



The Bulletin

A Publication of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

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Contract for Penn Avenue Revitalization Signed, Sealed, and Delivered

In a triumph for our neighborhoods, the revitalization of the two-mile stretch of Penn Avenue between Doughboy Square in Lawrenceville and Negley Avenue in East Liberty has officially kicked off. On December 6, the city's Department of Public Works Bureau of Transportation and Engineering transmitted a signed "notice to proceed" to engineering and architectural firm L. Robert Kimball & Associates, which will oversee the physical transformation of the corridor over the next several years.

"It's a new day," said Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and chair of the Penn Avenue phasing plan committee, made up of city and state officials, staff of community development organizations, and other community stakeholders. "We should congratulate the community for staying focused and rallying around this issue. It took years, but persistence pays off."

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

The bulldozers, though, won't be rolling in any time soon - actual construction will probably not begin until 2010, with the first steps involving extensive research and design. For example, there will be a full year of data collection by means of traffic studies, sidewalk investigation, pavement surveys, and parking analysis, which will allow Kimball & Associates to create a list of recommendations for prioritizing the various projects. Those may include everything from big jobs, like revamping the infrastructure, to smaller design questions, like what style of street lights to install.

According to project manager Brian Krul of Kimball & Associates, residents and business owners will soon see automatic traffic recorders (ATRs) on the avenue - a series of thin rubber

tubes attached to counters that record average daily traffic. Krul stressed that people need to "respect the tubes," because vandalism could damage the count and set back data collection. In the spring, when traffic patterns are heavier and more people are out on foot and on bikes, Krul said, a manual count will supplement the ATR data.

In the next 12 months, two more public meetings will occur - the first on March 11, 2008, at St. Lawrence O'Toole Activity Building in Garfield (see sidebar), in which residents and business owners will learn about the scope of the Penn Avenue project and have a chance to ask questions and have them answered. A second meeting will occur early next year, at a date to be determined, to present the final plan.

Patrick Hassett, assistant director of the DPW's Bureau of Engineering and

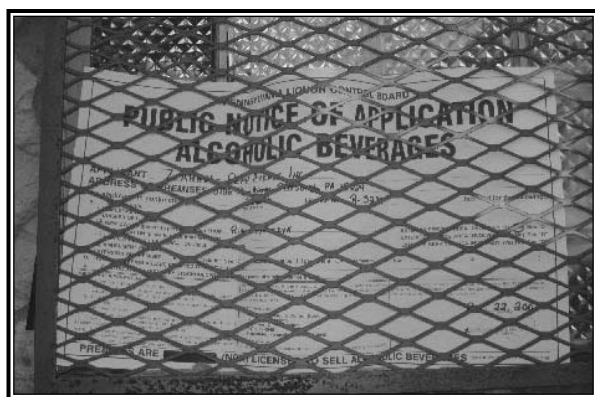
See **CONTRACT**, page 12

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

SAVE THE DATE!

Tuesday, March 11, 6:00 P.M.
St. Lawrence O'Toole
Activity Building
N. Atlantic Ave. in Garfield

To present the scope of the revitalization project for **PENN AVENUE**, from Doughboy Square to North Negley, and to take questions from residents and business owners. Look for more information in the March issue of *The Bulletin*.



Rick Flanagan/BGC

SIGN IN THE WINDOW AT PAP'S 'N US ON PENN AVENUE, INDICATING THE APPLICATION TO TRANSFER THE LIQUOR LICENSE.

Buyer for Penn Avenue Bar Pledges Makeover; License Transfer Challenged

A long-established bar in the 5100 block of Penn Avenue could see its clientele

change dramatically if the state approves the proposed transfer of its liquor license to a new owner.

Pap's 'n Us, a family-run tavern for decades at 5106 Penn, is seeking to sell its business and building to Zamir Zahavi, who once managed the now-defunct Buff's Bar near N. Fairmount and Penn. Zahavi, a 47-year-old resident of Ellwood City, recently told

By Rick Swartz
The Bulletin

representatives of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), Friend-

ship Development Associates, and Garfield Jubilee Association that he wants to attract a "broad cross-section" of customers who are looking for a "safe, clean, and friendly place to gather with friends, co-workers, or family members."

Pap's, which was brought to the attention of the city's Nuisance Bar

See **BAR**, page 5

MARCH DEADLINE!

The **FINAL DEADLINE** for the **MARCH 2008** issue of *The Bulletin* is **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2008**. 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

Public Safety Task Force Meetings

The Public Safety Task Force - composed of community leaders, law enforcement officers, and public officials - meets on the second Wednesday of each month in Garfield to share information on community safety issues and to review progress being made in the area of crime prevention in our neighborhoods. The first 15 minutes of each meeting are set aside so that business owners and residents can raise specific concerns or present concrete information about criminal activity to the Task Force. The next scheduled meeting is:

Wednesday, February 13
Bloomfield-Garfield Corp. Community Activity Center
113 North Pacific Avenue (corner of Dearborn)
4:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Aggie Brose, chair of the Task Force, at 412-441-6950 x15.

Action, Not Apathy, Gets Results

Good news: Crime in Zone 5 is currently down about 12 percent.

Bad news: Inclement weather is likely a big cause in the drop. Good news: Systems are in place for the public to help track and deter crime. Bad news: These reporting methods are underutilized by citizens, meaning that the crime rate will almost certainly rise with the temperatures.

At the January Public Safety Task Force Meeting, both Commander RaShall Brackney and Commander Cheryl Doubt stressed the importance of reporting criminal and suspicious activity via 911, 311, a Silent Complaint Form, and/or the Citizen Observer website.

A common citizen complaint is that reporting does not seem to have any positive effect. Admittedly, results may not be immediate. However, be assured that the complaints are compiled and can eventually produce results. For instance, a property and/or bar cannot be declared a nuisance until the city receives several 911 calls about that property/bar. Frustrating? Perhaps. But if no one bothers to report that property at all, choosing instead to vent to friends, neighbors, etc., then certainly nothing will change for the better. That is frustrating.

