



The Bulletin

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Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

MAYOR LUKE RAVENSTAHL JOINED CITY COUNCILMAN PATRICK DOWD AND PARTNERS FROM PNC BANK, URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, TAI + LEE ARCHITECTS, STEVE CATRANEL CONSTRUCTION AND STATE SEN. JIM FERLO'S OFFICE FOR A CEREMONIAL GROUND-BREAKING IN GARFIELD.

5 NEW FOR-SALE HOUSES COMING TO GARFIELD

by Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

About 50 community stakeholders and public officials braved the wind, threat of rain and muddy conditions at the intersection of Kincaid and North Evaline streets on May 4 to help the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and Garfield Jubilee Association break ground on five new for-sale, single-family homes for Garfield.

"We're here to give ourselves a collective pat on the back," said P.J. Maloney, BGC Board Vice President and host for the event.

These five houses add to the 38 that have been built and sold in Garfield by the BGC and GJA since 2002. The goal is to build a total of 50. The new homes each have 3 bedrooms and 2-½ baths, and will earn a federal Energy Star rating.

Mayor Luke Ravenstahl kicked off the ground-breaking by praising the hard work and vigilance of Garfield's community groups. "We're here because of your tenacity and leadership," he observed.

The first homes that the BGC and GJA built sold in 2003 for \$105,000, but the five new ones will have a sticker price just over \$141,000 – a 33 percent increase in housing values in nine years. Thanks to second mortgages from the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the new homes will be affordable to moderate-income families. "You can own these houses for a little under \$800 a month," the mayor said. In fact, one prospective buyer was present at the ground-breaking, and had already discussed a purchase

See **HOUSES**, page 10

URA Approves Loan to Garfield Glen Development

by Joe Reuben
The Bulletin

The last piece of the financing puzzle for a scattered-site, rental housing development in Garfield fell into place in May with approval by the city's Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) of a \$1.7 million loan to the project.

This means the construction of 49 detached and attached, single-

family homes, to be known as "Garfield Glen," can begin this summer, according to Rick Swartz, executive director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC). "With the state and federal budget cuts coming down the pike, this could be the last major investment the URA is able to make in Garfield for a while," Swartz speculated. "This will be the only debt the project is allowed to carry for the 15-year period that begins with the lease-up of the homes. So we

feel it's very likely to be repaid in full."

The BGC has formed a partnership with S & A Homes to help develop the rental units, which will fill in a number of vacant lots or replace blighted housing, on Kincaid, Broad and Dearborn Streets, between N. Mathilda Street and N. Atlantic Avenue. The May issue of *The Bulletin* detailed the use of federal low-income

See **URA**, page 13

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

Calling All Volunteers!



There are plenty of opportunities to get involved in the community. This month, we're introducing a new monthly feature, "The Volunteer Corner," a listing of local community volunteer opportunities. We hope that these listings can become a resource that will better connect community volunteers with local volunteer opportunities. If you have a volunteer need for the month of July, 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 June 15th to have your listing added to the next issue of *The Bulletin*.

JUNE VOLUNTEER CORNER

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 May 28, Saturday June 25 & 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.

GTECH Project Community Planting Day

Help the community green-up vacant lots located on the corner of Broad and North Graham. On Saturday, May 28, from 12-2 p.m., we will be working with GTECH to create a sunflower garden. Please join us to help plant the seeds. Throughout the summer, we will continue to work on the garden and start to plan for a permanent use for this space in the community.

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, June 22, 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.

NEXT BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE MEETING

Wednesday, June 8, 2011
4:00 p.m.
Community Activity Center
113 North Pacific Avenue, Garfield

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

Setting the Record Straight on Sidewalks

You've probably encountered a sidewalk like the one pictured above while walking around our neighborhoods. However, you may not know or understand the city sidewalk regulations and the responsibilities that homeowners have in maintaining the quality of sidewalks. In general, residents need to work with the City to keep sidewalks pedestrian-friendly. If you have a problem sidewalk or know of one, the following information may be helpful in determining the best course of action.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

Property owners are responsible for their sidewalks. All property owners are also the owners of their sidewalks and are responsible for shoveling snow and repairing sidewalks so they are safe for pedestrian use. In order to avoid sidewalk deterioration over time, property owners should tend to sidewalk conditions regularly. The City can issue fines for failing to maintain a sidewalk.

In some cases, City trees have caused the sidewalk damage, and the City will contribute to the cost of sidewalk repair. City trees are those planted at the curb. To access sidewalk repair funds, you must first call the City's Forestry Department at 412-665-3625. Based on the department's assessment, the City will contribute \$4 per square foot to replace the sidewalk affected by the overgrown tree roots. The department will also implement preventive measures to ensure this problem will not arise again.

To receive reimbursement for the sidewalk, the homeowner must then complete two forms. The first is the application for a sidewalk work permit with the Department of Public Works, which you can obtain from the DPW's Permit Counter, Second Avenue, 2nd Floor; phone: 412-255-2737. This permit carries a \$30 fee and covers the actual replacement of the sidewalk.

The second form is a completed Report of Claim, which must be filed with the City's Law Department, located in Room 313 of the City-County Building, 414 Grant Street; phone: 412-255-2031. This document must be attached to a copy of the sidewalk permit (or permit number) and a paid bill (or two estimates) of the repair.

It is important to note that the City's approach to placing and planting trees has changed and improved. Trees are now strategically planted to ensure that they will not have an impact on sidewalks in the future. ♦

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UPDATE ON PENN AVENUE BANK

The PNC Bank branch at 5100 Penn Avenue officially closed at 3 p.m. on Friday, May 13. The good news is that PNC is leaving its full-service ATM on the Winebiddle side of the building in place. PNC will monitor use of the ATM for several months; if they find customers are not making use of its full range of services, it will be converted to a cash-only ATM.

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation is working in collaboration with community stakeholders to bring a financial institution to Penn Avenue to replace the PNC Bank branch. To help us achieve this goal, we are asking community members to please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire on this page and mail it to BGC Bank Survey, 5149 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224. You can also take the questionnaire online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/66J2XRC> or fax it to 412-441-6956.

If you include your name and



PNC BANK IS KEEPING ITS ATM AT PENN AND WINEBIDDLE.

phone number or email address, we will enter your name into a raffle for the chance to win one (1) of ten (10) VISA gift cards valued at \$25 each. **DEADLINE FOR ENTRY: Thursday, June 30, 2011**

Winners will be notified by email or phone; be sure to give us your contact information if you want to be entered into the raffle. ♦

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD BANKING NEEDS

1. How important is it to you to have a financial institution on Penn Avenue between Mathilda and Negley?

- ☐ Very Important
☐ Somewhat Important
☐ Not Important

2. Where do you normally do your personal and/or business banking? (check all that apply)

- ☐ A bank branch I walk to
☐ A bank branch I take a bus to
☐ A bank branch I drive to
☐ A bank branch with a drive-thru
☐ An ATM
☐ Online

3. What banking services do you need and use? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Checking account
☐ Savings account
☐ Investments
☐ Retirement account
☐ Mortgage
☐ Home equity loan
☐ Auto loan
☐ Credit card
☐ Debit card
☐ ATM
☐ Online banking
☐ Direct Deposit

4. If the committee is able to bring a new financial institution to Penn Avenue, would you open an account there?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

5. If the committee is able to bring a new financial institution to Penn Avenue, would you transfer funds there from another bank or financial institution?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

6. In which neighborhood do you live?

- ☐ Bloomfield
☐ Friendship
☐ Garfield
☐ East Liberty
☐ Other: _____

7. Did you have an account at the PNC Bank branch at 5100 Penn Avenue?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

8. If you answered "yes" to question 7, what kind of account was it?

- ☐ Personal
☐ Business

To be entered into the raffle, please supply:

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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.

