



The Bulletin

A Publication of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

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

Volume 34, No. 5 Serving Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty and Lawrenceville since 1975 May 2009



Stacie Chandler/The Bulletin

Children's Hospital Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Artur Santos was busy taking pictures of the bright lights and many local uminaries who attended the official April 16 opening ceremony of the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC facility in Lawrenceville. The colorful murals, sparkly floors, high-tech, multi-color lighting fixtures and dynamic graphics managed to hold the children's attention during speeches by hospital administrators and Sen. Arlen Specter. Artur and Haley Merva joined the dignitaries, as well as other current and former patients, in snipping the ceremonial ribbon. Out-patient operations began the week of the April 20, patients will be moved into the hospital on May 2 and the campus will be in full-swing on May 4.

Changes on horizon for two Penn Ave. problem properties

By Richard Swartz
BGC Executive Director

Two sites in the Penn Avenue corridor, long known as liquor-serving establishments, will begin new chapters in their existence under different owners.

A two-story building at 5433 Penn, once home to the Horoscope Lounge, was placed under sales agreement with the Friendship Development Associates at the end of March.

The tavern was closed in February 2006 under an agreement negotiated between Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen Zappala and the bar's owner, Angelo Restano. Zappala had intervened at the behest of community residents, following a rash of criminal incidents and other problems in and around the

Horoscope. Mr. Restano subsequently was able to place the bar's liquor license in safekeeping with the PA Liquor Control Board. He had recently tried a pizza and hoagie shop in the premises, but has now closed that business in view of the pending sale.

Plans for the property are only in the discussion stage, but Matthew Galluzzo, the arts district manager for the FDA, confirmed that his group would like to see a restaurant or other complementary use for the first floor.

The deal with Restano includes all of the equipment on the premises, and Galluzzo feels the improvements

which Restano made to the bar area may make it easier to find a restaurant-related use. "We're trying to move activity along Penn Avenue beyond the 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. cycle, so that there is more reason for people to come to the district in the evenings. That will be one of the considerations uppermost in our minds as we look at new uses for the property."

The other significant development is the signing of a sales agreement by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation with an entrepreneur for the former Pap's 'N Us tavern at 5106 Penn. Vince Masi, who grew up in Bloomfield but now calls McKees

See **PROPERTIES** page 7

Community Planning Process Two Meetings Slated

By Joe Reuben
Bulletin Contributor

Residents of Garfield and others with a vested interest in its future will have the opportunity to help craft a new housing and land use plan for the neighborhood in the months to come. Community meetings to kick off the effort have been set for 6 p.m. on the evenings of Wednesday, May 13 and Tuesday, May 19 at two different locations in Garfield to make it easier for larger numbers of people to be involved.

Perkins Eastman, an architecture and planning firm in downtown Pittsburgh, was awarded a contract in March to help guide the Garfield community through the intricate process entailed in devising a viable plan for the use of its land.

Stefani Danes, a Friendship resident, will be the lead consultant on the project for Perkins Eastman. Her firm has been involved in several planning initiatives for Garfield and the Penn Avenue corridor over the past 20 years.

The initial meetings will take place at Valley View Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Black St. and N. Aiken Ave., on Wednesday, May 13, and then again the following Tuesday, May 19, at the Community Activity Center, at the corner of Dearborn St. and N. Pacific Ave. A light dinner will be provided for participants.

Fred Croce, chair of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's housing and

See **PLANNING**, page 12

**JUNE
DEADLINE!**

The **FINAL DEADLINE** for the **JUNE 2009** issue of The Bulletin is **FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2009**. This includes **ALL** classified ads, Bulletin Board announcements, story submissions, and ad space reservations. All content is accepted on a space-available basis. For more information, call 412-441-6915.

News from the Larimer Neighborhood

by Ora Lee Carroll

Executive Director East Liberty Concerned Citizens Corporation

There is a lot of activity in the Larimer neighborhood in 2009. Actually the momentum has been building for a couple of years now, spurred by the updating of the Larimer Community Plan. This process, which began in the fall of 2007, ultimately resulted in a strategy to move the community forward. The updated plan established an action plan that revolved around the community first building its capacity to accomplish easy goals – also known as “low hanging fruit.”

Once the community was able to rally around a few achievable goals then they would be able to attract the necessary resources to sustain growth. As a result five action teams were created; Redd Up, Green Up, One Voice, Celebrate, and Work and Wellness. These teams comprised of residents, businesses, and institutions in Larimer, were charged with pursuing the low hanging fruit.

One of the first projects was cleaning up a vacant lot that was the site of the tragic house fire that took the lives of five children in Larimer. Spearheaded by East Liberty Concerned Citizens Corp. (Larimer’s community development corporation) and its executive director Ora Lee Carroll, along with the Redd Up and Green Up action teams, the lot which had become an eyesore, was cleaned up and turned into a memorial for the children. This spring ELCCC, which is celebrating its 26th year of advocating for the Larimer community, plans to hold another clean up event at the memorial around the anniversary of the fire.

Other recent projects are the beautification of another vacant lot by Green Team members, as well as the painting of two community murals funded by Walnut Capital in conjunction with The Kingsley Association and ELCCC. The Green Team in particular has been very active with a number of projects.

Another priority of the plan was to form a neighborhood collaborative that could serve as an umbrella group to help implement the plan. This has come to fruition with the

creation of the Larimer Consensus Group – a collaborative effort consisting of voting representation from ELCCC, Kingsley, East Liberty Development Inc., the five action teams, the business community, and the faith-based community, with ex-officio representation from the Urban Redevelopment Authority, The Community Design Center of Pittsburgh, The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, and the offices of City Councilman Ricky Burgess, State Sen. Jim Ferlo, and State Rep. Joseph Preston, Jr. According to Rep. Preston, the collaboration is a start in the right direction. “If anything is to happen in this community, we all have to be on the same page – working together for the common good,” he said.

Since its inception in February, the LCG has been charged with developing a request for proposals and then selecting a firm to complete the Larimer Avenue Corridor Market Study and Land Use Plan. Other collaborations that have been occurring include a memorandum of understanding between ELDI and ELCCC to cover key areas of work in redeveloping Larimer, in addition to ELCCC and Kingsley’s involvement with organizations from Garfield and East Liberty in the Greater East End Weed and Seed Steering Committee, which is working on a new employment initiative for the three communities.

If you would like information about or would like to participate on one of the action teams or find out more about the Larimer Consensus Group or Greater East End Weed and Seed you can contact East Liberty Concerned Citizens Corp., 401 Paulson Ave. at 412-361-8310 or The Kingsley Association, 6435 Frankstown Ave., at 412-661-8751 for further information.

Additionally, volunteers are still needed for the cleanup of the memorial site for the victims of the Larimer fire. Please contact East Liberty Concerned Citizens Corporation if you are interested in volunteering. Larimer Green Acres is the logo for all ELCCC Larimer Projects.

BGC and ENEC partner to provide bank teller training for youth

by Bill Woodward

Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation’s Youth Development Center recently partnered with the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center and the Community College of Allegheny County to conduct a Bank Teller Training at the BGC Activity Center located on Pacific Avenue.

The collaboration developed out of the recent City of Pittsburgh Weed and Seed grant awarded to BGC and the need for the Youth Employment Program participants to earn a credential. The City of Pittsburgh Weed and Seed grant was awarded to the BGC in order to extend workforce development opportunities to residents of the Garfield, Lawrenceville, East Liberty, Lincoln, and Larimer communities. The Bank Teller Training was offered as a 12-hour non-credit, course.

Participants began their journey on March 9 with a Meet and Greet at the BGC Activity Center. Bank managers and community members mingled among light refreshments as a networking opportunity before the first of four training sessions. At the conclusion of the program, students who completed all hours of training receive a certificate of completion making them more marketable to prospective employers.

These types of workforce development opportunities are typically offered throughout the year on various CCAC campuses. The Bank Teller Training, however, is its first collaboration with a community organization. While students who attended the Bank Teller Training at CCAC paid a \$50 fee, participants in the Weed and Seed/Youth Employment Program training attended classes at no charge to them. Youth Employment Program Coordinator, Charis Walker, explained that the ultimate intention of credentialing is to provide youth with a stronger opportunity to acquire employment, and the CCAC Bank Teller Program is a perfect example of how furthering education can provide community residents with secure and well-paying positions.

The Bank Teller Training program was developed in 2007 when PNC Bank approached Paul Blackford, ten-year veteran of the Community College Continuing Education, requesting the design of a program that would sculpt interested applicants into prepared prospective professionals for PNC Bank positions. Mr. Blackford generated a curriculum based on observations of a bank teller’s typical day, PNC’s interview process for bank tellers, and their bank teller skills assessment. Mr. Blackford used a popular method in teaching referred to as “teaching for meaning” which is implemented in a style that helps the student look beyond the lesson and apply their skills to real life. Tactics such as role playing and hands on experiences were used to guide attendees in recognizing counterfeit money and cash transaction skills, how to dress professionally and speak courteously, how to deal with disgruntled customers, and teambuilding skills. In 2008, Mr. Blackburn was joined by Sylvia Elsayed who teaches a Microsoft Office Element in the trainings. Ms. Elsayed uses similar techniques with students who actually have the opportunity to update resumes and apply for positions while gaining comfort with Microsoft Windows and learning keyboarding methods.

BGC found the training beneficial and motivating to participants. One attendee, Asia Jackson, intends on using her newly developed skills as a part time bank teller to support herself as she completes her studies. Asia chose the Bank Teller Training above other credentialing options because of her desire to study promotional and professional communication. Asia believes many parallels exist between the techniques used in Banking and the entertainment industry such as, persuasive interactions; and being personable and speaking clearly. Asia successfully completed the Bank Teller Training on March 23rd and is currently seeking employment at banks in the area. Another attendee of the training program, Trina Ebores, hopes to establish a Full-Time Teller position after the birth of her first son.

Both the BGC and CCAC hope to establish a continuing partnership offering more training in the future. Prerequisites for the training include a high school diploma or a GED, customer service experience, and a minimum age of 18. If you are interested in future trainings please contact Charis Walker or Robyn Doyle to enroll in the Out of School Youth Employment Program (412-441-9833) or Bill Woodward at the ENEC (412-362-8580).

Coca Café... for the Love of Brunch

One sunny, but chilly morning in April, my husband, John, was in the mood for breakfast and I was in the mood for lunch, therefore, we decided to have brunch at Coca Café in Lawrenceville. This particular day happened to be Good Friday, so technically the Sunday "brunch" menu wasn't offered, but being able to order from the breakfast and lunch menus satisfied us both.

We were prepared to wait to be seated in the richly colorful, roomy eatery, full of natural light, where landscape photography hangs on the walls, stand-out vintage furniture graces the two dining rooms and the surroundings are the embodiment of relaxed dining. Even though a line of people waited to be seated, unlike other popular eateries eager to push you out the door as soon as you finish your meal, the wait staff had no problem allowing customers to linger long after their checks had been paid.

Once we were finally seated, it took quite some time for our food to arrive, but it was greatly worth the wait. We started with the most delicious Chai Latte ever (\$2.75) and "regular" La Prima coffee (\$1.95) which was also fantastic. We ordered the wild mushroom omelet (\$7), shiitake and portobello mushrooms with sweet and nutty Jarlsberg cheese (or your choice of brie), which was light, not greasy like most omelets, every bite filled with flavor and truly delicious; and from the lunch menu we ordered the spinach ricotta panini (\$7.75) with Jarlsberg cheese, fresh roasted red peppers, fresh portobello mushrooms, caramelized onions and turkey (your choice of turkey, chicken or vegetarian preparation) served on slightly crispy bread. The taste of the panini was recognizable, but unique and easily one of the most fresh and best panini I've ever had.

All breakfast omelets are served with your choice of toasted bread, including cinnamon swirl, and side dishes such as fresh fruit or grilled potatoes are also available. In addition, the lunch sandwiches are served with a side salad or the side dish of the day, such as mushroom risotto.

