

the Bulletin

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ABOVE: The monthly Garfield Night Market hums with activity. The next market will be held on Oct. 4 from 6 to 10 p.m. in the block of North Pacific Avenue between Penn Avenue and Dearborn Street. Photo by John Colombo Photography

Garage Construction Raises Concerns

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Bloomfield – Following years of planning and community meetings, the construction of a new parking garage for UPMC Shadyside commenced in late July. By early August, however, a

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PA Attorney General to Keynote Luncheon

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Garfield – The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation will welcome Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen Kane as the keynote speaker at its annual luncheon, “Paving the Way,” on Nov. 22 at

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New Program To “Rally” Around Schools

By Dave Breingan *Lawrenceville United*

Lawrenceville – Schools are a critical factor in where families choose to live and how the next generation of citizens develops, which is why the entire community is invested in the strength of

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Penn Avenue Reconstruction Kicks Off

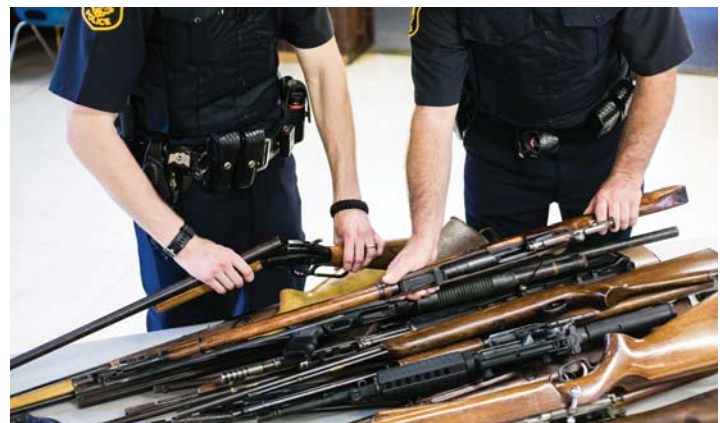
By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Bloomfield/Garfield – Everyone took heed of the big orange traffic advisory signs: “Penn Avenue Road Work Begins 8-19-13.” But by early September, when cars were still driving along Penn in both directions, some people may have started to wonder if Phase 1 of the reconstruction of the corridor might be a hoax. In fact, the first stage of reconstruction *has* begun – but most of it has been underground or at night.

Brian Krul, project manager for L.R. Kimball, the engineering and design company overseeing the reconstruction, said that the initial work consisted of marking and verifying the depths of the utility lines – the “spaghetti under the road,” as he phrased it. Next came the drainage work, which began in mid-month, with nighttime restrictions on traffic.

After the drainage work is completed, “things will pick up like that,” Krul said, snapping his fingers. The long-anticipated detour will go into effect within a few

See **Penn Avenue** | **page 11**



ABOVE: 135 guns were exchanged for VISA gift cards at the Gun Buyback on Sept. 21. Read the complete story on page 2. Photo by John Colombo Photography

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NEWSBRIEFS

Demolition Underway at 5200 Penn



Penn Avenue – The developer for Bottom Dollar grocery began the demolition of the building at 5200 Penn Ave. in early September, beginning with the old roof. The work is in preparation for construction of a new 18,000-square-foot supermarket. At press time, a meeting with nearby neighbors to discuss ways to minimize the effects of demolition and construction on the surrounding community had not yet been held. With all permits in place for construction, the store is on schedule for opening in early 2014, weather permitting. *Photo by Paula Martinac*

Expo Pittsburgh Offers Free Diabetes Education

Pittsburgh – Nearly 26 million people in the United States have diabetes and another 79 million have prediabetes or are at risk of developing the disease. Recent estimates predict that as many as one in three American adults will have diabetes by 2050. But while the statistics are staggering, there is some hope.

“Knowledge is power,” explained Patricia Bononi, MD, medical director of the Joslin Diabetes Center of Allegheny Health Network. “When people know about the resources available to them to manage their diabetes or have access to programs to help prevent diabetes, it empowers them.”

This is the goal of the American Diabetes Association Expo Pittsburgh, now in its 13th year. This free event, which will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 9 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh, offers health screenings, cooking demonstrations and product and service exhibitors showcasing the latest innovations in diabetes management and prevention. Leading experts will talk about the latest issues in diabetes care, including how to deal with complications of the disease, how to raise a healthy family and ways to live a healthier lifestyle with the goal of managing or preventing the disease.

“The cooking demonstrations are always a hit, and we’re also offering free health screenings to help people determine if they are already at risk of developing the disease,” said Terri Seidman, associate director, American Diabetes Association. Screenings include foot, eye, cholesterol, blood pressure, BMI and A1C (estimated average blood glucose) testing as well as a diabetes risk assessment.

Parking for Expo Pittsburgh is available at the Convention Center and there is also a bus stop nearby. For more information and to pre-register for the event, visit www.diabetes.org/expopittsburgh or call 1-888-DIABETES x 4608. Walk-ins are also welcome and can register on-site. – *from a press release*

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

Gun Buyback a Success

Garfield – The Gun Buyback held on Sept. 21 at the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center took in 135 guns, including nine automatic weapons and four loaded guns. At least six weapons had had their serial numbers removed, indicating they were stolen property.

A line of gun owners snaked through the building, patiently waiting to trade in handguns or shotguns and rifles for VISA gift cards, in amounts of \$100 or \$250, respectively. Many people brought more than one weapon. The buyback was completely anonymous, with police firearms specialists on hand to collect and handle the guns but ask no questions. No names or addresses were taken. At the end of the day, the officers removed all the guns from the premises; they will be melted down, not reused or sold.

“Oh, I feel a hundred times lighter,” one woman reportedly told a volunteer as she exited the building.

With a little more than \$13,100 raised from the Pittsburgh Foundation’s William Hodge Burchfield and Thomas Howell Burchfield Fund, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, PNC Bank, and grassroots donations, the buyback ran out of funds around 3:30 p.m. Some latecomers turned in their guns anyway, even without receiving compensation, said Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, a co-sponsor of the event.

The other co-sponsors of the buyback were Lawrenceville United, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, City Councilman Ricky Burgess, and State Representatives Dom Costa, Edward Gainey, and Adam Ravenstahl.

Toward the end of the day, one young man brought six guns in his car, reported Brose, but he asked the police to carry them into the community center because “he didn’t want to touch them.” He explained that his brother had been killed by gunfire, and that the weapons had been at his mother’s house. “He said he just wanted them out of the house.” – *Paula Martinac, The Bulletin*

Food Stamps Now Worth More at Farmers Market

Strip District – Farmers at the Firehouse Market, which features organic and certified natural foods, has launched an incentive program for shoppers paying with SNAP benefits, formerly called food stamps. This program, the first of its kind in Pittsburgh, provides \$3 in bonus tokens for every \$5 a shopper spends using an EBT card, the debit-style card on which SNAP benefits are issued.

The market began accepting SNAP last summer utilizing a token system, in which anyone paying with EBT or commercial credit/debit cards can use their card to purchase wooden tokens, which are then exchanged with individual vendors like cash.

Farmers at the Firehouse Market is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday, and is located at 2216 Penn Ave. The market season runs through November 23rd. Looking forward, the market is hoping to secure grant funding to continue the SNAP incentive program in the upcoming years.

