



# The Bulletin

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## Feds Suspend Plans for Rippey Street Complex After Community Speaks Out

By Paula Martinac  
*The Bulletin*

In a victory for one East Liberty neighborhood, the federal government has backed away from a plan to turn a vacant apartment complex on Rippey Street into transitional housing for nonviolent ex-offenders.

The building at 5620 Rippey Street has been empty since the federal government seized it and boarded it up in May of 2006, following the trial and conviction of its owner, drug lord Terrence Cole. And that was just fine with many of the residents of the street.

"There was a lot of trouble before it was boarded up," said Sarah Dieleman Perry, who has lived three houses down from the building with her husband, Bryan, for the past six years. "We don't want to see it return to what it was" – the site of loitering, loud music, and drug activity in what Dieleman Perry otherwise described as "a great neighborhood, a mix of homeowners and renters."

The Perrys joined other community

members, white and black, young and old, to voice their concerns about the federal government's plan, which was first revealed this spring. Immediately after the government seizure last year, East Liberty Development Inc. (ELDI) showed interest in purchasing the building for condos or rental units, and Kendall Pelling, the organization's planning and acquisition coordinator, contacted Ted Johnson, Chief of U.S. Probation and Pre-Trial Services. After repeated assertions that the building was not yet ready for auction, Johnson alerted ELDI to the ex-offender housing plan in May 2007. "My advisory group suggested we come to the community first," before implementing the plan, Johnson said.

Johnson detailed the government's plan to ELDI, several dozen neighborhood residents, and a local communi-

ty group, Mellon's Orchard Neighborhood Association (MONA), on June 7; Doug Williams, President of Renewal, Inc., the nonprofit organization to which the government proposed to entrust the creation of the housing program, was also present. At that initial meeting, community residents raised more than 30 questions about the project and asked Johnson to produce a written proposal for review by ELDI and MONA. No such document materialized, however, and then both Johnson and Williams failed to appear at a meeting on June 13. "We weren't prepared," Johnson explained.

A month later, on July 12, they came equipped with fact sheets and a video on ex-offender programs to a community meeting at the Urban League of Pittsburgh Charter School, where approximately 60 neighborhood people showed up to try to get answers to their questions. At the meeting, Johnson outlined his hopes for Rippey



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

**THE APARTMENT BUILDING AT 5620 RIPPEY STREET HAS BEEN BOARDED UP SINCE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SEIZED IT IN MAY OF 2006.**

Street. "It is my job to reintegrate ex-offenders," he said. That includes helping them land a job "with a salary they can be proud of" and obtain affordable housing – a place where they might have "an opportunity to be around other motivated people."

**See RIPPEY STREET, Page 9**



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

**VOLUNTEERS WORK ON REHABBING A HOUSE ON RURAL STREET AS PART OF THE "EAST END BLITZ."**

## Housing "Blitz" Takes East End by Storm

By Paula Martinac  
*The Bulletin*

Rain or shine, six single-family homes in Pittsburgh's East End are getting new life as part of a summer rehabilitation project called the "East End Blitz."

The Blitz is a collaborative effort among several East End churches, East Liberty Development Inc. (ELDI), and Hosanna Industries, a faith-based organization that builds and rehabs houses for first-time, low-income home buyers. Among the partner churches are East Liberty Presbyterian, Eastminster Presbyteri-

an, Valley View Presbyterian, Fox Chapel Presbyterian, Third Presbyterian, Fourth Presbyterian, and The Open Door. Each church sponsors a house and helps pull together a volunteer crew to accomplish the work.

The project "came from the Lord," said Blitz overseer Michael Stanton, a Garfield resident who studied at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and

developed what he calls "a passion for the East End" – a passion he found he shared with other former seminarians who graduated and elected to stay and help fight poverty in the inner city. Almost two years ago, Stanton and his wife purchased a home on North Fairmount Street, where they live with their three children, and "I've never had nicer neighbors," Stanton observed.

Through his theological work,

**See BLITZ, Page 3**

**SEPT.  
DEADLINE!**



The **FINAL DEADLINE** for the **September 2007** issue of The Bulletin is **Wednesday, August 15, 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



Courtesy Mikhail Pappas

(FROM RIGHT TO LEFT) JEVON, DEVAUGHN, AND JEREMY OF "TEENS AGAINST SENSELESS VIOLENCE" THROW UP PEACE SIGNS ALONGSIDE ESTRELLA BROOKS OF EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, JOHN VATER OF PEABODY HIGH SCHOOL, AND MIKHAIL PAPPAS OF THE LEAGUE OF YOUNG VOTERS, DURING THE EAST LIBERTY "LUV UR BLOCK"-REDD UP EVENT ON JUNE 23, PRESENTED BY "TEENS AGAINST SENSELESS VIOLENCE" AND PEABODY HIGH SCHOOL.

## Zone 5 Station Is Moving

The Zone 5 Police Station will be moving from its Penn Circle location to a newer building on Washington Boulevard in Highland Park, which now serves as the headquarters of the Pittsburgh Housing Authority Police.

Zone 5 includes the neighborhoods of Bloomfield, Garfield, Friendship, and East Liberty, along with 10 others.

The Penn Circle station has been home to the police since 1929. Assistant Police Chief William Bochter told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* that the building – which the police station shares with the firefighters of Engine Company 8 – is badly in need of costly repairs,



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

### THE CURRENT ZONE 5 POLICE STATION ON PENN CIRCLE

due to leaks and sewer problems.

Originally, the move was set to take place in mid-August of this year. But now, "I'm being told 'in the fall,'" Commander RaShall Brackney said recently.