More Affordable Housing Options in East Liberty

by Margaret Graham

East Liberty Development, Inc.

With a ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday, May 3, East Liberty celebrated the opening of the Boulevard Apartments, guaranteeing long-term, affordable housing for all people in the neighborhood.

The Boulevard Apartments is a \$4 million investment by East Liberty Development, Inc., the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA), the Urban Redevelopment Authority, Federal Home Loan Bank and Dollar Bank. The apartments are one more step toward East Liberty's goal of becoming a stable, sustainable, mixed-income neighborhood.

The 14 units are scattered-site, located in four different buildings in East Liberty. Designed by Devlin Architecture and built by Deklewa Home & RDC Contracting, these units use specialized heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems. These systems, designed by Integrated Building and Constructing Solutions (IBACOS), are 25 percent more energy-efficient than federal EnergyStar standards call for. The utilities for each unit will cost less



Margaret Graham/ELDI

than \$50 per month.

Brenda Wells, Director of the Western Region at PHFA, highlighted the amount of work the development took by the many people involved. "It took many organizations working together to make this happen, and it took work to get the 'many,'" she said. "But the real hard work was done in the trenches, by the community."

In 2010, East Liberty completed its updated community plan, "Many Faces Driving Neighborhood Change." Stakeholders on the housing

task force for the plan stressed the importance of affordable rental housing. The Boulevard Apartments, with 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom options, are for families with incomes at or below 60 percent of the area median.

Mayor Luke Ravenstahl spoke of the range of housing options in East Liberty, from the rise in average home values to the more affordable options available. "The increase in home values says it all," said the mayor. "It's impressive." He also complimented the various organizations in the room who had worked to provide affordable options like the Boulevard Apartments for residents who want to remain in the neighborhood.

Also on hand for the ceremony were Mona Generett, vice president of community development at Dollar Bank, and Thomas Cummings, director of housing at the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh. "East Liberty is such a welcoming place," Cummings said, "for residents of all incomes and types, and people with all different kinds of needs."

Councilman Ricky Burgess summed up the feeling in the room when he said, "This is a very exciting time for the area." ♦

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Community Computer Lab “Connects” Neighborhood with Technology, Information

by Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Pittsburgh CONNECTS, a project that is bringing computer labs to four city neighborhoods, including Garfield, is a few steps closer to reality. One of the four labs, located in the Hill District, had a “soft” opening in May, with the others expected to follow in coming months. The Garfield lab, to be conjoined with the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) at 5321 Penn Avenue, will open around July 1.

As reported in the November 2010 issue of *The Bulletin*, Wireless Neighborhoods was awarded a federally funded stimulus grant of \$784,000 and a significant contribution from the Pittsburgh Foundation. Contributions from other foundations and partnering organizations also helped finance Pittsburgh CONNECTS. The goal of Pittsburgh CONNECTS is to increase the adoption of broadband internet in underserved communities by providing technology access, education and

training. The project will also offer programs in which people can learn about web content and services, including online health-care, education and employment resources. The labs will resemble a “nonprofit Starbucks,” offering not just access to 40 broadband-connected laptop computers and useful software, but also a comfortable place for the community to gather.

“The availability of this technology will help people become more fully engaged in the community and the world,” says Rick Flanagan, Youth Development Director of the Bloomfield Garfield Corporation who is overseeing the development of the Pittsburgh CONNECTS lab in Garfield. “People can learn to do online banking, set up email accounts, follow up on employment leads, or get reliable information about health issues.” He also notes, “Children will benefit from early familiarity with the Internet. They’ll be able to keep up better in school, do more in-depth research for their assignments and so on.”

The street-level, accessible space at 5321 Penn currently houses the ENEC and the BGC’s youth development center. Renovations will be made in order to accommodate the creation of the Pittsburgh CONNECTS lab. The new design will create an inviting “coffeehouse” in the front room, which will be decked out with comfortable furniture and local artwork. Separate areas will be set up for training and programming, and the back office spaces will accommodate the operations of the existing organizations and administrative support for the lab.

Wireless Neighborhoods and its partners purposely built community involvement into the operations model for the labs. The computer labs will be staffed but will also rely heavily on community volunteers. All lab sites will be looking for community members to help lab users navigate the internet, apply for jobs online, access resources, and assist students with class projects and research.

“Volunteers can come from all

parts of the community, the only requirements are that they have passion and caring for others, and be knowledgeable in the areas of technology, health or employment,” states Flanagan. The Pittsburgh CONNECTS labs are also currently hiring staff. The following positions are available and all interested parties are encouraged to apply: Pittsburgh CONNECTS lab manager; Pittsburgh CONNECTS Content Specialist; and ENEC Workforce Developer.

A leadership committee is currently forming to address the needs of the project and the reconfiguration of the space. Interested community members are invited to join and take part in the development of this viable community asset. For more information about Pittsburgh CONNECTS in Garfield, including open positions, or to get involved as a volunteer, contact Rick Flanagan at 412-441-9833 or email Rflanagan@aol.com. ♦

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- Sleep Center
- Radiation Oncology
- Outpatient Infusion Center
- Breast Care Center
- Pelvic Floor Center

• Lupus Center of Excellence

- Foot and Ankle Institute
- Joslin Diabetes Center
- Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine
- Laboratory services
- Physicians’ offices

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- Breast
- Colorectal
- Plastic
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WHAT'S HAPPENING ON ELM STREET?

by Kathryn Vargas
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Beginning this month, I have the exciting opportunity to start working as Garfield's Elm Street Program Manager. Having spent the past year working closely with a committee in planning what we can accomplish as an Elm Street district, we are now in a position to move forward with a number of actions. It is with great enthusiasm that I share with you some of the initial plans.

First, a quick Garfield Elm Street 101. The Elm Street program was created by the State Department of Community and Economic Development to complement all the wonderful things going on with the Mainstreets program. The program is based on the belief that it is in the interest of the community that revitalization not stop at the business corridor, but also be reflected within the community.

We have the opportunity to work in partnership with our Mainstreet District along Penn Avenue (see related article, page 7), to build a vibrant business corridor that nurtures a thriving residential district. The Garfield Elm Street District includes residents who live between Penn Avenue and Columbo from North Atlantic to the western side of Negley. Penn Avenue is considered a Mainstreet District and therefore properties on Penn Avenue are not included in the Elm Street program.

