



# The Bulletin

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## New Single-Family Homes Go Up for Sale in Garfield

Now that the construction of eight single-family homes on several streets in Garfield is nearing completion, buyers have started to materialize for the two-story, three-bedroom units.

"We're off to a little bit of a slow start," Barbara Murphy of Garfield Jubilee Association (GJA) said recently. "But interest has begun to pick up noticeably in the last few weeks, now that people can see the quality of what it is we're building." The development is a joint initiative of GJA and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, and features detached homes with two baths and a powder room, central air, a security system, and a rear deck or patio. Kitchens come equipped with gas ranges and dishwashers. Seven of the eight homes include integral garages. Insulation is in all exterior walls and the roof, and with low E argon windows, Murphy says she

By Joe Reuben  
*The Bulletin*

believes the houses will do a good job of retaining heat in the winter.

The architect for the project is Tai + Lee Architects, and Steve Catranel Construction Co., Inc. is the general contractor. Catranel provides a one-year full warranty on all workmanship, and a limited warranty for several years thereafter, according to Murphy. Construction financing was provided by Fidelity Bank, PNC Bank, the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, and the city's Urban Redevelopment Authority.

Sales agreements have been executed on two of the houses thus far, and one or two more could be signed by the end of January, Murphy told *The Bulletin*. "It still means there's plenty of opportunity for a family who wants

to make the shift from renting to owning," Murphy said. "Buyers usually take a step up in their monthly housing cost, with a mortgage payment that is higher, in most instances, than their current rent payment. But they'll also be taking a major step down in terms of their gas bills."

Murphy also stated that a number of banks have home mortgage loans for first-time buyers that offer rates as low as 5.75 percent, and can even provide buyers with help toward their down payment and clos-



Rick Swartz/The Bulletin

ONE OF EIGHT NEW SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES FOR SALE.

ing costs. Without any outside assistance, buyers will need about \$4,200 of their own cash to close the purchase.

See **NEW HOMES**, page 3

## New Ministry Extends "Open Hand" to East End Families

Michael Stanton is a man with a calling – to create a community-based ministry that addresses the physical, social, and spiritual needs of low- to moderate-income families in Garfield and East Liberty.



Photo by Brittney Monroe

OPEN HAND MINISTRIES' FIRST PROJECT WAS RESHINGLING A LEAKING ROOF ON HAYS STREET.

Stanton is in the early stages of founding a new non-profit organization, Open Hand Ministries, and borrows language from Abraham Lincoln to describe it as "a ministry of the East End, by the East End, and for the East End." His experience last summer with the "East End Blitz" (see the August 2007 issue of *The Bulletin*) – a collaborative, faith-based project that rehabbed five blighted houses in the area and helped neighborhood residents take ownership of them – fostered his interest in continuing the program on a larger scale.

At the time, Stanton was working with Hosanna Industries, one of the partners in the Blitz. While he is quick to praise Hosanna, he says the organi-

By Paula Martinac  
*The Bulletin*

zation "responds to cries for help, but is not community-based. I became increasingly certain the ministry was meant to continue in a community-based fashion." The need in Garfield and East Liberty touches Stanton in a personal way, since he, his wife, and daughters live on North Fairmount Street and attend Valley View Presbyterian Church. "I go to bed a mile from the five households we helped [in the Blitz]."

Stanton calls the ministry "Open Hand" because he sees it as "a radical declaration of the Gospel," an effort to provide opportunities to those who haven't been afforded them by society, "not in a condescending or paternalistic way, but with mutuality. Giving

without releasing is charity." The ministry has a seven-member advisory council composed of local pastors, lay leaders, and members of the community, with the three primary church partners being Valley View Presbyterian, East Liberty Presbyterian, and the Open Door faith community.

Stanton's new ministry completed its debut project the first weekend in December, with repairs to the roof of a house on Hays Street that had been part of the Blitz. "The old tin roof was leaking considerably," Stanton says, "and in a day and a half, we removed and resingled a third of it." He calls the weekend "a beautiful experience...a microcosm of what I hope

See **"OPEN HAND,"** page 4

**FEBRUARY  
DEADLINE!**

The **FINAL DEADLINE** for the **FEBRUARY 2008** issue of *The Bulletin* is **TUESDAY, JANUARY 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

### For Emergencies, Put Your Cell Phone on "ICE"

We all carry our cell phones with names and numbers stored in memory, but only we know which numbers belong to our closest family and friends.

