONS...
AND A MISSING OWNER.**

Greg Stellmach, who had worked for her, filed that same day for a Certificate of Organization Domestic Limited Liability Company, becoming the principal of Ostara Exteriors LLC.

Stellmach listed his address on the certificate as 918 James Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, a building owned by October Real Estate Holdings, LLC, of which Al DePasquale is the principal.

The BGC phoned Stellmach at the last known phone number listed for Ostara Exteriors, only to be informed, "You got the wrong number – no Stellmach here."

The BGC then contacted DePasquale, who informed us that Stellmach had been his tenant and was a roofer who had worked for East Liberty Development Inc. (ELDI). At ELDI, Kendall Pelling told the BGC he was well acquainted with Stellmach but had no information on his whereabouts, and would also like to contact him.

Working with the county staff, BGC staff could not locate any other

properties owned by Ostara Exteriors LLC or Stellmach. They also could not locate Stellmach himself. According to our research into court records, Stellmach has not passed away.

As the owner of 555 N. Aiken Avenue, Stellmach is the only one who can be held accountable for the property. He has left a huge mess in our neighborhood, which is not acceptable.

This vacant and blighted property is causing adjoining homeowners to suffer a loss in a value on their properties, and their insurance companies may eventually cancel their insurance policies.

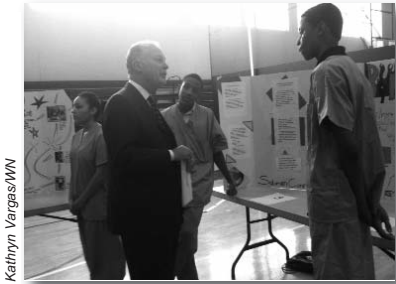
We are now asking for the help of our readers to find him. If anyone knows the whereabouts of Greg Stellmach, please contact the BGC at 412-441-6950 x 15 so he can be held accountable to our neighbors and community.

Let's work together to hold people accountable to our neighborhood. It will make a difference. ♦

NOISE, from page 2

The Noise Line will be open until mid-July. Please note the Noise Line is not a substitute for 311 or 911. Noise issues that require immediate attention should be reported to 311 or 911. We hope this effort will help community members all around the district. Should you have any questions regarding the Noise Ordinance Task Force or anything else in your community, please feel free to contact one of our team members in the office at 412-255-2140 or district7@city.pittsburgh.pa.us. ♦

Paula Martinac/The Bulletin



Kathryn Vargas/WN

STUDENTS ENGAGED IN PATHWAYS TO HEALTH CAREERS INITIATIVE

Pittsburgh Public Schools Board Member Bill Isler (above) talks with Westinghouse students Raymond Still and Solomon Campbell about the health careers that they have been studying. The Health Careers Fair was hosted at Westinghouse High School on Thursday, June 9. The fair was the end-of-the-year event of East End Pathways to Health Careers, a year-old initiative implemented by Wireless Neighborhoods with support from the United Way of Allegheny County and the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. The initiative includes a weekly health careers curriculum and opportunities for students to engage with local health professionals. Wireless works in close partnership with the schools, local community organizations and health institutions to make this initiative possible. Paramount to the success of the initiative was the effort put forth by students. It was their hard work and genuine engagement in the curriculum that made this event and the year of career exploration successful. For more information on this project please contact: Kathryn Vargas at Wireless Neighborhoods, 412-363-1910. ♦

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Peabody Highlanders' Last Hurrah

By Kathryn Vargas
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

"They waited 100 years for us and as Peabody closes its doors for the final time we have to keep in mind they save the best for last. Because we are the best there is, the best there was, and the best there ever will be! To the class of 2011 and everyone here, I say welcome." The crowd roared as senior class president Amber Craig finished her welcoming remarks for what proved to be a joyous ending to a legacy.

Opening its doors in 1911, Peabody High school is likely the alma mater to the majority of community residents living in the Garfield, East Liberty, and Larimer neighborhoods. Famous graduates have included dancer Gene Kelly, artist Romare Bearden, and writer John Edgar Wideman. After 100 years as our neighborhood high school, Peabody ended its reign on a high note. The graduation ceremony took place on Sunday, June 12, at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial in Oakland.

Joining the students for this historic occasion were Pittsburgh Peabody's principal, Kellie Abbott; members of the Peabody faculty and staff;

Pittsburgh Public School Board members Tom Sumpter and Dara Ware Allen; and Pittsburgh Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Linda Lane. Each shared a few words with the joyous crowd before the moment that family and friends were all waiting for – the procession of graduates.

The Bloomfield Garfield Corporation and its close partner Wireless Neighborhoods have had a special relationship with Peabody High School and its students. For more than five years, Peabody has been home to the Community LEARNS afterschool program. While the program will be moving its base, Community LEARNS will continue to work with youths living in the Garfield and East Liberty neighborhoods. The BGC and Wireless Neighborhoods are currently in discussion with Pittsburgh Westinghouse and University Prep to provide afterschool programs in the coming academic year.

Pittsburgh Peabody may be closing its doors, but the spirit of its alumni will live on. The BGC would like to extend warm and enthusiastic congratulations to all of the 2011 graduates as they prepare for their futures and begin to leave their imprint on the Pittsburgh community. ♦

STUDENTS = AUTHORS

By Caitlin Cleary
The Bulletin

Eight lucky and talented students of Peabody High School in East Liberty can now consider themselves published authors with a book to prove it. Through a program with the Young Preservationists Association, these students created a book about the progression of the East End entitled *Pittsburgh's East End: Then, Now and Later*. This 100-page text is written in an essay style with multiple entries by each student. They document three areas of change throughout the East End: institutions, communities, and people. The book ends with reflections written by each student.

