



# The Bulletin

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## Health Partnership Marks 20 Years of Service to School Kids

By Paula Martinac  
*The Bulletin*

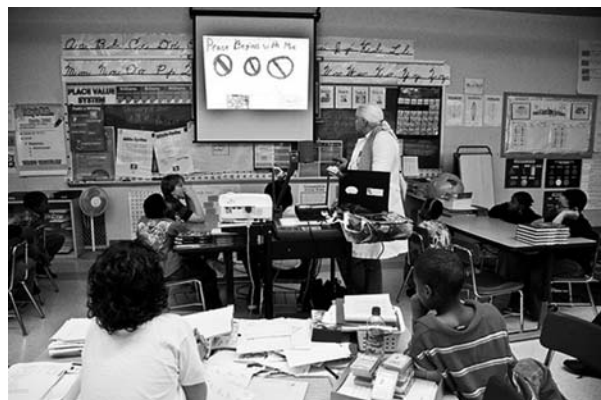
In the late 1980s, Dr. Jake Milliones, then the president of the Pittsburgh Board of Education, had a vision. "He wanted to create health partnerships between the schools and health care providers," recalls Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC). "His belief was that children had to be healthy to be educated."

Although political wrangling prevented Dr. Milliones from achieving his goal, he put out a call to community leaders to take up the task of creating health centers in the schools. One of the organizations that stepped up to the plate was the BGC.

With the help of "a mountain of volunteers," Brose and Elizabeth Beck, an intern from the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work (where she is now an associate professor), undertook a survey of the health

and social needs of school children in Bloomfield and Garfield. Volunteers interviewed a random sample of 200 children at area public schools. (Although Brose says the BGC wanted to include parochial school children as well, then Bishop Donald Wuerl "closed the door" on the possibility.) When completed, the study proved beyond a doubt "the need for comprehensive youth programming and a broad-based commitment to their welfare and growth as citizens," in the words of the report's authors.

The BGC shared the needs assessment with Dr. Anne McGaffey of St. Margaret's Hospital, who "loved it," says Brose. Out of that survey grew a health partnership between the hospital, community groups, and area public schools. The creation of the BGC's Youth Development Center (YDC) and the hiring of Rick Flanagan to head it followed close behind. Flanagan has shepherded the Health Partnership and the YDC's education-



Adam Flanagan

**DR. ANNE MCGAFFEY LEADS THE 4TH-GRADE "PEACEMAKERS" PROGRAM, ONE OF THE MANY OFFERINGS OF THE UPMC ST. MARGARET HEALTH PARTNERSHIP.**

al and employment programs since that time. "I am still so proud of this document," says Brose, who keeps the original needs assessment in her desk to this day.

Twenty years later, the UPMC St. Margaret Health Partnership "has grown and blossomed," Brose notes, with partners that include 14 community organizations and health-care providers, the central administration of Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS), and six East End public and charter schools. The BGC has remained the lead partner, convening monthly meetings, aiding in program scheduling, collecting data and maintaining records, and conducting outreach to identify student needs.

Over the course of its existence,

the Partnership has created vital programs to address a host of health and prevention issues facing school children. Since 1989, for example, more than 3,000 students have received essential health screenings from Partnership health providers free of charge, detecting such problems as the need for immunizations, vision and dental concerns, heart murmurs, and irregular breathing. An annual Asthma Day educates students, faculty, and staff on how to assist asthmatic students.

Other key programs are aimed at specific grades and are age-appropriate. The Teddy Bear program helps kindergarten kids get used to visiting a doctor and learn what a physical exam entails. Third graders participate in a

**See HEALTH, page 12**

## SNOW DAYS



Bill Cornell/BGC

**Like the rest of the city, our neighborhoods were socked with over two feet of snow in February. Somewhere underneath these mounds of snow in the photo is Penn Avenue near Winebiddle. Turn the page for more about the historic snowfall of 2010.**

The deadline for all articles, ads, and Bulletin Board items for the April 2010 issue is **MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2010**. For more information, call 412-441-6915.



# S N O W E D I N



Joshua Welsh/FDA

TRASHED BY SNOW



Felisa Preston/BGC

DEARBORN STREET UNDERCOVER



## Peabody Students Dig in for the Community

**By Stephen MacIsaac**

*Executive Director,  
Wireless Neighborhoods*

The snowstorm that hit Pittsburgh in February created many challenges, and as with any challenging situation, there is always an opportunity to see the best in people. I had that opportunity on Friday, February 12, when I got to enjoy community at its best.

Responding to a call from Dr. Linda Lane, Deputy Superintendent of Pittsburgh Public Schools, to clear sidewalks so that children could have safe passage to school, three Pittsburgh Peabody students who participate in our Community LEARNS program - Amber Craig, 11th grade, Shaniece Gurley, 10th grade, and Zasha Mar, 11th grade (*see photo at right*) - responded. They took on the challenge of clearing the sidewalk along Penn Avenue from Millvale to Atlantic.

I was thrilled to be there to witness their hard work under the supervision of BGC/ENEC volunteer Terry Cooper, and could not have been more impressed with their effort. Good enough was not good enough for

them. They understood that children, seniors, moms and dads with infants and toddlers could be passing along those sidewalks and that they had to be wide enough and flat enough to ensure that no one would be in harm's way. Their efforts set off a chain of nice events that make me feel good about Garfield, a neighborhood that I will soon be calling home, and about the school district that we entrust to educate our children.

As you might guess, the young women's efforts received many thank-you's as they worked their way along Penn Avenue, and even caught the attention of a Pittsburgh Post Gazette photographer. The response that truly touched our entire group, though, was when Cheryl Walker, Garfield resident and Executive Director of Manchester Youth Development, after having passed by as the group was shoveling, returned with hot chocolate for everyone. This reminded all of us how important community is, and really let the young people know that their hard work was both recognized and appreciated.

As the day wrapped up, we sent a couple of the photos over to

Pittsburgh Public Schools, to Dr. Lane and Ebony Pugh, Senior Manager Public Relations. Their response was swift and extremely positive; you could sense that they were very proud of the young ladies and wanted to acknowledge their efforts. Photos of their work were on the website in a matter, it seemed, of minutes. You can go on to [pghboe.net](http://pghboe.net) to see the pictures in the Good News section. Pittsburgh Public Schools is a big district, and it is nice to know how important each individual student is to the leadership.

