



The Bulletin

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Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

Demolition Begins On Two Redevelopment Projects

The month of November saw two important demolitions get underway in the East End, in preparation for new, long-awaited construction projects.

On the chilly morning of November 14, a small group of community and political leaders gathered on Fern Street in Garfield Heights for a ceremony that simulated demolition of the public housing units there. A. Fulton Meacham Jr., executive director of the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP), donned a hard hat, climbed into a bulldozer, and took the first strikes at the blighted housing, to cheers from the crowd. The actual demolition, Meacham told *The Bulletin*, will begin in December,

making way for the three-phase construction of 275 new mixed-income rental units by

KBK Enterprises, a Columbus, Ohio-based development firm owned by Garfield native Keith Key.

"To have a Garfield native do this project is wonderful," Mayor Luke Ravenstahl told those gathered for the demolition. "What excites me the most is that this is the largest contract ever awarded to a minority contractor in Pittsburgh." The project has an estimated total price tag of \$60 million.

Phase 1, scheduled to begin construction in spring 2008, will include 90 units and a community center.

See DEMOLITION, page 11

CELEBRATING THE START OF THE GARFIELD HEIGHTS DEMOLITION WERE (FROM LEFT) RICK SWARTZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD CORP. (BGC); TISHA GERMANY, KBK ENTERPRISES; KEITH KEY, CEO OF KBK ENTERPRISES; JOANN MONROE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GARFIELD JUBILEE ASSOCIATES; AND GRADY ROBERTS JR., PRESIDENT, BGC BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Meals On Wheels Volunteers Deliver More Than Food to Home-Bound

The national organization, Meals on Wheels Association of America (MOWAA), began as a small program serving only seven seniors in Philadelphia in 1954. The idea for the program came from England, where female volunteers delivered meals to disabled and elderly residents during World War II. MOWAA is now a partnership of numerous nutrition programs across the country, serving the nutritional needs of millions of seniors and disadvantaged individuals.

The Lawrenceville-Bloomfield Meals on Wheels program was started 33 years ago by a group of Lawrenceville residents. As a program of the Lutheran Service Society, this group began delivering meals to the local elderly and handicapped. This program continues today with the

consistent dedication of the local volunteer meal deliverers.

Currently, this program serves 50-60 residents daily, providing them with meals for lunch and dinner. Every weekday morning, Meals on Wheels volunteers organize and package the meals, and then set off on their individual routes to deliver the meals. There are 35 volunteers at the Lawrenceville-Bloomfield location, and one salaried cook. The program runs five days a week, rain or shine. The Bloomfield Meals on Wheels location never closed once due to inclement weather last year. For weekends and holidays, if requested by the clients, the Meals on Wheels cook can freeze meals in advance to be dropped off the previous weekday.

By Teresa Kim Schmittberger
Bulletin Intern

Learning of this worthy program in the Bloomfield community, I asked if I could ride along on one of these trips. On the average day, all of the delivery cars leave the headquarters around 9 a.m. I arrived at this time to witness many of the volunteers busily loading their cars with the meals, preparing for departure. The hot meal of the day consisted of chicken, mashed potatoes, a roll, and gravy, and the cold meal was a sandwich and chips. Many local groups also drop off additional snacks left over from events, which are included in the meal packages.

I set off around 9:10 in the car of the Meals on Wheels president, Mary Jane Scully. Mary Jane was the driver, and Joellen Haslop, another volunteer,



Teresa Kim Schmittberger/The Bulletin

ON THE STREETS OF BLOOMFIELD WITH MOW'S MARY JANE SCULLY.

was the delivery person. There was a big Meals and Wheels sign in the back window of the car, and as we drove to the different stops, residents seemed to nod at us in recognition. We stopped at about 20 different locations

See MOW, page 6

EARLY JANUARY DEADLINE!

Because of the holidays, the **FINAL DEADLINE** for the **January 2008** issue of *The Bulletin* has been moved up to **Monday, December 10, 2007**. This includes ALL classified ads, Bulletin Board announcements, story submissions, and ad space reservations. All content is accepted on a space-available basis. For more information, call 412-441-6915.

PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE REPORT

Citizen Observer Alert!

Back in May, *The Bulletin* reported on plans for a new public safety initiative, Citizen Observer, slated to begin soon in Zone 5. Good news! After months of effort by City Council and Pittsburgh Police Department, Citizen Observer is up and running in our area.

Citizen Observer is a free service to the community that delivers alerts and pertinent information to concerned citizens as soon as possible – as quickly as 45 seconds after the police release the information! It is a city-wide alert system, but citizens can specify which zone they live in when signing up in order to receive updates specific to their area.

Signing up for Citizen Observer alerts is easy and, again, absolutely free. Although residents must initially register online at the Citizen Observer website (www.citizenobserver.com), once they're signed up, a computer is no longer necessary. The information is communicated several ways in order to ensure access for as many citizens as possible: Information is delivered via the Internet, e-mail, fax, pager, and/or text message, depending upon a mem-

By Deadra Keener
Public Safety Coordinator

ber's delivery preference.

In addition to choosing an alert-delivery preference, folks can also choose areas and select Watch Groups to receive alerts from in order to tailor information to their individual needs and interests. Local businesses also have the option of participating in the Business Alert Network to receive alerts of particular interest to business owners, such as robbery or vandalism.

Citizen Observer is not a one-way street, though. Registered users can – and are encouraged to – provide anonymous tips to the police to help solve local crimes and keep the community informed, fostering collaboration between the public and law enforcement. Working together, we can all be more effective.

This new initiative has the power to curb crime, catch criminals, and bring the community closer together. But it can accomplish all that only through community awareness, support, and action. So please register on the website today, and take part in making your community a safer, better place to live.

Citizen Alert

Pittsburgh Bureau of Police - Zone 5

Robberies in Friendship Area

Three armed robberies have occurred in the Friendship area.