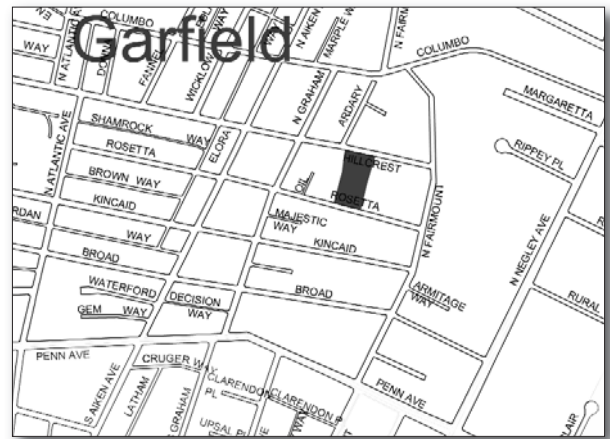
How can Elm Street improve residential districts? The program follows a five-point approach to revitalization including: sustainable

organization; clean, safe and green; design; neighbors and economy; and image and identity. These five principles inform the projects that can be pursued through Elm Street funding. Elm Street projects aim to tackle barriers to neighborhood reinvestment by building a sustainable base of community residents that are active in planning and implementing revitalization efforts.

In Garfield, the goal is to build momentum around community projects that matter to the community. When we were designated as an Elm Street district about a year ago we first conducted a number of community surveys to find out what the critical needs and concerns are to Garfield Elm Street residents. The surveys revealed that the community was very concerned with activities for children, public safety, vacancy, housing conditions, and litter and dumping. This information, along with continued community dialogue, will inform the activities of the Elm Street Committee.

The committee will also be strategic in making sure that the activities are reflective of the five-year implementation strategy for "Garfield 2030," the community's 20-year housing and land use plan. Ultimately, the project will be successful if it reflects the needs and wants of residents in the district.

Currently, we are working on some exciting initiatives. We have started a community walking group, and are planning a green space project for the corner of Broad and North Graham. There are also plans for social and public safety initiatives, such as increasing community



City of Pittsburgh

THE GARFIELD ELM STREET DISTRICT EXTENDS FROM NORTH ATLANTIC TO NORTH NEGLEY, FROM PENN AVENUE TO COLUMBO. PROPERTIES ON PENN ARE NOT INCLUDED.

clean-up activities and actively tackling dumping issues. Another project may enhance the neighborhood's existing housing stock.

Probably the most exciting initial opportunity is our ability to tap into Elm Street Façade Program funding provided by the Urban Redevelopment Authority. Homeowners in the Elm Street district may qualify for 50 percent matching grants to improve the façades of their homes. Improvements may include porch and awning upgrades and repairs, gutter and downspout repairs and replacement, exterior lighting, window and door replacement, brick replacement, repainting, cleaning and repointing, and front home restoration projects.

Homeowners who demonstrate income eligibility may qualify for additional funds. All Interested homeowners in the Elm Street

District are encouraged to apply, as we are currently accepting applications on a first-come, first-served basis. Funds are limited, so it is important to act quickly. Applications and additional details about the project are available at the BGC office.

I am lucky to be working with some energetic and deeply invested community members. We are always welcoming and looking for new members of the team. The Elm Street Planning Group – or as we call ourselves, the Garfield Community Action Team (GCAT) – meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at the BGC Community Activity Center. Any interested individuals are welcome to contact me at 412-441-6950 X 17 or email kathrynv@bloomfield-garfield.org.



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New Mainstreets Team Aims to Boost Investment on Penn Avenue

by **Paula Martinac**
The Bulletin

The Penn Avenue Arts Initiative (PAAI), co-founded in 1995 by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) and Friendship Development Associates (FDA) and funded in part through the Mainstreets Pittsburgh program, has a couple of new employees working to bring investment and other positive changes to the historic business corridor.

Former PAAI manager Matthew Galluzzo moved on last fall, becoming executive director of Lawrenceville Corporation, and his responsibilities are now split in two. In April, Richard Engel assumed the role of Mainstreets Manager, overseeing business development on the avenue, with Jason Sauer acting as Events and Volunteer Coordinator.

"We'll be doing all the things Matt used to do," says Engel, who comes to the job after a seven-year stint in marketing at Pittsburgh Filmmakers. For Engel, that means trying to fill vacant properties and increase the density of businesses along the avenue. One of his first tasks is updating the property inventory that keeps track of all the current businesses and vacancies from Mathilda to Negley. As a marketing pro, he will also focus on promoting the monthly "Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn" through widespread efforts funded by event sponsors.

"I've been introducing myself and going up and down the avenue," Engel explains. But, in fact, he is no stranger to the neighborhood. A former

Friendship resident who now lives in East Liberty, he volunteered for years as the proofreader and graphic designer for Friendship's newsletter. "I bought my first house on South Fairmount in 1995 through FDA," he recalls.

As the owner of the gallery Most Wanted Fine Art at 5015 Penn, Sauer is also a familiar face. He has been volunteering with FDA for years to try to boost interest in the arts corridor. "I want to help create other businesses," he says. "We need to increase foot traffic," which he admits will help his business, too. "There aren't enough places to eat on the avenue."

Among other duties, Sauer's new job will entail finding and managing volunteers for "Pick Up Penn," a clean-up that takes place the last Saturday of each month in preparation for Unblurred. Sauer also needs able bodies for the "Green & Screen" project, which creates movable artworks to screen unsightly lots along Penn. (See related story, page 10.)

One upcoming Green & Screen project will create a waist-high fence for the parking lot at the corner of Penn and North Winebiddle, and seating for people waiting at the bus stop there. In front of the K2 Convenience Store at Penn and South Millvale, another group of volunteers will construct a waist-high fence printed with an aerial view of Penn Avenue. For more information on Green & Screen, visit www.ecodesignersguild.org.

The Mainstreets team will also start contributing a regular column



JASON SAUER (LEFT) AND RICH ENGEL IN FRONT OF AN EMPTY STOREFRONT ON PENN THAT MAY SOON BECOME A COMMUNITY CAFE.

to *The Bulletin*, "telling people the things we're getting done so the neighborhood feels connected," Sauer explains. Look for the monthly updates starting in the July issue.

In the meantime, prospective and

current business owners can contact Engel at mainstreets@bloomfield-garfield.org or 412-403-2506; and potential volunteers can reach Sauer at jason@bloomfield-garfield.org or 412-328-4737. ♦

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Retiring PATF Executive Director Leaves Legacy of Service to City

By Caitlin Cleary
The Bulletin

Her personality is bold and inviting, much like the colorful and open lobby of Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (PATF). Kathi Boyle has served as PATF's executive director for the past seven years. However, she says she is looking forward to retiring in July and spending more time with her grandchildren in California. She leaves behind a 40-year legacy of community service and involvement.