For more information, contact Emily Schmidlapp, market manager, at firehousefarmers@gmail.com or 412-445-5627. – *from a press release*

Rupert Receives EMS Award

Bloomfield – Duke Rupert, President and CEO of West Penn Hospital, received the 2013 EMS Champion Award from the Allegheny County Emergency Medical Services (ACEMS) Council. According to the ACEMS, Rupert was chosen for his dedication to emergency medical services. He is the first CEO to be awarded the EMS Champion Award. Rupert regularly attends EMS events and has participated in EMS ride-alongs to experience the challenges workers face in the field.

“If you talk to the EMS providers who frequent West Penn, ... you’ll find that they greatly appreciate having someone in such a position take time to understand EMS and make sure that the hospital is meeting their needs in every way,” said paramedic and Allegheny General Hospital (AGH) Outreach Development Coordinator Eric Schmidt.

Rupert has been President and CEO since 2011. Congratulations are in order for this honor. – *from a press release*

Foster Care Leaders Join Forces

By Wesley Davis

Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center

Bloomfield – On Sept. 11 at 8 a.m., members of various foster-care-related organizations in Pittsburgh gathered in the Wintergarden Room of West Penn Hospital to discuss programs aimed at helping youths in foster care succeed in school and in the workplace. The meeting was hosted by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Neighborhood Learning Alliance and the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center.

Erin Heryford of the BGC explained the benefits of enrolling youths in the BGC's after-school academic programs, housed in several of the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Carena Phillips of the BGC detailed how the Out of School Youth Employment Program is "designed to help youths to develop skills not just for a job but for a career." She went on to highlight the "national credential in customer service" that Employment Program graduates receive.

The ENEC's Usama Al-Teraifi encouraged foster care leaders to urge their youths aged 18 and older to attend the ENEC's UPMC POWRR workshops, held regularly on Thursday mornings. The

workshops offer a time to learn about UPMC's expectations, improve one's application and understand the openings currently offered, Al-Teraifi said, adding that "if you attend two workshops you get a leg up in the application process."

Al-Teraifi also highlighted the ENEC's regular job recruitment events and the individual counseling focused on resume building, career counseling and computer skills training. Rick Flanagan of the BGC added that the Out of School Employment Program and the ENEC's general services help youths learn, "All those little tricks of the trade, young people need to know those to move up the ladder."

Rachel Zadnik from the Neighborhood Learning Alliance discussed NLA's ongoing "Everybody Graduates" campaign, which, she said, aims to educate community members on high school graduation requirements and encourages them to mentor local students to stay in school. She also detailed the NLA's new initiative, "Operation 9th Grade," which, according to Zadnik, aims to get 9th graders "to 10th grade, [Pittsburgh] Promise-ready."

See **Foster Care** | page 12

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To find out more about the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, visit us at www.bloomfield-garfield.org, or call 412-441-6950.

the Bulletin

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

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Garage from page 1



BELOW: Construction of a new UPMC Shadyside garage in Bloomfield began in late July and will continue through the fall of 2014. Photo by Rick Swartz

few nearby neighbors had begun raising questions about the execution of the project.

Nazmy Phillips, a resident of Cypress Street with a yard that backs up to the construction site, contacted *The Bulletin* with concerns about the clearing of the site. "They demolished a lot of mature trees," he told *The Bulletin*. "The trees hold the hill. Before, you couldn't see the track [of the Martin Luther King Busway]. Now you can see it clearly."

Phillips expressed his concern that the removal of so much vegetation could destabilize the hillside and affect his and five other properties on Cypress.

Mike Chiappetta, Senior Project Manager for Corporate Construction for UPMC, told *The Bulletin* that the clearing of the trees is "consistent with the plans" presented to the community. "We took down what was necessary," he explained, including a lot of what might be called "weed trees." And, despite significant heavy rainfall in August, Chiappetta said that "no significant erosion" has been recorded.

Residents also questioned whether the contractor had removed vegetation from city or private land, but Chiappetta maintained that only UPMC property had been cleared. The first step in the project, he said, was to have a surveyor verify the property lines.

He stressed that the project is in the very beginning stages, and that no further clearing of existing vegetation is expected. He also noted that a significant amount of vegetation will be replanted – but not until fall 2014.

Although Chiappetta declined to share


exact landscaping renderings with the public at this time, he did discuss the plans in general terms with *The Bulletin*. Replanting will include staggered trees along Cypress – instead of the "wall of trees" originally planned. The types of trees to be used include maples and evergreen, he said, but they have not been finalized. These trees will shield residents from the glare of headlights from the garage, which was a concern neighbors raised in the community meetings.

"They won't be saplings," Chiappetta said when asked about the size of the new trees. City guidelines stipulate trees should be at least 6 feet tall with trunks of 2 to 3 inches in diameter. "They will have aged several years."

The current deep slopes of the site will be filled in to make them "gently rolling," according to Pete Bianco, who provides civil support for Mosites, the contractor on the project. In addition, the "ugly driveway" that leads from Lima Way down to the site will be replaced with a filled-in sloping hillside, Bianco pointed out. Chiappetta added that decorative grasses will be planted on the hillsides, which will help prevent erosion.

According to Chiappetta, the rule of thumb for the parking garage project is "No material leaves the site." That means any soil excavated in the early stages will be used to fill in the slopes at a later date. Prior to planting next fall, the site will be covered in 6 inches of new topsoil, according to Bianco.

"A little more than a year from now," Chiappetta said, "the residents will be pleased." ♦



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Attorney General from page 1



ABOVE: PA Attorney General Kathleen Kane is a veteran prosecutor who has worked on programs to improve local communities.

the Pittsburgh Athletic Association, 4215 Fifth Ave., in Oakland.

Attorney General Kane is a veteran prosecutor with experience from the crime scene to the courtroom. As an Assistant District Attorney for Lackawanna County in the eastern part of Pennsylvania, she worked on cases involving child abuse, prosecuting white-collar criminals and protecting senior citizens, among other areas of the law. In addition, she has contributed to law enforcement programs aimed at improving local communities.

"We're elated that Attorney General Kane has agreed to speak at our luncheon," said Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC. "She's a strong elected official who really stands behind her beliefs. She's our kind of gal."

The attorney general will be introduced by State Sen. Jim Ferlo. "Attorney General Kane has been travelling throughout the state working with local law enforcement and community groups in crime-fighting efforts where drugs have disrupted too many neighborhoods and diminished our quality of life," Sen. Ferlo said. "She believes strongly in building alliances with residents and local officials in order to be effective."

Following her speech, she will take questions from the luncheon guests.

The theme of this year's luncheon highlights the many changes happening along the Penn Avenue business corridor, which complement major improvements in housing and public safety in the neighboring community. In August, the \$5 million construction of Penn Avenue kicked off, launching an overhaul of the road and sidewalks, lights, traffic signals, signage and streetscaping. Phase 1 encom-

passes Mathilda to Evaline Streets, and Phase 2 will extend the reconstruction down to Aiken Avenue. (See related story, page 1.)

In September, the developer for Bottom Dollar began demolishing the building at 5200 Penn Ave., which most recently housed Schaedler Yesco Distribution Inc., in preparation for construction of a new grocery store – the first on the avenue in 26 years. In addition, the Garfield Night Market – an incubator for neighborhood entrepreneurs – launched in August, receiving accolades in the local press and welcoming hundreds of visitors.

At the Nov. 22 luncheon, a key player in the changing landscape of Penn Avenue will receive an award. Patrick Hassett, assistant director of the Bureau of Transportation and Engineering of the city's Department of Public Works, will receive the Public Service Award in recognition of his years-long commitment to the Penn Avenue reconstruction project.

