

# the Bulletin

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ABOVE: Literary Arts Boom (LAB) participants designed and built their own "portable air conditioner and word-displaying devices" to keep cool during the final days of summer. Read the story on page 11. Photo by Paula Levin

## Protest Targets Illegal Iron City Demolitions

By Rachel Rue *Lawrenceville Stakeholders*

Lawrenceville – On Aug. 8, a peaceful rally was called by the Lawrenceville Stakeholders to protest recent illegal demolitions at the Iron City Brewery. Protestors on both sides of Liberty

See **page 2**



## Neighbors Raise Issues with Family Dollar

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Bloomfield/Garfield – A small group of neighbors who say their quality of life has been impaired by living in close proximity to the Family Dollar store located at 5160 Penn Ave. met with repre-

See **page 7**



## City Steps Inspire New Organization

By Carolyn Ristau *The Bulletin*

East End – "[The Ella Street steps] were always my favorite; they were the first I spent any time on," said M.J. Flott, a former Bloomfield resident. The Ella Street steps, one of the city's 712

See **page 12**



## City Zoning Board Delays Hearing for Grocery Store

By Paula Martinac

*The Bulletin*

Bloomfield/Garfield – Those in support of a proposed grocery store at 5200 Penn Ave. and those opposed both showed up in full force at the scheduled City Zoning Board of Adjustment hearing on Aug. 2 downtown. But in a surprise turn of events, the Zoning Board ordered the developer for the store and the neighbors opposed to the proposed site plan to sit down for another round of meetings in preparation for a final zoning hearing on Sept. 20.

Wrenna Watson, Chair of the City Planning Commission, opened the hearing by asking for a show of hands of those for the store and those opposed. Because the attendees included an even mix of several dozen for and several dozen against, Watson and the other two Zoning Board members suggested two additional community meetings to see if the two sides could come to greater agreement.

"You're asking for a lot of variances," Zoning Board member Manoj Jegasothy told Bottom Dollar's developer,

See **Grocery Store** | page 4



ABOVE: The Garfield Gators team, a member in the Allegheny County Midget Football League, gets ready to kick off its new season. Photo by Rick Swartz

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Dr. Kush earned his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He completed his internal medicine residency at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital. Dr. Kush is board-certified in internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine.



**Ronald J. Nigborowicz, MD**  
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Dr. Nigborowicz is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He completed his medical internship at UPMC Presbyterian, and is board-certified in internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. Nigborowicz is a clinical instructor in medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.



**Priya P. Saxena, MD, FACP**  
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Board-certified in internal medicine, Dr. Saxena received her medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine, Dominica, West Indies. She completed her internal medicine residency at Maryland General Hospital in Baltimore, where she served as chief resident. She is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and is NCQA-certified in diabetes management.

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## Iron City *from page 1*

Avenue in front of the brewery held up signs as drivers of passing cars honked and waved.

Carol Peterson and Keith Cochran, co-chairs of the Lawrenceville Stakeholders Historic Preservation Committee, discovered the illegal demolition of two buildings on July 30. The Stakeholders immediately notified the city, and two days later sent a letter with 80 signatures to the Historic Review Commission. The letter urgently requested that the owner, Collier Development, be cited and required to adhere to the City's laws and procedures protecting historic sites.

On Aug. 1, the City announced that it would be citing Collier for two illegal demolitions. A hearing was scheduled for Aug. 23 before District Magistrate Anthony Ceoffe (results were not known at press time). A number of Lawrenceville residents have suggested the penalty be a requirement that the buildings be rebuilt, rather than a fine that the owners might consider to be no more than an acceptable cost of doing business.

The latest demolitions follow a long series of threatened and actual demolition of buildings in the Iron City complex, beginning when the previous owners of Iron City closed the plant and moved all brewing operations to Latrobe in 2009. In October 2009, Iron City applied for permits to demolish five buildings on the site.

To protect the brewery, which has been an icon in the local landscape for well over a century, the Stakeholders launched a campaign to nominate it for historic designation by the City's Historic Review Commission. They submitted a nomination package with more than 800 letters of support, which won unanimous approval from the Historic Review Commission,

Department of City Planning and City Council. Once historic status is granted, all applications for demolition or significant exterior alteration must be approved by the Historic Review Commission.

Historic designation also opens the way for major development funding, primarily through Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits. However, according to preservation experts, those credits can be put at risk if any buildings integral to the historic character of the complex are significantly altered or destroyed. Both the current owners and the previous owner applied for permission to demolish buildings, citing safety and economic reasons. The Stakeholders, as part of their mission to protect the lively historic character of the neighborhood, have monitored all proposed and actual demolitions at the site, and have testified at all related hearings.

While one permitted demolition and two illegal ones have taken place in recent weeks, a master planning process for the brewery is underway. DLA Architects is developing the master plan, with guidance from a steering committee made up of neighborhood groups, city officials and other stakeholders. Lawrenceville Stakeholders representatives on the steering committee have expressed the hope that the community can work collaboratively with the owners to create a development that honors the local history of mixing residential with vital commercial and light industrial uses, preserving the strong "sense of place" that has characterized the brewery since the nineteenth century.

More history and information about the Iron City Brewery can be found on the Lawrenceville Stakeholders website: <http://lawrencevillestakeholders.wordpress.com>. ♦

*BELOW: The Aug. 8 rally against demolitions at the historic Iron City brewery on Liberty Avenue. Photo by Carol Peterson*



**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.



# WPAHS Recruits in East End

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Garfield – On July 24, more than 100 residents turned up at the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center to get tips on snagging a job with West Penn Allegheny Health System (WPAHS).

The event was hosted by the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) in collaboration with Neighborhood Learning Alliance, East End Works, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), BGC Pittsburgh CONNECTS, the City of Pittsburgh, Boys and Girls Club, Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development and Lawrenceville United.

The morning presentation in Garfield was repeated on the evening of July 26 in Lawrenceville at the Boys and Girl Club on Butler Street.

According to Kyle Cato, WPAHS's Corporate Director of Talent Acquisition, "90 percent of our jobs are not clinical." That means applicants without any medical training are still in demand for many hospital jobs, especially if they have skills in areas such as IT, marketing, food service, maintenance, business, human resources, legal and medical records.

WPAHS recruiter Liz Smith reviewed the basics of using the electronic application system. First, applicants must visit [www.wpahs.org/careers/apply](http://www.wpahs.org/careers/apply), where they fill out basic information about themselves. They then need to upload a cover letter and current resume as a text or Word file or PDF. People can hunt and apply for specific jobs at certain hospitals

within the system, or search more generally throughout WPAHS.

Cato explained the importance of key words to applicants' resumes. The computer-based system actually scans resumes for words that address an applicant's skills, such as "UNIX" (if they have IT experience) or "food service." He also emphasized the importance of having multiple resumes tailored to available positions; when it comes to applying for jobs, one size does not fit all.

"We get about 9,500 resumes a month," Cato stated, "and recruiters can only spend 30 or 35 seconds on each." Key words that highlight experience and target skills for a specific position can pull a resume up during one of these searches and grab a recruiter's attention.

In addition, electronic applications are preferred over paper resumes and letters, Cato advised. "Don't spend your money on expensive stationery and stamps."

Rick Flanagan, manager of the ENEC, noted that applicants can access computers and receive help honing their resumes at the ENEC office, 5321 Penn Ave., a space the organization shares with Pittsburgh CONNECTS, a free computer lab run by the BGC. "You're trying to get the attention of a computer that scans for key words," Flanagan said. "ENEC can help you so your resume stands out."

As of this event, WPAHS had about 535 job openings, according to Cato. ♦

## the Bulletin

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Bloomfield-Garfield  
Corporation



**Serving Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty, Lawrenceville and Stanton Heights Since 1975** with the mission of reporting on activities affecting those communities and offering an opportunity for residents to express opinions and exchange ideas.

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

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

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## Voting in Pennsylvania Just Got Harder

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Pittsburgh – The Nov. 6 general election will soon be here, and because this year is a presidential election, the stakes are high. In order to vote in Pennsylvania, you must be registered by Oct. 9, 2012.

In addition, this year voters will be required to present a valid photo ID, so you may need to take steps now to avoid being turned away from the polls in November. If you're confused about Pennsylvania's new voter ID law, you're not alone. Although this law is facing a legal challenge in the courts, you should be prepared to show an ID in November, pending the outcome of an appeal to the state Supreme Court. You will need to show a photo ID with an expiration date, including any of the following:

- Pennsylvania driver's license or non-driver's license photo ID (PA driver's licenses and non-driver's photo IDs are valid for voting purposes 12 months past the expiration date)
- Valid, unexpired U.S. passport
- Unexpired U.S. military ID – active duty and retired military (a military or veteran's ID must designate an expiration date or designate that the expiration date is indefinite). Military dependents' IDs must contain an expiration date and must not have expired.
- Unexpired employee photo ID issued by federal, Pennsylvania, county or city governments.
- Unexpired student photo ID from an accredited Pennsylvania public or private institution of higher learning, including Pennsylvania universities, colleges, seminaries, community colleges and private two-year colleges. Your ID must contain your name and photo, and have a current expiration date.
- Unexpired photo ID cards issued by a Pennsylvania care facility, including long-term care facilities, assisted-living residences or personal care homes.

