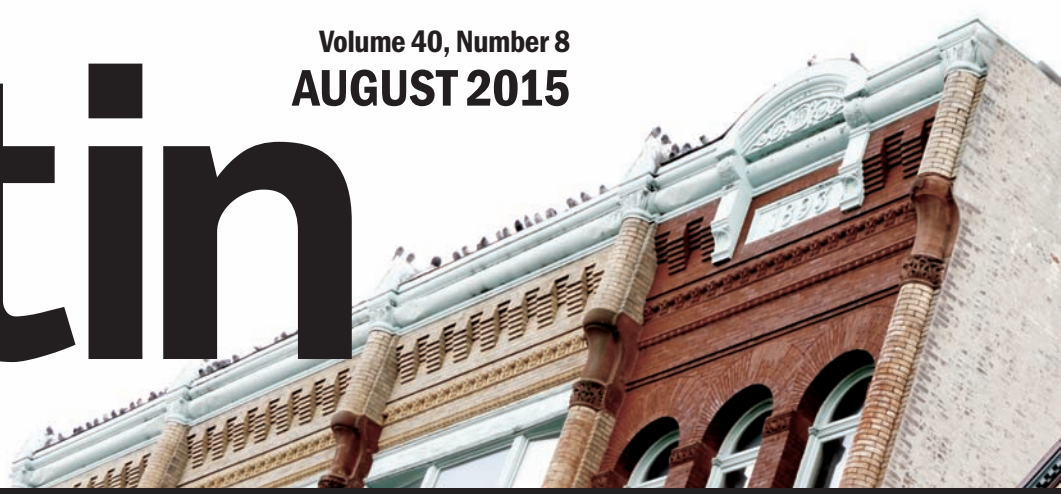


the Bulletin

Volume 40, Number 8
AUGUST 2015

Serving Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty,
Lawrenceville, and Stanton Heights Since 1975



412Build brings lots to life in East End neighborhoods

By Mahogany Thaxton *412Build*

East End - Young Pittsburghers are working together with local communities to revitalize two neglected lots - one in Garfield and one in Homewood - through the new 412Build summer youth program.

From a large and highly competitive pool of young applicants (aged sixteen to nineteen), the program selects twenty-four students to earn valuable experience in entrepreneurship and community development.

Over the course of each five-week session, local experts educate these students in a series of curated workshops focused on 3D printing, welding, wood-working, prototyping, market research, urban design, and financial planning.

Participants then apply these new skills to transform available land into valuable community assets. After conducting market research to understand each community's preferences, they begin designing prototypes before building and eventually installing lawn games at each site.

Last month, students teamed up with members of the Garfield Community
See **412Build** | page 3



ABOVE: On July 18, tenants of Penn Plaza Apartments (5704 Penn Ave.) held a meeting with local elected officials at East Liberty Lutheran Church (5707 Penn Ave.) to get some answers about pending evictions. Penn Plaza residents like Mary McCord (right) have recently received eviction notices from the owner, who has been vague about future plans for the property. In response to tenants' questions and concerns, Mayor William Peduto negotiated a sixty-day stay on evictions to gain more time for residents to eventually relocate. Photo by Chris Ivey. Read more on page 6.

Housing crisis in East Liberty; Penn Plaza residents face pending eviction

By Andrew McKeon *The Bulletin*

East Liberty - While other Pittsburghers were out celebrating the Fourth of July, residents at Penn Plaza Apartments (5704 Penn Ave.) in East Liberty were finding eviction notices

See **Housing Crisis** | page 6

6

March Pittsburgh beats the drum for local healthcare

By Heather Hopson *Allies for Children*

Stanton Heights - On August 22, March Pittsburgh will parade down the streets of Stanton Heights; sousaphones, saxophones, and trumpets will make some noise about

See **March Pittsburgh** | page 10

10



ABOVE: Neighbors, congregants, and community organizers attend a July 26 block party to raise awareness about efforts to preserve Albright Church, located at S. Graham St. and Centre Ave. Much to the chagrin of the local community, private developers have set their sights on demolishing the church building, which is 109 years old. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

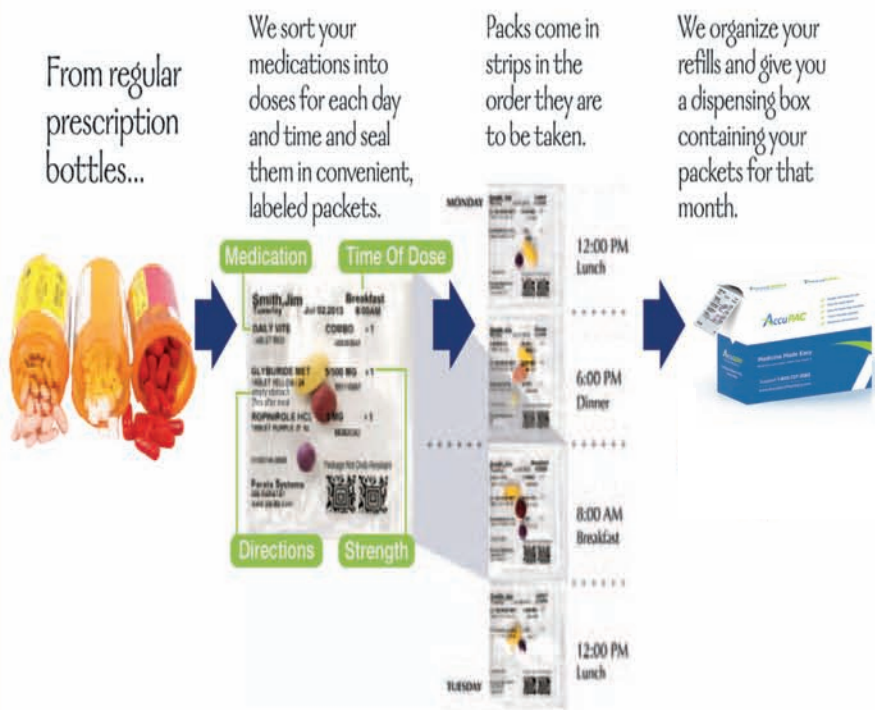
A Publication of The Bloomfield-Garfield-Corporation

the Bulletin

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
Permit No. 2403

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

TAKING MEDICATIONS JUST GOT EASIER!
Introducing The **AccuPac** Pill Box!



CALL TO GET STARTED TODAY!

Relieve all the worry of missed doses.

- NO Sorting pills
- NO Trips to the pharmacy
- NO Calling in refills
- NO Cost for delivery
- NO Stress
- NO Extra charge

TRANSFER YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS AND GET A CREDIT OF

\$10	\$25	\$35	\$50
1 bottle	2 bottles	3 bottles	4 or more bottles

With this coupon. Not valid on state or federal plans. Offer expires in 180 days. Must bring all competitors' bottles in at same time to get your credit.

All Insurances Accepted

The Medicine Shoppe[®]
PHARMACY

5020 Centre Ave. • Pittsburgh
(Corner Of Centre & Morewood, Next To Shadyside Hospital)
Check out our shop local video at
www.medicineshoppe.com/1278



*See store for details

AT RIGHT: Local legislators are now putting long guns (pictured above) in the cross-hairs by advocating for universal background checks on rifle and shotgun purchases. Photo courtesy of Zone 5 Police.



By **Aggie Brose** Deputy Director, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Two local state representatives have signed on in support of more thorough background checks for firearm purchases in Pennsylvania. State Representatives Dom Costa (D-Morningside) and Ed Gainey (D-East Liberty) have endorsed a memorandum drafted by State Rep. Steve Santarserio (Bucks County) that would expand the background check system to cover the private sale of long guns.

Pennsylvania law currently has a loophole that allows gun purchasers to avoid the background check system when purchasing a 'long gun' (shotguns, standard-gauge rifles, and even semi-automatic assault rifles) from a private seller. Local advocates are now asking their legislators to close the long-gun loophole.

"There's no reason why we should not have universal background checks," Rep. Gainey said. He noted that some legislators are skeptical about whether this Bill will actually help prevent gun violence. "Let's see what difference it makes in terms of saving lives," Gainey responded.

In the wake of mass shootings nation-wide and neighborhood gun violence, many residents are now urging elected officials to actively recruit their legislative colleagues; if the bill were to gain traction, supporters can then set their sights on lobbying members of the PA House Judiciary Committee.

"Representative Costa, in particular, can play a key part in this process, both before and after the Bill reaches committee," said Rob Conroy, Director of Organizing for CeaseFirePA. Conroy's organization, a statewide group of pro gun control advocates, led the charge for last session's bill to expand background checks.

"First off, he's a retired police chief of the second-largest metropolitan area in Pennsylvania, which garners respect from other legislators and voters across the spectrum," Conroy explained.

"Second, Rep. Costa is not only a longtime member of the committee, but also the

Democratic chair on Crimes and Corrections. He has the power to both push for a vote by Judiciary and to potentially sway those in the Committee who may be on the fence. Only if the Bill passes in Judiciary can it be brought before the entire State Assembly for a vote."

Rep. Costa understands how important this bill is to his constituents. "I was happy to work on this bill with my colleagues because it promotes reasonable gun legislation to support and protect our communities," he said.

"The bill would ensure universal background checks on all firearms and enable a forty-eight hour grace period for background checks after the initial firearm purchase is made."

The "24-hour grace period" that is currently on the books tends to clog up the system by mandating multiple background checks for those who purchase firearms at weekend gun shows. The proposed 48-hour grace period would also allow gun buyers to avoid multiple background checks, cleaning the system of its redundancies and streamlining operations for more efficiency.

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) is engaging with CeasfirePA and local elected officials to bring universal gun background checks to Pennsylvania. As part of its focused efforts on reducing gun-related incidents in our neighborhoods, the BGC monitors all local incidents involving firearms.

Zone 5 police have reported several recent cases of gun violence in Garfield. Aaron Martin Hurtt, 27, was arrested for firing a shot at a neighbor during a dispute inside his residence in the 5000 block of Dear-born Street.