In addition, two individuals who play an active role in working with young people in the neighborhood have been nominated for Pioneer Awards: Jason Sauer of Most Wanted Fine Art and Tony Walls of Garfield Youth Sports.

KQV newscaster P.J. Maloney will emcee the event, which includes a three-course luncheon.

Individual tickets cost \$70 for regular admission and \$40 for BGC members. Sponsorships are available at several levels, and include tickets to the event. Sponsors will also enjoy a private reception at 11:30 a.m. with Attorney General Kane; the luncheon follows from 12 to 2 p.m. For more information about the luncheon, contact Aggie Brose at 412-441-6950 x15 or aggie@bloomfield-garfield.org. ♦



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EYESORE OF THE MONTH

Tree Invasion

by Aggie Brose Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield – The eyesore of the month is at 5466 Broad St. According to the Allegheny County Real Estate website, the owner of record is Betty Dorsey, who acquired the property in July, 1998. The tax bill mailing address is the same address, and the property is heavily tax delinquent.

When the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) staff visited the property, they found it had many code violations and is also being invaded by two trees. The trunk of the City-owned tree at the curb has completely lifted the sidewalk. Its branches arch across Broad Street and threaten power lines; they also dwarf 5466 Broad St. The second tree sits between 5466 and 5464 Broad St. – its branches are actually lying on the porch roof of 5466, with shoots and weeds growing out of the gutter.

Overgrown weeds and debris cover the front yard. The gutters are falling off and the backyard is also overrun with weeds and trash. Neighbors told the BGC staff that people still occasionally visit the



ABOVE: Two trees are swallowing up this neglected house. Photo by Paula Martinac

property, but said they were under the impression the water had been turned off. BGC contacted the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) and was informed that there are no citations for code violations on file for this property.

BGC will be registering complaints with the BBI and Department of Health. BGC staff was unable to locate the owner. If anyone knows her whereabouts, please contact the BGC office at 412-441-6950 x 15.

Three Arrested in Raid at Suspected Drug House

By Joe Reuben

The Bulletin

Garfield – The 5400 block of Broad Street between N. Aiken and N. Graham Streets in Garfield has been the scene of some serious criminal activity in recent years, including a homicide in September of 2012. Several community groups have tried a number of strategies and tactics to help residents feel safer about their street, most to little or no avail.

But on Sept. 11, a random trip by a Zone 5 police lieutenant past the premises of a house at 5416 Broad Street led to the arrests of three actors, two of whom were reportedly found to be in possession of heroin and a third reportedly in possession of a stolen handgun. Arrested was Timothy D. Hudson, who was taken into custody as officers saw him leaving the Broad Street residence. The police report states Hudson had heroin in his possession.

Inside the premises, officers say they encountered Sheldon Hawkins, who officers state was also found to be in possession of heroin, along with some prescription drug medications.

A third individual, Brandon Cunningham, was arrested on Broad Street near N. Aiken and allegedly had a stolen handgun in his possession. Cunningham was arrested as police units were pulling on to Broad Street to execute a search warrant at 5416, according to Commander Tim O'Connor of Zone 5.

The house in question is owned by Shelly A. Hawkins, who public records confirm purchased the property in 1997 from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) for \$88,900. It is believed by authorities that Hawkins still resides at the premises.

Commander O'Connor told *The Bulletin* that efforts by his lieutenants to speak with Hawkins about the suspicious activity neighbors have said is occurring on the porch of her house have led



ABOVE: Drug arrests were made at 5416 Broad St. and nearby. Photo by Joe Reuben

nowhere. The commander said he has spoken directly to Hawkins' son on several occasions about the issue.

"This is a shame because heroin trafficking, if that's actually what is going on at her home, exposes neighbors and passersby to serious danger," Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, said. "The arrest of the one man with a gun reportedly in his possession is very revealing of the type of actor alleged to be hanging around the Hawkins' residence over the past year or two."

Another property owner in the block, Mizanoor Biswas, said he is hopeful that over time, concerted action by law enforcement officials will make the street safer and open it up to more investment. "You see houses sitting vacant on a street like this so close to Penn Avenue, and you have to wonder what is wrong. There is a lot of activity that still has to be cleaned up before things can return to normal," he commented.

As *The Bulletin* went to press, all three suspects were scheduled for preliminary hearings at city court. Brose said the BGC will be following the disposition of their cases. ♦

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Board Members Get on the Bus

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Garfield – Members of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation board of directors got an up-close picture of the eastern end of Garfield during an Aug. 29 bus tour with BGC Executive Director Rick Swartz and Deputy Director Aggie Brose.

Why take a tour of a neighborhood where many board members actually live? And why is this news for the community? Board President Bill Cornell explained that the idea for the tour came up in a Housing and Land Use committee meeting. "We've been looking at proposals for different parts of the eastern part of Garfield," he told *The Bulletin*, "like for Kite Hill Park and the [former] Rogers School. I wasn't sure people on the board had laid eyes on them." The eastern area of Garfield is bounded by N. Atlantic Avenue, Wicklow and Black Streets, N. Negley Avenue and Penn Avenue.

Cornell lives on Penn Avenue and said that he has walked and driven extensively throughout Garfield. The tour, he said, gave him a more complete picture of the fabric of the community: "Rick and Aggie know the people who live in specific houses, so we got a more detailed picture."

Board member Vera England, who lives on North Evaline Street, said that she and her husband "make a point of walking around" the neighborhood. On the tour, though, the commentary by the staff gave her more perspective on how things have changed through the years. "The BGC is such a resource in terms of neighborhood history," she remarked.

Board treasurer Catherine Curry owns a home on North Millvale Avenue near

Penn and told *The Bulletin* that she has "grown accustomed to the lower end of the neighborhood." She said she was "amazed" by the deterioration of the eastern part of Garfield and how much needs to be done. Jeanette Coleman, a BGC board member who lives on North Winebiddle Street, agreed.

"I felt a bit overwhelmed by the deterioration and the amount of services that will be needed to improve it," Coleman said of the eastern half of the neighborhood. She told *The Bulletin* she has lived in Garfield for more than 15 years and wanted to go on the tour to see if there was any progress in the other half of the neighborhood. On the tour, Coleman said she saw many people she knows sitting in front of their dilapidated houses, which saddened her.

Curry applauded the BGC staff for the work they have done revitalizing the western side of Garfield. "They've made great strides to make the neighborhood more livable, and it shows," Curry said. "Hearing about what they hope to see happen in the eastern part gave me hope. It's going to improve."

Cornell also said he is struck by how much needs to be accomplished in the eastern end of Garfield. "One family is maintaining their house, but the house next to it is abandoned," he noted. "That has an impact on the whole neighborhood."

"I don't want the eastern end to keep decaying," England said, "but I'm not looking to gentrify." As an architect, she said the projects that are foremost in her

mind are the dilapidated houses on Brown Way and the potential reuse of the vacant Rogers School.

Cornell said he is intrigued by the possibilities of Kite Hill Park, which he was "never able to conjure up a picture of" before the tour. He also remarked on the "stunning views of the city" from the top of the neighborhood.

Swartz and Brose will be holding similar tours for the rest of the board soon, and also for new board members who will be elected later this month. "It's a really valuable experience," England noted. ♦



ABOVE: Kite Hill Park sits near the top of Garfield on Rosetta Street. Photo by Kathryn Vargas

Day of Giving Takes Place on Oct. 3

Garfield – If you knew your gift would be matched, would you make a donation to the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation?

