



The Bulletin

A Publication of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

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Children's Home of Pittsburgh Finds its Home in Friendship



Mandy Kendall / The Bulletin

MR. MCFEELY DELIVERS THE CEREMONIAL SCISSORS TO CHILDREN'S HOME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAM SCHANWALD AND AUSTIN'S PLAYROOM FUNDER MARIO LEMIEUX FOR THE RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME'S NEW BUILDING ON PENN AVENUE.

By Mandy Kendall
The Bulletin

The organization that has provided a home away from home for children with medical needs and their families has finally found its home on Penn Avenue.

The Children's Home of Pittsburgh and Lemieux Family Center (CHP), which offers transitional care, day care and adoption services, opened its new three-story building, built at the corner of Penn Avenue and S. Aiken on the site of the former St. Joseph's Nursing Home, to the community on March 15. The new building brings all three of the CHP's main programs under the same roof.

Hundreds of community members and local leaders gathered, despite the rain, in the lobby of the new building to watch the ribbon cutting. A "special delivery" of ceremonial ribbon cutting scissors was

made to CHP executive Director Pam Schanwald by Mister Roger's Neighborhood's own Mr. McFeely.

The new 62,000 square foot facility cost close to \$20 million and was funded in part by a \$2 million grant from the Mario Lemieux Foundation and \$4.5 million in funding from the State of Pennsylvania.

The CHP's 28-bed Pediatric Specialty Hospital, a fully licensed pediatric hospital which provides acute care to children in a home-like setting, features Transitional Infant Care (TIC) and Transitional Pediatric Care (TPC) units which can accommodate children up to age 8. The hospital also provides hospice care for children, offering the first dedicated pediatric in-patient hospice beds in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

The TIC and TPC also provide short-term housing for the children's families, complete with eight bedrooms, along with

kitchen, living and dining areas.

The looks of the TIC and TPC units are far more like home than hospital. The infant incubators, which are separated by low walls to provide each family with their own space, are covered with pastel-colored blankets, and each section is complete with padded rocking chairs and window seats. The pediatric beds, in comparison, have the look of a child's own room, with lamp, dresser and colorful bed covers.

In addition to offering medical care, CHP staff teach parents how to take care of their children when they are able to move home.

Another feature of the Pediatric Specialty Hospital is Austin's Playroom, a room designed specifically to accommodate the siblings of children who are at

See CHP, Page 3

Housing Authority / Developer Propose \$21 Million Investment in Garfield Heights

On March 22, over 160 community residents, representatives of community groups and local legislators packed the St. Lawrence O'Toole Activity Center to hear KBK Enterprises and the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) describe their plans for the site long occupied by the Garfield Heights public housing community.

The meeting was hosted by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and Garfield Jubilee Association.

The new housing development will be constructed on the site of the current housing community, the residents of which are gradually being relocated. The development will be a joint venture between the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) and KBK Enterprises, a development firm based in Columbus, OH. KBK's president is Keith B Keys, who was born and raised in

By Mandy Kendall
The Bulletin

Garfield. KBK, according to Keys, is one of the largest African-American development firms in the country, with over \$1.2 billion in investments nationwide, including housing, commercial, faith-based and government projects.

The new development will reduce the number of available units from 330 units to 275 units and will consist of single family, duplex and quadruplex homes, rather than the seven-unit buildings in the current housing community, to better integrate the development visually into the existing neighborhood.

As the current public housing community stands, Fern and Columbo Streets are the only access points into and out of the community. KBK representatives said that they hope to reintegrate the housing development back into the community through the creation of an

See GARFIELD HEIGHTS, Page 6

Costco CEO Returns Home to Open New Warehouse

By Mandy Kendall
The Bulletin

It's never too late to come home again. You just may find that things are a little different than when you left.

That is the experience of Jim Sinegal, a native of Garfield who grew up on N. Winebiddle Street and attended St. Lawrence O'Toole School at a time when Pittsburgh's steel mills made the city dark as night in the middle of the afternoon. Sinegal, who left Garfield as a high school sophomore in 1951, returned last month as the CEO of retail giant Costco to open his third warehouse store in the Pittsburgh area.

Sinegal lived first in the 300 block of N. Winebiddle Street, moving to the 5100 block of Penn Avenue when his father opened a heating and roofing business. The family, like many fami-



Mandy Kendall / The Bulletin

COSTCO CEO AND GARFIELD NATIVE JIM SINEGAL SHARES A STORY WITH FORMER GARFIELD RESIDENT JIM CONNELLY AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW COSTCO WAREHOUSE AT THE WATERFRONT. CONNELLY AND SINEGAL BOTH GREW UP ON N. WINEBIDDLE STREET.

lies at the time, lived in the top floor of the building, with the business below.

See SINEGAL, Page 20

**APRIL
DEADLINE!**

The **FINAL DEADLINE** for the **May 2007** issue of The Bulletin is **Friday, April 13, 2007**. This includes ALL classified ads, Bulletin Board announcements, story submissions and ad space reservations. Information is accepted on a space-available basis.

For more information, call 412-441-6915.

PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE REPORT

The following is a summary of the recent work of the city's Impact and Vice Squads in helping to deal with street-level crimes occurring in the Garfield and adjacent areas.

• On the evening of January 11, Impact detectives arrested a 19-year old male for possession of, and possession with intent to deliver, crack cocaine. The male was on foot in the 5100 block of Penn Avenue, when he saw detectives approaching in an unmarked vehicle. The suspect threw down what appeared to be a bag of crack cocaine, which was subsequently recovered by detectives as they made the arrest.

• On the morning of January 17, Vice detectives placed a 33-year old female under arrest for prostitution, and loitering for the purpose of prostitution, on Coral St., between S. Atlantic and S. Aiken Ave, in Friendship. The suspect was originally picked up by undercover officers at N. Negley Ave. and E. Liberty Blvd.

• In the early morning hours of January 18, Impact detectives arrested a male at the corner of South Fairmount and Penn Avenue for selling "look-a-like" drugs and resisting arrest. The detectives observed the suspect selling what was later determined to be a white rock packaged in a cellophane baggie "corner" to another male in a van. When the detectives attempted to arrest the first suspect, he resisted arrest, and then refused to provide his name and age. The second suspect was released at the scene.

• On the night of January 22, Vice detectives arrested a 41-year old female for prostitution and loitering at the corner of Garwood Way and Remus Way in Bloomfield. The suspect was originally picked up by the detectives at Penn Ave. and N. Mathilda St. A summons was issued for a court appearance at a later date.

• On the night of January 29th, Vice detectives arrested a 41-year old female for prostitution, and loitering for the purpose of prostitution, at the corner of St. Clair And Bunkerhill Sts. in Highland Park. The suspect was originally picked up by the detectives at the corner of Penn and N. Negley Aves.

• On the afternoon of February 3, Impact detectives arrested two people in the 200 block of N. Graham St. for possession of heroin, and one person for possession and possession with intent to deliver heroin. Undercover officers witnessed the three suspects in a vehicle, which was subsequently stopped and the occupants placed under arrest. The suspected seller was able to elude arrest after a foot chase.

• On the evening of February 19, Vice detectives arrested a 34-year old female for prostitution, and loitering for the purpose of prostitution, at the corner of 26th St. and Spruce Way in the Strip District. The suspect was originally picked up by the detectives at Penn Ave. and N. Fairmount St.

• In the early morning hours of February 28, Impact detectives arrested a 43-year old male and charged him with possession of, and possession with intent to deliver, crack cocaine. The suspect was originally observed by officers reportedly conducting drug sales at N. Graham and Broad Sts., and they subsequently stopped him one block away. He allegedly tried to destroy the evidence but was apprehended before that could occur.

"Are You Aware?"

Car Burglaries: Off the Charts

Among the major crimes that are wreaking havoc on the City of Pittsburgh, did you know that car burglaries are in the midst of becoming one of the leading blue-collar crimes in the region? Leaving your valuables in plain view, if only for a split second, leaves you susceptible to becoming a victim of a burglary. Items such as purses, lap tops, radios, and even air bags are high on the thieves' lists. Recent statistics on criminal activity in Zone 5 illustrate that theft from automobiles is on a rapid rise. Furthermore, according to the Pittsburgh Police, "124 cars are stolen every day in Pennsylvania; Allegheny County had 4,661 vehicles stolen. This amounts to \$233 million per year for Pennsylvanians."

What can you do to secure belongings as well as your vehicle?

- You should never leave anything, even what you may determine to be of little value, in plain view. Store your belongings in the trunk of your car.
- Park in well-lit areas; if you have a garage, use it.
- Never leave your car running and unattended.
- Take your keys with you and never leave a spare set in your car.
- Lock your car; half of all stolen cars are unlocked.

Most cars come with some sort of anti-theft device, but if yours does not, consider using one of the following devices:

- Wheel locks
- Kill switch, which is wired to the ignition; flipping the switch when you get out prevents anyone else from starting the car.
- Although people often ignore them, alarms can be useful; they work because they attract attention, which often stops thieves.
- Steel collars for certain cars prevent people from using a screwdriver to drive the car.

If you are a victim of an auto theft or burglary, this is what you should do:

- Call 911 immediately
- Call the auto theft tip line at 412-255-2911

To prevent auto theft or burglary, you can:

- Join the Beat Auto Theft (BAT) Program. BAT is a joint effort between the Pittsburgh Citizens and Pittsburgh Bureau of Police to mitigate auto theft in the city. When you join the BAT Program, you will be given a sticker to place on your car; displaying the sticker authorizes the Pittsburgh Police to pull your car over between the hours of 12 am and 5 pm. If the police witness someone driving your car between those hours, they will pull the car over to investigate. There is NO COST to participate in the program.

To learn more about BAT, visit www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/bat or call 412-255-2911

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Zone Meetings

If you would like to stay up-to-date with police efforts in your area, then please attend one of the monthly zone meetings, held by each zone's police dept.

The Zone 5 Meeting is held the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. on the 3rd floor of the Zone 5 Police Station in East Liberty. For more information, call Zone 5 at 412-665-3605.

The Zone 2 Public Safety Council Meeting is held the last Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Hill House. For more information, call Zone 2 at 412-255-2827

CHP, From Page 1

CHP. The Austin's Playroom concept was created by Nathalie Lemieux, wife of Penguins owner Mario Lemieux, after their son, Austin, was born prematurely, and she found that there was nowhere for her other children while the Lemieuxs were at the hospital.