## Prostitution Activity Heats Up in Warmer Months

Although prostitution occurs year-round in our area, activity tends to increase during the warmer months. Local

residents and businesses, particularly on or just off Penn Avenue, are all too familiar with the ebb and flow of prostitution in the area, as much of the illegal "business" tends to happen on or adjacent to their property. Although Zone 5 police representatives state that other zones in the city have a larger prostitution problem than our area, this is little consolation to the residents directly affected by Zone 5 prostitution activity.

If you are affected by prostitution activity and wondering what to do, the following are some tips from local residents who have been successful in stopping or severely limiting human trafficking on or near their property:

- Contact the property owner and/or landlord to make him/her aware of the issue. If you are unsure who owns the property, the information can usually be found by searching on the Allegheny County Assessment website: <http://www2.county.allegheny.pa.us/RealEstate/Search.asp>. This is a highly recommended tip!

- Call 311 to report the activity whenever it occurs. Be sure to give as much specific information as possible, such as location, time, description of the prostitute and/or customer (the "john"), details of the automobile if one is involved, etc. The 311 line is available Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. You can also fill out a 311 form and submit it online at any time: [http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/mayor/html/311\\_request\\_form.html](http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/mayor/html/311_request_form.html).

- Call in an anonymous tip to the Crime Stoppers Tip Line (412-255-8477) or fill out and submit a Silent Complaint Form online. You can also

**By Deadra Keener**  
Public Safety Coordinator

print out a Silent Complaint Form from the police website ([http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/police/html/policy\\_tip\\_form.html](http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/police/html/policy_tip_form.html)) and send it into the local zone police station. Again, please supply as much specific information as possible.

• If the property where the activity is occurring is abandoned and forced entry is visible, you can report the property to the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) via the 311 line. BBI will follow up on the tip and re-secure the property, if necessary.

• If the property where the activity is occurring is overgrown, obviously neglected, and a possible environmental hazard, report it to the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) via the 311 line or fill out the ACHD online complaint form: <http://www.achd.net/admin/contact.php>

• Prostitutes and their johns generally like privacy, so anything you can do to impair privacy is helpful, such as closing garage doors, locking gates and installing outside security lights, or making sure that all current outside lights are working properly.

• If possible, use a combination of these tips in order to be most effective.

Another way to help decrease prostitution is to decrease the number of prostitutes. If someone you know is involved in prostitution, there are organizations that can help them get safely off the streets by providing temporary shelter and connecting them to other, more specific programs/organizations as needed:

- **Bethlehem Haven:** 412-391-1348; <http://www.bethlehemhaven.org>
- **Salvation Army Family Crisis Center:** 412-394-4817
- **Women's Space East:** 412-765-2661

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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.

The next Zone 5 Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 14, at 7 p.m. in a new location: The Union Project, 801 N. Negley at Stanton.

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, 1835 Centre Avenue.

For more information, call Zone 2 at 412-255-2827

**BLITZ, From Page 1**

Stanton became acquainted with Rev. Donn Ed, the founder of Hosanna Industries, which last summer worked with Eastminster Presbyterian to rehab a home on Collins Street. The 18-year-old Hosanna, based in Rochester, Pa., specializes in the "Blitz Build," a concentrated process of constructing new homes or rehabbing older ones that takes place over just three to five days. How can quality work be finished so quickly?

"They've got it down to a science," explained B.J. Woodworth, pastor of The Open Door, which sponsored the rehabbing of a home on Rural Street. "They really crack the whip." Hosanna got a head start by putting on a new roof a week earlier. Then, seven or eight Hosanna staff members, skilled in electrical and plumbing trades, remained on-site to supervise and train the dozens of volunteers who came to help with the rest of the work – everything from installing siding, to putting up dry wall, to replacing plumbing fixtures, to painting. On the first day at Rural Street, Woodworth said, 60 volunteers showed up.

The pastor described the actual work as "organized chaos," in which tasks are performed counter-intuitively, but in a system that ultimately gets the job done. On the rainy afternoon that he talked to The Bulletin, for example,



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

**A NEWLY REHABBED HOME ON RURAL STREET, READY FOR ITS NEW OWNERS TO MOVE IN.**

Woodworth was painting the front door of the house – a job that might normally be left until last, but was being done while workers were still busily coming and going with ladders and power tools.

Unlike Habitat for Humanity, which exacts sweat equity from the home owners, Hosanna does not require buyers to work on the rehab. But some have chosen to be involved anyway, like Andy Collins, a member of The Open Door congregation who has pur-

chased the Rural Street house with his wife, Bebe. A roofer by trade, Collins has been "the hardest-working owner," according to John Creasy, assistant to the pastor of The Open Door.

The rest of the houses receiving the "Blitz" treatment are scattered across East Liberty; there is also one on North Fairmount in Garfield. "These homes are part of [ELDI's and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's] larger strategy," explained Stanton. "We're not just dropping people into unstable communities."

The partner churches suggested potential owners, who range in age from young to middle-aged, and are all first-time home buyers – most going back three or four generations. All had to be approved for financing – with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh acting as the financial "anchor" – and matched with appropriate residences by the Hosanna staff. A vital piece of the plan, Stanton explained, is "client care": The partner churches commit to continuing the relationship with the households, in order to get them through "the considerable demands of home ownership...anything less would be irresponsible."

Four homes have already reached completion, with a fifth underway at

press time and the final home set for rehab the week of August 6. The original plan was to do eight houses, but "only six households came through the process," said Stanton. The hope is to continue the project next summer, with additional houses in other neighborhoods. "It's pretty remarkable to think what has happened," Stanton marveled, "that in one summer, there are six fewer blighted properties and six new homeowners. To see that continue would be very desirable."



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

**THIS HOUSE ON HAYS STREET WAS THE FIRST OF SIX TO BE REHABBED IN THE "EAST END BLITZ."**



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

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

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## Philly Group Promotes Use of Data to Analyze Neighborhood Development Possibilities

By Rick Swartz

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Representatives from community development groups, the city, and private funders recently got a glimpse of a new and more scientific way to shape future housing development across a wide range of city neighborhoods. If brought to Pittsburgh, it could conceivably change how public and private funds are allotted to recharge the housing market in communities where decline has been rampant over the last 30 years.