In 2004, PATF contacted Boyle to fill the position of interim executive director. She consented, but says she had no intention to stay because she had worked mainly with women's issues dealing with abuse and addictions. After realizing the potential of her amazing staff and the great resources of PATF, she decided to stay put. This decision allowed her to help the organization in becoming the innovative leader it is today.

When Boyle started her job, she explains, PATF needed a clear direction. She provided that with her desire to better serve clients and

make significant changes in their lives.

In the years since Boyle's arrival, PATF has implemented newer and more effective programs. In addition to assisting those already affected by AIDS, the organization hosts many programs that emphasize prevention. Boyle says she made it her mission to send the right message of prevention to Pittsburgh residents. "The spread of this disease is dependent on human behavior," she notes, "so PATF needs a variety of methods to get its message across."

One such method is the Girlfriends Project, which uses the same format as popular Tupperware parties, in which women host informal AIDS awareness information sessions in their homes. The atmosphere of close friendships allows guests to be more open than they would in other environments. This nationally acclaimed program was designed as preventive intervention by the staff of PATF, and Boyle says she is particularly proud of it.

A big change that occurred during Boyle's tenure deals with the organization's financial position. The PATF carries no debt, which is rare for a nonprofit organization.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

KATHI BOYLE WILL RETIRE FROM PATF IN JULY. AS OF MAY 15, NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ABOUT HER REPLACEMENT.

Boyle says she has made great strides in maintaining and reaching a yearly fundraising goal of \$500,000.

Organizations like PATF remain important because AIDS is not going away. "In the U.S. alone, over 60,000 new cases emerge each year," Boyle cites. "And some cities have higher rates of infection than the areas of sub-Saharan Africa."

PATF offices are located at 5913 Penn Avenue in East Liberty. The organization moved there three years ago, after a long stint in Wilkensburg. Boyle says the staff sees the move as one of the most significant changes that assisted PATF's mission. The new offices have an open, spacious lobby with a food pantry, a playroom for children, consultation rooms, and testing rooms for clients.

"The whole reason that people with HIV and AIDS receive more

funding than those with other ailments is because this disease is a public health issue," observes Boyle. "Those infected who are housed in stable conditions and receive medical care have a nearly undetectable viral load. This makes them much less contagious and reduces chances of transmission to others."

As she leaves her position, Boyle says she has a message for Pittsburghers. "There is no reason not to know your status. Protect those you care about by getting tested."

PATF makes that easy to do, offering free, anonymous testing Sunday through Friday at its 5913 Penn Avenue office. Clients who test positive can also receive free care and medication. For more information, visit www.patf.org or call 412-345-7456. ♦

PATF Girl Talk Project Event

The Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force's Girl Talk Project will host its first Parent Education Event on Saturday, June 18, from 1 to 3 p.m., at PATF, 5913 Penn Avenue. The event aims to facilitate conversation between teenagers and their parents and caregivers.

The event will feature guest speakers on a variety of topics, including personal perspectives on sexuality and orientation, HIV and other STD info, and PATF's Girlfriends Project. PATF will provide a meal, and there will be a gift card raffle (two \$50 gift cards) following the presentation.

Aimed at young women ages 13 to 18, the Girl Talk Project is PATF's latest health education initiative. Girl Talk features in-home educational parties organized by teens; the party focuses on HIV and STD awareness, domestic violence awareness, and proper use of condoms. Hosts and attendees are offered anonymous HIV testing and incentives for attending or hosting a party.

As the oldest and largest AIDS service organization in Southwestern Pennsylvania, the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (PATF) is dedicated to supporting and empowering all individuals living with HIV/AIDS, and to be relentless in preventing the spread of infection. PATF is a leader in providing comprehensive support services that improve the health and quality of life for those living with HIV/AIDS in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Greene, Fayette, Indiana, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

For more information about the Parent Education Event or the Girl Talk Project, please contact Tiffani Thompson, Girl Talk Coordinator at TThompson@PATF.org or 412-345-7456 ext. 572. ♦



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

THE BRIGHT, COLORFUL LOBBY OF THE PITTSBURGH AIDS TASK FORCE ON PENN AVENUE IN EAST LIBERTY.

SHOWCASE OF THE MONTH

Lower Bloomfield "Blooms" with Eye-Catching Landscaping



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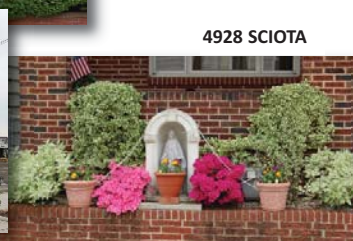
342 ELLA



465 PEARL



723/725 EDMOND



4928 SCIOTA



710 EDMOND

Photos by Paula Martinac

It's the height of spring, and many neighborhoods are blooming with color. On a drive through lower Bloomfield, below Liberty Avenue, a number of properties caught the eyes of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation staff. These homeowners are boosting what realtors call their "curb appeal" – the use of attractive or decorative touches, including landscaping, to catch the attention of passersby and add value to the properties.

We spotted a manicured lawn and meticulously groomed hedges at 439 Pearl Street and 723/725 Edmond Street, but yards are rare in this part of Bloomfield. Where owners have only sidewalks in front of their homes, some have chosen to create landscaping with planters and hanging pots, such as at 465 Pearl Street and 710 Edmond Street. We also noticed a number of other large planters placed out on sidewalks, poised for summer planting. In a few weeks, they, too, will be bursting with color.

Some homes with small yards have made stunning use of shrubs and trees. At 440 Taylor Street, a striking Japanese maple complements the red shutters and porch furniture. A flowering tree and an azalea at 342 Ella accent a beautifully maintained property. Well-groomed azaleas and hedges likewise complement the home at 5013 Cypress Street. And finally, the homeowners at 4928 Sciota Street are paying their respect to the Virgin Mary with colorful azaleas, potted flowers and decorative euonymus.

These homeowners aren't just adding to the value of their own properties, but are helping to dress up the neighborhood with eye-catching landscaping, adding to the "curb appeal" of our Lower Bloomfield streets. ♦

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New Green & Screen Project on Penn



COLLAGE SHOWING THE CREATION OF THE GREEN & SCREEN PROJECT AT 5416 PENN: UPPER LEFT—WESLEY MORRIS, MICAH MORRIS, CHUCKIE HOWARD CARTHORN; UPPER RIGHT—EMILY RICE; LOWER LEFT—ARVID KNUTSEN, MINETTE VACCARIELLO, JARED FRIEDMAN, BILL BERNSTEIN; LOWER RIGHT—STEPHIE REXROTH, RAEDUN KNUTSEN, MOLLY OSTROW

Perhaps you've already walked by the new Clean, Green & Screen project at 5416 Penn Avenue near The Quiet Storm across from The Sprout Fund, Grow Pittsburgh and Tree Pittsburgh. The project started in February with a quick discussion over coffee with CMU-based artist Raedun Knutsen, Michele Morris of Friendship Development Associates and Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's Rick Swartz. The project was completed on May 6, in time for the May "Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn."

Titled "Here Today, There Tomorrow," the screen focuses on the flexibility of design and the reuse of materials for installation on other vacant lots.