Another example is reporting gun

By Deadra Keener
Public Safety Coordinator

activity. The commanders stated that reporting gun-fire is important, as those reports are used to verify that guns are in the neighborhood and to determine how much police presence is necessary in the area.

Ways to report:

- **911:** Call for emergencies
- **311:** For non-emergencies. Call or submit online at http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/mayor/html/311_request_form.html.
- **Silent Complaint Forms:** For non-emergencies and chronic situations. Pick up forms at the local police station or submit online at http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/police/html/police_tip_form.html.
- **Citizen Observer website:** For non-emergencies. Sign up online (it's free) at www.citizenobserver.com to receive community crime alerts, with the ability to submit anonymous and confidential tips to the police.

Action may not produce immediate results; but inaction and apathy guarantee more of the same, or worse.

Sign Up for Police Operations Training

Want to learn more about the workings of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police? Twice a year, the bureau sponsors a Citizens Police Academy (CPA), giving the public an opportunity to learn more about the training our law enforcement officers receive and how they perform their duties. The next CPA begins on February 25, 2008, at the Hazelwood Presbyterian Church, located at 5000 Second Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15207. The program will be held each Monday evening, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., for 15 weeks. This is part of the on-going plan to offer the CPA outside of the bureau's training academy facility.

Participants receive three hours of training each week in the varied functions of law enforcement. They review the basics of criminal law, search and seizure, patrol tactics, firearms, and many other subjects. They learn about the processing of a crime scene, conduct a ride-along with an officer, see how police canines are used, and may even experience a traffic stop. CPA participants meet and talk with many street officers as well as the command

staff and training staff that serves them. All of this takes place in a safe and entertaining training environment.

Instructors are law enforcement professionals who teach all levels of police officers, from recruits to veterans. Students leave the training with a greater understanding of the police mission and with increased ability to see how the police serve the community.

Class size is limited to 30 participants. All interested persons must give permission for the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police to conduct a background check to determine if they have a criminal record. All applications must be received by February 18. Please contact Lieutenant Jennifer Beidle at jennifer.beidle@city.pittsburgh.pa.us or 412-323-7844 with questions about the program or for an application. Applications are also available online at <http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/police>.

Note: This program is not an accredited certification course to become a sworn police officer.

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Citizens Bank and WPXI-TV Honor BGC as a "Champion in Action"

Citizens Bank and WPXI-TV have named Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) as their first quarter "Champion in Action." The honor carries with it an unrestricted cash grant of \$25,000 from Citizens Bank Foundation; media coverage from WPXI-TV; volunteer help from Pittsburgh Cares, as well as Citizens and WPXI-TV employees; and extensive public relations support about the work of the BGC in the form of four-color posters and brochures (*see photo at right*) placed in Citizens Bank branches around the city.

Ralph J. Papa, chairman of Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania, presented the award at a ceremony at Laurentian Hall in Garfield on January 16. "I was born in the area over 50 years ago, so I know this neighborhood," Mr. Papa told those assembled, including other Citizens Bank and WPXI-TV representatives, and BGC staff and board. The BGC, he said, "has made great strides in reshaping the physical, economic, and social condition of the

Garfield community."

"Champions in Action" is a program that recognizes nonprofit organizations in Pittsburgh in a range of social service areas. For its work reducing the number of abandoned homes in the area and building new housing, the BGC fell under the "affordable housing" category. The BGC initiated its housing program in 1983, and since that time has built more than 200 units of rental and owner-occupied houses, with plans to see an additional 90 units constructed in the next four years.

BGC executive director Rick Swartz expressed the organization's gratitude for the grant, which he said will be used toward continuing the housing program. "We believe we can positively impact the quality of life for our residents by changing the face of housing in our community."

For more information about "Champions in Action," visit www.citizensbank.com or www.wpxi.com.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

(ABOVE, FROM LEFT) BGC PRESIDENT GRADY ROBERTS JR. AND CITIZENS BANK OF PA. CHAIRMAN RALPH J. PAPA AT THE "CHAMPIONS IN ACTION" AWARDS CEREMONY; (RIGHT) BROCHURE PRODUCED THROUGH THE "CHAMPIONS IN ACTION" PROGRAM TO HIGHLIGHT THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE BGC.



Free Tax Help!

For lower-income working families and individuals, there is FREE assistance being offered in filing your federal and state income tax returns for 2007.

What do you need to have?

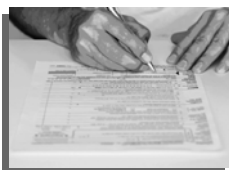
- Your W-2 form(s) from your employer(s)
- A state photo I.D.
- Your Social Security card

Assistance is being offered at these sites:

East Liberty: Parental Stress Center
5877 Commerce Street
From January 22—April 15
Weekdays and Saturdays
Call 412-361-4800 x 210 for appt.

Garfield: BGC Community Activity Center
113 North Pacific Avenue
From February 9—April 15
Saturdays only
Call 412-441-6950 x11 for appt.

Don't miss out in taking advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit!



Financial Knowledge Is Power

Given the recent rise in the foreclosure rate and a looming

recession, the need for clear information on financial matters is particularly pressing. The Financial Education Consortium of Southwestern Pennsylvania aims to bring this information to the public at the second annual Financial Education Fair on Saturday, March 1, at Duquesne University. This event is free and open to the public.

The Financial Education Consortium is a coalition of area financial education providers. At least 20 Consortium members will be present at the fair to share financial knowledge and tips, as well as inform attendees about their programs. Member organizations include: Neighborhood Housing Services (homebuyer education & foreclosure prevention); the local branch of the Federal Reserve Bank (savings bond education); Dwelling House Savings and Loan Association (home purchase counseling); and many others.

The Financial Education Fair will include:

- 20-plus information booths hosted by financial education providers
- 1-on-1 budget and credit counseling

by Emily Keebler
Neighborhood Housing Services

- 1-on-1 loan document review (to prevent and identify

predatory loans)

- tax preparation (pre-registration required: 412-281-1100 x106)
- 11 seminars on financial topics, including foreclosure, investing, budgeting, and more

Opening remarks will be made by event chair, Esther Bush, president & CEO of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh. Other fair benefits include refreshments, giveaways, and hourly raffles of U.S. savings bonds.