Think about it: If you were involved in an accident or taken ill, the emergency personnel attending you might find your cell phone, but they wouldn't know which number to call first. There may be dozens of numbers stored - which is the contact person in case of an emergency? That's why the "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) campaign was born.

The concept of "ICE" is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact in emergency situations. All you need to do is store the phone number of a contact person or persons who should be called in an emergency under the name "ICE" (In Case of Emergency).

The idea was conceived by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, patients always had cell phones, but he didn't know which stored number to call. He thought it would be a good idea to have a nationally recognized name for an emergency contact, so that Emergency Service personnel and hospital staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number stored as "ICE."

Let's spread the concept of "ICE" by storing an "ICE" number in our cell phones today! For more than one contact name, simply enter "ICE," "ICE2," and "ICE3," etc. It really could save your life or ease a loved one's mind. "ICE" will speak for you when you're not able to.

### Block Watch Programs Are Eyes and Ears of Community

Now that the busy holiday season has passed and you're thinking of how to fill some of that winter downtime, consider an activity that takes just a little effort to make a big impact on your community - participating in a block or business watch group.

Block watch and business watch programs are based on the theory of prevention - helping to stop crime before it starts. And if a crime does occur, block watch members can be instrumental in providing important information and ensuring justice is served. As we all know, law enforcement officers cannot see and prevent all crimes, so block and business watches can become extra eyes and ears for law enforcement.

But watch groups are not just about helping the police to be more effective. Watch groups are also about neighbors helping neighbors - a gift that keeps on giving all year round. In today's world, how nice would it be just to know your neighbors and local business owners? Taking this a step further, how nice would it be to know that your neighbors and/or fellow business owners know and are looking out for you? Watch groups can make this possibility a reality.

Want to find out if there is a local block or business watch group in your area that you can join? Your local zone police station can help connect you to an existing local watch group. The Citizen Observer website ([www.citizenobserver.com](http://www.citizenobserver.com)) lists many watch groups throughout Pittsburgh, searchable by zip code. Local community organizations or churches may also provide leads.

If you discover that no local watch group exists, consider starting one! Watch groups are relatively simple to start. Steps for the making and maintaining of a group include:

- Identify a core group of interested members and together figure out a time and place for an initial meeting. The place could be a home, community center, business, etc. - wherever is convenient and comfortable for the group.

**By Deadra Keener**  
Public Safety Coordinator

- Contact your local crime prevention officer to

invite him/her to the initial meeting in order to help organize your group and get it officially started.

- At the initial meeting, agree on the area to be monitored by your members and how you will communicate between meetings (phone calls, e-mails, etc.).

- Set up a meeting schedule. Most watch groups meet once a month. The meeting location could rotate or stay the same, depending on what works best for the members.

- Create a plan with the crime prevention officer for how best to relay updates and important information. This may mean phone calls, e-mails, or a group representative attending a monthly zone police meeting.

- Decide whether you prefer a small, committed group or want to take a "the more, the merrier" approach. Either way, discuss other potential members, and how to invite them to future meetings.

- In addition to the crime prevention officer's assistance, a local community organization representative, such as someone from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, may be available to check in from time to time as needed.

- Remember that this does not have to be "all work and no play." Refreshments are a welcome addition and some non-crime-related chatting is encouraged!

In Zone 5, Officer Michael Gay is the crime prevention officer responsible for working with the community to set up watch groups. He is available to meet with your potential group to provide safety tips and the simple steps needed to register and begin your block group. If you are interested, please contact him at his office at 412-665-3770.

Also, if you live in the North Fairmount Street/Black Street area, a new block watch is forming there and will meet for the first time this month. Please call Deadra Keener at 412-441-6950 x 17 for more information.



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## UPMC St. Margaret Will Move to Penn-Fairmont Retail Space

UPMC St. Margaret Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health Center recently signed to

By **Friendship Development Associates Staff**

lease 5,551 square feet of first-floor retail space in the newly constructed Penn-Fairmont building on Penn Avenue at Roup. UPMC St. Margaret is the first tenant for the new space, and will use the area for a full-care Primary Care Physicians office.