If you don't have any of these forms of ID, you are entitled to get one free of charge at a PennDOT Exam and Photo Center; the closest center to our neighborhoods is located at 708 Smithfield St., downtown. The office is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. (At press time, the AAA West Penn Auto Club in East Liberty said they would not be issuing these photo IDs.)

In addition, State Sen. Jim Ferlo's office recently unveiled an online tool that helps voters determine if they have acceptable ID for voting. The "Voter ID Quiz" walks users through a series of yes or no questions, provides documents for download and offers direct assistance for those who need an ID. Visit [www.senatorferlo.com/voterID](http://www.senatorferlo.com/voterID) to take the quiz.

For more information about photo IDs, call toll-free 1-800-932-4600, visit [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com) or email [RA-VOTERIDQUESTIONS@pa.gov](mailto:RA-VOTERIDQUESTIONS@pa.gov). ♦

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## Grocery Store from page 1

Commercial Properties Ltd., referring to eight zoning variances and two special exceptions needed to fit the store and parking lot into a compact urban site. City Planning Commission Secretary Kirk Burkley added that he thought the “dimensional variances could be worked out” between the two sides through additional meetings. “It doesn’t help to have a war,” he said. “A grocery store would be a very nice thing for the community.”

Kate Tillman Brown, Vice President of Development for the Raleigh, N.C.-based developer, referred to the meetings she and C. Brantley Tillman, the principal of the company, had already held with neighbors, including a large community meeting in February of this year and a smaller meeting with a group of nearby neighbors in May.

She also noted substantial efforts to address the neighbors’ issues by refining and tweaking the site plan. However, “there seem to continue to be issues every time we meet,” Tillman Brown added.

Kenneth Stiles, speaking for those

opposed to the proposed site plan, said the neighbors felt “the site plan kept changing,” and that they are no longer sure what the actual plan is.

City Councilman Ricky Burgess (District 9) stepped in, offering to host an additional meeting in which the developer could lay out the plans clearly and listen to neighbors’ concerns one more time. If needed, Burgess said he would host a second meeting to iron out the final details.

Watson then ordered a new – and final – zoning hearing, to be held on Thursday, Sept. 20, at 10:10 a.m. at the John P. Robin Civic Building at 200 Ross St. downtown. “You may come back not in agreement,” she noted. “But you will have followed a ‘good neighbor’ process.”

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation will once again be offering free bus transportation to the Sept. 20 hearing. To RSVP, call 412-441-6950 x15 and indicate you want to reserve a seat. The bus will begin boarding at the BGC Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave., at 8:30 a.m. ♦

## Local Program Helps Youths and Community

By Kathryn Vargas Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

*Garfield* – How did you get your copy of *The Bulletin* today? If you picked it up from one of the 120 drop-off locations in the East End, your paper was hand-delivered by participants of Garfield CISP.

Garfield’s Community Intensive Services Program (CISP) is part of a larger Allegheny County program established in 1990 as a restorative justice model in which juvenile offenders seek to repair the harm caused by their transgressions. Over the past 22 years, Garfield CISP has certainly made an impression on the community. The delivery of *The Bulletin* is only one of many ways the program has had an active presence in the community.

As an alternative to juvenile detention for low-level male offenders, CISP’s model is centered on building character, the social and emotional growth of participants and good citizenship. Each day, CISP participants spend six hours working with staff in group therapeutic sessions, academic and job readiness workshops, manhood development and volunteer activities. CISP’s staff members are all adult men from similar neighborhoods and backgrounds as the youths. These men serve as mentors to the young participants. “Our staff can really identify with the youths and are role models to show them that no matter where you are coming from, positive decisions lead to positive outcomes,” stated Dion Dupree of Garfield CISP.

Participants selected for the program are court-mandated to participate in CISP activities and complete anywhere from 50 to 100 hours of community service. Giving back to the community is a very important part of the program, and Garfield CISP has embraced this wholeheartedly. CISP participants volunteer with a host of local organizations and community groups – the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Mount Ararat Church, Missionary Temple Church and the Center for Victims of

Violence and Crime are a few local examples. CISP is also responsible for a number of the local trash pick-ups and vacant lot restoration projects. They volunteer to maintain local parks and participate in community events like the annual Garfield Holiday Party for kids in December.

As CISP evolves further, it will continue to address some of the challenging aspects of the program, said Dupree. “The young men still face a number of challenges,” Dupree noted. “Many have trouble getting initial work placements because of their background and on top of that it is also likely that the young men owe restitution from \$50 to \$500, depending on the case.”

CISP is currently working on developing an internship initiative that would give participants volunteer hours with businesses that may later agree to hire the young people after a term of service. This would ensure that participants are well prepared to exit the program with a solid, work-ready background.

“The biggest challenge for our young men is to have an optimistic view of the future. They feel that the life they live is the only life to be lived, and it is our job to move that mindset and provide a routine and structured environment to ensure that they do not become repeat offenders,” stated Dupree. A big component of providing that inspiration and the example of better ways to interact with community is to expose youths to the work world and prepare them to be productive members of society.

Garfield CISP is always looking for new ways to partner and engage with local businesses and organizations. If you are interested in more information about the program or in getting involved as a volunteer or work site, please contact James Tucker, Garfield CISP Program Coordinator, at 412-243-6886. ♦

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# Proposed Redevelopment of Lawrenceville Church Moving Forward

By Carolyn Ristau *The Bulletin*

Lawrenceville – E Properties and Development approached the Lawrenceville Planning Team in the spring with a proposal for redeveloping the former Holy Family Church, 250-256 44th St., into apartments. After several community meetings, many residents surrounding the property continued to express strong opposition to the development.

The Lawrenceville Planning Team consists of representatives from Lawrenceville United (LU), Lawrenceville Corporation (LC), the Lawrenceville Stakeholders, Councilman Patrick Dowd's office and Pittsburgh Department of City Planning. The planning team works with developers to "steward the community plan and steward good development in Lawrenceville," said Lauren Byrne, executive director of LU.

"The community plan isn't explicit [on projects like] this," said Matthew Galluzzo, executive director of LC. Therefore, the planning team encouraged E Properties and Development to meet with the community, but with the caution that residents would be concerned over the density of the site.

The Holy Family Church site consists of a church building, school, parish house and parking lot. The plan that E Properties and Development and Landmark Design Associates (LDA), the project architect, developed after feedback from multiple

meetings with LU, LC and the Lawrenceville Planning Team called for a total of 73 units in the three buildings, 88 parking spots for cars and 21 for bikes. This would require building two additional stories on the school and an additional parking level. When presented to 120 local residents on July 20, the community expressed strong opposition to this plan. Some concerns expressed were related to public safety, particularly for pedestrians, with the increase in cars in the area, the density of the site and the ratio of parking spaces to units.

As a result of these concerns, E Properties and Development removed the project from the City's Zoning Board of Adjustment agenda and worked with LU and LC to set up four smaller community meetings and a fifth "report-back" community-wide meeting. Emeka Onwugbenu, CEO of E Properties and Development, explained that at the meetings "what was important for us was what [the residents] wanted. We believe in transparency in development."

Byrne said that at the community meetings E Properties and Development presented alternative plans "to see if they address the initial concerns voiced." The first alternative plan proposes 59 units complemented by 42 parking spaces for cars



ABOVE: Former Holy Family Church and parish house. Photo by Carolyn Ristau

See **Redevelopment** | page 12



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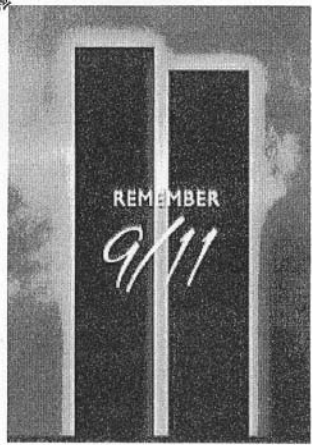


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## Summer Youth Program Comes to a Close



Photo by Rick Flanagan

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's Summer Youth Employment Program officially closed for 2012 with a luncheon on Aug. 15 at UPMC Shadyside Hospital for the young participants, about 25 of whom were in attendance. Sean Logan, UPMC's Vice President of Community Relations, arranged the donation of the space, bag lunches for the young people and \$300 toward the purchase of small gifts for the students. Each received an 8 GB USB flash drive and a \$10 gift card to Staples. In addition, staff members of the Neighborhood Learning Alliance (NLA) came to discuss graduation requirements, the Pittsburgh Promise and College Career Readiness with the students. This was part of NLA's Graduation Champions Campaign, an initiative to ensure that every student is equipped for a successful graduation.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I was delighted to see that the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) board voted to work toward finding a way to move away from marijuana prohibition to a regime of strictly regulated legalization of the sale and use of marijuana for adults, similar to the way we regulate alcohol. ["Is It Time to Legalize Marijuana?" *The Bulletin*, August 2012]

The harms of keeping marijuana illegal vastly outweigh the harms that would be associated with a regulated, sane approach, which lets consenting adults have legal access to marijuana. Prohibition has been wildly unsuccessful at its goal of preventing marijuana use, and has been wildly successful only at creating crime where none need exist.