For me, it is just nice to witness, first hand, the leadership in the community and in our school system that is there to support our children and young adults as they strive everyday to do the right thing.

Community LEARNS is a partnership between Bloomfield Garfield Corporation, Mt. Ararat Community



Development Center, and Wireless Neighborhoods that provides academic, employment, recreation and support services to Pittsburgh Peabody students.

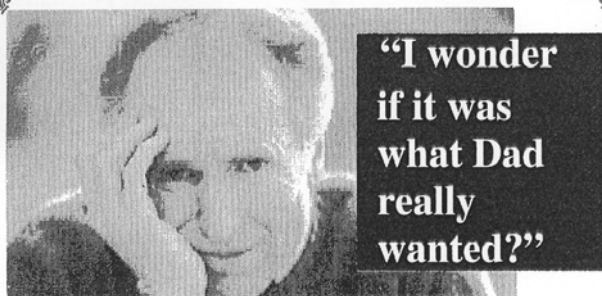


## BGC Forges Partnership with PNC Bank



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

David Hopkins (left), PNC Bank's market manager for community development banking in Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio, hands a check to Rick Swartz, executive director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, to cement year two of a six-year partnership. \$600,000 has been pledged over six years to help the BGC tackle neighborhood blight, increase home ownership and rental opportunities, and provide educational and employment opportunities for young people and adults.



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## Leslie Park Pool Planning Goes Swimmingly

What will become of the decommissioned

By Deborah Knox  
Bulletin Contributor

students' work for the community, to inspire more thinking and

Leslie Park Pool in Lawrenceville? Suggesting new uses for the site were the focus of two recent public meetings.

The main planners have put together a volunteer Steering Committee that includes representatives from City Council, the Mayor's Office, CitiParks, Lawrenceville United, Lawrenceville Corporation, the Boys & Girls Clubs, and a large number of design professionals who want to contribute to the process.

The first community meeting on January 20 at the Stephen Foster Center was a big success, with nearly 30 neighbors attending. They shared lots of stories and impressions from the "good and bad old days" at Leslie Park Pool, and offered several suggestions for activities they would like to see. The second session on January 23 was lightly attended, so the eight members present from the Steering Committee held an important strategy session. They have collated all of the great ideas for activities at what could become a new multi-purpose community center.

The planning will continue in a methodical, transparent manner. Right now, Susan Englert and myself are meeting with representatives from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, and other local universities to see if their advanced design students could conduct an exercise documenting existing conditions at the pool and generating ideas and drawings suggesting how the community's favorite programming ideas could be implemented. The Steering Committee was also enthusiastic about staging an exhibition of the

concrete evaluation.

The Steering Committee has some very serious tasks to complete before planning can continue. Foremost, a structural engineer needs to inspect the bathhouse and pool deck to determine if they are sound. Then there's the question of how to renovate or add to the existing facilities to accommodate multiple uses.

In the end, one of the strongest goals emerging is to establish a three-to four-season community center with a range of activities and uses that complement the good work already going on in Lawrenceville, and contribute to the overall social and economic vitality of our neighborhood, and to everyone's quality of life.

There are so many ideas for temporary, rotating events of a cultural, recreational and social nature: The walls of the pool (with some pre-treatment) could be a canvas for custom artwork created in this extremely unique exhibition space; in the spirit of Accordion Pool Party, the empty in-ground tank could host music and dance performances; weddings and receptions could be staged there; artist-designed mini-golf and splash park exhibitions could be created for children and adults to enjoy; and sports exhibitions could be held in the pool—boxing, perhaps, in the tradition of illustrious resident Fritzie Zivic. Most importantly, with things like protective tents, a reconfigurable stage and safety railings, the pool could be used year-round for a delightful variety of activities that would serve many populations and

See POOL, page 11



ARTIST'S RENDERING OF WHAT EXHIBITS AT THE LESLIE PARK POOL MIGHT LOOK LIKE.

# The Bulletin

serving Bloomfield, Garfield, East Liberty,  
Friendship, and Lawrenceville since 1975



The Bulletin is published by the  
Bloomfield-Garfield Corp. to:

- serve the incorporated territory of the BGC and surrounding communities
- report on activities and ideas affecting those communities
- offer an opportunity to express opinions and exchange ideas

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com for the latest events  
and happenings!**

## Lawrenceville Comes Out to View Plans for Doughboy Square

**By Lauren Byrne**  
*Lawrenceville United*  
**and Maureen G. Ford**  
*Lawrenceville Corporation*

On February 3, the Lawrenceville community met to discuss a proposed development project around Doughboy Square. Despite the cold and snowy weather, approximately 150 residents, business owners, and other community stakeholders turned out to learn more about the proposed project that could transform the already popular and historic gateway into Lawrenceville.

The vacant and dilapidated structures and lots on Penn Avenue and Butler Street have unfortunately served as the backdrop to the iconic Doughboy for years. This area - and the awkward intersection that drives through it - has created what some have called "a no man's land" at the entrance of a neighborhood that is experiencing growth and investment. The Lawrenceville community, with support from elected officials, the City of Pittsburgh, and foundations, has spent years studying the area and planning for its future.

During the meeting, Al DePasquale introduced his team of financial investors and architects, who hope to develop the vacant and blighted parcels. Mr. DePasquale has a history of neighborhood investment and development, most notably his work in

the East Allegheny community. During the meeting, he introduced a townhome concept in addition to some preliminary concept drawings for a commercial building where the Wheel Emporium recently stood. He also gave an overview of a larger vision for the area that included the rehabilitation of row houses on 34th Street, and the creation of a senior living center with first-floor commercial units.

The Lawrenceville Corporation and Lawrenceville United facilitated the meeting and fielded questions from residents and stakeholders regarding the project. Some issues brought up included timeframe for the project, financial investment and security, and opportunities for the community to participate in the planning and design of the project. Mr. DePasquale and his team are currently securing properties and trying to gain site control for individual projects. He hopes to break ground within the next few months.

Mr. DePasquale was open to recommendations and ideas from the community, and the community was excited for an opportunity to become more involved in the process and project. The Lawrenceville Corporation and Lawrenceville United are going to



Courtesy Lawrenceville Corporation

work with an ad hoc committee of interested community members who will make recommendations to the Planning Team and to Mr. DePasquale after a series of meetings and charrettes. The Lawrenceville Corporation also plans to create a webpage where interested parties can find project updates, meeting notifications, and information relative to other aspects of Doughboy Square (i.e., PennDOT improvements, etc.).