Following his arrest, Hurtt was released on a non-monetary bond. Princess Hair & Beauty Supply (5152 Penn Avenue) endured an armed robbery a few weeks ago during broad daylight. As of publication time, this robbery is still under investigation by Zone 5 Police. ♦

412Build from page 1



Action Team (GCAT) for the program's inaugural project: installing lawn games at Kite Hill Park (5452 Rosetta St.). Students and their families joined community members and GCAT to celebrate the installation of new park fixtures such as a covered porch swing and a custom-built 'corn hole' board (for tossing bean bags).

412Build is currently working to create some interactive games at 7238 Fleury Way (near the Bible Center Church) in Homewood, where it will unveil the new fixtures during a 'Capstone Celebration' on Friday, August 28. This family-friendly event is open to the public from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. with free food, drinks, music, and games for all to enjoy. Anyone interested in attending may visit www.412build.org. ♦

AT LEFT: A customized "corn-hole" board is just one of the many lawn games that 412Build has installed at Kite Hill Park (5452 Rosetta St.) in Garfield. Photo courtesy of Mahogany Thaxton.



Thank you! The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation would like to acknowledge its main corporate partners, WesBanco, Dollar Bank, and Allegheny Valley Bank. Thanks also to BNY Mellon, First Niagara Bank, PNC Bank, Allegheny Health Network, Citizens Bank, the Sprout Fund, and all of The Bulletin's advertisers.

the Bulletin

A publication of the
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.

Volume 40, Number 8

The deadline for the September issue is Friday, August 14.

Editorial and Advertising Offices • 5149 Penn Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412.441.6915 • (Fax) 412.441.6956 • bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org

Total Circulation • 21,000 Copies • 18,000 Mailed • 3,000 Dropped

Staff • Andrew McKeon, Editor • Martin Pochapin, Advertising • RayQuan Adams, Editorial Intern • Rick Swartz, Proofreading • Mary Anne Stevanus, Office Manager • Trib Total Media, Printing & Mailing • CISP, Distribution

Board Meetings are held by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at 5321 Penn Ave. and are open to the public. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the publisher.

The Bulletin is made possible in part by funding from Dollar Bank, WesBanco Bank, Allegheny Valley Bank, and The Heinz Endowments.

www.bloomfield-garfield.org © 2015 by Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation



"Like" the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

on Facebook for the latest neighborhood information and community photos.



Dial **2-1-1** for Enrollment Assistance or visit GetEnrolledPGH.com

MARCH PITTSBURGH PRESENTED BY:
UPMC HEALTH PLAN

MARCH PITTSBURGH

Find us in these neighborhoods:

- August 1 Beechview
- August 4 Spring Hill
- August 8 Brookline
- August 9 Oakland
- August 15 Wingap/Chartiers
- August 22 Stanton Heights
- September 11 Hill District
- September 12 Hill District

For specific times and locations visit GetEnrolledPGH.com



There are free to low-cost health insurance options available for you and your family.



The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation has an email newsletter!

Subscribe at bit.ly/bgc_email and have the latest community news delivered to your inbox.

Properties on Penn Avenue

Interested in buying/renting a property located on or around Penn Ave? Interested in selling/renting your own property located on or around Penn Ave? The Penn Avenue web site has a page dedicated to commercial and residential listings (www.pennavenue.org). The properties listed represent those that we know to be available. If you would like your property listed on our site, please email details about the property, sale/rent price, approximate square footage, contact info, and photos (if available) to mainstreets@bloomfield-garfield.org. Please use "Property Listing" as the subject line. Note: The BGC is not a real estate agent and does not arrange or broker the sale/lease of any properties. Instead, the BGC seeks to facilitate a way for potential developers or investors to locate owners who may or may not be interested in selling or leasing their property.

Penn Ave. readies for Arts in Motion festival

By Amber Epps *Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

Most Wanted Fine Art (5015 Penn Ave.) is planning the 4th annual Penn Ave. Arts in Motion Festival, scheduled to be held on September 19 - from noon until 6 p.m. - in the parking lot of the Champion Commonoffice complex (5231 Penn Ave.) at the. Located at the corner of Penn and N. Atlantic Aves., this event will include a number of festivities for visitors of all ages. One of the festival's main attractions has always been the presence of 'art cars' hailing from Pittsburgh and other places all over the country. Various types of vendors will be on hand selling food, art, and other merchandise. Along with the art on display, visitors can also expect to see artists compete in a live art battle. This year's festival will include free food for kids (grades K-12) and live music and dance performances. The Penn Ave. Arts in Motion Festival is designed to provide another way for local (and not-so-local) visitors and vendors to experience the avenue.

Princess Beauty Supply will once again be sponsoring the Princess on Penn Pageant as part of the festival as well. For more information about the festival, including sponsorship opportunities, as well as the application for art cars, vendors, and performers, please visit <http://pittsburghartcar.com/pittsburgh-art-car-festival/>

The first annual Garfield Yard Sale will also take place on September 19, from 11a.m.-3 p.m. Friends and neighbors will be out selling clothing, art, household items, and more. Participation is open to anyone who resides between Mathilda St. and Negley Ave. Anyone interested in participating should submit the form below to the BGC's offices at 5149 Penn Ave. It can also be found at www.pennavenue.org/garfieldyardsale. There is no vendor's fee to participate in the yard sale. ♦

GARFIELD YARD SALE - VENDOR APPLICATION

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Items you wish to sell: _____

Public school students play summer catch-up

By Wesley Davis *Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

Pittsburgh - This summer, high school students who have failed required classes now have several options to earn their missing academic credits and get back on track for a diploma. Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) operates a credit recovery program for any outgoing twelfth graders who did not pass all of the classes necessary to graduate last spring.

Ebony Pugh, who serves as Public Information Officer for PPS, told *The Bulletin* that this twelfth grade summer school program offers students the opportunity to take up to four condensed courses during their summer school day, which runs from 7:45 a.m. to 2:35 p.m.

According to Pugh, 125 students are taking part in this month-long summer school program, where they can work towards picking up high school diplomas in September. Students who recently completed ninth, tenth, or eleventh grade can explore their options in summer school programming offered by three local organizations.

Communities in Schools, an education non-profit based in Homestead, is operating summer remediation for fifty PPS students and thirty students from neighboring school districts.

Despite the hurdles involved in transporting students to Homestead, this all-day academic program succeeds in equipping students for graduation and preparing them for the future.

The Neighborhood Learning Alliance (NLA) has joined forces with other

community partners to serve nearly 250 PPS students this summer. Teachers and academic tutors guide their students through customized lessons on a computer program called, "Gradpoint." "I like Gradpoint because it really teaches kids about note-taking," Executive Director of the NLA, Steve MacIsaac said. "It helps inspire their determination beyond just recovering an academic credit."

Participants work on their individual computers throughout Pittsburgh at community sites like Carlow University, the Community College of Allegheny County, Project Destiny, the West End Works, and a pop-up computer lab at 5126 Penn Avenue (constructed in partnership with the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation).

MacIsaac thanked the NLA's partners for their volunteer efforts to host students and provide additional services; technology resources were donated by Gateway Health, Goodwill Industries, and Genco, Inc.

As spokesperson Sarah McCluan noted, Allegheny Intermediate Unit runs a fairly high-tech program of its own, albeit for a cost of \$250 per student. Young participants are granted access to online support and live tutorials, day or night. "You can learn anywhere and anytime you want," McCluan said.

For more information about any of the aforementioned credit recovery programs, visit www.neighborhoodlearning.org. ♦



ABOVE: Carla Crawford-Rivers (right) tutors a high school student at the pop-up computer lab at 5126 Penn Ave. The lab, which was created through a partnership between the BGC and NLA, provides technology resources for students' pursuit of missing academic credits. Photo by Wesley Davis.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



AT LEFT: Single-family house at 4924 Dearborn St. The property was taken by the City for unpaid real estate taxes. Photo by Rick Swartz .

PURCHASE & RENOVATION OF 4924 DEARBORN STREET

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation exists to improve the quality of life for all who call Garfield and the surrounding neighborhoods their home, whether as a resident or business owner. One of the ways we attempt to achieve this goal is through the development of housing we describe as “affordable”, providing opportunities for those who wish to own or rent a home, but who are finding it hard to afford what the private market has to offer.

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) is accepting title from the City to a vacant, boarded-up house at 4924 Dearborn Street in the Garfield neighborhood of Pittsburgh. The property will come to the BGC with a clear title, but will need substantial repairs to make it habitable once again.

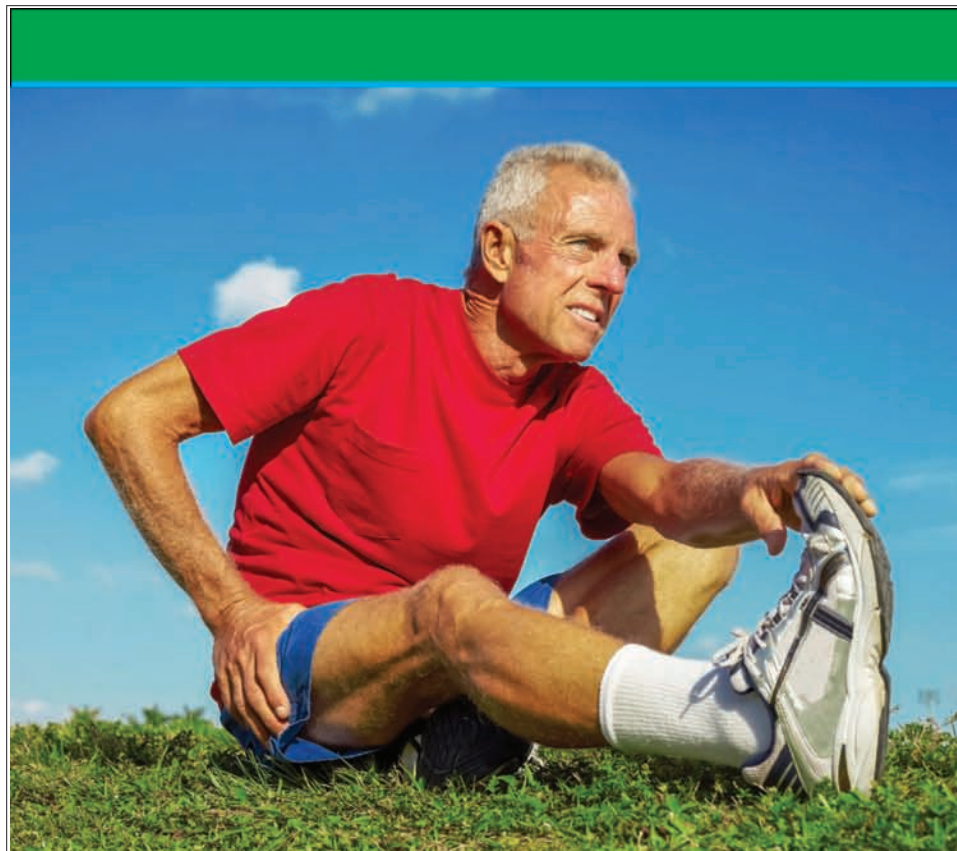
The BGC is inviting proposals from interested parties who would be capable of purchasing the house in “as is” condition and doing the necessary renovations, so that it can be sold to, or occupied by, someone as their principal place of residence. The minimum bid that will be accepted for the property is \$5,000.