The screen uses brightly colored perforated metal and tall, wooden posts to create variety along the 100-foot stretch of vacant streetfront. The perforated metal gives a transparent effect, permitting some views into the lot beyond. The layering of the perforated metal creates a variety of different visual experiences as well as blending color. The site will soon be developed, but the construction methods and materials will be able to disassemble and reassemble for use in other sites along Penn Avenue. This project will adapt and live on at other lots as more plans develop for Penn Avenue.

The Green & Screen team would like to thank all of the participants and organizations that helped to make the project possible and a success. A special thanks to the Eco Designers Guild (www.ecodesignersguild.org), Most Wanted Fine Art (www.most-wantedfineart.com), the Allegheny Academy and senior class members of Winchester Thurston High School.

The project was supported in part by a Seed Award from The Sprout Fund, one of Southwestern Pennsylvania's leading agencies on issues related to civic engagement, talent attraction and retention, public art and catalytic small-scale funding. The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation was also instrumental in providing funding, land and continuous guidance for the project. Funding through BGC was made possible by the Mainstreets Program of the Urban Redevelopment Authority. ♦

Missing an issue of *The Bulletin*? You can read back issues online at www.bloomfield-garfield.org/pages/bulletin.html.

HOUSES, from page 1

with the BGC and GJA staff.

"Garfield is on the move," the mayor noted. "This is a place where people want to live."

Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC, observed proudly that "this project puts vacant lots and buildings back onto the property tax rolls."

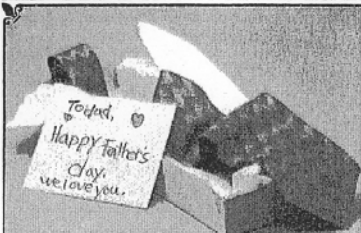
The project has had many partners in financing, including PNC Bank, the URA, the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, and the R.K. Mellon Foundation. Jessica Smith-Perry of the URA noted that her boss, Rob Stephany, was once an intern with the BGC. "Aggie and Rick are like family," she said. Stephanie Cipriani, Vice President and Development Advisor of PNC Bank, said she was "very proud to be a partner" in building the new homes. And Steve Catarinella of Steve Catranel Construction Company, which is building the homes, fondly recalled his first ground-breaking with the BGC 28 years earlier, on Broad

Street.

Also on hand were City Councilman Patrick Dowd; Lloyd Wright from the office of State Sen. Jim Ferlo; staff from the office of State Rep. Dom Costa; representatives from NeighborWorks Western Pa., Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group, the BGC, and GJA; members of the BGC's Public Safety Task Force, whose efforts over the past decade have helped to reduce crime in the neighborhood; and numerous other community members, including longtime Garfield residents John Phillips and Michael Gay.

"It takes this many folks to make this happen," noted Brose.

Joann Monroe, executive director of GJA, closed out the ceremony by remembering the master housing plan more than 10 years earlier that envisioned a revitalized Garfield with plenty of new, affordable homes. "Our dreams are coming true," she said. ♦



A Celebration to Honor All Fathers

Father's Day is a day of commemoration and celebration of Dad.


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But Father's Day can be a sad time for those whose fathers are no longer living.

Whether this is your first Father's Day without your father, or if it has been years since he has died, please take a few minutes to remember all that he has done for you.

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GALLERY CELEBRATES A DECADE ON PENN AVENUE

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

When she opened her Penn Avenue art gallery/performance space, ModernFormations, in 2001, Jennifer Quinio-Hedges says she thought it would be short-lived. "I wasn't planning too far ahead," she notes. Ten years later, ModernFormations is an active venue for everything from art exhibits and literary gatherings to weddings and Zumba classes.

A major in History of Art and Architecture in college, Quinio-Hedges was working at the Andy Warhol Museum as a gallery attendant – "a security guard, really," she says – when she got the idea of having her own gallery. Overhearing the conversations and comments of visitors, "I was upset by some people's perception of art. They'd say things like, 'My 3-year-old could do this.'" Her dream was to help people better understand art and artists, and to create a comfortable space for them to experience art – particularly the work of local artists, who have fewer chances to exhibit.

"Tom Sokolowski sent me to Penn Avenue Arts Initiative," Jennifer says, recalling the early encouragement she got from the director of the Warhol Museum. She says she also had the support of family and friends.

The building she found and purchased at 4919 Penn Avenue needed a lot of work. "It was a Chinese restaurant," she says. "There was still grease on the walls." The oddest thing

she found during the extensive renovation was when "an old rosary fell out of the wall."

Her first exhibit went up in July 2001 – "mostly the work of friends who had art sitting around." The following month, the gallery hosted its first solo exhibit, featuring artist Theresa Sokol's work, and has mounted exhibits by local artists every month since then.

Asked how she chose the name, Quinio-Hedges laughs. "I don't know if you can print it," she says. As an attendant at the Warhol, she explains, she jokingly referred to her co-workers as "crazy mo-fo's." Her friends suggested she use "mo" and "fo" in the gallery's name, and "Modern-Formations" was born.

Through the years, the space has had a lot of different uses. A friend of a friend built a stage in the back room of the space, so Quinio-Hedges could rent it out to bands. But she found that bands and art weren't such a good fit. "People would come to hear the band and lean up against the art," she notes. "Once we had a Japanese punk band and people went crazy. They were doing 'body bowling.' I had to repaint the walls after that."

Today, the back room hosts more literary readings than musical gigs. For example, "The New Yinzer," a local literary organization, holds monthly readings at ModernFormations. The gallery has also been a venue for everything from comedy performances to weddings. "People get married, and I get to celebrate with them," Quinio-Hedges says.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

JENNIFER QUINIO-HEDGES WITH AN ART INSTALLATION BY RON COPELAND AT MODERN FORMATIONS GALLERY IN APRIL 2011.

In the past three years, she broadened the space's scope even further by becoming a licensed Zumba instructor. A friend who was teaching Zumba – a Latin-inspired dance-fitness program – at Club One in East Liberty got her hooked. "People were having so much fun," she says of the first class she attended. "I started going three, four, five times a week." Quinio-Hedges now offers Zumba lessons at her space five days a week. "The great thing is, everybody can do it," she notes.

Over the years, she's had to learn a

lot of practical tasks to maintain the building, where she and her husband live upstairs. "I've been a plumber, electrician, you name it." The constantly changing nature of the space and the amount of work she has put into it "has made time go faster," she notes. "We're always evolving. It's never the same place."

For more information on ModernFormations, including hours, exhibits and Zumba classes, visit <http://modernformations.com>. ♦



Courtesy J. Quinio-Hedges

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Taking Care of Your Young Athlete

By Dr. Michael Cutitta
Bulletin Contributor

In today's age of health and fitness, more and more kids are involved in sporting activities. Although being part of a football, soccer or Little League team is an important rite of passage for many children, parents and their children could be overlooking the importance of proper nutrition and body-conditioning needed for preventing injuries on and off the playing field.

