



# The Bulletin

A Publication of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

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## ENEC Poised for Expansion of Services

Big changes are underway at the Eastside Neighborhood

By Joseph Breems  
*Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.*

Employment Center (ENEC). In July, the agency was awarded a \$75,000 grant from the BNY Mellon Foundation, which will provide the resources it needs to grow and better serve employees and job seekers alike.

This growth will occur not only in relation to the services the ENEC provides directly to clients, such as expanding hours of operation and offering educational and post-secondary training counseling, but will also ultimately change the way workforce development happens in Pittsburgh's East End. Rick Flanagan, Manager of the ENEC, sees this as an "opportunity for system change," a chance to alter the normal path of development and employment so that it better includes local residents and organizations. The ENEC prefers to achieve this through active and consistent collaboration across the public, private, non-profit, and residential sectors.

Even as the ENEC was applying for this grant, it was already deeply engaged in East End Works, a multifaceted collaborative of nearly 30 nonprofits. In total, the ENEC currently works with 40 private and non-profit employer partners, but with the funding from BNY Mellon, the ENEC aims to increase this count to 100.

Projects of East End Works that the ENEC is specifically looking to expand on include its employment website (EastEndWorks.com) and its employer partnership model. With the website, the ENEC has set a goal of having at least 50 local open positions

posted at any one time, up from the current 32.

As for the employer partnership model, the ENEC is looking to create relationships with numerous employers in the East End similar to the relationship it has with Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. This includes targeted job fairs, interviewing and skills counseling for applicants, a personal relationship with the employer's Human Resources department, and case management support for those employees hired in high-turnover positions.

One new collaboration is the developing relationship of the ENEC, East Liberty Development, Inc. and the coming Target department store in East Liberty. Through this expanded partnership, the ENEC has set the goal of having 33 permanent jobs at Target filled by well-trained, local, low-income residents.

Most importantly, the BNY Mellon grant will give the ENEC the ability to bring on the full-time staff it needs to carry out this growth. From its current staff of three part-time employees, the ENEC will expand to a full-time Projects Manager, a full-time Projects Coordinator, a part-time Follow-Up Specialist, and a part-time bookkeeper.

The overarching goal for this grant, according to Projects Manager Bill Woodward, is for the ENEC "to become a hub for employment activities [in the East End]."

"The question that is driving us," added Woodward, "is, 'Can we, through collaboration, improve East

See *ENEC*, page 4



Paula Martinez/The Bulletin

The 200 block of South Pacific Avenue was turned into a movie set in mid-August for the filming of *One for the Money*, starring Katherine Heigl. The film, based on the first novel in a series by popular mystery writer Janet Evanovich, features Heigl as Stephanie Plum, a bounty hunter in Trenton, N.J. This house is a stand-in for Plum's parents' home in Trenton, according to Michael Umble, publicist for the movie. The cast and crew were filming interior shots only at this location; the black tarps darkened the rooms for night scenes. Umble said they were also shooting driving shots on the street in front of the house, to establish the location.

## BGC Secures Funding To Build More New Homes in Garfield

More new single-family homes will be built in Garfield this fall, as the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) picked up funding commitments in recent weeks.

This will bring to 43 the number of 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath homes that have filled in more than 100 vacant lots between N. Mathilda Street and N. Atlantic Avenue since 2002. Five homes are destined for sites at Kincaid and N. Evaline streets, and in the 5000 block of Broad Street.

Each will offer qualified buyers

By Joe Reuben  
*The Bulletin*

second-mortgage loans of up to \$50,000 from the city's Urban Redevelopment

Authority (URA) to use towards the purchase price of \$141,500. The rest of the buyers' financing will have to come from traditional sources, including at least \$2,000 of their own cash, according to Rick Swartz, the BGC's executive director. Garfield Jubilee Association (GJA) has been a partner with the BGC in the project, qualifying interested parties for both the

See *HOMES*, page 5

The final deadline for all articles, ads, and Bulletin Board items for the October 2010 issue is **WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 15, 2010**. Placement is first-come, first-served. For more information: 412-441-6915.

## Children's Home and Neighbors Resolve Noise Issue

When problems arise between a strong community asset and a group of local residents, emotions can run high, and the road to resolution can be long and winding. With the help of city council members, the mayor and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), the Children's Home of Pittsburgh & Lemieux Family Center (CHP) and some Friendship neighbors have amicably settled an issue that had been under discussion and mediation for several years.

"This is a good example of folks coming together to resolve things amicably," said Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC who acted as mediator in the process. "Both sides wanted to be good neighbors. By sitting down at the table, and with strong leadership from public officials, they came up with a solution."

The problem began shortly after

the Children's Home moved into its new \$21 million facility at 5324 Penn Avenue in 2007. Nearby neighbors reported loud noise from the air conditioning units on the roof of the building. CHP hired a nationally renowned sound engineer to conduct a study of the sound from the compressors and air conditioning units, and found that they were not in violation of any city ordinances.

Because the neighbors concerns remained, CHP agreed to install new compressor wraps and fan blades. Although the sound did change after the installation, the neighbors said that the noise actually grew worse. Concerned residents engaged Brose as mediator in a series of meetings between them and CHP leadership.

The neighbors requested a "sound wall" that would direct the air conditioner noise up instead of

By Paula Martinac  
*The Bulletin*

out into the streets. But after the construction of its new facility, CHP said it had limited resources to implement this solution, with a cost of approximately \$40,000. The CHP board, however, voted to contribute up to \$20,000 to the effort. The neighbors said they would raise the remainder of the funds.

Brose and Councilman Patrick Dowd of District 7, who had attended all the meetings, agreed to assist the neighbors in raising the funds. Dowd immediately offered to pitch in toward the effort, and urged his fellow Councilman Bill Peduto of District 8 to join him. Councilman Ricky Burgess of District 9 lobbied with the mayor on the community's behalf and secured additional funds from the mayor's office, reaching the needed \$20,000.