The Financial Education Fair will be held at the new Power Center at Duquesne University, at the corner of Forbes Avenue and Chatham Square. The fair will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and participants may come for just one seminar or stay the whole day. The Power Center is accessible to public transportation, and free parking is available for the first 100 attendees.

For more information on the Financial Education Fair, visit the website at www.YouControlYourMoney.org. To register for free tax preparation, contact Emily Keebler at 412-281-1100 x106 or ekeebler@nhswpa.org.

The Bulletin

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



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

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

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SUBMISSIONS POLICY

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.

We Would Like to Acknowledge

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BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD CORPORATION'S

EYESORE 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 x 15.

The Question Is, "WHY?"

Why Do Some Property Owners Just Walk Away?

This month, 418 Wicklow Street was chosen as the Eyesore of the Month. According to the Allegheny County real estate website, Fay Ann and Willa Fay Deveraux are the recorded owners of the property. They purchased the property in April, 1984.

The tax bill mailing address is 7272 Lemington Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206, and the property is tax-delinquent for the years 2006 and 2007.

When BGC visited the property, staff found the front picture window broken, the paint trim peeling (possibly lead paint), the screen door falling off, the fence broken, and debris and overgrown weeds filling the front yard and surrounding the house.

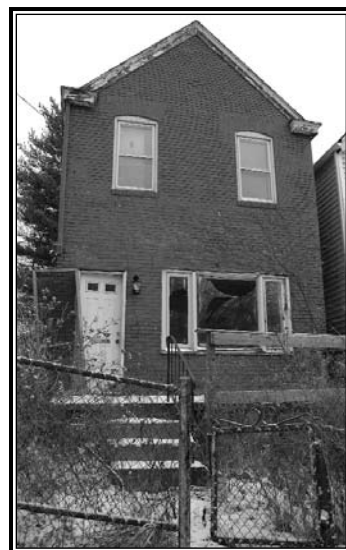
BGC tried to locate the owners through the phone directory, but there was no listing. Staff also contacted the Bureau of Building Inspection and found that there were no violations against the property. We searched the obituaries to see if the present owners had passed away,

but, fortunately, that was not the case. We are also trying to locate them by writing to their present mailing address.

The question is, WHY? Why do owners of property in the community feel they can just walk away and abandon their property, allowing it to become vandalized? You can see this clearly in the photo at right. This robs the community of its equity and allows social and criminal behavior to thrive.

The surrounding homes on the street are well kept; actually, the home right next door is undergoing some rehab, with a building permit displayed in the window.

The Deverauxs also own properties at 0 and 420 Wicklow Street, which are vacant parcels of land and are also tax delinquent. This is not acceptable. We would appreciate a call from the Deverauxs at the BGC office about the future plans they have for their property. We would also appreciate a call from anyone who knows the whereabouts of the Deverauxs.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

THE HOUSE AT 418 WICKLOW STREET HAS BEEN ABANDONED, ALLOWING IT TO BECOME A TARGET FOR VANDALS.

Let's work together to rid our community of blight. Call Aggie Brose at 412-441-6950 x15.

In Memoriam

Marie A. Byrnes, Charter Member of the BGC



Courtesy Thomas Byrnes

MARIE AND JAMES BYRNES, LONG-TIME BGC VOLUNTEERS

Marie A. Byrnes, a charter member of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) when it was founded in 1976, and a past president and vice president of the BGC board of directors, passed away on December 11, 2007. She was 92, and died of complications of a blood clot in her leg.

A native Pittsburgher, Mrs. Byrnes was a longtime resident of Garfield, having moved to a house on Dunkirk Street with her husband, the late James A. Byrnes, in 1944. Mrs. Byrnes lived in that same residence until 2002, when she moved in with one of her sons, and then later to the Reformed Presbyterian Home on Perrysville Avenue.

As her paying job, Mrs. Byrnes worked for many years as part of the kitchen staff of the King Edward Hotel in Oakland and later at Wightman Manor in Squirrel Hill. But perhaps more importantly, she had a very active volunteer life, giving generously of her time to a number of community organizations, including the local AARP chapter, the Christian Mothers of St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish, and especially the BGC. Son Tom Byrnes says his mother "went on many actions with the BGC"; she was a member of the board for roughly 15 years, until the early 1990s. Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC, remembers Mrs. Byrnes fondly as "a real spitfire."

Mrs. Byrnes also enlisted her husband to volunteer for the BGC. Tom Byrnes says his father acted as the "paper boy" for *The Bulletin*, delivering the newspaper throughout the various neighborhoods. Mr. Byrnes preceded his wife in death by almost seven years.

BAR, from page 1

Task Force a year ago, was the subject of a community meeting on Jan. 4 that drew 40 neighbors, business owners, and public safety officials to discuss possible steps to improve what many feel is a decaying social environment in the area around the bar. Young men are frequently seen loitering for hours nearby, according to testimonials given at the meeting, and several people complained that the presence of these men has made it difficult for passers-by to navigate the block, particularly in the warmer summer months.

"It's a serious situation, no doubt," Aggie Brose told *The Bulletin*. "Granted, it may not all be attributable to what is happening inside Pap's, but we felt it was important to hear what those most affected by the problem thought should be done." Brose went on to say there was a general consensus at the meeting that the BGC should move forward with a petition to protest the license transfer in order to start a public conversation about how to "bring the block under control." That petition was filed with the state on Jan. 18, she stated, following approval by the board of directors of the BGC at its Jan. 14 board meeting.

In addition, a leadership team was formed to obtain as many facts as possible about the license transfer, and

then recommend a course of action to the larger community.

But several of those attending the community meeting also suggested an effort be made to reach out to Zahavi, who currently manages the Park House, a tavern on the city's North Side. Brose said she subsequently worked with Matthew Galuzzo, manager of the Main Street program for the Penn Avenue commercial district,

to arrange a face-to-face with Zahavi on Jan. 21.