November 6, 2007 @ 9:00 pm Graham/Harriett:
Male suspect approximately 5'9" wearing a tan carhart jacket pulled a gun on victim and demanded money.

SAMPLE CITIZEN OBSERVER ALERT FOR ZONE 5.

Where Do They Get All the Guns?

Consistently, **By Detective Jill Smallwood-Rustin and Assistant Chief Maurita Bryant**

Pittsburgh Bureau of Police

report disturbing levels of gun violence among young people across the United States, and people look to one another and ask, "Where do they get all the guns?" Well, the answer is simpler than you think, and it has nothing to do with planes bringing guns across miles of oceans into the United States. Several of the largest and most popular firearm manufacturers are located here in the United States of America. What most people don't realize is that there is a new wave of irresponsible gun owners who legally purchase firearms/guns for themselves, friends, or loved ones, under the guise of providing protection for themselves.

At age 21, young adults acquire the ability to legally purchase and consume alcoholic beverages; they also acquire the ability to legally purchase their first firearm and the ammunition to go with it. That's right – they celebrate their 21st birthday, and the following day many young adults can visit a local firearms dealer to purchase their very own firearm, provided they meet all criteria for state and federal laws.

The positive side to this is that these young adults have avoided involvement in the criminal justice system and have earned the privilege of gun ownership. But they also can become victims to enterprising criminals who prey on these unsuspecting and sometimes naïve young adults by suggesting they purchase guns for trade of money or narcotics. Individuals in addictions who need to support their habits often steal firearms from elderly or unsuspecting relatives in exchange for narcotics. In many instances, these guns are reported stolen, and the ownership is traced back to the individual who actually purchased the gun. The purchase, trade, or exchange of any firearm is illegal and may result in arrests and felony convictions. The nature of these arrests and the penalties come with life-altering consequences, and young adults have no clue that these consequences will impact their quality of life forever.

One 23-year-old young man reportedly lost two of the three firearms he purchased. He admitted to losing his semi-automatic pistol in a theft from his vehicle. He left the firearm in his glove compartment because he was "too tired" to take it into his house one early morning. One day after his 21st birth-

day, he purchased this firearm for himself and

applied for a license to carry a firearm on the same day. The license was granted, and this 21-year-old young adult was able to carry a concealed weapon into locations, except those which by law prohibit him from doing so.

He had no training, no psychological evaluation, and no reason for carrying a pistol other than he just wanted to own one. He was unemployed and did not need it to act in the performance of his employment duties. This firearm was his badge of honor, his ego, his "god," his new toy.

When his first semi-automatic pistol was stolen, he quickly purchased a second one, and he left the second pistol unattended inside of his vehicle. This time, his 20-year-old brother drove off with the vehicle. The police stopped his brother, who had no license to operate a motor vehicle and no license to own or carry a concealed firearm. The younger brother was charged with a felony, which will alter his lifestyle, choice of employment, and career selections. He can thank his "big brother" for this.

During an interview with police, a 23-year-old mother of three told detectives she wanted to provide a better lifestyle for her children, all under the age of 10 years. She was currently in school studying for a medical profession and had recently moved from public housing into a single-family house. A male friend just released from jail telephoned her and began showing interest in her; shortly thereafter they became intimate, and he popped the question, "Will you buy a gun for me?" She considered him a friend, her lover, and agreed to do this favor. Less than 10 days from the date of purchase, this male friend was arrested by the city police with her gun, a second firearm, and a large amount of narcotics. The gun owner's identity was traced to her shortly after the police recovered the firearms; eventually, she was visited by detectives.

During the course of the interview, this young lady stated she needed the extra money, which partly motivated her to purchase the gun for her male friend. When asked how much she received, she was embarrassed to say she received a ride to Wal-Mart and \$100.



See GUNS, page 4

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Friendship Native Wins Father Leo Henry Award

Gregory Heisler, a Friendship native who was born and raised in the same S. Pacific St.

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

refinishing business centered in the East End, says he was "humbled" by the

house where he lives today, received the Fr. Leo Henry Award on October 29, at the annual meeting and elections of the board of directors of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC). The award, which is named for the founder of the BGC, is presented annually to the person who has best demonstrated a commitment to working for change in the community.

Heisler, who owns and runs a wood-

acknowledgment. "Fr. Leo is an amazing man. It's such an honor."

Heisler has been involved with the BGC since 1988. He first became active, he says, when "we had a problem in the neighborhood. Cars were being broken into and set on fire." A couch on a neighbor's back porch was also set alight. At the suggestion of BGC staff, Heisler and his neighbors got together to form a public safety task force "to get more police activity." Police eventually caught the man who was terrorizing the neighborhood. And later that year, Heisler was invited to join the BGC board.

Heisler has been a board member ever since. Much of his work in subsequent years has focused on public safety issues, but he also participated in an early committee to explore developing Penn Avenue and has pitched in whenever needed.

What has kept him coming back after almost 20 years on the BGC board? "Year in and year out, you meet some of the best people you'd ever want to know," Heisler says. "It's the best deal in town."



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

GREGORY HEISLER, WITH HIS GRANDSON EVAN, SHOWS OFF HIS FR. LEO HENRY AWARD.

BGC Elects New Board of Directors



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

THE BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD CORPORATION ELECTED ITS 2007-2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 29. ACCORDING TO THE BGC BY-LAWS, THE MAJORITY OF BOARD MEMBERS MUST EITHER LIVE, WORK, OR OWN PROPERTY IN THE COMMUNITY SERVED BY THE ORGANIZATION. PICTURED ARE: (FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT) JIM MALONEY, FREDDIE CROCE, GRADY ROBERTS JR., JENNIFER QUINIO, AND GREG HEISLER; (SECOND ROW, FROM LEFT) JASON WILBURN, TRICIA STUCKEY, EILEEN KRAUS DOBRATZ, AND BILL CORNELL; (THIRD ROW, FROM LEFT) GLADYS WILLIAMS, BRIAN RITZ, AND KENYA BOSWELL. MISSING FROM THE PHOTO ARE CATHERINE CURRY, P.J. MALONEY, AND STAN RICKETTS.