If anyone is interested in the project, or has further questions or concerns, please contact Maureen G. Ford, Lawrenceville Corporation, at 412-621-1616 x101, or Lauren Byrne, Lawrenceville United, at 412-802-7220.

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## COMMENTARY

## PWSA Customers Can Save Thousands in Sewer Repairs

Many of you have replaced sewer lines yourselves or know neighbors who have, so you may be aware of the unexpected hardship this expensive repair can create for homeowners. As a Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority Board member, I am happy to share that in January PWSA began offering insurance at a minimal cost that will completely cover water and sewer line repairs. Unlike earlier insurance programs, you have to opt out if you prefer not to be covered by this program.

You have probably already noticed an additional \$5 charge on your monthly PWSA bill for "Line Warranty – Water & Sewer." Those who choose to make this monthly payment will be completely insured in the event of a water or sewer lateral line failure or collapse. Many other water and sewer line insurance programs exist, but set a maximum coverage amount or cover only one of the two lines. With the PWSA line warranty, whether the repair costs \$1,000 or \$15,000, the entire bill will be covered by the insurance.

If you currently have line insurance from another party, be sure to research

**By Patrick Dowd**  
City Council, District 7

your options and cancel the lesser program to avoid a duplicate expense. If you choose to opt out of the PWSA program, you may submit the Opt-Out Election Form sent with your most recent bill, call 1-866-998-7965, or visit [www.utilitylinesecurity.com](http://www.utilitylinesecurity.com). If you choose to retain the PWSA coverage, contact your current provider to learn about your cancellation options.

In my two years in office, I have heard from many constituents who did not have sewer line insurance and could not afford the high cost of line repairs when they discovered a break. Going forward, this new program will protect more customers from financial crisis, reduce unsanitary conditions in our neighborhoods caused by broken sewer lines, and ensure repairs to our city's infrastructure are made quickly.

Questions about the insurance program can be directed to Utility Line Security at 1-866-998-7965 or [www.utilitylinesecurity.com](http://www.utilitylinesecurity.com). As always, you can reach our office about these and other matters at 412-255-2140 or [district7@city.pittsburgh.pa.us](mailto:district7@city.pittsburgh.pa.us).

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Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) is conducting free computer classes at its offices at 5321 Penn Avenue in Garfield. Computer equipment used in these classes was supplied by the City of Pittsburgh's Operation Weed and Seed. The class schedule in March includes:

**Tuesdays:**  
Intro to Computer  
Classes  
Intro to Windows  
Intro to Word  
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E-applications  
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**Wednesdays:**  
Intro to Computer  
Classes  
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**Thursdays:**  
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Intro to Access

For class times, dates, and pre-requisites, and for class registration, call ENEC at 412-362-8580 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Maximum class size is 10, so register early! No admittance to class if more than 10 minutes late. Classes are **FREE** to Allegheny County residents.



**By Dr. Amy DiPlacido, MD**  
Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health  
Center

A pap smear is a screening test for cancer of the cervix in women. The cervix, which is the lowest part of the uterus, is located at the upper end of the vagina. Common risk factors for cervical cancer include smoking, infection with high-risk strains of the Human Papillomavirus, early onset of sexual activity, multiple sexual partners, and a history of sexually transmitted

## Routine Screening Can Detect Cervical Cancer

infections. In general terms, the cells of the cervix can be normal, pre-cancerous, cancerous, or indeterminate.

In the process of checking cells of the cervix, other changes may be noted as well, including changes from infections (like a yeast infection) and changes from soaps or medicines (like from douching). This is why a pap smear may come back as "atypical" cells "of unknown significance." The cells look different than normal, but the cause may or may not be pre-cancer.

Up until 2009, most women would get a pap smear annually; however, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recently changed the guidelines for pap smears. The current recommendation is that pap smears start at age 21. If normal, they can occur every two years until age 30. At age 30, if you have had three consecutive pap

smears that were normal, your pap smears can be spaced out to every three years. Recent evidence suggests that this new outline of pap smear testing is as effective as yearly tests in preventing cervical cancer, plus it is more cost-effective. Also, there is the possibility of complications from some of the treatments of pre-cancer and cancer of the cervix, including going into labor prematurely.

If your pap smear is abnormal, your health care provider will tell you what you need to do next. Oftentimes the body will heal itself over the next year or so to resolve low-grade changes. Your provider may tell you to get another pap smear in six months or one year to be sure. Higher grade changes, or changes associated with the Human Papillomavirus, may warrant a colposcopy for further evaluation.

During a colposcopy, a vinegar solution is applied to the cervix that can cause a change in the color of any abnormal areas. A magnifying device is used to re-examine the cervix, and biopsies are taken of any areas that have changed color. The sample is sent to the lab for examination. Based on these results, your provider will tell you what to do next. If high-grade changes are confirmed, the cervix will likely be treated with cautery or with surgery.

One important reminder is that even though pap smears may not need to be done every year, you should still see your health-care provider at least once a year to discuss screening for breast cancer, to check for sexually transmitted infections, and to talk about birth control, if applicable.

## St. Patrick's Day Reminds Us of Lawrenceville's Irish Heritage

By Hal Smith  
Bulletin Contributor

Ireland's Great Famine of the 1840s drove 1,000,000 Irish to America, where prejudice and poverty greeted them. Many settled in Pittsburgh's gritty, overcrowded "Irish town," from Penn Avenue into Lawrenceville.

Today, 35.6% of Lawrenceville is Irish - the biggest concentration in Allegheny County. Kelly's Pub (45th Street) is one example of Irish culture. America's largest Irish organization is the Ancient Order of Hibernians, whose first state convention was in Pittsburgh's "Emerald Hall" in 1870. Lawrenceville's Division 23 (<http://www.aohdiv23.com>) is one of Pittsburgh's biggest groups. Headquartered at St. Lawrence O'Toole Hall (5323 Penn Avenue), Pittsburgh's AOH organizes the St. Patrick's Day Parade (to be held this year on March 13), whose original purpose was to recognize Irish immigrants' rights.