"The majority, if not all, sports are good, provided that the child prepares appropriately," says Dr. Timothy Ray, a member of the American Chiropractic Association's Council on Sports Injuries and Physical Fitness. "Without proper preparation, playing any sport can

turn into a bad experience. There are structural and physical developmental issues that need to be taken into consideration before children undertake certain sports."

Highly competitive sports such as football, gymnastics and wrestling follow rigorous training schedules that can be potentially dangerous to an adolescent or teenager. The best advice for parents who have young athletes in the family is to help them prepare their bodies and to learn to protect themselves from sports related injuries before they happen.

"Proper warm-up, stretching and weight-lifting exercises are essential for kids involved in sports, but many kids learn improper stretching or weight-lifting techniques, making them more susceptible to injury," says Dr. Steve Horwitz, former member of the U.S. Summer

Olympic medical team. "Parents need to work with their kids and make sure they receive the proper sports training."

"Young athletes should begin with a slow jog as a general warm-up, followed by a sport-specific warm-up. They should then stretch all the major muscle groups," says Dr. Horwitz. "Kids need to be instructed in appropriate exercises for each sport to prevent injuries."

Proper nutrition and hydration are also extremely vital. "While an ordinary person may need to drink eight to 10 8-ounce glasses of water each day, athletes need to drink even more than that for proper absorption," adds Dr. Horwitz. "Breakfast should be the most important meal of the day. Also, eating a healthy meal two to four hours before a practice or a game and another within one to two hours after a game or practice allows for proper replenishment and refuels the body."

Young athletes today often think they are invincible. The following tips can help ensure your child does not miss a step when it comes to proper fitness, stretching, training and rest that the body needs to engage in sporting activities. Encourage your child to:

- Wear the proper equipment. Certain contact sports, such as football and hockey, can be dangerous if the equipment is not properly fitted. Make sure all equipment, including helmets, pads and shoes, fit your child or adolescent. Talk to your child's coach or trainer if the equipment is damaged.

- Eat healthy meals. Make sure your young athlete is eating a well-balanced diet and does not skip meals. Avoid high-fat foods, such as candy bars and fast food. At home, provide fruit rather than cookies, and vegetables rather than potato chips.

- Maintain a healthy weight. Certain sports, such as gymnastics, wrestling and figure skating, may require your young athlete to follow strict dietary rules. Be sure your child does not feel pressured into being too thin and that he/she understands that proper nutrition and caloric intake is needed for optimal

performance and endurance.

- Drink water. Hydration is a key element to optimal fitness. Teenage athletes should drink at least eight 8-ounce glasses of water a day. Younger athletes should drink five to eight 8-ounce glasses of water.

- Drink milk. Make sure your child has enough calcium included in his/her diet. For children over 2 years of age, the ACA recommends 1 percent or skim milk rather than whole milk. Milk is essential for healthy bones and reduces the risk of joint and muscle related injuries.

- Avoid sugar-loaded, caffeinated and carbonated drinks. Sports drinks are a good source of replenishment for those kids engaged in long-duration sports, such as track and field.

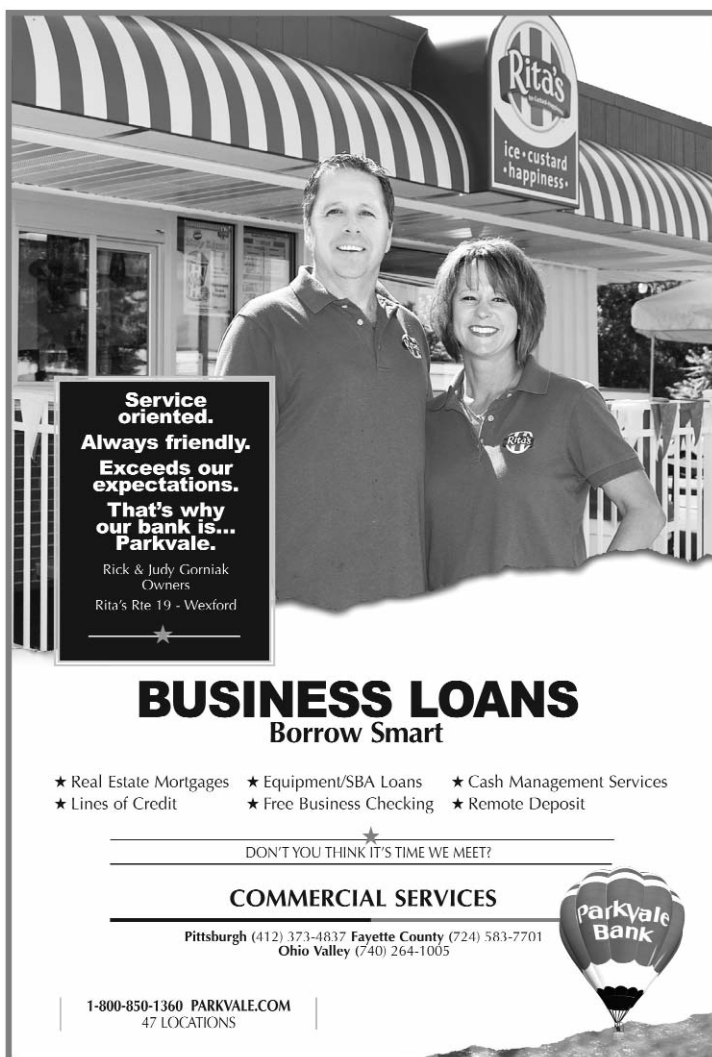
- Follow a warm-up routine. Be sure your child or his/her coach includes a warm-up and stretching session before every practice, game or meet. A slow jog, jumping rope and/or lifting small weights reduces the risk of torn or ripped muscles. Flexibility is key when pushing to score that extra goal or make that critical play.

- Take vitamins daily. A multivitamin and vitamin C are good choices for the young athlete. Vitamin B and amino acids may help reduce the pain from contact sports. Thiamine can help promote healing. Also consider vitamin A to strengthen scar tissue.

- Avoid trendy supplements. Kids under the age of 18 should avoid the use of performance-enhancing supplements, such as creatine. Instead, they should ask their coach or trainer to include weekly weight training and body-conditioning sessions in their workout.

- Finally, get plenty of rest. Eight hours of sleep is ideal for the young athlete. Lack of sleep and rest can decrease performance. Sluggishness, irritability and loss of interest could indicate that your child is fatigued. ♦

Dr. Cutitta can be reached at 412-325-4100 with any questions.



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Bringing the Farm to Lawrenceville

By Patrick Dowd
City Council, District 7

In a recent pilot study of nine Pittsburgh neighborhoods, the David Berg Center for Ethics and Leadership at the University of Pittsburgh identified Lawrenceville as a "food desert," a district with little or no access to foods needed to maintain a healthy diet.

The access and availability of healthy and nutritious food within neighborhoods is a priority in District 7. Lawrenceville residents repeatedly emphasize the need for a farmer's market because it would alleviate the unequal food distribution in the community.