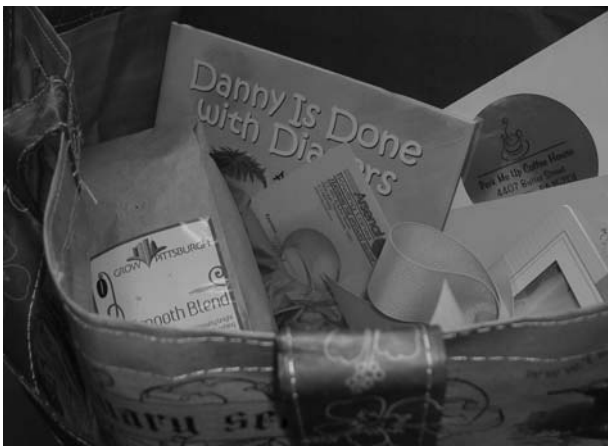
In a formal agreement signed by

all concerned parties on July 30, the neighbors agreed that the "installation of the wall will resolve the complaint," and that they would not appeal the resolution of the air conditioning problem.

"Working with the executive team at the Children's Home has led to a successful resolution of the HVAC noise issue in Friendship," Mike Dolan, one of the Friendship neighbors, told *The Bulletin*. "We are quite thankful for the leadership of Aggie Brose, combined with the significant support of Councilmen Dowd, Peduto and Burgess and Mayor Ravenstahl."

At press time, installation of the sound wall was scheduled to take place in late August. Pam Schanwald, executive director of Children's Home, said, "We are so glad to be an integral part of the rebuilding of the community and neighborhood."

## Bulletin Survey Results: Bring On the News!



A PEEK INSIDE ONE OF THREE BULLETIN GIFT BAGS.

Congratulations to Sheila Reitter, Kourtenay Guenther, and Jia Ji, who each won a gift bag full of gift certificates and other goodies for taking part in *The Bulletin's* June survey. Their names were drawn randomly from the 130 survey participants. Our deepest gratitude to the following businesses, individuals, and organizations that donated items to the bags: Arsenal Bowl, Bike Pittsburgh, Creative Fitness, Dance Alloy Theater, Dandelions, Dozen Bake Shop, Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest, Grow Pittsburgh, artist Laura McLaughlin, ModernFormations, PA Connecting Communities, People's Indian Restaurant, Perk Me Up Coffee House, Pittsburgh Glass Center, The Quiet Storm Coffeehouse, author Rebecca O'Connell, Srocki Studios, Tessaro's Restaurant, The Framery, and T's Upholstery Studio. Thanks, also, to the partners of the East End Partnership who either secured gift items or contributed to the bags themselves: Bloomfield Development Corporation, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, East Liberty Development, Inc., Friendship Development Associates, Lawrenceville Corporation, and Lawrenceville United.

In the June issue of *The Bulletin*, we asked our readers to tell us what they like about their community newspaper and how they think it could be improved. We received approximately 130 enthusiastic responses from people who use *The Bulletin* for community news, event listings, arts coverage, the Bulletin Board, classified and display ads, and more.

By an overwhelming margin, the most popular part of the paper was the news section, favored by 82 percent of all readers. Other popular features are profiles of organizations, arts coverage, and the eyesore/showcase of the month.

In fact, our readers are clamoring to see even more community events and neighborhood news (25 responses). Readers suggested we include profiles of new businesses, a police blotter and crime statistics, neighborhood history, participation and volunteer opportunities, and feature articles about young people. Many wished to see events presented in a monthly events calendar, editorial or opinions pieces, or coupons for businesses advertising in *The Bulletin*. A few even encouraged *The Bulletin* staff to conduct restaurant reviews or arts coverage with "a fresh point of view."

Almost 60 percent of our readers have attended events covered by *The Bulletin*, including church activities, movies in the park, history lectures, Art All Night, Unblurred, the Cookie Tour, farmer's markets, and bike events. Over a third of respondents had either used our advertisers or requested information from them.

We also asked our readers to tell us a little about themselves. Over 85 percent of the responses came from readers in Lawrenceville, Friendship, Bloomfield, Garfield, or East Liberty, though the rest of the city was well-represented and one survey came in from as far away as Wheeling, West Virginia. We found a significant number of readers in every age group, though one reader revealed our impertinence by asserting that "a woman should never have to tell her age."

We sincerely thank everyone who participated in the survey and all of our readers, and also Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation intern Michael Rebinski for compiling and analyzing the responses. Our readers' feedback is an essential part of focusing *The Bulletin* to meet your needs. We look forward to using your suggestions to guide and shape the paper in the coming years.

## Neighbors and Convenience Store Still at Odds

Unlike the issue between the Children's Home of Pittsburgh and nearby residents (see story page 2), the problems between Brian + Cooper Food Mart in Bloomfield and its neighbors are far from resolved. In fact, a community meeting on August 16 made clear that the issue is at a standstill.

The meeting, mediated by Aggie Brose, deputy director of Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, was a follow-up to the April 8 public gathering reported on in the May issue of *The Bulletin*. After that April meeting, a smaller group, composed of a handful of community members, the manager of the store, and the building owner, convened to hammer out specific points on which they could agree.

At that time, Ahsan Ansari, the store's manager, promised that the

store would discourage beer drinking in the back of the facility, where there are stools and a TV set up, between 4 p.m. and midnight. He also assented to carrying more items that his neighbors might want to purchase, like cappuccino, fresh milk and premium beers.

In April, Nick Redondo, owner of the physical facility, agreed for his part to post signs laying out the rules of the establishment. Redondo, however, did not follow through, only producing the list of regulations at the August 16 meeting and allowing that he had never posted them.