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www.bgcbulletin.blogspot.com.

Check it out for news and events you won't want to miss!

The Bulletin

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

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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THE BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD CORP'S EYESORE PROPERTIES OF THE MONTH

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

Does Owner Deserve Jail Time for Neglecting Properties?

How long is long enough? What is the resolution for slum owners who abandon their properties in our neighborhoods?

One answer: Criminal penalties, because they are robbing neighboring owners of the equity in their properties and creating a breeding ground for criminal behavior.

For too long, the properties at 5346 and 5348 Kincaid Street have been vacant and blighted. According to the Allegheny County Real Estate website, LAMCO Enterprises, Inc. is the recorded owner of the properties, which were purchased in December of 1994 for \$3,052 each. They are both heavily tax delinquent. The tax bill mailing address is "Undeliverable/No Known Address."

The BGC staff worked with the office of State Sen. Jim Ferlo to get the Articles of Incorporation on LAMCO Enterprises. The Articles of Incorporation list Lloyd A. Moore, 833 N. Euclid Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 as the sole incorporator. The BGC staff tried to find Moore at this address, but there was no listing.

In checking with the Bureau of Building Inspection, the BGC staff learned that the BBI had cited Moore in November, 2006. The citation for 5346



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

Kincaid Street was for graffiti, rubbish, garbage, and a missing railing, while the citation for 5348 Kincaid Street was for graffiti, rubbish, garbage, overgrown grass, rear wall bricks loose and missing mortar, window panes broken, porch section ceiling loose, and front porch guard missing. The mailing address for the citations was P.O. Box 5394, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

The BBI inspector informed the BGC that legal action against Moore was filed 10 months ago, and on December 1, 2007, all cases will begin going in front of the district magistrates.

In addition to the two properties that Moore has in Garfield, he also owns

these properties: 2716 Sherlock St, 26th Ward, which is condemned; 1405 North Ave., Wilkinsburg, which is condemned; and 16 Station St., Rankin, which is a vacant lot. All of the properties are heavily tax delinquent.

Some would say Mr. Moore has had as much of a role in destroying the Garfield community as any criminal. He has walked away from his responsibilities, and that is not acceptable. As the owner of these properties, he needs to rehabilitate, demolish, or sell them and not let them stand abandoned and create blight for our neighbors.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

BOTH THE FRONT (ABOVE LEFT) AND BACK OF 5346 AND 5348 KINCAID STREET ARE A DISGRACE.

GUNS, from page 2

He was to wait for her while she shopped; however, when she returned to the parking lot, he was gone. She never saw him again, and the intimate relationship she thought existed was over.

She has now been arrested for a felony associated with purchasing firearms for another individual. She was separated from her children, and she will probably not pass the criminal history check for the medical career she was studying for.

Gun ownership is so much more than

just buying a gun; it is a privilege that requires consideration, maturity, and responsibility. Although at the age of 21 we are considered adults, does that really make us mature, prepared, and capable at all levels of responsibility? It simply means we are 21 years of age and have been granted certain legal entitlements that did not exist previously. Lastly, when individuals are placed in compromising positions, you must first love yourself and the life which God has

graced you with.

The second amendment of the Constitution of the United States reads, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a Free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." This suggests that all men and women have the right to bear arms; but it would be reasonable to assume our forefathers intended that with that right would come some responsibility.

Leon Swimmer, Former Bulletin Columnist

Leon Swimmer, 78, of North Fairmount Street in Garfield, passed away on October 29. Veteran *Bulletin* readers may remember Mr. Swimmer's op-ed column, "The View from North Fairmont," which he contributed to this newspaper in the early 1980s on such topics as plant closings, tax increases, and other economic and labor matters. In addition, Mr. Swimmer worked at the Carreathers & Foster bookstore on Penn Avenue.

But many more people will remember him as a devoted labor activist. He worked with the Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers Union Local 12, participating in the struggle to keep the Nabisco plant on Penn Avenue in East Liberty from closing. Mr. Swimmer was the first to bring Nabisco's plans to close to the attention of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, which then became involved in the effort to keep the plant open. To raise public awareness, Mr. Swimmer wrote a series of articles about the Nabisco closing in *The Bulletin* in 1983.

A colleague in labor since 1980, Paul Girdany (currently the contract administrator for the Airline Pilots Association of the AFL-CIO) praised Mr. Swimmer as "not a labor leader, but one of the unsung heroes. Any time there was a strike in the Pittsburgh area, you could count on Leon Swimmer to be there. He was a generous person who gave of his time to help his brothers and sisters in labor."

The Neighborhood Academy Earns High Marks from Parents

Edna Cardwell doesn't have to search for words when it comes to her feelings about The Neighborhood Academy, the 8-12 private high school in Garfield that her 14-year-old daughter, Chelsea, attends. "I absolutely love it!" she says.

In fact, Ms. Cardwell, a Pittsburgh native who left in 1976 and lived for many years near Atlanta, moved back to her hometown so that her daughter could attend the academy. "I was serious about getting her out of public school," says Ms. Cardwell, but she found that most private schools in Atlanta were beyond her budget. Still, she hadn't planned on leaving Georgia.

Then, while mother and daughter were visiting family in Pittsburgh, Chelsea became acquainted with a girl who was enrolled at The Neigh-

borhood Academy, and got interested in the school. Her mother wasn't at first enthused, wondering what kind of school kept students in attendance for almost 12 hours a day. But when they went to a Neighborhood Academy open house, Chelsea "knew instantly this was the place she wanted to be," says her mother, and they relocated. The Cardwells initially lived in Garfield, but recently moved to Highland Park.