Although some may see the BGC's quest to end marijuana prohibition as "quixotic," recent national public opinion polls consistently show a majority of the population actually supports taxing and regulating the sale of marijuana to adults (otherwise known as "legalizing" it). Three states (Oregon, Colorado and Washington) will be voting on whether they will move to legalize the sale and use of cannabis this November, and 17 states currently have some form of legal access to marijuana for medical use. So the BGC is actually quite in step with the times.

I hope other mainstream community organizations in Western Pennsylvania, and from around the entire state, join the BGC in promoting an end to this 21st century prohibition. Kudos for common sense.

Jonny Goldstein  
Garfield

Dear Editor:

We hire, elect people to work for us, resolve the problems in our neighborhoods... Sincere thank you to Mayor Ravenstahl for "Love Your Block." ["Garfield Receives 'Love Your Block' Grant," *The Bulletin*, August 2012] Garfield has returned to a nice area that it was in the past.

Now ask the mayor to 'Love Our Block,' the 4900 block of Rosetta Street. City employees ignore our block, as if there is no Rosetta Street in this city. We are here, and will stay. We need help.

Lovella Svetich  
Garfield

**Letters Policy:** Send letters to the editor by the 15th of each month to [bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org). Letters must not be longer than 200 words; we will edit for length, spelling and grammar. *The Bulletin* reserves the right to reject inflammatory or anonymous letters. Please include your full name and neighborhood, which will be printed in the paper.

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**Public Safety Task Force.** The Public Safety Task Force has convened monthly in Garfield since 2000. At the table are representatives from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, the Bureau of Police, other neighborhood organizations, the offices of the Mayor and City Council members, various city and county departments and the state. Community members are invited to bring specific concerns to the PSTF's monthly meeting during the first 15 minutes. The next meeting is September 12 at 4 p.m. at the BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave.

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## Family Dollar from page 1

representatives of the store on July 23, at a meeting facilitated by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC).

Camille Turner, the store's new manager, and her senior-most assistant manager, Danielle McCorkle, attended the meeting to discuss the neighbors' concerns and ways to abate them. The BGC leafleted to invite all the nearby neighbors to the meeting. Members of three households brought their concerns to the table, and one nearby neighbor who could not attend sent a detailed list of issues in an email to Aggie Brose, the BGC's deputy director.

Chief among the issues were parking lot maintenance, truck deliveries, lighting and noise. Turner, who has been with the store just two months, expressed her willingness to bring any concerns she and her staff could not address themselves to her District Manager.

Some problems, like the fact that the parking lot needs repaving and the gates to the dumpster are broken and hanging open, are the responsibility of the landlord, Oakland Real Estate. "The gates are an eyesore," remarked Brose. Turner said she is aware that the dumpster should be behind the gate and securely locked in, because outsiders are using it for illegal dumping; she vowed to make sure the

District Manager brings it to the landlord's attention.

Neighbors further reported they can hear loud announcements over the store's intercom system over televisions and air conditioning units in their homes on S. Pacific Avenue. The intercom sounds off at all hours, even after the store is closed; one neighbor said her young children can recite the message by heart. Turner promised to speak to the security company about turning down the volume.

In addition, Turner said she would look into the issue of an excessively bright spotlight and store sign that never dim, even after hours. A resident who lives across the street noted she has had to put up blackout curtains to help mitigate the light.

Neighbors also addressed the problem of truck drivers who mow down street signs and run up over curbs. According to one report, a driver slept in his cab all night on the street with the air conditioning running. Additionally, although drivers are supposed to make their deliveries to the store at 6 a.m., they sometimes arrive as early as 4:30 a.m. and leave their motors idling until the manager arrives just before 6 o'clock.

While one neighbor asked if the store could use smaller trucks than the big 18-

wheelers, Turner said the size of the trucks could not be changed, given how large the Penn Avenue store's delivery is and how many stores the individual trucks serve. But she said she can direct the drivers not to arrive before the scheduled time, and not to park on the street, which is illegal.

Participants also hashed out the possibility of improving the landscaping of the lot with the addition of trees, plants and fencing or screening. Turner said she does not deal with landscaping, but would find out who in her parent company handles it for the branch stores. Brose raised the possibility of the BGC applying for street trees through TreePittsburgh, and added that additional landscaping and trees might help soften the noise. She also said she would contact the City about adding more trash cans to the perimeter of the property, to discourage littering.

The meeting adjourned after an hour, with the understanding that Turner would keep the BGC in the loop on her findings and progress, and report back within 30 days on which issues can be resolved and in what manner.

At press time, no changes had yet been implemented at the store, not even short-term improvements. ♦

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# Neighborhood FOCUS

## Mapping Out a Safe, Healthy East End

### City Moves Forward with Transportation Plan

By Carolyn Ristau *The Bulletin*

East Liberty – Can Pittsburgh become an 8/80 city? According to Patrick Roberts, transportation planner in the Department of City Planning, that's a city where "ages 8 and 80 would be safe on their own" using various modes of transportation. Roberts talked about this goal at the fourth MOVEPGH workshop last month. Safety was one of the main themes recurring throughout the workshop along with connectivity, choices and health.

City Planning is designing MOVEPGH to plan for future transportation development and address congestion and transportation modes. MOVEPGH is one of 12 components that will make up Pittsburgh's first-ever city-wide, comprehensive plan. This plan will guide the city's growth and development over the next 25 years. The fourth and final MOVEPGH planning workshop was Aug. 6 through 8 at the East Liberty branch of the Carnegie Library.

This MOVEPGH workshop focused on the East End of Pittsburgh. Amaris Whitaker, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) intern at City Planning, described the three-day workshop as "public planning: planning sessions open to the public."

Consultant groups and individuals worked with City Planning employees and community members to identify current transportation issues and assets as well as possible future solutions. The design team consultants were Dr. Catherine Ross, a transportation



ABOVE: Consultants from LaQuatra Bonci Associates explain their proposed redesigns of East Liberty's Baum-Centre Corridor, which include adding more trees to the area and putting in more links across the busway to Shadyside. Photo by Carolyn Ristau

consultant, and Joan Stein, an ADA consultant, and Aecom, Alta Planning & Design, Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc., John J. Clark and Associates, LaQuatra Bonci Associates, Trans Associates and Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

"You can't build your way out of congestion," explained Roberts. Instead, "[You] increase the number of modes" people can choose from and make them safer. These modes include walking, biking, driving and taking public transit.

The meeting room where the workshop took place was filled with maps. Some of the maps were purely informative, showing information such as the current congestion levels of Pittsburgh streets, the demographics of the city and transportation problem areas already identified, including missing connections in roads, trails or sidewalks.

Community members could write their own comments on some maps. These comments included "good bike lanes" on Liberty Avenue and "bad potholes" on Negley Avenue that make driving and biking difficult. Additional comments highlighted particular intersections that needed crosswalks or new or better signals to improve the safety of pedestrians crossing the street.

The consultants worked with other maps focused on specific parts of the East End. Using tracing paper, they designed alternatives to the current conditions, which they overlaid on the existing street grid. The consultants welcomed comments from the community regarding their designs.

In addition to working with the maps, community members were invited to join biking and walking audits of the East End led by Alta Planning & Design. The walking audit focused on East Liberty while the biking audits visited the northern East End neighborhoods on Aug. 6 and the southern East End neighborhoods on Aug. 7. Alta used these audits to experience the actual conditions for biking and walking in the East End and to gather community input.

Dr. Ross talked about streets where "bikes, cars and transit can share space and be safe." She also discussed the need to increase connections and "safe travel choices" that "support independent living and aging in place."

Phil Goff from Alta presented several potential projects developed over the course of the workshop. These included making Negley Run Boulevard a two-lane road and converting the remaining space for bicycle and pedestrian traffic; adding a contra-flow bike lane on the one-way block of Friendship Avenue in East Liberty so bicycles can travel safely in the opposite direction of traffic; and putting all parking on Hamilton Avenue on one side to make room for bike lanes.



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## Mapping Out the East End continued

Paul Moore from Aecom explained the next steps for the MOVEPGH plan. All city projects developed regionally and within the city as well as community plans and the ideas brought up at all four MOVEPGH workshops will be put into a "pot of projects." These projects will be ranked based on technical criteria such as feasibility and cost. The ranked list of projects will be

presented to the community to be "evaluated by community feedback." Moore explained that projects will be reprioritized based on the community input.