Extensive research went into this project, which is especially evident in the photos used. Readers can appreciate the change undergone in this area by contrasting photos taken in 2011 with those from the early 20th century. The young authors make some interesting insights throughout the book. They do a particularly good job



Courtesy YPA

SENIOR J'MAL CHRISTMAS SIGNS HIS SECTION OF THE BOOK.

discussing schools in the area and the history of the Carnegie Library branches.

For the project, the students also learned interviewing techniques, and interviews with East Enders such as John Brewer, Al Mann and Carol Spencer-Royall are included in their entirety. Anyone interested in reading an insightful text by high school students-turned-authors can check out one of 500 copies available at Carnegie Library's East Liberty branch and at some East End schools. ♦

POWERING CHOICE IN YOUR HOME

By Sen. Jim Ferlo
Pa. Senate District 38

Summer is here, and with that, higher electricity prices for some of us, as fans and air conditioners begin to hum. You may have received pieces of mail from new companies on choosing an electricity supplier. It may be a prudent time of year to look into your options on electricity choice.

Utility rates are governed by the Public Utility Commission. Over the last few years, established rate caps expired, allowing utility companies to petition the PUC to raise their rates based on their costs. Alternate suppliers were empowered to enter the market and give consumers more choices. The PUC has created PA Power Switch (<http://www.papowerswitch.com>) as a guide for consumers to use in making informed choices.

Your electric service includes three parts: generation, transmission and distribution. Generation is the production of electricity, and the companies who produce it are called suppliers. Transmission is the movement of that

electricity from where it is produced to a local distribution system. Distribution is the delivery of electricity to your home or business.

In most of my district within Pittsburgh city limits, Duquesne Light serves as your electric company. Duquesne will continue to deliver your service, provide maintenance, and handle your billing, but you are now able to choose the electric supplier who generates the electricity that you use. Once you enter your ZIP code, you can see all the available suppliers, their price to compare, and contractual terms. You are welcome to stay with Duquesne Light as supplier or you may elect to switch. A quick search for ZIP code 15201, home of my Lawrenceville district office, pulled up seven different options for residential properties.

I urge you to visit PA Power Switch online or to call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380 and research carefully. If I can be of any assistance in this or any other matter, please contact my district office at 412-621-3006 or visit my website at www.senatorferlo.com. ♦

Mainstreets Memo

By Rich Engel
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Thanks to all who've welcomed me as the new Mainstreets Manager on Penn Avenue. I'm working to reduce vacancies and help current property owners and businesses, as well as to improve cleanliness and safety on Penn. Contact me any time to ask about façade improvement grants, Unblurred: First Fridays, or any other Penn Avenue matters, at mainstreets@bloomfield-garfield.org or by calling the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation offices, 412-441-6950.

Please join me in extending a welcome to new neighbors and business

owners Jason Demarchi of Tattoo Noir, Kate and Nikolaus Stoltzfus of Plumb Media, and Jeff Newman of Steel City Soils. Look for more about these obviously tasteful folks in upcoming issues of *The Bulletin*.

Finally, some news from Olde Pittsburgh: On June 5, 1915, there was a dedication ceremony for a playground next to Fort Pitt Elementary (now Pittsburgh Fort Pitt ALA). A copy of the printed dedication program is in the wonderful Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation library, and it includes many advertisements for businesses along Penn Avenue. If you have a connection to a property or business on Penn, perhaps you can find your address below. ♦

BUSINESSES ON PENN IN 1915

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Workforce Development News from COR

By Ken Nesbit, MSW
C.O.R. Section 3 Specialist

The Coalition of Organized Residents of East Liberty (COR) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose vision is to improve the quality of life for the low-income residents of the community. COR was formed by the resident councils of the three FAP (high-rise) apartments in East Liberty to become the "voice of the residents." Throughout East Liberty's revitalization, COR continues to negotiate and advocate for affordable housing in the East Liberty community.

COR serves as a Workforce Development organization with our

Section 3 Initiative. During the revitalization of East Liberty, COR has been dedicated to ensuring that residents of East Liberty have an opportunity to obtain employment in both construction and post-construction jobs. COR can help you sharpen your skills with resume building, references, job training and more.

COR will soon be referring people for employment in all areas of construction to contractors on the Fairfield Phase 2 construction project. For more information, contact me at 412 661-2600. COR's office is located at 211 North Whitfield Street, Suite 210, in East Liberty. Our office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.cor-of-eastliberty.com. ♦



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Lawrenceville Groups Keeping Tabs on New Businesses

By Lauren Byrne
Lawrenceville United

and Maya Henry
Lawrenceville Corporation

Twenty-two new businesses have made Lawrenceville their home over the past year. Lawrenceville United and the Lawrenceville Corporation have been stewarding the development and opening of new establishments to ensure businesses and residents continue to coexist in productive and mutually beneficial ways. Sweeping sidewalks, hanging flower baskets, and creating and implementing parklets and green spaces all support the efforts of the Butler Street and Penn Avenue businesses working toward a thriving corridor.

As part of a community process implemented last year regarding changes of use for commercial space and liquor-serving institutions, and large-scale significant zoning changes along the business corridor, the community organizations have taken specific action on behalf of the residents and stakeholders of the community.

The opening of the proposed Industry Grill, located at 4305 Butler Street in Lawrenceville, is still on hold. Plans for the establishment, owned by Daniell Vizslay-Walker, David Vizslay, and Tim Linz (LVW, Inc), call for a special exception to the zoning code, and the approval of a

double transfer of a liquor license. After many community meetings, and much information gathering and sharing, the community protested the special exception requested by the owners and asked for a public hearing regarding the approval of the liquor license double transfer. Concerns with the potential negative impacts on adjacent residents and businesses, and with the previous experience and management history of the owners, led to these positions and requests. A decision has not yet been made on the zoning issue, and a public hearing is scheduled regarding the liquor license double transfer. The hearing will take place on July 13, at 1 p.m. at 2 Parkway Center, 875 Greentree Road, Suite G8.