All proposals must be in typewritten form and contain the following information to qualify for consideration by the BGC:

- 1) The identity of the buyer or buyers, including their name(s), current place of residence (s), phone number(s), and e-mail address(es), if available, and whether they currently own any other real estate
- 2) A detailed statement of how the buyer would use the property (i.e., single-family or two-family) and what the buyer’s plan for its renovation would be; If the buyer does not plan to occupy the property upon completion of all work, then provide an indication of what the asking price for the renovated home will be upon re-sale
- 3) An estimated budget for the project (purchase + renovation + other related costs)
- 4) Confirmation of buyer’s ability to qualify for at least \$60,000 in mortgage financing, or evidence of an equivalent amount of cash on-hand
- 5) A proposed timeline for completing the project
- 6) Disclosure of any business ties, financial dealings, or relationships with any staff or Board member of the BGC
- 7) Alignment with the goals articulated in the Garfield 2030 plan, found on our website at www.bloomfield-garfield.org.

To facilitate the submittal of proposals that include all of the above information, the BGC will open the house for inspection on Saturday, August 29, from noon to 3 p.m.

Deadline for submittal of all proposals: All proposals must be received in the BGC’s offices at 5149 Penn Avenue by no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2015. E-mail submittals are welcomed, but must have a date and time stamp of no later than 5 p.m., September 15, to meet the deadline. Any proposals received after the deadline will be returned to their authors. E-mail submittals should be directed to RickS@bloomfield-garfield.org. ♦



Get a new **hip or knee** with fewer complications — at West Penn Hospital.

If pain and immobility are slowing you down, here’s why you should consider having hip or knee replacement surgery at West Penn Hospital. Our nationally renowned orthopaedic surgeons are using traditional and minimally invasive approaches to restore a higher quality of life. **And now, with robotic surgery, you can have a shorter hospitalization, reduced pain and a faster recovery time.** That means you can make a quicker return to your normal activities.

To be referred to a joint replacement specialist at West Penn Hospital, call **412.DOCTORS (362.8677)**.

Allegheny Health Network



**West Penn
Hospital**

412.DOCTORS ♦ AHN.org/westpenn

Housing Crisis

from page 1

slipped under their doors. More than a hundred tenants received the same notice mandating them to move out within ninety days. LG Retail Advisors, the property management group that owns the more than 300 residential units at Penn Plaza, has chosen to sell the property.

Rumors have surfaced that certain big-box stores are showing great interest in redeveloping the property, which extends the length of the 5600 block of Penn Ave. from S. Negley Ave. to Penn Circle

is located at the corner of Negley and Penn Avenues. A sticky reminder of what happened to the East Mall high-rise tower that used to be just down the street a decade ago, the current situation at Penn Plaza reflects a number of the social and economic forces reshaping the neighborhood.

Local filmmaker Chris Ivey, who grew up in North Carolina before moving to East Liberty, knows a thing or two about imperiled communities. His documentary series, *East of Liberty*, was conceived ten years ago as a vehicle for residents to voice their concerns about the demolition of East Mall (read: their home). “The project grew out of frustration,” Ivey explained. “The more residents that I interviewed, the more frustrated I became, so the documentary just kept growing.”

As an African American, Ivey understands the oft-muted racial politics now at play in East Liberty. “On the one hand, it’s great that we’re attracting a lot of new people,” he said. “But, what does that mean for the people who are already here?”

Penn Plaza residents, most of whom are African American, recently organized a meeting across the street at East Liberty Lutheran Church (5707 Penn Ave.) to discuss the future of their home. Tired of sorting through the rumors without any official word from the property owner, tenants gathered with local elected officials to clear the air on July 18. Ivey was on hand to document the proceedings, which were fairly constructive; he soon uploaded the footage to Youtube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnYn5RT5_b4). “I just wanted to put it out there so that people who couldn’t make it to the meeting can see it and find out what’s going on,” he said.

LG Realty Advisors is known to be a firm controlled by members of the Gumberg family,



ABOVE: Tenants listen closely as the fate of their East Liberty home (Penn Plaza Apartments at Negley and Penn Avenue) hangs in the balance. Photo by Chris Ivey.

most noted for development of the Waterworks shopping center. The Gumbergs were not present, although an attorney purporting to represent them was connected by phone at the meeting.

During the course of the meeting, tenants broadcast their grievances to Mayor William Peduto and other officials, who worked out a temporary solution with the building ownership to buy residents more time as they are forced to relocate. Pushing the inevitable back a few months, they orchestrated a sixty-day stay on all tenant evictions.

Yet, this timeline doesn’t seem to be affecting current operations; Penn Plaza is still inviting new tenants to move in, so it is possible the owner does not intend to empty the more than 300 units. According to some residents, their apartment rents are still rising.

Ivey is glad that residents are rallying for their rights and transforming some of their anger into civic action. “The thing is, you’ve got to understand your worth,” he proclaimed. “You’ve got to fight for what you want. That’s why it was really good to see everyone at the meeting.”

Amid jokes about “Abercrombie & Fitch” possibly becoming the only last names attached to a new small business in East Liberty, Ivey lays out the bottom line for his city as it moves forward. “Pittsburgh needs to stop worrying about looking good and start worrying about doing good.” ♦

Project time? College time? Vacation time?



Whatever your need, get started with our
Home Equity Term Loan Special Rates.

5-year Fixed Rate | \$10,000 Minimum Loan Amount

Special 5-Year Rate
2.39%^{*}
APR

With payment automatically deducted
from Allegheny Valley Bank deposit account.

Regular 5-Year Rate
3.49%^{}**
APR

Without payment automatically deducted
from Allegheny Valley Bank deposit account.

Call 412-773-RATE for all special loan offers and details.



Allegheny Valley Bank

Lawrenceville | Blawnox | Green Tree | McKnight Road | Mt. Troy | Penn Center East
Downtown Pittsburgh Shaler | Shaler Drive-Thru

www.ilovethatbank.com



Rates available as of 4/13/2015. Minimum \$10,000.00 new money. Loans subject to credit approval. Offer and terms may change at any time and vary by property type, loan amount, and LTV ratio.

^{*}2.39% rate for a maximum term of 60 months, 1st lien and 2nd lien with a 89.9% LTV. APR (annual percentage rate) is based on a sample transaction with loan amount of \$100,000.00, which calculates to a monthly payment of \$1769.98 or \$17.69 per \$1,000.00. Auto deduct loan payment from Allegheny Valley Bank account required.

^{**}3.49% rate for a maximum term of 60 months, 1st lien and 2nd lien with a 89.9% LTV. APR (annual percentage rate) is based on a sample transaction with loan amount of \$100,000.00, which calculates to a monthly payment of \$1818.86 or \$18.18 per \$1,000.00.

Save the Date: National Night Out

On **Tuesday, August 4**, join your neighbors for a Garfield community celebration and block party at Nelson Mandela Peace Park (located at the corner of Broad St. and Evaline St.). From 5 until 8 p.m. - families will enjoy free dinner (and ice cream), face painting, music, and other kid-friendly activities. This evening event is part of a national initiative to make our neighborhoods safer for all residents, day or night.

Residents push Cheswick Power Plant to clean up its act

By Elizabeth Sensky *East Liberty Development, Inc.*

Garfield - Waking up to a pungent smell in the air is not Kendall Pelling's idea of a good morning. But it is a reality that he and many other Allegheny County residents face more often than not.

Pelling, who works as director of land recycling at East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI), lives about 13 miles from where the Cheswick Power Plant sits above the Allegheny River. On the right morning - when winds carry - Pelling maintains that a plume of smoke from the plant's Springdale, PA location can waft for miles before drifting over his home in Garfield. He calls these his "coal-fired mornings."

"When I wake up and open the window or go outside in the morning, I just smell sulfur," Pelling explained. "There is something foul in the air and I don't want to breathe it."

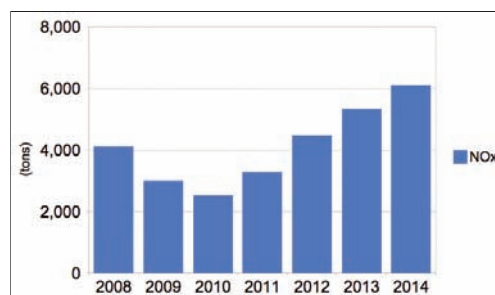
Many Allegheny County residents are now pushing for changes to the plant's operating permit, which expires at the end of year. Issued under the Clean Air Act, this Title V operating permit outlines pollution control requirements.