At a presentation in city Council chambers on July 18, officials from The Reinvestment Fund (TRF), a Philadelphia-based nonprofit funder and consulting firm, unveiled a computer-mapping and statistical-modeling tool known as "market value analysis" (MVA). The system is now being used in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Newark, N.J., and other cities to guide decisions by city governments and other stakeholders in how best to reverse decline. Taking sets of data such as home sale prices, the rate of owner occupancy, the percentage of vacant housing, and other variables, MVA displays trends across a section of the city to better pinpoint what is actually happening in that market. From there, users can narrow down the application of the data to four or six square-block areas to understand what type of investment should be made, who should own it, and who the likely customers would be for what-ever housing product is created.

Ira Goldstein, who manages this segment of TRF's business, is hoping

that Pittsburgh wants to move to a more rational, yet what he feels is also compassionate, method for determining what should be done first to revive flagging housing markets. Although MVA relies heavily on importing data into the mix, it still requires planners and policy-makers to drive the neighborhoods and meet with community leaders to verify that the statistical indicators MVA depends on mirror actual conditions. The task is not finished, Goldstein told a group of 30 attendees, "until what is presented on a color-coded map fairly depicts where the neighborhood is at that very moment in time.

"This analysis can work in neighborhoods where vacant lots outnumber houses, or where housing vacancy rates are over 40 percent, and prices for houses are \$20,000 or less," Goldstein explained, defining what many experts would consider to be neighborhoods whose markets have collapsed. "You then try to identify where the nearest market strong-point or points may be. In one case, it can be a large employer within a mile of the neighborhood. Or it could be a nearby mass-transit station. Or it can be another neighborhood that sits across a main road from the one that's ailing. Then you try to build off of these potential assets by drawing upon their strengths in some fashion

as you select what type of intervention makes sense in the weaker market."

Goldstein cautioned those hearing the presentation that improvement, through targeted housing development projects or programs, is not instantaneous. But the key, he said, "is to succeed with whatever you decide to do first, and then second, that can give you a strong foothold from which to expand future efforts five and ten years down the line." Goldstein acknowledged that markets, once they get going again, "usually act in amoral terms, not respecting social values that neighborhood stakeholders may hold dear. So laying in housing plans that guarantee affordably priced housing for those who have traditionally lived in that weak market needs to be done early, before prices start moving up."

Goldstein further pointed out that "renovating three or four vacant homes in an area where several hundred vacancies exist is not a path to revive a market that this type of analysis would suggest. Yet it is a path that has often defined redevelopment efforts over the years in many cities. Neighborhoods with high rates of foreclosures, as revealed by MVA, would need to incorporate a strategy into the mix of initiatives that would arrest this problem if other housing programs or projects are to succeed." Otherwise, he observed, "you could end up with as many housing vacancies five years later as you started with."

How good the data really are can be a major challenge. Even in Pittsburgh, although computer-based mapping of neighborhood conditions

See MVA, Page 5



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

STEPHANIE CIPRIANI AND GEORGE FAUSOLD (CENTER), OFFICERS WITH NATIONAL CITY BANK, PRESENTED A \$30,000 CHECK FROM THE BANK TO AGGIE BROSE AND RICK SWARTZ OF THE BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD CORPORATION. THE DONATION WILL SUPPORT THE BGC'S YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND OTHER ACTIVITIES IN 2007-08.

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## U.S. Open Gets Helping Hands from Pittsburgh Job Corps

By Paula Martinac  
The Bulletin

After Angel Cabrera toppled Tiger Woods at the U.S. Open golf championship in June, the golfers returned home from Oakmont, Pa., the fans moved on, and the media hype of the preceding weeks ended. But in the wake of the high-profile national sporting event, there was lots of work left behind at the Oakmont Country Club, extending even into mid-July. So Tim Serra, Facility Maintenance instructor at the Pittsburgh Job Corps, decided to offer a student workforce to the U.S. Golf Association (USGA).

As it turned out, Serra said, the USGA, which runs the tournament, was "seeking and had a tremendous need for additional skilled labor, and our students were just what they were looking for." Twenty-four Job Corps students worked 10-hour days in June and early July, helping to put the historic country club back in order. Much

of their work entailed dismantling booths, tents, and furniture, and also assisting with packing and loading more than 100 TV monitors. Their stint with the USGA led to work for other companies involved with the golf tournament, including Barton G, North Carolina Services, and Event Flooring Professional Services.

The massive scale of the Oakmont project provided a valuable learning experience, affording the students a close-up look at generators, semis, and other heavy equipment in use. The amount of equipment, said Serra, was "mind boggling. Just being part of this event has opened their eyes."

Shawna Williams, a Garfield resident, has been the Job Corps' work-based learning coordinator for three

years and helped coordinate the effort, from assessing the Oakmont site for safety to evaluating the students' performance. "We try to create a work environment [at the Job Corps Center]," she said. "But being in an actual work situation is completely different and was really valuable for the students." Students worked in small groups with a foreman, who individualized their work experiences according to their skills. Serra stayed on-site several hours a day to make sure everything ran smoothly.

The clean-up effort allowed the students to accumulate hours on their Job Corps training achievement records in the area of career technical training; they need 360 hours to complete the Job Corps program, and some accrued as many as 90 from the Oakmont gig. Even better, they earned between \$8 and \$10 an hour.

The 24 student workers were drawn from the Pittsburgh Job Corps' on-center career training programs in Facility Maintenance, Electrician Helper, and Warehouse Operations. Williams helped determine which students were eligible for the project, and transported some of the students to the Oakmont site each day. The second week of the project was summer break at Job Corps, but some students opted to work right through their vacation. "They said, 'I like what I'm doing, I'll work if they need me,'" said Williams.