To its credit, Brian + Cooper has instituted a few of the changes Ansari and owner Nasir Raess agreed to, including stocking higher-quality items. *The Bulletin* noted premium

By Paula Martinac  
*The Bulletin*

beers such as Blue Moon and Sam Adams in the coolers during a visit

after the public meeting. The management has also obscured the covers of the adult magazines they offer for sale, making the store more family-friendly. Signs for milk and cappuccino are displayed prominently in the front windows. The coffee is fairly priced at 99 cents a cup for any size.

Neighbors at the August 16 meeting noted these improvements. Their part of the April bargain was to patronize the store more often, and some have been in to purchase milk, coffee and ice cream. "Some things have changed," said John Horchner, vice president of Friendship Preservation Group. "The milk is fresh and well-priced." But asked to rate the store on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best quality, Horchner gave it only a 3. Other residents in attendance agreed, rating it between 2 and 4, observing that the space is not well-maintained, so they do not want to go in to make purchases.


The biggest problem on which the two sides cannot reach agreement concerns the back of the store, which is still operating as a sort of "lounge," according to Councilman Patrick Dowd, who also attended the meeting.

Police were called to the area on August 12 about a rowdy and drunken group that had just left Brian + Cooper.

Redondo noted that the activity in the back room has been monitored by undercover police, and is not illegal. "What standard are we shooting for?" asked Dowd. "Just because something is not illegal doesn't make it acceptable."

The meeting concluded with some heated exchanges. Dowd, in particular, said he was angry that so many calls have been made to police about one neighborhood spot, when other areas go without police protection. "The avenue we will be forced to follow is through the law," he said, referring to upcoming state Senate committee hearings on liquor-license saturation and economic development in communities.


"This process isn't working," concluded Brose about her attempts to mediate between the management and the neighbors. "We'll convene the nearby neighbors and come up with a different strategy." At that point, Ansari asked Brose to set up a walk-through of the store to identify issues of concern. Although she agreed, Brose did so with reservation, noting that the issues are clear and have all been identified.



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### FOR PUBLIC SALE BY OWNER

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation is offering two homes for sale in the 5300 block of Waterford Street, just off N. Aiken Avenue, in Garfield. Our goal is to sell both houses to individuals or families looking for homes of their own.

Each house has 3 bedrooms with one bath, and will be delivered "as is" to buyers in broom-swept condition. Each home will require some repairs and/or improvements by their future owners.

We are setting the minimum bid price for each home at \$19,500. The homes will be open to the public for inspection on Saturday, September 18, from noon to 3 p.m. The BGC will have information for interested parties on mortgage loan programs available to first-time homebuyers, and will have representatives from a HUD-certified counseling agency on hand for those who would like to discuss credit-related issues.

Interested parties wishing to submit a bid on either home must do so in writing to the BGC's offices at 5149 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224, Attention: Michael Rebinski, or online to MichaelR@bloomfield-garfield.org, on or before 5 p.m., Friday, October 1, 2010. All bidders must provide a written statement as to their qualifications to purchase a home, including verifiable information on their annual household income, with their bid submission. The BGC will not be entertaining bids from any investors. Bidders will be asked to sign a release allowing the BGC to obtain his/her/their credit report(s) prior to acceptance of any bid as final. For additional information, please contact Mr. Rebinski at 412-441-6950, ext. 16.



# The Bulletin

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



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

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

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Thanks also to BNY Mellon,  
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our advertisers.

Don't forget to visit The  
Bulletin's blog at  
[www.bgcbulletin.blogspot.com](http://www.bgcbulletin.blogspot.com)  
for the latest events  
and happenings!

## EYESORE OF THE MONTH

### The Jolly Green Giant of Penn Avenue

Driving down Penn Avenue, it is hard to miss the "Lackzoom Acidophilus" building that sits at No. 5468. Many years ago, this distinctive structure was an asset to the community's commercial corridor—it was an early 20th-century establishment that sold yogurt and health food, and eventually morphed into General Nutrition Centers (GNC).

Today, this historic building is an ivy-covered, weed-infested eyesore. According to the Allegheny County website, the recorded owner of this property is Max Kaiser, who has paid his current taxes but not the taxes for the three years prior. According to the city record room, a complaint has been filed and an inspection is pending.

When the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation staff visited the property, we found the front and side of the building covered in ivy and the backyard completely overgrown with weeds. The backyard is also being used to store an abandoned truck last registered in 2006 and what appears to be an abandoned trailer. (See photo below.) Posted on the property's front entrance is a notice from Duquesne Light stating the turn-off of all electric service to the property. Clearly, this property is not being used for any commercial venture or as a regular living space.

Nearby residents report that the building has been vacant since December 2009, with the owner visiting the property "every once in a

while." Neighbors are deeply concerned about the current condition of property. As one neighbor stated, "We love our house, and we try our best to keep it up. What is most important to us is that the area keeps improving."

But this property has been sitting vacant for months and is not being used to its full potential. How can the area continue to improve if a building of this stature is left to rot? A large building with lots of space, it could bring great value to the avenue if taken care of properly. In order for the property to bring value to the neighborhood the owner has to take responsibility for it or sell it to someone who will. We understand that there are interested buyers.

The only published number for Mr. Kaiser is currently disconnected. We would like to speak with him and ask him what his plans are for the property. Is he going to clean up the mess that has been left there? The corner of Penn and Graham is up and coming, and this property cannot continue to stand vacant and underutilized. It is unfair to the nearby neighbors and surrounding businesses that are making an investment in the community and working to improve the Penn Avenue corridor.

Mr. Kaiser, please contact the BGC at 412-441-6950 about your plans for this property.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

**ALTHOUGH NOT VISIBLE FROM  
PENN AVENUE, THE REAR YARD OF  
THE LACKZOOM BUILDING IS  
SMOTHERED WITH WEEDS.**

## ENEC, from page 1

End residents' ability to not only get, but hold onto, good, permanent jobs?"