But Coca Café's greatest claim to fame is -- without a doubt -- its Sunday brunch. As such, we decided to make reservations for the special Easter Sunday brunch that included a choice of one starter and one entrée (\$19) and we were not dissatisfied.

By Lisa Porter Werner
Bulletin Contributor

The Dish

Coca Café

3811 Butler Street
Lawrenceville, PA 15203
412.621.3171
www.cocacafe.net

Tuesday – Friday: 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Since the Easter Sunday brunch was reservations only, we didn't have to wait in a long line or fight the massive Sunday brunch crowd before we could be seated, which was nice.

Our party of three started with the potato latkes and smoked salmon which was terrific; the roasted vegetable strudel which contained two thick slices of the palatable vegetable mixture that included fresh corn and fresh red peppers; and the astonishingly large arugula salad with fingerling potatoes and crispy leeks tossed in a warm mustard vinaigrette dressing. This salad was so fresh that the scent of the peppery arugula reached our table before the server was able to place the dish in front of me.

For our entrees, we selected: two orders of the crab cakes benedict, two sizeable portions (per entrée) of moist crab cakes that actually contained crab meat, not a ton of filler, served over English muffins and topped with drained poached eggs and a side of steamed asparagus which I can't compliment enough because it was absolutely phenomenal; and the crème brulee French Toast with sautéed pears which was an ample serving and tasted as magnificent as it sounds. Although my dining companion ordered the French toast, my fork kept wandering over to her plate. YUM!

I could easily go to Coca Café several days a week and not tire of the truly great and outstanding food. My only complaint is that there is no bar and they don't serve alcohol so when those massive crowds gather for the Sunday brunch you can't sip on a Bloody Mary or Bellini while you wait to be seated.

Traffic restrictions during Marathon on Sunday, May 3

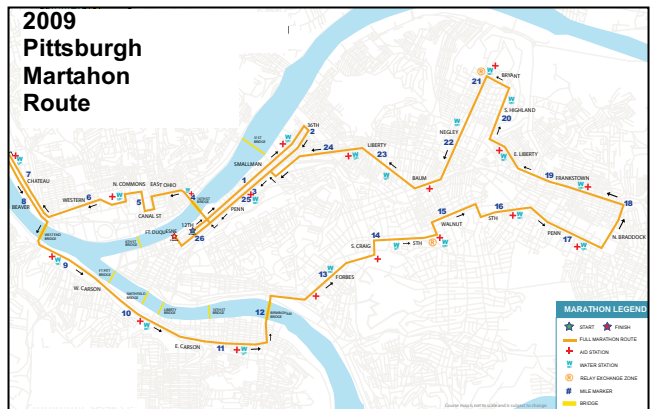
After a six-year hiatus, the Pittsburgh Marathon will return to the streets this year and East End residents will need to plan very carefully if they want to leave their homes and travel practically anywhere by car or bus.

The Marathon will be held Sunday May 3. The first participants will start at 6:30 a.m. and the fastest runners are expected to complete the 26.2-mile course in under 2.5 hours, but most of the route will be closed to traffic for all of the morning and the early part of the afternoon.

The race will start on in the Strip District and finish under the David L. Lawrence Convention Center overhang. Runners will pass through the North Side, West End, South Side, Oakland, Shadyside, Point Breeze, Regent Square, Homewood, Larimer, East Liberty, Highland Park, Friendship, and Bloomfield throughout the day.

Residents who live along or within the race course should be aware that many streets will be closed for much of the day. Sector D (Miles 13.5– 7.1) including S. Craig St. to Fifth Ave. to S. Aiken Ave. through Shadyside to Point Breeze to Penn & Braddock Aves. will be closed from 7:30 to 11:45 a.m. Sector E (Miles 17.1–22.5) including Penn & Braddock Aves. through Homewood & East Liberty to Baum Blvd and Liberty Ave. will be closed from 7:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Sector F (Miles 22.5 - 24.4) including Liberty Ave. from Baum Blvd. to 30th St. will be closed from 8:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Those who need to leave the city should consider parking their vehicles on streets away from the race course.



Award-winning charter schools to share insights, approaches

The issue of academic progress and student achievement is at the heart of most discussions related to education. A Plus Schools, local non-profit monitoring public education, reports several Pittsburgh Public Schools are struggling to increase academic achievement. As the district begins to make decisions about under-populated schools; academic achievement has become a community priority.

The part of the discussion that focuses on student achievement in these instances revolves around some pretty dismal statistics on grades, SAT and other standardized test scores; student retention and graduation rates in some of these schools. The District has implied that proposed and potential facility and curriculum changes would have a positive impact on these statistics.

Meanwhile, two Southwestern PA charter schools -- City Charter High School and Propel McKeesport -- were among the top 21 charter schools honored in 2009 by New Leaders for New Schools, a nonprofit that focuses on school leadership. The schools' programs have infused technology and educational supports to provide an environment of success.

Students at both schools have shown a dramatic increase in educational achievement, as measured by state test results in reading and math that factor the impact of a school on its students' achievement over time; and the progress students make from one year to the next, independent of proficiency targets.

Interested in learning what works and why? Representatives from City Charter High School and Propel McKeesport will present their educational models, curriculums, educational challenges/solutions, and approaches to community/parents engagement on Tuesday, May 12 at the BGC Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave. in Garfield. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., followed by the presentation at 9 a.m.

Please RSVP to Rickf@bloomfield-garfield.org or call 412-441-9833.

Lawrenceville Elm Street offering home inspections

Do you live in Lawrenceville's Elm Street District and own your home? If so, you are eligible for a home inspection conducted by a certified professional.

This opportunity is brought to you by The Safe Homes Program, a proactive approach to identifying unsafe conditions in homes on and within the area bounded by Stanton Ave., Dresden Way, Keystone St., and 55th St. in the 10th Ward of Lawrenceville.

The mission of the program is to provide homeowners the opportunity to discover problems before it's too late; obtain a home inspection and report on home health and safety; acquire official documentation of a problem in order to seek repairs; apply for financial assistance through existing programs within the City of Pittsburgh; and gain access to additional resources within the City of Pittsburgh. Renters should contact their landlords and request they apply for a free inspection.

The Safe Homes Program was created by Lawrenceville Corporation's Elm Street Committee. Elm Street boundaries were designated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as part of a state-wide residential revitalization initiative called the Elm Street Program. The program was designed to strengthen older historic neighborhoods adjacent to business districts with the recognition that healthy communities have both strong commercial and residential counterparts. Learn more at www.lawrencevillecorp.com/programs/elmstreet.htm.

Inspections are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Deadline is Monday, June 1, 2009. Applications are available at the LC (5170 Butler

St.), Lawrenceville United (4825 Butler St.), 10th Ward Block Watch meetings (second Tuesday of each month at St. Matthew Parish), and for download at www.lawrencevillecorp.com. Applications must be accompanied by proof of homeownership (copy of deed) and submitted to the LC.

The Pittsburgh Regional Organization for the American Society of Home Inspectors (PRO-ASHI) has generously offered to donate each inspection in an effort to encourage home health and safety. Inspection reports are kept strictly confidential and for use at the homeowner's discretion (i.e., a broken furnace cannot be tagged by inspectors). All PRO-ASHI members conduct their home inspections to the American Society of Home Inspectors Standards of Practices and ASHI Code of Ethics.

If an emergency situation is discovered, we are prepared. Working closely with the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, we can assist you in your application for the URA's Home Emergency Loan Program. HELP offers a 0% interest rate forgivable loan (i.e., you don't have to pay it back as long as you stay in your home the duration of loan terms).

The maximum loan amount is \$5,000 for single unit properties and \$7,000 for two units. The minimum loan is \$500 and the maximum loan term is up to 10 years. Income

limits apply. If you are ineligible for the loan based on your income or repair costs, the URA also offers low-interest loan programs that are more flexible than typical bank loans. To learn more about the URA loan programs, visit www.ura.org or call 412.255.6600.

If the problem is not defined as an emergency by the URA, the LC may still be able to assist you. Cases will be reviewed by the Elm Street Committee, who will provide additional resources and, if applicable, pull in volunteers to help with repairs.

Want more information about general improvements to your home? Send an inquiry to info@lawrencevillecorp.com.

To schedule an inspection or learn more, please call the LC at 412.782.5100 x 102.

East Liberty employment

As East Liberty develops, its residents will find an increasing variety of full and part-time employment opportunities throughout the neighborhood. With so much new construction and numerous upcoming store openings, East Liberty stakeholders should take advantage of long-term employment and career opportunities being created.

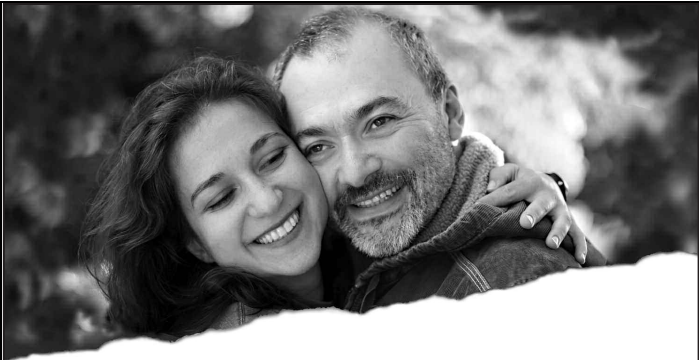
The East Liberty Job Training and Referral Initiative, a jointly managed project of the Coalition of Organized Residents of East Liberty and East Liberty Development Inc. serves as a link between East Liberty's employers, training providers and interested residents.

ELDI and development partners have been working with COR to promote East Liberty's employment opportunities and ensure residents are aware of the processes in which they can apply for employment.

Many potential employers have very informative websites that reveal their unique products, services and job opportunities, as well as offer online applications for specific job openings they are seeking to fill. Additionally, if residents are interested in the construction work and building trades, they will find a growing range of openings they can access through the East Liberty Job Training and Referral Initiative.

If you are interested in obtaining employment in the East Liberty area, contact the East Liberty Job Training and Referral Initiative at 211 N. Whitfield Street, Suite 210, or call 412.661.2600 for more information.

For more information about East Liberty Development Inc., community news, and planning for development and neighborhood initiatives visit www.eastlibertypost.com.



When your name means everything...
PARKVALE'S GOT YOUR BACK!
Free ID THEFT SERVICES with **50Plus CHECKING**


DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME WE MEET?

- ★ **FREE** ID Theft Services⁽¹⁾ with an active Debit Card⁽²⁾
- ★ **FREE** Online Banking
- ★ **FREE** Bill Pay
- ★ **No Monthly Fees**
- ★ **No Annual-Fee** Debit Card
- ★ **No Monthly Minimum** Balances required

Look inside our Security Center at parkvale.com for helpful tips regarding ID theft protection.

1-800-850-1360 **PARKVALE.COM**
48 LOCATIONS

Identity Theft Services are Not FDIC Insured, Not Bank Guaranteed and Not Insured by any Government Agency.



(1) Identity Theft Fraud reimbursement and Identity Theft Resolution services are provided under a master policy of insurance issued by Travelers Insurance and Surety Company of America and its property casualty affiliates. Parkvale Bank reserves the right to discontinue offering this service at any time. (2) An active debit card is one that is used to make a purchase at least three times a month. Member FDIC PA 3/17/09

Aggie Brose will be honored at YWCA's Tribute to Women

The YWCA Greater Pittsburgh 2009 "A Tribute to Women" will honor eight Pittsburgh-area women who have made significant contributions to the community. Aggie Brose, Deputy Director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corp. was selected to receive the award in the Community Empowerment category.

The YWCA will present the awards during its "A Tribute to Women" Leadership Awards Luncheon at the Westin Hotel later this month. Other women receiving the award this year are Sally Wiggan of WTAE; Deborah Acklin of WQED; Valerie McDonald Roberts of Allegheny County Dept. of Real Estate; Olga Welch, Ed.D. of Duquesne University; Ellen Roth, Ph.D of Getting to the Point; Joyce Rothermel of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank; and Sylvia Hill Fields of Eden Hall Foundation.