Austin's Playroom at CHP includes a television, computer, toys, videos, book and an aquarium - everything a parent needs to entertain a child. Mario and Nathalie Lemieux were on hand to cut the ribbon for the new playroom.

Of course, taking care of a "medically fragile" child while trying to return to a normal life can be extremely difficult for parents, which is why the CHP also offers Child's Way medical day care service for up to 60 children from birth to age 8.

While children with medical issues legally have the right to be accepted into any daycare program, Child's Way has what most daycares don't - the ability to properly handle a range of medical problems, which can give their parents peace of mind while at work. When Child's Way opened in 1998, it was the first Pediatric Extended Care Center (PECC) in Pennsylvania.

Outside areas are also available for the children, with open spaces landscaped for active child play areas and passive gardens.

The CHP also offers an Adoption Program, which places approximately 27 infants each year. Connie Bach, the director of CHP's adoption program, says that the center performs a large number of open adoptions, in which the birth and



Mandy Kendall / The Bulletin

BEDS IN THE CHILDREN'S HOME'S NEW TRANSITIONAL PEDIATRIC UNIT ARE DESIGNED TO LOOK MORE LIKE HOME THAN A HOSPITAL, MAKING THE TRANSITION LESS STRESSFUL FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

adoptive parents have had contact in some way. The center also offers a research library for those trying to reunite or find information on their birth parents, or children they placed for adoption. The program offers a birth-parent support group and post-adoption counseling. The staff of the program includes one director, a administrator, and six licensed social workers, all with Master's degrees.

Linda Nimick, Nurse Manager for TIC and TPC, says that the staff is anxious to begin working in their new space.

"I think everyone is anxious to get over here and start working here," she says.

For more information on the Children's Home of Pittsburgh and Lemieux family Center, visit their website at www.childrenshomepg.org.



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The Bulletin

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

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

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

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All submissions to **The Bulletin** of any
sort must include the writer's name,
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come your letters, opinions, articles,
and notices. We reserve the right to edit
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photographs will be returned only if
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Jim Ferlo for their support.

THE BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD CORP'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, please call Aggie Brose at 412-441-6950.

Showcase in Progress

This month, we congratulate John &
Mary Simonic, owners of 5209 Carnegie
Street in Lawrenceville, which was nomi-
nated as the Showcase Property of the
Month.

When the staff of the BGC visited the site
and turned onto Carnegie Street, they could
immediately identify the property nominat-
ed - it was clearly a showcase in progress.

The staff introduced themselves to Mr.
Simonic, and had a long conversation with
him in regard to his love for his family of
three sons, three daughters, six grandchild-
ren and his community. He said his family
had purchased the property in 1976, but had
rented out the Carnegie Street house, while
living behind it in a house on the rear alley,
where they raised their children.

Mr Simonic, along with the help of his
family, completely repainted the facade of
the house, transforming it from white to
salmon with gold trim, which adds color to
the whole block. Windows have been
replaced and repainted, beautiful detail
work has been done around the top window
of the home. The Simonis also replaced the
original slate roof with shingles.

The house is accented with a light brown

awning that spans the length of the house -
courtesy of Mr. Simonic's son, who works
at an awning company. Mr. Simonic
enhanced the small front porch with a white
railing, attractive planters and a bench.

The house, which was originally a three
family unit, is now occupied by John and
Mary. Simonic told us they did a lot of inter-
ior work and said they "ate a lot of dust" to
get it done.

Simonic is still in the process of finishing
the painting of the sides of the house, but
said that "winter comes too quick," and he
is glad to finally have good weather to fin-
ish the work.

The value of Mr. Simonic's property to
the neighborhood lies not only in the house
but the pride and love he has for his home-
town of "Lawrenceville"

We appreciate all the time, energy and
effort Mr. Simonic has invested in his prop-
erty - and we thank Mrs. Simonic for all her
patience and tolerance during this rehab.
The whole neighborhood benefits from the
Simonics' hard work.

Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Simonic, for
being good neighbors and continuing to
live and invest in Lawrenceville.

**B
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Photo Courtesy of John & Mary Simonic

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Photo by Mandy Kendall / The Bulletin



Bill Robinson

10th District

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FDA Names Matthew Galluzzo Penn Arts District Manager

Matthew Galluzzo has recently been named Penn Avenue Arts District Manager by the Friendship Development Associates. Galluzzo will be managing the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative and utilizing the Main Street Program to build on and support the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative commercial corridor strategy.

Galluzzo obtained an undergraduate degree in English from Thomas More College and graduated in 2005 with a Masters of Social Work - Community Organization/Social Administration Concentration from the University of Pittsburgh.

Galluzzo comes to Friendship Development Associates with a wealth of community development experience. He served as the Community Development Specialist/Main Street Manager of Hazelwood Initiative, where he directed multiple fundraising campaigns, organized various promotional events, coordinated research studies, and led various community campaigns to bring the Sprout Fund Public Art program to Hazelwood. He



Photo Courtesy Friendship Development Associates

has also worked as Elm Street Program Manager for Northside Leadership Conference. There, he developed a neighborhood cleanup competition, supported public safety initiatives, and sought and structured opportunities for residential development within his Elm Street District.

In his spare time, Galluzzo enjoys historic restoration, guitar, Major League Baseball, music production and review, as well as coffee. Galluzzo looks forward to using his prior positions to grow and shape Penn Avenue into a thriving arts community.

Welcome, Matthew!

BGC Welcomes Wadria Taylor as New Public Safety Task Force Coordinator

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation is excited to announce that it has hired Wadria Taylor as its new Public Safety Task Force Coordinator.

Wadria originally hails from Jamaica, West Indies, from which she migrated to New York City. For the past five years though, Pittsburgh has been her home away from home away from home.

She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in April 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Politics-Philosophy. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in International Development at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

In addition to her academic endeavors, Wadria has committed herself to being a public servant. She has worked with a variety of service-based organizations in the City of Pittsburgh, including the Collegiate YMCA. As part of that program, she traveled in the summer of 2006 to Durban, South Africa where she facilitated and organized teambuilding programs for the staff and youth at the Durban YMCA. She also worked



Photo Courtesy Wadria Taylor

with the Coro Center for Civic Leadership, as a Community Problem Solving Fellow, where among other things she completed multi-sector field assignments and organized and moderated forums about the proliferation of crime in the City of Pittsburgh.

Wadria joins the BGC as the Public Safety Task-Force Coordinator with enthusiasm. She says she is on a mission to eradicate fragmentation and marginalization in the Bloomfield-Garfield area by rebuilding community and creating an understanding and acceptance of social responsibility among the citizenry. Welcome, Wadria!

Deadra Keener Joins Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center Staff

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center recently collaborated to hire Deadra Keener as the Employer Services Representative for both organizations.

Originally from Ohio, Deadra obtained her undergraduate degree from Ball State University in Indiana before moving to Philadelphia. She fell in love with Pittsburgh during a 2001 visit, moved here in 2003, and recently purchased a home in Friendship.

Deadra worked as an event planner for several years, on behalf of both the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, where she was responsible for booking, organizing and executing a wide range of meetings and events. She then joined the Student Conservation Association as a crew leader, supervising and mentoring local youth as they addressed conservation issues in local city parks. Most recently, she served as a Youth Employment



Mandy Kendall / The Bulletin

Coordinator for the BGC, helping to match area youths with employment opportunities.

Outside of work, Deadra is excited to be currently participating in the Coro Center for Civic Leadership's East End Neighborhood Leaders program, which seeks to address health issues in the East End. She is also excited about this new position and the opportunity it presents to be more involved in and positively impact the community in which she lives and works.

Welcome, Deadra!

Lawrenceville BLOSSOM TOUR 2007

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April 20,
21
10 - 6
Sunday
April 22
12 - 5**

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"Excellence for All"

Speaker will challenge drug use and violence in the community

By John Vater

Principal, Peabody High School

The need for the community to unite around crime prevention, crime reduction and improved academic performance of East End students is evident.

By surveying the concerns of students and the users of local services, the Peabody High School administration and collaborating organizations learned that 75% of youths ranked gangs, drugs, violence and a sense of hopelessness as their top concerns.

The Peabody administration felt it was critical to galvanize everyone in the East End to create a coordinated effort entitled, "Excellence for All: An East End Community Building Event."

Cle "Bone" Sloan, an inactive member of the "Bloods" gang from Los Angeles, author and star of the HBO documentary entitled "Bastards of the Party," will provide the keynote address.

Mr. Sloan's address will highlight the need to strengthen the community and stop violence and drug use.

Additionally, event participants will have the opportunity to visit informational booths hosted by service providers, law enforcement and employment agencies, educational institutions and governmental representatives. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2007!

GARFIELD HEIGHTS, From Page 1

expanded street network; construction of units that are architecturally similar to buildings in the surrounding neighborhood; and by placing the units so that they face the neighborhood, providing extra "eyes on the street."

KBK also says that they will be adhering to generally accepted "green principles" in the buildings, including energy efficient features and effective storm water management.

The complete development will include five green spaces and playground areas, and KBK representatives expressed a desire to transform the hillside in the center of the site into an area similar to Frick Park.

KBK said that they plan to address parking issues by providing off-street parking for residents and on-street parking for visitors. Transit stops will also be integrated into the development. KBK is currently working with the Port Authority of Pittsburgh to develop those stops.

The development will be completed in three phases. Phase I will consist of 90 units, all of which will be rental. Fifty of those units will be for very low-income households, while 20 will be reserved for low-income tenants and another 20 will be rented at market rates.

Phase I will also include a 6,000 square foot community center, which will include a management office, computer room and meeting space. There are no current plans for the community center to house recreational facilities at this time.

Drawings of the Phase I plan, which were displayed at the meeting, were not available for publication. Keys and Germany stressed that all plans were preliminary and subject to change as the project progresses.

It is expected that Phase I will be complete

within 18 months of when KBK receives their approval and funding.

The HACP will provide KBK with a loan of \$13.6 million to fund a sizable portion of the \$21 million project. KBK also plans to apply for low-income housing tax credits to round out funding for the project. The deadline in Harrisburg to apply for the next round of such funding is this month; the decision will not be announced until September 2007.

In response to residents' concerns that funding would run out before the entire project could be completed, Fulton Meachem, executive director of the HACP, responded, "Barring some sort of catastrophe, we want to see Garfield completed in its entirety."

As the developer, Keys says that KBK would be financially responsible for the success of the development, and that success would depend primarily on the quality of the property management, which would also be overseen by KBK.

One of the most common concerns expressed by residents, legislators and community groups are the relatively few homeownership opportunities in the development, and the concentration of rental units into one geographic area in Phase I.