This year, the BGC will participate for the first time in the **Day of Giving**, an annual event that offers local nonprofits the chance to get their donations matched. The Day of Giving takes place this fall on **October 3, 2013**.

On that day and that day only, an online donation of \$25 to \$1,000 to the BGC, made through the PittsburghGives.org website, will be matched by the Pittsburgh Foundation, upping its value to the BGC's programs and services.

With the match, for example, a gift of \$250 will pay for one laptop for the BGC's free computer lab at 5321 Penn Ave. By giving \$100, a donor would be underwriting the plants for a neighborhood beautification project. A gift of \$50, when matched, will cover the cost of supplies for one neighborhood clean-up, and \$25 will keep one of the BGC's afterschool students in healthy snacks. A higher-end donation of \$1,000 would pay for the printing of one issue of *The Bulletin*.

To participate in the Day of Giving on Oct. 3, go to PittsburghGives.org and choose **Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation**. Donors will immediately be enrolled as BGC members. — Paula Martinac, *The Bulletin*

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Neighborhood FOCUS

Visualizing a Forgotten Past

Author Publishes Photographic Record of the Homes of Pittsburgh's Industrial Tycoons

By Kristin Douty *The Bulletin*

East End – Lifelong city resident and historian Melanie Linn Gutowski recently released a new book in Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series, called *Pittsburgh's Mansions*. The book of photographs and descriptive captions profiles the mansions of wealthy entrepreneurs, many of which used to stand along Penn Avenue.

Gutowski was raised in Stanton Heights, and developed an interest in mansions as a child, when she participated in a nonprofit arts program at Baywood, the former Alexander King estate on Elgin Street in Highland Park. The Italianate manor was restored in 1994 and is still standing.

Few estates in the East End shared the same fate. "Many of the biggest and most impressive mansions lived very short lives," Gutowski reports. Industrial tycoons



ABOVE: Baywood, the former Alexander King estate, is still standing in Highland Park. Photo by Paula Martinac

"Many of the biggest and most impressive mansions lived very short lives."

built colossal homes along Fifth and Penn Avenues, but the industrial interests of the owners and their places of residence changed with the economy. The wealthy owners moved elsewhere and left their mansions in the care of the city of Pittsburgh. During the Great Depression, the funds for restoration ran dry and led to the demolition of every mansion along Penn Avenue between Fifth Avenue and Braddock.

The end of World War II was also partly responsible for the demolition. Soldiers returned to Pittsburgh and settled with families in new homes in the East End where mansions once stood. "The city had many other responsibilities. Maintaining huge houses was not practical," Gutowski notes.

Among the mansions profiled in Gutowski's book are several in the neighborhoods covered by *The Bulletin*. In Stanton Heights, for example, the Picnic House was built in the mid-1800s as one of the first Pittsburgh mansions. The owner was William Croghan, the wealthy father of Schenley Park's namesake and Pittsburgh heiress Mary Croghan Schenley. After she spontaneously eloped at the age of 16 with a much-older Capt. William Schenley, a scandal ensued and the couple fled to Europe.

Croghan expanded the mansion to 29 rooms in an attempt to persuade his daughter to return to Pittsburgh. After his death in 1850, Mary Schenley inherited the property, which was converted into the Stanton Heights Golf Course. The property was demolished in the 1950s and is currently farmland, but the prized

Continued on next page



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A Forgotten Past continued

Croghan-Schenley Ballroom furniture and decorations can now be seen at the University of Pittsburgh and the Carnegie Museum of Art.

Another Pittsburgh mansion was the Guffey House on Liberty and Atlantic Avenues, an intersection that joins present-day Bloomfield, Friendship and Shady-side. The home once belonged to the oil industry magnate Wesley S. Guffey until it was torn down for the construction of car dealerships. One block from the Guffey House was Capt. Alfred Hicks' House on Baum Boulevard and Graham Street. Hicks was a Civil War veteran and a witness to Abraham Lincoln's assassination at Ford's Theatre. The house no longer stands.

Gutowski says she believes that education plays a critical role in preserving Pittsburgh's past. Educating the public fosters an appreciation of architecture and encourages participation in community decisions. Participation in turn cultivates a positive image and pride in the local neighborhoods to ensure their survival. Residents can actively participate with local preservation-minded organizations, including the Frick Arts and Historical Center and the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, and with community development groups such as East Liberty Development, Inc. and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation.

"Educating people is at least 60 percent of the effort to restore communities," Gutowski says, "to let people know why these places are there and why they are special." ♦

"Pittsburgh's Mansions" is available at bookstores and on the author's website: missmellie.com.

TOP RIGHT: Wesley S. Guffey estate, Friendship. Photo courtesy Melanie Linn Gutowski

BOTTOM RIGHT: "Picnic House," William Croghan estate, Stanton Heights. Photo courtesy Melanie Linn Gutowski



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- Work to keep our district a great place to raise a family by supporting community schools, parks, and training programs that will prepare our children to take the high-paying jobs of the future;
- Be a thoughtful leader for our neighborhoods, and work with our elected officials to deliver the resources our communities deserve.

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on November 5th!**

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Call to Action on Fort Pitt and Rogers Schools

By Rick Swartz

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield – About 50 Garfield residents gathered on Sept. 16 at Valley View Presbyterian Church on Black Street to deplore the loss of two public schools in the community over the past four years, and to hear a call for action in figuring out what to do next with the buildings.

Rev. Chad Collins, Valley View's minister, told the crowd the closings of Rogers Middle School for the Creative & Performing Arts in 2009 and Ft. Pitt Elementary in 2012 have created a sense of loss for many. But rather than sit back and let others determine the fate of the properties, Collins said, "The time has come for all of us to determine what the best use is for these valuable, important assets, and then set about the task of finding the resources to realize those goals.

"It's not going to happen quickly or easily, but it can be done," Collins told the audience. "We don't want to wait for someone else to step in and seize the opportunity. We need a process that happens from the bottom up, and not from the top down."

Collins pointed to the work done by several dozen volunteers in making the Garfield Gators youth football teams one of the premier programs in the city. "They're in the house with us tonight, as are representatives from several community organizations that have also been steadfastly working to rebuild the neighborhood."

Dana Martin, a Garfield resident, echoed Collins' sentiments, and said the community needs "a vision that extends



ABOVE: Rogers Middle School on Columbo Street closed in 2009. Photo by Paula Martinac

to the education, recreation, and housing needs of its residents." She said she has become a member of Action United, a local advocacy organization, and that it is ready to engage residents at a "grassroots" level in shaping life in the community. Martin handed out survey forms and asked those in attendance to share their preferences for what they thought should be done with the shuttered facilities.

The audience also was briefed on the 6% Place Project, an initiative that the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation launched with the help of a nonprofit consulting firm, cityLAB, to attract more "creative types" to the neighborhood. Sara Blumenstein, a cityLAB employee, said, "Research has shown that when 6% or

more of a neighborhood's population consists of people engaged in a variety of crafts, trades and other artistic endeavors, it generally portends well for the future of that community."

The 6% Place Project recently launched the Garfield Night Market on the first Fridays of each month in the 100 block of N. Pacific Avenue. It has listed a new hilltop park in Garfield as one of a number of key objectives that could induce more people to move to the neighborhood. ♦

To contact Rev. Collins about joining a planning team, email cdcollins2124@gmail.com.

BELOW: Fort Pitt Elementary School on Hillcrest Street has been vacant since 2012. Photo by Paula Martinac



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Penn Avenue from page 1

weeks, with traffic inbound to downtown traveling along Penn Avenue, and outbound traffic rerouted to Liberty Avenue to Baum to Negley and then back onto Penn.