In May, Lawrenceville United, along with other residents, public officials, and business owners, intervened in the liquor license transfer for a proposed gastro-pub called Alchemy and Ale, located at 5147 Butler Street. Big Tree Entertainment, LLC, owned by Kathleen Sheehan and Fred Gardner and managed by David Santa, has plans to open a gastro-pub at 5147 Butler Street. Although the idea of a gastro-pub, with an emphasis on the dining experience, was well-received by the community, the inclusion of David Santa as its manager was not. Mr. Santa's history and involvement with other clubs and nighttime entertainment establishments was cause for great concern. A public hearing will

be scheduled regarding the approval of the liquor license transfer, though a date had not been set when *The Bulletin* went to print.

New Amsterdam, located at 4421 Butler Street, is planning to expand its business. Owners Jon Pergal and Jimmy Woods, along with Chris Lasky, presented plans to add a deck and full kitchen to the existing establishment. The owners addressed the community's concerns about noise, design, and operating procedures at a meeting on June 2nd. The owners were excited to announce they were

bringing back some of the community's favorite menu items and that the establishment is now completely non-smoking. New Amsterdam is looking to start construction in late summer with support from the community. Plans and details are on file and readily available for review at Lawrenceville United offices.

We encourage you to contact Lawrenceville United with any questions or concerns regarding our community process, or about these specific businesses: 412-802-7220 or at info@lunited.org. ♦

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GARDENS BLOOM IN LAWRENCEVILLE

By Kate Bayer
Bulletin Contributor

Hospitality Lawrenceville Style was the name of the game on Saturday, June 10, when the community hosted a new and reinvigorated Garden Tour. An estimated 100 visitors spent the warm summer day meandering through 16 tucked-away retreats and were amazed at what they found.

From the roses at 223 40th Street to a tiny container garden filled with herbs and vegetables started from seed at 5301 Lotus Way this tour demonstrated the creativity and ingenuity of many of our residents. At 184 Home Street, visitors found a garden designed as a cross between an Easter Vigil Garden and a Native American Storytellers TeePee. Pennsylvania native plants and herbs including borage provided the highlight at 221 Fisk. Across the way at 251 Fisk, mature lilac trees and a lush dogwood provided a shady and breezy haven for many varieties of wild birds.

The starting point of the tour, which was free and self-guided, was the Community Garden at Stanton Avenue and Butler Street. The community garden is staffed by resident volunteers and has a mis-

sion of promoting urban food production and community building. Volunteers who help in the garden share in the bounty it produces.

The most distant garden was at 3927 Howley Street and was a must-see space that started out as a completely empty 42 x 20 lot. There are now more than 100 perennial flowers, vegetables, a double helix brick pathway, green wall, cinder block planter and rain barrels.

Best of all, visitors were treated to some fantastic examples of Lawrenceville hospitality, with many of the hosts and hostesses providing treats such as homemade banana bread, warm chocolate chip cookies right out of the oven, lemonade and water.

The Garden Tour was sponsored by the Lawrenceville Hospitality Association, which was assisted in the effort by the Lawrenceville Community Garden and Lawrenceville United. Special thanks to the planning committee members: Chuck Alcorn, Paul Alessio, Jon Daniel, Molly Johnson and Dora Walmsley. Poster Art was provided by Josh "Stretch" Carter. Look for us next year: Same time, same places. ♦



GARDENS ON THE TOUR INCLUDED 221 FISK STREET (LEFT) AND 3927 HOWLEY STREET (ABOVE).

Shared Space at Union Project Fosters Collaboration

By Kelly Tobias
Union Project

Union Project (UP) is a dynamic community arts and enterprise center with the mission of using its space to bring people together to connect, create, and celebrate. For over a decade, Union Project has supported community enterprise, creating nearly 100 jobs, growing dozens more, and incubating a diverse network of partners, including community leaders, artists, micro-entrepreneurs, small businesses, and non-profits.

Located at 801 North Negley, UP provides a variety of spaces in its historic building, from private offices to weekly rentals for community teachers and classes. Now, Shared Working Space at Union Project will provide an innovative way to work collaboratively in a beautiful and flexible environment.

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are a private contractor, an owner of a growing business, or a craftsperson in need of a different environment to do what you love, Union Project Shared Working Space provides you with an affordable alternative to the traditional office.

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Courtesy UP



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House Historian Tells Stories of East End Buildings

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Carol Peterson has a memory from when she was about 5 years old of being in a dress shop with her mother in Connecticut, where her family lived when at the time. "I remember being interested in the building and asking if it used to be a house," she says. For the past 20-plus years, she has pursued this curiosity in old houses and their stories by documenting the histories of local houses for individuals and businesses.

Trained in Urban and Regional Planning, Peterson worked as an architectural historian in the Cultural Resources section of a local engineering firm from 1996 to 2007, researching historically significant properties affected by development projects. On the side, she did house histories for residents who shared her passion for the stories old homes can tell. She has now completed more than 1,000 house histories, many in the five East End neighborhoods.

"People just get curious," Peterson, who lives in Lawrenceville, explains, about why people hire her to docu-

ment their homes. "They'll often say there's something idiosyncratic about their house that they want to know about." She says she thinks that sometimes it simply comforts people to know the history of their own place when the neighborhood they live in is undergoing change or turmoil. In addition, realtors hire Peterson to create house histories as closing gifts for clients, and nonprofit community development corporations also engage her services.

Peterson says she is always able to document the houses she's hired to research, although some cases are harder than others. "There's a misperception that all the information is on the Internet," she says. "But you have to actually look at handwritten documents that get you dirty. I don't have too many white clothes."

She can piece together a house's past through construction documents and deeds, and by using plat maps and archives at the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Library. To paint the full picture, she also does genealogical work, consulting census records, wills, newspaper obituaries and city registers. "Sometimes I can even track down and interview

descendants," she notes.