Jeff Olson from Alta said, "We're here because we want to make this the greatest city there is: biking, walking and transit." ♦

## East Liberty Envisions Improved Circulation, Mobility

By Carolyn Ristau *The Bulletin*

*East Liberty* – On Aug. 2, East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) led a circulation and mobility vision meeting, part of a larger process to create a vision document outlining East Liberty's transportation needs and goals. East Liberty's 2010 Community Plan included scattered references to transportation and accessibility, but lacked a dedicated discussion of the neighborhood's transportation vision.

Loralyn Fabian, program manager at ELDI, monitored the vision meeting and presented the introduction. She contrasted the redevelopment projects of the 1960s, when the community did not have a say, with the current era, when the community is consulted. Fabian said the Aug. 2 meeting brought together the "experts who live, work and play" in the East Liberty area for "the chance to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood."

Previous to this community meeting, a technical committee comprised of regional professional experts in circulation and mobility compiled lists of the key users, assets, issues and goals of the neighborhood. The community members at the Aug. 2 meeting went through these lists, marking those items they agreed with and adding their own suggestions. This process was also used for a list of community values consolidated from the 2010 Community Plan.

The lists dealt with broad terms and issues applicable to the whole neighborhood. The

existing issues identified by the technical committee included "crosswalk lights inaccessible to sight-impaired," "poor vacant storefront conditions," "lack of infrastructure maintenance," "lack of bike and pedestrian connectivity between, and within, park systems" and "traffic congestion."

The meeting was designed to discuss only neighborhood-wide issues. The format did not provide the opportunity to address specific issues such as the poorly designed intersection at Target that endangers pedestrians.

The information gathered from this meeting and the technical committee will shape a final circulation and mobility vision document. This document is online at [www.eastlibertypost.com/circulation\\_mobility](http://www.eastlibertypost.com/circulation_mobility). Fabian said it was available for public review and comment from Aug. 20 to 31 with the final draft accessible after Sept. 1. Contact Fabian at 412-361-8061 ext. 28 for a hard copy of the circulation and mobility vision document.

Fabian explained that this document will be shared with developers and planners working in the neighborhood so they "incorporate better infrastructure" in their projects. ELDI will also submit it to City Planning to be folded into MOVEPGH, the transportation component of the city's comprehensive plan (see related story, page 8). ♦

## Low-Cost Zumba Classes Rev Up Community Center

By Deborah Knox *Bulletin Contributor*

*Lawrenceville* – The Latin rhythms pulsating from the third floor of the Stephen Foster Community Center on Main Street from the Zumba Fitness classes, taught by licensed instructor Stephanie Martin, have been energizing Lawrenceville since November, 2010. Some participants come for weight loss, but all come for fitness and the good company. The program attracts young adults as well as seniors, and it's been a great addition to the Center's programming.

The Center's CEO, Mary Ann Heneroty, is enthusiastic about the program. "The Center has a focus on senior fitness, but we recognized the Zumba craze and said, 'Let's expand this to the whole community.' People love it." The Center also offers other classes for seniors as part of its overall programming. She said, "It fits into the progression of keeping seniors fit and active in the community."

One of the dedicated students, Millie O'Carroll, started attending with a friend in January 2011. She's an active retiree who travels in from Swissvale. "My kids said, you need some exercise," she explained. Millie has had two knee replacement surgeries, a hinge in her knee and a screw in her back, but that hasn't slowed her down.

"I enjoy the people and we have a good time. It's good for everything, including my knees," she said. Millie said she is glad that everyone can work at her own level. "The teacher says, if you can't hop, don't hop – she's very good about that." Millie said that the fitness classes have given her more energy and "it helps my attitude."

Sue Simmons, a life-long Lawrenceville resident who lives on 44th Street, started taking the class about a year ago. "I saw the

class posted on the Lawrenceville website. I love Zumba. It makes you sweat, feel good and burn calories," she explained. She has lost 40 pounds in the past year and says, "Zumba really helps." She has also started walking with some people from the class, taking 5- and 8-mile walks on the river trails. Sue works full time, but still gets to class. She explained that it's "not hard for me because I look forward to it so much, and it's a stress release." Aside from the weight loss she says Zumba "makes me feel better about myself and it's given me more confidence."

Instructor Stephanie Martin was inspired to get her Zumba teaching license after seeing an infomercial on television showing people dancing to Latin music in a cardio-based dance workout. She started teaching in 2009, and heard about the opening at the Center. She has her dance degree from Point Park University and an Exercise Physiology degree from University of Pittsburgh, and has been teaching a variety of fitness classes for the past 15 years.

"People of all ages take my classes, and most of the time my classes are full. I like teaching Zumba because I love dance and enjoy helping others get fit and healthy." She added, "The students in my classes are what inspire me. The participants that attend regularly come because they like my class," and she said she is always creating new routines for the group.

Classes will resume after Labor Day. Cost is \$30 for 8 classes, which are held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. For more information, contact Stephanie Martin at 412-526-2156 or Stephen Foster Community Center at 412-621-3342. ♦

BELOW: Participants in the Stephen Foster Community Center's Zumba class pose with instructor Stephanie Martin (center, in white). Photo by Dori Schoffstall



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## Giving and Receiving with Open Hand Ministries

By Carolyn Ristau *The Bulletin*

*East Liberty* – Every first Saturday of the month, I try to set aside time to volunteer with Open Hand Ministries (OHM). I got involved because of my interest in revitalizing Pittsburgh's vacant properties. OHM rehabs homes in Garfield and East Liberty for low-income, first-time homeowners with the assistance of volunteers. The use of volunteers is crucial to keep the houses affordable for the new owners.

This summer, OHM is working on a home in East Liberty for a single mother with three children. The house is more than 100 years old and had previously been converted into a multi-family unit. Now OHM is restoring it to a single-family dwelling and adding improvements such as spray foam insulation and higher ceilings in the attic.

The first Saturday of every month, volunteers of all skill levels are invited to lend a hand in preparing the house for its new family. During the August workday, I helped deconstruct the aluminum siding on the

house. We removed the old siding, which was damaged in places, to put foam insulation over the old shingles, which will then be covered with new siding. A few other volunteers and I removed the siding and folded it up, so that it could be recycled. The money OHM receives for recycling the aluminum goes straight back into the house.

Every time I volunteer with OHM, I know I am a part of helping a deserving family own its own home. In addition, I always meet new and interesting people and learn new skills. In August, I learned how siding is installed from the ground up and therefore the best way to take it off is from the top down. In July, I learned three new words—"parget," "trowel" and "hawk"—as we covered the stone walls in the basement walls with cement. This is called pargetting. We each used a trowel and hawk to apply cement.

"[You're] learning something along with creating something habitable from a derelict building," said Jack Jessup, a fellow volun-

teer, about why he likes working with OHM.

Jessup was part of the team deconstructing the siding. After we removed the siding, we discovered some of the shingles underneath were rotted and needed to be removed using a circular saw. Neither Jessup nor I had experience using power tools. However, Jessup decided this was his opportunity to learn.

"I looked death in the face," he said when I asked him about using the circular saw. Jessup felt he grew from the experience by "going out of my comfort zone, working with things that can kill you and being okay with it."

The first Saturday workdays are open to all volunteers. Future 2012 workdays are Sept. 8, Oct. 6, Nov. 3 and possibly Dec. 1. Skilled volunteers are also needed every Wednesday. For more information on volunteering with OHM, email Michael Stanton, OHM executive director, at [mstanton@pts.edu](mailto:mstanton@pts.edu). ♦



ABOVE: Volunteers work at removing aluminum siding from a house and folding it up to be recycled. Photo by Emily Rosenthal

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## 1862 Mystery Explosion Commemorated

By James Wudarczyk *Lawrenceville Historical Society*

*Lawrenceville* – At 2 p.m. on Sept. 17, 1862, the first of three explosions ripped through one of the laboratories at the Allegheny Arsenal in Lawrenceville. In the worst civilian disaster in the history of the American Civil War, the deadly blasts claimed the lives of 78 persons, many of whom were teenage girls. The cause of the deadly explosion remains one of the great mysteries of the 19th century.

On Sunday, Sept. 16, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Arsenal Park at 40th Street, the Lawrenceville Historical Society and the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War will commemorate this tragedy with a series of programs. The commemorative event, "A Memorial: Lawrenceville's 1862 Arsenal Explosion," is free and open to the public.