Many factories said "No Irish Need Apply," so Irish got the worst jobs in coal mines across Pennsylvania. Miners lived in company houses patrolled by company police. They starved on wages of under \$2/day while mine accidents killed hundreds because companies

ignored safety rules. Miners responded with strikes and mine sabotage. AOH leaders who came from the miners' ranks were elected to positions of power in coal towns.

The Reading Railroad, whose monopoly included Northumberland and Columbia counties, blamed the miners' unrest on the "Molly Maguire" gang. The railroad made the exaggerated claim that the Mollies were the AOH. Reading Railroad agents arrested and prosecuted over 50 Mollies with juries absent any Irish Catholics. After some Mollies were executed and the railroad began severing wages, Pittsburgh's railroad workers went on strike in July 1877. The National Guard tramped from the 40th Street bridge, along Penn Avenue, and shot 40 civilians. In response, crowds burned trains for 3 miles. Soldiers tried to fortify the 40th Street Arsenal, but crowds forced them to retreat completely. The Howling Mob Society's historic markers in the Strip District and Lawrenceville commemorate the "Great Strike." (See photo.)

The *New York Times* reported "not a stick of wood injured" until the troops' arrival. But Pennsylvania's Supreme Court blamed Pittsburgh for the riot instead, writing: "We see no evidence of any serious attempt upon the part of the local authorities to suppress it." The Court made Allegheny

County pay railroads and merchants \$2,772,349.53.

In October 1877, Pennsylvania's Supreme Court heard the Mollies' appeal in Pittsburgh's courthouse after judging the strike. In one trumped-up trial, Locust Gap's AOH president Patrick Hester, AOH delegate Peter McHugh, and Patrick Tully were convicted for mine boss Alexander Rea's murder. Prosecution witness Daniel Kull gave the prosecution practically its only direct evidence, testifying that Hester suggested that Kull, McHugh, and Tully rob Rea when he tried to escape. Interestingly, as tax assessor Hester knew, Rea delivered payrolls on Fridays; Kull only found \$60.

The defense complained to Pennsylvania's Supreme Court that 40 other Mollies' sensationalized convictions, and jurors' prior knowledge of the case prejudiced jurors. Further, Kull was a jailed illiterate vagrant whom the AOH had expelled because he robbed so many people. To allow his testimony, a Pardon Board pardoned his other robbery conviction. The defense appealed that Kull hadn't been pardoned in a constitutionally required, publicly announced open hearing. Pennsylvania's Supreme Court denied the Mollies' appeals,



A HISTORICAL MARKER INDICATES WHERE THE ALLEGHENY ARSENAL ONCE STOOD.

saying only prosecutors could challenge a pardon, unless there was fraud. Interestingly, that pardon board's decision, dated January 3, 1877, claimed it was based on a judge's letter titled "January 4, 1877."

From 1877 to 1879, more than 20 Mollies were hanged in Pennsylvania's largest execution. In 2005-2006, Pennsylvania's House and Senate passed resolutions recognizing that jury prejudice and judges' railroad connections violated the Mollies' constitutional rights, and requested the governor's acknowledgment. Hester, Tully, McHugh, and the Mollies are still waiting.

## Are You at Risk for Diabetes?

The Allegheny County Health Department recommends that county residents take the Diabetes Risk Test on Tuesday, March 23, to find out if they are at risk for developing type 2 diabetes. The number of Americans with diabetes has surged to close to 24 million people, and the disease is increasingly affecting younger people. More alarming is that almost one in four persons with diabetes is not aware that he or she has the disease. Oprah Winfrey devoted a recent show to this major public health crisis, which was titled "Diabetes: America's Silent Killer."

Diabetes occurs when the body is no longer able to utilize blood sugar or glucose for energy and the excess spills into the blood and urine. This can lead to gradual symptoms such as tiredness, thirstiness, and frequent urination that can be easily overlooked.

Early diagnosis and treatment can prevent or significantly delay some of the complications associated with diabetes, such as heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney failure, and amputation. The Diabetes Risk Test can be taken at [www.diabetes.org/alert](http://www.diabetes.org/alert) or a copy can be obtained by calling 1-800-

DIABETES (342-2383)

Major risk factors for type 2 diabetes include being over the age of 45; carrying extra weight, especially around the waist; lack of regular physical activity; having a family history of the disease; being Latino, African American, Asian American, Native American, or Pacific Islander; or giving birth to a baby weighing more than nine pounds. If your test score is high or you have two or more risk factors, please contact your doctor or medical provider to discuss your risk and whether you should be tested for diabetes.

If you are diagnosed with diabetes, be aware that many recent improvements in diabetes care make it possible to stay healthy and active with this disease.

If you find that you don't have diabetes, work with your medical provider to figure out ways to change the things that put you at risk, such as inactivity or extra weight. Research has indicated that type 2 diabetes can be prevented or delayed by losing a modest amount of weight (for example, 7-15 pounds) and aiming for 30 minutes of daily physical activity, such as walking or dancing.

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## Young People Hone Leadership Skills in Garfield

If you have been walking the streets of Garfield in the last few months,

you may have encountered a group of inspired young people interested in learning more about the community. These young people are part of Public Allies Pittsburgh, a 10-month leadership development program for young people between the ages of 17-24 who are interested in careers in the non-profit sector and in developing the skills and competencies to become community leaders.

Six Public Allies are here to immerse themselves in the Garfield community as part of their Team Service Project, a component of the program that gives Allies an opportunity to utilize skills and values by leading and learning as service volunteers in a particular neighborhood. As part of the program, they are also full-time AmeriCorps members. These Allies are working in partnership with the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation on the development of their Team Service Project for the neighborhood.

The group has been actively involved in the community over the last few months, getting to know residents, volunteering with food distribution, working with churches, and volunteering for a number of businesses

**By Kathryn Vargas**  
*Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

located in Garfield. Amanda Huminski, a member of the Garfield team, sums up the positive experience these young people have had in the community thus far. "We have met a lot of people," she says, "and heard a lot of good things about Garfield through interacting with community people, residents, business owners, and our volunteer work in the community."

In order to create, implement, and evaluate a service project as a team in Garfield and in partnership with other community groups, leaders, and organizations, the Allies will be holding a neighborhood meeting on Friday, March 19, at 12:30 p.m. at the BGC Activity Center, 113 North Pacific Avenue, to discuss with community members their proposed community project in Garfield. They are looking to the community for opinions and advice about where they should be focusing their time and energy. They are also looking for community involvement in the project. We invite the community to come out to this presentation and engage with this group on what they can do for the Garfield community.