Under the current permit, the Cheswick Power Plant is permitted to emit 33,726 tons of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and 10,883.2 tons of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) per year. While the plant and its owner, NRG Energy, are technically in compliance with these standards, activists have begun advocating for tighter standards to further protect local air quality.

In order to moderate its discharge of toxic substances, the plant is outfitted with two primary pollution controls: a 'scrubber' to control SO₂ emissions and a Selective Catalytic Reduction system (SCR) designed to limit the amount of NO_x released into the air.

As directed by its installation permit, the scrubber must run at all times. The SCR, however, does not hold the same requirement. Thanks to a fully regulated 'cap-and-trade' system, NRG can always just buy allowances for NO_x instead of running the scrubber more often.

An article from April, published by Trib-



ABOVE: Emissions of hazardous, nitrogen oxides (NO_x) are rising steadily at the Cheswick Power Plant. Graphic courtesy of the EPA.

LIVE.com and titled, "Cheswick plant owner denies activists' claims," explains that power plants are given annual allotments of pollution credits.

Allegheny County Deputy Director for Air Quality, Jim Thompson, describes how NRG can earn more credits by running pollution control equipment whenever its allowances are depleted. "They are not actually purchasing," he said. "They are using their allowances and then running the SCR when they see a shortfall."

This alleged neglect is rubbing some activist organizations the wrong way. "We are trying to get the health department to require [NRG] to run their pollution controls all the time," Sierra Club representative Tom Schuster said. "The fact is that they're using credits instead of actually reducing emissions."

From 2010 to 2014, in just four years' time, the Cheswick Power Plant's annual NO_x emissions rose from 2,522 tons to 6,100 tons. While SO₂ levels dramatically decreased after the scrubber was installed in 2011, an unfortunate trend is now apparent; between 2013 and 2014, annual SO₂ emissions rose from 1,686 tons to 4,445 tons. The Sierra Club is now pressuring NRG to reduce its emissions back to the 2013 rate.

Some reports cite the recent use of coal that is higher in sulfur content as the reason for this spike in SO₂ emissions. When asked about the cause of this disturbing increase in pollution, NRG was unavailable for comment.

NO_x and SO₂ emissions are particularly troublesome because of their role in the ozone equation. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), when SO₂ and NO_x are emitted into the atmosphere, they react with other compounds to form ozone and fine particles.

This fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) might be smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter, but it does some serious damage. Beyond just creating smog, PM_{2.5} penetrates deep into the lungs and bloodstream; it has also been linked to an array of serious health problems like aggravated asthma and other respiratory illnesses, or even premature death in heart and lung disease patients.

Randy Francisco, the Sierra Club's senior organizing representative, worries about the health of residents in the Springdale area. "There are definitely a lot of health concerns," he said. "We asked the community and people are not happy with the high rates of asthma in the

area."

These anecdotal health concerns give credence to a yearlong ecological study conducted by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* in 2010. The study finds that, in the plant's neighboring town of Cheswick and all along the Allegheny River corridor, mortality rates are a staggering eighty-seven percent above the national level.

This upriver pollution is a threat to Allegheny County's air quality, which is already out of compliance with federal standards for ozone and PM_{2.5}. Local aluminum manufacturer, Alcoa, Inc. just recently pledged to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by fifty percent over the next decade.

The EPA has proposed stricter regulations for smog pollution, but they are not expected to go into effect until October. "We'll be further out of attainment when that happens," Schuster said. "So, our point is this: if major source polluters have the ability to greatly reduce their emissions, then they should be required to do it."

The Sierra Club is gathering as many signatures as possible before permit hearings begin, which they expect will be scheduled for August or September. Hearings will be



ABOVE: Residents living near the Cheswick Power Plant are all too familiar with plumes of smoke blanketing their communities. Photo by Chris Jordan-Bloch/Earthjustice.org.

posted by the Allegheny County Health Department-Air Quality Division.

Francisco noted the importance of spreading awareness to people further from the plant. "We've organized the residents around the stacks, but now we are reaching out to communities beyond that," he said. "There are a lot of people who can't see this pollution coming out of the stack, so they aren't aware of it. We are out there educating those folks about what's going on."

If you would like to get involved, contact Randy Francisco at randy.francisco@sierraclub.org or 412-802-6161. ♦

Is your child

OVERWEIGHT

and between the ages of 12 & 17?

IF YES, THEY MAY BE ELIGIBLE for a research study at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC that will examine health benefits of regular exercise

STUDY INCLUDES

- Exercise Training at No Cost
- Dietary Counseling
- Fitness Evaluation
- Physical Exams & Blood Testing
- Body Composition
- Overnight Stays
- Compensation Provided

Children's of UPMC
Hospital of Pittsburgh

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 412-692-7567

NeighborhoodFOCUS

Lawrenceville book takes a look back

By Andrew McKeon *The Bulletin*

Lawrenceville – In a neighborhood where “Tony the Barber” stays on par with Stephen Foster - character is king. This riverside community has always carved its own image with care because longtime residents understand the historical importance of their stomping grounds, and they’re not afraid to show it.

Local authors Joann Cantrell and James Wudarczyk set out to tell neighborhood stories; after a year’s hard work and lots of library trips, they have delivered a compelling throwback full of old photographs. Upon its June release by Arcadia Publishing, the book – known simply as *Lawrenceville* - is already in scarce supply at local retailers.

When neighbors heard about a July 15 release party and book-signing, they flocked to the Carnegie Library’s Fisk St. location. Before signing any copies, Cantrell and Wudarczyk presented a slide-show of their favorite photos, which prompted some very specific questions from the audience.

While some in attendance sought to confirm exactly where and when particular photos were taken, others were more interested in the specific context surrounding each picture. “When we talk about history,” Wudarczyk said, “it’s not just about national or local events. It’s also about personal events.”

Wudarczyk took every opportunity to point out the history in his neighborhood along with the significance of the very library building hosting the event. “This library dates back to 1898 and it is truly a landmark,” he said. “If you look at this facade, and its French Renaissance architecture, you can see that the building is utterly encrusted in ornamentation.”

Both authors elaborated upon methods of composition and thanked neighborhood organizations, like the Lawrenceville Historical Society (LHS), for photographic and informational contributions.

They also described the calculations of their aesthetic approach, which focuses on certain visual criteria (people, buildings, and events) that can tell a universal story. As Wudarczyk puts it, “We wanted to include churches because, at one time,

“When we talk about history, it’s not just about national or local events. It’s also about personal events.”

– James Wudarczyk, Author

AT RIGHT: Pictured at his desk in 1934 is Mr. Gribbon of the Gribbon Realty Company. He handled the transaction between Henry Ford and Saint John the Baptist Church for property at 3414 Penn Ave. Ford’s historical instincts proved false as this property was not, in fact, the birthplace of Stephen Foster. Photo courtesy of James Wudarczyk.



ABOVE: The Memorial Day Parade, as photographed during the 1930s, speaks to Lawrenceville’s historic sense of pride and civic duty. Local authors Joann Cantrell and James Wudarczyk had almost too many photos to choose from, but this photo shined through to land on the cover of their new, illustrative book, “Lawrenceville.” Photo courtesy of James Wudarczyk.

Lawrenceville contained at least thirty different churches of various denominations.”

Lawrenceville even finds a way to remind readers of their part in history. For instance, the Round Corner Cantina (3720 Butler St.) still carries the torch for the Round Corner Tavern - the neighborhood’s longest, continuous business establishment.


“The great thing was the Christmas Party,” Wudarczyk said, in reference to a photo of the Lawrenceville Boys Club’s 1964 holiday party. “At one time, they had about 1,200 boys jammed into that small gym. You can see them hanging off the balconies and the fire escapes.”

In reference to Arsenal Park (200 block of 40th St.), he asked members of the audience if they remembered enjoying summer concerts in the amphitheater during the 1960s. Unfortunately, some of the more palpable memories, like the remnants of St. Margaret Memorial Hospital on 46th St., have been removed from view as they become “covered with asphalt, which now has potholes.”

Although Cantrell and Wudarczyk are credited as the authors, they like to think of the book as a collaborative, neighborhood project. “It was really a community endeavor that put this together,” Wudarczyk said. ♦

BELOW: James Wudarczyk (right) and Joann Cantrell (center) autograph copies of their recent publication, “Lawrenceville,” during a July 15 book-signing at the Carnegie Library on Fisk St. A collection of historical photos, the book paints a vibrant picture of its neighborhood namesake. Photo by Andrew McKeon.





Infant, toddler, and
preschool programs

Call for information
or to schedule a tour.

Arsenal Family & Children's Center

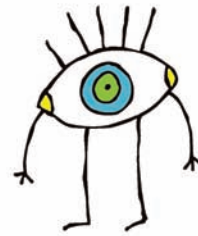
336 S. Aiken Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Phone: (412) 345-0008

Email: afcc@arsenalfamily.org

ARSENAL
FAMILY &
CHILDREN'S
CENTER



LAWRENCEVILLE VISION CARE

Welcomes **Dr. Gerry Bell** and all his patients to our practice!