The Neighborhood Academy, located in Champion Commons at 5231 Penn Avenue, was founded in 1993 as a private, faith-based (though nonsectarian) college preparatory school for low-income students. Its mission is to "develop the minds, bodies, and spirits of our students so that they might

By **Paula Martinac**
The Bulletin

become fully productive members of our society... [and] break the cycle of poverty that has held them captive and deprived society of the value of their lives." The school's daily program includes morning worship, a full day of classes, after-school arts and athletics, study time, and three meals a day at the school. Students also make college visits and take other supervised field trips. Currently, 68 students are enrolled, eight of whom are from the immediate neighborhoods.

Chelsea Cardwell is now in her second year, working toward her dream of going into business management and becoming the CEO of a company. "They really care about the students," says her mother, when asked what she likes best about the school. "I didn't agree with the hours at first, but now I love them. It keeps her focused." Both Cardwells pointed out the advantage of small classes: there were just five students in Chelsea's eighth-grade class, and there are nine in her current one. And the teacher-student ratio pays off – Chelsea had all A's and B's on her most recent report card.

Melissa Hull of Penn Hills agrees about the benefits of the small class



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER EDNA AND CHELSEA CARDWELL DURING A BREAK AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY.

size. Both of Ms. Hull's children are currently enrolled at The Neighborhood Academy – her daughter Allison is in 9th grade, and her son Joshua is

See **ACADEMY**, page 12



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BGC Luncheon Fetes The Bank of New York Mellon, Former URA Head

On November 16, approximately 125 community and business leaders turned out for the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's annual board fundraiser. This year's event, a luncheon at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association in Oakland, was called "Solving the Puzzle," and honored The Bank of New York Mellon for its 10-year financial commitment to creating economic, physical, and social change in Pittsburgh's East End. The BGC also paid tribute to Jerry Dettore, former executive director of Pittsburgh's Urban Redevelopment Authority, for his 38 years of public service.

The event was made possible by sponsorships from The Bank of New York Mellon, PNC Bank, National City Bank, Allegheny Valley Bank, UPMC, and the Urban Redevelopment Authority, and generous donations from countless others.

"SOLVING THE PUZZLE" EMCEE AND BGC BOARD MEMBER P.J. MALONEY (LEFT) PRESENTED AN AWARD TO THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, ACCEPTED BY ROSE GABBIANELLI, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND GLOBAL DIRECTOR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS.



Photos by Paula Martinac/The Bulletin



ALSO HONORED AT THE LUNCHEON WAS JERRY DETTORE (RIGHT), WHO RECEIVED A PLAQUE FROM RICK SWARTZ, THE BGC'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

ANGELA BUTLER (LEFT) AND MARY BRAY DELIVERED TESTIMONIALS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BGC'S YOUTH PROGRAMMING.



TAX MAN

by Patrick N. Price
Tax Consultant
Internal Revenue Service

For 2007 only, mortgage insurance premiums can be treated as home mortgage interest. New lines on the 2007 versions of Forms 1098 and 1040 Schedule A have been added to allow reporting of the mortgage insurance premiums. Premiums that you pay or accrue for "qualified mortgage insurance" during 2007 in connection with home acquisition debt on your qualified home are deductible as home mortgage interest. The amount you can deduct is reduced by 10 percent for every \$1,000 (\$500 if your filing status is married filing separately) by which your adjusted gross income exceeds \$100,000 (\$50,000 if married filing separately). Mortgage insurance premiums you paid or accrued on any mortgage insurance contract issued before January 1, 2007, are not deductible as home mortgage interest. For more information, taxpayers should visit www.irs.gov and search under the key words "mortgage insurance premiums."



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



"...Oh Peggy, My Peggy Sue..."

Peggy Sue is a 1-year-old terrier mix with a terrier personality – she is affectionate, entertaining, and energetic! Peggy Sue loves attention and is a born party animal. She likes to jump and run, and plays eagerly with her toys.

Other high-energy athletic dogs will fall in love with Peggy Sue. Although she loves all kinds of people, active adults and teenagers would serve as the best companions for her. She would enjoy a fenced-in yard and obedience classes so that she can use her energy in productive ways! Peggy Sue is not sure about living with other dogs, and since terriers are known to have a healthy prey drive, she would probably not be a good friend to a cat or small mammal.

Peggy Sue is a pretty wiggle worm and will do her best to wiggle into your heart. She has certainly wiggled into ours. Peggy Sue can be found at Animal Friends: www.animal-friends.org or 412-847-7000.

MOW, from page 1

throughout Bloomfield, and our route took about two hours to complete; however, the average delivery car has only five or six stops and is finished in under 45 minutes. Volunteers will complete their route once or twice a week, depending on their availability. Mary Jane has been driving since 1993, and went from being a member of the board of directors, to becoming president. Joellen recently moved to the Bloomfield area, and having worked with Meals on Wheels where she lived previously, wanted to continue volunteering in her new community. Mary Jane and Joellen drive together every Monday and Tuesday morning, and the Monday I joined them was just another typical delivery day.

As we approached our first site, Mary Jane explained to me the number one rule about delivery: "We can never leave a meal outside the door, we always need to make sure we give it to someone." If the Meals on Wheels deliverer rings the doorbell or knocks, and no one answers, first they will call the residence and explain they are at the door. If there is still no answer, they will call a family member of the client, and ask the family member if he/she knows where the client is and let them

know that the client is not answering the door. By determining the location and safety of the client, Meals on Wheels serves the additional function of checking on the client's well-being on a daily basis.

At each of our stops, the clients seemed cheerful and grateful at the sight of us. When we reached one of the homes, and one of the female clients was having more trouble walking than normal, Joellen graciously escorted her back inside, and Mary Jane quickly made a phone call to the client's family contact to inform him of the development. Each of the clients pays four dollars a day, unless they can't afford that price; the program depends on community funding to make up the difference. Meals on Wheels received checks from many of the clients, and the rest of morning went off without a hitch.

The Lawrenceville-Bloomfield Meals on Wheels program is greatly in need of volunteers. The delivery route will usually take less than an hour to complete once or twice a week, and it is definitely a fulfilling experience. If you are interested in volunteering for Meals on Wheels, contact JoAnne at 412-687-0830 (0831).