Ms. Brose is a lifelong Pittsburgh resident who has been committed to helping the people of her neighborhood help themselves to achieve better lives. Her work has encompassed health, public safety, education, employment, and political and economic empowerment. Her service as a Democratic Party Committeewoman began 40 years ago, and her active involvement as a volunteer with her neighborhood schools and her parish in Garfield began earlier still. Her parish service led to working with Father Leo Henry as a founding member of the board of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation in 1975.

PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE REPORT

In respect for the three Pittsburgh Police officers killed in the line of duty on April 4 and in deference to the obligations of Zone 5 staff and city officials, the April meeting of the Public Safety Task Force was cancelled.



Where You're A Name, Not A Prescription Number

Frustrated with grocery & chain store service?

Prescription on-page are the same everywhere you go ... but the service is not!

▪ **PREFERRED SHOPPER DISCOUNT** ▪

For every \$50.00 you spend on your prescriptions, you will receive back \$2.00 towards anything in our store.
(Not valid on state or federal plans, restrictions apply.)

LOWEST PRICES

We match or beat competitor's prescription prices, including \$4 generics.

ALL INSURANCES ACCEPTED

including 90 day Medicare plans

FREE DELIVERY

211 South Highland Ave.
Shadyside (corner of Buffalo Blvd)

Mon - Fri: 10am - 6pm
Sat: 10am - 2pm
412-363-0211

Replacement Windows Installed



FREE Low "E" Glass

Recession Proof
All Double Hung &
2-Section Sliders Installed
\$269.00

**Glass Block
Patio Doors
Entrance Doors
Garage Doors
Siding & Soffit**

For a FREE Estimate Call:
DAVID FELMAN 412-441-8180

- KEEPING NEIGHBORHOODS SAFE AND CLEAN
- IMPROVING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICTS AND NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESSES
- CONNECTING CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH OPPORTUNITIES AND JOBS

FOR DETAILED INFORMATION, VISIT:
WWW.LUKEFORMAYOR.COM/22

PAID FOR BY RAVENSTAHL FOR MAYOR



RAVENSTAHL
★ GETTING IT DONE ★

Pittsburgh Public Schools

Seeking community input on facilities

By Stacie Chandler

The Bulletin Interim Editor

The Pittsburgh Public Schools has embarked on an ambitious process to solicit community input on long-and short-term strategies for maintaining, improving and consolidating the District's facilities.

Because of declining enrollment, many school buildings across the city are under-populated and the District wants to cut costs, improve academic performance, and enhance programs by closing some schools and merging others.

The District's first step is to determine which schools to target for closure or consolidation and that process began on March 30 at community meeting attended by parents, community, members, school district staff, and students in which participants completed a questionnaire about facilities and conducted small-group discussions about the issues surrounding the various options.

In an effort to promote as much public input as possible, the District provided busses that transported participants from various schools across the city to the meeting at IBEW Hall on the South Side.

Superintendent Mark Roosevelt addressed the meeting, saying that "Far more than ever, what you earn is dependent on what you learn" and told the audience that the District needs to make "wise planning decisions" that will have a positive impact on the quality of education provided by the Pittsburgh Public School in the years to come.

The District's Chief Financial Officer, Christopher Berdnik, explained that the District's income in

2008 was \$513.5 million, while its income during that time was \$515.1 million. He said the \$1.5 million loss was due largely to low interest rates in the past year and assured the audience that the District is believed to be in good financial shape at this time.

However, Pittsburgh's population has dropped steadily and the District has seen a corresponding drop in enrollment, from 374,039 in 1999 to 312,800 in 2008. About 65% of Pittsburgh Public Schools students graduate from high school and 45% go on to pursue higher education.

The District is using DeJong, Inc. of Dublin, OH to develop the "Building Excellence: Blueprint for the Future" process. DeJong representatives facilitated the community meeting and described the process. Community input is sought through questionnaires that are being sent home with students and are available on-line at www.pittsburghbuildingexcellence.com. The results will be tabulated to determine priorities, such as travel time for students at various grade levels, the importance of diversity in the school populations, academic preferences, magnet and/or theme-based programs, etc.

The results will be available on-line prior to three more community meetings that will be held May 13 and 14 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at locations to be determined to further define the criteria for "a roadmap for career and technical education," according to DeJong's background report.

The group of people who took the bus from Peabody High School on March 30 included both parents and students. On the trip home, there was a lively discussion of the community meeting.

The Peabody High School students, excited that they were able to give their opinions, talked about how they

feel about school closings and mergers. DeAndre Jackson, 17, a Peabody High School student and staff member for the 206 project (a col-

laboration of Wireless Neighborhoods and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.) said it was "an excellent opportunity to get involved and share my thoughts on the future of Pittsburgh Public Schools' buildings and programs."

Lolene Germany, another Peabody student and 206 staff member called the evening activities "a tedious process" but added that she enjoyed "the effort to intertwine ideas and address the concerns and ideas of others" and appreciated "the opportunity to help mold a plan for area youth and the future of the Pittsburgh Public Schools."

The small group setting was a plus for Peabody student and 206 staff member Billie Patterson. "The group activities created a space where my voice was welcome and it also cleared up any areas of misinformation," she said.

While some students expressed personal apprehension about being uprooted or experiencing major

changes in their school, they agreed that they would welcome the expansion of facilities and activities that administrators say would be part of the process. Bands, sports teams, and additional extracurricular activities, as well as additional academic offerings would be appreciated, they said.

Students also felt that many of the questions were aimed directly at determining Peabody's future. The school has been designated as a likely location to house the 6- through 12-grade International Baccalaureate in 2010, although there has been no indication of the District's plans for the students currently enrolled at Peabody High School.



The parents spoke primarily about their reaction to the questionnaires and the process. One mother said she feels that the many "community input processes" she has participated in over the years have been more for show than for anything else. "They know what they are going to do and what we say doesn't make a difference," she said. Another said she felt that the questions were crafted in such a way that the answer would be a foregone conclusion.

Her thoughts were echoed by Annette Werner, a parent and PURE Reform member. "A lot of questions seemed to be leading because the options (for responses) are limited, she said. "I declined to answer many because I didn't want to be forced into an either/or situation."

Peabody students and 206 staff members DeAndre Jackson, Lolene Germany and Billie Patterson contributed to this story.

Upcoming Community Meetings

**Wednesday May 13 at 6:30 p.m.
and
Thursday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m.
at locations to be determined**

TAX MAN

by Patrick N. Price
Tax Consultant
Internal Revenue Service

A hot tax topic of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is the "Making Work Pay Tax Credit."

The credit is based on 6.2% of earned income with a maximum credit of \$400 for individuals and \$800 for married couples filing jointly. Employers will begin

applying new tax withholding tables to their employees pay starting on April 1, 2009.

The reduction in the taxpayers' Federal tax withholding will be offset on their 2009 tax return by the "Making Work Pay Tax Credit." The benefit of this credit is that the employee gets more money now in

his or her take-home pay instead of waiting until next year to take advantage of the credit when filing his 2009 tax return.

For more information, those interested can visit www.irs.gov and use the search keyword "Making Work Pay Tax Credit."







**Steel Dragon
Kung Fu &
Lion Dance**

• Kung Fu
• Lion Dance
• Conditioning

Adults & kids ages 5 and up

Training that promotes
self-defense,
health & cultural traditions

Free introductory lesson

For Information:
www.steel-dragon.org
412.362.6096
info@steel-dragon.org

East End groups partner to take jobs, training "on the road"

A promising and innovative jobs-and-training partnership of community groups in Garfield, Larimer, and East Liberty has received a substantial \$43,700 grant from the city's Weed 'N Seed office.

Leading the partnership are the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) and the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC), two community-based organizations with extensive histories in reducing and preventing crime through human development programs and job readiness training. Weed 'N Seed grant funds will create a collaborative, "on-the-road," job training initiative that blankets Garfield and the greater East Liberty areas, bringing together more than a dozen local organizations to work toward the goal of crime prevention through job training and placement.

"Unemployment in the state is expected to reach 9% before summer," said Rick Flanagan, director of the BGC's Youth Development Center. "But in our neighborhoods, the figures will likely be much higher. Our plan for 2009 is to employ an aggressive, multi-pronged approach that dovetails with national jobs-creation efforts."

A key component of the program will be its mobility: taking ENEC's valuable resources and knowledge out into the community to better reach residents of the targeted neighborhoods. A mobile computer lab will bring training and informational sessions directly to various venues throughout the three communities, and play a prominent role at

By Paula Martinac
Bulletin Contributor

two, large-scale, job/career fairs later this year at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. ENEC staff will be on hand to help aspiring job-seekers submit applications online via the lab.

In addition, other activities and services will be offered in collaboration with ENEC's partner organizations, which include Brothers and Sisters Emerging in Garfield; Wireless Neighborhoods in East Liberty; East Liberty Concerned Citizens Council in Larimer; the Carnegie Library branch in East Liberty; West Penn Hospital in Bloomfield; UPMC; Garfield Jubilee Association; Eastminster Presbyterian Church; East Liberty Development, Inc.; Kingsley Association in Larimer; and the Community College of Allegheny County.

"We hope that the lab's mobility will make us more effective in connecting potential employers with neighborhood job-seekers," said Bill Woodward, ENEC Project Director. "We believe this program can create a new way for youths and adults in our neighborhoods to think about the concept of 'pursuing a career' versus 'having a job.'"

Properties

continued from page 1

Rocks his home, would like to open a new liquor-serving establishment on the first floor of the building. Masi has spent several years booking musical groups into entertainment venues in places such as New York City.

"Soda Pop", as Masi intends to call the new place, would feature a regular schedule of live musical entertainment that he hopes will appeal to all cultures and tastes.

He would also like to have an outdoor space at the rear of the building for summertime patrons. The bar will serve soda pop and ice cream, and Masi has said he would like to see families use the premises for events like afternoon birthday parties.

The BGC and Masi have executed a memorandum of understanding, regarding his use of the premises, to ensure that it does not become a nuisance to neighbors. If he is successful in lining up the financing for the venture, he says it's his goal to do a complete overhaul of the interior and front façade. A third-floor apartment would be created that he intends to occupy.

Cutitta Chiropractic



NOW OFFERING MASSAGE!!!

4733 Butler Street
412-325-4100
www.cutittachiro.com

**Back Pain?
Sciatica?
Headache?**

Have you been involved in a car accident?

Chiropractic can help speed your recovery!

Accepting Most Insurances
including Auto Insurance

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

9-1:00 3:00-6:30

Laurentian Hall Apartments

Apartment Living for Senior Citizens
in an Elegant Setting



Offering these amenities:

- ▶ Equipped Kitchens
- ▶ Nightly Meals Catered by Nova Cafe
- ▶ All Utilities Included
- ▶ FREE On-Site Laundry
- ▶ FREE Parking
- ▶ Next Door to Health Center
- ▶ On the Busline
- ▶ Section 8 available for qualified

For more information, call
412-361-4462



"Dying for freedom isn't the worst that could happen. Being forgotten is."

-Tom Hanks

This Memorial Day, please remember the sacrifices our veterans made for us.



WALTER J

ZALEWSKI

FUNERAL HOMES INC

"Exceeding Your Expectations"

LAWRENCEVILLE

POLISH 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

© MMIX Zalewski F.H., Inc.