**JOB CORPS' TIM SERRA LED A STUDENT LABOR TEAM AFTER THE 2007 U.S. OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT.**

The Pittsburgh Job Corps Center trains young adults from ages 16-24 in career technical trades on center, and off-center in educational programs at the Community College of Allegheny County. The Job Corps also helps employers design training for their entry-level employees, participates in work-based learning experiences in the community, and assists employers in their hiring process by providing skilled graduates.

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### MVA, From Page 4

is already available to planners, it is not as extensive in its look at housing indicators as the model being advanced by the TRF. Many neighborhood advocates here believe that it is not being updated frequently either. The percentage of houses in a given area being leased under the Section 8 program, or the percentage of vacant lots created through housing demolition, both factors in the MVA model, are not yet an integral part of the mapping system in Pittsburgh.

One criticism of this model has been that it resembles a policy of triage, or writing off worse neighbor-

hoods in favor of ones that appear salvageable. Goldstein admitted that it can be characterized as such because it forces everyone with a stake in the outcome to look objectively at what is happening in their community. "However, unlike a policy of triage, market value analysis would help even the worst neighborhoods develop a set of well-conceived strategies that, if implemented over a 15- to 20-year period, could return these communities to health as viable housing markets," Goldstein asserted. The key "is not to fail coming out of the box."

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## ***Wills and Other Estate-Planning Documents Protect Everyone, Not Just the Rich***

**By Frank Pistella**  
*Neighborhood Legal  
Services Association*

When most people think of estate planning, they naturally think of the rich and famous, like Jay Leno, Angelina Jolie, or Tiger Woods. But estate planning is for anyone who wants to plan for the future of their loved ones.

Attorneys advise that everyone should have a power of attorney, an advanced medical directive, and a will. This article will address the basics of each of these three documents. In coming months, each document will be the subject of a separate article to give a fuller understanding of how they work together.

A power of attorney gives the

power to someone to act on your behalf to help with day-to-day activities such as paying bills, or for a limited, specific purpose such as signing rental leases or selling/buying a car or a house. Often these limited powers are a way to have something done on your behalf if you are going to be unavailable. This is an effective tool for those who may be deployed overseas or for elderly citizens moving to a personal care facility.

An advanced medical directive is a document that tells health-care providers what levels of care you want when you are being treated. In addition, it empowers someone you designate to act on your behalf if you are not capable of communicating your own wishes. This doc-

ument ensures that your wishes for treatment are being followed.

The document most people are familiar with is the "Last Will and Testament," which states how you want your property to be distributed after your death. A will requires the person you designate to be responsible for paying off your debts from the assets of your estate and to carry out your instructions about your property.

If you do not have a will, the distribution of both valuable and sentimental items will be made according to Pennsylvania law. Of course, the law does not take into account your own wishes, so it is important to write a will that expresses those wishes.

NLSA has a toll-free number for its Pittsburgh office, which can be



accessed from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday: 866-761-6572. For more information on NLSA, please visit us at [www.nlsa.us](http://www.nlsa.us). At our website, you will also find a link to [www.PaLAWHelp.org](http://www.PaLAWHelp.org), which also provides valuable legal information on a multitude of legal topics.

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Tuesday, August 21, from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

#### *Buying a Computer*

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Saturday, August 4, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 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  
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There will be no special events at the Lawrenceville branch this month. Check back in the fall!

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By Bill Stanhope and Kate Bayer  
In Memory and Honor of Jay Bernard



**Here's Lois!** Lois is a 10-year-old black Lab mix who will tug at your heartstrings. Lois was confiscated from an unfortunate situation. She knows some basic commands and appears to be completely housebroken. She loves people, playing fetch, having her ears and belly scratched, and taking long walks. Lois is frightened of thunderstorms and longs to have a new snuggle-buddy during these times. She does not like other dogs and would do well as a single pet forever friend. Lois would be happiest in a home with lots of love and a playmate, a middle-school-aged child or older. Lois has been at Animal Friends for such a long time and really deserves to have a loving family to call her own. Maybe your family is the one that she is waiting for? To find out more about Lois or the other wonderful animals available for adoption, please contact Animal Friends at [www.animal-friends.org](http://www.animal-friends.org) or call 412-847-7000.

**Tip of the Month:** Please remember that we are in the middle of the “dog days of summer,” so make sure your dog has shelter available and plenty of clean water.

This year, **MAKE** them pay attention!

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## Expo Educates Public on Risks and Management of Diabetes

On Saturday, August 25, the American Diabetes Association will host the Diabetes Expo in conjunction with WTAE-TV Healthy 4 Life Expo at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. This free, one-day event showcases the latest products and services for people with diabetes and features dance, exercise and cooking demonstrations, and health screenings. This highly interactive event includes activities for people of all ages - including a fun Youth Zone with exciting activities and informa-

tion for children with diabetes and their families. The Diabetes Expo offers the public with a unique opportunity to talk with health care experts and obtain important medical and nutrition information.

Diabetes is the nation's fifth deadliest disease, killing more than 210,000 Americans each year. Diabetes is the leading cause of heart disease and stroke, adult blindness, kidney failure, and non-traumatic amputations. African Americans are twice as likely to suffer from diabetes-related blindness, 1.5 to 2.5 times more likely to suffer from lower limb amputations, and 2.6 to 5.6 times more likely to suffer from kidney disease. "Diabetes affects the African-American community almost twice as hard as it does the general population," said Dr. Helen

**By The American Diabetes Association Staff**

**"Diabetes affects the African-American community almost twice as hard as...the general population."**

**--DR. HELEN FAISON**

Faison, Director of Pittsburgh Teachers Institute at Chatham College, and Distinguished Scholar of Public School Education.