If you have any questions or comments about the community meeting, please contact Kathryn Vargas at 412-441-6950 x17.

## GA/GI Event Expands Up and Down Penn

The upcoming Geek Art and Green Innovators Festival (GA/GI), Pittsburgh's first art and technology festival, is gaining energy. On Friday, April 2, the Penn Avenue Arts District will be hosting the electric green and technology-filled day of events.

There will be all kinds of new additions to the festival, new venues, new artists, new techies. GA/GI kicks off at the Union Project, 801 N. Negley Avenue, at 10 a.m. with activities and events for youths. Newest on the scene is Dance Alloy Theater, which will be treating kids to a creative movement class with instructor Ayisha Morgan-Lee. Other new and exciting activities include a performance by the Dilworth School Drummers; a visit by David Edwards Power Flower; Replay My Play, a project funded by Penn Ave neighbor Sprout; and other green activities.

Beginning at 5 p.m., GA/GI transforms Penn Avenue Arts Initiative's monthly Unblurred: First Fridays on

**By Meghan Maher**  
*Bulletin Contributor*

Penn into an artistic green and technology enclave. Be sure to walk, drive, or pedal your way to Penn Avenue to check out GA/GI events. A few of the the most recent updates to the GA/GI event listing include an urban farmers market hosted by Garfield Farms and Grow Pittsburgh; robots and other revolutionary technologies created by Carnegie-Mellon University's Entertainment and Technology Center; a performance by Cello Fury at the Pittsburgh Glass Center; and much, much more.

Another update to the GA/GI festival is the inclusion of the brand new Glass Lofts. Be sure to stop in and check out this great space, and the green and technology displays inside.

For more information and a complete listing of GA/GI participants with video previews, please visit [www.gagifestival.blogspot.com](http://www.gagifestival.blogspot.com). Click "follow" for regular updates.

## 25 Years of Helping Children and Families



Margaret Stanley

Allegheny County Council recently recognized the 25th anniversary of The Children's Home & Lemieux Family Center's Pediatric Specialty Hospital, which opened in 1984. The 28-bed specialty hospital, which cares for special-needs children from birth to age 21, has helped more than 3,000 patients in its 25-year span. Shown at the ceremony, from left: Dan Musher, Director of Development for The Children's Home & Lemieux Family Center; Kim Reblock, Director of the Pediatric Specialty Hospital; and Michael J. Finnerty, County Council Member for District #4.

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**A PROVEN LEADER**

## Older Adults Enjoy Their "Vintage" Years at East Liberty Center

By Paula Martinac  
The Bulletin

On any weekday, the brightly painted halls of Vintage, Inc. in East Liberty are humming. Members of the senior community center may be working out in the gym, accessing the Internet, tapping their toes in a soul line-dancing class, enjoying a game of bridge, or chatting with friends over a cup o' joe in the cafe. Who knew "retirement" could be so active?

"You can mingle, and you're not alone," remarks Mary Winston, who has been coming to Vintage for five years and is both a volunteer and a user of the center's many offerings. Richard Macklin, a Vintage member since 2005, says the center "keeps my heart beating stronger."

Vintage, which has been serving older adults since 1976, occupies a complex of buildings at 401 North Highland Avenue. The modern main building was once a Giant Eagle; it is connected to a stately stone building with stained glass windows that was alternately a church, a funeral home, and a private residence. Vintage's senior center serves "well, active

older adults 62 and older" in a variety of programs geared toward the tastes of different generations of seniors, some of whom may have served in World War II, while others were teenagers in the '60s, grooving to rock 'n' roll.

Twenty dollars buys a basic yearly individual membership to the center, with access to a wide variety of classes and services; couples can join for \$35. The center also offers a fitness-level membership, with access to the gym and a personal trainer, for just \$50 a year. Some of the center's offerings are extra, but priced for limited incomes, like the \$1.25 hot lunch. There is also a full range of travel programs to local shopping malls, restaurants, and cultural activities. A committee of members chooses the travel programs they would like to see offered, and Vintage handles the arrangements.

"The social aspect is very important," explains Tom Sturgill, Vintage's program director. "It's important to keep older adults in the community and active."

### "Vintage keeps my heart beating stronger."

In addition to courses in creative writing, dance, exercise, and painting, Vintage offers a wealth of health information workshops, like its popular "Healthy VIEW" (Vintage Individual Enhanced Wellness) classes. These regularly offered six-week workshops teach older adults how to manage chronic diseases like diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, and heart disease.

"It's great to see people achieving their health goals," says Sturgill, "having those 'aha!' moments when they see changes in their health."

Vintage helps seniors to gather needed information, too. Dedicated staffers answer 2,000 questions each year on everything from Medicare to local property taxes. "It keeps us hopping," says Cheryl Schell, who staffs the Information & Referral office. "You never know what you'll find" in terms of requests.

In addition to its center for active seniors, Vintage also runs an adult daycare program for those experiencing dementia and needing assistance during the day. The daycare center is

staffed with a full-time RN and a part-time LPN in a secure part of the building, where adults receive three meals and take part in activities like movies or games designed for different levels of dementia. "A spouse may need respite [from caretaking]," explains Sturgill of the reasons people use the daycare center. "Or maybe they're living with an adult child who's working. We find that [clients] sleep better at night and are less restless if they've been kept busy during the day." Most of the adult daycare participants receive public funding or scholarships to pay for their care.

Sturgill, who has been with Vintage for 16 years, says that "the friendship and fellowship [people] develop" at the center buoy him. "I see them going from sad to being more joyful." Indeed, one after another, Vintage members told *The Bulletin* that they "like the people" or "like the atmosphere" or "everyone gets along." As Vintage member Alvin Busey sums it up, "It's nice to make new friends at this age."

For more information about Vintage, Inc., visit [www.vintageseniorservices.org](http://www.vintageseniorservices.org) or call 412-361-5003; TTD/TTY 412-362-2339.