Happy Holidays from The Bulletin!

When Temperatures Drop, LIHEAP Helps Low-Income Families Stay Warm

By Frank Pistella
Neighborhood Legal
Services Association

Now is the time of year when the temperatures begin to fall, and thermostats begin to rise. Indeed, some families may have difficulties in just turning on their thermostat. To help these families and individuals, the Federal government has created the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The program is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, and its purpose is to keep the homes of individuals warm during the coldest time of the year.

LIHEAP is a "grant" program, which means that participants do not have to repay the money that is paid toward their heating costs. Participants do not need to be on public assistance or have an unpaid heating bill, and they can participate in the program whether they rent or own a home. There are two types of grant – a "cash" grant and a "crisis" grant.

The LIHEAP cash grant is sent directly to the primary home-heating utility company or fuel provider, and is credited to the participant's fuel bill. In some situations, the LIHEAP check may be mailed directly to the participant.

The LIHEAP crisis grant helps families and individuals that have an emergency with their primary heating unit or who may be in danger of being without heat. Emergencies may

include broken heating equipment, such as a furnace, broken lines used for transferring heat through the home, a fuel shortage, or the heat being shut off. If any of these emergencies occur, call the local County Assistance Office.

The LIHEAP program started on November 5, and is expected to run until March 21, 2008. When applying for any of the LIHEAP grants, the applicant will need to provide the names, dates of birth, and Social Security numbers for all the people in the household. In addition, they must provide proof of income for all of the members of the household, along with a recent heating bill. The income limits are based upon 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines (up to \$15,315 for a single-person household; \$20,535 or less for a two-person household; \$25,755 or less for a three-person household; and \$30,975 or less for a household of four). The income guidelines go up to \$72,735 or less for a household of 12, and for each additional person over 12 in the household, the income goes up by \$5,220 per person.

The LIHEAP program is currently issuing payments for both cash and

emergency grants. A person can apply for both the cash and crisis grants during the same LIHEAP cycle. Cash grant applications are limited to one per LIHEAP cycle; however, multiple crisis grant applications can be made until the individual amount of \$300 is reached per applicant per year. Every effort should be made by LIHEAP applicants to work with their utility company to participate in any customer assistance programs (CAP) that may be available.

Interested applicants for LIHEAP can receive help by visiting a local Allegheny County Assistance Office. In Allegheny County, applicants should call 412-562-0330 for cash grants and 800-851-3838 for crisis grants. Applicants may also apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us. Prior eligible LIHEAP participants should have received their applications in the mail. The Department of Public Welfare mailed these applications during the weeks preceding the November 5 program start-up date.

For more information on Neighborhood Legal Services Association, please visit us at www.nlsa.us. At our website, you will find a link to www.PaLAWHelp.org, which also provides valuable legal information on a multitude of legal topics. NLSA also 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).

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Abyssinia Gallery Owner Enriches Penn Avenue with Unique African Collection

When you walk into the Abyssinia Gallery, located at 5515 Penn Avenue, you find yourself in a spacious, high-ceilinged gallery filled with sculptures, paintings, and jewelry of African, African-American, or contemporary artists. Visitors to the gallery are captivated by a range of unique pieces from throughout Southern and Eastern Africa, often accompanied by the latest art from local Pittsburgh artists. Previously located in the center of East Liberty, the Abyssinia Gallery moved to Garfield a few months ago, emerging into the heart of the Penn Avenue art scene, and owner Martha Vasser became the first African-American gallery owner on the avenue.

Martha Vasser moved to Pittsburgh 20 years ago with the goal of one day opening an art gallery filled with the art from her home of Ethiopia and neighboring African countries. When she first arrived in Pittsburgh, Martha attended the University of Pittsburgh and received her bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in elementary education. After finishing her education, she worked as a youth counselor, real estate agent, and for different nonprofit groups. However, she never forgot about her dream of opening an

African art gallery in Pittsburgh.

This dream began when Martha was a young girl in Ethiopia. Although she herself is not an artist, she was inspired by local Ethiopian art, as well as art from across the world. Martha's father was an educator who often traveled, and he would always bring back art from the different countries he visited. Martha happily recalled that this art provided "little peepholes into other cultures that remind you that you do not live in a vacuum," which instilled a deep curiosity in her to learn about other countries.

Two years ago, when Martha finally had the means to open a gallery, she began to "eat, sleep, and breathe it." The idea behind the gallery is to unite an eclectic collection of African, African-American, and Contemporary art within one gallery. Local artists are also able to exhibit their work within the gallery space. Her mother, who still lives in Ethiopia, and her sister, who lives in Botswana, devote some

By Teresa Kim Schmittberger
Bulletin Intern

"[Art provides] little peepholes into other cultures that remind you that you do not live in a vacuum."

of their free time searching for pieces for the Abyssinia collection. Martha also returns to Africa to visit craft villages and individual artists in order to purchase the art herself and make sure she is truly buying one-of-a-kind pieces.

Martha's favorite piece is a decorative cross, constructed by the renowned artist Alefeleg Selam. Martha personally knew and admired Alefeleg as a child in Ethiopia, when her father was the principal of the school in which

Alefeleg taught art. Alefeleg Selam became the founder of the first art school in Ethiopia. His work is always church-themed, and Martha recalls how he would climb up the domes and walls of churches to paint. Alefeleg Selam gave the cross to the Abyssinia Gallery, and it easily became Martha's favorite piece.

Martha is only 40 years old, and she is currently married with two children: one in high school and one in college. Although she calls Pittsburgh



Teresa Kim Schmittberger/The Bulletin

ABYSSINIA IS THE FIRST GALLERY ON THE PENN AVENUE CORRIDOR THAT IS OWNED BY AN AFRICAN AMERICAN.

her home, she says Ethiopia will always be part of her "fundamental fibers."