"Twenty-five percent of the African-American community between the ages of 56 and 74 has diabetes. In its efforts to combat the toll of this disease, the American Diabetes Association is organizing an EXPO that provides a fun, relaxed environment enabling participants from the community to learn more about the prevention as well as the management of diabetes and its serious complications," said Dr. Faison.

This year's "Diabetes in the African American Community Workshop" features a play by African-American playwright Bettye Walker entitled "Ain't Got No Sugar." During the play's per-

formance, medical experts (Dr. Cheryl Lynch of Gateway Medical Society, Dr. Michael Madden, Medical Director, Medical Performance Management of Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Dr. Luevonue Lincoln, RN of the Pittsburgh Black Nurses in Action, Julia Hart, RN of Centers for Healthy Hearts and Souls, and Rev. Jamal D. Wright, Assistant Pastor of Jesus Is The Answer Ministries) will provide brief comments between the acts and will be available for questions at the end. In addition to her play, Ms. Walker will also introduce a fun dancing program called "Boogyin' with Bettye," which people of all ages and fitness levels can enjoy.

"We must take more control over our health, in this case diabetes, and learn how to manage it, rather than it managing us. The Diabetes Expo gives us the opportunity to learn and gather information that can help us to help ourselves," said Dr. Faison.

It is very easy to attend! No registration is required, just show up. For more information, contact 412- 824- 1181 x 4608 or 1-888-DIABETES.

### FREE BOOKLET

The National Diabetes Education Program of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) offers a free booklet called "Small Steps, Big Rewards: Your Game Plan to Prevent Type 2 Diabetes." Tips include following an exercise program and eating healthier foods - two key ways to prevent diabetes. The booklet is available online at <http://www.ndep.nih.gov>, along with other valuable information on diabetes awareness.



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## Cremation for Catholics?

Are you aware the Catholic Church allows cremation? This informative brochure takes an in-depth look at the effect recent changes have made. It's free and you'll learn more about cremation and where the Catholic Church stands.

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**RIPPEY STREET, From Page 1**

The Rippey complex, Johnson said, would be a pilot program, the first of its kind in the country, "a controlled environment" with 24-hour maintenance staff, and a security system wired into a private security company. On average, tenants would stay three to nine months. Johnson stressed that it would be a volunteer program, for nonviolent, non-sex-offenders who need a place to make a fresh start. Tenants would have to be off drugs for about a year, and any drug use would result in immediate removal from the property.

Under "Operation Goodwill," which allows the federal government to donate property to nonprofits, the government planned to turn the building over to Renewal, an organization with a proven track record of helping ex-offenders re-integrate into their communities. Renewal would then

have had to raise funds for a "substantial renovation and rehabilitation," according to Williams, plus professional landscaping, for a total cost of over a million dollars.

Many attendees of the July 12 meeting agreed that, on the surface, the government's plan had merit, and they emphasized that their response was not a narrow-minded "NIMBY" ("not in my back yard") opposition. But Johnson and Williams, they maintained, had not sufficiently answered their questions, such as what constitutes a "nonviolent offender." Community members had done research on the term, and said they were dismayed to discover that drug dealing and arson are both technically "nonviolent."

Related worries included the very short tenancy period and the continued pervasiveness of drug-dealing

and prostitution in the area. A 20-year resident of North Negley Avenue near Rippey summed up a common concern: "You need to help us clean up first before you bring this program in. There is drug trafficking every day.... Why would you want to put ex-offenders here?"

Meeting attendees also expressed fears that the community would have no recourse if the pilot program was not as problem-free as hoped. Many in the audience showed interest in starting from scratch, with the government, ELDI, and the community collaborating to design, as Bryan Perry put it, "something that helps the neighborhood."

With tensions running high, the meeting ended in a standstill. But a week later, at a luncheon meeting with Karl Thomas, a Rippey Street resident and a MONA spokesperson, Johnson announced that he would not pursue the project.

"I had to think about who the plan was affecting," a disappointed Johnson told *The Bulletin*, "and the anger and atmosphere [in the community] was unwelcoming.... I would hate to see men and women be targets of that kind of anger." Johnson said he now intends to "throw the ball in ELDI's court," asking the organiza-

tion to help him locate individual apartments throughout the community that ex-offenders could rent.

Johnson admitted that the experience had some positive results, particularly that "it energized the neighborhood." And that energy has not yet flagged. Following Johnson's announcement, Pelling said, a group of neighborhood people got together for a celebratory dinner, to begin discussing possible plans for the Rippey Street building. ELDI would first have to acquire the property through the U.S. Marshals Service.

"A demo would not be a bad idea," Pelling noted, since the interior was destroyed by "midnight plumbers" who stole the copper plumbing, and by others who "took the place apart" because Cole had reportedly hidden cash in one of his properties.

Pelling said that community members are starting to research "how to do ex-offender housing well" in their neighborhood, without a concentration of people in a single apartment building. The experience, he said, "was a good example of local residents taking a responsible stance. They weren't saying, 'Not in my back yard,' but instead, 'We can't allow something like this unless it's done well and it's a wise action.'"



"My husband and I felt a little uncomfortable discussing our funerals — especially since we had so much life left in front of us. But afterward, it seemed like a weight had been lifted off our shoulders. It was one less thing we and our children would have to worry about."

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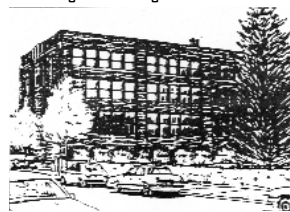
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### SCHENLEY HIGH CLASS OF '67 REUNION

Schenley High School Class of 1967 is having its 40th year reunion on August 17. For details, contact Donna (Fox) Vlassich at 412-364-4183 or g.vlassich@comcast.net.