District 7 team member Jennifer Thoma, along with Becky Thatcher of Lawrenceville United, have been working on these issues within the district. Jennifer recently attended a Farmer's Market Conference where she received information about best practices around the country. Jennifer will assist Lawrenceville United in the creation, programming and staffing of the market as necessary because of her personal passion for fresh, local products and the economy of such.

We recently convened a meeting of Lawrenceville residents in an effort to form a committee that can help to coordinate, program and promote the market as it

becomes a reality. There was overwhelming support to host the market somewhere in the 10th Ward on Saturday mornings for the primary benefit of Lawrenceville and folks from the surrounding neighborhoods. It must be within an easy walk or bus ride for residents but with ample parking for those who must drive.

In addition to all of the benefits of a typical farmer's market — healthy, local food and product access, community gathering, food festivals and demonstrations, etc. — the market will hopefully offer delivery of products to senior residents and local restaurants, accept senior vouchers and Access cards, and become a truly valuable neighborhood resource.

The market will operate once per week on Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. from June 18 through approximately October 29, if products are still available. The location has yet to be finalized, but the leading candidate is the parking area at the new Goodwill facility on 52nd Street.

Should you have any questions or would like to volunteer your time toward this effort, please contact Jennifer at 412-255-2140 or Jennifer.Thoma@city.pittsburgh.pa.us, or Becky Thatcher of Lawrenceville United at 412-802-7220 or becky@lunited.org. ♦

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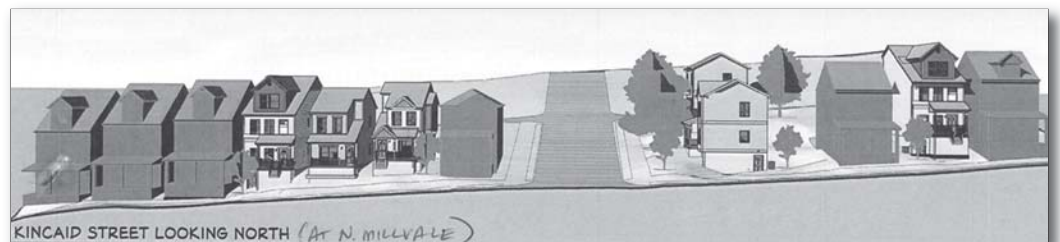
UPMC St. Margaret

UPMC.com

URA, from page 1

housing tax credits in making the new homes affordable to individuals or families whose annual income is less than \$35,000/year.

There has been other activity on the project of late, including two meetings in the neighborhood in May with residents and subcontractors who would like to be involved in the \$8 million worth of construction on the project. Garfield Glen must observe federal Section 3 requirements, which give residents opportunities to work as laborers. Garfield Jubilee Association hosted an orientation session on May 12 with 50 residents of the East End in atten-



Chris Pegher/Lami-Grubb Architects

ARTIST'S RENDERING OF SOME OF THE HOMES TO BE BUILT IN THE 4800-4900 BLOCKS OF KINCAID STREET.

dance. This was followed with a meeting on May 19, at which over a dozen minority- and women-owned contracting firms heard about prospects for a role in the construction work.

"These will be well-paying jobs because we must meet federally-

set wage standards," Swartz advised. "We also would like to achieve at least 35 percent MBE/WBE [minority business enterprise and women's business enterprise] participation in contracts awarded both during and after construction." Those who

were not able to attend these sessions can still contact Diona Jones at GJA about the laborer positions (412-665-5200), or Cory Lovrak of S & A Homes about the MBE/WBE opportunities (clovrak@sandahomes.com). ♦

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.

FRIENDSHIP YARD SALE

Friendship Neighborhood-Wide Yard Sale! Saturday, June 25, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. It's still just \$5 for advertising and signage, so take advantage of this opportunity to get rid of some stuff. Ask your neighbors to sell, too! Limited to homes between Gross and Negley. To participate, email Michele Timon at FPGYardsale@gmail.com. Sponsored by the Friendship Preservation Group.

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-sofpa.org. Confidential.

CASH BASH IN LAWRENCEVILLE

Tickets are now on sale for Our Lady of the Angels Parish "Cash Bash" on Saturday, June 11 at St. Augustine Auditorium in Lawrenceville from 7 to 9 p.m. (doors open at 6). For just \$20 each, you will get two numbers with chances to win every 15 minutes and cash prizes totaling \$3,300. Food, beer, soda and set-ups included. Lots of chances to win and enjoy instant strip tickets, basket raffles, 50/50 and various wheels/games of chance. Winner need not be present to win. Ages 21 and up. Tickets available at the Parish Office at 225 37th Street, or call 412-682-0929 for more info.

LOW-COST RABIES CLINIC

The Big Easy Animal Hospital reminds all pet owners that rabies is a serious yet preventable disease. 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, the Big Easy will host its third low-cost Rabies Clinic to the community on Saturday, June 4, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Pet vaccines are available for just \$8 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. Low-cost microchips will also be available.

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.

RENOWNED AUTHOR TO SPEAK

The Holy Name Society of Our Lady of the Angels Parish will host noted author Mike Aquilina on Sunday, June 12 in Saint Augustine Auditorium, 220 37th Street, Pittsburgh, at 11 a.m. Aquilina, who has written more than 30 books and hundreds of articles, will speak on "The Family on Mission: Lessons from the Early Church." Most recently he has published *The Mass: The Glory, the Mystery, the Tradition* with Donald Cardinal Wuerl. A critically acclaimed writer, whose books have been printed in many languages and

Braille, Aquilina has a unique talent for tackling scholarly subjects and converting them into easy-to-understand materials without compromising the integrity of the topic. Aquilina served as editor of *The Pittsburgh Catholic* from 1993 until 1996 and as editor of *New Covenant* magazine from 1996 until 2002. This program is free and open to the public. No reservations are needed. A continental breakfast will be served courtesy of the Holy Name Society.

THE ART MARKET IN LAWRENCEVILLE

Milestone Centers, Inc., located at 4128 Butler Street in Lawrenceville, is proud to launch the transformation of the Everyone An Artist space into The Art Market, a new retail space to highlight the work made by the talented consumers at Milestone. Featuring handmade craft products and customized T-shirts made by artists with disabilities, the store will allow you to purchase low-cost gifts with a large-scale impact. A grand opening will be held on Friday, June 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proceeds from each purchase go toward paying the artists who made the products. The store will be open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call Tirzah at 412-621-2951.

L'VILLE BACKYARD & GARDEN TOUR

The Lawrenceville Hospitality Association is reviving the Lawrenceville Backyard & Garden Tour. This will be a great opportunity to showcase and see Lawrenceville's very unique backyards, gardens and

unusual outdoor spaces. *To showcase your backyard or garden:* If you have a creative backyard space then we want to invite you to show it off! Your space could consist of flowers, shrubbery, vegetables, herbs, containers or interesting sculptures. You don't have to do anything to participate. The tour will be self-guided and free to both the garden hosts and the folks touring. You don't even have to be present during the tour - just open your backyard or garden for visitors to step inside and check out your creations. Interested participants please email: lawrencevillegardentour@gmail.com for more information! *To take the tour:* The tour will take place on Saturday June 11th, from 11am - 4pm and will begin at the Lawrenceville Organic Garden in Allegheny Cemetery. Maps will be available at this location for the self-guided tour. Whether you're a gardener, looking for something fun and outdoors, or just a nebbly neighbor, come out and gawk at all the garden treasures of Lawrenceville.