Given the ambitious goals set by the ENEC, the growing strengths of its collaborative partnerships, and the much needed injection of this funding from BNY Mellon, all signs seem to point toward a definite "Yes."

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## EASTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD EMPLOYMENT CENTER HAPPENINGS

Informational sessions will be held at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC), 5321 Penn Avenue in Garfield, for the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) and Bidwell Training Center. CCAC sessions on health, accounting, welding, HVAC, EMT, and other careers will be held September 10 at 10 a.m. Bidwell Training Center will present an information session on chemical lab, horticulture, culinary arts, medical, and office technology on September 17 at 11 a.m. Pittsburgh JobCorps Center will begin holding information sessions in October

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) is available for appointments on September 13 and 27. The office serves those with disabilities (physical, mental or emotional) that create a barrier to finding employment. A representative from the office will provide an hour intake session to determine each individual's needs, interests, aptitudes, education and work experience to best assist them in an employment search.

NeighborWorks Western Pa. will offer one-on-one counseling sessions every Tuesday in September from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to help individuals and families with financial counseling, homebuyer education, and affordable loans needed to improve and keep their homes.

To register for these services, please call ENEC at 412-362-8580.

## Another Summer of Interns Comes to a Close



The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center celebrated the success of their summer youth interns at an outdoor party on August 16, the last day of the program. This year, 180 young people, aged 14 to 21, took part as interns, receiving training and career development at diverse organizations and businesses across the East End. The program was funded by the Pittsburgh Youth Summer Employment Program (PSYEP).

## Students Put Urban Greening Skills to Use in East End

Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest, Grow Pittsburgh, and

By Maureen Copeland  
GTECH

GTECH Strategies joined forces and created a summer of 2010 youth internship program with youth from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) with support from the Heinz Endowments. This program aimed to provide young adults skills in leadership, community organizing, team building and job readiness, in addition to the logistics and economics of community greening.

The 10 youths, aged 14 to 17, worked on a variety of greening projects with the three partner organizations in the East End of Pittsburgh, primarily in East Liberty, Larimer, Homewood and Point Breeze. They tended trees, worked in food gardens, and maintained bio-energy gardens on vacant lots. In addition to their weekly work schedule, they ventured to different farms, nurseries, green construction sites, and other sustainable work places to get a sense of what is available in the realm of green jobs.

At the end of their six-week internship, the students had a chance to

showcase their work in the form of photographs that they took over the

course of the summer.

The students, all from the city of Pittsburgh, had worked with the SCA throughout the 2009-2010 school year. They designed their own sustainable projects to work on, in addition to learning about other projects in the region. Many of the youth in this program were back for their second or third summer of urban greening.

The works of the students can be seen at their primary placements: the tree-covered median of East Liberty Boulevard; the Shiloh Peace Garden on Thomas Boulevard; the Faison Elementary School Edible School Yard in Homewood; sunflower gardens behind Peabody High School in East Liberty; and a sunflower garden behind Pennley Place Apartments in East Liberty, in addition to a sprinkling of other sites. The youth kept these projects maintained and looking sharp through the heat of the summer; their work was crucial to the success of these projects.

### HOMES, from page 1

URA and bank loans, and assisting the BGC in overseeing the construction of the homes.

The R. K. Mellon Foundation recently announced a \$200,000 grant that will help the groups underwrite the construction costs for the remaining 12 homes to be built under the development. The investment will make the homes more affordable for individuals or families earning less than \$50,000 annually, Swartz noted. "This doesn't relieve a buyer of the need to have a strong credit record," he observed. "But it could mean a monthly mortgage payment of \$750 or \$775, coupled with greatly reduced heating and cooling bills, thanks to the federal EnergyStar rating the homes

will carry."

PNC Bank is looking to provide construction financing as well, along with the URA. With the homes now costing more than \$200,000 apiece to build, Swartz said there is still significant public subsidy needed to bridge the gap between costs and the projected sales prices. "Without the URA's support, we'd be unable to make the development work," he said, "and without developments like these, the decline in the percentage of owner-occupied homes in Garfield would drop far below citywide averages."

To learn more about the new homes, call Barb Murphy at GJA at 412-665-5208.

## A Garden Grows in Lawrenceville

In dense cities like Pittsburgh, many green thumbs lack the ground to grow

By Marisa Manheim  
Grow Pittsburgh

in. For some, the solution can be found at a local community garden. To meet this growing need, Grow Pittsburgh, a nonprofit dedicated to urban agriculture, partnered with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to start the City Growers program. Still in its infancy, City Growers is currently working with two communities in Pittsburgh, Uptown and Lawrenceville, and two outside the city limits, in Millvale and McKees Rocks. These last two gardens are funded by the Allegheny County Office of Economic Development through their new community gardening program, Allegheny Grows.

These two initiatives, City Growers and Allegheny Grows, represent the newfound enthusiasm in the region for greening urban vacant lots. Community gardens are becoming a focus for many reasons. Like most vacant lot renewal, they have a positive environmental and economic impact on communities. In addition, community gardens produce nutritious, delicious, affordable food; and

they serve as a place to learn about growing and preparing fresh food. Perhaps most

importantly, community gardens grow community.

The Lawrenceville Organic Community Garden (LOCG) is an excellent example. Started in 2008 with generous support from Allegheny Valley Bank and land donated by the Allegheny Cemetery, the LOCG is now managed by Green Lawrenceville, a community group dedicated to local sustainability. Though bank employees continue to volunteer many hours each week to keep the garden watered, weeded, and groundhog-free, over the course of the season many other community volunteers have passed through the garden gate. Additionally, this spring saw the beginning of a partnership with the LIFT program at the Career Connections Charter School. Each week an energetic group of teenage girls visited the garden to learn and lend a hand. They will be returning soon to see the fruits of their labors.