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**CUSTOM BOBBLE HEADS**



# Young Chef Finds a Winning Recipe with Neighborhood Restaurant

By Paula Martinac  
The Bulletin

Sonja Finn can't remember a time when she wasn't interested in cooking. "I always cooked with my mom," she recalls, "and I was watching cooking shows when I was four." Her childhood interest eventually grew into a career and a promising new business — she is the owner/chef of Dinette, a diminutive, much-lauded restaurant and wine bar in East Liberty.

Finn, 30, grew up not far from her Penn Circle South eatery, attending Reizenstein Middle School and Allderdice High School before heading off to Columbia University. In the summers, she returned to her hometown to work as a prep cook at the now-defunct Baum Vivant on Baum Boulevard. "Back then I thought I wanted to be a documentary filmmaker," she says. "Once I did an internship at *Interview* magazine... but I spent most of my time there reading cookbooks." After earning her B.A., she went on to study at the prestigious Culinary Institute of America.

Her career took her to San Francisco, where she worked her way up the ranks at Zuni Café and The Rotunda at Neiman Marcus. Although she was earning a good living, "You get to the point where you decide you don't want to work for



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

**MEMBERS OF THE DINETTE STAFF, FROM LEFT: JENNY JO PATTON, LINE COOK; SONJA FINN, OWNER/CHEF; AND LAUREN URBSCHAT, SOUS CHEF.**

someone," she explains. "It's a craft. I never felt I could do exactly what I wanted to do. So you listen and learn and eventually open your own place." She started saving every dime with the intention of opening her own restaurant.

On trips back to Pittsburgh to visit family, she saw how dramatically her old neighborhood was changing. "I said, 'I should be part of this,'" says Finn, who chose her bright space in the Eastside development because she thought the complex "needed small businesses as well as chains. Otherwise, it would just be a mall."

(The space she leased was also being eyed by the chain Chipotle.)

Finn designed the restaurant herself, down to the smallest details, and EDGE Studio made her ideas concrete. Dinette opened in October, 2008, with an ever-changing menu of small plates and thin-crust pizzas made with fresh, local ingredients. Finn buys from Turner Dairy, Parma Sausage and Pennsylvania Macaroni in the Strip District, and Penn's Corners Farm Alliance. "The less the food has to travel, the better," she explains. In fact, she says she would always choose local over organic for her ingredients. The restaurant also offers self-filtered, self-carbonated water.

In a town like Pittsburgh, where

pizzerias abound, why open another pizza place? "I wanted to change the menu daily," Finn says. "So I needed something simple. Pizza is the base, something that's set in the menu. Personally, I find main courses boring, but I could eat a whole pizza." And with ingredients like shiitake mushrooms and peppered bacon, these are not run-of-the-mill pizzas.

A stable of regular customers has helped sustain Dinette in these hard economic times. "We see lots of regulars once or even twice a week," Finn says. "The average price is \$24 per person. You could make it more expensive, but you don't have to. We get a lot of young people, too."

Her staff, which has experienced very little turnover since the restaurant opened, is also young. "I'm not that far out from being a line cook myself," she notes, "so I try to pay better. They get health insurance after six months. And I don't yell at them. In any kitchen, things go fast, and people yell.... I try not to be too emotional. I try to treat them the way I'd like to be treated."

Dinette and its young chef have won raves reviews locally, and *Pittsburgh Magazine* named the restaurant among the city's top 25. But it has also attracted notable national attention: In 2009, Finn was a semi-finalist for the James Beard Foundation's Rising Star Chef Award, and was featured in *Fortune Magazine*'s "6 Green Chefs" list. She is understandably proud. "This is so far beyond what I ever imagined for a small pizza place."



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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](mailto:Bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org) by the 15th of each month. We do not accept listings on the phone. Information published on a space-available basis.**

## KIDNEY HEALTH SCREENING

The National Kidney Foundation is holding a free kidney health screening for people at increased risk for kidney disease on Thursday, March 11, at The Kingsley Association, 6435 Frankstown Avenue, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The screening is part of the National Kidney Foundation's **Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP)**, a free health-screening program designed to help identify and educate adults at increased risk - those who either have diabetes and/or high blood pressure or have a parent or sibling with diabetes, high blood pressure, or kidney disease - with the purpose of delaying or preventing the development of chronic kidney disease (CKD). To learn more about CKD risk factors, prevention, treatment and free screenings, call 412-261-4115.

## BOARD GAME GROUP

Pittsburgh Settlers of Catan/Euro-games is a **meetup group for adults** who want to get together and play the Settlers of Catan and similar "Eurogame" board games. We try to meet a couple of times a month in the East End area. Don't worry if you don't know how to play; we are all friendly people and will teach you! For more information, visit: [www.meetup.com/Pittsburgh-Settlers-of-Catan-Meetup](http://www.meetup.com/Pittsburgh-Settlers-of-Catan-Meetup).

## PARENTING WARMLINE

Raising Kids is a Tough Job! The Parenting WARMLINE at Family Resources can help. Call 412-641-4546 or 800-641-4546 for **free, non-medical, telephone support** for parents/caregivers. Confidential...no question too big or too small. Mon-Fri 9-9, Sat-Sun 1-5, or [warmline@familyresourcesofpa.org](mailto:warmline@familyresourcesofpa.org).

## MARCH UNBLURRED

Join the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative and Penn Avenue Artists for our **monthly art event**, Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn. Join us on Friday, March 5, for an evening full of great art, great people, great food, and great fun! This month's Unblurred has a jam packed schedule, with events at Most Wanted Fine Art, Dance Alloy, and EDGE studio, among others. For a complete schedule, visit [www.penn-avenuearts.org](http://www.penn-avenuearts.org) or pick up a hand-bill/map at participating locations. Unblurred is a monthly event that opens the Penn Avenue Arts District (4800-5500 Penn) for exploration by adults and children.

## HOST FAMILIES SOUGHT FOR YOUTH SUMMIT

The South Asia Youth Summit, funded by the U.S. Department of State and coordinated by Magee Womancare International and Amizade Ltd., will bring 18 youths aged 15-18 to Pittsburgh from April 25 to May 20 to learn about American culture and explore issues of youth leadership and community development. One of the most important components of the program is providing participants with "home host" experiences with local families. Foreign language skills are not required. Families with children are especially encouraged to **host a foreign student**. To learn more about this program and become a host family to one of these teens, contact Gregg Bell or Lesya Protynyak at 412-641-8989 or email [gbell@mail.magee.edu](mailto:gbell@mail.magee.edu) or [lprotynyak@mail.magee.edu](mailto:lprotynyak@mail.magee.edu).