KBK representatives stated that timing made including homeownership possibilities in Phase I impossible, but that such opportunities would be considered in Phases II and III.

Keys also noted that the low income housing tax credits that KBK will be seeking may only be utilized for rental properties.

One resident also questioned what would make this new housing development different than the failed public housing high rises that were recently demolished in East Liberty.

Keys responded that good management would be the key to providing a quality housing development to the community, and that KBK has considerable experience in the management of rental properties.

As part of that management plan, all former Garfield Heights residents who wish to return to the new development will be required to attend a series of resident workshops, which would include credit counseling, housing maintenance and civic responsibility workshops, among others.

Richard Morris, director of resident self-sufficiency initiatives for the HACP, verbally committed to the community that the master service plan provider would create opportunities for local minority-owned businesses to participate in the construction, and that residents would have top priority in obtaining employment during the construction of the new development.

Quarterly community meetings concerning the development will be held as the project progresses. Please watch *The Bulletin*, and for flyers in the neighborhood, for further information.

Those interested in seeking employment in relation to the project may contact Roxanne Thomas of the Housing Authority at 412-395-3950. Minority and women owned businesses interested in participating may call Will Long at 412-395-3950. Former Garfield Heights residents who are interested in returning to the new development MUST attend a series of workshops before construction begins. Residents may sign up for workshops or obtain more information by calling Juanita Fulton at 412-395-3950.

EXCELLENCE
FOR ALL

For more information or to register for this event please call, 412-441-9833 or use the web address, www.apluschools.org/wn.html



A Community-Building Event to Support East End Students and Families

On May 12, 2007, Peabody High School will be collaborating with their community partners to host 'Excellence for All: An East End Community-Building Event'. Special Keynote Speaker: Cle "Bone" Sloan, now an inactive member of the L.A. Bloods Gang and author and star of the award winning documentary, *Bastards of the Party*. Currently airing on HBO, *Bastards of the Party* is the story of "one gang's violent evolution and a new generation's search for a way out." Sloan makes a positive call for change in modern gang culture with his message of reformatting the current gang structure to non-criminal and positive activities that build a societal connection and a larger purpose.

Superintendent Mark Roosevelt will provide introductory remarks about the important role that residents of all ages, community organizations and service providers play in improving the academic performance for all East End students through *Excellence for All*.

The purpose of the event is to connect the resources of the community, provide meaningful opportunities for community involvement and strengthen the East-End community for the advancement of all students. In addition, speakers and workshop presenters will be on site to discuss issues that address the needs of students in the surrounding community.

Exciting entertainment, speakers and lunch is planned throughout the day.

SATURDAY

MAY 12 2007
8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at **PEABODY HIGH SCHOOL**
515 North Highland Avenue

Primary 2007 Candidate Profiles

A potential change in leadership in Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh could mean huge changes for the future of the region.

Who will you vote for on May 15?

In an effort to inform our readers of thier options in the upcoming municipal primary, The Bulletin asked each candidate to submit a biography, photo and complete our candidate questionnaire.

Their answers are on the following pages.

So get
out and
VOTE!

2007 Election Calendar

April 16
Last day to register
Before the Primary

May 8 - 5 p.m.
Applications for
absentee ballots must be
received by the county
by this time

May 11 - 5 p.m.
Absentee ballots must
be received by the
county by this time.

Allegheny County
Board of Elections
412-350-4500



The 2007
Primary
Election
will be held on
Tuesday,
May 15, 2007.

Mayor - City of Pittsburgh

Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

Why are you running for re-election?

I am running to stabilize the financial footing of Pittsburgh so that we can build an economically vibrant and growing city, with clean and safe streets for every one of Pittsburgh's neighborhoods.

What have you done during your time in office that has improved the lives of your constituents and proves that you are a good leader for the city?

- Over the past 6 months, I have appointed a new police chief, Nate Harper, and a new Public Safety Director, Mike Huss? to lead Pittsburgh into a new era of effective community-oriented public safety initiatives. I have had the city purchase 11,000 tax-lien properties to make it possible to make them productive properties again. We have proposed a neighborhood-inclusive city property tax abatement program to spur development around the city.

If you are re-elected, what issues will you address during your next term in office? How will you use the power of your position to address those issues?

Pittsburgh's important task is to work with the state and region on solving the burden of legacy costs to the people of Pittsburgh. These are employee pension costs, long-term debt servicing, and infrastructure improvements, and healthcare costs.



William Peduto

Dear Neighbors,

Pittsburgh deserves a political campaign based on ideas to reform our City, and I realize that running a victorious political campaign this spring would require dividing a city still mourning the loss of Mayor O'Connor. Therefore, I have come to the conclusion that it is in Pittsburgh's best interest to avoid divisiveness and withdraw from the May primary.

My heart is not heavy; it is grateful. Grateful for the support of friends and family and the hundreds of passionate volunteers who have worked with me along the way. Their commitment has made me a better person, given me the courage to continue reforming the City, and shown me that a passion to change Pittsburgh doesn't make me a lone reformer. It makes me a leader of a movement.

Reforming Pittsburgh is going to take commitment, hard work, and strength. But if we remain dedicated to common-sense reform, and if we remain willing to debate the issues—the important issues—we will return Pittsburgh to greatness.

I am proud of what we have accomplished and of our commitment to strong, progressive reform.

William Peduto



Allegheny County Executive

County Executive Dan Onorato

Why are you running for re-election?

As a life-time resident of Allegheny County and Pittsburgh, I have a personal investment in seeing our region thrive. I'm committed to continuing to lead our region's renewal by capitalizing on the tremendous assets we have in Southwestern Pennsylvania, including our airport, brownfields, universities and medical centers.



What have you done during your time in office that has improved the lives of your constituents and proves that you are a good leader for the city?

As Chief Executive, I stopped reassessments and backdoor tax increases, and I worked to bring low-cost carriers like Southwest, Midwest and JetBlue to our region. I eliminated a \$31-million structural deficit and brought fiscal discipline back to County government. I also kept local companies here and assisted with their expansions, including American Eagle, Verizon Wireless, Mitsubishi, Heinz, Lanxess, American Textile and Medrad. Furthermore, I helped to secure more than \$1.2 billion in state funding for economic development, capital construction and downtown renewal.

If you are re-elected, what issues will you address during your next term in office? How will you use the power of your position to address those issues?

If re-elected, my second term will be focused on working with the Pennsylvania General Assembly to identify a dedicated funding source for mass transit agencies like the Port Authority. My goal is to develop a more efficient, effective and fiscally responsible transit system that continues to provide quality service to riders. I'll also continue to work with City officials to eliminate duplicated services and further streamline County government.

Richard Swartz

Why are you running for office?

I have decided to run for County Executive because I believe there needs to be more of a 'bottom-up' style to the decision-making process in county government, as opposed to the 'top-down' method used by the incumbent. There are too many examples today of county officials making critical decisions about the allocation of resources for personnel, the implementation of major projects, and the management of county-related services and agencies in a vacuum of public consultation and input.

What qualifications / education / experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the position?

I have spent 26 years working at the grass-roots level to implement change in the communities served by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation. Much of this work has been aimed at changing how public institutions (e.g., city government, schools) do business in these communities, and how private companies and individuals handle their obligations and responsibilities to these same constituencies.

If you are elected, what will be your first priorities? How will you use the power of your new position to handle/address those priorities?

My first priorities, if elected, would be to open up the process by which decisions are going to be made around important challenges that face the county every day: ensuring the public safety of all residents through the effective operation of our law enforcement agencies, courts and the county jail, and Shuman Center; developing a plan for a stronger mass transit system that gradually turns to light-rail by 2022; fixing our real estate assessment system so that it can allow for modest, incremental growth in the city's tax base; holding public schools accountable for their performance in preparing the next generation for the demands of the 21st century workplace; increasing the county's reserve for improvements to the infrastructure of the county's municipalities so that economic and housing developments can occur more readily.

Editor's Note: Mr. Swartz's petition is being challenged in court and a hearing has been set for March 30 to determine if he will remain on the ballot. This hearing is past the Bulletin's press time.

Pittsburgh Public School Board District 2

Heather Arnet

Why are you running for office?

I am running for school board because our schools are at the heart of our city. Better schools will bring about a better Pittsburgh. A top-performing school district will attract and retain families and businesses to Pittsburgh. As a mother, a homeowner, and business leader I am committed to bringing vision, integrity, and accountability to the school board. I will work with parents and school officials to make sure that academic progress continues to move forward, that children have access to achieve academic excellence in safe environments, and that taxpayer dollars are managed responsibly so that more families and businesses will decide to call Pittsburgh home.



What qualifications / education / experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the position?

I have my Bachelor's Degree from Carnegie Mellon University and have worked as a corporate and non-profit executive for over ten years. Currently I am the Executive Director of a non-profit organization with an annual budget of over \$1 million. I also serve on several non-profit and public boards and commissions. Considering that the Pittsburgh Public School District's annual budget is significantly more than the city of Pittsburgh's annual budget, it is crucial that school board members have experience and comfort in reading financial statements and making large budgetary decisions. My executive management and board management experience provides me with a good understanding of the roles and responsibilities of board and staff. The non-profit I manage also offers youth and educational programming to the community and I will bring that knowledge to the school board as well.

If you are elected, what will be your first priorities? How will you use the power of your new position to handle/address those priorities?

My priorities will be: to improve student achievement throughout the district, to decrease racial and socio-economic achievement gaps for all students, to ensure school environments are safe, and to manage the district's budget and tax dollars responsibly and with integrity. I will pursue these priorities by becoming familiar with all of the current policies, strategic plans, and performance goals of the district and the superintendent; by studying the best examples of successful educational systems locally and nationally; and by developing good working relationships with district staff, families, and fellow board members because it is through mutual respect and conversation that we can reach consensus and pursue common goals together.

Stephanie Tecza

Why are you running for office?

I am concerned about the district because over the past number of years - I have seen the student enrollment decline and families are choosing other educational options over our Public Schools. - I am concerned that when our district speaks about ALL children they do not mean ALL children. - Parents with children of diverse needs are not fully represented throughout our districts committees - I will not use this office as a stepping stone to seek a further political office - I am in this because I care about our schools, kids, families and communities



What qualifications / education / experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the position?