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

May 2009 • Vol. 34, No. 5

Total circulation:

20,000 copies
16,700 mailed
3,300 dropped

Editorial and Advertising Offices:

5149 Penn Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
Phone: 412-441-6915
Fax: 412-441-6956
Email: Bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org

Interim Editor: Stacie Chandler

Advertising: Martin Pochapin

Proofreading: Rick Swartz

Bookkeeper: Mary Anne Stevanus

Distribution: Garfield CISP

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

© 2009 by Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.
www.bloomfield-garfield.org

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

All submissions to *The Bulletin* must include the writer's name, address and phone number. We welcome your letters, opinions, articles, and notices. We reserve the right to edit submissions for space. Manuscripts and photographs will be returned only if accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication, unless otherwise noted. *The Bulletin* is published monthly.

We Would Like to Acknowledge

and thank our advertisers and the BGC's funding partners, including The Bank of New York Mellon, Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, The United Way, National City Bank, Allegheny Valley Bank, Dollar Bank, PNC Bank, Citizens Bank, and the City of Pittsburgh.

The Bulletin
is funded
in part by:



BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD CORPORATION'S SHOWCASE PROPERTY OF THE MONTH

Each month we highlight either property owners whose neglect hurts the neighborhood or those who have admirably maintained or renovated their properties. Properties are nominated by community members. To nominate a property for either Eyesore or Showcase Property of the Month, call Aggie Brose at 412-441-6950.

Penn Avenue Fixture Gets a Facelift



Stacie Chandler/The Bulletin

Calabria's Italian Restaurant

Many of you may have noticed recent renovations underway at Calabria's Italian Restaurant at 4911 Penn Avenue.

The scaffolding is now gone, replaced by a spiffy new storefront, a classy sign, and updated interior.

Calabria's has served the local neighborhood for nearly two decades at that location, and the makeover is a welcome sight along a corridor with a lot of other new investment taking place.

For more information on Calabria's Italian Restaurant, their website is www.calabriasitalianrestaurant.com.

Thank you, Calabria's, for your commitment to the neighborhood!

Deaths of officers should spark community dialogue

Although the city continues to mourn and otherwise feel the emotional ill-effects of the tragic loss of three police officers in Stanton Heights on April 4, the time is approaching for us to analyze the full implications of the incident and resolve what is that we, as a community, can do to prevent its like from happening again.

All of our religions and cultures are of one voice in teaching us that sacrifice is necessary as a prelude to redemption. We would be wrong to sweep this latest sacrifice from our memory without undertaking a unified effort at confronting the conditions which breed violence of this nature on our streets and, in too many cases, in our homes.

Now that three guardians of our collective safety have made their sacrifice, so, too, must we sacrifice our time in fostering a sincere effort at dialogue, discovery, and then action. It is a process that is possible only through our persistent and courageous examination of the issues that propel members of our society to take up arms against police officers and other members of the law enforcement community. We owe this to ourselves, and we owe it to the families of the slain officers.

This will not be an easy process, primarily because it will require us to face some uncomfortable feelings we may all hold about one another, as well as to accept the frailties of

the human condition as a whole. But these difficulties cannot be the excuse for refusing to try.

Are we doing our best to raise our children in a nurturing, safe environment, one that does not fill them with fear or suspicion of the outside world?

Are we doing our best to make sure they're getting the best education possible, one that is able to dispel fear and suspicion?

Are we doing our best to prepare younger generations for productive lives in a future Pittsburgh?

How should we instruct our elected representatives in reasoned approaches to gun control, criminal justice reform, drug policy, remedial education, and employment training?

The responses to these questions will determine whether we can continue to feel safe and secure in our homes. Do we have the courage to look deep into our souls and begin a community conversation that may, of necessity, be contentious and fraught with anxiety? We believe the answer is "yes", and we believe that such a sacrifice, shared by all of us, will lead to our redemption.

(Editor's note: The views of the writers do not necessarily represent those of the board of directors of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, or the staff of The Bulletin.)

Commentary

By P. J. Maloney, Vice-President,
BGC Board of Directors & Richard Swartz,
BGC Executive Director

Tempted by record low mortgage interest rates?

Now could be the time to refinance your home

With mortgage rates at an all-time low, many homeowners are wondering if now is the time to refinance. The answer to that question, according to Tamara Davis, Senior Loan Officer at Fifth Third Bank in Bloomfield, is a definite maybe.

There are many factors that have to be considered before a homeowner decides to refinance, said Ms. Davis. First, homeowners should determine what their goal is in refinancing. For many, the loss of income or uncertainty about the economy makes the lure of lower monthly mortgage payments appealing. For others, it's the idea that they could pay off their mortgage more quickly and build equity in their homes.

"Everyone's circumstances are different," said Ms. Davis. However, one formerly popular reason for refinancing – taking the equity from your home to pay off loans or finance an education – is not a viable choice at this time, she said, as the industry has made home equity loans harder to obtain.

When you refinance, you are starting over, she explained. Just as in a purchase, you will have to pay closing costs and related fees, which can run a few thousand dollars. If you bought a home in the past few years with 5% down, you might have to pay up front to bring the balance up to at least 90% of the appraised value.

While housing prices in Pittsburgh were never inflated to the heights that were seen in other parts of the country, local housing values have dropped in some areas and remained stagnant in others. In addition, the number of home foreclosures has affected appraisal values because the value of comparable foreclosed homes is one of the factors considered in determining your home's

worth.

Another important factor is the loan-to-value ratio, said Ms. Davis. When a borrower finances more than 80% of the home's value, the lender requires mortgage insurance to protect itself from default. The cost of mortgage insurance can more than offset the savings of a lower interest rate.

Generally, if the difference between your current interest rate and the one offered by a lender is greater than 1%, you should consider refinancing. At less than 1%, the cost of refinancing is greater than the savings. However, for the past decade or so, mortgage rates have remained fairly consistent, said Ms. Davis, and most homeowners have mortgages at between 6% and 7%, which makes refinancing attractive and advisable for those who qualify.

How much can you save? With a 100,000 mortgage at 6.25%, a homeowner pays \$615.72 a month. At 4.75%, a homeowner's monthly payment is almost \$100 less -- \$521.65.

If your goal in refinancing is to save a little each month, the savings are clear. If you want to build equity, explained Ms. Davis, you can pay more than the minimum payment each month to decrease the principal, but still have lower minimum payments should your financial situation change. By making one extra monthly mortgage payment each year, you can shave five to seven years off the length of your loan and save thousands in interest payments.

One of the first steps in preparing to refinance is to learn your credit score, the number assigned to you based on your credit and payment history. Free credit reports are available. (see box right). As a rule of thumb, said Ms. Davis, those with

By Stacie Chandler
The Bulletin Interim Editor

a credit score of 660 will have a limited number of mortgage

options available to them. Those with scores of 720 and above will find that they are eligible for the widest variety of refinancing options.

You should do some research before you decide on a lender. There are many on-line loan sources, but Ms. Davis recommends that you call around and get rates from dependable local lenders. "You can search on-line for a house, but you aren't going to buy it until you've seen it," she said. "The same is true for a loan."

While many people facing financial difficulties are in a tight spot and want to move quickly, Ms. Davis urges caution. "Don't be desperate," she advised. "A lot of people are taking advantage of desperation" and rushing borrowers into ill-advised loans. "Do not sign anything blank. You have to watch for variables. Read everything."

When you speak with lenders, be sure to determine the APR (annual percentage rate), as well as the mortgage rate. The APR is the total amount you will pay – it includes all of the fees and closing costs. If there are hidden fees that run in the thousands of dollars, your 4.5% mortgage rate could sky-rocket to 7% or more.

You can ask a lender to give you a good faith estimate of your mortgage loan, which will show all of the costs,

fees and payments, said Ms. Davis.

When you have settled on the lender you want to use, call and schedule an appointment. "I can take information over the phone," she said, "but I prefer to meet face-to-face for the first time. I learn more through conversation with a borrower."

All lenders charge an application fee, which runs in the neighborhood of \$300 to \$350, said Ms. Davis. So, for your first meeting with a lender, be sure to bring your checkbook, as well as the following:

- One month of pay stubs
- Two years of W-2s
- Social Security numbers
- Drivers' License or other photoID
- Current mortgage information
- Homeowners' insurance information
- Title insurance certificate.

Generally it takes about 60 days to complete the refinancing process. Your interest rate will be locked in for 60 days once you sign the loan application.

For a free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com. This central site allows you to request a free credit file disclosure, (credit report) once every 12 months from each of the nationwide consumer credit reporting companies: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion.



How will Stimulus dollars aid our neighborhoods?

In late March the BGC assembled Karen Wolk Feinstein, President-Jewish Healthcare Foundation; Christopher Berdnik, CFO/COO-Pittsburgh Public Schools; Julie DeSeyn, Manager-Agency Investments in Financial Stability United Way of Allegheny County; Kim Graziani, Director of Neighborhood Initiatives- Mayor's Office City of Pittsburgh; Adam Pope, Community Affairs Coordinator, U.S. Senator Arlen Specter; and Chris Rosselot, Field Representative, U.S. Senator Bob Casey Jr., to present on current details of the Federal Economic Stimulus Package including information on specific funding opportunities for local school districts and community improvement initiatives. Over 200 community members, community leaders, and government officials gathered to hear sought-

graphics visual art
illustration

urban
original
custom paintings
bobble
heads

412.782.5551
www.myspace.com/srockiartstudios

Srocki Studios

Fun!



Fabulous!

East End

By Stacie Chandler
The Bulletin Interim Editor

Prices are peaking, jobs are in jeopardy. These days, consumers are being where – even television commercials depict penny-pinchers as practical and patriotic.

What are you doing to make your food dollars stretch? Choosing the store-brand instead of your family's favorite name-brand? Cooking dinner at home instead of eating out? Join the club!

Sometimes the little economies are difficult. Perhaps you are feeling a little deprived. There is something that you can do that will make both you and your wallet perk up. This is the time of year that Farmers' Markets return, and it couldn't come at a better time.

Area Farmers' Markets feature lots of things that are good for your health and well-being, be it physical, economic or emotional. Visit a Farmers' Market and you'll find all sorts of tasty, fresh, locally-grown produce, sold to you by the people who grow it. We all know that fruits and vegetables are nutritious and an important component of healthful eating. At local Farmers' markets, the

prices are reasonable and the quality is excellent. You can't help but be cheered by the colorful flowers, displays of jewel-toned jams, jellies and honey, and piles of juicy and appetizing fruits and vegetables.

The produce available at a Farmers' Market is seasonal – unlike the grocery store, which imports produce from wherever it is in season -- you'll only find the items that were ripe this week. There's nothing better than a tasty and nutritious dinner featuring the vegetables you chose that afternoon from a local grower's offerings. And your carbon footprint won't suffer from the high cost of transporting produce internationally, because these fruits and vegetables were grown only a short distance away.

The staff at Richard Chen in East Liberty, shared some of their favorite recipes for the types of produce that will be available in the opening weeks of area Farmers' Markets.

Recipe: For the "Halibut" Serves 2

Ingredients:

2 6-ounce pieces of Alaskan Halibut
1/2 package buckwheat soba noodles or lo mein
12 each asparagus, blanched and cut into 1-inch pieces
6 ramps cleaned or spring onions cut into 1-inch pieces
12 shitakes with stem removed & caps cut into quarters
2 Tbsp. soy sauce
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. white pepper
1/8 cup cooking wine
1 tsp. garlic
1 tsp. ginger

Directions:

Boil water and cook pasta according to manufacturer's directions.
In a large saute pan, saute garlic and ginger until fragrant.
Season fish with salt and pepper and sear and cook fish until desired doneness.
Add soy sauce and cooking wine to ginger and garlic.
Add ramps, asparagus, shitakes and pasta and toss to ensure even coating.
Transfer ramps-mushroom-pasta mixture to plate and serve with fish on top.

Recipe: Strawberry Shortcake with Goat Cheese

Panna Cotta

1/2 cup heavy cream
1/4 cup sugar
1/2 tsp. powdered gelatin
8 oz. goat cheese

Heat heavy cream, powdered gelatin and sugar in sauce pan. Bring to a boil and pour over goat cheese. Mix well and strain into serving vessel. (We use stemmed glasses or sometimes I freeze and then cut them so they are free-standing).