UPMC St. Margaret Bloomfield Garfield Family Health Center offers a wide array of services, including full-range care for the entire family, from pediatrics to geriatrics, and also offers OB/GYN services and social-work support. UPMC St. Margaret has served the Bloomfield and Garfield communities for more than 20 years, and is very excited to continue its services here. They anticipate build-out of the space to begin this month, with hopes of moving into the space by late April or early May.

"Relocating reaffirms our commitment to the community," says Doug Harrison of UPMC St. Margaret Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health Center. "We are excited to continue the long tradition of serving the needs of the community in our new facility."

Twenty-one hundred square feet of retail space is still available for rent, featuring 12- to 20-foot high ceilings, complete glass facades with southern exposure, and free parking. The build-

ing, designed by Rothschild Doyno Architects and contracted by Mistick Construction, received two AIA awards, including an Urban Design Award for the Penn Fairmount Master Plan, as well as an Architecture Award in 2006. The first floor is made up of over 7,500 square feet of retail space, while the upper floors feature 60 units of housing for senior citizens.

The Penn-Fairmont building is the first phase of a 3.2 acre, multi-million-dollar development project in the heart of the Penn Avenue Arts District. The second phase, the Glass Lofts, will soon be constructed on the corner of Penn Avenue and N. Fairmount Street.

The entire project is the product of an extensive community process that united the interests of multiple groups and the constituents they represent. Through a series of community meetings, project planners - including Friendship Development Associates, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Garfield Jubilee Associates, Presbyterian SeniorCare, Affirmative Investments, and the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh - learned that community members wanted senior housing, a restaurant, retail/office space, and for-sale condos, as well as adequate parking and green space. The project attempts to reflect all these aspects.

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### NEW HOMES, from page 1

chase, she said. Buyers will also be able to tap deferred-payment, second-mortgage loans of up to \$55,000 from the city's Urban Redevelopment Authority. "This loan can be applied directly against the sales prices of \$134,500 to \$137,500, leaving the buyer to obtain a mortgage loan from the bank for the remainder," she further clarified.

Another incentive is a three-year abatement that Murphy files with Allegheny County on the buyer's behalf. It suspends payment of real-estate taxes due on the value of the new house. Instead, buyers will only have to contend with the taxes on the land value, which is generally no more than \$15 per month. Murphy feels this gives buyers critical time to get their household budgets in order, and to pay off other debts before their payments rise in the fourth year.

Rick Swartz, executive director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, said that each successive phase of construction will feature prices that are slightly more than the previous phase, so it will not be getting cheaper to buy a newly built home in the years to come. "When we started this project in 2002, our goal was to build 50 houses by 2009," he noted. "We are now close to finishing 31. When we sold the first home in 2003, it was for \$112,500."



**EACH OF THE NEW HOMES COMES EQUIPPED WITH TWO FULL BATHROOMS AND A POWDER ROOM.**

Murphy said interested individuals can contact her at 412-665-5208 to arrange for a tour and presentation. "An application made in February usually means a closing in May, if the buyer is approved for their mortgage loan," she said. "We also provide counseling in clearing up any credit problems that can often hinder a successful application."

Rick Swartz/The Bulletin



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# 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.

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## BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD CORPORATION'S

# SHOWCASE PROPERTY

OF THE MONTH

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

## A Dream Comes True in Garfield

This month, we congratulate Antoine and Rhonda McClain, proud owners of 5359 Broad Street in Garfield.

Mr. McClain was raised in Garfield, then married Rhonda and moved to Penn Hills. But Ms. McClain said every time they came to visit her husband's mother, she would check out the vacant house at 5359 Broad St., because she said it was "calling" to her. She contacted Rick Swartz, executive director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, to inquire about the house. He told her the BGC already had a buyer, but Ms. McClain said, "No, you don't, because you don't know my name!" She told him it was her dream house to live and raise her family in.

And sure enough, Ms. McClain's dream came true: Mr. Swartz called her back to make a deal. The McClains acquired the house six years ago and reside there with their four children.