In that meeting, Brose said Zahavi made a number of commitments, which included adding a police detail on Friday and Saturday evenings from 10 p.m. to midnight, and introducing a modest menu of Middle Eastern and American fare, similar to what he now offers at the Park House. "It's going to be difficult," he reportedly told the community delegation, "because many are expecting that the new place will be a lot like Buff's. It won't, and that's probably going to come as a surprise to them. I did not own Buff's. If I'm successful with this purchase, the new place is going to reflect my personality."

"We felt it was important to hear what those most affected by the problem thought should be done."

Zahavi also reportedly promised that there would be no gambling devices, such as poker machines; that he would open at 11 a.m.; that he would close by midnight, Monday through Saturday; and that there would be no Sunday hours. He also stated there would be no \$1 draft beer served, and no sales of 40-ounce bottles, according to Brose. "We were encouraged to hear this, because it tells us that he is looking to operate a responsible establishment," she

told *The Bulletin*.

A memorandum is being drafted for execution by Zahavi and community representatives that would bind both sides to specific commitments, Brose disclosed. If that memo is acceptable

to both the leadership team and the board of the BGC, it is conceivable the protest could be withdrawn, Brose said. One area where Zahavi is looking for help from community groups is in redoing the façade of the bar in order to open it up to public view, she said.

In a related matter, neighbors said an illegal liquor-serving establishment may have set up shop in a building next to Pap's, at 5108 Penn Avenue. Reportedly, patrons enter through one of the storefronts, and are guided to a basement area, where they can purchase drinks most evenings, according to several who spoke at the public meeting. The building is owned by Nathan Hausler, a Squirrel Hill resident, and Brose said efforts will be made to contact him to determine if he is aware of such an operation in his property.

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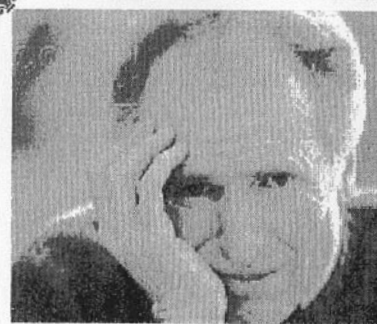
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By Bill Stanhope and Kate Bayer
In Memory and Honor of Jay Bernard



Let Me Be Your "Queen" of Hearts

My name is Queenie, and I'm a 5-year-old female Rottweiler. I came to the Animal Rescue League when my owner became ill and could no longer take care of me. I didn't have much of a chance to learn to socialize or experience new situations during my first five years, so new situations, people, and other animals sometimes frighten me. I love long walks, and especially love doggy treats. My favorite treats are Snausages shaped like a football – for the Steelers, of course! I am spayed and current on all my vaccinations, and am also heartworm-negative. I would really love an adult home with someone who has experience with dogs like me. My ID number is A04049855, and I can be found at the Animal Rescue League, 6620 Hamilton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206; phone 412-661-6452.

TIP from the Animal Rescue League: Handling your dog's fears

From a human point of view, cuddling when you are afraid helps you feel better. From a canine point of view, you are telling your dog that you like it when he or she is scared. Remember to reinforce the behavior that you want. Signs of fearfulness are a tucked tail and cowering.



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DID YOU KNOW? African-American historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson established Black History Week in February 1926, to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Fifty years later, as part of the U.S. Bicentennial, the week was expanded into Black History Month.

Help, I'm Being Evicted!

By Frank Pistella
Neighborhood Legal Services
Association

In last month's column, I explored the issue of a tenant's right to a decent home and the steps a tenant can take if a problem with the landlord develops. The first step should always be to try to work out the problem. Working out a fair solution may require the assistance of a neutral third party. If you cannot reach an agreement with your landlord, mediation by a community agency may help bring about a fair resolution.

However, if landlord-tenant problems cannot be resolved, a tenant may face eviction. Under Pennsylvania's Landlord Tenant Act, a tenant can be evicted for three reasons only: nonpayment of rent; breach of another clause of the lease agreement (whether the lease is written or oral); or end-of-lease term. In the case of end-of-lease term, the landlord does not have to give any other reason for the eviction.

In a written lease, the lease term will be set out at the beginning of the lease, and is usually for a year or on a month-to-month basis. If there is no written lease, the law will look at this type of agreement, in most circumstances, as a month-to-month oral agreement. In this case, either the landlord or the tenant can terminate

the lease at the end of any month, for any reason or for no reason at all.

There are some reasons for which a landlord cannot evict a tenant. A tenant cannot be evicted or denied housing because of his or her (or any household member's) race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, or age. A tenant cannot be evicted or denied housing because he or she (or any household member) is disabled or uses a guide dog or support animal. A landlord cannot evict or deny housing to an individual because that individual is pregnant or has children.

In addition, a tenant cannot be evicted for exercising his or her legal rights (such as complaining to housing code officials about dangerous conditions in the unit, or to the Health Department about habitability problems). If a landlord attempts to evict a tenant for exercising those rights, it is a retaliatory eviction. A tenant may be able to defend against an eviction of this type by showing that the eviction action is being taken in direct response to legitimate complaints to a government agency

A tenant also has the protection of the legal system in an eviction action. The law states that a landlord cannot simply lock a tenant out, or take such action as shutting off utilities to force the tenant out. The landlord must follow certain specific procedures. Unless the lease waives notice, the landlord must personally serve or post a notice to vacate. (However, most private-housing written leases *do* waive notice.) In any kind of public or subsidized housing or with an oral lease, notice cannot be waived. If the lease is for a year or less and the eviction is for nonpayment of rent, the notice will give the tenant 10 days to vacate; if it is for any other reason, it will give 15 days.