The north side of Penn will undergo work first, starting at Mathilda Street. Krul said there will be signs posted giving two weeks' advance warning about the actual closure of lanes.

Business owners on the stretch of Penn Avenue from Mathilda to Evaline – the scope of Phase 1 – who want to stay current on how the reconstruction project affects them can receive monthly updates on the first Thursday of each month at 8 a.m. at the BGC Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave. (Note, however, that the October meeting will be held on the second Thursday, Oct. 10.)

Also, for information about work that is proceeding in front of a specific residence or business, people can contact the contractor's inspection/field manager, Aaron Pickering, at 412-292-7265. Pickering is the official liaison between the contractor and property owners as work moves forward.

In related news, Phase 2 of the Penn Avenue reconstruction project is inching

ahead, with construction still several years off. The project has gotten a green light from the City, according to Matt Barron, policy director for Councilman Bill Peduto.

Phase 2 will extend from Evaline to Aiken – or possibly Graham, depending on funding – and will involve the same extensive improvements as Phase 1: new roads and sidewalks, new street lights, signage and traffic signals, and new streetscaping such as benches and tree grates to match those in the initial phase. The Pittsburgh Parking Authority will also install parking kiosks, as it has done in other business corridors around town.

Because the design work completed in Phase 1 is very similar to that of Phase 2, this second phase should move more swiftly, Krul noted.

According to Patrick Hassett, assistant director of the Bureau of Transportation and Engineering of the city's Department of Public Works, Krul will soon be preparing a scope of work and price proposal for Phase 2, which will have to be approved by the City and PennDOT. Krul said he anticipates that the first public meeting for Phase 2 will be held in early spring of 2014. ♦



ABOVE: Penn Avenue team doing pre-construction underground testing near the corner of Evaline Street in mid-September. Photo by Paula Martinac

Lawrenceville Goes LIVE!



Lawrenceville – Lawrenceville United held its first annual fundraiser, LIVE! in Lawrenceville, on Sep. 14, at the recently renovated Teamsters Temple, 4701 Butler St. The event brought together long-time residents and new to celebrate the work of the organization and the Lawrenceville community. The event featured beverages from Engine House 25 Wines, Arsenal Cider House, Roundabout Brewery, Nied's Hotel, Tobacco Beer Outlet, Tender and Gryphon's Tea. Lawrenceville restaurants Salud, Industry Public House, Hambone's, Deli on Butler, Vocelli Pizza and Church Brew Works provided delicious tastings of their menus for guests. Local artists The Darlingtons, DJEvade, Ilya and Fernando Marti entertained the crowd. More than 200 Lawrenceville United supporters came together to enjoy an evening of all things Lawrenceville. Lawrenceville United thanks the patrons, providers, entertainers and especially the Board of Directors for working so hard to make it a night to remember, and hope to see everyone again next year. Photo by Don Orskoskey

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Having served as the vice president of Lawrenceville United and with resident driven organizations like Friends of Arsenal Park and the Lawrenceville Fireworks Committee, Tony has shown his dedication to responsible development and community unification in our neighborhoods. He has consistently displayed the willingness and aptitude to advocate for our residents through creative and innovative grassroots approaches.

CHAMPION FOR TRANSPARENT AND EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT

Tony supports the modernization of technology used in city operations in order to deliver efficient and timely services to all of our residents. He is committed to providing open and transparent representation, and understands the importance of community engagement. As a tireless advocate in our neighborhoods, Tony will strive to ensure that each resident he represents has a voice at the council table.

Tony believes that policy and passion must outweigh politics and he is committed to representing our neighborhoods as an independent, energetic and engaged member of city council.

www.neighborsfortonyceoffe.com  /NeighborsForTonyCoffe  @TonyCoffe

POLICY AND PASSION OVER POLITICS

"Rally" from page 1

its local schools. It's this philosophy that serves as the driving force behind PEP (Parent Engagement Project) Rally, a new initiative created by the East End Partnership and housed at Lawrenceville United, that aims to build community-school collaborations to support neighborhood public schools.

The project focuses on partnerships with Pittsburgh Arsenal Elementary, Arsenal Middle School and Woollair Elementary, which are the feeder schools for Bloomfield, Garfield, Polish Hill and parts of Lawrenceville and Friendship.

As the name suggests, one of the main goals of PEP Rally is to engage current parents to amplify their voice and increase their involvement in these schools. I have been hired as a community organizer to staff the project, and am currently reaching out to families to get feedback about the two Arsenal schools and Woollair and to identify opportunities where residents, school staff, and community groups can work together to ensure that all East End children have access to a great education.

The initiative is additionally interested in looking at broader perceptions of the schools to understand how they can best meet the needs of the community and attract more families. To that end, the project is also seeking input from local families that have chosen magnet, charter, private or parochial schools, as well as from neighbors who may be planning for children or who have children approaching kindergarten.

"We lost a significant population of school-age children over the last 10 years," said Lauren Byrne, Executive Director of Lawrenceville United. "We want to keep and attract families in these neighborhoods, and most importantly, we want them to help the schools meet the needs of these families by getting more families engaged, invested and involved."

Funded by the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, PEP Rally was created in response to research from the East End Partnership's "Catalytic Revitalization Strategies," University Center for Social and Urban Research's "new mover study" of Lawrenceville and PPND-supported quality-of-life surveys that all recognize the potential of community engagement to improve East End feeder schools. The pilot program will work closely with the principals at Arsenal and Woollair, as well as organizations like Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Lawrenceville Corporation, Bloomfield Development Corporation, A+ Schools, UCSUR and others.

"We welcome parent and community involvement and really want their input on how we can get better as a school," said Patti Camper, Principal of Arsenal Middle School. "This is really an exciting opportunity to gain some perspective from all of our stakeholders."

Parents and residents who are interested in getting involved are encouraged to call 412-802-7220 or email Dave@LUnited.org. ♦





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Foster Care from page 3



ABOVE: Community organizations gathered to discuss programs aimed at helping youths in foster care succeed in school and the workforce. Photo by Rick Flanagan

Zadnik encouraged foster care leaders to enroll their students in the NLA's NovaNET credit recovery program. "NovaNET is the only Pittsburgh Public Schools approved credit recovery program," Zadnik said, before offering to help the organizations present create a NovaNET location at their sites.

The United Way of Pittsburgh's Kathryn Vargas detailed her organization's new program, Be There. Vargas said that Be There aims to raise school attendance through positive reinforcement from community members. "School attendance has been an issue for a long time," Vargas noted, explaining how youths in foster care sometimes have a particularly difficult time making it to school every day. "It's about those relationships and those conversations," Vargas said, commenting on the way mentors can encourage

students to attend school regularly.

Representatives from Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Ward Home, Family Links and a number of other organizations attended the meeting. Christina Price of Gwen's Girls, an organization that aims to improve the lives of young women in Pittsburgh, emphasized the need for cooperation between agencies, saying, "It's always nice to have a group meeting like this; the big thing is communication."

Community members – including youths and their parents – are encouraged to contact the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's Youth Development Center, 412-441-9833, to find the best way to help young people, particularly those in foster care, succeed. ♦



GARFIELD COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

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GCAT CHAT

Pick-up Penn Ave & Garfield
Saturday, October 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Avenue

GCAT Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, October 16, at 6:00 p.m. at Assemble Gallery, 5125 Penn Avenue

Fall Family Fun Day @ Kite Hill Park
Saturday, November 2, from 1-3 p.m. at Kite Hill Park, 5400 block of Rosetta Street
Enjoy **free** hot cider and donuts, join a pick-up basketball game, and try out a new look with our DIY Halloween costume and photo booth. All are welcome!