It's no wonder Ms McClain was attracted to this house, as it certainly catches the eye, sitting grandly at the corner of Broad and North Aiken, painted light gray with white trim. A

Victorian house built in 1900, it has great charm, with an inviting front porch and winding steps, accented with white railings, a side porch, and a patio in the back. It also has a generously sized gated back yard for the children. The house has eight rooms and one-and-a-half baths - just what the McClains needed for their family of six.

Ms. McClain said she is "very happy" in the house. "We engage in the community to keep peace, and I would recommend that everyone own a home."

As you can see from the photos, the McClains have kept the property in excellent condition since the day they acquired it. The neighborhood should be grateful for the time, energy, and effort Mr. and Mrs. McClain have invested in their home, which complements the entire community.

Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. McClain, for being such good neighbors and making an investment in Garfield!



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

## "OPEN HAND," from page 1

this ministry will be." The work was made possible by a grant from East Liberty Development Inc. (ELDI), in-kind donations from Greg Stellmach of October Development, and the hard work of community volunteers solicited by churches.

Stanton is currently working to raise funds to meet the ministry's primary goals for 2008: identifying three low- to moderate-income families who need assistance in becoming first-time homeowners; matching them with three appropriate properties that are rehabbed by Open Hand; and helping them get the financial and spiritual support they need, even after they move in. "ELDI and Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation play a critical role in this, by helping us place families in stable or stabilizing neighborhoods. We can't truly empower the families without that." The ministry is currently in the process of screening families who might participate in the

process.

At this writing, Stanton is working out of his home, but will soon have an office at Valley View Presbyterian, where the Rev. Chad Collins is pastor. The two men attended Pittsburgh Theological Seminary together and, says Collins, "share a history of desiring to see justice in the community" for those who have not had the same opportunities as others. Valley View "has a history as a community-based church," Collins notes, and will serve as a sort of "launching place for the infant ministry." In turn, several potential clients for Open Hand are members of Valley View's congregation.

Stanton acknowledges that starting the new venture is sometimes anxiety-producing for a man with three young children and another on the way. But he has made major life changes in the past, such as leaving a position as safety and ergonomic supervisor with

Perdue Farms to become the associate pastor of a small church. The new ministry is "a real faith experience," he smiles, "and I'm anxious to see how it turns out."

*Open Hand Ministries can be reached by mail c/o Valley View Presbyterian Church, 601 North Aiken Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206; or by phone at 412-400-7253.*

## ERRATUM

In the December 2007 issue of *The Bulletin*, the caption of the photo on page 3 of the 2007-08 Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation Board of Directors failed to note that board member Jamita Poston was missing from the photo. We regret the error.

## Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center Starts Year with New Projects

There are many new developments at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC). Some new relationships have developed fruit, and we are working diligently on advancing these projects!

First of all, ENEC has established a relationship with AARP, an organization that, among other things, helps those aged 50 and older to enter or re-enter the workforce. AARP has created a new online work assessment tool that evaluates interests and skills to match job seekers with employers. We are working to set up informational sessions to familiarize our clients with this exciting new instrument.

On January 23, 2008, from 3 to 8 p.m., ENEC, along with West Penn Hospital, will be hosting a Career Check Up at West Penn's Wintergarden on the first floor. Join us at 5:30 p.m. to hear from John Lasky, vice president of Human Resources, on which healthcare positions will best

**By Alexa Belajac and LaToya Hamm**  
*Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center*

match your interests. On-site interviews will be

available for those who qualify for current openings.

ENEC staff members are working to host a second career fair in the East End during the second week of February. Watch for an update in the next issue of *The Bulletin*.



In addition, ENEC continues to recruit for our Workforce Investment Act program. If you are looking for a job, please stop by to see if you qualify. We also offer resume writing, one-on-one job counseling, and assistance in creating professional cover letters and thank-you notes. Our computers, Internet access, fax machine, and copier are available to the public for use. Our drop-in hours are from 1 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday – feel free to stop by our office at 5100 Penn Avenue, 2nd Floor, above the National City Bank in Garfield. For more information, give us a call at 412-362-8580.