For the final product, she presents clients with complete property ownership history, with relevant information from each deed; construction documentation; a biography of the family who had the house built; census records identifying all the occupants of the house; and copies of historic plat maps showing the house's location.

Peterson has documented all types and styles of houses, from the McBride log house in Lawrenceville built in the 1820s (*photo at right*); to buildings along Penn Avenue that date to the early 1900s; to a 1930s home in Mount Lebanon. She has even done some 1950s houses, but she draws the line there. "I don't do houses that are younger than me," she laughs. She chronicled the house in Schenley Farms built for Fred Rogers' grandparents, and Ambassador Dan Rooney's house on the North Side, but not all of her work is documenting grand homes.

"All Pittsburgh houses have similar forms, but they're adapted to economics and lot size," she explains. "So you'll even find little Bloomfield houses with Queen Anne influences."



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

AMONG THE MANY PITTSBURGH BUILDINGS CAROL PETERSON HAS RESEARCHED IS THE MCBRIDE LOG HOUSE IN LAWRENCEVILLE.

Surprisingly, Peterson has not documented her own house on 46th Street. "It's like the shoemaker's kids running around barefoot," she says. "I haven't had time to do my own house." ♦

Carol Peterson can be reached at 412-687-032 or cpeterson155@yahoo.com.

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DOO DAH DAYS RETURNS WITH FLAIR

By James Wudarczyk
Lawrenceville Historical Society

The popular "Doo Dah Days: The Stephen Foster Music and Heritage Festival" returns to Allegheny Cemetery on July 9 with four hours of musical entertainment, popular tours of Allegheny Cemetery, food, and historical re-enactors. Since 2006, Doo Dah Days has become a Lawrenceville tradition that has been well-received by the public and has captured the attention of leading national newspapers, as well as the *London Financial Times*. All events start at the Butler Street Gatehouse.

Although other cities have Foster festivals, the Pittsburgh event is the only one that takes place in a cemetery – moreover, in the cemetery where the famous composer was laid to rest. Born in 1826 in the village of Lawrenceville, Stephen Collins Foster has become one of America's most beloved composers. By the time of death in 1864 at the age of 38, Foster left a legacy of 286 songs and musical compositions.

Doo Dah Days is more than a

musical festival; it is a celebration of Pittsburgh's pre-industrial past via lively music, family entertainment, historical tours, and a throwback to earlier times with people dressed in period costumes talking about life in days gone by.

A collaborative venture between the Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association and the Lawrenceville Historical Society, this year's event will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Musical entertainment will feature authentic Civil War era music, Bluegrass, Irish folk tunes, country, waltzes, reels, and patriotic songs. Wayward Companions will take the stage at 11:15 a.m., then back by popular demand will be Home Front at 12:30 p.m. The Allegheny String Band will perform at 1:45, followed by The Venango Brigade.

Since Allegheny Cemetery is hailed as "America's Pantheon," a fitting monument to our honored departed, docents from the Lawrenceville Historical Society will conduct a series of trolley tours of the grounds. The first trolley tour begins at 11 a.m. and the last departs at 3 p.m. Persons wishing to take the



Courtesy Nancy Eagar/Home Front

HOME FRONT, WHICH PERFORMED AT THE 2010 DOO DAH DAYS, RETURNS THIS YEAR.

tours are encouraged to purchase their tickets early in the day since this is a very popular event and the tours fill up quickly. Each docent will bring a wealth of knowledge about the architecture and famous people interred on the grounds. In addition, the cemetery will provide a continuous shuttle service to the grave of Stephen Foster.

On hand will be Ellen Hunter Ulken, author of *Beautiful Dreamer: The Life of Stephen Collins Foster*, who will sell and autograph copies of her book. The LHS will also have all three Lawrenceville books – *Monster on the Allegheny*, *A Doughboy's Tale*, and *In Loving*

Memory – available for purchase. *Doo Dah Days: The Life of Stephen Foster*, a DVD will be sold. Proceeds from the sale of the LHS books and DVD help offset the cost of Doo Dah Days.

Although all musical entertainment will be free, the sponsoring parties are not receiving any grants to fund the events. Therefore, anyone wishing to help defray the cost of Doo Dah Days may make a donation either at the gate or by sending a contribution to the Lawrenceville Historical Society, P.O. Box 4015, Arsenal Station, Pittsburgh, PA 15201-0015. ♦



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Casual Restaurant Brings More Dining Options to Penn Avenue

By Caitlin Cleary
The Bulletin

The Penn Avenue corridor welcomed a new member to its ranks this past October: BFG Café. The former flower shop has been under renovation for the past five years to transform it into a welcoming, inexpensive, and authentic eatery for community members.

John Edgos, owner of BFG Café (which stands for Big Fat Greek), poured his heart, soul, and plenty of concrete into this project. The extensive renovations involved renovating the walls, floors, ceiling, and exterior. With help from the Stern Brothers, Jason and Joshua,

Edgos remodeled this space to seat 50 people comfortably in a unique setting. "It's been a good learning experience," Edgos reflects. "You learn to appreciate work more when you've done it yourself."

The new space at 5335 Penn Avenue offers three spacious rooms of wooden booths and tables. Customers place their order at the counter and choose a seat where the meal is brought out to them. While waiting they can take in the peaceful peach walls and soft lighting that transport them to an isle in the Mediterranean, far outside of Pittsburgh. Pieces by local artists hang on the walls, with price tags for interested buyers.

Edgos has a background in the



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

JOHN EDGOS WELCOMES CUSTOMERS TO HIS NEW ESTABLISHMENT.

restaurant business that spans 35 years. He first worked in a family-owned establishment, Shiloh Inn, on Mt. Washington. After 25 years there, he moved on to Nakama in the Southside. He says he came to Garfield to be his own boss and to fully experience the up-and-coming atmosphere of the area.