Missing a back issue of *The Bulletin*? Editions of the newspaper dating back to 2007 are online at www.bloomfield-garfield.org/the-bulletin/archives.

Staff Changes at BGC

By Kristin Douty
The Bulletin

Garfield – Carolyn Ristau, outgoing Assistant to Deputy Director Aggie Brose at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, said she is leaving her position to former classmate Julie Collins, whom she is “confident will do a good job.”

Ristau began her career at the BGC as an intern with *The Bulletin* in the summer of 2012, when she was finishing up her degree in Urban Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. After graduation, she was tapped for the job working with Brose. One of her biggest responsibilities in that position was fundraising for the BGC’s Gun Buyback, held Sep. 21 in Garfield.

Ristau also helped organize the Windshield Survey, a project that began in April to examine the condition of houses in

Garfield. The Windshield Survey is an ongoing project to identify houses for reuse in an effort to revitalize the community. After helping to train 50 volunteers from Carnegie Mellon University to survey houses in Garfield, Ristau compiled the results into a database. The project is expected to finish on the University of Pittsburgh’s Make-A-Difference Day, Oct. 26.

Ristau left the BGC in early September to work with East Liberty Development, Inc., a partner organization of the BGC. She said she will use her experience gained at the BGC to help East Liberty acquire properties for sustainable reuse.

After training her replacement, Ristau said that being Brose’s assistant can be



ABOVE: Carolyn Ristau (left) has moved to East Liberty Development Inc., while Julie Collins has come on board at the BGC. Photos by Paula Martinac

“intense... there are a lot of facets of the position to cover.”

At the University of Pittsburgh, Ristau and Collins had classes together in the Urban Studies department, where Collins first learned about the community projects of the BGC. After graduating in May, Collins interned as an urban planner for the Borough of Bellevue, where she created databases and recommended ways to reuse the vacant properties in the area. She currently balances her time between the BGC and the Hill District Consensus Group, where she will devise a plan for their vacant properties.

Collins is a native of West Chester, a small city located outside of Philadelphia. Although she moved to Pittsburgh for school, she said she stayed after graduating because of her love of the city. When

asked to describe her impression of Pittsburgh, she said, “This place has a small-town feel in a big city, where people are really passionate about the communities they live in.”

During her first month at the BGC, Collins worked with Brose and the Public Safety Task Force to finish Ristau’s work with the Windshield Survey. She also communicated with neighborhood businesses to promote the Gun Buyback initiative.

Collins said she looks forward to starting new projects with the community. She said she respects the efforts and perseverance of the BGC staff, noting “it is amazing that there are only six people working in the [main] office for the amount of work that they do.” ♦

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the Bulletin BOARD

Local Events Classes Announcements Fundraisers

October 1

BLOOMFIELD

Think Pink

Purchase a Pink Ribbon Bagel at Panera Bread during the month of October and proceeds from every bagel will support the Cancer Caring Center and other great cancer organizations around the city. We're all coming together for the cause and hope you will support us. The Cancer Caring Center, located at 4117 Liberty Ave., is celebrating 25 years of service to our community.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Pre-K Program

Children's Hospital Family Care Connection Lawrenceville is offering a two-day Jumpstart program for Pre-K children ages 3 to 5. The program focuses on the academic and behavioral skills needed for a successful transition to Kindergarten. Classes run twice weekly from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning today. Call 412-784-8683 to register.

October 2

LAWRENCEVILLE

Email for Beginners

In conjunction with the start of the application process for the Affordable Care Act, this class at Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., will show you how to create and use a free e-mail account, which will be a necessary component of the ACA application process if doing it online. 12 p.m. Also offered on Oct. 9, 16 and 23. Call 412-682-3668 to register.

October 3

GARFIELD

Be a Secret Shopper

Are you looking to turn your regular errands into a check? Come to the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Ave., at 2 p.m. for a special workshop on how to become a paid member of the Secret Shoppers Association with mystery shopper expert Bill Woodward. Find out about this exciting job opportunity. Call 412-362-8580 to register.

EAST LIBERTY/FRIENDSHIP

Dance Festival

Kelly Strayhorn Theater's new Moves Dance Festival runs through Oct. 5 at 5941 Penn Ave. and at The Alloy Studios, 5530 Penn Ave. Each evening features a medley of four to five short new works by young choreographers from Pittsburgh and around

the country. 7:30 p.m. \$20 general admission; \$15 for residents of 15206; \$10 students/artists. Information at kelly-strayhorn.org

October 4

PENN AVENUE

Unblurred

The first Friday of each month, from 6 to 11 p.m., various venues in the Penn Avenue Arts District, 4800-5500 Penn Ave., open their doors to showcase the work of a variety of artists and performers. For more information visit facebook.com/pennavenuearts.

BLOOMFIELD

Irma Freeman Birthday Party

Come celebrate the Irma Freeman Center for Imagination's 4th birthday, 5006 Penn Ave., 7 to 10 p.m. with an opening reception for "Pittsburgh by Pittsburgh Artists III: A Group Exhibition" featuring full body painted Pittsburgh models by Rebecca Rose with Music by Wreck Loose, John Paredes and More.

GARFIELD

Night Market

The Garfield Night Market has four goals: to foster Garfield's entrepreneurs, to give families a place to spend a Friday night together, to highlight Garfield's creativity and energy, and to increase Garfield's visibility to the rest of Pittsburgh by building a bridge between Garfield and Penn Avenue Unblurred. The Night Market features food, crafts and fun for all families. Come to N. Pacific Avenue between Penn Avenue and Dearborn Street from 6 to 10 p.m. Interested in being a vendor? Fill out a form online at garfieldnightmarket.org/be-a-vendor.

EAST LIBERTY

Family Storytime

Kids with adults can enjoy family storytime at Carnegie Library-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St., at 10:30 a.m. Also held on Oct. 11, 18 and 25. For more information: 412-363-8274.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Gourmet Spaghetti Dinner

From 4 to 9 p.m., come to the Teamster Temple at 4701 Butler Street for the annual Lawrenceville Gourmet Spaghetti Dinner benefiting the neighborhood Bernard Dog Run. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door; kids eat for free. Purchase tickets online at BernardDogRun.org/SpaghettiDinner, or visit Espresso a Mano or Gallery on 43rd Street.

October 5

LAWRENCEVILLE

Blessing of the Animals

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day, Our Lady of the Angels Parish will offer a blessing of animals at St. Augustine Church, 220 37th St., at 11 a.m. All pets and their owners are welcome. For more information call 412-682-0929.

Love Your Block Service Day

Join Lawrenceville United from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to continue the revitalization of Paper Street Place (Hatfield and 51st Streets) by helping to plant fall flowers, finish and seal the mural, and more. If you plan on attending, RSVP to 412-802-7220, so LU can prepare enough food for all volunteers.

Star Wars Reads Day

Celebrate the second annual Star Wars Reads Day by stopping by the Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., to check out a Star Wars book, participate in Star Wars-themed crafts and activities and enter our (free) Star Wars prize drawing. 2 p.m. This is a drop-in event for the whole family. There will be adult prizes in our Star Wars drawing as well.