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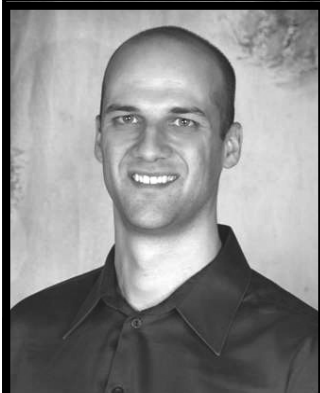


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## After-School Program News

IN MID-DECEMBER, **Community LEARNS**, an afterschool program that seeks to improve the lives of Peabody High School students through academic and social support, received a \$100,000 grant for each of the next two years from the United Way – the first of the funding organization's new competitive grants. Community LEARNS is a program of Wireless Neighborhoods, an alliance of community and faith organizations, including the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center.

The grant money will be used to expand services to additional students and to focus attention on advancing math and reading skills. That will entail hiring additional staff, in particular a program coordinator to strengthen the coordination of services between Peabody and the after-school program. The grant will also fund staff development and the purchase of curriculum materials.

"The Community LEARNS partners realize that we all need to support Superintendent Roosevelt's Excellence for All agenda," said Stephen MacIsaac, executive director of Wire-

less Neighborhoods. "Our children's education is all of our responsibility. We are very thankful to the United Way and our other funders for allowing us to do this wonderful work."

BERTHA NESSER, lead site coordinator for **21st Century Pittsburgh LEARNS**, an after-school program of Wireless Neighborhoods and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, handed out toys, books, and other

goodies at the program's annual Christmas party, held at Ft. Pitt Accelerated Learning Academy on December 18. The kindergarten through second-grade students enjoyed pizza and other snacks before receiving holiday presents – trucks donated by Mike and Kathy Emanuel of Greensburg, Pa., and stuffed animals provided by an anonymous donor. Pictured above are (left to right) first graders Zhaire Blair, Jamya Rice, and Ricky Reese.

Paula Martinac/The Bulletin





## TAX MAN

by **Patrick N. Price**  
Tax Consultant  
Internal Revenue Service

Education credits can help offset the costs of higher education for yourself or a dependent for whom you claim an exemption on your federal tax return. The Hope Credit and the Lifetime Learning Credit are education credits you may be able to subtract in full from your federal income tax, not just deduct from your taxable income. The Tuition and Fees Adjustment can benefit higher income taxpayers not eligible to claim one of the education credits. Publication 970, "Tax Benefits for Education," explains the rules and eligibility for the education credits and is available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

## Polishing Their Experience

Diane Stewart, proprietor of D'Renee Nails and Hair Salon of North Graham Street in Garfield for the past 12 years, demonstrated the meticulous art of nail design to rapt 3- to 5-year-old Pittsburgh Montessori pre-schoolers, who were invited to visit the salon on December 4. Teacher Amelia Gehron, who accompanied the children from the Friendship school, told *The Bulletin* that they take one or two field trips a year, often to places like The Children's Museum, but the salon visit gave them "a chance to learn about different parts of the community."

After the demonstration, Ms. Stewart and her assistant, Doris "DeeDee" Hardin, painted the nails of the girls in the school group. The boys took a tour of Oscar's Barber Shop, just around the corner

on Penn Avenue. Although Ms. Stewart had visited Friendship Elementary School in the past to give demonstrations, this was the first time she opened her salon to a school group, which she called "a wonderful experience."



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

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## "I'll Be Your 'Baby' Tonight"

Baby Bunny is a calm, laid-back, black and brown Labrador retriever mix. She has been a resident of Animal Friends since August of 2006. Bunny is a very good dog and even does pet therapy at some nursing homes. She will wait calmly for you to enter her cage or clip on her leash, and she only barks when she wants some more love. She appears to be completely housebroken, and even though she is an older dog, she is learning basic tricks like "sit" and "paw." Bunny loves to work on her tricks because she'll do anything to earn a treat. She's such a sweet girl that she is frequently recruited at Animal Friends to serve as a canine greeter in the lobby.

Baby Bunny would do best in a home with older children. Won't you make your home her home this winter? For more information about Baby Bunny, please contact Animal Friends at [www.animal-friends.org](http://www.animal-friends.org) or call 412-847-7000.