### "NATIONAL NIGHT OUT" IN LAWRENCEVILLE

Lawrenceville United (LU) will hold its 4th annual National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 7, at 7 p.m. Lawrenceville residents are invited to join us for a cookout on the patio of our office, located at 4825 Butler Street. For more information contact LU at (412) 802-7220.

### NEW BETHEL CHURCH TUTORING PROGRAM

The school year has come to a close, and the New Bethel free tutoring program has also closed to prepare new activities and class projects for the fall. Again we will offer Reading, Math, Language Arts. Classes will resume Saturday, September 15, 10 a.m.-noon, at New Bethel Church, 221 43rd St, Lawrenceville. Registration information may be obtained by calling Nicita Moses, Tutoring Administrator, at 412-728-4046 or send e-mail: nicitamoses@verizon.net. Please include: Your child's name, age, grade, and school attending, plus your home address and phone number, and the forms will be mailed to you. Forms Must be returned on or before August 15.

### TRINITY HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Trinity Hospice is a community-based organization that affirms the belief that it is important to make every life as meaningful as possible, from the first days of a life-limiting illness to the last. Become a Parent/Family Care Volunteer and offer support and encouragement within your community. Hospice volunteers can also assist with special events, make crafts or cards for the patients, or if you like to sew, knit, or crochet, there are projects for you. Training is provided. Please contact Deborah Scott at 412-351-4494 or deborah.scott@trinityhospice.com.

### "JAZZ EXPLOSION" BENEFIT FOR SOJOURNER HOUSE

Sojourner House's "Jazz Explosion at the LeMont" fundraiser will take place Thursday, Aug. 16, 6-10 p.m., at the celebrated LeMont Restaurant, 1114 Grandview Ave., Mt. Washington. Jazz by the George Heid Trio will take place throughout the evening, including a show

at 8:30 p.m. A cash bar will be open during cocktail hour, 6-7 p.m. Dinner will begin at 7:30 p.m., followed by a dazzling view of fireworks after the baseball game at PNC Park. Admission fee is \$150 per person or \$1,000 per table. Please RSVP by calling 412-490-4238 or e-mailing jazzexplosion@yahoo.com. Based in Friendship/Garfield, Sojourner House provides nondenominational faith-based residential treatment and other services to addicted women and their children to break the intergenerational cycle. To learn about Sojourner House, visit <http://www.sojournerhouse-pa.org>.

### CHILDREN'S HOME OPEN HOUSE

Bring your friends and colleagues to visit the new Children's Home at 5324 Penn Avenue for an opportunity to learn more about our programs and current activities and to take a tour of our new building. Thursday, August 16, 8:00 a.m. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP if you would like to attend. E-mail [info@chomepgh.org](mailto:info@chomepgh.org) or call 412-441-4884 and ask for Kate Burroughs or Robin Weber.

### 2ND "KIDS HELPING KIDS" CONTEST

Calling all young artists! The Children's Home of Pittsburgh and Lemieux Family Center invites you to enter the 2nd "Kids Helping Kids" art contest. Children ages 12 and under are encouraged to let their imaginations run free and create an original piece of artwork. Five children's entries will be selected by local celebrities to have their creation printed on private label products, including fudge bars, coffee, and note cards. These products will be sold at local retail outlets and on The Children's Home of Pittsburgh's online store. All proceeds benefit The Children's Home of Pittsburgh and Lemieux Family Center. The contest runs through August 31 and culminates with an art display event at The Children's Home in October, where local celebrities and young artists come together for fun and celebration. Visit our web site for contest rules & entry form: [www.childrenshomepgh.org](http://www.childrenshomepgh.org).

### UMOJA AFRICAN ARTS IN THE PARK

JAMBO! That means "hello" or "good day" in the Swahili language of Africa. On August 11 and 12, UMOJA African Arts Company will present the 4th Annual African Arts in the Park (AAIP) Festival at Mellon Park in East Liberty, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.. This FREE festival is dedicated to the demonstration and promotion of African and African Diaspora Arts in the Pittsburgh region.

Imagine more than 4,500 attendees, mysterious stilt-walkers, invigorating steel drummers, expressive African dancers and storytellers weaving tales, and strolling sogows (life-sized African puppets)! It's an awesome, visual isn't it? Don't miss the opportunity to take part! Call 412-471-1121 or visit [www.umoja-company.com](http://www.umoja-company.com) for more information.

### PAPER RECYCLING AT THE UNION PROJECT

The Union Project is offering coupons for its Urban Fusion Cafe to individuals who bring in their paper for recycling. Just come to our office at 801 North Negley Ave. during our business hours (M-F, 9 to 5) with your hefty stack of paper. We can take newspapers, magazines, catalogs, office and school supplies, and junk mail. This is an easy way to help the environment and the Union Project at the same time! Questions? Contact Mel at 412-363-4550 x 21 or [mel@unionproject.org](mailto:mel@unionproject.org).

### IMPROV WORKSHOP AT ATTACK THEATRE

Wednesday night modern dance classes continue throughout the summer at Attack Theatre Studios, 4805 Penn Avenue. Gia Cacalano will teach an improvisation workshop on August 8 and August 15, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call 412-441-8444.

### "JOY OF COOKIES" TOUR WANTS RECIPES

"The Joy of Cookies" Cookie Tour Committee is planning this year's event, to be held Nov. 29 and 30 and Dec. 1 and 2 in Lawrenceville. If you have a family cookie recipe or a favorite cookie recipe from a magazine or cookbook, and you are willing to share, please send them to: Dandelions, 4108 Butler St., Pittsburgh, PA 15201. You'll be notified by mail if your recipe is selected for this year's tour and given credit for the recipe on the recipe card given out during the tour. We are especially interested in cookie recipes from other countries, but all recipes are welcome and will be considered. Please type or print the recipe, give the source if it is from a magazine or cookbook, and include your name, address and phone number. Deadline: Sept. 1. For more info, call 412-683-6488.