## ART ALL NIGHT

Art All Night Lawrenceville 2010 seeks volunteers and support. **Art All Night 2010** will be held on April 24-25 at the Iron City Brewery in Lawrenceville. The leadership team is presently seeking volunteers and contributions for this year's event. If you'd like to assist in any way, please email [info@artallnight.org](mailto:info@artallnight.org). It's also time to start creating your entry. We invite you to submit one (and only one) piece of artwork, or sign up to perform during this one-of-a-kind neighborhood event attended by nearly 10,000 people each year. Artist registration information will be available soon at [www.artallnight.org](http://www.artallnight.org).

## THINK SUMMER... THINK BASEBALL

There's snow on the ground, but East End Cooperative Ministry is already thinking about summer. Sunshine... Green grass... Baseball... Join us as the **Pirates take on the Phillies** on Friday, July 2, at 7:05 p.m. Tickets are \$20 each, and may be purchased directly through EECM. The Pirates will give \$5 back to EECM for every ticket you buy. This is a family-friendly event, so bring your kids, friends, neighbors, co-workers or friendly strangers you meet on the street! EECM will have an information table set up at the game for everyone to learn more about how we help those in need in Pittsburgh's East End and how to become more involved. For more information, contact Tim Brown at 412-361-5549 x 411 or [timb@eecm.org](mailto:timb@eecm.org).

## FREE SERVICES FROM SEN. FERLO

State Sen. Jim Ferlo (D-Pittsburgh) reminds constituents about services provided through his local district office staff free of charge. Some useful documents found at **Sen. Ferlo's office** include PACE/PACENET and Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications; information on living wills, student financial assistance programs, and fishing and boating; Pennsylvania drivers' and commercial drivers' manuals and other PennDOT forms; birth certificate and notary applications; voter registration forms; state grant booklets; and booklets on veterans services. Sen. Ferlo's district office is located at 3519 Butler Street in Lawrenceville. For more information on all of the services provided, visit [www.senatorferlo.com/constituent\\_services.htm](http://www.senatorferlo.com/constituent_services.htm).

## LIHEAP CRISIS GRANTS EXTENDED

The Allegheny County Department of Human Services announces that Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) **Crisis Grants** are available for eligible utility customers who have termination notices dated February 1, 2010, or later. Additionally, households that already received a crisis payment for program year 2009-2010 may be eligible to receive a second crisis payment, which must be applied to a second utility vendor and is subject to

the maximum and minimum crisis amounts. In total, the maximum LIHEAP Crisis Grant may not exceed \$400, or be less than \$25. During the cold weather season, LIHEAP Crisis provides assistance to low-income households that are experiencing heating emergencies, such as service terminations, lack of deliverable fuel - heating oil, propane and kerosene - and heating system and fuel line repairs and replacements. The Department of Public Welfare has extended the LIHEAP programs to the tentative closing date of April 2, 2010. For more information about qualifying for crisis grants, call the toll-free 1-800-851-3838 or visit the Utility Assistance page on the DHS web site: [www.allegheycounty.us/dhs/utility.aspx](http://www.allegheycounty.us/dhs/utility.aspx).

## OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS FLEA MARKET

Our Lady of the Angels Community Flea Market will be held on Saturday, March 6, 2010 at St. Augustine Social Hall, 204 37th Street in Lawrenceville from 8am-2pm and from 5-7pm. Limited table space is still available! To reserve a table or for more info contact Jennifer Kiley at 412-327-7848 or via email at [jenkiley@yahoo.com](mailto:jenkiley@yahoo.com).

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Stop by after the parade for authentically prepared **Irish dinners** (corned beef and cabbage or Guinness stew), games for all ages, raffles, and a bake sale. The event will be held Saturday, March 13, from 3 to 8 p.m., at Holy Family Social Hall, 250 44th Street, Lawrenceville. Adult meals are \$8, kids 5-12 years are \$5, and kids under 5 eat for free. All entrees will include fresh baked Irish soda bread, salad, and a soft drink or coffee. Irish novelties will also be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit St. John Neumann Regional School. For more info, visit [www.sjnpgh.org](http://www.sjnpgh.org). Also, the school is hosting a Super Bingo on Sunday, April 18, at St. Mary's Lyceum, 333 45th Street. Early birds start at noon; regular games at 1 p.m. Admission: \$25 for nine cards, 16 regular games, and 4 specials. There will be raffle baskets, instant bingo, 50/50, and a bake sale. Free coffee and tea; lunch available for purchase. Call 412-682-5096 for info on prizes and payouts.

# THE BULLETIN BOARD

## F'SHIP HOUSE TOUR LOOKING FOR HOUSES

The planning for the 17th Annual **Friendship House Tour** is underway, and the House Tour Committee needs your house! Do you have a room you've worked very hard remodeling, a unique secret about your house, a famous previous owner, funky architecture or a stained glass window with a story, or are you just itching to show off your house? Then your house is what the House Tour Committee needs! If you are interested in placing your home on tour, please contact Sarah DiLeo at [sarah@friendship-pgh.org](mailto:sarah@friendship-pgh.org) or 412-441-6147 x 7.

## GLASS LOFTS UPDATE

The Glass Lofts, a mixed-use development featuring 18 for-sale lofts as well as restaurant space, artist studios, and office space, recently launched a website and a Facebook page. Located in the heart of the Penn Avenue Arts District, the Glass Lofts feature one- and two-story lofts range in size from 845 to 1,873 square feet and affordable financing is available for qualified buyers. Situated in a KOZ zones, buyers of the lofts pay no local or state income or property taxes

through 2017! This "green" development, with modern architecture by award-winning architect Arthur Lubetz, features high-efficiency heating and cooling and environmentally low-impact materials. Amenities include concrete flooring, retractable glass garage doors, and open floor plans. If you're interested in a loft, call 412-441-6147 x 4. Learn more about the project at [www.glassloftspittsburgh.com](http://www.glassloftspittsburgh.com) and become a fan on Facebook.