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## Tenants Have the Right to a Decent Home

If you are a renter, Pennsylvania law says that you are entitled to a decent place to live. This right stems from a court decision issued by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, which established what is known as the "implied warranty of habitability" doctrine. The implied warranty of habitability covers all situations in which someone is renting a place to live, whether it is a house, apartment, or mobile home; it also applies to a lot rented in a mobile home park. It applies whether you have a written or oral lease, and even if you and your landlord did not specifically agree to it – hence the term "implied."

The implied warranty of habitability is a dependent covenant in a lease. This means that the tenant has a duty to pay rent, and the landlord has a corresponding duty to provide decent housing. Therefore, so long as the tenant has been paying rent and has not caused the damages, a landlord must provide a safe, sanitary, and healthy place for a tenant. The landlord is responsible for handling serious problems: i.e., a leaking roof, a broken furnace, broken water pipes, malfunctioning toilets, unsecured doors, broken windows, exposed electrical wiring, or other structural problems. Understand

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

that the landlord is not required to provide a perfect place to live. Minor defects such as a leaking faucet, old carpeting, or unsightly wallpaper may be a nuisance to you, but they do not affect your health or safety.

If you encounter a major problem in your home, the best advice is to attempt to work out a solution with the landlord that is fair to both of you. Agreements – particularly if they involve the landlord foregoing rent in return for you making repairs – should be put in writing to protect you in the event of a dispute over rent.

You must give the landlord a reasonable amount of time in which to make necessary repairs. Determining a reasonable time period often depends on the circumstances. A furnace breaking down during the heating season should be repaired quickly, whereas an exposed electrical outlet can be repaired in a longer time frame. The more serious the problem, the faster it should be fixed.

If no mutual agreement can be reached, you should notify the landlord, in writing, that the problem con-

tinues. The letter should describe the problem in detail, request that the landlord make the repairs within a reasonable time, and describe what steps you will take if the necessary repairs are not completed. The letter should be sent by certified mail, with a return receipt requested. This return receipt will act as proof of when the landlord was informed of the problem. You should always keep a copy of the letter for your records.

If the landlord doesn't fix the problem, you, the tenant, have the following options: withholding rent; making the necessary repairs and deducting the cost from the rent; or, in some cases, vacating the unit. You may also file a lawsuit with the local district justice to recover rent paid during the time the home was in disrepair, or seek a court order in Common Pleas Court to force the landlord to make the repairs in a timely manner.

If you decide to withhold rent, the amount withheld should correspond to the severity of the problem. The more severe the problem, the more rent that should be withheld. You should always place any rent you withhold into a separate bank account, because if the landlord sues to evict you and the court finds that you owe rent anyway, you will either need to repay the rent or use it for your appeal.

The other option that you may choose is to repair and deduct, whereby you have the repairs made and deduct the cost from your rent. The repairs must be necessary to make the home safe and must be made at a reasonable price. You must get a receipt for the costs of the repairs. When the rent is due, you should provide the landlord with a copy of the receipt and pay the difference between your rent and the cost of the repairs. The repairs cannot be more expensive than the rent spelled out in the lease for any given month. For example, if you have a month-to-month lease with a rental amount of \$500 per month, the repairs cannot be greater than \$500.

The problems with this option are that in many cases the repairs are too expensive for the tenant to afford, and often repairmen will not work on a rental property without the authorization of the landlord.



Only in rare cases should a tenant decide to vacate the unit, because the landlord is then likely to sue for all remaining rent due on the lease. At the hearing, the tenant must be able to prove that the unit was in such bad condition that it was unfit for human habitation. Before moving, you must notify the landlord in writing of the moving date. You should indicate that you are moving because of unsafe or unhealthy housing conditions, and describe what steps you took to get the landlord to respond. You should take pictures of the conditions in the home, if at all possible. Pictures provide valuable evidence to support your reasons for leaving. In addition, pictures of each room of the home could also prevent the landlord from claiming that you damaged the property. Once you have relocated, you should notify your former landlord of your new address and request the return of your security deposit. Again, it is best to keep copies of all correspondence between you and landlord.