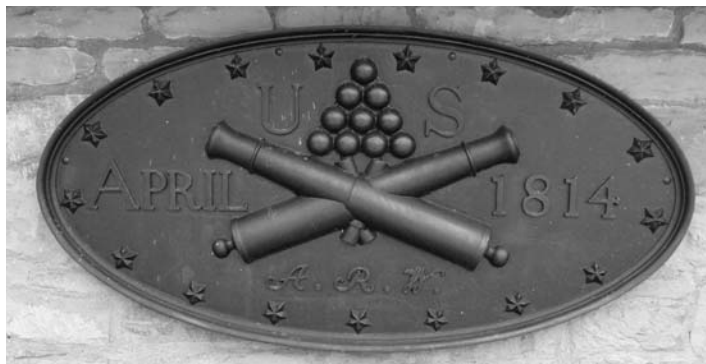
From 11 a.m. to noon, Tom Powers (author of *Portrait of an American Community: O'Hara Township, Pa.*) and Jim Wudarczyk (*Pittsburgh's Forgotten Allegheny*

*Arsenal*) will present a PowerPoint lecture that examines the events and theories behind the explosion. Using government documents, newspaper accounts and other sources, Powers and Wudarczyk meticulously examined the data and will shed new light on the subject. During the presentation, the Lawrenceville Historical Society will unveil a three-dimensional animated illustration of how the laboratory looked in 1862 and the sequence of explosions. This lecture will be repeated at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday and on Thursday, Sept. 20th at 7 p.m. at Canterbury Place, 310 Fisk St.

There will be demonstrations from 12:30 to 1 p.m. and 2:30 to 3 p.m., and music performances will take place from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. and again between 3 and 4 p.m.

Historic re-enactors will be on hand, and the Lawrenceville Historical Society has reissued a limited reprinting of the book *Pittsburgh's Forgotten Allegheny Arsenal*. ♦

BELOW: The Allegheny Arsenal emblem. Photo by Tom Powers





## Innovative LAB Helps Kids Get Creative

By Patrick Bowman *Lawrenceville Corporation*

*Garfield* – The Literary Arts Boom (LAB), operating out of Assemble, a community space for arts and technology at 5125 Penn Ave., is not your standard after-school program for neighborhood kids. In keeping with the spirit of Assemble's experiential art curation, LAB seeks to be a "creative-writing laboratory" focused on project-based workshops that incorporate art, technology and communication.

Children are encouraged to embrace LAB as their "third place," unique from home and school, and explore their inspiration and interests while finding their personal voices to tell their stories. Mentoring by a group of dedicated volunteers is also essential to LAB's programming. These volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds and offer the social capital, diverse skill sets and critical connections to help sustain LAB's mission.

For founder Paula Levin, LAB channeled the ways in which she felt about her adopted home, Pittsburgh, into a creative environment for local children to write and explore in an atmosphere separate from pervasive digital media outlets. She thought about the ways in which the technology sector and arts

scenes in the city continue to grow side by side, and how all these influences, combined in the proper setting, can allow children from ages 6 to 18 to become engaged rather than distracted.

"What kids do during their out-of-school time struck me as really important," said Levin, a recent graduate of Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz School of Public Policy. "How do we encourage kids to play, write and create when it's so easy to consume and be entertained? At LAB we want to imbue all of our programming with the spirit of exploration, experimentation and invention exhibited by historical and fictional mad scientists of past and present."

The project was inspired by 826 National, a project that combines quirky retail stores, like the Pirate Store located at 826 Valencia St. in San Francisco, with fun and effective youth programming with strong community connections. Levin spoke to 826 National's office about founding a chapter in Pittsburgh, and became connected to folks in the area with similar goals, like Gregg Behr of the Grable Foundation, Matt Luskey of the Western Pennsylvania Writing Project and Jesse Schell of Schell Games.

Funding through the Sprout Fund, the

Children's Museum and the Lewis Fellowship has allowed Levin to devote herself full-time to the LAB, which has found a great partner in Assemble and a great location in the Bloomfield-Garfield corridor of Penn Avenue.

"[Being located so close] to a lot of children coming from low-income neighborhoods is important because we want to provide programming that's accessible in terms of cost and location. All of our programs are free and we want to keep them that way," said Levin. "There are also a lot of creative things happening along the Penn Avenue corridor. People have been very excited and supportive."

Levin plans to grow the volunteer base for LAB over the coming months and introduce a larger operational capacity to provide quality programming daily. During the school year, Levin hopes to introduce weekly homework help sessions, in addition to one-off workshops that allow kids to develop their writing over time with ongoing attention.



ABOVE: LAB participants made their own paper for handmade notebooks. Photo by Paula Levin

For more information on LAB programming and mission, visit [literaryartsboom.org](http://literaryartsboom.org) or call 773-425-1531. ♦

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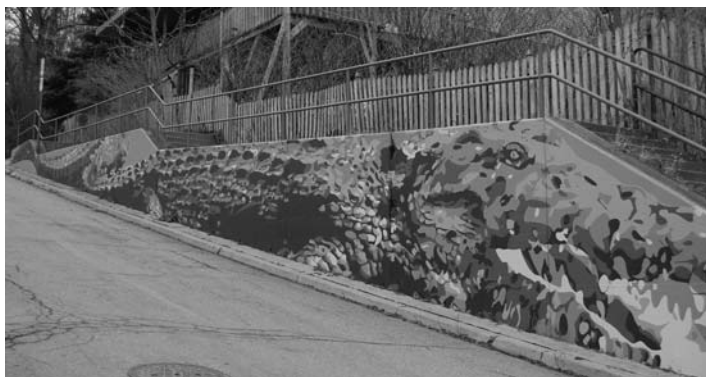
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## Steps from page 1



ABOVE: Rosetta Street steps, painted by Garfield artist Chris St. Pierre. Photo by Paula Martinac

public steps, have the word try painted on each riser. "I liked that people had taken care of them."

Flott started an organization called Community Steps Cooperative (CSC) to promote the local use and maintenance of the city's steps. The mission statement on CSC's website is "to engage communities in the maintenance and improvement of the City of Pittsburgh's public steps."

Begun in October 2011, CSC is still making its own first steps. It has a website, Facebook page, board and funding. Alex Lake, executive director of CSC, said the group expects to get a P.O. box and will be applying for nonprofit status.

Lake came to Pittsburgh three and a half years ago to work at the Union Project through the Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience (PULSE). Now, at CSC, he said, "It's neat to be part of something that's just beginning."

CSC will host its first volunteer workdays this fall. There are three workdays planned for the neighborhoods of Troy Hill, Oakland and Polish Hill. Lake explained these areas were chosen for having unique views of the city and having multiple staircases in close proximity. He said the goal of the workdays is to "make the steps more appealing to residents and visitors" by maintaining and repainting them as needed and "to get

people to come to steps they might not otherwise come across or use."

Lake noted that CSC hopes to have more workdays in the future in different locations, including other East End neighborhoods. In the meantime, he explained CSC will be working on additional initiatives for promoting the city steps. He discussed "assisting community members with ideas they have for their steps" and awareness programming such as "an art exhibit or something else not at a step site."

Flott explained, "We don't want to take over other people's projects. We really like that certain communities take care of their spaces. We want to help them make it easier."

This fall, Lake will be moving back to Garfield after living temporarily in Lawrenceville. The house he is moving to is on Rosetta Street, "near the alligator steps." These steps are the feature image on CSC's Facebook page. Flott said, "They are a good example of how you bring attention to your steps."

"[The steps] are a quirky Pittsburgh thing," Lake said. "It's the kind of thing that makes cities unique."

If you have a project for some city steps or want more information on volunteering with CSC, visit [www.cscpg.org](http://www.cscpg.org) or email Alex Lake at [alex@cscpg.org](mailto:alex@cscpg.org). ♦

## Catering Company Opens on Main Street

By Samantha McDonough

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Bloomfield – Roxanne Easley isn't new to catering. She began in 2006, by delivering dinners to small businesses in the East End, while working full-time at Highmark.

Then, after working at the insurance company for 10 years, she lost her job in 2008. Encouraged by fellow church members and friends, she began to consider opening her own catering business.

With help from some small business classes, Easley decided to pursue her dream, naming her venture "Roxanne's Soul Food Expressions." Through word of mouth, she was soon busy enough to support herself solely with her catering gigs. For four years, she didn't pick up another job. According to her website, the business serves everything: "a dinner for 2 or a banquet of 500."

In April 2011, on a drive down Main Street, Easley saw a sign in the window that caught her eye. The former pizza-shop site at 4124 Main St. was available for lease. She wanted to stay in the East End area, and felt fortunate to have found a property where the price was right, so she signed a lease right away.

After that, she says everything seemed to come together. She did the work little by little over a year, mostly by herself, to become "Roxanne's Catering and Take Out." Her opening was Aug. 15, 2012.

Of the name change, she says, "I figured I would take out the 'Soul Food,'



ABOVE: Roxanne Easley in front of her new establishment. Photo by Samantha McDonough

because, well, I do more than soul food." She says she doesn't want to be boxed in by that label and is able to provide a wide range of delicious food.