He says he believes BFG Café will contribute to the family atmosphere seen in Garfield. "This is the best neighborhood in Pittsburgh; it's so family-oriented. People care about being close." He recounts an instance in which a customer generously thanked him for the food. "I should be thanking them for coming in!"

BFG Café's menu has standard pizza and sandwich options mixed with traditional Greek choices like baklava and gyros. Unlike similar establishments, all of the food is pre-

pared fresh and on-site. "Even our steak is hand-prepped by our very own Chef Milton," Edgos asserts. "You won't find Steakumms here." As with the renovations, Edgos says the menu will evolve as the restaurant settles into its role on Penn Avenue.

One criticism of the Penn Avenue corridor has been the lack of sit-down restaurants, which BFG Café addresses. The restaurant's variety of choices offers something for everyone, and the atmosphere is appropriate for any day of the week. The café is open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, and 12 to 8 p.m. Saturdays.

Always optimistic, Edgos says he's excited about the future. "This is the start of something good, not just for me but for the whole area. I think we'll grow together." ♦

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Avenue Insider

By Christine Bethea
Bulletin Contributor

Nearly nine months ago, Kimberly Musial, a former Pittsburgh Coro fellow, gave birth to her dream of owning a bright, new yoga and meditation space. She named it "Yoga Hive." Punctuated by orange walls, it sits nestled in relaxed openness on the ground floor of the Glass Lofts at 5491 Penn Avenue. But as just the name implies, the place now bustles with the activity of customers seeking respite from the rigors of urban life.

That concept was far from Musial's mind several years ago, while she studied for her Bachelor's in urban planning and architectural history and still further while she was getting her Master's in public administration. It wasn't until 2009, 11 years after her first yoga class, that she went to a retreat for a style of meditation called "Vipassana." During this training, she sat for 10 days in silence. No talking. No phones or TV. No distractions.

"I was trying to focus and clear my mind. It was the hardest thing I've ever done in my life," Musial admitted. But she came away feeling good and with a better sense of her self-worth. She'd also had an epiphany: she felt she could have an impact on communities by helping others discover more about themselves, just as she had done. She confidently kicked the corporate world aside.

Selecting the location for Yoga Hive – the Bloomfield / Garfield / Friendship area – was amazingly easy. "Yoga is so wonderful, and so beneficial," said Musial, "and I wanted to reach an underserved and diverse population of students, professionals and everyone in between." She says she wanted to create a community space where people of all walks of life could get in touch with their "center."

But even with good intentions and encouragement from community leaders, it was slow going for Musial and Yoga Hive in the begin-

ning. She hadn't expected all the bureaucracy in owning a business, and attracting the diverse audience she wanted turned into a marketing millstone. "Everyone doesn't read the *City Paper*. Everyone isn't on Facebook." She learned to depend on good old "word of mouth," and networking with organizations that served the people she wanted to reach.

"I didn't want Yoga Hive to be just another yoga factory," she said. "I make sure I know my students and they know each other."

Musial said her yoga mission is as important as any other economic development happening along Penn Avenue. "I'm adding to the shifting dynamics of the community, by having opened a non-traditional business. People come here from all kinds of daily experiences and bond while they breathe together. They may all experience yoga differently, and that's OK, too."

Musial has also found an audience by partnering with nonprofit and community groups. She has participated in fundraisers for New Voices: Reproductive Justice for Women of Color, the Women and Girls Foundation, and the Africa Yoga Project, which does outreach to places as far away as Kenya. Soon she hopes to do yoga training for underserved youths here in the city.

"In yoga, every position is not comfortable, and you have to breathe through it, work through it," she said. "I believe this may be helpful to those who live in less-than-congenial circumstances to understand themselves better and their options to anger. It is my hope that what they learn here they can take off the yoga mat into everyday life."

Musial added with enthusiasm, "I appreciate each and every person who walks through my door!"


Yoga Hive is currently offering two weeks of unlimited yoga for just \$10. For more information, email info@yoghivepgh.com or visit www.yoghivepgh.com.

YOGA HIVE STILL GETTING BUZZ



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"Avenue Insider" is a new monthly series that highlights businesses in and around Penn Avenue to share what's good in our neighborhoods.

K-2, from page 1



Kathryn Vargas/BGC

AT PRESS TIME, THE LIQUOR LICENSE FOR A NEW BEER DISTRIBUTOR AT 4900 PENN WAS STILL "PENDING."

open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; K-2's hours will remain the same. The entrances to the parking lot will change, with an entrance on South Millvale and exit on Penn Avenue.

According to Ahmed, there will be no drive-through, just counter service, and the distributor will only sell cases, not six-packs or individual bottles. Ahmed further stated that there would be no drinking on the premises. While the distributorship will not have on-site security personnel, he said he wants "to establish a camera on the property."

No design drawings were available at the meeting. Ahmed agreed to hold another meeting with the neighbors when the design is finalized, so that people can have input on the drawings.

Although Ahmed said that his attorney informed him on the day of the meeting that the liquor license had been approved, Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC, checked with the Liquor Control Board that same day and was told the license was still "pending" – in other words, not approved. Ahmed will have a year from the time the license is finally approved to get his operation up and running, and Croce estimated that the design and construction process could take nine to 12 months.

During a sometimes contentious Q&A period, neighbors expressed a number of concerns about the property, though more about problems with the convenience store as it exists now than about a potential beer distributor on the site. One man submitted a typed list of suggestions for Ahmed. Another called the store "an eyesore to the community," and a woman wondered how Ahmed and Khan will take care of a new, bigger

venture when "you're not keeping it up now." She asked why improvements to the property could not be made now, instead of waiting for the new business to open.

"It was a nice corner before your father-in-law took it over" 15 years ago, one neighbor complained. Another alleged that that K-2 sells tobacco products to underage kids, a charge Ahmed refuted.

Brose explained that the BGC will eventually enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with K-2, putting into writing the points of the plan Ahmed outlined. Although an MOU has no legal standing, it will be registered with the city's Nuisance Bar Task Force, on which Brose sits. "If we see any violation," she told the room, "we'll ask the Task Force to deal with it."