GARFIELD

Mixed Media Comics for Kids

As part of its Saturday Crafternoon program, Assemble will be hosting a free, drop-in mixed media comics workshop for kids from 1 to 4 p.m. at 5125 Penn Ave. Kids will work with local cartoonist Jennifer Lisa to make their very own 8-page mini comics using a variety of materials. For kids ages 5-10. Snacks and materials provided. Please contact Jess at 412-450-5349 or jess@assemblephg.org for more information.

October 6

LAWRENCEVILLE

House Tour

The annual Lawrenceville Hospitality House Tour will take place from 12 to 5 p.m. The tour is self-guided, with transportation provided by Molly's Trolleys. Advance tickets are on sale at Jay Design, Gallery on 43rd, Dandelions, CoCa Cafe, and Pave-ment. \$12 in advance and \$15 the day of the event. Homes in Lawrenceville's 6th, 9th and 10th Wards will be featured. For more information or to volunteer, visit www.lha15201.org.

October 7

GARFIELD

Ofrenda Workshop

Teaching Artist Katy DeMent will lead the way to a better understanding of the traditions related to "Día de los Muertos," also known as "All Saints Day" or "Day of the Dead." The LAB has teamed up with Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse (PCCR) to offer an "ofrenda" (shrine) workshop at Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave. from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. All ages welcome. Participants will create a small shrine or

shadow box dedicated to a lost or imagined loved one. These shrines will be displayed along Penn Ave. through Nov. 2 as part of the Día de los Muertos Pittsburgh Celebration. All artwork will be returned to participants after the event.

EAST LIBERTY

Pajama Storytime

Carnegie Library- East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St., presents a pre-K program, Pajama Storytime, at 6:30 p.m. Come in your pj's! For more information: 412-363-8274.

October 9

GARFIELD

Creepy Science

Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., provides opportunities for neighborhood children to look, learn, and make in an informal educational environment during monthly Learning Parties. The goal of Learning Parties is to make topics ranging from visual art to robotics accessible, understandable, inspiring, and fun. Learning Party activities are organized as stations, facilitated by individuals or teams of local experts, education specialists, and volunteers. The events are self-navigated by our drop-in visitors, a combination of kids and parents, who may spend as much time as they like at each station. The theme for October's Learning Party is "Creepy Science." Free snacks; 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. For more information, email ani@assemblephg.org.

Public Safety Task Force

The Public Safety Task Force has convened monthly in Garfield since 2000. At the table are representatives from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, the Bureau of Police, other neighborhood organizations, the offices of the Mayor and City Council members, various city and county departments and the state. Community members are invited to bring specific concerns to PSTF's monthly meeting during the first 15 minutes. The meeting starts at 4 p.m. at BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave. For more information: 412-441-6950 x15.

CCAC Recruitment

Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) recruiters will be at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Ave., at 1 p.m. to discuss programs and services, including: JobCorps and young adult empowerment program; construction trades; health careers; financial aid opportunities; and admissions process. To register for this event, call 412-362-8580.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Crafting Circle

Crafting circle at Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., is open to all creators, from knitters to jewelry makers. The beginning of each session will feature a short presentation from a local crafter. Bring a project to work on and enjoy snacks and conversation with other crafters. 6 p.m. This month, join local crafter Susan Swarthout to learn how to create fused plastic material - great for everything from wrapping paper to handbags. Also, experts wanted. Would you like to demonstrate your skill or show off your work? Contact Angela or Karen at 412-682-3668 or Lawrenceville@carnegielibrary.org for more information.

Sorry, we do not accept listings by phone.

The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, fundraising events and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Listings published on a space-available basis; we cannot guarantee placement. **Announcements for the November issue are due Tuesday, October 15, via email to bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org.**

Volunteer Opportunities & Services

October 12

GARFIELD

Needlepoint Poetry

As part of its Saturday Crafternoon program, Assemble will be hosting a free, drop-in canvas needlepoint workshop for kids from 1 to 4 p.m. at 5125 Penn Ave. Kids will work with local fiber artist Meg Prall and Literary Arts Boom (The LAB) to create a large public poetry display using canvas needlepoint. For kids ages 5-10. Snacks and materials provided. Please contact Jess at 412-450-5349 or jess@assemblepgh.org for more information.

EAST LIBERTY

Free Performance

The Health Ministry Committee of the East Liberty Presbyterian Church presents the play "Vesta" by Bryan Harnetiaux at Kelly Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Ave. Reception at 5:15 p.m., performance at 6 p.m. Free admission. "Vesta" is a poignant, humorous and ultimately triumphant story of a feisty, 75-year-old woman's journey from wellness to disability to resolution in death. It is not only about Vesta, but also about her family who cares for her. The performance will be followed by a discussion with panel experts on end-of-life issues. Please RSVP to katec@coh.net or 412-441-3800 x 17.

October 14

EAST LIBERTY

Movie Night

Enjoy family movie night at Carnegie Library-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St., at 5 p.m. For more information: 412-363-8274.

October 15

BLOOMFIELD

CHP Community Meeting

The Children's Home of Pittsburgh & Lemieux Family Center, 5324 Penn Ave., will host an informative meeting for community neighbors to understand an upcoming building project. The project architect and contractor will be on-site for a presentation and questions. 12 p.m. in the first floor conference room; lunch provided. RSVP by Oct. 8 to Josh Amrhein at jamrhein@chomepgh.org or 412-441-4884.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Adult Game Night

Why should kids have all the fun? Join your neighbors for board games, word games or even video games at Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St. 6 p.m. Ages 18 and up only. No registration required.

October 17

GARFIELD

Flu Shots

UPMC St. Margaret is offering free flu vaccinations to area residents age 65 and older and for individuals with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes, or heart and lung disease. For people ages

18 to 64, there will be a \$15 fee. Children under the age of 18 should see their pediatrician to receive a flu shot. 9 to 11 a.m., Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health Center, 5475 Penn Ave. No appointment necessary. If you are allergic to eggs or chicken, or have ever had an allergic reaction to a flu shot in the past, consult your doctor before receiving the vaccination. For more information, call 412-361-7562.

October 19

EAST LIBERTY

Origami Workshop

Kids learn to create origami (Japanese paper-folding) at Carnegie Library-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St., at 3:30 p.m. For more information: 412-363-8274.

October 19

GARFIELD

Found Object Art

As part of its Saturday Crafternoon program, Assemble will be hosting a free, drop-in found object art workshop for kids from 1 to 4 p.m. at 5125 Penn Ave. Kids will work with local artist Christine Bethea to make self-portraits using found and recycled materials. For kids ages 5-10. Snacks and materials provided. Please contact Jess at 412-450-5349 or jess@assemblepgh.org for more information.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Oktoberfest

German food, music and games plus Oktoberfest beer and wines available from 7 to 11 p.m. at St. Augustine Auditorium, 37th Street. Tickets are \$15 and include food and soft drinks. Purchase tickets at the Parish Office, 225 37th Street, or call 412-628-0929. Bis dann!

October 23

GARFIELD

AARP Recruitment

AARP's WorkSearch Program is a paid training program to assist unemployed individuals 55 and older obtain experience and training to get a job. Come to a recruitment event at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Ave. from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring a copy of your PA I.D. or driver's license; Social Security card; resume; and documents showing past 12 months of income (including spouse) to determine eligibility. To register for this event, call 412-362-8580.

October 24

GARFIELD

Homunculus

Poetry, fiction, and more! Join Literary Arts Boom [The LAB] at Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., from 7 to 9 p.m. for our next installation of Homunculus, a series of literary readings for adults that double as mini-fundraisers for the free youth programming The LAB offers. Snacks and beverages available. Suggested donation.