This spring, the garden sought

See GARDEN, page 12

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## Healcrest Urban Farm Continues to Evolve and Grow

**By Kathryn Vargas**  
Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.

If you thought you heard the sounds of music coming from the hills of Garfield in late July, you were not imagining it. Healcrest Urban Community Farm held its second annual Rootz at Sundown fundraising event on Saturday, July 31.

Farm owner and event organizer Maria Graziani estimates that around 100 people attended this event to enjoy a night of music, healthy food, and community. Rootz at Sundown featured a vegan Caribbean buffet as well as quality performances. "The event was meant to bring people together to see the farm and to share healthy food and positive music," reflects Maria. "Hopefully, it will get more people involved in volunteering and gardening at the farm."

The Rootz event featured a number of artists, including Dream Job, an acoustic singer-songwriter duo; Tayazawan, a NYC-based performer; DJ Gringo, also out of NYC; Stateside Revolution; Matthew Tembo, a visiting Zambian performer; and local reggae group Man on the Street.

Maria says the Rootz event would not have been possible without the support of the greater Pittsburgh com-

munity. In particular, she received financial support from the Sprout Fund, food donations from Giant Eagle, and a stage donation from Mr. Smalls Theater.

While Healcrest has been a community institution since 2004, it is always evolving and looking for ways to improve its exposure in the community. "We are there to ensure that the land remains viable green space for Garfield and to provide fresh local produce," states Maria. To continue this mission, Healcrest is looking to make some exciting changes. Healcrest is considering selling plots of the farm to community members, so that residents can grow their own produce and feel more ownership of the farm. Anyone who is interested in growing fruits and vegetables could benefit from this opportunity. Maria is hoping this will get more people involved in the farm and the growing process.

This fall, Healcrest and Garfield Community Farm plan to host a community meeting about urban farming. They hope to open the dialogue with local residents about how the farms in the neighborhood can best serve the community. If there seems like a high community interest, Maria will plan to start selling plots of the farm to inter-

ested residents. Watch for notices about this meeting.

Additionally, Healcrest Urban Community Farm has teamed up with Garfield Community Farm to host a farm stand at the Garfield Hill Market every Thursday night from 4 to 7 p.m. The two farms are offering fresh, local produce at below-market prices, and they accept WIC and Seniors Farmers

Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) checks. Available produce include tomatoes, zucchini, basil, okra, cucumbers, squash, apples and various culinary herbs.

If you would like more information on Healcrest Urban Community Farm or are interested in volunteering, contact Maria Graziani at 412-362-1982 or [healcresturbanfarm@gmail.com](mailto:healcresturbanfarm@gmail.com).



### Only 2 New Single-Family Homes Remain for Sale in Garfield!



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Call Barb Murphy at 412-665-5208, or Rick Swartz at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, 412-441-6950 x11, to schedule a tour.

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- ☐ **We perform all cremations individually**  
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## East End House Tours Showcase Hard Work, History

By Paula Martinac  
The Bulletin

Fall in Pittsburgh means house tours, when being “nebbly” about your neighbors’ homes is both acceptable and encouraged. On the house tour circuit, the East End offers two gems: the Friendship House Tour, now in its 17th season, and the Lawrenceville Hospitality Tour, which has been around since 1988.

On Sunday, September 19, Friendship homeowners will open their doors to visitors from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. All types of residences, from small town homes to grand Victorians and sleek modern lofts, will be on the tour this time around. “The Friendship House Tour is an opportunity for the people of Pittsburgh to experience an incredible community with unique homes and homeowners who wel-

come diversity, appreciate historic and distinctive architecture, and embrace preserving the buildings and green spaces for future generations,” said Kim Mangan, house tour committee co-chair.

*The Bulletin* got a sneak peek at one of the first-time houses of the tour, a two-story brick structure at 238 Edmond Street owned by Kathy and Peter Farrington. Kathy is also a co-chair for the house tour, and coordinator of the many volunteers who will staff the different stops on the tour.

Built in 1900, the Edmond Street house has only had three owners. The Farringtons have been there for five years, since they moved back to Pittsburgh from Ireland, where they had been in residence for eight years to accommodate Peter’s job.

Although Kathy said the house was in decent shape when they bought it,

**BELOW: THE OWNERS HAVE RETURNED THIS 1848 GEM ON BUTLER STREET TO ITS FORMER GLORY.**



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin



**ABOVE: THIS MANTLE AT 238 EDMOND STREET CAME FROM CONSTRUCTION JUNCTION; THE OWNER DID THE TILEWORK HIMSELF.**

the Farringtons undertook two different phases of renovation. The couple “peeled away layers of wallpaper,” Kathy noted, and replaced the inferior pine floors with hardwood. They also swapped the radiators for forced heat, and installed gas inserts in two of the fireplaces.

Outside, “we did a lot of work to the front,” Kathy said, noting that they planted a Japanese maple and removed an unsightly chain-link fence. Kathy wanted a green front door but settled on a brilliant blue—with a matching blue handrail—when she saw that nearby neighbors had just painted their door green. The backyard was likewise transformed, with a grape-covered arbor, a brick patio and a small L-shaped garden.

The Farringtons plan a third phase of renovation to deal with the attic, which, Kathy said, is “just an exercise room now. It would be nice to have a guestroom for our grandchildren.”

Down the hill in Lawrenceville, a couple of young men transformed a historic house that had been sitting vacant for 10 years into a showcase. One of the new owners, Jon, a teacher who dabbles in real estate, did historical research into the Federal-style house and discovered that it was built in 1848 by an Irish immigrant named Martin Bray. The small slice of Lawrenceville was at that time an independent village called Hatfield. The home remained in the Bray-Wageley family until 1940, when it began to languish, eventually becoming abandoned and uninhabitable.

Jon and his partner Lee, a UPMC

resident, saw a hint of promise in the structure, whose original brick façade was hidden under layers of red paint. “It had great bones,” Jon commented.