- 18 years experience advocating for children and families in public schools.
- Graduate of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh • 33 year resident of Pittsburgh • Polish Hill • Parent of a current Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) Student and graduate of PPS
- Member of the Polish Hill Civic Association • Community Garden Beautification Committee • 18 year member & past chairwoman of The Local Task Force on the Right to Education • Board member & current secretary of Parent Education Advocacy and Leader Center • Graduate Institute for Community Leadership in Education (Leadership program offered through the Education Law Center/Pennsylvania School Reform Network) I have an extensive list of my active participation through my community and school involvement. A complete list is available upon request.

If you are elected, what will be your first priorities? How will you use the power of your new position to handle/address those priorities?

- To work with PPS administration and board members to strive for academic excellence for ALL children.
- Build confidence in the Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) so that families view PPS as a desirable educational option.
- Support parental engagement efforts so that families feel they are welcomed and encouraged to participate in their child's education.
- Build stronger partnerships with local community and faith-based organizations to extend the PPS outreach to families.
- I want to monitor the spending and over-reliance on alternative funding so that programs and initiatives that are introduced to PPS through various funding sources are sustainable and do not become the responsibility of tax payers in the event alternative funding is jeopardized.

County Council - District 13

Councilwoman Brenda Frazier



Why are you running for re-election?

I am running for re-election in order to continue to serve the constituents of District 13 by having a budget that is balanced and reflects our priorities while at the same time making county services more accessible.

What have you done during your time in office that has improved the lives of your constituents and proves that you are a good leader for the city?

- Sponsored & supported legislation that allowed the four Kane regional centers to remain open, more efficient, and to offer more services.
- Helped polling places to become more accessible
- Helped women and minorities receive more contracts from the county

If you are re-elected, what issues will you address during your next term in office? How will you use the power of your position to address those issues?

As new industries come into the district, I will be working on legislation that attracts newcomers and will be advantageous to our existing residents.

I will accomplish this as chair of the Economic Development and Housing Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, Health and Human Services Committees and by joining hands with community groups and other elected officials to work on plans that are beneficial to our community.

Matt Arena



Why are you running for office?

Allegheny County needs a change. Council members seem to overlook the citizens when trying to come up with solutions to problems. The current transportation issue is a mess. We must not penalize the citizens that need transportation most. Save money by streamlining longer routes, adding short feeder routes, cut back by slightly increasing the time between trips. These are examples of change that will not completely leave the people devastated.

What qualifications / education / experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the position?

College educated, owned multimillion dollar Corp. Sat on the governing board of Family Services of Western PA for 9 years. Was Alleg City Clerk of Courts Exec Administrator. I prepared the budget and handled the day to day operation. Under my tutelage we never went over budget. Worked for Allegheny County Council as a Legislative Aide for 3 ½ years, I prepared the budget, watched for overspending by the Row Offices and all county departments. Prepared and researched issues for all Council Members. Government is big business; I have the experience to run it.

If you are elected, what will be your first priorities? How will you use the power of your new position to handle/address those priorities?

Keep out the ridiculous and self-serving legislation currently being passed. I can raise a large amount of money on a yearly basis; could be applied as a steady stream for the transportation crisis. Not be a rubber stamp for the Chief Executive and the President of Council. My independence would require me to research issues prior to voting on them. If they are good for the people, I would fight to get them passed. If they aren't good for the people, I would fight to stop them.

Vernon Boozer

Why are you running for office?

I am running because out of 15 members in county council, of 13 districts, only two are African American. And now they want to make it less than that. Also, because African Americans [are] represented here in Allegheny County.

What qualifications / education / experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the position?

- Qualifications: Committee member of the 26th ward for almost 12 years (4 years as vice chair). Education: 2001, B.S. Point Park College. Experience: recording secretary for Local 4941 United Steel Workers for 15 years.

If you are elected, what will be your first priorities? How will you use the power of your new position to handle / address those priorities?

My first concern would be establishing a good working relationship with the County Executive and the other county council members, where as I may introduce legislation on public [safety], health and welfare, and economic development.

Editor's Note: Mr. Boozer's petition is being challenged in court. All candidates whose petitions were challenged and who were removed from the ballot have ten days from the date the decision is filed to appeal - for most candidates, this deadline is past the Bulletin's press time.

County Council - District 10

Bill Robinson



Why are you running for re-election?

30 years experience as an elected official political consultant, educator. Experience at three levels of government - state, county, municipal.

What have you done during your time in office that has improved the lives of your constituents and proves that you are a good leader for the city?

Government Reform at all three levels of government

If you are re-elected, what issues will you address during your next term in office? How will you use the power of your position to address those issues?

- 1) Community benefits agreements on ALL County development projects
- 2) More accountability related to boards and authorities
- 3) Row office reform

Pittsburgh City Council District #7

Councilman Len Bodack



Why are you running for re-election?

I have high regard for public service. I love the opportunity to get things done for our community.

What have you done during your time in office that has improved the lives of your constituents and proves that you are a good leader for the city?

As you know, I value quality of life issues above all. It's my responsibility as your councilman to ensure that your problems are being addressed and government is doing its part to make your lives better. Whether it's additional policing of our communities through our weed and seed efforts in Lawrenceville, working with community groups to shut down nuisance bars, bringing resources for the Penn Ave. reconstruction project, or leveraging funds to reduce blight and eliminate dilapidated housing, improving your quality of life is my number one priority. I have addressed some of these issues through legislation but there is much left to do. I'm a good listener and you will find many of the community's suggestions within my legislation. At the same time all this work must be done while being fiscally responsible.

If you are re-elected, what issues will you address during your next term in office? How will you use the power of your position to address those issues?

We've made great progress to improve Pittsburgh's economic future, but still face challenges. We've reduced debt slightly, but legacy costs, pension and health care are rising, while our largest non-profits and corporations have not fully shouldered their responsibility. I promise to continue working as your advocate, to find solutions, and maintain the quality of service you expect and deserve from your government.

Patrick Dowd



Why are you running for office?

The city elections in May represent an unprecedented opportunity for voters to empower a fresh, optimistic team of public servants dedicated to a vision for our future. This is our chance to build a city in which more people can live, raise a family and retire. Elected officials have a duty to be good stewards of limited resources and accountable to every hard-working Pittsburgher who counts on them. The current representative of this district has failed to do that.

What qualifications / education / experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the position?

On the School Board, I built consensus and saw it through, all the while remaining convinced that good people deserve good government. I am asking for you to recognize my leadership, and to send a candidate to City Council with skills that have restored confidence in our schools, brought our budget under control, brought millions of new dollars to the district, and focused on student achievement.

If you are elected, what will be your first priorities? How will you use the power of your new position to handle/address those priorities?

- 1) I will focus on reinvesting in our city's housing stock to make it more livable and affordable for working families. Current estimates tell us that there are 15,000 vacant properties across the City. Those properties are making our neighborhoods less safe, and boarding them all up and tearing them all down, as the district's current representative has suggested, would take 75 years.
- 2) The City Council must come together to establish a long-term transit vision for the City of Pittsburgh. We must assess the status of transit projects around the City, assess the needs of riders, and determine the most affordable, innovative, and comprehensive way to meet the needs of existing riders and attract new riders to the Pittsburgh Public Transit system.
- 3) Reforming city government to make it a more transparent and potent legislative body. Pittsburghers have lost confidence in City Council thanks to do-nothing legislators, short-sighted policies, cronyism and patronage, and a lack of vision for the region.

Tom Fallon



Why are you running for office?

I am running for City Council District 7 because of the lack of leadership and vision by the current legislator.

What qualifications / education / experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the position?

For the past 5 years, I have worked directly at the local government level for Senator Jim Ferlo. With my experience in local and state government, I have developed lasting relationships with many of the directors of the City's departments. These working relationships are maintained to continue assisting neighborhood organizations in their efforts to better the community. I bring the same commitment at the State level where I have cultivated the same levels of trust and communication with the Commonwealth's Departments and the area's State legislators. I hold a bachelor's degree from Kent State University in Marketing with a minor in international business.

If you are elected, what will be your first priorities? How will you use the power of your new position to handle/address those priorities?

To work with the Port Authority of Allegheny County to address City residents' concerns about a viable mass transit system.

Develop alternate revenue sources through the Pittsburgh Film Office and Visit Pittsburgh that do not rely on taxing City residents as well as working with State legislators in developing alternative taxes to replace the regressive property tax. Work with the area's foundations and non-profit organizations to bring back some vital City services eliminated during ACT 47.

Editor's Note: Mr. Fallon's name was removed from the Primary Ballot by decision of Judge Joseph James. All candidates whose petitions were challenged and who were removed from the ballot have ten days from the date the decision is filed to appeal - for most candidates, this deadline is past the Bulletin's press time.

Pittsburgh City Council District #9

Gerald Brown

A representative of Mr. Brown has contacted the Bulletin to inform us that he is withdrawing his candidacy for District #9.

William Anderson

No response to the Candidate Questionnaire had been received as of press time.

A Note on Rachel Cooper

Editor's Note:

Editor's Note: Rachel Cooper's name was removed from the Primary Ballot by decision of Judge Joseph James. All candidates whose petitions were challenged and who were removed from the ballot have ten days from the date the decision is filed to appeal - for most candidates, this deadline is past the Bulletin's press time. Since Ms. Cooper holds the Democratic endorsement, a vote to determine a new candidate for endorsement will be held on Saturday, March 31 if she either chooses either to not appeal the decision, or loses her appeal. This date is past the Bulletin press time. Please look for further information in the May 2007 issue of The Bulletin.

Pittsburgh City Council District #9 - Page 1

Councilwoman Twanda Carlisle

Why are you running for re-election?

I am running for re-election to continue to drive economic growth in District #9. As new homes and businesses begin to be constructed in areas throughout the district, it is my continued duty to ensure affordable homes in safe communities. Garfield is on the fast track for much development through groups such as Garfield-Jubilee Association, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, and yes, the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, in which I sit as a board member, where last year (2006), we allocated the largest minority contract ever to a developer, KBK Enterprises, a former Garfield resident, to redevelop the Garfield Community. I continue to have a vision of the community – One to see a community where you can walk to work (Children's Home or the new Children's Hospital) art & culture (along Penn Avenue), and a safer community (closing nuisance area bars), then come home and relax on your porch without the threat of gun violence. This is why I continue to run for District #9, to make all our dreams, hope and visions a reality.



What have you done during your time in office that has improved the lives of your constituents and proves that you are a good leader for the city?

As Chair of Housing & Economic Development and as a HACP board member, we have begun to blend our neighborhoods together to ensure a richer and more vibrant community. Many projects are now beginning to be developed in this rich community. I work with organizations that will work with the masses. (Also, see above answer; it all ties together.)