Shortcakes

2 1/3 cup flour
1/2 tsp. baking soda
6 Tbsp. butter
1 large egg and 1 yolk
4 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
2/3 cup milk

Pulse together first flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and butter in food processor until mixture resembles coarse meal. Slowly pulse in liquids until dough comes together. Do not over mix. Wrap in plastic and refrigerate 1 to 8 hours. Roll out to 1/2-inch thick. Cut into desired shapes and bake at 450 until puffed and golden brown (About 12 to 15 minutes, depending on size and shape).

Strawberries

1 pint strawberries hulled and quartered
1/4 cup sugar
Zest from one orange
Toss ingredients together and let sit at least one hour.
Juice from 1 lemon
Vanilla extract to taste

To serve, place strawberries on top of panna cotta and serve with shortcake.

Flavorful! Fresh!

Farmers' Markets

Farmers@Firehouse, which calls itself Pittsburgh's only mostly organic farm market, is scheduled to open on Saturday, May 9. Located at 2216 Penn Avenue in the Strip District, the weekly market will be held on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through the fall. Farmers@Firehouse vendors offer produce, meats, eggs, honey, and breads.

Their Laptop Butcher option offers buyers the opportunity to place an order on-line for a wide range of meats, eggs and honey from various providers and then pick up their orders at the Saturday Firehouse market. For more information, visit <http://www.slowfoodpgh.com/farmers.html>.

That perennial travelling favorite, **Citiparks Farmers' Markets**, will begin again this year in East Liberty on Monday, May 11 from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. There are five markets at locations across the city (see box). Each market draws different local vendors from Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Green, and Westmoreland counties, as well as a few from Ohio. Vendors accept cash, check and WIC coupons.

According to Market Manager Tom Driscoll, there will be lots of familiar faces standing behind the counters, as well as a number of new vendors. In the markets' early weeks, buyers are likely to see lots of beautiful plants -- annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables, and hanging baskets -- and good things to eat -- lettuce, rhubarb, spinach, green onions, asparagus and radishes.

He's especially excited about a vendor who has two large greenhouses for growing strawberries, which will be available throughout the market season. There are also vendors offering baked goods from Middle Easter to Italian, honey, jams, jellies, sauces and mustards.

Started in 1941, **Farmers' Market Cooperative of East Liberty** at 344 N. Sheridan Ave. (across from Home Depot) is the oldest farmers' market in southwestern PA.

Open every Saturday year-round from 5 a.m. to noon, the market features family-operated businesses that offer locally grown farm products.

- Zang's Greenhouse has year-round plants, holiday flowers, mushrooms, vegetables, birdseed, and cut flowers.
- From Four Seasons Farm you'll find grain fed, steroid and anti-biotic free poultry, beef, pork, lamb, vegetables and fruits, and more.
- Apples, cider, vegetables, jellies, holiday fruit baskets, dry goods & nuts are available from Kistaco Farm
- The folks at Greenawalt Farms are the source for milk and cheese products, as well as government-inspected raw milk, and green, brown and white eggs produced by free-roaming hens. In season you'll even find duck and goose eggs. And don't miss their jellies, jams and honey.
- Gardeners will want to stop by B&G Enterprises' booth to check out their indoor and outdoor plants, vegetables and fruits, fresh and dried herbs, potting soil and barn soil chicken manure.
- Newcomers include Fontana Pasta, which specializes in frozen filled pasta products and gift baskets.

The **Oakland Farmers' Market** is held on Sennott Street, one block from Forbes Avenue between Atwood and Meyran streets on Fridays from 3:30 to 7 p.m. from June 30 through November.

Thanks to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and their community partners, there are weekly farmstands in Homewood-Brushton and Lawrenceville that sell fresh produce from June 13 through November 14 and accept cash, Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Vouchers and Food Stamps/EBT.

The **Homewood-Brushton Farm Stand** at 7140 Bennett St, in the YMCA Parking is open Thursdays from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

The **Lawrenceville Farm Stand** at 286 Main Street at the Stephen Foster Center is open Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



Citiparks Farmers Markets Schedule

all markets are open from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Monday:

East Liberty at Penn Circle West

Tuesday:

South Side at 18th and East Carson streets

Wednesday:

Carrick at Carrick Shopping Center, Brownsville Rd. & Parkfield St.

Thursday:

Bloomfield at Immaculate Conception School parking lot, Cedarville St. & Friendship Ave.

Friday:

North Side at East Park, East Ohio St. & Cedar Ave.

Garfield Community Farm Stand, located at Valley View Church, 601 N. Aiken Ave., opens May 7 and is open every Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m. The **Local Farmers Market at Whole Foods** takes place on the third Wednesday of the summer and fall months in the Whole Foods parking lot. The market will be held July 15, August 19, September 16, and October 16.

Recipe: Rhubarb Meringue Pie

Ingredients:

1 store-bought pie crust
Zest and juice from 3 oranges
1/4 cup sugar plus 5 Tbsp.

1 1/2 lb rhubarb, chopped
3 egg whites
5 Tbsp. cornstarch

Directions:

Prebake pie shell at roughly 375 degrees for 15 minutes.
Remove from oven and cool.
Cook rhubarb, 1/4 cup sugar and orange zest in saucepan.
Mix orange juice and cornstarch together; add to rhubarb mixture and cook for 1 minute more.
Whisk egg whites until frothy; once frothy add remaining sugar and whip until soft peaks form.
Fill pie shell with rhubarb filling. Top with meringue and bake at 375 degrees until golden brown (about 25 minutes).

Fort Pitt's little shavers becoming little savers

By Stacie Chandler

The Bulletin Interim Editor



Stacie Chandler/The Bulletin

Getting the inside story on banking

Fort Pitt students (l. to r.) Dyonna Walls, Ozielea Edmonds, Effie Williams, Khyla Gardner and Dremond King joined PNC Bank employee Michael Tempest for a tour of the PNC Bank in Bloomfield, where they explored the bank's vault, got a peek behind the tellers' windows, and investigated the inner workings of an ATM machine.

Pittsburgh Fort Pitt ALA is the first school in Western Pennsylvania to be involved in the PNC School Bank Program. This unique partnership with PNC Bank connects PNC branch banks with neighborhood schools to teach children to be fiscally responsible and enable students to do banking at school. Students learn about passbooks, make monthly deposits, get statements, and learn how money grows in their own personal bank accounts. In addition, student leaders are trained as bank tellers and as marketers of the program.

Fort Pitt's School Bank Program, available to students in grades one through five, is led by teachers Renae Foreman and Derek Gordon and coordinated by Mary Ellen Sullivan from PNC Community Development Banking and Matthew Ebberts and Michael Tempest of the Bloomfield branch. Fort Pitt was chosen because of its partnership with the Bloomfield-Garfield Corp. under the umbrella of the PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development.

Five of the school's banking leaders, fourth- and fifth-grade students trained as tellers and marketers, toured PNC's Bloomfield branch last month. They received an in-depth, behind-the-scenes tour of the bank facilities and met many of the staff members. The students had all of their questions answered, from how the ATM machine works to how to recognize counterfeit currency to the bank's security policies.

The students described a typical banking day at Fort Pitt. Two students are tellers and the depositors line up with their deposits and passbooks. The tellers make out two receipts with the student's name and account number and the amount of the deposit. One is returned to the depositor and another is kept by the teller, who then adds the deposit information into the deposit record. It takes just a few minutes and they generally do the math in their heads, they said proudly. Of course, they added, they check their work using a calculator.

Speaking about the importance of the program, Sullivan said "PNC sees the need for financial education in the early part of a child's life and hopes the program will expand to other schools."

Community planning process

continued from page 1

land use committee, was instrumental in preparing the request for proposals that Perkins and two other firms answered in early January. A committee of seven neighborhood residents, plus the executive directors of the BGC and Garfield Jubilee Association, interviewed the consultants and recommended the selection of Perkins Eastman.

"We have two goals in mind with the planning process that's about to unfold," Croce said. "The first is to hear the needs, interests, and ideas of those who want to see Garfield flourish, and figure out how they mesh together into a set of strategies that change the status quo. The second is to formulate a road map for how we implement the strategies that form the basis of the plan." Croce moved to Penn Ave. with his wife, Jennifer Lucchino, in 2006, where together they operate inter*ARCHITECTURE.

The BGC and GJA are counting on other community partners to help channel residents' energy into the planning process. Representatives of Valley View Presbyterian, St. Lawrence O'Toole Catholic Church, the Open Door Partnership of Pittsburgh, the Open Hand Ministry, Earthen Vessels Outreach, Healcrest Farms, Garfield Youth Sports, and the Negley Place Neighborhood Alliance have sat at the table of the Garfield Advisory Committee since last May in order to shepherd the effort to this point.

"We're counting on these organizations, and others who care about the Garfield community, to stimulate interest among their constituents in the planning process", Croce said. This would extend to the Pittsburgh Public Schools, the city Housing Authority, and KBK Enterprises, now a major developer in Garfield, he noted.

"At the end of the day, if we don't have a plan for what we want Garfield to become, then it's likely some other entity will devise a plan and carry it out," said Joann Monroe, executive director of GJA. "We have some major developments happening in

the East End now, and it would be a shame if Garfield stakeholders missed this golden opportunity to put their stamp on its future."

The board of the city's Urban Redevelopment Authority, at the instigation of executive director Rob Stephany, voted in March to allocate \$25,000 towards the cost of the planning effort.

For additional information about the planning process itself, contact Deadra Keener of the BGC at 412-441-6950, ext. 17, or via e-mail at dskeener@gmail.com.

Unforgotten.

They were there for us and for our country. Some couldn't wait to come home to the families they loved... others gave the ultimate sacrifice. Today, as every day, they remain unforgotten.

D'Alessandro Funeral Home and Crematory Ltd.

"Always A Higher Standard"

Daniel T. D'Alessandro, Spvr.

4522 Butler St. • Pittsburgh, PA 15201

(412) 682-6500 • www.dalessandroltd.com



©adfinity

Protecting yourself from unfair debt collection practices

Federal and state laws protect individuals from debt collectors that use unfair, abusive or deceptive practices. While Pennsylvania law applies to creditors (the person or company to whom money is owed) as well as collection agencies hired by the creditor to collect monies owed to the creditor, federal law applies only to collection agencies. These laws do not excuse someone from paying a debt, but protect individuals from "improper" collection practices.

The law limits when and how debt collectors may contact individuals that may owe money. Phone calls are limited to reasonable times of the day (usually 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.) and the collector must identify the purpose of the call. Anonymous calls and letters are illegal. If a collection agency is making the call, a written notice can be sent to the collector advising them to stop all future communication. This letter should be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested as proof that the collector received the letter. (See sample below). The original creditor is not bound by this letter; only a collection agency has to obey this letter.

Collection agencies and creditors can



By Frank Pistella
Neighborhood Legal Services
Association

not call individuals at work if an employer prohibits these types of calls. If an individual has an attorney, the collector or creditor can be required to deal only with the attorney. Put this in writing and keep copies. Collection agencies and creditors may not communicate with an employer, neighbors, or relatives about someone else's debt. They can make inquiries of third parties in order to locate a person, but cannot reveal anything about the alleged debt.

Prohibited debt collection practices include: harassment, abuse, unfair practices, and false representations. Anything that harasses, oppresses, or abuses a person. Examples of harassment and abuse include threatening or actually using force or vio-

lence; using foul, abusive, or obscene language; or making repeated telephone calls. Examples of unfair practices are threatening to take action that a collector is not allowed to take (i.e. putting the debtor in jail); does not actually intend to take (i.e. having the debtor arrested); or asking for or accepting post-dated checks. It is almost always a bad idea to give post-dated checks. Examples of false representations include: making false claims that the collector is a lawyer or government official; using papers which look like, but are not, court papers; claims that the debtor owes more than is owed; and making statements that the debtor is committing a crime by not paying a debt. Individuals cannot be sent to jail because they may owe money to a creditor.