A lot of the original woodwork remained in the house when Jon and Lee purchased it in February 2010, but it all had to be carefully stripped and refinished. Other original features included six fireplaces, a solid cherry banister, and some exposed-brick walls. Jon did most of the renovation himself, with the help of friends, while Lee designed a beautiful backyard oasis, with a winding brick walkway and a back porch that runs almost the length of the house. Jon said the garden is one of his favorite spots. He also said he likes the view of Allegheny Cemetery across the street from their front door, because it “gives us a sense of openness.”

Upstairs is a guest bedroom and bath and a master suite. Although just 1,400 square feet, the house feels spacious and airy because of the layout the owners created. Amazingly, after just seven months, Jon said the house “is more or less finished,” and that they are proud and happy “to show our sweat equity” to house tour-goers. “I feel like we’re contributing to a slow renaissance of this part of Lawrenceville.”

*For more information about the Friendship House Tour, including tickets and trolley rides, go to [www.friendshiphousetour.org](http://www.friendshiphousetour.org). Visit the Lawrenceville Hospitality Tour site at [www.lawrencevillehouse-tour.org](http://www.lawrencevillehouse-tour.org).*



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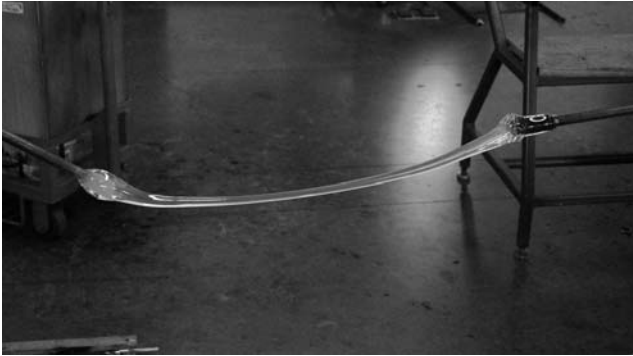
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## Glass Lofts Ribbon Cutting Scheduled



On Friday, October 1, join Friendship Development Associates, the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative, and a number of community partners for the official and innovative ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Glass Lofts. To commemorate the completion of this exciting project, Penn Avenue traffic will be stopped as artists from the Pittsburgh Glass Center bring hot, molten glass straight from the furnace across the street to pull a ribbon of smoldering glass (*see photo above*) that will then be cut and shatter on the ground – not your everyday ribbon cutting.

The Glass Lofts is the second phase of a 3.2-acre development project. The first phase, the Penn Fairmont, is located at 5461 Penn Avenue, and includes 60 senior, low-income apartments and 7,800 square feet of retail space on the first floor.

The Glass Lofts are made possible by the support of Citizens Bank, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development (PPND), Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Anonymous Foundation, Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA), Community Design Center of Pittsburgh.

For more information about the ribbon cutting, please contact Friendship Development Associates at [fda@friendship-pgh.org](mailto:fda@friendship-pgh.org) or 412-441-6147.

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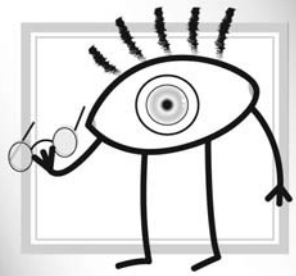
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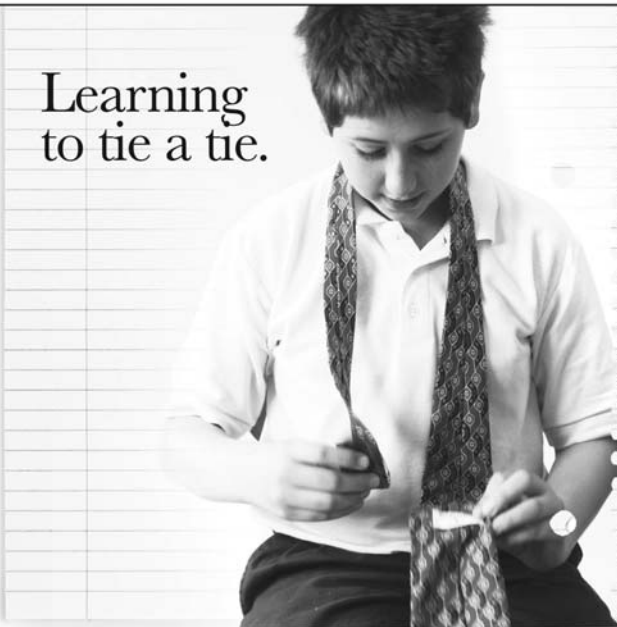
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## Design Zone Celebrates 10 Years

Stretching from the 16th Street Bridge in the heart

**By Patrick Bowman**  
*Lawrenceville Corporation*

of The Strip to the 62nd Street Bridge at the very top of Lawrenceville, the 16:62 Design Zone celebrates its 10th year as Pittsburgh's premier destination for design-based, locally owned businesses. With a series of events planned to run from September through November, the Decade of Design celebration aims to showcase the two neighborhoods' distinctive blend of specialty boutiques, artisan studios, unique showrooms and architectural and interior design firms.

From its inception, the 16:62 Design Zone has represented a new way for the revitalization of neighborhood business districts. In early 2000, the Lawrenceville Corporation examined the mix of businesses in Lawrenceville and The Strip and recognized the strength and potential of the existing arts/interior design niche to establish the neighborhood's identity as an organically developed, regional design destination.

The 16:62 Design Zone produced its first guidebook in December of 2000, garnering attention from the local media and drawing shoppers to the two up-and-coming neighborhoods. After 10 years and five editions of the guidebook, the 16:62 Design Zone now includes more than

100 shops, galleries, studios, and professional service firms,

forming the backbone for two of Pittsburgh's most historic neighborhoods.

The Strip continues to grow into the next decade as Pittsburgh's Market District along with several residential development projects. Lawrenceville's revitalized business districts are now populated with a diverse array of design businesses, boutiques and galleries that flourish alongside restaurants and coffee shops.