Ahmed informed attendees that if the nearby neighbors do not approve of his project, he will sell the store and try to open a beer distributorship at an alternate site, in Monroeville. "I'm not doing it if you don't want me to," he stated. He asserted that he understands people's concerns about K-2 – even his wife won't come to the store, he said – and wants to work with the community. For their part, most of the neighbors agreed to come back to a second meeting in a couple of months, when the design drawings are completed.

At press time, Croce told *The Bulletin* that he had not yet entered into an agreement for the design, but expected to shortly. The financing for the project, Croce said, is 50 percent secured. Croce further emphasized that Ahmed is committed to "taking steps to improve the site now, before design even begins. That is the first priority." ♦

Teens Dive in at Leslie Park Pool

By Deborah Knox
Bulletin Contributor

Ever try mountain bike tire bowling? How about a high-tech treasure hunt in beautiful Allegheny Cemetery? Want to design and screen-print your own T-shirt? The Leslie Park Collective, in collaboration with Lawrenceville United's Youth Programming Director Dave Breingan.

The line-up includes T-shirt design and printing led by the Children's Museum; Try-a-Kayak In the Empty Pool and Cemetery Geo-caching led by Venture Outdoors staff (geo-caching is a fast-paced treasure hunt using hand-held GPS devices); a hula hoop jam with Steel City Hoop Union; and introductory bicycle repair and maintenance workshops with Free Ride, plus a make-and-take on jewelry out of bike parts. Free Ride will raffle several good quality refurbished bicycles, too.

There will also be full-body Boggle in the empty pool with giant letter cubes; a MakerBot mini electronics workshop; and a poetry slam performance and anyone-can-slam interactive. Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be available from local vendors.

Information and details are available on posters and at the event's Facebook page: DIY Live@Leslie. This event is sponsored by a generous grant from EQT Corporation's Community Initiatives Program, with support from the City of Pittsburgh, Lawrenceville Corporation and Lawrenceville United. ♦

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THE BULLETIN BOARD

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

KEEP LAWRENCEVILLE CLEAN

On the 3rd Saturday of every month from April through October, residents and community stakeholders come together to clean up, beautify, and plant Lawrenceville. Clean-ups crews work from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, with breakfast and a light lunch provided. In addition, t-shirts, gloves, trash bags, and other necessary tools will be provided. Volunteers meet at Lawrenceville United, 4825 Butler Street, at 9 a.m. on each of the following clean up days: July 16, August 20, September 24, and October 15.

PARENTING WARMLINE

Parenting is a tough job - the Parenting WARMLINE can help! We offer free, non-medical telephone support, information, and referral. Call 412-641-4546 or 800-641-4546 or email: Warmline@familyresource-sopfa.org. Confidential.

A PLACE TO BELONG

Come visit us at the Door of Hope Community Church, 5225 Holmes Street, Lawrenceville every Sunday at 11:00AM for our Church Service. We also offer Sunday School for all age groups, plus Christians in Recovery, at 10 a.m. We would love to meet you. For any additional information, please call us at 412-781-6440, email us at doorofhopecommunity-church@verizon.net or check out our Facebook page for our calendar and updates on activities.

BLOOMFIELD REDD UP

The Bloomfield Development Corporation has rescheduled the June 19 Redd Up because, thanks to Tree Pittsburgh, they were able to add

greening to the agenda. Your help is appreciated and all supplies will be available to help Redd Up & Green Liberty Avenue. Please join us Sunday, July 10, at 9 a.m. in front of Starbuck's on Liberty Avenue for coffee, fruit, bagels and cream cheese.

SPRAYPARK PLANS ON VIEW

The Leslie Park Collective invites you to see the model of the proposed spraypark and community center for the Leslie Park Pool site. The opening reception will be Friday, July 1 from 6-9 p.m. at Wild Card, 4209 Butler St, Lawrenceville. The model will be on display at Wild Card from July 1 to 9. For more information, call 412-344-3966 or 412-224-2651, or visit www.wildcardpgh.com

QUALITY HEALTHCARE INFORMATION

The Consumer Health Coalition aims to enhance access to quality healthcare. CHC enrolls at-risk consumers into public health insurance programs, educates the community public health insurance programs, and advocates for legislative reform. Local rallies, phone slams, and other advocacy efforts work to improve access to quality healthcare. The office is located at 415 East Ohio St. Suite 300 on the North Side. You can call CHC at 412-456-1877 x200 or e-mail lbachurski@consumerhealth-coalition.org for more information.

GIRLGOV APPLICATIONS

The Women and Girls Foundation will begin accepting applications for the Fall 2011 GirlGov trip. This one-day legislative shadowing program is open to girls in grades 8-12 who live in Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, or Washington counties. Participants in this all-day trip will have the opportunity to shadow a state representative for the day in Harrisburg, Pa. Transportation and meals are included; there is no fee to participate. The GirlGov program will take place in Fall 2011. Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. Friday, July 15th to: The Women and Girls Foundation, 100 W. Station Square Drive, Suite 100, Pittsburgh, PA 15219; you can also fax to 412-227-0417 or e-mail applications@wgfpa.org

2ND ANNUAL BOCCE TOURNAMENT

At 11:30 a.m. on Saturday Aug. 20, more than 20 four-person teams will showcase their bocce skills and enjoy a day of food, music, and fun at the Second Annual Bocce Tournament and Festival, which will be held in the Smallman and 12th Street parking lot across the street from the John Heinz History Center. Spectators will enjoy Italian food and beverages provided by Common Plea Catering and music from Pure Gold and other local bands. Admission is free for spectators. For more information or to sponsor a team, contact Natalie Taylor at 412-454-6325 or ngtaylor@heinzhistorycenter.org.