Individuals can make a collection agency provide information about the alleged debt. Within five days of contacting an individual about an alleged debt, the collection agency must provide the individual with written notice of the amount it claims is owed, the name of the original creditor, and a statement of the individual's right to disagree with the claim and get more information about the claim.

If a collection agency or creditor breaks the law, a complaint can be filed with the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office through the Bureau of Consumer Protection at 800-441-2555. Legal action can be taken, but there are time limits which must be observed. Individuals may recover money damages or an amount set by law called statutory damages.

As always, it is important to seek legal advice. Consumer credit disputes can be complicated and the law can change. Neighborhood Legal Services Association can provide advice to eligible persons in these situations. Call NLSA toll-free from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 5 to

8 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 1-866-761-6572.

For more information, visit NLSA at www.nlsa.us.

Sample Letter Telling Collection Agency to Cease Contact

[DATE]
[NAME OF CREDITOR]
[ADDRESS OF CREDITOR]

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to request that you stop communications to me about account number [YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER] with [NAME OF CREDITOR] as required by the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 1692 c. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[YOUR SIGNATURE]

Lawrenceville Vision Care, P.C.



Comprehensive exams for
children and adults by
Dr. Danielle Staresinic.

Contemporary Eyewear Diabetic Eye Exams

Open Tuesday through Saturday.
Evenings available.
Call today for an appointment.

4122 Butler Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15201
Tel: 412.682.2339

LENNOX



**We've Been Installing
Air Conditioning for
more than 50 years ...**

**LET US
INSTALL YOURS**

The Original

SAUER BROTHERS

HEATING • COOLING • BOILERS

Since 1949
Originally
Located in
Garfield

**637 Butler St.
412-661-5588
Pittsburgh
412-782-1100**

As a resident
and investor
in Lawrenceville,
I'm ready to help
you with your
real estate
needs today!



PITTSBURGHmoves.COM

DOUG MARCINIAK



Shadyside Office ~ 5857 Ellsworth Avenue
412.363.400 x718
412.389.0112
Douglas.Marciniak@pittsburghmoves.com



Commercial Offices/Storeroom for Rent

**Penn Ave. and
N. Graham St. area**

- ⌘ 1,800 square feet
- ⌘ air-conditioned
- ⌘ updated plumbing and electrical
- ⌘ security system
- ⌘ \$750/month, plus gas and electric
- ⌘ handicapped-accessible entrance on N. Graham St.
- ⌘ Tenant must pass credit and criminal background checks

**To schedule an appointment
to see this space,
call Rick Swartz at the
Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.
412-441-6950, ext. 11.**

Cutting-edge technology helps Peabody students learn from virtual patients in a virtual hospital

Students in the Peabody Health Careers Academy at Pittsburgh Peabody High School are learning patient care skills using the same sophisticated training tools used by nursing and medical students, thanks to a partnership between Pittsburgh Public Schools and STAR, the Simulation, Teaching and Academic Research Center at West Penn Allegheny Health System.

The advanced medical simulators available at STAR have taken the district's three-year health care career and technical education program to a whole new level, said Robin Campbell, RN, Instructor in the Peabody Health Careers Academy. "It's a very, very big asset, and the kids are very excited about using the simulators," Ms. Campbell said.

The people at STAR are likewise thrilled to have the young students in their midst, said Donamaria Wilfong, RN, MSN, DNP(s), STAR's Director of Clinical Operations. STAR, like all of West Penn Allegheny Health System, is committed to reaching outside hospital walls to assist communities throughout the region.

"It's great to see students so involved in learning, and to see how our high-tech medical simulators are helping engage them even further in their studies," Ms. Wilfong said. "Dedicated young people like these will be needed to enter the health professions in the coming years."

On one recent morning, the students took turns placing an IV needle in a flesh-like simulated arm, monitoring their own accuracy by watching the needle's progress on a computer screen.

Sixteen-year-old Keirra Schatzman, for one, was impressed. "They are very life-like," Keirra said of the mannequins. "You can hear the heartbeat when you're trying to take a blood pressure reading. Hands-on learning is better for us than just reading books."

Elsewhere in the STAR Center, her classmates learned other basic medical skills such as how to prepare a patient for a colonoscopy, how to monitor vital signs, how to dress a wound and how to attach an intravenous line. "You get a feel for what it's going to be like one day in a real hospital," said student Amber

Craig, 15.

The hands-on curriculum in the STAR Center is a component of Peabody's Health Careers Academy, which prepares students for jobs as medical assistants or gives them a strong foundation for further study. For example, Ms. Craig said she plans to continue her studies after high school and become a funeral director, and others are even thinking about careers as doctors and nurses. Topics studied include safety, first aid, infection control, ethics, anatomy, vital signs, medical terminology, nutrition and human development. In addition to Pittsburgh Peabody, the course is also available to students at Pittsburgh Langley and Pittsburgh Carrick High Schools.

The STAR Center opened in September 2007 thanks to a \$500,000 grant from the Highmark Foundation. Its lifelike mannequins, which can be programmed to bleed, breathe or cough, are used to train residents in fields such as anesthesiology, surgery and emergency medicine, as well as nursing students.

A year later, STAR added a unique ambulance simulator, as well as a Family Birthing/Neonatal Teaching Facility. Funding was provided by the Highmark Foundation, the Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board, The Western Pennsylvania Hospital Foundation, and the Women's Committee of The Western Pennsylvania Hospital.

Medical simulation technologies are revolutionizing medical and nursing education by placing trainees in life-like situations that provide immediate feedback about decisions and actions. Just as airline pilot simulator training dramatically improved air safety by reducing pilot errors, medical simulation has the potential to reduce medical errors, save lives and reduce health care costs.

Any local Emergency Medical Services provider may use STAR's ambulance simulator for training at no charge. Ms. Wilfong said the staff at STAR is eager to talk to other community groups who may be interested in using STAR's highly sophisticated training tools. To learn more about the STAR Center at West Penn Allegheny Health System, visit www.wpahs.org/star.

Susan Banahasky

DEMOCRAT
FOR DISTRICT JUDGE

Professionalism

Susan's 30 years in the insurance industry has given her firsthand knowledge of the law. Susan reads and interprets contracts every day. She takes part in fact-finding investigations and analyzes degrees of liability according to the law.

Dedication to our Neighborhoods

Susan has been involved in every aspect of making our neighborhoods safe, clean, and livable. She has been a tireless neighborhood leader, participating in all kinds of volunteer activities ranging from block watches to picking up litter to raising money for the food bank.

Integrity and Dedication to the Rule of Law

Susan has the temperament and the professional experience to listen to all parties and to be tough, yet fair. Susan is trustworthy and impartial, and she has the ability to make sound decisions based on the rule of law. She will serve our community with the dignity and respect that we deserve.



Paid for by Friends for Susan Banahasky

V
O
T
E

M
A
Y

1
9

Buyers of new and renovated Garfield homes may be eligible for \$8,000 tax credit

One provision of the new federal economic stimulus package may be very appealing to first-time homebuyers interested in purchasing new homes under construction, or being renovated, in Garfield and surrounding neighborhoods.

An \$8,000 first-time homebuyer tax credit is available for a principal residence purchased on or after January 1, 2009 and before December 1, 2009. Qualified buyers who purchase a home for \$80,000 or more will receive the full credit. Homes with a sales price under \$80,000 will be eligible for a credit equal to 10% of the sales price. Houses currently under construction will be included in the tax credit, as long as the buyer is able to occupy the residence before December 1, 2009.

The tax credit can be claimed on the buyer's 2009 federal income tax return. There is no authorization, application or any other type of approval needed. The credit will be reflected on a new Form 5405 that will be attached to the 1040 form. Form 5405 is available on-line at www.irs.gov.

A qualified purchaser would calculate all of the deductions and credits to which they otherwise be entitled. Then, once the total tax owed has been computed, the tax credit

it is applied to reduce the total tax bill.

If the purchaser is eligible for the \$8,000 credit, but has a lower income tax liability for the year, the IRS would send the purchaser a check for the difference between the \$8,000 amount of the credit (assuming they qualify for the full amount), and the actual amount of their tax liability.

Are you eligible for the tax credit?

Yes, if you are a first-time homebuyer. A person is considered a first-time buyer if he/she has not had an ownership interest in a home in the three years prior to the day of the 2009 purchase date.

Yes, if you meet the income qualifications. Individuals filing Form 1040 as Single (or Head of Household) are eligible for the credit if their adjusted gross income is no more than \$75,000. Married couples who file a joint return may have adjusted gross income of no more than \$150,000.

If you are eligible, this summer would be a great time to make an appointment to tour the new homes due to be built in Garfield in 2009. Call the Bloomfield-Garfield Corp. at 412-441-6950, ext. 11, or Garfield Jubilee Association at 412-665-5208.

Career Connections students will be "Paying It Forward"

On Friday, May 15, 250 volunteers from Career Connections Charter High School will actively engage in various community service projects throughout the city of Pittsburgh. Students, faculty members, parents and community members will serve as community volunteers, leaders, and activists in order to have an impact on what defines community.

Community service is one of the building blocks of America's success. There is a critical relationship between this service and the nation by improving the lives of many, including the "givers". Some describe it as charity; others see it as paying back. The students at Career Connections Charter High School prefer to see it as "paying forward."

Besides providing volunteer service to worthy initiatives, research has shown the importance of community service activities in making informed career decisions. Career Connections Charter High School prides itself on its ability to create and provide rich and diverse learning experiences for our students. The "Pay It Forward" event is another opportunity for our students to set goals, work towards those goals, and succeed in various aspects of life.

Many of the students will volunteer at familiar locations such as the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, the Women's Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, Light of Life Mission and Pleasant Valley Shelter. We also have students beautifying the community with the Lawrenceville United garden program, Stash the Trash, and a school based beautification program. Volunteers working with Animal Friends and the Humane Society will provide vital resources for animals in need. These are just a few of the locations which will benefit from this community outreach experience.

The students learn teamwork, the power of community service and will create relationships with organizations that help others. The "Pay It Forward" event provides opportunities for community outreach and introduces students to the importance of volunteering.

East End teen receives ACLU award

The American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania recently recognized a high school senior from Pittsburgh's East End as its Student Activist of the Year.

Madeline Chandler, 18, a senior at the Pittsburgh High School of the Creative and Performing Arts, was singled out for her role in the Pittsburgh Public Schools recent decision to replace the district's abstinence-only sex education policy with a comprehensive sexual health curriculum.

Ms. Chandler successfully challenged attempts to prevent her from circulating petitions among high school students, was instrumental in making Peer Sexual Health Advocate training available at CAPA, presented her views at school board meetings, met with legislators in Harrisburg, and wrote for the national ACLU's blog.

The daughter of Stacie and Curt Chandler of Highland Park, Ms. Chandler will attend the Pennsylvania State University at University Park, where she will major in Journalism and Media Studies.



Madeline Chandler

Warm weather will bring cool concerts

Summer in Pittsburgh is just around the corner, and with it comes a dazzling array of opportunities to attend free concerts and hear great local and national performers live.

The City of Pittsburgh sponsors two perennial favorite outdoor concert series each summer – both in the East End – "Bach, Beethoven, and Brunch" at Mellon Park (on Sunday mornings from June 21 through August 16 from 10:30 a.m. to noon) and "Reservoir of Jazz" in Highland Park (on Sunday evenings from August 2 through 30 from 5 to 7 p.m.).

Bring a blanket or comfortable chair to enjoy the performance. Both events are picnicking favorites for concert-goers and there's a great deal of good-natured competition for the "Best Brunch Award" given during intermission by the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts at "Bach, Beethoven, and Brunch." For more information about either concert series, call 412-255-8975.

Allegheny County offers a full schedule of performers at Hartwood Acres and in South Park. The County has not yet published its schedule, but it will be available soon online at www.alleghenycounty.us.