The 16:62 Design Zone is more than locally owned businesses offering unique goods and services that cannot be found anywhere else. Many businesses and galleries also offer classes, workshops and exhibitions in addition to shopping, providing an opportunity for consumers to gain a better understanding of the creative process and to find inspiration for their own creativity in the arts and interior design.

The 16:62 Design Zone's Decade of Design is dedicated to celebrating the many businesses in Lawrenceville and The Strip that continue to embody the creative spirit of design. For a complete list of events related to the Decade of Design please visit [www.1662designzone.com](http://www.1662designzone.com).

## 4800 Penn Property in Transition

A stroll down Penn Avenue reveals a community in transition. Modern housing

**By Sarah DiLeo**  
*Friendship Development Associates*

*Academy.*  
Within the next months, FDA will be gearing

up to make major renovations to the property, in sync with its guiding vision to beautify and restore Penn Avenue. The flowers on the exterior of the building were created by an artist who is using the space to launch city beautification projects throughout Pittsburgh. These signature flowers have sprung up around the city, bringing beauty and improvements to other transitioning communities. The project's presence adds brightness and artistic life to an otherwise grimly boarded windows.

One property that has attracted recent attention is No. 4800, at the corner of South Mathilda and Penn. While this building appears empty and neglected, it is actually undergoing a transformation of its own.

In the process to attain outright ownership of the property, Friendship Development Associates (FDA) maintains the grass and trash, boards the windows, and removes graffiti from the building with help from students at the Summit

up to make major renovations to the property, in sync with its guiding vision to beautify and restore Penn Avenue.

The flowers on the exterior of the building were created by an artist who is using the space to launch city beautification projects throughout Pittsburgh. These signature flowers have sprung up around the city, bringing beauty and improvements to other transitioning communities. The project's presence adds brightness and artistic life to an otherwise grimly boarded windows.

While 4800 Penn Avenue is not currently being used to its full potential, bigger and better plans are in store. In a couple months, a stroll down to Penn and Mathilda might reveal something new.



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# THE BULLETIN BOARD

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

## L'VILLE FARM STAND

The Farm Stand Project of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank provides fresh, affordable produce to low-income neighborhoods that have limited access to grocery stores. The farm stands accept payment in cash, WIC and Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) checks, and Food Stamps/EBT. The East End farm stand is located at the Stephen Foster Center, 286 Main Street, in Lawrenceville, every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The stand operates every week through November 11.

## ROMARE BEARDEN ON PENN AVENUE

The Lawrenceville Historical Society Lecture Series has gained such a fine reputation that more and more organizations contact us for help in getting speakers for them. You, too, can see what the excitement is about. On September 16, join us for "Romare Bearden's 'Pittsburgh Memories': Years in Lawrenceville." As a teenager, Romare Bearden, one of America's most prominent African-American artists, spent most of the 1920s living with his grandparents on Penn Avenue, where his grandmother ran a rooming house for black steelworkers who worked in the nearby mills. In the 1980s, Bearden recalled those early years with a celebrated series of paintings called "Pittsburgh Memories." This free illustrated lecture will recreate the remarkable life and times of black steelworkers in Lawrenceville from the 1880s through the 1920s. Presented by Laurence Glasco, Associate Professor at the University of Pittsburgh. Location: Canterbury Place, McVay Auditorium (1st floor), 310 Fisk Street, Lawrenceville, at 7 p.m. For more information, e-mail us at [info@LHS15201.org](mailto:info@LHS15201.org).

## GARFIELD FARM STAND

Garfield Community Farm and Healcrest Farm have set up a farm stand together on Thursday evenings from 4-7 p.m. in front of the new Garfield Hill Market at the corner of N. Aiken Ave. and Hillcrest Street. Come and check out the fresh produce from our neighborhood farms.

## VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

The American Cancer Society's Western Pennsylvania Region is in need of volunteers to provide rides to cancer patients going to and from treatment through the Society's Road to Recovery program; ACS also needs volunteer coordinators for the program. Drivers set their own schedules and choose their communities. Road to Recovery Driver Coordinators are the backbone of the program, helping schedule these much-needed rides. Coordinators can work whenever it's convenient, directly from their own homes, during the weekday, evening or weekends. All it takes is a caring nature, some organization, and communication skills to make a major impact on the well-being of cancer patients in your own community. To become a volunteer driver coordinator or a volunteer driver, contact your American Cancer Society at 1-888-227-5445.

## "CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE"

Morningside Church of God in Christ, 5173 Dearborn Street, presents "The Characters of the Bible in two installments: "Old Testament," on Friday, September 17, at 7 p.m., and "New Testament," on Sunday, September 19, at 5 p.m.

## LAWRENCEVILLE HOUSE TOUR

Lawrenceville Hospitality House Tour takes place on Sunday, October 3, from noon to 5 p.m. beginning at the Butler Street entrance of Allegheny Cemetery. The tour is self-guided with rides on Molly's Trolleys available. Tickets go on sale Sept. 1 at these Butler Street businesses: Perk Me Up, Jay Design, Gallery on 43rd, Dandelions, Coca Cafe and Pavement. Advanced tickets are \$12. Visit 12 uniquely restored and renovated homes in the city's 9th, 10th and 6th wards and experience

Lawrenceville's one-of-a kind hospitality. For more information visit the website at [www.lawrencevillehouse-tour.org](http://www.lawrencevillehouse-tour.org) or visit us on Facebook. (See related article, page 7.)

## GROUPS NEEDED FOR COOKIE MALL

Groups are again invited to bake and sell at the Lawrenceville Cookie Mall. As in past years, there will be a big community bake sale as part of the Joy of Cookies Tour. This year, it will be back at the Teamster Temple. The Rotary Club of Lawrenceville will be managing the event. If your organization would like to participate, please e-mail Don Reed at [aikidokapa@verizon.net](mailto:aikidokapa@verizon.net) (preferred) or phone him at 412-302-9448.