Items are prepared in advance, and customers can either walk in or call to order from her menu, which includes vegetarian options, croissant sandwiches and desserts. She also offers different daily specials.

Easley reports she has lots of ideas and plans for community-related events and gatherings she hopes to host in the future. In addition, a new website is in the works.

For more information, visit [www.rsecatering.com](http://www.rsecatering.com) or call 412-315-7471. ♦

## Redevelopment from page 5

and 17 for bikes. In the plan, no additions are required for either the parking lot or the school. The second alternative plan proposes 68 apartments with 88 parking spots for cars and 21 for bikes. This plan uses an additional level of parking, but only one additional story on the school building.

Onwugbenu explained that potential alternative parking strategies were also discussed with residents. These strategies included restrictions preventing tenants from parking on the streets, discounts for tenants without cars, a second-car fee and a Zip car station. He said, "People liked these ideas."

Byrne explained that of the three options presented, the original and the two alternatives, the community tended to prefer the second alternative plan. However, she said, "Given the option between one of these plans and none, none was chosen."

According to Byrne, LU and LC "wanted to create consensus around one plan." After getting the feedback from the meetings, she said, "LU cannot publicly support one of

the three plans because there is no consensus."

Onwugbenu told *The Bulletin* he is continuing to meet with residents and get additional feedback as his company and LDA try to develop "the optimal solution – the very best that is achievable." He listed five issues they are addressing: less density, more parking, whether or not to include an addition, dumpster placement and the ability for the apartments to become condos in the future.

At press time, a final plan was not completed. Onwugbenu said, "We will definitely communicate the plan before going to zoning." He described his intent to issue public documents with the details of the final design, "let it circulate and be discussed" and then follow this up with a community Q&A session. "Our goal is to take the plan to zoning in September," he said.

For updates on the project, contact LU at [info@Lunited.org](mailto:info@Lunited.org) or 412-802-7220. ♦



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## Toro's New Owners Build on Family Legacy

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

*Bloomfield* – Lee Smith says he never thought he'd be running a bar. But that is exactly the role the 35-year-old former probation officer fell into when his father, Don Smith, passed away in September 2010. His death left Lee's mother, Jackie, to manage Toro's, the bar the Smiths had opened together in 1988 at 5128 Penn Ave.

"I stepped in to help my mom," Lee explains. Then, when Jackie died in April 2012 after a nine-year battle with cancer, Lee found himself the owner of the neighborhood bar. "Her dying wish was that I continue the bar," Lee says. "She told me, 'Try your best.'"

His "best" has included transforming Toro's with a new look and ambiance. For starters, Lee took on major renovations of the space after Don's death. "I remember coming here when I was 11 and saying 'You could do this, Dad,' or 'You could do that,'" Lee recalls. But he says his father was hesitant to make extensive physical changes to the space, for fear they would take too much time and he would lose business. As a result, the bar in 2010 looked pretty much as it did when it was Stromboli's, an Italian restaurant, right down to the old booths and tables.

The first thing Lee did was rip those booths out. Then "he sanded all the old wood, and built new countertops," his wife, Janai, notes. "I didn't see him for about six weeks." He also installed sleek lighting fixtures, plush couches and a flat-screen TV.

The renovations were completed in November of last year.

One major physical renovation remains: The Smiths are working with Samantha McDonough, Mainstreets Manager for the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, to obtain a façade grant that will allow them to open up the front of the building. They know how they want it to look, but need to engage an architect to translate it to drawings.

"My dad installed the glass block," Lee explains of the current façade, "and it was appropriate to the time. But I want to open it up." He'd like a storefront window that invites people in and makes the bar appear less foreboding.

At the same time, the Smiths are contemplating a different name for the bar. "We've been considering how you continue a family tradition," Janai says. When the façade is renovated, they plan to rename the place "The Legacy Room," which suggests they're both carrying on for Don and Jackie but also making the bar their own. "Toro" was Don's professional boxing name, but "many people don't know he was a boxer," Lee says. They've hung a large photo of Don with some photos of fighters he boxed, and also framed the boxing shorts he wore when he went up against Joe Frazier and Sonny Liston in the 1960s.

The menu is getting an overhaul, too, and a newly hired cook has added lunch to more

traditional bar fare, like wings and fries. The new hours, begun in mid-August, are 11 a.m. to midnight during the week and 2 a.m. on weekends. The venue features a live DJ from 10 p.m. to closing on Friday and Saturday who "plays all types of music." Lee says they'd also like to be more involved with Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn, and were on the schedule for the first time for the August event.

Lee says the bar hasn't really had any public safety issues. "There's not too much people can get past me and my brother," he notes of his older brother, Don Jr., who opens the bar every day. "I watch everybody. I'm very alert... I turn away business that doesn't seem right."

Both Lee and Janai say they enjoy their customers, who tend to be a mature, over-25 crowd. "As long as you're respectful, you're welcome," Janai notes. They say they've had fun trying out different promotions, like a "guest bartender" period this



ABOVE: Lee and Janai Smith of the new Toro's with two of their three children, Robert Lee, 12, and newborn Lee Allen Jr.

past spring in which people who always wanted to tend bar got to try their hands at it. Janai, who handles the marketing end of the business, wants to offer drink and food specials during Steelers games this football season. "We're both big sports fans," she says.

Look for a new website, too, and a grand opening once the façade renovation is completed this fall. ♦

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# the Bulletin BOARD

## Local Events Classes Announcements Fundraisers

September 6

**GARFIELD****Volunteer Training**

Literary Arts Boom (The LAB), 5125 Penn Ave., is looking for volunteers who like to work with kids, read, write, ask questions, be silly, have fun, make things, think about things and talk about things. Volunteers are essential to The LAB, so please get involved. This training session is designed for volunteers who would like to work with youth. (If you'd like to help in other ways – marketing, fundraising, outreach, design, events, or something else – email literaryartsboom@gmail.com.) RSVP by Sept. 3 by emailing literaryartsboom@gmail.com or calling 773-425-1531. Please fill the volunteer form out in advance at <http://bit.ly/TheLABVolunteerForm>.

September 7

**EAST LIBERTY****Rain Garden Workshop**

A two-day rain garden design-build workshop will be held today and Saturday, Sept. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at the Pittsburgh Green House, 308 N. Sheridan Ave. The workshop will provide residents and landscape professionals with a functional understanding of the basic steps to properly site, size, design, construct and maintain a residential or small commercial rain garden through hands-on and classroom learning. The cost is \$50 per participant. Call 412-362-4744 or visit [www.pittsburghgreenhouse.org](http://www.pittsburghgreenhouse.org) for details.

**LAWRENCEVILLE****Art Exhibit**

Come to Gallery on 43rd, 187 43rd St., from 7 to 10 p.m. for the opening reception for an exhibit of Marian Sallade's landscape painting. The exhibit will run from today through Oct. 27. For more information, visit [www.galleryon43rdstreet.com](http://www.galleryon43rdstreet.com) or call 412-683-6488.

**SHADYSIDE****Unique Fused Glass**

Art with Heart, LLC, will be at the 2012 A Fair in the Park, 6300 Fifth Ave., today from 1 to 7 p.m., Sept. 8 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sept. 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mention this listing to receive a 10% discount.

September 8

**EAST LIBERTY****Back to School Party**

Crossroads East Liberty and Pittsburgh Obama 6-12 will be hosting a Back to School Block Party at

515 Highland Ave. from 1 to 5 p.m. Free school supplies will be offered as well as tours of the new Obama school building (formerly Peabody). Free food, live bands, games, face painting, prizes and giveaways will bring a festive spirit to the start of the academic year. The event will take place rain or shine.

**LAWRENCEVILLE****Paint the Town**

Join Delilah from Wish 99.7 at 8 a.m. to "Paint the Town" in Lawrenceville and transform the exterior of several buildings. Visit [www.wshh.com/paint\\_the\\_town.aspx](http://www.wshh.com/paint_the_town.aspx) to register as a volunteer or to learn more about the event.

September 10

**BLOOMFIELD****Zumba Demo**

The Cancer Caring Center, 4117 Liberty Ave., will host a Zumba Class from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Zumba is a unique combination of dance and exercise designed to put "fun" back into fitness while maximizing caloric expenditure, burning fat and providing total body toning. The fast and slow Latin rhythms used during the class create a party-like atmosphere. No previous dance experience is needed. Join Tootsie Sobkiewicz, LCSW, Certified Group Exercise Instructor and Zumba Instructor as she leads this fun-filled evening including a warm-up, 45-minute class and time for Q&A. Dress comfortably and bring a friend. Space is limited. Call 412-622-1212 to register.

September 12

**EAST LIBERTY****Whole Foods 5% Day**

Today, Whole Foods will donate 5% of total sales in the East Liberty store, 5880 Centre Ave., to Sojourner House, a residential treatment program to help mothers with children break the cycle of addiction. If you shop in the evening, please stop by the café for a small Sojourner House reception. For more information, visit [www.sojournerhousepa.org](http://www.sojournerhousepa.org) or call 412-441-7783.