L'VILLE UNITED GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Lawrenceville United is calling all current members and anyone interested in the work of Lawrenceville United to our General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, June 15, at St. Augustine's Auditorium (220 37th Street) at 6:30 pm. Lawrenceville United holds two General Membership meetings each year. This is *your* organization. General Membership meetings also provide our membership an opportunity to review our work and progress on important quality of life and community issues.



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

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: June 18, July 16, August 20, September 24, and October 15.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Lawrenceville United sponsors several youth programs this summer. Summer Celebration Camp for ages 4-16 begins the week of June 20 at Arco Field and runs through July 29. Soccer in the Community runs June 13 to August 3 at Arsenal Middle

School field. Unity Art Camp, with Donnie Freyer leading the way into the world of paint and photography, takes place July 10 through August 21. Registration forms are available at the LU office, 4825 Butler Street, or at www.lunited.org. Registration closes June 17.

REDUCE STRESS FROM DEBT

by Ann Callen
NWWPA

Many articles have been written about how the stress over credit card debt and worries about your financial situation can have a direct affect on your health. Findings supported by medical research have linked this stress to a wide range of ailments including headaches, anxiety, loss of sleep, ulcers and even panic attacks.

Through one-on-one counseling and education programs, NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania helps individuals and family members reduce the stress related to personal and household finances and put people on the road to financial recovery.

NeighborWorks budget and credit counseling sessions offer the tools and guidance necessary to take the first step toward reducing financial stress, at no charge to the client. The development of a monthly budget and the need to track expenses are two of the strategies NeighborWorks certified counselors employ when designing workable plans for their clients. Individuals

who have taken advantage of NeighborWorks' free services have been able to significantly reduce their debt, improve their credit scores and even establish a savings plan.

The first step is scheduling an appointment. NeighborWorks' free services are available at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center on Tuesdays. To schedule an appointment, call 412-281-9773.

NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania was founded in 1968 with the mission of promoting financial empowerment and homeownership in order to maintain stable communities. This goal is achieved through budget, credit, and foreclosure counseling services and educational programs. As a non-profit organization, the services are provided at no costs to clients, in a confidential, trustworthy, and compassionate manner. In 2010 alone, more than 1,900 individuals utilized NeighborWorks' counseling and educational services. For more information about NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania, visit www.nwwpa.org. ♦

CARNEGIE LIBRARY HAPPENINGS - JUNE

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

Baby & Me

For ages birth to 2. Thursdays, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 10:30 a.m.

Terrific Tales for Toddlers & Preschoolers

For ages 3 to 5. Fridays, June 3, 10, 17, 24. 10:30 and 11:30 a.m.

Kids Create: Origami

For all ages. Saturday, June 18, 3:30 p.m.

One World, Many Stories: Hola Amigos! Explore Mexico

For ages 7 to 12. Monday, June 20, 3 p.m.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Lawrenceville Branch

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

Adult Book Discussion

Monday, June 13, 5 p.m. This month's title is God's Secretaries: *The Making of the King James Bible*, by Adam Nicolson.

Children's Yoga + Creative Movement

For ages 2 to 5. Tuesdays, June 7, 14, 21, 28. 11 a.m.

Drop-In Art Club

For all ages. Saturday, June 4, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Teen Time

For middle and high school students. Wednesday, June 22, 4 p.m. Video games? Board games? Crafts? What we do is up to you!



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Polish Change (Toe Nails)	\$10
Paraffin Wax Treatment for Hands	\$7
Paraffin Wax Treatment for Feet	\$10
Nail Repair	\$3+
Manicure	\$12
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Hot Oil Manicure	\$20
French Manicure + Manicure	\$17
French Pedicure + Pedicure	\$30
Spa Pedicure	\$25
Deluxe Spa Pedicure	\$35
Manicure & Spa Pedicure	\$35
Nail Design	\$3+

MAKE A COMMITMENT TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Dear Neighbors:

It's hard to believe, but in 2011 **the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation is celebrating 35 years** of working to improve the quality of life for those who live and work in the neighborhoods of **Garfield, Friendship and upper Bloomfield**. The support we receive from community members allows us to be a voice for your concerns and interests, and to leverage other resources to address the needs of our neighborhoods.

If you haven't been to our website lately, visit **www.bloomfield-garfield.org** and take a look at a new video on our "About" page, **"People and Neighborhoods on the Move."** Narrated by KQV Radio newscaster P.J. Maloney, a member of our board, and starring people like you and your neighbors, this short video neatly captures the work we've been doing for the past 35 years.

Now is the time to make a commitment to the BGC so that we can continue to **bring about meaningful change in the lives of our residents**. Since June 2010, for example, membership dollars have helped us to accomplish the following:

- The rest of our Phase III new homes were sold – bringing to 38 the number of **for-sale homes in Garfield** completed with our partner, Garfield Jubilee Association, since 2002. We broke ground in May 2011 on 5 more homes. *(See story on page 1.)*
- An award of tax credits from the PA Housing Finance Agency will allow us to proceed this year with the construction of **49 rental townhouse units** on scattered sites in Garfield. The project, offering rents at below-market prices, will be co-owned by BGC and S & A Homes. *(See story on page 1.)*
- We hosted planning meetings with community residents, city officials and their engineering consultant to help design the first phase of \$5 million in **infrastructure improvements to Penn Avenue**, coming in 2013.
- We completed the first part of a **long-term housing and land-use plan for Garfield**, and have started work on a second component that will describe the strategies necessary to implement the plan's vision.
- Our **youth development initiatives** remained strong, with 140 teenagers participating in the city's summer employment program in 2010, 60 high school students recruited for our Peabody after-school and employment programs, and 30 children registered for our after-school and Saturdays program for Fort Pitt pupils, operated jointly with Family Resources, Inc.
- We provided administrative oversight to the **Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center**.
- We worked closely with law enforcement agencies to target high-profile suspects, repeat offenders, and crime-breeding conditions in the community. We stopped a **potentially problematic liquor license owner** from opening an establishment on the avenue.
- We published 12 monthly issues of our community newspaper, **The Bulletin**, to inform and enlighten people on how to participate in the process of changing their community for the better.

Please consider becoming a member the BGC, at whatever level you can afford, or renewing your membership for 2011-2012. You can also donate online via PayPal at www.bloomfield-garfield.org. Thank you in advance for your generous contribution to our work.

Sincerely,



Bill Cornell
President



YES! I want to invest in my neighborhood through a donation to the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, an organization built upon its members:

☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$30 ☐ \$50 Other \$ _____

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Address _____

City/State _____

Zip _____ Email _____ *(we do not sell or distribute)*

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