### UPMC ST. MARGARET SUMMER CLASSES

The following classes will be offered this month by UPMC St. Margaret: (1) *Fall Prevention* - Discuss the risk factors for falls, what areas of the home are most associated with falls, and ways to correct environmental hazards within the home. Wednesday, August 8, from 3:30-5 p.m.

(2) *Veterans Benefits* - Discuss what non-medical benefits are available to those who served in the armed forces. A question and answer session will follow the presentation. Presented by the American Legion. Tuesday, August 14, from 3:30-5 p.m. (3) *AARP Driver Safety* - Eight hours of classroom instruction that refines existing skills and develops safe defensive techniques. You must attend both days to receive a discount on car insurance. For adults, age 50 and older. Tuesday, August 21, and Thursday, August 23, from 6-10 p.m. All classes are at Canterbury Place, 310 Fisk Street, Lawrenceville. *Fall Prevention* and *Veterans Benefits* are free; *Driver Safety* is \$10/person. Pre-registration is required for all classes by calling 412-784-5313 or online at [www.stmargaretfoundation.org/events](http://www.stmargaretfoundation.org/events).

### "ART IS ALIVE, ART IS HEALTHY"

EveryOne An Artist Gallery presents "Art Is Alive, Art Is Healthy," a collaborative exhibit featuring works by art therapists and artists from the community, running Aug. 4-27. The gallery - an expressive arts initiative of Allegheny East MH/MR Center, and Pittsburgh's *only* gallery devoted to artists with disabilities - is located in Lawrenceville at 4128 Butler Street. The free opening reception is Saturday, Aug. 4, from 12-5 p.m. Gallery hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; or by appointment. For more information, e-mail [nsiri@aemhmr.org](mailto:nsiri@aemhmr.org).

### "DOLLARS AND SENSE" CONVERSATIONS

The Union Project continues its free Monday conversation series on financial health, "Dollars and Sense," on two August evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. On August 6, the topic is "Kids Savings, Scholarships & Financial Aid" - learn how to plan your kid's financial future and apply for scholarship and financial aid for college. On August 20, *pnc.jobs* and more will be at the Union Project for our first job fair - bring your resume! For more information, call Hilary: 412-363-4550 x26. The Union Project is located at 801 N. Negley at Stanton.

### "NATIONAL NIGHT OUT" IN FRIENDSHIP

On Tuesday, August 7, from 6 to 9 p.m., 11 Friendship neighbors will host open porch parties to demonstrate that urban neighborhoods can be lively, safe, and fun. The starting point of Friendship's National Night Out will be Penn Avenue, where homeowners at 5432 and 5434 Penn, next to The Quiet Storm, will give away bags containing high-efficiency

## BULLETIN BOARD

light bulbs - perfect for lighting front and back porches all year round - along with customized Friendship magnets and lighted key chains. Maps of party locations also will be available. One homeowner has promised live music at his porch party. For more information, visit [www.friendship-pgh.org](http://www.friendship-pgh.org).

### C.O.G.I.C. "FIBER AND FELLOWSHIP" CLASS

Morningside Church of God in Christ sponsors a "Fiber and Fellowship" quilting and sewing class the fourth Saturday of each month at 12 p.m. Instructor: Robin Crawford. The church is at 5173 Dearborn Street in Garfield. For more information, call 412-361-9865.

### VOLUNTEER MUSICIANS WANTED

Tenor and accompanist wanted for volunteer social/musical group. We sing in nursing homes, shelters, and other venues for joy of music and camaraderie, not money. Additionally, we have sung for the Downtown Pittsburgh Partnership, National Aviary, and Whole Foods among others. A car or ride is necessary, and you must be able to sing (or learn to sing) in a trained style. We can provide free vocal coaching and/or sight-singing training. We rehearse in Squirrel Hill on Monday nights September through June; Highland Park in the summer. See our website: [www.friendsinharmony.net](http://www.friendsinharmony.net)

### LAWRENCEVILLE BLOCK WATCH SCHEDULE

Lawrenceville Block Watch meetings for August will be held as follows: National Night Out, August 7, 7 p.m., 4825 Butler Street; 10th Ward Block Watch, August 14, 6:30 p.m., St Matthews Church; Happenings Block Watch, August 21, 7 p.m. St Mary's Lower Lyceum; 6th Ward Block Watch, August 27, 7 p.m., St Augustine's Auditorium; Penn/Fisk Block Watch, August 28, 6:30 p.m., Stephen Foster Center. For more info contact Lawrenceville United at (412) 802-7220.

### "ART & 'TIQUE ON HATFIELD"

Twenty local businesses and artists from Lawrenceville will come together on one block for one day to showcase all that the neighborhood has to offer in a block-party setting. "Art & 'Tique on Hatfield" will take place on Saturday, August 18, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine, and is free to the public. The location is the 4700-4800 block of Hatfield Street (one block off Butler). There will be art, antiques, clothing, food, music, and performances. The festival of four galleries: DNA Blue Collar; the Society for Cultural Exchange; Trinity Gallery; and

Zombo Gallery. For more information, contact Dan Gaser at 412-687-2458 or [imdan@verizon.net](mailto:imdan@verizon.net).

### TWO LOCAL ARTISTS AT TRINITY GALLERY

Trinity Gallery, located at 4747 Hatfield Street in Lawrenceville, will showcase the work of local artists Kevin Clancy and Martha Ressler in an exhibition running from August 4 to September 15. The opening reception on Saturday, August 4, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. is free and open to the public. Clancy's work uses a variety of media to explore the definition of "home." Ressler's new work uses local history and acrylic paints to create paintings of Pittsburgh neighborhoods; she will also display fiber art. For more information, contact Dan Gaser at 412-687-2458 or [imdan@verizon.net](mailto:imdan@verizon.net).