**GARFIELD****News Learning Party**

Want to document what's going on in your neighborhood using words, art and video? Join Assemble for a free Daily News Learning Party and be part of a news-making extravaganza. Stop by 5125 Penn Ave. anytime between 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. to learn about the history of your neighborhood and tell others your neighborhood's latest news. Engage in fun, hands-on activities for kids, friends and grown-ups led by local artists, journalists and more. All materials provided. This project is supported in part

by Spark, a program of the Sprout Fund. Contact [assemblepgh@gmail.com](mailto:assemblepgh@gmail.com) for more information.

September 13

**OAKLAND****Documentary Screening**

Carlow University's Women's Studies program will screen "Miss Representation," a documentary that correlates negative media stereotypes of women with low participation of women in the political process, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Kresge Theater, 3333 5th Ave., fifth floor. The film will be followed by a discussion panel with experts from Carlow, other local universities and nonprofit organizations who will comment on the film and invite the audience to consider how women's and girls' complex realities are distorted in the media. For more information, contact Dr. Katie Hogan at 412-578-6391 or [kjhogan@carlow.edu](mailto:kjhogan@carlow.edu).

September 14

**EAST LIBERTY****Dance Show**

Camille A. Brown & Dancers use sketch comedy, live music, and bold dance to examine African-American humor throughout history at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Ave. "Mr. TOL E. RANcE" exposes issues of tolerance and the representation of African-Americans in the media. While not shying away from the origins of stereotypes of black entertainers, Brown seeks to celebrate the humor and perseverance of the black performer by blending contemporary with the historic. The show starts at 8 p.m. today and on Sept. 15. Come early to enjoy the pre-show mixer. Visit [www.kelly-strayhorn.org](http://www.kelly-strayhorn.org) or call 412-363-3000 for registration information.

**GARFIELD****Characters of the Bible**

Morningside Church of God in Christ, 5173 Dearborn St., presents "The Characters of the Bible" with a youth presentation today at 7 p.m. and an adult presentation Sept. 16 at 5 p.m. For more information, call the church at 412-361-9865.

September 15

**LAWRENCEVILLE****Back to School Party**

Stop by Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., at 10:30 a.m. to meet your neighbors and fellow classmates. Get to know the library staff, which you can go to if you need homework help. Play games, read stories, do crafts and eat snacks. This is a family event for children of all ages and their families. Snacks will be provided.

**LAWRENCEVILLE****Teen Time**

Your school day might be kind of boring, but your backpack and locker don't have to be. Come to Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., at 2 p.m. to jazz them up by making buttons for your backpack and magnets and mirrors for your locker.

September 17

**BLOOMFIELD****Cancer Support Group**

Teal Hearts Network, an ovarian support group meets on the third Monday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at The Cancer Caring Center, 4117 Liberty Ave. Please call the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition at 412-661-1095 to register.

**LAWRENCEVILLE****End of Summer Camp-Out**

Come to Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., at 7 p.m. to read stories about camping, tell spooky stories, roast marshmallows and make your own binoculars. This event is for children of all ages and their families. Snacks will be provided, including s'mores.

September 19

**STANTON HEIGHTS****Community Meeting**

The Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Sunnyside Elementary, 4801 Stanton Ave. All neighbors are welcome. Discussion of upcoming board member elections, a speaker from the Pittsburgh Obama 6-12 and continued planning for the community healing garden at Woodbine Street and Stanton Avenue are on the agenda. For more information, visit [stanton-heights.wordpress.com](http://stanton-heights.wordpress.com).

September 21

**LAWRENCEVILLE****Celebration of Hank Williams**

At 7 p.m., Pittsburgh Cares is celebrating its 20th birthday and its relocation to Lawrenceville with a Celebration of Hank Williams party at the Lawrenceville Moose, 120 51st St. Tickets are on sale now. General admission is \$10. VIP packages are also available. Tickets are available online at [www.pittsburghcares.org](http://www.pittsburghcares.org) by clicking on the Birthday icon, by phone 412-770-8150 and in person at Nied's Hotel, 5438 Butler St.

September 25

**LAWRENCEVILLE****Game Night**

Come to Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., at 6 p.m. for a game night of chess, checkers, Scrabble and more.

September 28

**EAST LIBERTY****Hot Pepper**

At 8 p.m. today and Sept. 29, the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Ave., presents "Hot Pepper,"

**Sorry, we cannot 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 SEPTEMBER issue are due FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, via email to [bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org).**



# Volunteer Opportunities & Services

which captures the malaise of young low-level office workers in three quirky scenes set in an office break room. In the sharp and visually vibrant world of writer-director Toshiki Okada, 20-something co-workers wrestle with issues as mundane as selecting a restaurant for lunch or the temperature of the office. The show is performed by chelfitsch, a leading theater company in Japan and abroad, in Japanese with English supertitles. Come early to enjoy the pre-show mixer. Visit [www.kelly-strayhorn.org](http://www.kelly-strayhorn.org) or call 412-363-3000 for registration information.

## September

### FRIENDSHIP

#### Dance Classes

Come to the Alloy School, 5530 Penn Ave., to get your groove on and make new friends at community dance classes. Classes include hip-hop, contemporary/modern dance and salsa/meringue and are taught by experienced instructors in a supportive, non-competitive environment. Classes are designed for teens and adults at all skill levels. The fall session begins Monday, Sept. 24. Visit [www.kelly-strayhorn.org](http://www.kelly-strayhorn.org) or call 412-363-3000 for registration information.

### GARFIELD

#### Experi-Mondays

The LAB, 5125 Penn Ave., hosts assorted writing workshops and activities that involve art, technology and communication for youths ages 6-18. Experi-Mondays are held weekly from 4 to 6 p.m. and are free with snacks provided. Call 773-425-1531, visit [www.literaryartsboom.org/calendar](http://www.literaryartsboom.org/calendar) or email [literaryartsboom@gmail.com](mailto:literaryartsboom@gmail.com) for more details. If you plan to bring a group of students,

please let us know. Parents/guardians should fill out a student application at their first visit.

#### Free Homework Help

The LAB, 5125 Penn Ave., invites youth to get homework help from volunteer mentors every Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Snacks provided. For more details, call 773-425-1531, email [literaryartsboom@gmail.com](mailto:literaryartsboom@gmail.com) or visit [www.literaryartsboom.org/calendar](http://www.literaryartsboom.org/calendar). If you plan to bring a group of students, please let us know. Parents/guardians should fill out a student application at their first visit.

#### Teen Poetry

Come one, come all, to the Teen Poet's Laboratory, a series of four weekly workshops on Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the LAB, 5125 Penn Ave. Participants will have the chance to experiment with language, showcase their writing talent, share their work and receive feedback from peers, hone their wordsmith skills, and have their final work published in an end-of-the-lab anthology. LAB poets will also be able to read their work aloud at the final public reading event. We welcome writers of all abilities. Please RSVP to [literaryartsboom@gmail.com](mailto:literaryartsboom@gmail.com) or 773-425-1531.

#### Weekly Farm Stand

Come up to Valley View Presbyterian Church, 601 N. Aiken Ave., any Wednesday between 3 and 7 p.m. for fresh produce from the Garfield Community Farm and Knotweed Farm. The farm stand will run through October.

### LAWRENCEVILLE

#### Kindergarten Readiness

Family Care Connection, 5235 Butler St., offers a free kindergarten readiness class for children ages 3

to 5. Our Jumpstart classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon. The sessions include social skills, math and reading readiness, songs, free play, art and music. A child-friendly snack is served. For parents who wish to stay in the center, they may read and relax or join in one of our adult cooking, crafts or parenting sessions. We also offer sibling childcare for toddlers. Call Ms. Stasi, 412-784-8683 ext. 13, for enrollment information. Class size is very limited.

#### Tree Captains

Contact your local tree captain if you have a tree that looks ill or is buckling the sidewalk and for information about the guidelines for getting a new tree in front of your home. 6th Ward Tree Captains are Susan Vanalstine, 412-206-9385 or [Susanvana@gmail.com](mailto:Susanvana@gmail.com), and Deborah Knox, 412-344-3966 or [Knoxconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:Knoxconsulting@gmail.com). 9th Ward Tree Captains are Rebekkah Rinaldo, 412-760-5604 or [rrinaldo@opdc.org](mailto:rrinaldo@opdc.org), and Sarah Pack, 919-599-4127 or [sarah\\_pack@yahoo.com](mailto:sarah_pack@yahoo.com). 10th Ward Tree Captains are Jesse Perkins, 412-916-4618 or [silonkid@hotmail.com](mailto:silonkid@hotmail.com) (email preferred), and Jake Milofsky, [jake@treepittsburgh.org](mailto:jake@treepittsburgh.org).