SUMMERFOOD PROGRAM

Through August 19, the Allegheny County Department of Human Services will run SummerFood, a free breakfast, lunch and recreation program for children and youths 18 years of age and younger in economically disadvantaged communities. Nutritious meals for children will be available on weekdays at more than 100 sites throughout Allegheny County. A site supervisor and accompanying staff will be present to ensure the well-being of the children. For locations and information, call 1-800-851-3838.

HEALCREST SUMMER FESTIVAL

On Saturday, July 31, from 4 to 10 p.m., Healcrest Urban Farm will host the 2nd Annual Rootz at Sundown Festival. This event will offer garden tours, live performances, vegan Caribbean food, and cultural vendors. For over three years, Healcrest has provided the community with green opportunities, education on sustainability, and fresh, home-grown produce. For more information on Healcrest and the events offered, e-mail healcresturbanfarm@gmail.com or visit healcrest.com.

YOUTH ARTS SUMMER SESSIONS

MCG Youth & Arts is offering incredible courses for students in grades 5-12 this summer. They'll get to create art in a world-class facility, using state-of-the-art equipment and

professional-grade materials to create one of a kind works of art in our ceramics, photo, design and digital art studios. Three two-week sessions will run July 5 - August 12. Three two-week sessions for students 10-13 years old, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Students will work in three of our four studios every day, creating a variety of projects; \$480.00 per session. Three two-week sessions for students 14-18 years old, Monday-Friday, 1 to 4 p.m. Each two-week session is focused in one studio, with students spending four hours in design, photo or ceramics; \$250 per session. Course spaces are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit the website at mcgyouthandarts.org/summer or call Rose Mary East at 412-322-1773 x 302 for more information or to register.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Need help getting a job? The BGC Youth Development Center is looking for those 17-25 years old to join the BGC Out-of-School Youth Employment Program. Benefits include: transportation assistance, pre-employment training, job placement, flexible hours, development workshops, etc. For more information visit 5321 Penn Ave or call 412-441-9833 and ask for Charis Rose.

CALL FOR HOUSES

It's time for the annual Lawrenceville Hospitality House Tour. Homeowners in Lawrenceville's 6th, 9th and 10th wards are encouraged to submit their "labors of love" for consideration in the tour scheduled for Sunday, October 2. Homes that have been thoughtfully or creatively restored or reconstructed and currently occupied by the owners will be welcome. For more information or to submit a home for consideration contact Kate Bayer at 412-600-2068 or kb_4738@yahoo.com. Additional details, including advance ticket sales locations and volunteer needs, can be found at www.LHA15201.org.

UPCOMING AT ASSEMBLE

Assemble, a community space for arts and technology, located at 5125 Penn Avenue, is inviting the community to come and paint building facades with colorful paint and imagined experi-

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

ences on Friday, July 1, from 6 to 11 p.m. "Colorize the Urban Landscape" features two artists living in the neighborhood as well: Leah Bevilacqua and Stephanie Brunner. The gallery space will be converted into an indoor city environment, with participants working collaboratively on the ultimate creation of a more visually rich community. The hope is to inspire property/business owners, local community/business organizations, and residents to embrace public art as a community resource that can enhance everyday experiences to beautiful and sensory encounters. Follow our progress at leahandsteph.tumblr.com. On July 9 at 7:30, p.m., Assemble presents "The Good, Bad, and Unique of Your Neighborhood, Illustrated," featuring visual facilitator Jonny Goldstein.

Goldstein helps innovative organizations create more engaging meetings by drawing large-scale information graphics of the conversation as it happens. Come describe the good, bad, and unique of your neighborhood!

NEW BETHEL CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS DAY

New Bethel Baptist Church, located at 221 43rd Street in Lawrenceville will celebrate "Family, Friends and Neighbors Day," Sunday, July 24, at 10:30 a.m. Rev. Jonathan Gamble of Petra Ministries will be the guest preacher. An indoor picnic will be held after the morning service, with food, fun, fellowship, games and prizes. All are welcome!

BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE MEETING

Wednesday, July 13, 2011
4:00 p.m.
Community Activity Center
113 North Pacific Avenue, Garfield

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

CARNEGIE LIBRARY HAPPENINGS - JULY

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

One World, Many Stories: Kids Create: Drop In Art
Tuesday, July 5, 3-5 p.m.

Author Talk: John Brewer: Presented by the Friends of CLP- East Liberty
Join us for a presentation by acclaimed local author John Brewer. Saturday, July 9, 1-2 p.m.

Lego Night
Wednesday, July 13
5:30-6:45 p.m.

Family Storytime: How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World
Tuesday, July 12, 11 a.m.



Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Lawrenceville Branch
279 Fisk St. 412-682-3668
All programs are free

Where You Are: Teen Summer Reading: Teen Book Discussion
Teens join us for a special program just for you! Grades 6-12 only. Wednesday, July 13, 4-5 p.m.

Games Around the World
Travel the world with games from different countries. Saturday, July 16, 2-3 p.m.

Novel Destinations: Adult Summer Reading: Armchair Travel
Join your friends and neighbors to discuss places you've been or places you'd like to visit. Tuesday, July 19, 5-6 p.m.

Family Storytime: Cinderella
Stories and more for kids and families. Saturday, July 23, 11-11:30 a.m.

BRIDE, from page 1

and suggested to the BGC that a mural on the building would be an asset. That side of the building is at a prominent curve in the corridor, facing a line of old Victorian houses. For the mural, Watson recommended a friend, artist Judy Penzer, who had created a sports mural on a building at 500 Wood Street downtown featuring local heroes such as Mario Lemieux, Bill Mazerowski and others. Penzer signed on, and completed the Penn Avenue mural in 1996.

Until close to the unveiling, however, the mural – a "trompe l'oeil" that pictures an African-American bride ascending the steps of an old home matching the others in the row – had no name. Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC, remarked to Penzer that "everybody just called it 'The Bride on Penn Avenue,'" so Penzer settled on that popular choice as the name and painted it onto the bottom left-hand corner. The Victorian homes are now commonly referred to as "Bride's Row."