Dr. Gerry Bell has been in practice for 15 years in Bloomfield, and now we're joining forces to serve all our patients better. Dr. Bell has experience:

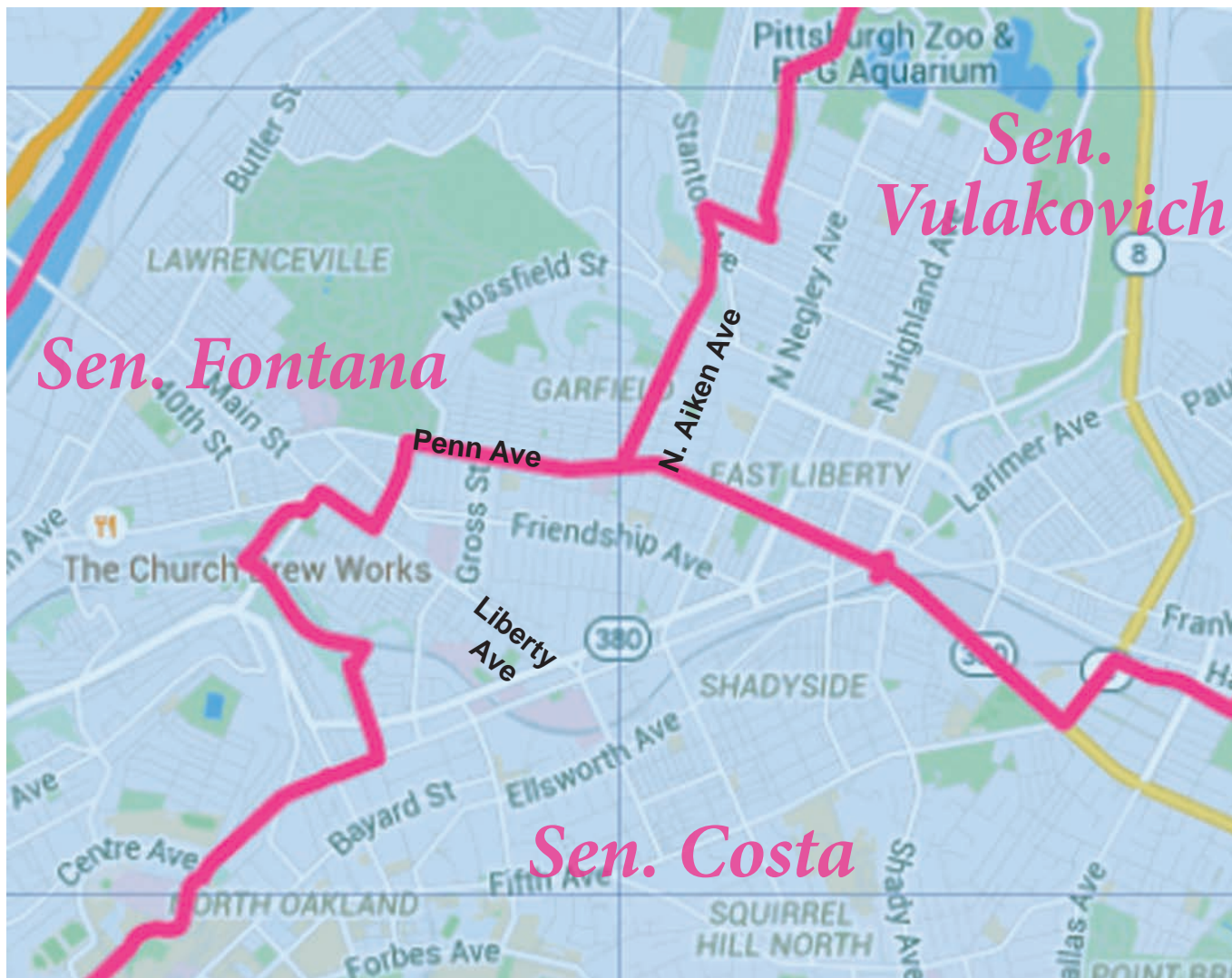
- Diagnosing and treating eye disease
- Fitting glasses and contact lenses
- Consulting for surgery, including lasik, glaucoma and cataracts.

*We will
treat all
ages!*

4122 Butler Street • Pittsburgh, PA 15201
412-682-2339 • www.lawrencevillevisioncare.com

Get to know your State Senator - East End neighborhoods

BELOW: This map depicts Pittsburgh's East End neighborhoods and the dividing lines between three Pennsylvania State Senators' local constituencies. The Bulletin urges readers to contact their State Senator with any questions or concerns about local, state, and national legislation. Map provided by www.redistricting.state.pa.us.



The retirement of former State Senator Jim Ferlo, along with the re-drawing of district lines, have provided *Bulletin* readers with some new and relatively unfamiliar State Senators. Consult the map (at left) to figure out which State Senator represents your neighborhood.

These elected officials can take your thoughts all the way to Harrisburg; contact them and make your voice heard. More information about State Senate district maps can be found at www.redistricting.state.pa.us.

Sen. Wayne Fontana's district includes Lawrenceville, Morningside, Stanton Heights, and a section of Garfield from N. Aiken Ave. to N. Mathilda St. Fontana's Brookline district office can be reached at 412-343-2080.

Sen. Jay Costa's district comprises Friendship and most of the Bloomfield neighborhood. Costa's Forest Hills office can be reached at 412-241-6690.

Sen. Randy Vulakovich represents East Liberty and Highland Park, as well as a portion of Garfield from N. Aiken Ave. to Negley Ave. Vulakovich's Glenshaw office can be reached at (412) 487-6600.

PITTSBURGH EYE ASSOCIATES
Dr. Roxana Barad
Ophthalmologist


Dr. Chris Cecchini
Optometrist

Everything Local for Your Eye Care Needs!

- Medical eye care & dry eye therapy
- Diabetic eye exams
- Cataract evaluation & surgery,
- Refractive implants for cataract surgery
- Glaucoma evaluation & treatment
- Cosmetic eyelid procedures
- Full service optical department & contact lenses

Call 412.683.0500 & let us take care of you!

www.pittsburgheyeassociates.com

**Aesthetic**
Skin & Laser Center

Francesca
Inspired Skin Care

Renew – Refresh - Reverse!
Including Tattoo Removal & Lightening

Call 412.683.3358 & let us pamper you!
www.aestheticpittsburgh.com

Both located at 4424 Penn Ave., Suite 101 & 102, Pittsburgh, PA 15224
Across the street from Children’s hospital

Capoeira Angola
Afro-Brazilian Martial Art Hidden in Dance



Adult Classes 6-7pm Fridays 3-5pm Sundays	Kids Classes 5-6pm Mondays & Wednesdays
---	--

Steel Dragon
100 43rd St #113
Lawrenceville
412.362.6096

www.steel-dragon.org
info@steel-dragon.org

Also: Ying Jow, Tong Bei, Xing-Yi, Tai Chi, Lion Dance

SAUER BROTHERS
Heating • Cooling • Boilers

412-782-1100

We've been installing Residential Furnaces & Air Conditioners For Over 60 Years

Due to the success of The Big Easy, we are moving to a larger facility not only to facilitate our clients, but to expand our services, including daycare, boarding, a Café and grooming.

Voted “Best Veterinary Hospital In The City” for two consecutive years.
-Tribune Review

Safety Measures - Facility Design

Safe Yards
Our outdoor play yards have a 6 feet fence with additional fencing to prevent escape.
Our outdoor play yards also have artificial grass.

Clean Air
Weather permitting, we have multiple garage doors that will be open to allow fresh air and clean breeze filter through for your dogs to enjoy while they are playing. This will maintain a clean and healthy facility free from bacteria and odor.

Fire Protection
Our facility has a fire alarm and heat sensor that automatically dispatches the Fire Department in the event of smoke or heat detection. Staff is close by for emergencies.

Veterinarians On-Site
Big Easy Dog Daze is the ONLY DAYCARE/BOARDING FACILITY IN PITTSBURGH THAT HAS VETERINARIANS ON-SITE should immediate care be needed.



Grand Opening Saturday, August 29th

Big Easy's Doggy Daycare, Dog/Cat Boarding
Please call us today for booking information



Baked Goods for Dogs by The Pet Bakery of Oakmont!

Services

- Wellness & Preventative Care
- Senior Pet Care / Specialty Diets
- Micro Chipping
- Urgent Care
- Surgery / Radiology
- Laboratory, On-Site
- Pharmacy, On-Site

**12 McCandless Avenue
Upper Lawrenceville**
412-908-9301
www.TBEAH.com

Walk-In services end 30 minutes prior to close of business. After-Hour emergency services available.

Office Hours:
Mon-Thur: 9am-7pm
Fri: 9am-6pm
Sat: 9am-12pm

March Pittsburgh

from page 1

healthy living as part of an initiative presented by UPMC.

March Pittsburgh is part of a greater initiative called Healthy Together, which aims to enroll 100 percent of Pittsburgh’s children in quality, affordable healthcare.

Betty Cruz, who manages special initiatives for the Office of Mayor William Peduto, knows the name spells out the mission statement. "Healthy Together’s name says it all," she said. "The Mayor wants to make sure that every Pittsburgher receives the benefits of the shared health of our community. That starts with health insurance."

As a means of spreading the news about affordable healthcare, March Pittsburgh will take to the streets with pop-up marching bands. Similar to the ‘second line,’ impromptu brass bands of New Orleans, this mass of musicians will march through the streets under the direction of River City Brass Band Director James Gourley.

The bands will feature students from area middle schools and high schools, including Pittsburgh CAPA, performing alongside adult musicians. The goal, however, is to extend participation beyond professionals and aspiring artists.

"Grab your spoons, pots, and pans," Gourley implored. "We're hoping that everyone along the parade route will join in and make music together." Starting at noon on August 22, Stanton Heights residents can expect to hear music in their neighborhood as band members wind their way down Stanton Ave., Oranmore St., Coolridge Ave. and Sommerville St.

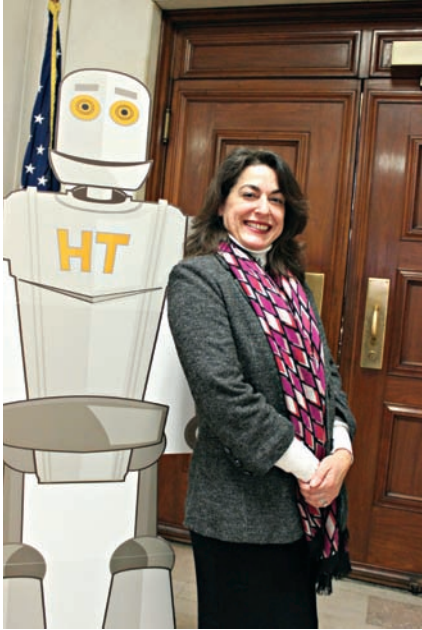
The march will end with a concert celebration for the Stanton Heights Community Festival at Pittsburgh Sunnyside PreK-8 School. While Healthy Together’s mascot, “Enroll-o-bot,” entertains the kids, parents can make on-site appointments to enroll in health insurance programs.