If the tenant does not move out by the date on the notice, the landlord must file a landlord-tenant complaint at the office of the local district judge. The district judge will then send a copy of the complaint, along with a notice of the date of the hearing, to the tenant. At the hearing, the landlord must present his or her evidence and testimony as to why the tenant should be evicted. The tenant may then present his or her own testimony, evidence, and witnesses to explain why he or she should not be evicted. If the landlord fails to appear, then the tenant may ask the judge to dismiss the case.

Either party - landlord or tenant - may appeal the judgment. An appeal must be filed within 10 days of the date of the hearing. If the tenant wishes to stay in the home during the appeal period, he or she must post a bond (called a *supersedeas*) with the prothonotary when filing the appeal. In Allegheny County, low-income individuals may establish this *supersedeas* by posting one-third of their monthly rent when they file the appeal, the remaining two-thirds 20 days later, and a full month's rent 10 days after that. Low-income individuals may also request to file their appeal with an *informa pauperis* petition (I.F.P.), so that they do not have to pay the filing fee. It is best to get legal advice as soon as you get the judgment from the district judge, so that you will be certain to take the proper steps.

If a tenant does not appeal the judgment within 10 days, the landlord can go back to the district judge and request an order for possession. This must be posted for 10 days before the landlord can have the constable come out to change the locks.

If the landlord-tenant complaint



before the district judge involves only nonpayment of rent, the judge should issue a judgment that reads, "Possession granted if money not paid by time of eviction." This is called a pay-and-stay judgment, and can be cured by paying the full amount of the judgment plus the cost of the order for possession, if the landlord gets one. If the tenant makes this payment, the case will be over, and he or she will be allowed to retain possession.

Unfortunately, there are very few sources of financial assistance to help low-income tenants who are being evicted because they are not able to pay their rent. However, the Department of Public Welfare's Emergency Shelter Assistance program, the Urban League, and church and community organizations can be contacted for possible assistance.

Subsidized and public housing are additional government programs that can assist low-income families to obtain decent, affordable housing. The waiting lists for all these housing programs are currently fairly long. However, it is worthwhile to complete applications and get your name on the waiting lists.

Above all else, be aware that the rules outlined for the eviction process *do not apply* in certain circumstances. The major exception is if a tenant is being evicted because of drug-related criminal activity in the household. In this situation, the landlord *may* file a case directly in the Court of Common Pleas without giving the tenant prior notice; however, the landlord may also choose to use the regular process at the district magistrate's office.

Neighborhood Legal Services Association (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 (1-866-761-6572). For more information on NLSA, please visit us at www.nlsa.us. At our website, you will also find a link to www.PaLAWhelp.org, which also provides valuable legal information on a multitude of legal topics.

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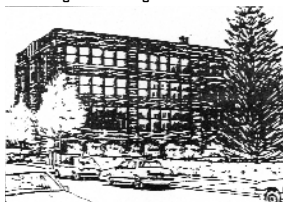
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Youth Showcased in Union Project Programs

A unique "neutral ground" in an often-divided city

By Angele Ellis
Bulletin Contributor

"Reaching kids today is complicated by neighborhood boundaries and a lack of resources," says Hilary Brown, community outreach coordinator and events manager for the Union Project, a community center in the restored Union Baptist Church on the corner of Stanton and North Negley Avenues. "Just by living in a particular neighborhood, kids are identified as part of a gang – and this makes it unsafe for them to go outside those boundaries."

"Our location – in a historic church between East Liberty and Highland Park – is a unique neutral ground, a place where young people can connect, create, and celebrate," Brown continues, echoing the mission of her faith-based organization.

Since last October, the Union Project has sponsored a monthly Youth Talent Showcase on Tuesday evenings, during which teenagers perform original music and poetry. The January showcase featured performers from a number of neighborhoods and schools, including Peabody and Westinghouse, on the Union Project stage. The appreciative audience was made up of friends, teachers, parents, and grandparents.

"We set a tone in which we treat kids with respect, and they respond

with respect," Brown says. "Last month, we had 200 kids in this space, and not one problem."

"It's really something to see burly teenaged guys seriously listening to poetry."

A Pittsburgh native who grew up in Dormont and Carrick, Brown believes that access to resources "breaks down to people. It's who you know. For kids, that can mean meeting positive adults." In addition to the Youth Talent Showcase, the Union Project currently is sponsoring two pilot programs in which teenagers receive individual attention from adults "who understand them, their family situations, and can set an example," Brown said.

One of those adults is Emmai Alaquiva, program director of WAMO-FM and owner of Ya Momz House Recording Studio. Students in the pilot program that Alaquiva is conducting learn the ins and outs of the music business, as well as how to record their own songs.

In the other pilot program, at WYEP-FM, students learn the basics of radio journalism, writing and recording their own stories.

Because the focus is on individual attention, the Union Project is keeping the 16-week pilot programs small, Brown said. Twenty-four students participated this winter, and 18 are scheduled to participate in the spring.



Courtesy Hilary Brown/The Union Project

CAPA STUDENTS ALISHA BENDER, EMILY BURNS, AND ERNESTA POLLARD TAKE CENTER STAGE AT THE UNION PROJECT'S YOUTH TALENT SHOWCASE. THE NEXT SHOWCASE IS ON FEBRUARY 5.

A summer program also is in the works. The effect is cumulative: in a year's time, more than 100 students will take part in the programs, which receive financial support from Mt. Airy Baptist Church and Church of the Ascension.

The Union Project is interested in expanding its pilot programs by forging creative partnerships with other arts organizations, Brown said, emphasizing that the goal is for students to become engaged citizens, whether or not they pursue careers in the arts.

"So much of this is having adult advocates take kids seriously, and encouraging kids to take themselves seriously, no matter who they are and where it leads them," Brown says.

For information on The Union Project's youth programs, contact Hilary Brown at 412-363-4550 x26, or hilary@unionproject.org.

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Pittsburgh 250 Makes Grants to East End Projects Highlighting Area's Diverse History, Culture

Four projects proposed by East End organizations recently received

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Pittsburgh 250 Community Connections grants to celebrate the anniversary of the city's founding in 1758. Administered by the Sprout Fund, these grants are for regional and grassroots projects that focus on the diverse history and culture of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Twelve regional projects – defined as those that reach large audiences – received funding, and two of the big winners in this division were the Thomas Merton Center in Garfield, which received \$45,000, and Fe Gallery in Lawrenceville, which secured \$35,000.