If you are re-elected, what issues will you address during your next term in office? How will you use the power of your position to address those issues?

The issues of our community continue to be quality of life issues: public safety, jobs and development. I will work stronger with community organizations, churches and groups to address our youth in the community. Work to identify which youth need services and match the services with the youth and their families – this way some of the youth-oriented crime can and will diminish. Working with and for the people of the district is and will be my continued mission.

Rev. Ricky Burgess

Why are you running for office?

I'm troubled by the present state of affairs in the East End. Boarded-up homes, abandoned business and vacant lots litter our neighborhoods. Crime, poverty and violence are escalating at alarming rates. I want to reduce the violence and redevelop the community. I believe it's time for the mature, responsible and capable residents to take back our neighborhoods. It's time to bring credible, competent and community-centered leadership to the 9th Council District.



What qualifications / education / experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the position?

I've been a leader in this community for over 20 years. Currently, I'm Pastor of the Nazarene Baptist Church, Professor of Communications at Community College of Allegheny County, Executive Director of the SC's Corporation and Board Member of the Allegheny County Board of Health. I've developed a variety of educational, counseling, offender rehabilitation and family support programs. I've lived in this East End my entire life. I am aware of the community's problems and perils; and have thoroughly examined potential solutions to the daunting quality of life issues in the East End.

3.) If you are elected, what will be your first priorities? How will you use the power of your new position to handle/address those priorities?

My council priorities are fivefold: 1) Reduce the violence in our neighborhoods 2) Economically redevelop our communities 3) Ensure quality education for our children 4) Improve the health and welfare of our families 5) Increase city services in our district. I believe with effective leadership, the East End community can be revived, restored and redeveloped. To create this renaissance, we the residents must reach consensus, create a common agenda, and articulate unified concerns. We must stand up and vote in the best interests of our community, its people and its future. We must all stand together, White and Black, Rich and Poor, Old and Young, as responsible and committed members of this East End community because united we stand, divided we fall. I humbly ask the residents of the 9th Council to stand with me and together, let's take back our community.

Ora Lee Carroll

Why are you running for office?

I am running for change, to expand the knowledge of the people. I am willing to serve and protect and provide the best service the city / state / federal [governments] have to offer.

What qualifications, education / experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the position?

High School - 1958; CCAC 1993. CEO / Director of East Liberty Concerned Citizens Corp (ELCCC) for 24 years; organizer; develop public safety personal programming; develop & create community jobs for young & old; develop vegetable / herb / fruit / flower garden; develop environmental cleanup program; spearheaded the Larimar Community Plan Redevelopment Housing; worked with city/state/federal representatives; staff planning.



If you are elected, what will be your first priorities/ How will use the power of your position to handle/address these priorities?

The first thing that needs to be done before taking political office is to identify the problems that need to be addressed in the neighborhood. I would work with residents and state/federal/local officials in building a relationship with funders and forming partnerships to create jobs, fair opportunities to own your own home or business, improving the city of Pittsburgh's environmental image, and work towards developing light industries to create a money base.

Rachel Cooper

Please see note on preceding page

Why are you running for office?

Those of us who reside in District 9 are tired of broken promises. More importantly, we are tired of being taken for granted. We deserve a leader that genuinely cares about the constituents in the East End. We need a leader that is accessible to residents, community stake-holders and the media. We need a leader that is able to build relationships and form coalitions that positively impact our neighborhoods. With new leadership in place, we can create an East End that we can be proud of. As your representative on City Council, I will be visible, accessible and accountable for my actions and to the voters who put me in office.



What qualifications / education / experience?

In addition to being in politics for more than half of my life, I have had the opportunity to work in national politics. While working to graduate Summa Cum Laude at Howard University, I had an opportunity to work in media and interview national figures such as presidential candidates Barack Obama, and Hilary Clinton. While working in Washington, DC covering politics, it was imperative that I research the legislation and political trends in other states so that I was knowledgeable and informed when it was time to interview congressman and senators. My political experience along with my business management skills, academic training, professional demeanor and first-hand knowledge of East End politics, makes me a highly qualified candidate.

If you are elected, what will be your first priorities?

Public Safety, Business Development, Residential Development, Senior Citizens, & Children & Youth My first priority will be to clean up the district. I will collaborate with community leaders and stakeholders to create an innovative, strategic plan that will take District 9 to the next level. I will build working relationships with the Pittsburgh Police Department, Department of Public Works, and the Bureau of Building Inspectors so that we can start addressing our most important quality of life issues. We cannot begin serious economic development discussions until we address our immediate public safety needs. Geographically, District 9 is the largest district in the city of Pittsburgh. Enticing viable businesses into the district would mean a decrease in the unemployment rates, crime, and increased tax revenues. We need a Comprehensive Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan for District 9 that not only focuses on housing, but also neighborhood amenities such as [as] skate parks, green space and recreational facilities that appeal to the young as well as the elderly. District 9 has a large aging population and we must insure that seniors receive services such as affordable housing, reduced meals, transportation, recreation and accessible healthcare that they are entitled to.

Pittsburgh City Council District #9 - Page 2

Judith Ginyard

Why are you running for office?

To provide leadership in transforming an economically deprived district into a healthy productive one; I will approach the critical issues that affect the quality and standard of living; while maintaining fiscal and ethical integrity. I will work hard to do what is right for the entire 9th Council District. I will put my experience, my integrity, and my fervor for fairness at your service. I will strengthen the community by implementing policies that promote and cherish life for everyone.



What qualifications / education / experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the position?

I have 14+ years of experience as a licensed real estate professional, 8 years as Executive Director of a local community development group; 13 years with the VA and I served in the United States Army. I graduated from the Pittsburgh Public School system and received my secondary education at CCAC and Point Park College, where I studied both accounting and real estate.

If you are elected, what will be your first priorities? How will you use the power of your new position to handle/address those priorities?

I believe in an interactive transparent form of government which allows a fair systematic procedure for the allocation of public funding that is inclusive of taxpayers and community groups. I will meet with the district to ascertain, prioritize and implement our needs and support new endeavors that will be positive and productive for the community at large.

Leah Kirkland

Why are you running for office?

I'm running for City Council because I have a vision and a plan to stabilize the 9th Council District. I am asking for your VOTE! Together, you and I must bring healing to our communities by renewing our commitment to improve living conditions in the 9th Council District. I refuse to stand by and watch my community continue to deteriorate without a fight.



2.) What qualifications / education / experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the position?

As an active member of numerous academic, political and service-oriented organizations, I believe that I am not only a good candidate but also a highly qualified candidate. I hold a Bachelors Degree in Political Science. I am a former Judge of Elections, Majority Clerk for Allegheny County Elections Department and have worked on various political campaigns for candidates and elected officials. I am a Committee Person and Director of the 12th Ward Economic Development Sub-Committee

3.) If you are elected, what will be your first priorities? How will you use the power of your new position to handle/address those priorities?

My first priority will be to organize and staff my office with like-minded, qualified individuals who are prepared to give 110%. I will use my position to cultivate change and to create vital relationships that will help our mission. If elected, I will focus on the following areas: Senior Citizens, Children & Youth, Crime Prevention, Employment & Training, Economic Development.

Eric Smith

Why are you running for office?

I want to create a major change in our children's lives for the better. I will decrease the level of violence in our communities and our schools. I want a better community for our children and our seniors in Pittsburgh.

What qualifications / education / experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the position?

I have a BA in political science from Point Park University. I've worked as an employment counselor for Allegheny County Probation. I've worked both as a Residential Counselor and Youth Counselor. Worked as a Branch manager and Financial Officer. I have strong experience in account management and fiscal budgeting.



If you are elected, what will be your first priorities? How will you use the power of your new position to handle/address those priorities?

1.) Community-based programs 2) Civil rights 3) a racially & gender balanced political force that reflects the community in which it serves. 4) Employment programs for youth. 5) Plan (employment & rehabilitation goals) for men and women who come out of jails back to our communities. I will push for laws in local government to achieve these goals. I will also work with Fortune 500 companies as well.

Randall Taylor

Why are you running for office?

I am running for city council because I know change can be made... many communities such as Homewood, Lincoln-Larimer, and Garfield have been left out in this city while other communities have seen progress. We must change conditions in these communities. Where we have seen homeownership decrease, we must increase it, where we have seen crime run rampant, we must challenge it, where we have seen hopelessness manifest, we must grow confidence and optimism. Change can occur when strong committed people come together.

What qualifications / education / experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the position?

I have served on the Pittsburgh Board of education since 1997. I have chaired organizations and committees such as the NAACP Education Committee, Lincoln-Larimer Development Corp, Healthy Start east end consortium, and other leadership positions. I have worked with numerous people and organizations to fight the problems that diminish the quality of life in our communities. I have been a part of creating and building many successful programs and initiatives. Two of my proudest accomplishments [were] the securing of a new school in Homewood and the renovation of Westinghouse High School.

If you are elected, what will be your first priorities? How will you use the power of your new position to handle/address those priorities?

1.) Housing – We must work to bring homeownership within the reach of working families. 2.) Crime – We must make our communities safe for our Children, Families and Businesses. 3.) Making the Council office a visible, vocal and uncompromising instrument for change.

Looking for a Loan? Don't Be a Victim of Fraud

By Randa Lowe

Client Service Manager

Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group

"Sign here. Now here. And here." Who hasn't heard this when buying a mortgage loan? You didn't have time to read the documents, or you relied on the mortgage broker to tell you what the documents said. You may not even have understood what was in the documents. What you do know is that you got a home and a payment you can afford. You trust your mortgage broker has done the right thing for you and you feel great because it was relatively easy to get your mortgage.

Two years pass. You make all your payments on time and are "living the America Dream" of homeownership. Then one day you open your mortgage statement and discover your payment has increased...a lot.

You call your mortgage company and the person on the phone says you have an adjustable rate mortgage and your interest rate has gone up three percent. The person explains that your mortgage will now be reviewed every six months and it could go up each time. The person tells you to read your mortgage note and your paperwork from two years ago because "it is all in there."

You hang up the phone and search for your mortgage papers that you put away two years ago. You sit down at your table and are shocked to discover that your mortgage payment can go up even higher. The more you read, the more your heart sinks. "How" you ask yourself "am I going to afford this?"

Determined to get back to the payment you've had for two years, you call another mortgage broker to inquire about refinancing your current mortgage into a fixed rate loan. The mortgage broker takes your information and calls back with information. The broker explains that with the changes in the local housing market and a loan balance is as high as yours, they cannot refinance you at this time. You discover the amount of your current mortgage is higher than the value of your home.