“As a mother of two small children, I know first hand how important it is to access quality, affordable healthcare for your family,” City Councilwoman Deb Gross said. “What starts out as a normal day could end up in a pediatrician’s office or emergency room. Therefore, it’s critical that all families have health insurance.”

The week before parades are scheduled, volunteers will knock on doors to notify neighbors of the celebration and invite everyone to join in the fun. “People can bring their own instruments,” Gourley noted. “But, if you don’t, we’ve got you covered.”

In order to get the whole city covered, March Pittsburgh keeps bringing the noise; now more than ever, healthcare is instrumental to the well-being of communities like Stanton Heights. Find out more about this and other Healthy Together events by visiting GetEnrolledPGH.com or emailing Alicia Moore (alicia.moore@pittsburghpa.gov). Residents in need of health insurance should dial the United Way’s 2-1-1 help-line for enrollment assistance. ♦

BELOW: City Councilwoman Deborah Gross stands beside Healthy Together’s “Enroll-o-bot” mascot in a show of support for quality, affordable healthcare. Photo courtesy of Healthy Together.





Follow the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation on Twitter (@BloomGarCorp)

September Bulletin Deadline: August 14

Download advertising information: bit.ly/bulletin_ad

Download guidelines for stories, photos, and notices: bit.ly/bulletin_news

need
HELP PAYING
for
PRESCRIPTIONS?

The APPRISE program can
help individuals on
Medicare apply for the
Low Income Subsidy (LIS)
to get prescriptions at a
reduced cost!

call **APPRISE** at
412.661.1438

APPRISE is the Pennsylvania State Health Insurance Assistance Program and works in partnership with the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Area Agency on Aging.



The BGC community survey results are in

By Rebekkah Ranallo Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) and its board of directors were thrilled to receive nearly 300 responses to the survey we distributed throughout May and June.

This feedback is guiding our board's decisions as we create the organization's strategic plan for the next three years. In our continued commitment to transparency, we've provided a summary of the survey results below.

Many of you went beyond just checking the boxes and submitted pages of comments. In those comments, common themes included encouragement to "keep up the good work," challenges to better engage community members in all decision making, suggestions for forming stronger partnerships with organizations in Friendship and Bloomfield, and a wide variety of creative ideas for utilizing Garfield's wealth of vacant land and attracting more investment to Penn Ave.

Overwhelmingly, though, many of you voiced concerns about the changing real estate market and gentrification in our area, asking how the BGC can ensure that affordable housing options remain accessible. This topic frequently dominates lively discussions at monthly board meetings, as well as our Housing & Land Use committee meetings.

We tackle this issue in a number of ways, including the completion of Phase II of our affordable rental housing project, Garfield Glen, in the summer of 2016. Both phases of the project will end up adding a total of 64 units of affordable rental housing to the neighborhood.

Our board also just completed a new policy that will guide how, and to whom, we sell property acquired through the city's vacant property reserve. We created the policy to improve transparency in our real estate transactions, prioritize affordability, and prevent land speculators from gaining an unfair advantage as development occurs.

We value programs that strengthen the social capital in our neighborhoods; this is part of our proactive strategy to countering gentrification. Through our youth employment programs, in-school and after-school programming, and workforce development programs for adults, we are

serving approximately 850 people per year.

The goal of these programs is to build wealth within our communities by increasing the level of education and employment among local residents.

We do this to better empower our current residents to own homes, start businesses, employ other community members, and raise families in this neighborhood. This is not often considered to be glamorous work, but we firmly believe that it is a vital complement to our existing brick-and-mortar projects.

We are very grateful for the hundreds of you who took the time to share your ideas, challenges and questions with us. We welcome feedback 24/7 - you don't need a survey to tell us what's on your mind. Call us at 412.441-6950, email us at information@bloomfield-garfield.org, or visit us at our office (5149 Penn Ave.) anytime.

We encourage everyone to heed our annual, open call for board and committee members. Join us this October for an opportunity in community leadership. Below is a summary of survey results.

Who responded: 75% of you live here, 31% of you own property here, 23% of you work here, 17% of you participate in our programs, 19% live in a nearby community, 9% are business owners. *

The top four areas you want the BGC to address, in descending order: Attract business and investment to Penn Avenue; clean up trash and overgrowth; address vacant and neglected housing; help current homeowners repair their homes.

How to use Garfield's wealth of vacant land: 42% of you want urban farms and community gardens, 27% of you want new construction housing, 21% of you want recreational amenities (parks and playgrounds), 5% of you want trails, and 5% of you chose "other."

Agreement with how BGC is currently serving the community: 81% of you strongly agree, 15% of you agree, 2% of you disagree, and 2% of you strongly disagree.

* Please note that percentages do not add up to 100; respondents were asked to check all that apply. ♦

RETRACTION

In the July issue of *The Bulletin* (Vol. 40, No. 7), a burned-out truck was identified as belonging to Lauren Byrne, executive director of Lawrenceville United (LU). The truck is, in fact, owned by LU - not Byrne. *The Bulletin* apologizes for any confusion.

Flying high and building confidence; circus-themed camp helps young burn victims

By Morgan Rupert Allegheny Health Network

BELOW: One happy camper performs a balancing act on the lyra, an aerial hoop used in circus acrobatics, during her day session at the Pittsburgh Dance Center (PDC). Campers pursued a circus theme as they learned trapeze skills and other maneuvers on PDC's aerial silks. Photo by Chuck Balcik.



For the past twenty nine years, West Penn Burn Center has played host to an annual summer camp program for children who have sustained burn injuries. Children (between the ages of seven and seventeen) who have received treatment at the West Penn Burn Center, participate in camp activities designed to foster emotional healing while building self-confidence amongst peers. This year, the camp carried a theme of "Life's a Circus; Make It an Unforgettable Act."

Twenty-eight children participated in this summer's camp activities, which took them all over Pittsburgh. The kids were also able to enjoy swimming, hiking, archery, canoeing, and fishing at Camp Kon-O-Kwee in Zelienople.

Some of the activities chosen to highlight the circus theme included carnival games, a magic show, juggling acts, and face painting. The Burn Center staff even designed a 'traveling circus' scavenger hunt to incorporate team-building exercises and critical-thinking into the programming.

Thanks to the generosity of local firefighter groups, businesses, organizations, and individuals, the camp remains free of charge to any child who has been treated at West Penn Burn Center. The counselor staff is comprised of West Penn Burn Center nurses, West Penn Hospital employees, West Virginia University psychology graduate students and former burn injury survivors.

This summer, camp kicked off just a block away from West Penn Hospital at the Pittsburgh Dance Center (PDC), located at 4765 Liberty Ave. in Bloomfield. PDC staff and camp counselors helped get the children into the carnival spirit by teaching them how to perform circus acts on the trapeze and aerial silks.

Although some campers were hesitant to begin performing on the ceiling-mounted hoops (known as lyra) and other trapeze structures, they soon found strength from their fellow campers' encouraging words.

These children, who are all on similar journeys to recovery, behaved like true circus performers as they inspired each other to fly high and attempt daring, acrobatic feats. "What our camp and the Pittsburgh Dance Center have in common is that we both want to empower children and help them to feel confident attempting things that are out of their comfort zone," said Burn Center Outreach Coordinator Christine Perlick.

"Many children, especially those who have suffered a burn injury, are self-conscious about how they look in general and a burn scar increases that self-consciousness," she said. "Our 'Life's a Circus' camp aims to help those children build self-esteem while establishing lasting friendships with others who have been through similar experiences." ♦

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Some people think that choosing a modest memorial means sacrificing service. Our commitment to excellent service allows us to say that no matter what kind of a memorial you have in mind, we'll provide you with the best service available, bar none.



D'Alessandro Funeral Home & Crematory Ltd.

"Always a Higher Standard"

Daniel T. D'Alessandro, Spvr.
4522 Butler St. • Pittsburgh, PA 15201
Phone: 412-682-6500 • Fax: 412-682-6090
www.dalessandrofhd.com •
dalessandrofh@aol.com



ABOVE: West Penn Burn Center summer campers take a break from practicing their trapeze acts to pose for a photo with (levitating) staff members at the Pittsburgh Dance Center (4765 Liberty Ave.) in Bloomfield. Photo by Chuck Balcik.

Ten years after: how Katrina brought me to Pittsburgh

By Dr. Aileen Ruiz *The Big Easy Animal Hospital*

Editor's Note

Ten years ago, when Hurricane Katrina caused massive flooding, Dr. Aileen Ruiz was forced to evacuate her home in New Orleans. She soon found her way to Pittsburgh and started a new veterinary practice here. To honor the memory of fallen friends and neighbors, Ruiz has decided to host the grand opening of her new facility, The Big Easy Animal Hospital, in conjunction with the hurricane's ten-year anniversary on Saturday, August 29. Located at 12 McCandless Ave. in Lawrenceville, the animal hospital is named after her beloved New Orleans. The following is Ruiz's account of that fateful disaster, as told in her own words.

New Orleans, Louisiana is not a typical American city. It's, humid, laid back, and exotic. The city's rich eclectic culture will always hold a special place in my heart and forever be a part my soul.

Saturday August 29, marks 2015, marks the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina touching down in New Orleans. We will commemorate this anniversary in a variety of ways., not least of which is remembering the lives lost.

Communities were unalterably changed, but it was the strength of New Orleans residents that prevailed to eventually inspire resurgence throughout the region. The hurricane and its aftermath are reminders to us all that life is fragile in the face of Mother Nature, and that everything can be taken away in an instant. Ten years ago,

my life became one of the thousands that Katrina changed forever.

After working an overnight weekend shift at an emergency veterinary hospital in New Orleans, I had to make a quick decision to pack only the essentials needed to evacuate, barely more than my clothing and my pets. As the majority of New Orleans was evacuating to Texas, I decided to evacuate to Pittsburgh, where I could stay with a friend.