The Merton Center's grant will fund an oral history project called "In Sisterhood: The Women's Movement in Pittsburgh," recording the recollections and insights of 20 local activists who helped create significant change for women. The interviews will provide the basis for a documentary film, a website, and several exhibits, which will debut here in the fall and eventually travel to locations throughout the southwestern part of the state.

Patricia Ulbrich, Ph.D., project coordinator for "In Sisterhood," says that "the women's movement was very dynamic here." A report published in 1976 by KNOW Inc., a fem-

inist publishing house in the city at that time, listed 48 women's organiza-

tions in Western Pennsylvania, and has served as a source of potential interviewees. "And don't assume they're all women," Ulbrich cautions.

With the funds from its Community Connections grant, Fe Gallery, a non-profit visual art space located on Butler Street, will mount an exhibition called "In the Making," featuring artwork by 250 artists from Southwestern Pennsylvania. To make the project as inclusive as possible, the gallery extended an open call to artists over the age of 18 to submit their work; curator and Fe owner Jill Larson estimates that they will receive about 400 submissions, which a committee will then review and whittle down to the final 250. The gallery will also publish a full-color catalogue of the exhibition.

Larson says her hope is that "the catalogue and exhibit will bring attention to artists from Pittsburgh who are underserved, and let people from outside see the quality of work going on here. There's a plethora of creativity in this area." The opening reception for the exhibit will be Sept. 12 at the gallery, where "every wall will be packed with art," Larson notes.

In addition to these two regional grants, Community Connections



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

THE FE GALLERY, LOCATED IN A STOREFRONT AT 4102 BUTLER STREET IN LAWRENCEVILLE, WILL HOST "IN THE MAKING: 250 YEARS/250 ARTISTS."

awarded 24 grants of \$5,000 each to grassroots projects in Allegheny County, including the Lawrenceville Historical Society and Lawrenceville Stakeholders, and Hyperboy Media, which created the documentary film project *East of Liberty*.

The Lawrenceville Historical Society/Lawrenceville Stakeholders grant will fund an expansion of the neighborhood's 2008 house tour, called "The Lawrenceville Historic House Tour: Snapshots in Time." Included this year will be re-enactments and performances at historic

locations such as the Allegheny Cemetery and the Allegheny Arsenal. (See the related call for volunteers on page 11.)

East of Liberty is a multi-part documentary by Pittsburgh filmmaker Chris Ivey. His production company, Hyperboy Media, will use its Pittsburgh 250 grant to continue the project and present community screenings of the documentary, which played to sold-out audiences last fall. *East of Liberty* examines how redevelopment and gentrification have affected residents of the East End.

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The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, fundraising events, opportunities, and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Send announcements to hgbulletin@yahoo.com by the 15th of each month. Information is published on a space-available basis.

YOUNG WRITERS & ILLUSTRATORS CONTEST

Attention, kids: write and illustrate your own book! WQED Multimedia is sponsoring the 14th Annual Reading Rainbow Young Writers & Illustrators Contest, for children from kindergarten through third grade. Entries are judged locally, and the winners are submitted to a national contest. This year's deadline for submissions is April 1. All entrants get a certificate signed by LeVar Burton, the host of PBS's *Reading Rainbow*. Visit www.wqed.org for submission requirements and materials. For more information, contact Annette Waldron at 412-622-1396 or awaldron@wqed.org.

PERSAD FAMILY DIVERSITY DAY

The Persad Center, the nation's second oldest licensed counseling center specifically created to serve the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community, will hold its 6th annual Family Diversity Day on Sunday, Feb. 17, from 1-4 p.m. at the Center for Creative Play, 1400 S. Braddock Avenue. Free and open to the public, the Family Diversity Festival provides a safe and healthy place for LGBT families and LGBT-friendly families to meet one another, win door

prizes, explore community resources, and celebrate diversity. This year's festival will feature door prizes and refreshments, and a room for parents to share experiences and ask questions during open discussions about adoption, schools, daycare and more. Persad is committed to fostering an environment for healthy families to thrive and provides this unique opportunity for families to gather and celebrate diversity. For more information, contact Jeffrey Kash, Persad's Special Events Director, at 412-441-9786 x224, or jkash@persadcenter.org.

VINTAGE SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS

Vintage Senior Center, located at 401 N. Highland Avenue in East Liberty, offers a wide array of local trips for older adults 60+ to theaters, restaurants, shopping malls, and cultural attractions. One-day and multi-day trips outside Allegheny County are provided by the SeniorTours travel agency. Call 412-361-5003 x 104 for more information.

MATURE VOLUNTEERS FOR FT. PITT PROGRAM

If you are 50 years of age or older and would like to make a difference in the life of a child, OASIS is looking for you. OASIS, a national education organization, located in Macy's Department Store in Pittsburgh, provides educational, cultural, and wellness programs to adults 50 years of age and older. OASIS is recruiting older adult volunteer mentors to assist in our Active Generations after-school program, targeting children in 3rd to 5th grades at Ft. Pitt Accelerated Learning Academy in Garfield.

Active Generations is an intergenerational nutrition/physical activity program that promotes the importance of physical activity and a healthy diet to assist in

combating the childhood obesity epidemic plaguing today's children. The older adults mentor the children for 1 hour a week for six weeks starting on Thursday, April 3. Training on the nutrition/physical activity program will be provided.

If you would like more information or want to volunteer, please contact Shirley Fisher at 412-232-9519 or sfisher@oasis-net.org.

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.

DAPPER DAN SPORTS PROGRAMS IN L'VILLE

Registration for Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/Dapper Dan Charities sports programs at the Estelle S. Campbell Boys and Girls Club, 4600 Butler Street in Lawrenceville, is now underway. The deadline to register for all divisions of floor hockey leagues is Feb. 16; for girls basketball, Feb. 16; and for boys basketball, Feb. 23. Call 412-682-4013 for forms and information.