Everything in the Abyssinia Gallery is for sale, and the prices are diverse. As the holidays and the New Year approach, the Abyssinia gallery will be hosting an open house every Saturday from noon to 7 p.m. for refreshments and holiday sales. The Abyssinia Gallery is also available to be rented out for workshops, meetings, or small cocktail parties. Abyssinia is open for general business from 1 to 8 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call 412-654-1408.



Before age five, every room is a classroom.

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To find out more, go to pncgrowupgreat.com or call 1-877-PNC-GROW.



New Children's Hospital Counts Down to May 2009 Opening

Construction of the new Children's Hospital has been going on for so long at the former site of St. Francis Hospital - since early in 2003 - that it has sometimes been hard to imagine that it is ever going to finish.

But finish it will in the coming year. By late in 2008, the Penn and Main neighborhood is going to see the first staff members moving into Children's advanced John G. Rangos Sr. Research Center, the ten-story building now going up on the north end of the site. Throughout the following months, the hospital's entire staff and physician faculty will arrive on the new campus in a series of moves.

The hospital will be fully open and operating as of 7 a.m. Saturday, May 2, 2009. That day, Children's will carry out a massive operation to move every patient from the Oakland hospital to the new campus on Penn Avenue. As of May 2, all patients, including Emergency Department patients, will be seen at the new hospital.

Staff members from Children's - including physicians, nurses and researchers - are excited about working at the new campus. More than 500 staff members and visitors have toured the campus buildings, and they have all been struck by their roominess and the windows that allow sunlight in from seemingly every angle.

"I don't know what I'm going to do with all this room," said nurse Lindsi

By Brian Connelly
*Children's Hospital
Public and Government Affairs*

Deibler when touring the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Her reaction is typical - the new hospital is vast, compared to the existing Children's campus.

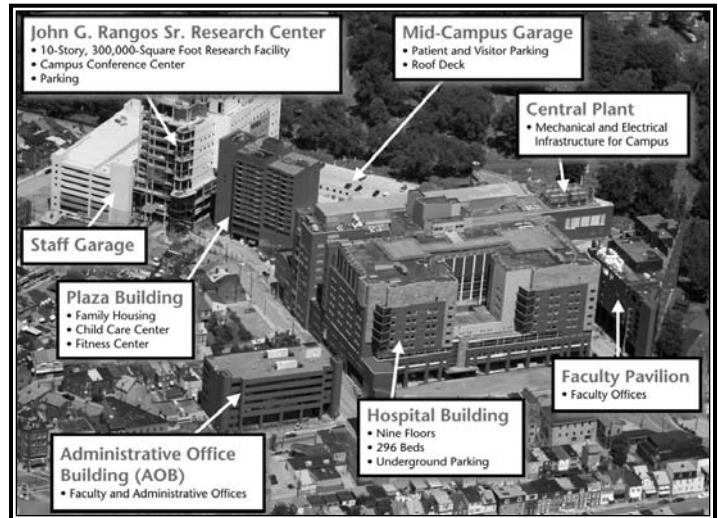
"When we were leaving the tour, we happened to look back from Liberty Avenue in Bloomfield," said Geri Novotni, executive assistant in Children's Department of Public and Government Affairs. "The hospital just filled the sky. It was breathtaking."

Children's staff are also expressing interest in the new neighborhood. After decades in the chaotic but familiar heart of Oakland, staff members want to know where they can eat and shop.

A lot of Children's staff members are starting to think outside of Oakland - and to realize that the hospital's new home sits at a crossroads. While the hospital is on the Lawrenceville side of Penn Avenue, it is really situated at the meeting point of Lawrenceville, Garfield and Bloomfield - and a very short hop from Friendship.

The new Children's is already a big presence on the neighborhood skyline - and as the Children's physicians and staff plan where they will live, how they will commute, and what services they will use, that presence will continue to grow.

You can find more information on the new hospital - including virtual tours - online at www.chp.edu/new_campus.



WingPix Aerial Photography

EIGHT BUILDINGS OF THE NEW CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CAMPUS ARE SHOWN IN THIS AERIAL VIEW FROM SEPTEMBER. THIS IS THE FINAL EXTERIOR SHAPE - NO MORE STRUCTURES ARE GOING UP, AND ALL THE STRUCTURES ARE EITHER CLOSED-IN OR WILL BE CLOSED-IN IN COMING MONTHS.

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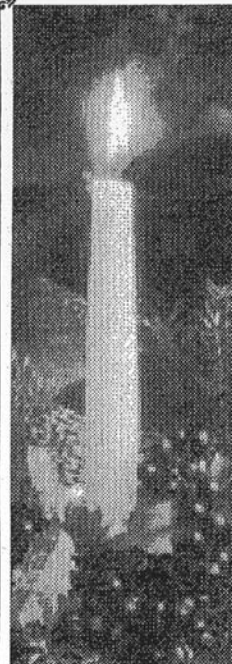
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Our Remembrance Candle

*During this Holiday Season,
more than ever, our thoughts and
prayers turn to those who have
lost a loved one this past year.*

*We are lighting a candle in our
funeral home in remembrance of
all the families that we have been
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*And it is in this spirit that we simply
say... "May the Peace and Joy of
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ATTACK THEATRE VOLUNTEERS

Attack Theatre is seeking administrative volunteers for the 2007-08 season. For more information, please contact Rebecca at 412-441-8444 or rebecca@attacktheatre.com.

CHILDREN'S HOME PRODUCTS ON SALE

Get a head start on your holiday shopping while supporting a good cause! Products featuring the colorful, original artwork of five local children are now on sale to benefit The Children's Home of Pittsburgh & Lemieux Family Center. Products include organically certified, shade-grown, fair-trade Nicaraguan coffee, roasted fresh locally, available as regular for \$10 and decaf for \$12; fudge bars produced locally by Fudgie Wudgie, sold as 3 packs for \$6.00 and an 8-piece sampler for \$18; and note cards (10 per pack) for \$10. These items are perfect as holiday gifts, hostess gifts, teacher gifts, and thank you gifts. To order visit www.childrenshomepgh.org. Those interested in volunteering to help sell or promote these products should contact Robin Weber, director of marketing, at rweber@chomepgh.org or 412-441-4884 ext 2045.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS

Trinity Hospice is recruiting volunteers for patient visits, respite for caregivers, administrative work (computer), and community projects (knit and crochet). Trinity Hospice is an 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. Training is available. Contact Deborah Scott at 412-351-4494.