### "EVERYBODY WINS!" LITERACY PROGRAM

EVERYBODY WINS! is a core program of Beginning With Books Center For Early Literacy. It is a weekday lunchtime literacy program where we match elementary school students one-to-one with adults to spend time talking and enjoying storybooks at Pittsburgh Public Schools in the East End, South Side, North Side, or Hill District. Volunteers promote reading for pleasure by reading aloud and provide the positive support that helps children know that they can be successful readers. Volunteers read to the same student once a week, or they alternate with another volunteer and read once every other week. We have the students, the space, and the books. Do you or someone you know have time to read with a student? Contact Cindy Goodman-Leib, School Coordinator for EVERYBODY WINS! at 412-951-2795.

### FAMILY HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Family Hospice and Palliative Care is recruiting volunteers to provide companionship to patients (training provided), person-power at our resale shop, assistance with special events, and sharing of office/clerical tasks. Call Nick Petti, Volunteer Manager, at 412-572-8806 to inquire.

### PITTSBURGH DANCE ARTS OPEN HOUSE

Pittsburgh Dance Arts presents an Open House and Fall Registration on Thursday, August 30, from 5-7 p.m. Come see our beautiful studios, enjoy refreshments, and check out our new fall schedule of classes. Classes for fall include Children's and Adult classes in Pre-dance (3-4 years old), Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Kids Musical Theatre, and adult Pilates, Fitness, Hip

Hop, and Belly Dance. Auditions for our winter production of "Charlie Brown Christmas" will be held on Monday, September 10, from 5-6 p.m. During the month of August, all Pilates and fitness classes are half off. Please call for details. 412-681-7523 or visit [www.pgh-dance.com](http://www.pgh-dance.com). Pittsburgh Dance Arts is conveniently located at 4059 Penn Ave. (near Main Street).

### CWFC MOVIE NIGHT

Concerned Women for Christ's (CWFC) Community Summer Movie Night continues in August at 6:15 p.m. at the BGC Community Center, 113 N. Pacific in Garfield. August 2: *Supper Book* (rated G); August 9: Family Movie and Game Night, featuring *The Nativity Story* (G). Snacks will be served, or bring your own.

### 14th Annual Friendship House Tour

On Sunday September 16, twelve Friendship homes and business owners open their doors and welcome guests to explore the creativity and innovative touch of their space. This year, "Pittsburgh Celebrates Glass! 2007," and so does Friendship, by hosting a glass-themed tour!

This year's tour showcases eight homes with stunning glass characteristics and windows, the funky art space of one of Penn Avenue's artists, and the beautiful stained glass windows of First United Methodist Church of Pittsburgh, and features Penn Avenue's Pittsburgh Glass Center as the tour starting point.

Tickets for the Friendship House Tour are \$15. Tickets can be purchased from the Friendship Development Associates Office (5530 Penn Avenue, tel: 412-441-6147 x7) or online at [www.friendshiphousetour.org](http://www.friendshiphousetour.org). Tickets can also be purchased the day of the event at the Tour Registration Site, Pittsburgh Glass Center, 5472 Penn Avenue. The self-guided tour takes 2 to 3 hours to complete on foot, and trolley tours will depart from the Pittsburgh Glass Center.

### Looking for a Job or Career in Construction or Other Fields?

Attend a **FREE** workshop this month to learn about:

- \* **Careers in the Building Trades:** Get trained for free while earning a salary with great benefits.
- \* **Pre-Apprenticeship Programs:** Attend free classes to help you get into the building trades apprenticeship programs.
- \* **CareerLink and Adult Basic and Literacy Education:** Receive free job search, job training, skills brush-up, GED help, and other career services.

**Where: The Kingsley Center, 6435 Frankstown Rd.**

**When: Thursday, August 2**

**Time: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

For more information, call 412-552-7100 or visit [www.citycountycareers.org](http://www.citycountycareers.org). **There are workshops being offered in various locations across the city during the month of August.**

Also, plan on attending the **City County Career (C3) Day** at the David Lawrence Convention Center, on Tuesday, September 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. More than 200 employers ready to hire! Bring your resume, and get ready to interview!

### TIPS FOR KEEPING COOL WHEN IT'S 90+ DEGREES

(from the Pennsylvania Medical Society)

Don't overexert yourself.

Drink a quart of fluids an hour.

Wear loose clothing, light in color and fabric, as well as a hat and sunblock, and stay in the shade or indoors if possible.

Open windows and use fans, or turn on air conditioning. If you don't have air conditioning, go to a public place that does, like a mall, library, or movie theater.

Avoid caffeine and alcohol, which can speed up dehydration.

And please, check on elderly and chronically ill persons regularly to make sure they're OK.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**RAIFF RETIRES:** Sojourner House and Sojourner House MOMS executive director, Norma Raiff, Ph.D., L.S.W., retired from the organization on June 30, after 15 years of service.

Sojourner House is a nondenominational, faith-based residential rehabilitation center for addicted women and their families, located on Penn Avenue at the edge of East Liberty and Garfield. Under the leadership of Dr. Raiff, Sojourner House was named one of Allegheny County's 25 "most innovative nonprofits" in 2004.

After a search, the board of directors named Joann Cyganovich as Dr. Raiff's successor. Cyganovich, who began her new job on July 2, has been an advocate for homeless and underserved populations in the Pittsburgh area for two decades. She has an extensive background in human services administration and program development, and most recently was executive direc-

tor for Sisters Place, an agency that provides housing and supportive services to single, homeless mothers and their children.

In 2001, she was appointed by Allegheny County's Chief Executive, Jim Roddey, to serve on Allegheny County's Drug and Alcohol Planning Council. In 2004, Ms. Cyganovich served as the committee chairperson.

She is currently involved with Allegheny County's Homeless Alliance, where she serves on the Advocacy and Continuum of Care committees.



JOANN CYGANOVICH

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