At the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG), we hear this story over and over. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to undo this damage once it has been done. There are some actions that can be taken if there are indications of deliberate fraud or "bait and switch" schemes. Some mortgage lenders are willing to do what is called a loan modification or work out agreements once you have gotten into trouble (missing mortgage payments or making partial payments). Sometimes, it is not enough to prevent personal financial disaster and foreclosure on your home.

The best way to prevent this from happening to you and your family is to ask questions and read all your documents BEFORE you sign them.

First, ask yourself if you really need this loan, especially if you are considering refi-

Ask these questions from your broker and take notes at the loan closing:

- How much money am I borrowing?
- What kind of mortgage am I getting?
- If you are getting anything other than a fixed rate mortgage, have them explain how the loan works.
- What is the interest rate?
- Will the interest rate go up? If so, how much, how often and how does it change your monthly payment?
- Is there PMI insurance required? If so, how much and for how long?
- What is my monthly payment?
- Does my monthly payment include taxes, insurance, PMI and any other fees? If not, ask for an estimate of how much those additional payments will cost per month.
- How much is the broker getting in fees? What percentage of the whole mortgage does that come to?

nancing. Have you looked at other alternatives to pay down credit card debt or your car note besides borrowing against your home?

Secondly, have all paperwork sent to you prior to your closing and have it reviewed by a lawyer, housing counselor, family member or trusted friend. Mark all changes you want to see included on the paperwork, initial and date them, and return the paperwork to your mortgage broker to be revised in time for your closing. During your closing, look over the new paperwork to make sure your changes have been incorporated into the documents you are signing. Have the mortgage broker point out the page where it states the terms of your loan. Never sign blank documents or let someone tell you that they will fill them in later.

Your closing is not complete until you have copies of everything you have signed. Do not leave until you are handed these copies. Make sure you have a copy of every document you signed.

Bottom line, if something seems too good to be true, it usually is. Save yourself heartache, stress, sleepless nights and thousands of dollars in fees and charges by following this advice. PCRG is a non-profit organization helping individuals understand the types of mortgage products on the market that are best suited for you. For more information or if you have questions visit our website at <http://www.pcr.org> and download our "Tips for Buying a Mortgage" and other materials to help educate you on the mortgage process. You can also call us toll free at 866.907.2285 and ask us to mail you this information.

Attention Property Owners in Bloomfield and Lawrenceville!

Rumor in the neighborhood has it that the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh has been approaching property owners to acquire properties.

The Bulletin has received word from Children's Hospital Administration that Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC has NOT been acquiring residential properties in the Bloomfield and Lawrenceville Neighborhoods.

There has been confusion because one of the organizations that has been acquiring properties uses a similar name.

There is no further information at this time.

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Need Cash? Don't fall for it! Easy credit can lead to a hard life and you could lose your home.

Three Steps to Avoid Unrequested Credit Offers

1. Sign up for opt out of credit card offers by visiting:

<https://www.optoutprescreen.com>

2. Register your phone number in the do not call list by visiting:

<https://www.donotcall.gov>

3. If you need a loan get a second opinion. Avoid easy credit offers, no document loans, low monthly rates and rent to own home purchases. If you accept a bad loan you will still be responsible for the loan payments.

Visit your local bank or HUD credit counselor with your credit report and get second opinion on your loan options. For HUD credit counselors in your area you please call: 866-907-2285

To obtain your free credit report visit the official web site:

<https://www.annualcreditreport.com>

Before you borrow call:
866-907-2285 for important information



A Public Service Announcement
From
The Pittsburgh Community
Reinvestment Group





JOIN THE STAFF OF WEST PENN HOSPITAL FOR
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www.wpahs.org



Bear is a sweet eight-year-old Akita who was slated to be euthanized at another shelter. Luckily, we brought him to Animal Friends instead, where he has been working with our medical team to deal with some joint pain.

This gentle giant is laid back and happily welcomes volunteers into his suite. Bear is fully housebroken and loves to go on walks, although he prefers short ones right now. Due to his great strength and the need for special care for his joints, we are hoping to find Bear a home without infants or toddlers.

This fluffy guy will win your heart with his adorable face and friendly attitude. Swing by and show this pooch some love!

If you'd like to meet Bear or for more information call or stop by the
Animal Friends new location at 562 Camp Horne Road Pittsburgh, PA 15237 10 minutes north of downtown Pittsburgh. Ph. 412.847.7041, www.animal-friends.org

GOOD DOG is written by Jay Bernard, a "foster parent" for shelter dogs. Each month the column features an animal up for adoption by local shelters or tips for dog owners.



Borrow Smart:

CONSUMER OR SMALL BUSINESS LOANS



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Neighborhoods Academy Unveils Neighborhood 'Scapes Mural



Mandy Kendall / The Bulletin

THE NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY AND ARTIST SANDRA MOORE UNVEILED THE MURAL "NEIGHBORHOOD SCAPES" AT AN ART EXHIBIT AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY SCHOOL IN GARFIELD. THE MURAL, WHICH IS PAINTED ON THE WALL OF THE SCHOOL'S CAFETERIA, WAS CREATED BY SANDRA MOORE, WINNER OF THE THREE RIVER'S ARTS FESTIVAL 2006 EMERGING ARTISTS AWARD, AND NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY STUDENTS CHENOBA BAILEY, ABIGAIL BUETNER, MARCELL SELLERS AND MICHAEL WASHINGTON. THE MURAL WEAVES A VARIETY OF SIGHTS FROM THE SCHOOL AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY INTO A TAPESTRY OF VIBRANT SHAPES, RICH COLORS AND VIVID IMAGERY. THE EXHIBIT ALSO FEATURED ART WORK FROM OVER 25 NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY STUDENTS, ALONG WITH TWO VISUAL ART INSTALLATIONS INCLUDING A MUSIC VIDEO AND "THE MAKING OF NEIGHBORHOOD SCAPES."

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- Allegheny & St. Mary's Cemetery Association AMVETS POST #64
- Make-a-Wish Foundation
- MDA
- Lawrenceville "Art All Night"

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S I M P L E

Professional Organizer Carol Briney offers suggestions and answers your questions about overcoming the clutter in your life.



ARE YOU TOO BUSY?

It makes me sad to hear how many Americans wear

the routine of working 24/7 as a badge of honor and pride. What has happened to leisure time? What happened to all of the labor-saving devices that are supposed to make our lives easier?

Far too many people consider working a 60 – 80 hour work week an accepted standard. Our grandparents fought for a 40-hour work week. What are we thinking? Most of us are sleep-deprived, in debt, and suffer from stress-related challenges.

What can we do about it?

There are no easy answers. However, here are a few suggestions that may be beneficial for you as they were for me.

Learn to say no. It is ok to not go to every event that you are invited to attend. It is ok not to be on every volunteer committee, and it is ok to say no to our family when it is necessary. Take stock of your life. Decide what it is that brings you joy. Do those things;

By Carol Briney
Professional Organizer

the others JUST SAY NO.

Learn to spend less than you make. When money is not a problem in your life, your life gets much less hectic. Do you really need to keep up with the Joneses? There are as many ways to save money as there are people on this planet. When my husband and I went through our spending, we were amazed at some of the frivolous things we spent money on that we did not even enjoy. Be sure that you REALLY want what you are spending money on. In fact, I suggest waiting 30 days to make purchases. If what you want is still on your mind after 30 days, then buy it. More likely than not, you will be on to something else after that amount of time.

Live your values. Make a list of your priorities. Review the things that are most important to you. Keep these things first in your life.

See BUSY, Page 20

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FREE TO THE PEOPLE

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

A Splendid Friend Tea Party

For families with children ages 3-8. Stories, and activities celebrating friendship. Saturday, April 14, 12 p.m.

Preschool Storytime

For ages 3-5. Thursdays, April 5, 12, 19, & 26, 10:30 a.m.

Tell-a-Tale Theater

For ages 3-7. Featuring the book *Where the Wild Things Are* Saturday, April 28, 11 a.m.

East Liberty PC Center:

Introduction to Computers

Do you know how to use a mouse? What about the different parts of the computer? If you are unsure about any of these

questions, this class is for you! Learn the basics of a computer, mouse and keyboard as a prerequisite for all our other computer classes. NOTE: This class is designed for those who have little or no computer experience. Tuesday, April 3 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. OR Monday, April 16 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. OR Friday, April 27 from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

eBay Workshop

Learn how to buy and sell items on eBay – with confidence and ease. Whether you're a new entrepreneur, a homeowner cleaning out your attic or a savvy consumer in search of neat stuff, this seminar will teach you to safely and profitably shop and sell in today's hottest marketplace. Presented by: Nancy J. Cheskey, Small Business Specialist, U.S. Postal Service. Prerequisite: Learn the

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WWW or solid mouse, keyboarding, Windows, and Internet experience. Wednesday, April 18 from 12:30-3 p.m.

To register for these classes or for more information about our free computer classes, call the PC Center-East Liberty at 412-363-6105. This service has been funded with federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds administered by the Office of the Commonwealth Libraries.

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

A Splendid Storytime

For ages 3-5. Refreshments, crafts and other activities Thursday, April 12, 11 a.m.

Preschool Storytime

For ages 3-5. Thursday, April 19, 11 a.m.

Lifelinks Lecture: Healthier Todays and Tomorrows, Aging Well for Adults Tuesday, April 24, 3 p.m.

A Splendid Family Craft, Indeed!

For all ages. Weave a paper friendship quilt. Saturday, April 2, 12-5 p.m.

Puppet Show

For all ages. Thursday, April 26, 11 a.m.



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BULLETIN BOARD

PHOTOS NEEDED FOR EAST END /E. LIBERTY HISTORICAL BOOK

The East End/East Liberty Historical Society, a non-profit organization, has been commissioned to write an illustrated book on the history of our area, to be published by Arcadia Press, a major publisher of community books. We are looking for photographs to include in the book. They can be from any era. Any photographs we want to use would be scanned and returned immediately to their owners. If you have anything you would like to offer to the project, please contact Al Mann at 412-661-5947 or via e-mail at alfredmann_6@msn.com.