October 26

GARFIELD

Printmaking for Kids

As part of its Saturday Crafternoon program, Assemble will be hosting a free, drop-in printmaking workshop for kids from 1 to 4 p.m. at 5125 Penn Ave. With the help of local printmaker Stephanie Tsong, kids will use natural objects and recycled materials to make unique, colorful prints. For kids ages 5-10. Snacks and materials provided. Please contact Jess at 412-450-5349 or jess@assemblepgh.org for more information.

BLOOMFIELD

Halloween Dance Party

All-night Halloween dance event at Pittsburgh Dance Center, 4765 Liberty Ave., 2nd floor. Costume dance party, 5 to 6 p.m., for kids of all ages; international dance party (samba, belly dancing), 6 to 8 p.m.; ballroom/Latin dance party, 8 to 10:30 p.m. Costumes welcome. Free, but we will be taking donations for Embrace Dance Project, our amputee dance program. Wheelchair accessible. For information, call 412-681-0111.

EAST LIBERTY

Halloween Mayhem

Zombies, a costume parade, puppets, live performances, games and more fill Kelly Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Ave. A day of activities designed to delight and entertain the whole family. Very special guest Mr. McFeely will sign autographs and lead the costume parade. Free to the public.

SHADYSIDE

Open House

Kentucky Avenue School open house. Learn about our small classes and big ideas. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., corner of Negley and Kentucky Avenues.

October 27

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free Lecture

The Holy Name Society of Our Lady of the Angels Parish will host Sister Michele Bisbey, professor of religious studies and Ketteler Endowed Chair of Theology at La Roche College. Sister Michele will discuss the Saint John's Bible, which is the first handwritten and hand-illuminated Bible of the modern era. This presentation will take place in Saint Augustine Auditorium, 220 37 Street, at approximately 11:15 a.m. The event is free and open to the public. No reservations required. Refreshments served.

October 28

LAWRENCEVILLE

Teen Halloween

Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., will have a short Teen Advisory Council meeting, then... Experience horrific tales and ghoulish delights! Join us for games, treats and scary movies. 4:30 p.m.

October 30

EAST LIBERTY

PreSchool Math/Science

Carnegie Library-East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St., presents a pre-K program called "What's the BIG Idea? Math and Science for Preschoolers" at 6:30 p.m. For more information: 412-363-8274.

On-Going

BLOOMFIELD

Before and Afterschool Programs

Earthen Vessels Outreach, 250 S. Pacific Ave., offers before and after-school care to local communities within 2 1/2 miles of the site from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, including transportation. CCIS & CYF approved. Ages Pre-school and up are welcome. Children engage in academic learning, physical exercise, healthy eating, song, dance, and field trips while learning positive social skills through ongoing peer interactions and personal mentors. Tuition rates based on a sliding scale: \$25 to \$50 weekly. Income verification paperwork is due at the time of registration. Call to register at 412-681-7272 or 412-414-2993.

GARFIELD

Call for Interns

Literary Arts Boom [The LAB] relies on volunteers and interns to add expertise and energy to its educational youth programming, community engagement efforts, and mad science machinations. For details about internships check out literaryartsboom.org/interns. For information about volunteer opportunities visit <http://literaryartsboom.org/get-involved/volunteers> or contact The LAB at literaryartsboom@gmail.com or 412-906-9522.

Seeking Classrooms

Calling all teachers, parents and youth group leaders! Please contact Literary Arts Boom if you're looking for exciting workshops and field trips that focus on any of the following: storytelling and book-making; Pittsburgh Poems (poems about place); cross-generational oral histories; comics; novel writing for National Novel Writing Month (in November). Contact literaryartsboom@gmail.com or 412-906-9522.

Computer Skills

Pittsburgh CONNECTS, 5321 Penn Avenue, hosts weekly computer classes. Intro to Computers, Mondays from 10 to 11:30 a.m., covers the basics of the computer from clicking the mouse to saving and attaching files. Internet and Email Basics, Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., covers basic internet navigation skills. For information on these offerings and Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel classes visit main.pghconnects.org.

HIGHLAND PARK

Foundational Yoga

Increase balance, flexibility and strength with yoga. Careful attention is brought to alignment, anatomy and breath, creating body and mind integration. Every Tuesday morning from 6 to 7 a.m. at the Nuin Center, 5655 Bryant St. \$15 per class; preregistration suggested. Taught by Susan Rupani, who has studied yoga for over 30 years, and is a graduate of Yoga Works 200-hour teacher training course. For more information, call 412-417-6300.

MORNINGSIDE

Be a Scout

Boy scouting is a program designed for boys in grades 1-5 (Cub) and ages 11-17 (Boy) that emphasizes leadership, citizenship and personal fitness while developing character, family understanding and community service. A nearby cub scout pack meets on Wednesdays at St. Raphael School in Morningside at 6:30 p.m. The Boy Scout Troop meets at St. Raphael School on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. If interested in either unit, call Commissioner Beth McKinstry at 412-661-2963 or go to www.BeaScout.org for a group near you.

Art Stars Align for Healing Fundraiser

by Christine Bethea

Bulletin Contributor

Penn Avenue – How many creative types does it take to hold a fundraising benefit for a fellow artist? In this case, more than 20, including Penn Avenue art icons Laura Jean McLaughlin, Bob Ziller and Dean Cercone.

Several months ago, artist North Star's partner, multimedia artist Sigh Meltingstar, became debilitated by Crohn's disease. Although he has been managing his condition with diet, he has been unable to work at his craft due to severe arthritis related to the disease. On top of that, he has no health insurance.

Saddened by Meltingstar's inability to do art or play music, Star called on all her artistic friends to help by being part of a rock/art auction/fundraising concert on Aug. 31 that raised more than \$3,500. "We did it all in under two weeks," said Star.

"Illness can be alienating and make you feel very alone," Star noted. She added that in such health crises, the last thing anyone should have to worry about is money. The stress about rent, food, eating or traveling expenses can compound the situation. "I went into this with total trust that this was what needed to be done and believed that all things would work out as they needed to ... and that is exactly what happened," said Star.

Star is originally from Michigan, but has made Pittsburgh her home. "I have spent much time in this city since 2007 and it has been like a home to me in many ways," she said. "People here know how to stand together, which is something that makes sense if



ABOVE: An art auction was part of the fundraiser for Sigh Meltingstar. Photo by Christine Bethea

you look at the region's history. That sturdy, understated strength is something unique to the Rustbelt region."

Star's background in coordinating events came in handy when she decided to take on the healing fundraiser. She managed to book 5118 Penn Ave. for the event, and got a host of bands to play for free. Local acts included Middle Children, The Toys du Jour and Elder Scrolls. Two bands from New York City also played – Poison Dartz and Up Up We Go. Star also put out a call on Facebook and took donations at the door. Local artists donated artwork for a silent auction.

The event was also supported by Julie Sokolow of Healthy Artists, an organization dedicated to the idea that artists, creative types and young people can play an important role in making a humane healthcare system a reality, because they have a special stake in the issue. The largest uninsured pool in the United States is made up of young people in the 19 to 29 age range. Nearly all industrialized nations, except the United States, provide full coverage and health security to their citizens.

"I want to thank all the artists who donated and the many people who came out for this event," Star said. "I especially want to thank Julie [Sokolow], Crystal Hoffman and Michael Lubbert. Without their help this event would not have taken place. Love you all!" ♦

For more information about the advocacy work of Healthy Artists, visit healthyartists.org.

Classifieds

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