"She never gave her vision of what it meant," Brose recalls. "When people asked her, she'd just say, 'It's whatever you think it is.'" Brose says that, while Penzer was painting, passersby would stop and talk to her on her scaffolding, asking why the bride was crying. "But she isn't crying," Brose notes. "It just shows that art is in the eye of the beholder."

Tragically, Penzer, who was 49, and Watson, just 32, never lived to see the mural's unveiling. Traveling together to Paris, they died in the crash of TWA Flight 800 in July 1996 off Long Island, N.Y. Watson's parents, who created a foundation in her memory, visited the mural recently with Arthur Lubetz and contributed a "sizable gift," Swartz says, toward its restoration. The McCune Foundation then provided a partial match, leaving the project within \$7,500 of meeting its budget. The BGC welcomes donations from the community dedicated to restoring this mural, which has become a Penn

Avenue landmark.

Artist Ashley Hodder, a Pittsburgh native, specializes in mural painting. Since 2003, she has done public art projects for Carnegie Museum, the Port Authority, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Whole Foods and many others. While working as an art teacher with Alternatives to Incarceration Unit (AIU) at a site in East Liberty, she often passed "The Bride" mural and says she "just loved it. This was even before I thought about painting murals myself."

Hodder says the restoration will take 60 to 90 days and involve tedious, painstaking work. In the initial stages, she and Specter, who often works with her, will meticulously clean and dust the mural, then spray it with layers of chemical solution. Hodder consulted an art restoration expert named Nathan Zakheim in Los Angeles, who shared his 20-plus years of knowledge with her. "You're actually not changing

the original colors," Hodder explains. "Once you use the chemical solution, it rebonds the molecules and lets the original colors come through again." She says she doesn't want the restoration to look as if she simply painted over Penzer's work. "I want it to be as close as possible to the original."

Hodder told *The Bulletin* that every time she looks at "The Bride" she sees something different. "That's what keeps people interested in it," she notes. "It's open-ended. Personally, I don't think she got left at the altar. I think she got to the church and changed her mind."

To make a contribution to the restoration of this Penn Avenue landmark, send checks to the BGC, 5149 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224, with "Bride mural restoration" noted. Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. For more information on this project, contact Rick Swartz at RickS@bloomfield-garfield.org or 412-441-6950 x 11. ♦

SERVICE DAY AT CCCHS



James Down

The students at Career Connections Charter High School (CCCHS), located at 4412 Butler Avenue in Lawrenceville, prefer to see community service as “paying forward.” Students, faculty members, parents, and community members took to the streets on May 27 through the “Pay It Forward” event to volunteer in a variety of projects throughout the city. Some locations included the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Carnegie Library, Squirrel Hill Food Pantry, and the Women’s Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. Students also partnered with the Lawrenceville United garden program to beautify the area, as pictured above. CCCHS aims to create rich and diverse learning experiences through such events as “Pay It Forward,” which teaches teamwork and the importance of volunteering.

ICE CARVING AT PJCC



Courtesy Academy of Ice Carving and Design

Jeff Lee, a Culinary Arts Instructor at Pittsburgh Job Corps Center (PJCC), recently spent 100 hours in training at the Academy of Ice Carving and Design in Fresno, Calif. “All the art and clay sculptures are done upside down before putting them into a block of ice weighing 300 pounds,” said Lee. “It is a 17 step process. You have to learn how to lift the blocks of ice, how to keep them frozen, how to level them, how to make a welded seam, how to make templates on tracing paper, how to take pieces of the ice block off with a chain saw, and how to use a knife blade for carving. It helps to have an artistic eye and a little art talent.”

This course trained and certified Lee so he can instruct students in Pittsburgh for three weeks this summer. This national program will be open to five students from culinary arts programs in Job Corps around the country. The curriculum will include art and clay design, the principles of ice, using tools and safety equipment, handling ice, fusing for construction and repair, engraving, coloring and inlaying, as well as delivery, set-up, and display. “You would be surprised at how much physical stamina is needed to do this work,” said Lee. Any student between the ages of 16 and 24 interested in the culinary arts program should contact Josh Comer at PJCC at 412-441-8779.

ART SHOW AT ARSENAL



Judith Flaherty/Arsenal PreK-5

On May 27, Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5 celebrated its Third Annual Art Show. During the music program, Lynda Dobos and Mailyn Gribble of Macy’s Department Store presented a check for \$3,000 to Principal Ruthie Rea and Judy Flaherty, the art teacher at the school. This grant will be used to enhance the elementary school’s art department with the purchase of a kiln and clay.

Arsenal has a full-time art teacher, a full-time music teacher, and a part-time instrumental teacher. Principal Rea has supported the arts by scheduling a chorus, art club, and annual art show. Visual art is hung throughout the school all year long. Each student is required to include with his or her artwork a written response, an integral part of the school’s instructional focus: listen, read, think, and respond to comprehend.

The student population at Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5 is a diverse group of students from 12 different countries. The school has two full-time ESL teachers to assist students whose families have emigrated from Somalia, Tanzania, Kenya, Burma, Nepal, and Qatar.

In September of 2010, Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5 received its initial grant of \$1,500 from Macy’s to fund a program called “Engaging the Senses through the Arts.” Clay was purchased to enable the students to experience using their hands as tools to form three-dimensional ceramics pieces. The 4th and 5th graders attended the Pittsburgh Ballet Theater’s Nutcracker. Paint and canvases have been purchased for a mural to begin in the fall. This grant also provided the funds to bring the African drumming and dance group, Afrika Yetu, to perform for the May 27 art show.

Photo: Nasro Noor, Adrian Alberto, Hassan Hassan, Rickie Johnson, and Kelly Le of Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5 pose in front of Van Gogh’s sunflowers.

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