### Further Out

#### LAWRENCEVILLE

##### House Tour

The annual Hospitality House Tour will be held on Sunday, Oct. 7 from noon to 5 p.m. and will begin at the Butler Street entrance to the Allegheny Cemetery. Advance tickets will go on sale on Sept. 4 at these Lawrenceville businesses: Perk Me Up, Jay Design, Gallery on 43rd, Dandelions, CoCo Cafe and Pavement. The tour is self-guided and this year will feature 10 unique homes and two points of interest, the Ronald McDonald House at Children's Hospital and Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. For more information, visit [www.lha15201.org](http://www.lha15201.org).

### PITTSBURGH

#### Volunteers Needed

Citizens Against Litter are looking for volunteers for the fall Redd Up weekend, Oct. 19, 20 and 21. Groups and individuals interested in volunteering, please contact [boris.weinstein@verizon.net](mailto:boris.weinstein@verizon.net) or call 412-688-9120 to be put in touch with local neighborhood Clean Pittsburgh Stewards.



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GCAT CHAT

**Community Clean-Up**  
*Saturday, September 8, at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Ave.*

---

**Love Your Block Garden Project Planning**  
*Wednesday, September 12, at 5:30 p.m. at the Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave.*  
 Garfield has been awarded another Love Your Block grant from the City of Pittsburgh! Help us plan and design our next project.

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**Garfield Tree Plan Meeting**  
*Tuesday, September 18, at 6:00 p.m. at 5429 Penn Ave.*

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**GCAT Monthly Meeting**  
*Wednesday, September 26, at 6:00 p.m. at Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Ave.*

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**Become a Garfield Gardener!**  
*Saturday, September 29, at 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 5201 Penn Avenue.*  
 Join the Garfield Gardeners as we **clean-up and green-up** the neighborhood!

## Classifieds

For classified rates, please call 412-441-6915 or email [bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org).

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**"They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself."**

— ANDY WARHOL



As a Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation Board Member, you can help bring about change in your community!

If you're interested in finding out more about the duties and responsibilities of being a BGC Board Member, join us on Monday, September 24, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Avenue, for a special "Get Acquainted" session. Pizza and soft drinks will be served.

We are always looking for potential board members with marketing, legal, development or financial management skills, but all interested community members are encouraged to join us.

Please RSVP to 412-441-6950 x 15 by Friday, September 21, if you plan to attend. We hope to see you there!



**"Changing lives and neighborhoods since 1976"**

## Garfield Gallery Drives Toward Art

By Carolyn Ristau *The Bulletin*

*Garfield*—Jason and Nina Sauer and their 7-month-old son, Rowdy, of Penn Avenue's Most Wanted Fine Art (MWFA) took a national art car tour with their interactive conceptual art demolition derby car from Aug. 5 through 25. The family visited cities and art districts in Ohio, Missouri, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia.

The art car was themed "most wanted" and transformed with every stop on the tour. The couple took mug shots of people in each city they visited and wheat-pasted them directly onto the car. The images were also uploaded to social media, so that supporters could be part of the trip and follow the adventures. The trip served not only to create art but also to advertise and recruit car artists for the upcoming October Art Car event in the Penn Avenue arts district.

While in the DIY art districts and museums in each city, the Sauer family met with other gallery owners and community groups to learn how they have successfully engaged the neighborhoods around them while furthering their arts message.

Nina Sauer explained, "These visits created awareness of Penn Avenue arts and culture while encouraging a relationship between districts. The ultimate goal was to create an opportunity for gallery swaps."

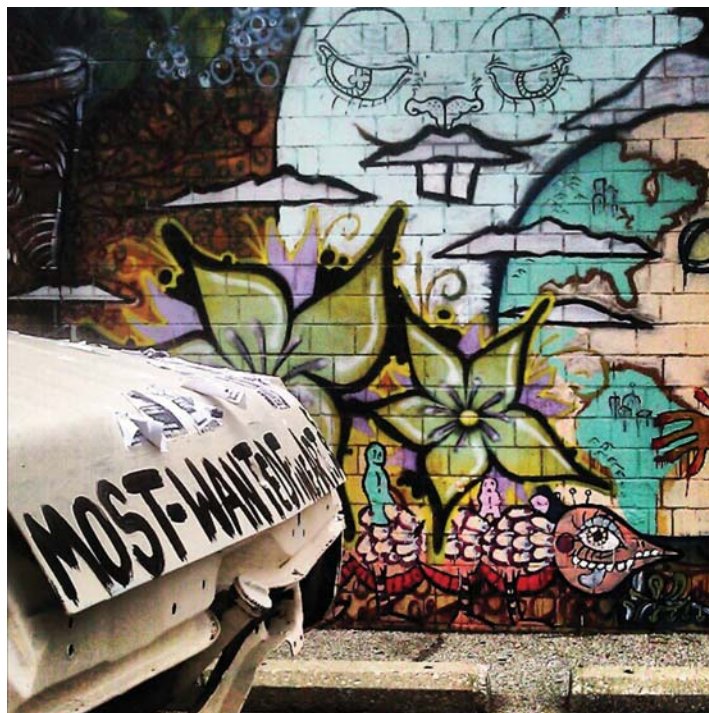
Jason Sauer kicked off these swaps earlier in the summer when MWFA took Pittsburgh artists to the Waterloo Art District in Cleveland. This exchange will be continued in October in conjunction with Unblurred:

First Fridays on Penn, as Cleveland vs. Pittsburgh comes to Garfield Artworks, 4931 Penn Ave. Nina Sauer said, "[This interaction] gives an introduction for artists into new markets while allowing an open discussion of what works and what doesn't."

After the trip, the MWFA team took the car to its next phase: destruction. On August 31, the car participated in an American folk art performance of Demolition Derby at the Great Stoneboro Fair in Stoneboro, Pa. Jason Sauer has participated in this event for 17 years, turning the resulting wreckage into art.

The artwork from this year's car wreckage will be displayed at the Pittsburgh Art Car event, "Vehicular Abstraction." The art car celebration starts the evening of Friday, Oct. 5, as part of Unblurred, and includes an exhibit at MWFA, 5015 Penn Ave. The art display will include Jason Sauer's car-themed sculptures, as well as prints by Scott Frish, professor at West Texas A&M University, and John Lysak, professor at Edinboro University.

On Saturday, Oct. 6, "Vehicular Abstraction" changes speed and switches from art about cars to art on cars. Already-decorated cars will be part of a juried event, with the winner receiving a trophy and prizes. Celebrity judges will include Nicholas Chambers, the Milton Fine Curator of Art for the Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh Councilman Bill Peduto (District 8) and George Patterson, two-time winner of the Pittsburgh Gran Prix. There will also be



ABOVE: Most Wanted Fine Art's art car made a tour of the Midwest and South in August. Photo by Nina Sauer

children's events, musical entertainment and more.

Visit MWFA's website, [www.most-wantedfineart.com](http://www.most-wantedfineart.com), for more information about "Vehicular Abstraction" and the gallery's events. ♦

## If You Read "The Bulletin" Every Month ...

Did you know that *The Bulletin* has been a free community publication of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) since 1975?

Why publish a community newspaper? Well, it's not to make money! We do it because one of our goals is to bring about meaningful change in the lives of our residents, and we believe strongly that having access to information empowers people.

But the BGC doesn't stop there. If you read the paper regularly, you know that, just since 2011, the BGC has also accomplished the following:

- Construction of 5 new single-family, for-sale homes in Garfield, bringing to 44 the number completed with our partner, Garfield Jubilee Association, since 2002;
- Start of construction of Garfield Glen, 45 single-family houses for rent to working-class households, beginning this summer;
- Operation of MainStreets Program for Penn Avenue that produced public artwork and beautification projects, and filled 4 vacant storefronts with new entrepreneurs;
- Hosting of planning sessions with community residents, city officials and their engineering consultants to move forward a \$5 million reconstruction of the public infrastructure along Penn Avenue, between N. Mathilda and N. Evaline Streets., beginning in 2013;
- Opening of Pittsburgh CONNECTS, a free community technology center on Penn Avenue;
- Placement of 45 teens and young adults in part-time jobs with area employers;
- Continuous interaction with law enforcement authorities through monthly meetings of the Public Safety Task Force;

Please consider investing in *The Bulletin* and your community by becoming a member of the BGC, at whatever level you can afford. Thank you for your support of our work.

**YES! I want to support community renewal through membership in the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation:**



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

You can direct your donation to a particular program, or allow us to use it in the area of greatest need by leaving the following program areas unchecked:

☐ Youth education and employment ☐ Publication of *The Bulletin*  
☐ Penn Avenue revitalization ☐ Housing development  
☐ Public safety initiative

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Please make checks payable to Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and mail to: Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, ATTN: Membership, 5149 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224. **You can also donate online via PayPal at [www.bloomfield-garfield.org](http://www.bloomfield-garfield.org).**