CASA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Apply to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate for abused and neglected children in Allegheny County. We extensively train community members on how to become a CASA volunteer. Attend an Open House to learn more about CASA, our upcoming volunteer trainings, and the application process. Our Open Houses are held every third Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. These hour-long programs are located in our downtown office, at 564 Forbes Avenue, suite 902. Contact CASA at 412-594-3606 or fill out our online form at www.pgh-casa.org to RSVP. CASA's mission is to ensure that every child has a safe, supportive, and permanent home, by providing volunteer advocacy for the best interests of abused and neglected children within the child welfare system.

MARRIAGE EDUCATION CLASSES

The Marriage Works provides relaxed Marriage Education Classes to enhance, strengthen, and sustain relationships. Our classes help couples, married or unmarried, with children or without. We also provide mentoring for couples and crisis intervention marriage coaches. Classes are free. Eligible couples must live in Homewood, Lincoln-Lemington, Gar-

field, East Liberty, or Wilkinsburg, and be willing to attend as a couple. Each course consists of 10 classes, held once a week for 10 consecutive weeks. Each class is three hours long. Classes are held at these locations: PSC Family Support Center, Thursdays, 5:45-8 p.m.; East Liberty Family Support/Kingsley, Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m.; Homewood-Brushton Family Support/YMCA, Thursdays, 6-9 p.m.; Mt. Ararat Baptist Church, Mondays, 6-9 p.m.; Sixth Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Saturdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Rodman Street Baptist Church, Wednesdays, 5:30-8 p.m.; Radiant Life Alliance Church, Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m.; and Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Mondays, 6-9 p.m.. There will also be classes at Morningside C.O.G.I.C. and Wilkinsburg Family Support, at times to be announced. During each class, a meal is provided. Childcare is also available for those in need. For more information, directions, or to register, call Shawn Pinkston at 412-325-0602 or visit www.themarriage-works.org.

TAKE A "REALITY TOUR"

Lawrenceville United, in cooperation with the Door of Hope Church, is organizing a trip to Allegheny County Jail for The Reality Tour®. We are looking for interested youths and their parents to attend on March 19, from 5:45 to 9 p.m. The tour is free of charge, and we can help with travel arrangements. From the website, www.candleinc.org: "The Reality Tour® is a new reality-based educational concept for drug awareness and prevention.... While the elements of the Reality Tour® Program are carefully constructed and woven together to convey the impacts and complications associated with drug awareness, addiction, and abuse, the presentation is engaging and so emotionally powerful that people readily stay for the 2-1/2 to 3-hour presentation. It truly is a realistic journey full of empowerment and enlightenment for today's youth." For more information, call Lawrenceville United at 412-802-7220.

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

Residents of Bloomfield, Garfield, East Liberty, Friendship, and Lawrenceville are invited to receive free health screenings from 10 a.m. to noon on the second Tuesday of each month aboard the Spirit of Health mobile wellness van at Our Lady of the Angels Parish, 225 37th Street, Lawrenceville. Screenings will include cholesterol, bone density and blood pressure screenings, and body fat analysis. Medication monitoring and referral services will also be offered. The Spirit of Health is a collaborative, faith-based mobile wellness program sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis at Mount Alvernia, Duquesne University's

"BRIDE ROW" COMMUNITY MEETING

"Bride Row"

5439-5453 Penn Avenue Community Meeting

When: Thursday, February 7, 6 p.m.
Where: Pittsburgh Glass Center, 5472 Penn Avenue
Who: You!
What: Come hear about and discuss ideas for the "Bride Row" townhomes at 5439-5453 Penn Avenue. Learn about design plans from Loysen + Kreuthmeier Architects, and let us know what you think!

This meeting is open to the public - all are encouraged to come and provide input.

Call Samantha Teixeira at Friendship Development Associates, with any questions, at 412-441-6147 x 1.

BULLETIN BOARD

Mylan School of Pharmacy, and the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System. For more information, please call 412-508-2259.

L'VILLE ROTARY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Lawrenceville Rotary will hold its 5th Annual Hearty Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, February 16, from 9 a.m. to noon, at Holy Family Social Hall on 44th Street. Adult admission: \$10; kids age 10 and under: \$6. Tickets are available at the door or at these locations: AR Chambers, 111 35th Street, or Slaughterhouse Gallery, 5139 Butler Street. Call 412-559-4632. Proceeds benefit Lawrenceville club programs.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SERVICE

The Summer Vacation Bible School staff of the Morningside Church of God in Christ (COGIC), 5173 Dearborn Street in Garfield, will sponsor their 6th annual Black History Month Service on February 17 at 4:00 p.m. The theme this year is "Reflecting Back/Moving Forward in Jesus."

INDOOR WALKING PROGRAM

Indoor walking program offered every Monday and Wednesday, 3:30-7 p.m. One-mile sessions approximately every 30 minutes. St. Matthew's Church, 5322 Carnegie Street, Lawrenceville. For more information, call 412-654-5476.

MARTIAL ARTS BEGINNER PROGRAM

Build up to practicing in the martial arts! On Mondays, from February 4 to March 10, the Traditional Martial Arts Society will be offering a 6-week program to ease people into martial-arts training. TMAS will focus on concerns of adults starting for the first time: "I'm not in good enough shape to train"; "I'm not comfortable working with advanced students"; "I don't know how to roll"; "I don't know how to fall"; "I don't want to look stupid"; "I don't want to act inappropriately." Cost of the program is \$80 and includes uniform. Classes are 6-7 p.m. and will be at the Traditional Martial Arts Society, 5738 Baum Blvd, in East Liberty (<http://www.tmas-dojos.com>). To register or receive more information, call 412-361-1080.