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY AT L'VILLE BLOSSOM TOUR

Lawrenceville's shops, galleries and studios invite the public to celebrate Earth Day. Each of the 14 participating businesses will offer tour-goers a different packet of flower seeds (while supplies last). Visit any of the following businesses along Butler St., Penn Ave. and 43rd St. to pick up a map of the Blossom Tour participants: Who New? Retro-Mod Décor, Megan Gillis Jewelry at Slaughterhouse Gallery, Jay Design Soaps & Gifts, Salon 22, Tracie Yorke Dance, Gallery on 43rd Street, Dandelions, Elements, Kiln-N-Time, Divertido, Pavement, Accezzorize, T's Upholstery and La Vie. The Blossom Tour begins on Friday, April 20, 10 to 6 pm and continues on Saturday, April 21, 10 to 6 pm and Sunday, April 22 (Earth Day), noon to 5 pm. For more information call 412-683-6488.

WILKINSBURG COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

On April 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Allegheny East will sponsor its 5th Annual Wilksburg Community Health Fair at the South Avenue United Methodist Church. Several area healthcare providers will be participating in the event. There will be free health screenings, an "Ask the Pharmacist" session, cooking demonstrations, information on healthy living and lots more! All are welcome to attend. If you need more info- please contact Kathy Bayer, Director of Marketing, Allegheny East MH & MR Center, Inc. at 412-371-7391, x 116 or email kbayer@aemhmr.org.

WE REMEMBER ELVIS BENEFIT FOR WEST PENN

The We Remember Elvis Fan Club will hold its 26th Annual Remember Elvis Spring Festival from 12 noon to 8:30 p.m. on April 27 and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 28 at the Holiday Inn, 401 Holiday Drive, Greentree, Pittsburgh, PA. We invite all Elvis fans to join us for two days of fun and Elvis memories. A dinner party, show and dance to end the festival will begin at 6:30 on April 28. We will have a guest speaker, Sandi Pichon; dealers selling Elvis memorabilia; auctions of

Elvis memorabilia; Elvis music; and Randy Galioto doing his special tribute to Elvis on Saturday night. This festival will benefit the Elvis Aaron Presley Visiting Fellowship at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital's Burn / Trauma Unit. General admission to the festival is \$5. Tickets, which include the festival, dinner, show & dance, are \$45 per person; reservations are required. For more information about this event or the fan club, please call Priscilla Parker at 412-561-7522.

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE TOUR

Mark your calendars! The 14th Annual Friendship House Tour will be held on Sunday, September 16, 2007, from 11a.m.-5p.m. As 2007 is the "Year of Glass" in Pittsburgh, the tour will begin at the Pittsburgh Glass Center, right in the heart of the Penn Avenue Arts District. Many of the homes on the tour have interesting glass amenities as well. For more information, please contact Sarah at 412-441-6147 x 7.

FRIENDSHIP FLOWER & FOLK FESTIVAL

The annual Friendship Flower and Folk Festival, a laid-back, family-friendly event, will be held on Saturday, May 12 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Baum Grove at the intersection of Harriet, S. Fairmount and Roup in Friendship. The Friendship Flower and Folk Festival is sponsored by Friendship Development Associates and Friendship Preservation Group. The all-day festival offers a fabulous selection of perennials, bedding plants and vegetables; music by local artists; ongoing demonstrations; and reasonably-priced food, such as special kids meals or grilled hot dogs or veggie burgers with all the trimmings. Please join us for a fun-filled community event! For more information contact Sarah Collins at 412-441-6147 x 7. Friendship Preservation Group (FPG) is also looking for donated items and services to include in the raffle at the festival. Your contribution could be a home-made or store-bought item, event tickets, or services such as sewing lessons or an oil change. Proceeds from the raffle support the FPG. Please contact Michael Amick at michaelamick@yahoo.com with all contributions. Your support is appreciated!

SUPPORT ARSENAL FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S CENTER

What if Arsenal Family and Children's Center earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Well, now you can! GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates ad revenue, about a penny per search, to the charity its users designate. Use it just like any search engine. It's powered by Yahoo!, so you get the same great results. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and enter Arsenal Family and Children's Center as the organization you want to support. Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7,300 in a year without anyone spending a dime! Please spread the word! Get started right now and down-

load the GoodSearch toolbar - <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbars.aspx>. Make GoodSearch the homepage on all computers in your company or school. <http://www.goodsearch.com/MakeHomepage.aspx>. Please spread the word about GoodSearch on blogs, message boards, myspace and facebook! Thank you very much for your support.

TENEBRAE SERVICE AT ST. MARY ASSUMPTION CHURCH

The St. Matthew Choir under the direction of Carol Spehar will present Tenebrae Service of Darkness on Monday, April 2, 2007, at 7 p.m. in St. Mary Assumption Church on 57th Street. This service focuses on seven episodes in the Passion and Death of our Lord. Each section consists of a reading from the gospel of Matthew or Luke, a choral meditation, and a responsive reading from one of the seven penitential psalms. Make plans to join us as we commemorate the final hours of our Lord's life on earth, as He suffered death upon the cross. For more information, please call 412-781-6701.

NEW BETHEL CHURCH SKILL BUILDERS TUTORING

New Bethel Church Skill Builders Tutoring located @ 221 43rd Street Lawrenceville is looking to recruit students in grades 1 thru 9 who require Math, Reading & Language Arts tutoring and homework help during the school year on Saturdays from 10 a.m. - Noon. Skill Builders software features help students study at their own pace. If you can work a keyboard and need help in any of the subjects listed, THEN THIS IS THE PLACE FOR YOU! All groups of study are FREE - refreshments served at the end of the session. Please contact: Nicita Moses, Tutoring Administrator at 412-728-4046 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday or by e-Mail at nicitamoses@verizon.net, or Dallane Ratley, Tutoring Instructor at 412-605-0126 for further details.

GLASS ACTION JOB TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Glass Action is a stained glass restoration social enterprise that will employ low-income individuals in the art of stained glass restoration. We will target historic structures in need of stained glass restoration that may not be able to afford going-rate restoration and contract with them on an application-based sliding scale. Glass Action will promote historic preservation, community and economic development and job creation and training. We are issuing a call for applications from ex-offenders who are interested in FT employment with benefits. Prospective employees must have demonstrated a commitment to recovery, employment and teamwork. No skills in stained glass restoration are required, though people who are good with their hands and able to learn new skills in manual labor are preferred. Please send resumes, references and

cover letters to: Glass Action, Union Project, 801 N. Negley Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 Fax: 412-363-1216.

PEABODY HIGH SCHOOL "ALL CLASSES" REUNION

Come join your former classmates and friends for a Peabody High Class Reunion for "ALL Classes." on Wednesday, July 4, 2007. The theme will be "Remembering Garfield, The Way It Was." The reunion will take place at the St. Lawrence O'Toole Activity Center, located at 140 N. Atlantic Avenue in Garfield from 6 p.m. til 12 a.m. After you've had the picnic with your families, join us for an evening of "Remembrance, Dance and Song." Hors d'oeuvres will be served; event is BYOB. Cost is \$10 per person, payable at the door. For more information, please contact Michelle Glass-Franklin at (323) 496-0412 or by e-mail at LHFranklin@msn.com; or Roxanne Miles-Thomas at (412) 661-2710 We hope to see you all there!!!

TRINITY GALLERY HOSTS GALLERY EXHIBITION

Trinity Gallery's first major exhibition of outside artists will showcase the work of local artists Jayne Osgood and Jesse Sharrard. The exhibition will run through April 21, 2007. A Pittsburgh native who returned to Pittsburgh from Marin County, California, Jayne Osgood uses varied subject matter and mixed media to create visually appealing images. She is a graphic designer and illustrator who specializes in architectural illustration. After studying English and Art at Tulane University in New Orleans, Jesse Sharrard's new work is an expression of his written thoughts through painting and sculpture. His artistic talent also lends itself to the culinary arts as he is a classically trained chef who works at an upscale area restaurant. Jesse will cater the opening reception. For more information, contact Dan Gaser at 412-687-2458 or e-mail at imdan@verizon.net.

GARFIELD FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

The Garfield Family Support Center provides free services to parents of young children to keep them abreast of their early childhood developmental expectations, as well as having the opportunity to enhance their parenting skills. The Support Center is a place in the community for parents and children to come together to share, support one another and learn about their community's resources and special events. The mission of the Garfield Family Support Center is to provide support and interact with families living in the Garfield community. The Support Center will focus on bringing families together to promote unity, leadership and awareness of the Garfield community. All Garfield residents who have children ages 0-5 years will be offered this free program and a full spectrum of services will also be available to school age children including

BULLETIN BOARD

homework and tutoring assistance. In addition, vocational training, educational programming and recreational activities will also be offered to teens and young adults. The Garfield Family Support Center offers the following services:

- Home visits for individual parents w/ Children ages 0-5 years.
- Child development activities
- Family Goal plans
- Parent to Parent interaction groups
- Parent and child play interaction groups
- Child development screenings
- Health Insurance assistance
- Computer classes for parents and children
- Parent and child read to succeed program
- Education and Employment and Career assistance
- Housing Assistance
- Conference lab for parent and group meetings
- Health and Child care information
- Food Bank
- Family referral services to community/ Human and Social services.

How do you sign up for these great programs here at Garfield Family Support Center? For more information about the Garfield Family Support Center, contact us at (412) 661-9560 or just stop by the Garfield Family Support Center located at 5315 Hillcrest Street in Garfield.

CANCER CARING CENTER PROGRAMS

The Cancer Caring Center in Bloomfield offers FREE emotional support services to cancer patients and their loved ones. Telephone counseling, personal counseling, and support groups offered in 16 locations throughout Pittsburgh and groups for children are available. New groups just added: Couple's Counseling, Yoga, and Pet Therapy for kids with Animal Friends. Call 412-622-1212, e-mail bonnie@cancercaring.org or visit cancercaring.org for more information.

UNBLURRED: FIRST FRIDAYS ON PENN

Penn Avenue Arts Initiative hosts Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn Friday, April 6. Unblurred is a monthly event that opens the Penn Avenue Arts District (4800-5500 Penn) for exploration by adults and children. This month's Unblurred showcases the third annual "Stations of the Cross, Interpretations and Meditations on the Passion of Jesus" at The Open Door. Local artists created their own interpretations of the traditional 14 Stations of the Cross. The evening also features events at Metamorphose, Modernformations and Imagebox. For a complete schedule visit www.pennavenuearts.org or pick up a handbill/map at participating locations.

URBAN FARM CLASSES

Mildreds' Daughters Urban Farm offers classes teaching sustainable and organic methods of urban growing. The cost is \$20.00 per person. Each class includes a farm tour and light refreshments. Call 412-799-0833 or email mildredsdaughters@earthlink.net to reserve a spot. 2007 classes are as follows:

Down and Dirty Saturday - May 5 11a.m.-1p.m. Hands-on class on soil enrichment and compost. Cinco de Mayo snacks and a farm tour.