I left New Orleans on Sunday, August 28, 2005 at 9:45 a.m. and arrived in Pittsburgh about twenty, exhausting hours later. As soon as I arrived at my friend's house in Lawrenceville, I passed right out. When I woke up a few hours later and began following the news reports on television, things didn't seem to be too catastrophic back in New Orleans. But, as the news rolled in, I realized that it was getting bad, and fast.

When I was contacted by the Humane Society of the United States, they asked if I would return to the city (once it had been drained) and work alongside the Colorado National Guard to help rescue animals that had been left behind. Everything was in short supply, so I immediately contacted animal hospitals in Pittsburgh for donations. The rescue efforts required veterinarians who knew their way around the city, so I packed my car and headed south.

When I arrived, New Orleans was in complete lockdown. No one was allowed to go in or out of the city without government-provided documentation. Once I was cleared to go into the city, I started to search for animals in abandoned buildings and overgrown shrubbery.

Homes that were tagged with a spray-painted "X" symbol functioned like official signage. I had to learn the meaning of the symbol which is the following: the northern sector of the X denotes the date; the southern gives the number of victims/animals found alive or dead; the western identifies the rescue team and the eastern depicts the current hazards of the home. One of the strangest things I've ever seen was a herd of cows behind a house that had miraculously survived.

Clean, fresh water was essential to the animals' survival, so I found a canoe and – with the help of some firefighters from Illinois - filled the canoe with water.

As the search and rescue continued, I came across a group of veterinarians from Virginia and Tennessee who were there to help. We worked together as a team and built Camp Lucky in an abandoned warehouse. Military men helped build pens while volunteers from all over the country began identifying each animal that was brought into camp. A man and his family, who had snuck into the city in hopes of finding his dog, found their way to Camp Lucky. As luck would have it, we were able to reconnect the family with their dog.

But, the tragedies just kept coming into camp. A fire fighter dropped off a severely dehydrated cat that was in need of intravenous fluids for rehydration. We soon learned that the owner had passed away in her home because she did not want to leave her animals behind; this was one of reasons why so many of the elderly folks perished in the flood. Some of these people were my clients.

For 2 weeks, I lived on a Naval Ship in Violet, Louisiana while continuing rescues. Then came the news that another Hurricane named Rita was on her way to further damage our battered city. The mayor asked us to release the rescued animals back into the wild and to evacuate ourselves. That was not an option, so a good samaritan sent his 747 jet to pick up the rescued animals and relocate them to California (in hopes that pet owners would be able to find their pets through Pet Finder).

After my 2 weeks of search and rescue, I knew I had to leave New Orleans. As the city rebuilt itself, there would be no jobs for veterinarians for many months. So, I decided to plant my roots in Pittsburgh and the rest is history. This city really gave me a chance to start my life over. During the last decade in Pittsburgh, I made many great friends, met my husband, and started a successful veterinary practice in Lawrenceville. I am forever grateful that Pittsburgh welcomed me with open arms and gave me a chance to rebuild. ♦

Laurentian Hall Apartments

Apartment Living for Senior
Citizens in an Elegant Setting



Offering These Amenities:

- Equipped Kitchens
- Nightly Meals Catered by Nova Café
- All Utilities Included
- FREE On-Site Laundry
- FREE Parking
- On the Busline
- Section 8 for Qualified Applicants
- 1st-Floor Lounge with Cable TV & WiFi

Immediate Openings for Efficiency Apartments!



For more
information, call
412-361-4462



Classifieds

Services

A Hauling Job?

We clear basements, yards, garages,
attics, estates

Fast, Reliable, Reasonable

Also demolition work, minor repairs,
grass cutting, salvage credit.

412-687-6928 Call Walt 412-773-0599

PRO TEC PEST & TERMITE SERVICE

"Quality Service at an Affordable Price"

John Cygnarowicz
412-628-6893

This Could be Your Classified

For more information about advertising
options in *The Bulletin*, email
Bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org.

For Everyone in the Flock and
Every Room in the Nest, shop at

**ROBIN'S
Nest**

Unique
Personal & Home Goods
crafted by Local Artisans

free
gift
wrapping!

handmade:

- Home Decor • Wall Art
- Bath & Body • Hand Bags
- Jewelry • Accessories

412.362.2600

[f /RobinsNestPittsburgh](https://www.facebook.com/RobinsNestPittsburgh)

HOURS: Tue – Sat 11AM – 7PM

5504 Penn Ave | Pittsburgh, PA 15206

the

Bulletin

BOARD

Local Events

Classes

Announcements

Fundraisers

August 1

LAWRENCEVILLE

Urban Chicken Farming

2 p.m. at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Lawrenceville. Ever wanted to know more about raising chickens in a urban environment? Union-town Poultry will be here to educate people on the benefits of raising chickens in your own backyard.

Gigantic Flea Market

New Bethel Baptist Church (221 43rd St.) is hosting a gigantic flea and vendors market on Saturday, August 1st, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Barbecue dinners and baked goods will be available. For vendor information, call 412-441-5968.

August 3

GARFIELD

Vacation Bible School

Morningside Church Of God In Christ - 9 a.m.-12noon at 5173 Dearborn St. Theme this year is "Shining Star: See the Jesus in Me." Breakfast and Lunch Served. Bring friends, have fun, and be blessed. Closing program on Aug. 7 at 1pm...Evan-gelist Sandra Talley 412-361-9865.

August 4

LAWRENCEVILLE

National Night Out

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. - 40th and Mintwood. National Night Out is a cohesive effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

STANTON HEIGHTS

NNO BBQ

Join neighbors on National Night Out (NNO) for a continuation of SHNA's monthly social events. This BBQ will be held on Stanton Court East, with meat and some beverages provided. Attendees are invited to bring a side dish or additional beverages to share! For more information, visit www.stanton-heights.org.

Sorry, we do not accept listings by phone.

The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, fundraising events, and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Listings published on a space-available basis; we cannot guarantee placement. Announcements for the May issue are due **Wednesday, August 15**. Submit listings using our online form at http://bit.ly/bulletin_submit.

August 6

WILKINSBURG

Cookbook Club

East End Food Co-Op 7516 Meade Street 7pm - Are you looking for an excuse to try out a new recipe? Join us for another meeting of our Cookbook Club! Bring a dish to share and a list of ingredients. Space is limited, so call now to reserve your spot! This event is FREE; just call 412-242-3598 to reserve your spot!

August 8

LAWRENCEVILLE

Back-to-School Bash

11 AM to 1 PM - Arsenal Park - FREE family event hosted by Encounter Church, Sprout Fund, and Lawrenceville United to promote a prepared start to the school year. Over 300 backpacks will be given away! There will be fun and educational kids activities including a Maker Party, free food, music, and a bounce house. Staff from local schools and youth programs will be there with kids activities and sign ups for fall programs. For more information, please call Lawrenceville United at 412-802-7220. Visit www.encounterprgh.com for more details.

Gardening Thyme

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Lawrenceville 2pm Join us to learn about growing vegetables in containers. We will be covering all that you will need to know to start your own garden right on your porch, window, or driveway. We will be doing a hands on demonstration to get your juices flowing.

GARFIELD

"It's Your Time!" Annual Youth Retreat

Morningside Church of God in Christ - 5173 Dearborn St. Pittsburgh, PA 15224 9:30 am - 3 pm...During the day, there will be workshops designed for youths of all ages. Workshops will consist of music, praise, worship, dance, mime, and life skills. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Bring your friends, have fun, and be blessed!

Community Paint Day

Please come on Saturday August 8th, 2015 at 12:00

pm - 1:30 pm at Valley View Church and share your creative ideas about how to repurpose the graffiti that is on the retaining wall on Black Street. If you can't attend the meeting on August 8th please come Saturday August 15th at 11:00 am and help us paint the wall with artist D.S. Kinsel. If you need further information please call Renee Robinson at 412-304-1890.

August 13

BLOOMFIELD

Dogs & Toddlers

Created by a certified dog behavior consultant and mother of four, the Dogs & Toddlers™ is for families with babies who are between three months to three years old and exploring their independence for the first time. It is offered as both a group training class and private in-home consultation which parents and other caretakers can attend with their dogs to learn. West Penn Hospital, Burstin Room. 7-9 p.m. \$25/family. Call 412.578.7030.

August 15

LAWRENCEVILLE

Neighborhood-wide Block Party

All over Lawrenceville -- 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Join Lawrenceville United in coordinating block parties all across the Lawrenceville neighborhood! Come on out and have fun!

R.A.N.T. Music Festival

Arsenal Park and throughout Lawrenceville -- noon - 2 a.m. Come join the Rock All Night Tour as they bring exciting live music to venues across the neighborhood! Local vendors will set up tables and serve refreshments. The festival will showcase over 90 bands at more than 25 venues located throughout the neighborhood.

August 17

LAWRENCEVILLE

Pittsburgh Puppet Works presents Super Dewey

6:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Lawrenceville. Celebrate the end of a successful summer full of reading with a puppet show! A famous, flying hero, Dewey Decimal, meets up with puppet friends in need. No matter what their problem, whether it's gearing up for a science test, art project, learning to read or even taking care of a pet, Dewey leads them to a perfect answer... found at the local library!

August 19

BLOOMFIELD

Open RN Interviews

As the Allegheny Health Network grows, we continually search for the best possible nurses to join in our success. We have immediate full time, part time and casual openings across the network in Telemetry, ICU, NICU, L&D, and OR. We are conducting Open Interviews between 1p.m-4p.m. at the West Penn Hospital Human Resources Department. Come by, bring your resume and be interviewed for immediate consideration for these outstanding positions in an expanding healthcare network. If you have any questions, please call 412-330-2648. Please park in the South Millvale Parking garage and take your ticket with you.

August 22

STANTON HEIGHTS

Third Annual Community Festival

The Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association will sponsor a Community Festival from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 22, with fun for everyone. Among the family-friendly activities are a bounce-



CUTITTA
CHIROPRACTIC
4733 Butler Street
Pittsburgh PA 15201
(412) 325-4100
info@cutittachiro.com

Summer Stress?