## DANCE CLASSES REGISTRATION

Pittsburgh Dance & Theatre Arts fall registration is now open. Come sign up for dance, theatre and fitness. Classes for kids, adults, and seniors. All levels of experience. Classes in Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Zumba, Ballroom,

Pilates, Yoga, Kids Musical Theatre and more. PDTA is an independently funded neighborhood business, with a professional staff and interdisciplinary classes, and is the home of Pittsburgh Junior Theatre, Ampersand Dance Theatre, and the popular Bloomfield Cabaret. For more info or to register: 412-681-7523 or [www.pgh-dance.com](http://www.pgh-dance.com).

## LIBRARY AUCTION

Come to a Party and Art Auction to benefit the Friends of the Lawrenceville Library. Date: Saturday, September 25. Time: 6 p.m., auctions begin at 6:30. Place: Lawrenceville Library, 279 Fisk St. Featuring: entertainment, kids' activities, art, music, food and drink. For info: Susanne Park, 412-983-3671. Admission is free; donations requested at the event.

## LITTLE FLEA

Visit the Lawrenceville Little Flea every Saturday (weather permitting) at the corner of Butler St. and 36th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Little Flea is a weekly outdoor marketplace featur-

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## Homebuyer Workshop

NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania will be hosting a Homebuyer Education Workshop sponsored by PNC Bank at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation Community Center. Class will be held on October 9th from 8:30-4:30 pm. Please call Heather at 412-281-1100 x 129 to register or for more information.

## Fundraiser for Action Group

The Lawrenceville Marcellus Action Group is holding a fundraiser, to benefit the citywide October 1 Marcellus Protest. Date: Monday, September 20. Time: 6 to 9 p.m. Location: Hambones, 4207 Butler St., in

Lawrenceville. Tickets: \$5. Please come and support the Oct. 1 Marcellus Protest being planned by a grassroots group of Pittsburgh residents. For more information: Kirsten at 412-576-6254.

## Out-of-School Work Program

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation is recruiting for its Out-of-School Youth Employment Program. Are you looking for a job? Looking for training? You must be 17 to 21 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, and be a city of Pittsburgh resident (preference to Garfield residents). The YEP provides internships in healthcare, childcare, financial, construction, technology, and education. Participants receive training in resume writing, cover letters, job search techniques, interviewing and communications skills, while working 25 hours a week for \$7.25 an hour. For more information or to apply, call 412-567-8498, day or night, and leave a message with your name and number.

## East Liberty History Showcased at October Festival

The East End/East Liberty Historical Society, in cooperation with the East Liberty Quarter Chamber of Commerce, will sponsor a History Festival on Saturday October 2, 2010. This festival will showcase the history of East Liberty, including businesses, neighborhoods with their rich architectural heritage, and churches and institutions.

The festival will cover four distinct historical periods rarely seen in festivals elsewhere, including East Liberty's role in the 1750s, the Revolutionary War through the Civil War, the Industrial Revolution, and the boom years of the 1890s to 1940s. Included will be historical re-enactments and demonstrations of pioneering skills, as well as early industrial processes such as blast-furnace operation, glass-working, forging, and aluminum casting.

The East End/East Liberty Historical Society is a non-profit founded in 2002, devoted to preserving the unique history of this area and working toward continued improvement in its quality of life. A major accomplishment has been the compilation of a 128-page book entitled Pittsburgh's East Liberty Valley, released by Arcadia Publishing in 2008 (see *The Bulletin*, January 2008

By Alfred Mann  
East End/East Liberty  
Historical Society

for a related story). The book, now in its third printing, emphasizes the diversity of the East End and features schools, churches and other institutions, magnificent homes, and notables who lived and worked in the community. The Society also publishes quarterly bulletins reflecting our continuing historical research, and is an affiliate of the Senator John Heinz History Center.

The Society has made several public presentations to display some of the rare artifacts and books in our extensive collection, but has not had a real home for this purpose. Now, the Society is slated to occupy space in the proposed East Liberty Community House to be built by the East End Cooperative Ministry, where its holdings will be stored and exhibited. In addition, the Society plans to offer hands-on learning experiences for area youth in crafts such as canoe building.

The East Liberty History Festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the parking lot behind Eastminster Church, North Highland Avenue at Penn Circle North. For more information, call 412-661-5947 or email [alfred.mann@verizon.net](mailto:alfred.mann@verizon.net).



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### GARDEN, from page 5

assistance from the City Growers program. As part of the program, the gardeners received tools, support in the planning and maintenance of the garden, and the materials to build a garden shed. The compact (40 feet by 40 feet) space near the corner of Stanton and Butler has so far yielded a bounty of tomatoes, beets, zucchini, cucumbers, peppers, chard, herbs, and beans, which the volunteer gardeners are free to take home. This fall, it will be planted in garlic and cover-cropped to bring nutrients back into the soil. Next season, the gardeners plan to keep on

growing and are looking for more gardeners to become part of the project.

To learn more about the Lawrenceville Community Garden, check out the Facebook page: Lawrenceville Organic Community Garden. Or better yet, stop by during one of the open workdays, Mondays, 5-7 p.m. and Saturdays, 12-2 p.m. The contact for the garden is [dyenick3140@yahoo.com](mailto:dyenick3140@yahoo.com). For more information about community gardening in and around Pittsburgh, email [mmanheim@growpittsburgh.org](mailto:mmanheim@growpittsburgh.org).

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If you're interested in finding out more about the duties and responsibilities of being a BGC Board Member, then join us on **Monday, September 27, at 6:30 p.m.** at the Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Avenue, for a special "Get Acquainted" session. Pizza and pop will be served.

Young people, ages 21-35, are especially encouraged to attend!

Please RSVP to 412-441-6950 x 15 by Friday, September 24, if you plan to attend. We hope to see you there!



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