This year the Three Rivers Arts Festival concerts will return to the grass at the newly-renovated Point State Park. The Arts Festival had not published its concert schedule at press time, so visit www.artsfestival.net to get the performers' names and concert dates.



Drawing by Elizabeth Perry

Library patrons urged to prepare for 14-month closure of East Liberty branch

The meeting room at the East Liberty branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh was packed with people on April 14. They had all come to hear the good news/bad news.

The good news is that the East Liberty facility will undergo a massive renovation that will create a more attractive, user-friendly and energy-efficient library. The bad news is that the branch is expected to close this summer and remain closed for about 14 months.

The exact closing date has not been determined. The East Liberty branch is one of the library's busiest locations, and careful preparation for the closure and renovation has been essential, said Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Facilities Dept. spokesperson Jane Dayton. She said that they are determined to close the library at the last possible moment, so they are juggling the co-ordination of the packing, removal and storage of books, and the construction start date.

Library patrons are encouraged to begin planning now for the closure. Nearby libraries are the Homewood Branch at 7101 Hamilton Ave.; the Lawrenceville Branch at 279 Fisk St.; the Main Library in Oakland at 4400 Forbes Ave.; and the Squirrel Hill branch at 5801 Forbes Ave. Visit www.clpg.org for each branch's hours and programs.

Children's Librarian Caralee Sommerer said that she is working with local schools, daycares and organizations to provide some satellite services during the closure.

Anne Chen of Edge Architecture presented drawings of the planned renovation. The building's footprint will grow slightly by expanding the building onto a small grassy area at the corner of Baum Blvd. and Whitfield Street. The large glass walls, which patrons like because they let in plenty of light, will be retained, although they will be replaced with more energy efficient glass.

Perhaps the biggest change will be the building entrance. The current entrance, off the pedestrian space between the library building and the YMCA (which are currently undergoing renovation into lofts) will be closed and that

area will become green space. The new building will have two new and more visible entrances, one from the parking lot at Tamello Way and one from Whitfield St..

All library services will be housed on the building's first floor, with a dedicated children's area, more computer terminals, expanded best-seller section, study spaces, additional seating areas, and space for the Friends of the Library used book sale. Patrons will have access to two self-serve check-out kiosks, as well as the full-service counter.

There will be three meeting rooms on the second floor – one large room that can be divided into smaller areas and two smaller spaces. The remaining space will be used for library administrative offices.


There will be two book-drop locations, one by the Whitfield St. entrance and another (accessible by both car and pedestrians), will be located on Tomello Way. Bike racks, increased lighting, and signage are also featured in the renovation plans.

The renovation and re-allocation of space mean that the library's popular computer classes will no longer have a separate computer lab. Library representatives said classes will be offered when the renovated library re-opens in the fall of 2010, but the structure will be different. They could not say what the offerings will be or how the class will be altered. Computer classes are also taught at the Main Library in Oakland and interested persons can visit that location for information on times and topics.

To celebrate all of the upcoming changes, the library will hold a "De-Construction Party" on Friday, May 15 from 7 to 10 p.m.. Proceeds from the evening of food, drinks, dancing and fun will benefit Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Libraries for LIFE capital campaign.

Tickets are available at www.carnegielibrary.org/latenight; at the customer service desk at CLP-East Liberty; or by phone at 412-622-3114. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$45 at the door.

— T O N Y —
CEOFFE



Democratic Party Endorsed Candidate for Magisterial District Judge in the 6th and 9th Wards

Q: Can you describe your involvement with public safety and quality of life in our neighborhoods?

A: After an honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy, I returned to Lawrenceville to raise my own family. As a parent, I coached youth baseball and football. When the neighborhood began to decline, I became an active block watch volunteer so I could help my neighbors drive out crime and blight. And for the past six years as the Executive Director of Lawrenceville United, I've had the privilege of working alongside many neighbors in Bloomfield, Lawrenceville, and Polish Hill as we transform our neighborhoods into safe, welcoming communities. Like many of you, I believe that our neighborhoods must be safe, clean, and welcoming if we want to have long-term success in attracting residents and businesses.

Q: Why is it important for community problems to be solved within the community?

A: Resolving problems within the Magisterial District Judge's court provides us with an opportunity to relieve the burden on the judicial system, but strengthen our neighborhoods for the long term. For example, I formed partnerships with the local magisterial district judges to have young offenders work with us to complete their community service hours. Our members showed these young people that they are here to help them succeed. They also gained first-hand knowledge of the effort and costs required to correct nuisance crimes like graffiti and vandalism. With this approach, you can transform the situation from strictly punitive to really building trust and respect with our most at-risk children. As a Judge, I would look for similar opportunities to creatively solve common community problems. More serious crimes, of course, will require commensurate bonds and penalties in accordance with the law.

Q: What other experiences qualify you to serve as the Magisterial District Judge for Bloomfield, Lawrenceville, and Polish Hill?

A: I think it comes down to two things: real-world experience in community problem solving and a deep understanding of the legal processes related to community issues. Through my work, I've built skills in landlord-tenant mediation, resolving neighbor disputes, addressing youth truancy, serious adult criminal activity, and nuisance crimes. As a result of my advocacy efforts, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl appointed me to the Disruptive Properties Appeals Board, and I was also appointed to the Graffiti Task Force by Mayor Tom Murphy. In addition, under my leadership, Lawrenceville United received national recognition from MetLife and LISC for our community-police partnership. As judge, I am prepared to serve our communities by applying this real-world knowledge to the decision-making process and provide firm, fair, and consistent rulings based in common sense and law.

On May 19th vote Democratic Endorsed Candidate Tony Ceoffe for Magisterial District Judge

ARE YOU AT RISK FOR DVT?



Melanie Bloom had never heard about Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) until it claimed the life of her husband David in 2003. A journalist, David Bloom suffered a pulmonary embolism after a blood clot traveled from his leg to his lungs while he was covering the Iraq war for NBC.

Ms. Bloom will share her family's experience with DVT on Saturday, May 23, 2009 at West Penn Hospital. The public is invited to hear Ms. Bloom's personal message about the importance of DVT awareness and early detection and learn about the medical management of DVT from West Penn Allegheny Health System physicians and pharmacists.

Guests will be invited to complete a computerized risk assessment and view demonstrations of ultrasound procedures used to detect blood clots. Free parking is available.

Join us for continental breakfast beginning at 9 a.m. with the program following at 10 a.m.

For more information or to make a reservation for this program, please call

412-DOCTORS (362-8677)



WEST PENN ALLEGHENY HEALTH SYSTEM

www.wpahs.org

Applying for Food Stamps

Rep. Costa and Just Harvest partner to help constituents

The 21st Legislative District's newly-elected State Representative, Dom Costa, will be working with Just Harvest to help area residents interested in applying for food stamps.

Staff from Rep. Costa's office and Just Harvest will be at the BGC Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.) from noon to 3 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month (May 5, June 2, July 7), to assist constituents in applying for food stamps.

Rep. Costa also wants to his constituents to know that he and his staff are available through his local office at 1808 Chislett St. in Morningside.

Area residents are welcome to drop by the office or call 412-361-2040 for information about a variety of issues:

Dept. of Public Welfare (food stamps and welfare); Unemployment Compensation; vehicle registration, titles and licenses; disability license plates and placards; utilities and the Pennsylvania Utilities Commission; Senior Citizen assistance, PACE and PACENET applications, property tax and rent rebates, and living will applications.

You can also write, call or visit Rep. Costa in Harrisburg: 109B East Wing, P.O. Box 202021, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2021; phone: 717-783-9114; fax: 717-780-4761.

The mailing address for the local office is 1808 Chislett St., Pittsburgh, PA 15206. The fax number is 412-361-2043.



The FIXERUPPER® loan. The best tool you can have.

Now is the time to fix up around the house: a fresh coat of paint, repairs to the roof, energy-efficient windows – you name it.

The FIXERUPPER® loan from National City can make it happen. With flexible payment terms, competitive interest rates and low finance charges, it's a great tool for getting your home improvement projects under way.

For more information, visit any National City location.

National City
Now a part of



BULLETIN BOARD

FOLK & FLOWER FEST

The 12th Annual Friendship Flower and Folk Festival (F4) will be Saturday, May 9, just in time for Mother's Day. At F4 you'll find locally grown flowers, vegetables, herbs and perennials for sale – the proceeds of which support the maintenance of Baum Grove. Friendship's own Proceeds from food, raffle ticket and book sales support Friendship Preservation Group's efforts to enhance the quality of life for all Friendship residents.

Performers include Flashdrive, Has-Beens, Thirteenth Rune, Friends in Harmony and Drowning Clowns, among others. There will also be ongoing demonstrations by the Pittsburgh Glass Center, Fresh Heirlooms, Voluto Coffee, skateboarding with Mr. Smalls and a Zumba demonstration. Kids will enjoy karate demonstrations, craft tables, street space for bikes and skates, and raffle.

EECM SUMMER CAMP

East End Cooperative Ministries will offer a five-week Summer Day Camp for youth ages 5-16. A unique program combining safe, supervised recreational activities with an ethically grounded curriculum that emphasizes the development of life skills, the prevention of violence and drug use, and the promotion of ethical behavior, the camp will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. from June 29 through July 31.

General registration will be held Wednesday, June 10 from noon to 3 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Activities Bldg. The tuition is \$240 until June 5 and \$260 after June 5.

Call 412-361-5549 for information.

DIABETES?

Vintage senior community center, 401 North Highland Ave. (across from Home Depot), will offer a FREE 6-week Diabetes Self-Management course designed by Stanford University. Classes meet on Tuesdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m., May 26 through June 30. Space limited. Preregistration required. Call 412-361-5003 ext. 106.

LADIES IN HATS

Get out your best hat for the Ladies in Hats Luncheon and Vendors' Market on Saturday, May 16 at noon at New ethel Church, 221 43rd Street in Lawrenceville. Sponsored by the Sister to Sister Women's Ministry, the event promises fun, fellowship and prizes. A \$10 donation is requested. Vendors should call 412-441-5968 for information.

SEEDLING SALE

A Spring Seedling Sale will be held at Mildred's Daughters Farm (110 Normahill Dr. in Stanton Heights) on Fridays, May 15, 22, and 29 from 5 to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays, May 16, 23, and 30 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be over 40 varieties of heirloom

tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, herb and vegetable seedlings available. For a list, email mildredsdaughters@verizon.net. Mildred's Daughters is a Certified Naturally Grown farm.

STANTON HTS. MEETING

The Stanton Heights Neighborhood Assoc. will hold its bi-monthly community gathering on Wednesday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Sunnyside Elementary. Meet neighbors, find out what's happening, and help work together to keep Stanton Heights a great place to call home. For information, call 412-205-5707 or email: stantonheightspgh@gmail.com.

TABLE FOR ONE

If you are 18-35, single, and looking for Christian Fellowship outside the four walls of the church, Table For One is what you are looking for. We strive to strengthen the whole person by teaching and encouraging you with God's word and using God's word to relate to everyday life. Join us for of activities, discussion and outreach-fellowship opportunities. Meetings are on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Visit www.aftyn.com/table or call at 412 508-3331.

CAMP R

The Catholic Youth Association of Pittsburgh's Camp "R" is preparing for its 69th Anniversary in camping this year. The co-ed residential camp

is located in Laurel Hill State Park, 90 minutes from Pittsburgh. The camping season begins July 5 and ends the week of August 14. Call 412-621-3342 for a brochure.

EECM FUNDRAISER

East End Cooperative Ministry will host a fundraiser – A Flavor of the East End – on Saturday, May 30 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Pittsburgh Glass Center. Tickets are \$100 and proceeds benefit EECM's Hunger, Housing and Children & Youth Programs. For more information, call 412-361-5549

GARFIELD FARM

Garfield Community Farm has weekly garden work days every Wednesday beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the corner of Cornwall and Wicklow Streets. Participants are welcome to free veggies as they are available.