Get a free day of massage for you and all your co-workers!

Now booking
FREE pamper events
For Fall 2015

Email
events.cutitta@gmail.com
now to reserve **YOUR**
day of free massage!
(Terms and conditions apply, email for more information. Offer expires 8/31/2015)

Volunteer Opportunities & Services

Ugly Concrete?

Steps, Ret. Walls, Pads, Foundations,
Driveways, Sidewalks, and more!

Concrete Repair &
Restoration

Don't replace your ugly concrete!
Repair! It will save you money!

412-734-5432

johnshomeimprovement.org

PA# 050547 Fully insured

Credit cards accepted



Toys for Magical
Children

No batteries.

No Screens.

Pure Fun.

^{IN}LAWRENCEVILLE

4747 Hatfield St. at 48th

412.478.7099

Tues., Wed., Fri. 11 - 7; Thur. 11 - 8;
Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 1 - 5

BACK
TO
SCHOOL

BACKPACKS

Super cute
animal buddies!

Made from
recycled plastic.

Ongoing

GARFIELD

M3

M3 (Materials, Media and Me!) takes place from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. every Saturday at Assemble (5125 Penn Ave. in Garfield), through August 29th. Cost is \$5. Kids 8-12 will explore making things with new materials with help from local experts.

Free Summer Physicals

On Tuesdays in August, school physicals and immunization updates will be offered to all students free of charge to get children ready for the new school year. Students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Physicals will be offered at the UPMC St. Margaret Lawrenceville Family Health Center in the mornings, 3937 Butler Street, and at the Bloomfield Garfield Family Health Center in the afternoons, 5475 Penn Avenue. To schedule an appointment call Nurse Gray at (412) 361-7562.

URA Facade Grants

The City of Pittsburgh's Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) offers residential facade grants for Garfield residents. The URA offers home owners a 50/50 matching grant of up to \$5,000 to support home renovations to the street-facing exterior of a house. To apply contact Quianna Wasler at the URA, qwasler@ura.org or 412-255-6550.

Performance Art Festival

Bunker Project's Performance Art Festival (PAF) is an annual public event featuring site-specific performances and art interventions by multi-media artists from across the world! With the aid of an event guide/playbill, audience members navigate a diverse collection of works throughout the day, as performances take place simultaneously in multiple venues. Participants dive into the worlds of 20+ local, national, and international artists and collaborators that span the many genres of performance to describe the identity of art, culture, and life. For more information please contact Abigail Beddall at bunkerprojects.residency@gmail.com.

S&B Sewing Circle

This community gathering takes place on the third Monday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave. Participants - adults only, please - can bring a knitting, sewing, or crafting project to work on, and a dish to share. This event is BYOB.

Assemble Afterschool

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4 to 6:30 p.m. join us at Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., for free, hands-on making for kids in fourth through eighth grades. Tuesdays are for engineering, Wednesdays are for art, and Thursdays are for digital skills.

Butler Street Farmers' Market

Held in the parking lot of Allegheny Valley Bank (5137 Butler St). Saturdays from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Come buy fresh locally grown produce every Saturday until October 31st.

Weekly Dinner

Lawrenceville Community Organic Garden will be hosting a weekly dinner for all children ages 18 and under. Through an alliance with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Food Security Partnership and the United Way of Allegheny County, the Community Garden will be home to all manner of food and activities from 6-8 PM every Wednesday evening. Come join the fun!

Sunday Market

The Night Gallery hosts a market every Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Come to 4936 Harrison St. for artisan bread, fresh coffee, and amazing jewelry.

STANTON HEIGHTS

Green Committee

Join the Green Committee to work on a Love Your Block application and make plans for a spring project in the community. Meeting time is 7 p.m., and the location will be posted on www.stantonheights.org or facebook.com/stantonheights.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Adult Game Night

Join your neighbors at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., every Tuesday at 6 p.m. for board games, card games, or even video games. Participants must be 18 and up. Call 412-682-3668 for more information.

Little Learners

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., every Wednesday at 6 p.m. for family play-



ABOVE: A Verizon contractor moonlighting as a graffiti remover; public utility boxes and USPS mailboxes are often the subject of repeated vandalism. Photo by Wesley Davis.

time. Using a wide array of age-appropriate toys, little learners will experience something exciting with their caregivers at their sides. Recommended for newborns to 3-year-olds and their families.

Youth Tennis Clinics

Beginner and intermediate tennis clinics for ages 6 to 10 are offered every Thursday night from 7 to 8 p.m. at Arsenal Middle School's gym, 220 40th St. No experience necessary. Rackets are provided or you can bring your own. \$10 per session, or \$45 for five sessions of your choosing. Non-marking shoes only. To pre-register, please contact Dave at Lawrenceville United, 412-802-7220 or Dave@LUnited.org.

Volunteers Needed

The Estelle S. Campbell Boys & Girls Club is looking for adult volunteers for arts and crafts, computers, sports, and/or fitness. Volunteers must have current child abuse and criminal clearances. For details about how to volunteer, call 412-682-4013.

Afterschool Programs

The Estelle S. Campbell Boys & Girls Club is accepting applications for membership in after-school and evening programs. Children ages 5 to 18 are welcome. The monthly fee for individuals is \$12, or \$10 per child for a family of two or more children. Call 412-682-4013 for more information. Don't miss out on the fun.

Don't Forget:

September Bulletin Deadline: **August 14**

Download advertising information: bit.ly/bulletin_ad

Download guidelines for stories, photos, and notices: bit.ly/bulletin_news

August 28

GARFIELD

Pitt Volunteer Day

Local residents are invited to join volunteers from the University of Pittsburgh for a community cleanup day on Friday, August 28th, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Volunteers will pick up litter, make improvements to Kite Hill Park, and take on related projects. Volunteers will meet at 113 N. Pacific Avenue. To learn more contact Wesley Davis of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation at Wesley@bloomfield-garfield.org or 412-441-6950 ext. 17.

URA offers money for property renovations

By Amber Epps Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Pittsburgh - The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) has created a number of programs to help commercial and residential owners make significant improvements to their buildings.

One example is the Streetface Program, which is available for business or commercial property owners. This program provides up to \$30,000 (or 40%) in the form of a 0% interest loan. Funds from this program are approved for use in upgrading the exterior of a building. Applicants for the Streetface Program must own the property that they plan to renovate; tenants are not eligible for loans through the program.

The Storefront Renovation Program is a matching program that provides up to \$5,000 in the form of a grant. Funds from this program are also approved for use on exterior improvements. Since the program focuses on the welfare of local businesses, both property owners and tenants are able to apply.

The URA also offers the Pittsburgh Home Rehabilitation Program (PHRP), a home improvement program that provides a 0% fixed interest rate for up to 20 years. The Energy Efficiency Loan Program can be used in conjunction with the PHRP; it provides an additional grant in the amount of up to \$2,500. For more information on these and other programs, and how you can become eligible for funding, please call 412-255-6600 or visit <http://ura.org>. ♦

Scott Croonquist - new WPH CNO

By Patricia Toner Allegheny Health Network



ABOVE: West Penn Hospital (4815 Liberty Ave.) invites its new Chief Nursing Officer, Scott Croonquist, to its home in Bloomfield. Photo courtesy of AHN.

and CNO Paula Lacher is retiring after serving in this role since 2011.

Croonquist has a bachelor's degree in nursing from Ramapo College of New Jersey in Mahwah, New Jersey, and a master's degree in nursing from St. Peter's College in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. Since 2002, Croonquist has served as a Magnet® recognition program appraiser for the American Nurses Credentialing Center in Washington, DC.

From 2010 to 2014, he held multiple leadership positions, including Associate Chief Nurse Officer at the University of Virginia Health Systems in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Additionally, Croonquist held leadership roles at both New York Presbyterian Hospital (in New York City) and Hackensack University Medical Center (in Hackensack, New Jersey). Croonquist looks to build upon his experience and provide quality healthcare at WPH for years to come. ♦

Bloomfield - West Penn Hospital (WPH) welcomes Scott M. Croonquist, MSN, RN, NEA-BC as its Vice President (VP) and Chief Nursing Officer (CNO). Former VP

Keep up with neighborhood events! Visit the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's news blog at
www.bloomfield-garfield.org

Do you smoke cigarettes but only on some days?

You may be eligible to participate in a research study for **non-daily smokers**.

Studies for non-daily smokers who do want to quit or for those who do not want to quit.


For more information and to see if you're eligible, call the Smoking Research Group at the University of Pittsburgh at:

(412) 383-2059 or

Text "NONDAILY" to (412) 999-2758

Eligible participants will be compensated for their time.

Must be at least 21 years old.



Back to School... Already!

It's hard to believe that in a few weeks school will begin again. Before sending your children off, stop and read the following tips.

Young Students

Pedestrian injuries are the second leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 5 to 14. So make sure that children:

- Look left, right then left again before crossing the street.
- Always try to cross a street when a crossing guard is present.
- Cross in front of the bus only after the driver signals it's okay.

High School Students


Statistics show that teen drivers are four times more likely to be involved in fatal crashes than more experienced drivers. If your children drive to school:

- Teach them, as well as, all passengers to buckle-up.
- Remind them to obey the speed limits
- Enforce no-drinking-and-driving rules.

College Students

The number one crime on college campuses is theft. One-out-of-every 10 college students will be robbed while away at school.

- Remind students to always lock dormitory doors.
- Tell students not to keep large amounts of money in their rooms.
- Have students mark personal property with identifiable marks.



WALTER J.
ZALEWSKI
FUNERAL HOMES INC.
"Exceeding Your Expectations"
LAWRENCEVILLE FOLIOH HILL

Walter J. Zalewski, Supervisor
216 Forty-fourth Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15201-2893
412 682-3445

Joseph M. Lapinski, Supervisor
3201 Dobson Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-3735
412 682-1562

©MMX Zalewski F.H., Inc.

Sept. Bulletin Deadline = August 14