## L'VILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY LECTURE

On March 18, the Lawrenceville Historical Society presents "**The Paris of Appalachia: Pittsburgh in the Twenty-first Century.**" Brian O'Neill reflects on two decades of work at the *Pittsburgh Press* and the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. O'Neill also takes a hard-hitting look at the ideals we all love about the city, while shedding light on many of the challenges we face ahead. The free lecture takes place at Canterbury Place, McVay Auditorium (1st floor), 310 Fisk Street, Lawrenceville, starting at 7 p.m. For more information e-mail us at [info@LHS15201.org](mailto:info@LHS15201.org).

## SUPPORT WOMEN ARTISTS NOW!

"A Celebration of Pittsburgh's Women Artists," hosted by No Name Players, will feature music, dance, fashion, poetry, short plays, film, and visual art from women artists throughout the Pittsburgh area. This is No Name Players' 2nd annual event **celebrating women artists in Pittsburgh**. The event coincides with SWAN (Support Women Artists Now) Day, an international holiday that honors women artists.

As WomenArts.org explains, "By focusing attention on the work of women artists, SWAN Day helps people imagine what the world might be like if women's art and perspectives were fully integrated into all of our lives. The long-term goal of SWAN Day is to inspire communities around the world to find new ways to recognize and support women artists as a basic element of civic planning."

Last year, there were 170 SWAN Day events across 12 countries; No Name Players is proud to say that ours was the first SWAN Day event to be produced in Pittsburgh. We vowed to produce a SWAN Day event every year...so here we are again!

Contributing artists for this year's event will include Becky Thurner Braddock, Cheryl Capezzuti, Gab Cody, Christiane D, Lindsay Delesandro, EMay, Carolyn Frischling, Maggie Glover, Tressa Glover, Lisa Ann Goldsmith, Melissa Hill Grande, Linda Haston, iroNiece designs by Kari Kramer, Jennifer Luebbers, Paula Martinac, Molly Prosser, Tammy Ryan, Jaime Slavinsky, Michelle Stoner, Addi Twigg, Umoja African Arts Company, Verna Vaughn, Arlene Weiner, Marci Woodruff, and Lauren Zurchin, among others.

The celebration takes place on March 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Grey Box Theatre, 3595 Butler Street, in Lawrenceville. Tickets are \$20 cash at the door. Dessert will be served at intermission. All proceeds go to our "SWAN Day Fund," allowing us to produce this every year. Parking is in Our Lady of Angels parking lot, across Butler Street on 36th Street, from 5 to 11 p.m. Reservations can be made at [www.nonameplayers.org](http://www.nonameplayers.org). This event is recommended for high school ages and older.

## POOL, from page 5

interests.

Discussions thus far have included the possibility that the pool might ultimately become a full-time swimming facility again, but be used for other purposes (and to generate funds) in the interim. A similar outcome happened at McCarren Park Pool in Brooklyn, N.Y., the precedent for Accordion Pool Party. McCarren was used as an avant garde performance space for four years, and reverted to its original use as a public pool in 2009.

Another important idea emerging is that even if it's used as a pool again (and that is a big if at this point), the facility should be usable year round. That may mean an outdoor pool in summer and alternate uses during the other months; or perhaps a covered, heated pool usable for swimming year round. Also, if the pool becomes a swimming facility again, it should implement sustainable/green technologies like geothermal heating, if possible.

When the program for Leslie Pool is finally determined based on community input, with the support of the

city, CitiParks and state representatives, the Steering Committee will prepare two or three proposals with budgets and implementation schedules for consideration as viable project plans.

A new multi-use community center may end up as a non-profit that is run under the umbrella of CitiParks. At this point there are certainly more questions than answers, but the Steering Committee is committed to seeing this project successfully launched, even though it will take a few years. The project continues to have wonderful support from city officials, Senator Ferlo's office, and the Lawrenceville community.

We'll keep you involved as the process moves forward. A veritable avalanche of new information has been added to the project's Facebook page, and all are invited to join and take a look at [www.accordionpoolparty.org](http://www.accordionpoolparty.org). Please contribute comments and ideas, too, so the project evolves and takes shape. And contact Project Administrator Jennifer Kiley at 412-327-7848 if you have any questions.

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### Family Fun: Welcome to the Neighborhood

For all ages. Saturday, March 20, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

### Cartoonist, Rob Rogers

All ages. Saturday, March 6, 1-2:30 p.m. Buy a copy of *No Cartoon Left Behind* and 25% will

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### **East Liberty Branch Events @ Borders EastSide**

#### Storytime

Ages 3 to 5. Wednesdays, March 3, 17, 10:30 a.m.

#### Family Fun: Super Science

For ages 5-10. Saturday, March 20, 2 p.m.

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### HEALTH, from page 1

poster contest in the "Kids Say Don't Smoke" program, with the winner receiving \$25. And fourth graders, who may already be experiencing violence in their lives and neighborhoods, can take part in Peacekeepers, which looks at the problem of gun violence.

In the "Fitwits" program - which Dr. McGaffey of the UPMC St. Margaret Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health Center calls "among the best innovations the Partnership has been able to host" - fifth graders learn about obesity, obesity-related health problems, food selection and portions, and exercise. In another fifth grade offering, students get to raise their questions on puberty and sexuality (parents can opt out of it for their children, if they wish). "Kids can ask anything anonymously," according to Dr. McGaffey. "We get sophisticated questions like 'How do you get AIDS?' and 'Can you be allergic to condoms?'"

Such varied and extensive programming complements the work of local schools to afford children safe, healthy, productive lives. According to PPS Superintendent Mark Roosevelt, who kicked off the Partnership's 20th anniversary bash at the Board of

Education in Oakland, the Partnership provides "a systemic way to approach children's health....[PPS] will get better every year, but we can't do it all."

Also speaking at the birthday party was Dr. Gayle Griffin, who is now the Associate Superintendent of Newark Public Schools, but was principal of Pittsburgh Ft. Pitt from 1989 to 2000. Dr. Green noted that "in those days, schools didn't have full-time nurses. On days when the nurse wasn't there, I was the nurse" to about 800 students. To insure that someone on staff would know how to handle medical emergencies, she had to take first aid and CPR classes at a local hospital. The Partnership filled a gap, she said, by addressing the fact that "children bring their whole selves to school, physical and emotional."

Verna Arnold, principal of Pittsburgh Ft. Pitt ALA, compared the hard-working, never-ceasing Partnership to the Energizer bunny - it just doesn't quit. "The work the Partnership has done," she said, "has been monumental in the lives of children."

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