FLU SHOTS FOR HOMEBOUND SENIORS

Through Dec. 14, homebound seniors in Allegheny County will be able to get free flu shots. To qualify, you must be at least 60 years old, homebound, and meet some simple health criteria. Call Ursuline Senior Services at 412-683-0400 x 264, and leave a message. Someone will return your call to schedule your flu shot appointment and provide additional information. The program is made possible by a grant from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield.

CASA TRAINING

You can apply to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for abused and neglected children in Allegheny County. Attend an informational program to learn more about CASA, our upcoming volunteer training, and the application process. An hour-long

program will be held on Wednesday, December 19, at 6 p.m. at our Downtown office, located at 564 Forbes Avenue, suite 902. Contact CASA at 412-594-3606 or fill out our Web form at www.pgh-casa.org to RSVP.

HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW AND SALE

St. Raphael School, 1154 Chislett Street, will host its 39th Annual Holiday Craft Show and Sale on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 3 to 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will feature crafters displaying beautiful homemade gift items for the holidays. Representatives from Home Interiors and Pampered Chef will be present. Many items will be priced so children can buy gifts for family and friends. The popular Breakfast with Santa will be on Sunday, Dec. 2, from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Children will be able to meet with Santa and have their photos taken. ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY. For more details on the craft show or tickets for Breakfast with Santa, call 412-661-0288.

WALDORF SCHOOL WINTER FAIR

Winter Fair, a hallmark celebration of the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh, will take place at the school, located in Friendship, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, December 1. Visitors of all ages will be delighted by the warm atmosphere of winter from days gone by. Children and adults alike can experience the pleasure of hand-dipping candles, felting a wool bag, and pulling taffy. A rich variety of performances includes a marionette show, a cappella singers "The Purple

Mondays," and a local storyteller. Holiday shoppers will be tempted by a unique selection of natural and handmade toys and beautifully crafted decorations. Experience the Friendship of old. This school building, a mansion built for the Lynch family in 1867, beautifully showcases a fine Pittsburgh Historic Landmark that is still a lively part of its community. Admission is \$5 per person ordering by Wednesday, Nov. 21; \$7 per person at the door. Craft Fee is \$4 per person for 3 crafts. (To pre-order, call 412-441-5792, ext. 0 between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.) For more information, visit www.waldorfpittsburgh.org or call 412-441-5792.

CRISIS HOTLINE TRAINING

CONTACT Pittsburgh, a crisis and suicide hotline, is looking for nonjudgmental listeners to provide immediate emotional support to adults and teens. Volunteer Crisis Line Specialists are needed to work at the center's crisis hotline, which is staffed 365 days a year. Each and every one of our volunteers undergoes a rigorous, comprehensive training program, receiving education in topics as diverse as suicide, elderly and teen issues and the concerns of returning veterans. Won't you consider becoming a lifeline for someone in need? Classes will be held on the following dates: Thursday, January 24, 6-9 p.m.; Saturday, January 26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, February 2, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, February 9, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday, February 12, 6-9 p.m. Snow Dates: February 16 and 19. Participation is mandatory at all training sessions. Applications are due January 18. Volunteers work 8 to 12 service hours per month. For additional information, contact Elizabeth Zinno of CONTACT

Pittsburgh at (412) 820-0100 or ezinno@contactpgh.org, or go to www.contactpgh.org.

VINTAGE SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS

Vintage Senior Center, located at 401 N. Highland Avenue in East Liberty, offers an array of recreational activities for older adults, such as billiards, bingo, bridge, card games, ceramics, crafts, Soul Line Dancing, and trips. Call for more info: 412-361-5003, x 104; or visit www.vintageseniorservices.org.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND FLEA MARKET

Come to a Holiday Bazaar and Flea Market at Evaline Lutheran Church, 259 South Evaline Street, on Saturday, December 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. An array of crafts, collectibles, holiday decor, gifts, and toys. Silent auctions for great gifts and gift certificates. Gently used clothing and household items at the flea market. Stay for lunch - soup, sandwiches, desserts, and beverages will be available.

YOUTHS NEEDED FOR PAID HOSPITAL TRAINING

Time and again young adults mention one major obstacle when it comes to landing a job - lack of experience. West Penn Hospital, in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Partnership, is committed to helping youth overcome that obstacle. The Youth Employment Program at West Penn is currently recruiting young adults ages 17 through 21 with an interest in

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East Liberty Branch**
130 S Whitfield St. 412-363-8232

Preschool Storytime

For ages 3-5. Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., December 6, 13, 20, and 27.

Winter BINGO

For ages 5-12, with family member. Thursday, 2 p.m., December 27.

East Liberty PC Center:

No computer classes for December. For more information about our free computer classes, call the PC Center-East Liberty at 412-363-6105.

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

Preschool Storytime

For ages 3-5. Thursdays, 11 a.m., December 6, 13, 20, 27.

Adult Book Discussion

Monday, December 10, from 5-6 p.m. The featured book is *The Santa Cruise*, by Mary and Carol Higgins Clark.

Teen Activities:

Button-Making

For teens. Saturday, December 8, 3:30-5 p.m. Come and make your

own buttons using clippings from old magazines, posters, etc.

Get Your Game On!

For teens. Saturday, December 15, 3-5 p.m. Come and try out the Nintendo Wii!

Teen Craft

For teens. Wednesday, December 19, 4:30-6 p.m. Make your own cute and retro pom-poms and other fun yarn things to dress up your winter outfits!