Bugs and Bees - Saturday July 14 11a.m.-1p.m. Class on beneficial and bad insects. Recognition and treatment. Field walk. Herbal tea tasting, with edible flower snacks.

All About the Heirlooms - Saturday August 25, 11-1 p.m. Learn about the history and varieties of heirloom tomatoes. Tomato tasting.

Mildreds' Daughters Urban Farm is run by Barb Kline and Randa Shannon and is located at 1100 Normahill Drive Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15201. For more information, call 412-799-0833 or e-mail mildredsdaughters@earthlink.net.

PANIC-ANXIETY / DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUP

A panic-anxiety / depression support group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at U.C.P. Community Center, 4638 Centre Avenue at Neville Street in Oakland. For information, call 412-255-1155, or just drop by. NO FEE.

CAMP "R" OFFERS SUMMER PROGRAMS

Thinking about what your children will be doing this summer? Be sure to include Camp "R," located in beautiful Laurel Hill State Park. The week you choose will be one of the weeks of your child's summer vacation. Camp "R" is a co-ed residential camp with over 67 years of experience. Camp "R" is accredited by the American Camp Association. Please call 412-621-3342 for a brochure.

ADULT DAY SERVICES

Do you need a break from caring for an elderly parent or grandparent? Do you have a parent, aunt or uncle living with you who has one or more physical or psychological problems? The Catholic Youth Association's Stephen Foster Community Center Adult Day Service may be what you and your loved one need. Our Adult Day Service provides ten hours of care Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack are provided. Our compassionate, trained staff provides excellent care in your absence. Our program helps maintain and enhance cognitive skills and daily living skills. Give George a call at 412-621-3342 to arrange a visit and to receive more information. Caregiving is a tremendous stress. Don't let it take its toll on you.

SONLIGHT ACADEMY SUMMER PROGRAM

SonLight Academy is a not-for-profit organization that provides childcare for children ages 6 to 12 years old. SonLight Academy's goal is to provide safe and affordable childcare that is fun and educa-

tional. Currently registrations are being received for the summer program that begins June 11th and ends August 24th. The hours of operation are 6:30a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday thru Friday and the cost is \$75 per child per week.

MORNINGSIDE C.O.G.I.C. EASTER SERVICE

Morningside Church of God in Christ will hold its Easter Service on Sunday, April 1 at 4 p.m. *(Editor's note: The date of April 1 for this service was confirmed with Morningside C.O.G.I.C. and is NOT a misprint.)* Morningside C.O.G.I.C. is located at 5173 Dearborn Street in Garfield. For more information, please call 412-361-9865.

CONCERNED CITIZENS ADVOCATING FOR YOUTH CELEBRITY GALA 2007

Pittsburgh, Allegheny County will host the first "Concerned Citizens Advocating For Youth Celebrity Gala" on Tuesday, April 24, 2007 from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. in Point Breeze. The event, sponsored by the Royal Tribe arts organization will target Allegheny County and all surrounding counties in the southwestern Pennsylvania region. Coro Center for Civic Leadership, Urban League Young Professionals, Communities In Schools, The Soul Pitt, Citizens Police Review Board and many other organizations are partnering with Royal Tribe. A complimentary lavish foods buffet and drink assortments will accent the occasion. This gala event is part of a community initiative to mobilize and act upon collective ideas and methods for addressing issues surrounding the academic and life skills development of our regions youth. There are many ways in which we can work together. Among the many VIP guests will be actress and comedian "Sommone" who will be lending her time and national celebrity status to assist the citizens of Allegheny County in raising awareness of social issues that are plaguing this region - primary focus will be the alarming statistics involving African American youth - i.e. the homicide rate and declining graduation rate among the high school students. Attendees will have the opportunity to speak about their professional role in the community and how it can benefit young people to include arts and media professionals, teachers, principals, counselors, judges, doctors, lawyers, civic and community leaders, activists, youth advocates, coaches, athletes, bankers, financial consultants, and many other corporate business professionals. A portion of the proceeds raised in the Concerned Citizens Advocating For Youth Celebrity Gala will benefit up to three (3) locally recognized youth based charitable causes. All guests whom RSVP will be eligible to participate in the charity contest and the winners will receive up to \$3,000 on behalf of their selected locally recognized youth based charitable cause. RSVP early! Only a limited number of tickets will be available. To RSVP and purchase tickets contact Pro Arts Tickets on-line www.proartstickets.org or call (412) 394-3353. Donations can be made and will be

graciously appreciated for this worthy cause. All participants and attendees of the 2006 National Youth Arts Alliance Conference will receive a special rate. Sponsorship and Underwriting opportunities are available. For more information contact VIP Event Planner at vip@royaltribemusic.com or (412) 657-3327 To volunteer call (412) 657-3201 or info@royaltribemusic.com.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY THROUGH DANCE

National Dance Week is April 20 - 29! Come and enjoy the many ways that dance touches our lives with a week long celebration of FREE activities with Tracie Yorke Dance. Tracie Yorke Dance is an urban dance studio located in Pittsburgh's Lawrenceville neighborhood specializing in contemporary and traditional dance styles from around the world. (All activities will be held at the Ice House Artist Studios located at 100 43rd Street in Lawrenceville).

Friday, Apr 20 - Dance Open House: Explore Dance & Technology (All ages) Find out how dance & technology can intersect.

Saturday, Apr 21- Dance Open House: Dance Demos and Mini lessons! (All ages) Join us to see these dance styles and learn a few simple steps! 2 p.m. African Dance; 3 p.m. SOUL Steppin; 4p.m. Brazilian Samba, 5 p.m. Latin Salsa

Sunday, Apr 22 - Dance Open House: Community Drum Circle! Bring a drum (or other percussion instrument) and connect with your inner rhythm! 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Take a FREE Dance Class! Drop in on any of the following class all week. Arrive early. Space is limited.

Monday, April 23 - Hip- Hop 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. (Adult); Modern 6:15- 7:15 (Adult)
Tuesday, Apr 24 - SOUL Steppin 6 to 7 p.m. (Adult)

Wednesday, Apr 25 - Latin Salsa 7 to 8 p.m. (Adult)

Thursday, Apr 26 - Brazilian Samba 6 to 7p.m. (Adult)

Sunday, April 29 - Praise & Worship Dance 5 to 6 p.m. (Adult)

Dance Carnival Day -Saturday, April 28 12 - 3 p.m. (All ages) Bring the Whole Family to enjoy: Arts & Crafts, Storytelling, Dance, Music.

For more information, visit www.tracieyorkdance.com or call

OUR LADY OF ANGELS UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE

Our Lady of the Angels Parish Communications committee is proud to announce OLA's new website at www.OLAPgh.org. The new website offer information on masses, events in the geographic area surrounding Lawrenceville, parish events, along with the option of making online donations to the church or St. John Neuman School. Tickets for events may also now be purchased online. Check it out! www.OLAPgh.org

SINEGAL, From Page 1

It was partially his blue-collar upbringing that brought on Sinegal's unique philosophy towards his employees - Sinegal is most definitely not unsympathetic to workers trying to make a living.

The Costco CEO, whose business now brings in over \$60 billion annually, got his start delivering papers and working at the Giant Eagle on Penn before moving to San Diego with his family in 1951. That was quite a move, Sinegal says, as San Diego was a small town in 1951, compared to the bustling metropolis that was Pittsburgh.

In a rare move for a CEO in today's corporate world, Sinegal brings in a modest \$350,000, while paying his employees around \$17/hour on average, along with health benefits for full time and part-time workers alike. That means that an average full-time Costco employee working 40 hours/week would bring in over \$35,000 each year. It also means

that Costco has the lowest worker turnover rate in retail.

Sinegal says that he hadn't returned much to Pittsburgh except on business until a few years ago, when he reconnected with some old high school friends. That, he says, was a "great time."

Sinegal says that Pittsburgh is a far different place from the city it was in his childhood, when "at 3 in the afternoon it was black as midnight," and his mother wiped the soot from on top of the icebox every afternoon.

The changes he has seen are mostly for the good, Sinegal says, and although he was surprised that East Liberty was no longer the bustling area it had been when he left, he is pleased to hear of the growth that is planned and the changes that are happening.

"Every city goes through that," Sinegal says. But for the most part, Sinegal's opinion of the area is positive. "Pittsburgh is a beautiful city."



It's like finding money you didn't know you had.

National City and America Saves are working with the IRS to get the word out on how to keep more of the money you earn. It's called the Earned Income Tax Credit.

The Earned Income Tax Credit is one way to save, whether you're putting money away for home improvements, retirement or a rainy day. And it's another way we're looking out for the financial well-being of our customers and communities.

For more information on the Earned Income Tax Credit, call 1-800-829-1040 or visit the IRS at www.irs.gov/eitc.



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Applications being accepted for local apprentice programs

*From the Office of
State Representative Jake Wheatley*

Several local unions are accepting or soon will accept applications for apprentices.

Apprenticeships for those interested in working as commercial carpenters, residential carpenters, heavy highway carpenters, floor coverers, mill cabinet workers, millwrights or pile drivers, Carpenters' Joint Apprenticeship Committee of Greater Pennsylvania: In-person application required, first Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Carpenter Training Center, 222 Second St., Neville Island. Applicant requirements include being 17 or older -- people who will graduate by June 2007 are eligible to apply, physically capable of the work, and having a valid Pennsylvania driver's license, suitable transportation and a high school diploma or GED. For more information, call 412-262-1830, ext. 1, or visit www.greaterpacarpenters.org.

BUSY, From Page 16

Plan your day. Make a list of all the things you think you should do. Then go back and cross off the unimportant items. Come on, we all have them!

Plan time for some fun in each day.

Use time management skills. None of us can really manage time. We can, however, manage what we do with our time. Use a timer to keep on task with chores. Run errands all at once. Put time limits on meetings and phone calls.

Last but not least take a few minutes each day to perform small random acts of kindness. It will make the world a better place and it will certainly make you feel good too.

Go to www.universalor.com to check out Carol's newest workshop. HOME IS WHERE YOUR BUSINESS IS - A Workshop For People Thinking About Working From Home.

Until next time, I wish you the true riches of life, love, peace, happiness, and the time to enjoy it all.

Carol Briney is a Speaker, Trainer, and Holistic Professional Organizer. She can be reached at UniversalOrder@comcat.net 412.781.8

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