L'VILLE HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR VOLUNTEERS

Pittsburgh 250 has awarded a Community Connections Grassroots grant to the Lawrenceville Historic Society and the Lawrenceville Stakeholders for expansion of their annual house tour in 2008. This year's event, "The Lawrenceville Historic House Tour: Snapshots Through Time," will spotlight historic residences throughout Lawrenceville's neighborhoods and include historic re-enactments and performances at other historic locations such as the Allegheny Cemetery and the Allegheny Arsenal. The House Tour committee is seeking volunteers, houses, and historical information. Contact for

the 2008 House Tour is Kate Bayer, who can be reached at kb_4839@yahoo.com or by phone at 412-600-2068.

"EMPTY BOWLS" DINNER AT RODEF SHALOM

13th Annual Empty Bowls Dinner, a simple meal of bread and soup to benefit Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and Just Harvest and raise awareness about the problem of hunger in our community will be held Sunday, March 9, at Rodef Shalom Congregation, 4905 5th Avenue, Oakland, 2-7 p.m. Celebrity guests from local media, live entertainment, children's activities, silent auction of world-class ceramic art, and ticket holders choose a beautiful handmade bowl to take home. Tickets are \$20.00. For more information: 412-431-8960 or www.pittsburghfoodbank.org.

PAID TRAINING IN CONSTRUCTION TRADES

Build your community and get paid while in training! Garfield Jubilee's YOUTH-BUILD program, in partnership with Hill House Association, helps youths between the ages of 16 and 24 learn about the construction trades; earn a G.E.D. or high school diploma; and gain skills to increase their income. You must be a resident of Garfield or the Hill District who is unemployed and out of school. For more information, contact Diona Jones at Garfield Jubilee, 5315 Hillcrest Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15224 or call 412-661-7982.

VOLUNTEER FOOTBALL COACHES

Lawrenceville youth group 6 ward Seminoles midget football is looking to recruit coaches on all levels. Please contact Ms. Carol at 412-670 1780.

LOVE & ALL THAT JAZZ

East Liberty Presbyterian Church, located at 116 S. Highland Ave., presents its second annual "Love & All That Jazz" concert, Friday, February 15, at 7 p.m. This event is a fundraiser for Hope Academy, ELPC's nonprofit after-school arts education program for neighborhood children. Suggested ticket donations are \$10 for adults, with children and youth under 18 admitted for free. A limited number of tickets, at \$20 each for both the reception and performance, are available for a special "Meet the Artists" dessert reception following the concert. Among the performers will be special guest artist Paul Spencer Adkins, winner in the Luciano Pavarotti International Voice Competition. Call 412-441-6021 for more information.

TAI CHI CLASSES

Give a boost to your mind and body with Tai Chi! Classes offered at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland Ave., Tuesdays from 10-11 a.m. and 6-7 p.m. Judy Crow leads the sessions. A donation of \$3 per class is requested. For more information, contact Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy at 412-441-3800 x 30.

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Raising Reader Parent Club

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m., February 2, 9, 16, 23. Parents of young children ages 3-6 are invited to this special club for parents. Receive free books each week.

Family Fun Night: Valentine's Day

For ages 3-10. Tuesday, February 12 at 6 p.m.

East Liberty PC Center:

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

Introduction to Computers

Do you know how to use a mouse? Do you know where the Enter key is? What about the different parts of the computer? If you are unsure about any of these questions, this class is for you! Learn the basics of a computer, mouse and keyboard as a prerequisite for all our other computer classes.

NOTE: This class is designed for those who have little or no computer experience. Monday, February 4, 2:30-4:30 p.m. OR Wednesday, February 20, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Hotmail

Learn how to send and receive e-mail! This class assists you in signing up for your own free Web-based email account. Prerequisite: Learn the WWW class or solid mouse, Windows, and WWW experience. Monday, February 18, 4:30-6:30 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.



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Storytime

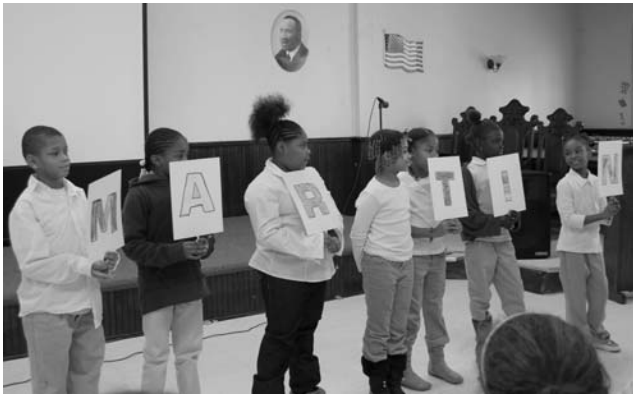
For ages 3-5. Thursdays, 11 a.m., February 7, 14, 21, and 28.

Adult Book Discussion Group

Monday, February 11, 5-6 p.m. This month's title is *Peony in Love*, by Lisa See.

Alice in Wonderland Tea Party

For all ages. Saturday, February 16, 1-3 p.m.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

Second-graders from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's after-school program at Ft. Pitt Accelerated Learning Academy sang "Happy birthday, Martin" at the BGC's 16th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration on January 21. About 150 people of all ages and races crowded the BGC Community Activity Center to honor the legacy of Dr. King. Mayor Luke Ravenstahl read an official proclamation, and city Councilman Ricky Burgess delivered a keynote speech in which he noted Dr. King's educational background and observed that "to follow in his footsteps we must be educated." Inspirational speeches by Councilmen Patrick Dowd and Bill Peduto followed, as well as poems, performances, drumming, and dance by community members and students.

CONTRACT, from page 1

Construction, said that it's vital for residents and business owners along the avenue to take part in these two additional community meetings. "One of the roles of the avenue is as the community's main street," noted Hassett, "and what kind of businesses develop and how the avenue looks are critical to the community." The goal of the revitalization, according to the vision statement of the project, is to promote "community ownership,

pride, and stewardship over the street and public spaces."

Brose encouraged the community not to be discouraged by the length of the project. "We've waited so long, and a few more years won't make a difference," she observed. "People thought the Children's Hospital opening was so far in the future, but now 2009 is next year. The construction will end, and we will have a new Penn Avenue."

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