BULLETIN BOARD

health careers for the Out of School work program. Opportunities are available to young adults for paid work in entry-level positions throughout the hospital. Applicants must possess a high school diploma or GED, be residents of the city of Pittsburgh, and meet specific household income criteria. Upon successful completion of the program, participants may be eligible for a full-time, permanent position at West Penn Hospital. All interested applicants should contact Allison Murphy, Coordinator of Youth Employment, West Penn Hospital, at 412-578-5290.

NEW FINANCIAL HELP WEBSITE

There are lots of organizations in the area that offer credit and budget counseling and can help you manage your finances. Learn more about local programs at www.YouControlYourMoney.org, the new website of the Financial Education Consortium of Southwestern Pennsylvania. This Western Pennsylvania-focused website offers information on everything from major financial troubles to ways to prevent financial problems. Each topic area includes a description of that situation, articles with advice on how to overcome or improve it, and a list of area agencies that offer programs to help individuals facing that particular financial challenge. Programs vary from work-

shops to one-on-one counseling to savings programs, and are offered in convenient locations within the region. In addition, the website includes announcements of upcoming financial education events and links to additional online resources.

DAT HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Dance Alloy Theater presents "A Different Drummer," an evening of percussive possibilities, physical feats and poignant play, December 7-10, at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater in East Liberty. Tickets: \$20/general admission, \$18 advance purchase; or \$15/students & seniors, \$13 advance purchase. Visit www.dancealloy.org for more details or call 412.363.4321 to order tickets.

ENEC's FREE JOB SERVICES

The Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center serves the East End of Pittsburgh, offering a variety of FREE services including: Computer and Internet Access; Improving or Developing a Resume; Up-to-Date Job Postings; One-on-One Job Counseling; Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Job Retention Program; CareerLink and YouthLINK affiliation. Call 412-362-8580 to make an appointment, or stop by from 1 to 5 p.m. at 5100 Penn Avenue, 2nd Floor.

Bring the whole family to Bloomfield Garfield Corporation's Annual Holiday Celebration



Date: Friday, December 14
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: BGC Community Activity Center
113 N. Pacific Avenue

Don't miss the opportunity to
visit with Santa or to join in on the
holiday sing-along!

As always, cookies, candy and
hot cocoa will be served!!

A highlight of the evening will be the
lighting of a Christmas Tree decorated
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A Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools member

DEMOLITION, from page 1

Fifty of those will be designated very low-income; 20 will be affordable to households at 80 percent or less of area median income; and 20 will be market-rate.

"These are the streets I grew up on," Key told the audience. He called the occasion "bittersweet," pointing out the Fern Street unit where David Scott, KBK's chief of construction, lived as a youth. "There's no place like home, and we want Garfield to be a place people can call home."

In closing, Key presented awards to the mayor, HACP, the Garfield Tenant's Council, and two community development groups, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) and Garfield Jubilee Associates, for bringing the important project to fruition.

Meanwhile, down the hill on Penn Avenue, the demolition of blighted commercial buildings at the corner of North Fairmount Street also got started in mid-November, paving the way for construction of the Glass Lofts. Designed by Arthur Lubetz Associates Architects, the Glass Lofts will consist of 18 loft-style,

mixed-income condominiums, a restaurant space, offices, and artist studios. The construction is part of the Penn-Fairmount Master Plan, a joint, community-driven project of the Friendship Development Associates, the BGC, Garfield Jubilee, and Presbyterian SeniorCare.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

**TAKING A BITE OUT OF BLIGHT AT
PENN AVE. AND NORTH FAIRMOUNT.**

Results of Lawrenceville's Elm Street District Survey Released

During the month of October, Lawrenceville's Elm Street Committee distributed

700 surveys to households in what is known as the Elm Street District. They did this through a local church, coffee shop, and going door to door.

Elm Street is a statewide program that aims to improve the situation of urban neighborhoods. Lawrenceville's Elm Street District is a section of the 10th Ward bounded by Stanton Avenue, Dresden Way, Keystone Street, and 55th Street.

Ten percent (70) of the surveys were returned, providing the Lawrenceville Corporation with a glimpse of resident concerns and priorities for the Elm Street District.

These are the results:

66% would like to see dilapidated houses repaired
64% would like to see an increased police presence
53% would like to see vacant lots improved and maintained
46% would like to see slower traffic in the streets

By Nadia Diboun
Lawrenceville Corporation

27% would like to see street lighting improved
24% would like to see sidewalks repaired
21% would like to see street pot holes repaired
4% would like to see on street parking restricted
83% like their neighbors and the community spirit
38% like the location and convenience of the District
18% like the shops
12% like the cost of living
7% like the new security cameras
41% dislike the trash
37% dislike the crime
28% dislike the drugs
26% dislike disrespectful people in the community
22% dislike the noise

To learn more about the Elm Street program, visit www.padowntown.org. There are a variety of ways you can have a positive impact. Call 412-782-5100 x 102 with any questions or to become involved.

ACADEMY, from page 5

a senior.

"I had some reservations about the neighborhood," Ms. Hull notes, when asked about the Garfield location. "But the security they have made me feel better. And the students are very much supervised."

Like Ms. Cardwell, she had concerns about the long hours, and she says her son wasn't initially happy about the schedule. "You don't have the same amount of time together as a family," she observes. "But they're investing in their future, so it's

worth it." She says what she likes best is that the school "exposes them to different things and really helps them prepare for college." She also mentions the affordability, with tuition based on parents' income.

"And I like the uniforms, too," Ms. Hull laughs. "They definitely take the pressure off!"

For more information about The Neighborhood Academy, visit www.the-neighborhoodacademy.org or call 412-362-2001.

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ALL TEXT ADS (INCLUDING FOR SALE ADS) are \$5 for 15 words and 10 cents for each additional word. We DO NOT run "personal ads." BLOCK ads (1.5" x 2.5") are \$15

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For more information on West Penn Burn Center or to schedule an outreach program,
call 412-578-5273

or visit www.westpennburncenter.com.



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