Our Farm Stand, located at Valley View Church, 601 N. Aiken, opens in May and will be held every Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m. For information or to get involved, contact: Rev. John Creasy at john@pgheopndoor.org or 412-979-7764 or Rev. Chad Collins at cdcollins2124@gmail.com or 412-361-0870.

RUMMAGE SALE

Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Penn Circle North and N. Highland Ave., will hold a Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

FREE TO THE PEOPLE

www.carnegielibrary.org

**Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
East Liberty Branch**
130 S Whitfield St. 412-363-8232

Preschool Storytime

For ages 3-5. Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., May 7, 14, 21, and 28.

Baby/Toddler Lapsit

Ages 6 - 30 months. Fridays.
May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29.

Origami

For beginner adults and children.
Saturday, May 16, 2009 at 3:30 p.m.

East Liberty PC Center:

Check out these computer classes at the PC Center-East Liberty:

Learn the World Wide Web

Learn how to use a browser to navigate the WWW and search using a subject directory, search engine, and addresses. Prerequisite: Introduction to Windows class or solid mouse, keyboarding, and Windows experience.
Monday, May 4 from 4:30-6:30pm

Introduction to Careerlink

Learn all about this job assistance website, how to sign up for its services, and more.
Prerequisite: Introduction to Windows

class or solid mouse, keyboarding and Windows skills.
Thursday, May 7 from 2:30-4:30pm

To register for these classes or for more information about all our free computer classes, call the PC Center-East Liberty at 412-363-6105.

Please note that due to the upcoming renovations on the East Liberty Library, this is the last month we will be offering classes at the PC Center-East Liberty.

**Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
Lawrenceville Branch**
279 Fisk Street 412-682-3668

Toddler Storytime

For ages 3-5. Thursdays, 11 a.m., May 7, 14, 21 and 28.

Terrific Tales for Twos and Threes

For ages 2-3. Saturdays, 10 a.m.
May 2, 16, and 30.

Adult Book Discussion

Monday, May 11 at 5 p.m.
"Black Flies" by Shannon Burke



BULLETIN BOARD

L'VILLE DOG PARK

Help make the Lawrenceville Dog Park a reality!

A group of Lawrenceville residents working to establish a community-based, enclosed off-leash dog park that is well-maintained, safe and enjoyable for our dogs and residents has had lots of enthusiastic support so far, but the Lawrenceville Dog Park Committee needs YOU in our push for this dog park!

Want to join our efforts? Have questions? Comments? Donations? Check out LawrencevilleDogPark.org for more information!

FRIENDSHIP YARD SALE

Friendship Preservation Group's community-wide yard sale will be held Sunday, June 28 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Participants kick in \$5 for advertising and take advantage of the opportunity to get rid of some stuff! Restricted to homes between Gross and Negley. Email Michele Timon at michele.timon@gmail.com.

FREEDOM CAMP

Valley View Presbyterian Church will once again offer Freedom Camp for children ages 6 through 12. The five-week Freedom Camp begins Monday, June 22 and continues through Thursday, July 23 and runs from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. This FREE Camp includes breakfast, lunch, academics, crafts, bible studies, weekly field trips and a variety of activities. Space is limited so sign up early.

For information or to obtain an application, call 412-361-0870.

KINGSLEY CAMP

Now is the time to register children ages 6 through 12 for the Kingsley Association's "Run, Fun, Fitness and Adventure Summer Camp."

The ten-week camp will run in one-week segments from June 15 through August 17. Camp begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 5:00 p.m., with early drop-off at 7:30 a.m. and late pick-up at 6 p.m. available.

Children will have the opportunity to participate in Team Sports such as soccer, volleyball and flag football; Active Exercise such as aerobics, swimming and wall climbing; Field Trips to cultural events and outdoor venues; as well as many other activities. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

The cost of the camp is \$100 per week and registration and pre-payment is required. For additional information call 412-661-8751.

SEEDS OF HOPE CAMP

Seeds of Hope Church+ Earthen Vessels Outreach will hold a six-week summer day camp from June 22 through August 21. The camp runs weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. and includes hot breakfast and lunch, as well as academics, sports, activities and field trips. Camp fees are based on a sliding scale and run from \$120 to \$300 for the entire summer. For information call Marilyn at 412-414-2993.

GARFIELD GATORS

The Garfield Gators are looking for committed cheerleaders and players for the upcoming season. For information, call Coach Mimi at 412-245-0691.

SUSAN WERNER

East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland Ave. will host a 90-minute solo concert by singer/songwriter Susan Werner on Sunday, May 3, at 7:30 p.m.

This is a "Pay What You Can" program, with donations for the admission tickets accepted at the door. For information call Randy Bush at 412-441-3800 x23

AARP PROGRAMS

The Pittsburgh office of AARP Foundation WorkSearch will receive additional funding to expand its Senior Employment Program for Allegheny County residents and benefit an estimated 200 additional individuals. AARP Senior Employment Program provides paid training opportunities for unemployed, residents of Allegheny County who are 55 years of age or older, income eligible and currently seeking employment. Individuals train in the community to obtain the experience and skills needed to become more marketable. Interested individuals should contact the AARP Foundation WorkSearch office at 412-271-1580.

Individuals may also obtain free online AARP WorkSearch Assessment accounts to assist with identifying interests and skills, matching skills to employer needs, and searching for jobs by zip code.

HELP LINE

The United Way HelpLine has helped callers with questions about food pantries, children's health insurance, transportation to doctor appointments, parenting issues, senior services, shelters, domestic violence, utilities, and more. If you have questions, call 412-255-1155.

Trained information specialists are available 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. They will talk with you and refer you to agencies that may be able to help. Emergency calls are handled on a 24 hour basis by specialists trained to handle problems from mental health to housing and more.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED POLICY

ALL TEXT ADS (INCLUDING FOR SALE ADS) are \$5 for 15 words

and 10 cents for each additional word.

We DO NOT run "personal ads."

BLOCK ads (1.5" x 2.5") are \$15

Please send ad with full payment to:

**The Bulletin,
Classified Dept., 5149 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15224.**

**Tutors wanted for
Community LEARNS
afterschool program
serving Peabody High
School youths.
Position is paid,
part-time at \$15/hr.
Call Joe Dostilio at
412-363-1910.**

BUSINESSES

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



**Bugs Be Dead With Fred
Termite & Pest Control**

Real Estate Inspections
Over 30 Years in Business
ALL WORK GUARANTEED

SUBURBAN EXTERMINATING CO
412-688-8889 OR 412-795-4190

Bus Trip to Belterra River Boat in Indiana

**depart Sunday, May 31
return Monday, June 1**

Departure points and times:

Knoxville:
Knoxville School
on Charle St at 6 a.m.

East Liberty:
Shakespeare Shopping Center
at 6:30 a.m.

Northside:
Family Dollar
on Brighton Rd. at 7 a.m.

Cost:
\$125 double occupancy
(singles by request)

Bus will depart Indiana at 1 p.m.
and stop for dinner.

Note:
You must be 21 to gamble.

For information call
412.381.4957

FOR SALE

HIGHLAND PARK - Charming Victorian home, perfect for an active family. Completely renovated with all new plumbing and electric. Three bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms, plus three-room master suite featuring a sitting room, bedroom and spectacular bathroom. Fabulous kitchen, living room, dining room and TV room on first floor. Stained glass, pocket doors, fenced yard. Must see the interior of this gem! \$225,000. For pictures, visit <http://5627jacksonst.howard-hanna.com>. For a showing, call Kelly Meade at (412) 361-4000 Ext.: 237.

Penn Ave. Reconstruction Recap

The Penn Ave. Corridor Phasing Plan Committee, in conjunction with the City of Pittsburgh, PennDOT, Federal Highway Administration, and L. Robert Kimball & Associates, conducted the second and final second public meeting for the Penn Ave. Corridor Phasing Plan Study on April 16.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the previous public meeting comments and community concerns; discuss what was completed since the last public meeting, including technical analyses, needs assessment and project identification; and detail the next steps leading to project implementation. The project team was present to discuss and provide a better understanding of the project needs and prioritized transportation improvements.

ARTica at Unblurred

Passports: The Art Diversity Project located at ARTica on Penn Ave. is the brainchild of Christine Bethea and Brenda Brown, creative administrators, who felt artists needed opportunities not afforded them by larger galleries and institutions. They have a mission to enhance, enlighten and empower community through the arts.

"We can guarantee almost any adult artist over 18 a chance to show a few pieces of their work in our Local 365 Art Zone," said Bethea. "If they need to make a more professional presentation, we suggest what to do. The only caveat is that any work we show has to be family-friendly."

The Local 365 Art Zone is dedicated to local artists 365 days of the year. Passports and ARTica held the first collaborative show of challenged and established artists' work in the city of Pittsburgh, and curated the largest multicultural art show in the history of the Penn Avenue Arts District during last year's Unblurred Art Cubed event -- ARTini.

"The BGC gave us space at their Activity Center," said Brown, "and the Sprout Fund gave us the funding. Thanks to them, we've been busy with projects ever since."

"Working in this neighborhood has been great," said Bethea. "Everyone here is so enthusiastic and the support we have received from working with organizations like Friendship Development Associates makes things come together more quickly."

During Unblurred on Friday, May 1, Passports will present, "Quilts, Art and other Women's Work." The gallery, located at 5110 Penn Avenue, will open its doors at 7 p.m.


Kimball has completed a detailed inventory of the pavement, sidewalks, curbs, street lighting, traffic signals, pavement markings and signs, street furniture and trees from 34th Street to Negley Avenue and assigned a "grade" reflecting its condition to each intersection and block along the subject area. From the chart showing the results of the survey and assessment, it is clear that the entire corridor needs serious attention. The total cost of the project, which is to be completed in phases, is estimated to be about \$28 to \$29 million. About \$4 to \$5 million in federal funds is available for Phase 1.

Using the inventory and assessment, Kimball has identified the four-block area of Penn Ave. that is in most need of re-construction – from Gross St. to Atlantic Ave. – as the recommended first phase. The next step is to submit the proposal for approval to the stakeholder steering committee, then to public officials, including the Federal Highway Administration and PA Dept. of Transportation. The final stop will be the Mayor's Office.

It is expected that the engineering work will begin in late 2009 or early 2010, with construction scheduled to begin in the spring of 2011.

Coldwell Banker Commercial NRT Presents:

5131 Penn Ave FOR SALE



4500 SF Live-Work Space

In the heart of the Penn Ave Arts Corridor

3 story, 1930's Brick Building
Commercial Storefront + 3 Residential Apts
Off-street parking
Central to Children's Hospital & Bakery Square, Pittsburgh's most anticipated new developments

COLDWELL BANKER COMMERCIAL NRT

Allison L. Pochapin
Coldwell Banker Commercial NRT
5857 Ellsworth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15232
Office: (412) 548-1064
Cell: (412) 519-7636
a.pochapin@verizon.net
www.cbcworldwide.com

THOMSON REUTERS
TOP HOSPITALS
2008 EVEREST AWARD
NATIONAL

We're judged by the company we keep.



AND AS YOU CAN SEE, WE'RE IN EXCELLENT COMPANY.

West Penn Hospital was one of only four major teaching hospitals nationwide to receive Thomson Reuters' 2008 Everest Award, given to the 100 Top Hospitals® that have reached the highest level of accomplishment.

West Penn is the only major teaching hospital in Pennsylvania to receive this mark of distinction for setting national benchmarks for excellence. To determine its list of 100 Top Hospitals®, Thomson Reuters evaluated more than 3,000 hospitals nationwide on key measures that included quality and value.

It takes a great team to achieve such an honor. Congratulations to all employees of West Penn Hospital, whose dedication to quality patient care is recognized among the nation's best!

412-DOCTORS (362-8677)



THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL

WEST PENN ALLEGHENY HEALTH SYSTEM

www.wpahs.org