Legal action involves filing a lawsuit, requesting that the court order the landlord to make the necessary repairs or reimburse you for rent you have already paid. The recovery of back rent is limited to the period when the home was not fit for habitation, and any compensation for injuries or other damages you may suffer as a result of the landlord's failure to make timely repairs.

Neighborhood Legal Services Association 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](http://www.nlsa.us). At our website, you will also find a link to [www.PaLAWHelp.org](http://www.PaLAWHelp.org) which also provides valuable legal information on a multitude of legal topics.

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## New Book Captures Life in East Liberty from 18th Century to Present

Al Mann, a member of the board of directors of the East End/East Liberty Historical Society, has lived in the East End for 42 years and knows his way around. But he discovered he still had a lot to learn about the neighborhood when he began working on an illustrated history book called *Pittsburgh's East Liberty Valley*, which will be published by Arcadia Publishing on January 21.

The historical society, which operates with a completely volunteer board and whose collection is stored in a room at the East Liberty Lutheran Church, committed to researching and writing the 128-page volume about a year ago. The society already held the copyright on a 40-year-old work by John Fulton Collins, *Stringtown on the Pike*, which contained a lot of valuable illustrations of the earliest years of East Liberty, and "we borrowed heavily from that," Mann noted.

But the group also "put the word out and got a very nice response from the community. There were several individuals with excellent collections," Mann said, and they made their vintage photographs available for reproduction.

The book is divided into nine chapters and goes all the way back to "Pioneer Days," when "liberty" was the term used for a common grazing area. Other chapters address such topics as the settling of the village of East Liberty; the "Glory Days" of the area's commercial district in the 19th and early 20th centuries; the building of community institutions such as churches and schools; and the redevelopment of the 1960s, which, Mann noted, "created a lot of havoc." The final chapter of the book, he said, is called "From Redevelopment to Rebirth" and treats the enormous physical changes now occurring as the neighborhood attempts to reinvent itself.

Another chapter discusses approximately 70 notable historical figures, particularly in the arts, who were raised or once lived in the East End — celebrities such as dancer Gene Kelly; jazz musician Billy Eckstine; and playwright George S. Kaufman. Many people don't realize, for example, that Selma Burke, an African-American sculptor who founded the Selma Burke Art Center in Penn Circle, created the image of Franklin D.

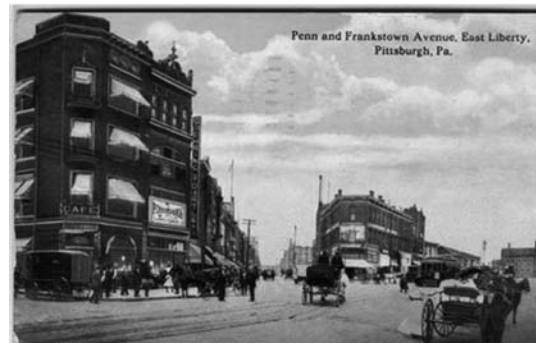
By Paula Martinac  
*The Bulletin*

Roosevelt that appears on the U.S. dime. But it's all in the book.

Mann, an engineer and the author of numerous technical publications, did most of the actual writing of the captions for the history, which contains more than 200 illustrations. He said it was "a challenge to get a story into 70 words," which was the limit placed on each caption. In addition, the entire eight-member board of the historical society was involved in the research and preparation, so no one person gets the cover credit. In particular, Mann noted the contributions of Charles Honeywell, executive director of the society, and Marilyn Evert, a board member who is a historian and who published her own book, *Discovering*

*Pittsburgh's Sculpture*, with the University of Pittsburgh Press.

Watch for a book signing at Borders in the Eastside Shopping Center at Centre Avenue and South Highland in the near future. People who buy the



THE COVER IMAGE FOR *PITTSBURGH'S EAST LIBERTY VALLEY* IS AN OLD POSTCARD OF AN INTERSECTION THAT NO LONGER EXISTS — PENN AVE. AND FRANKSTOWN RD.

book can become members of the East End/East Liberty Historical Society at a discount. The usual annual membership fee of \$20 is reduced to \$15 for those who send their proof of purchase to the office at 5907 Penn Avenue, Suite 305, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

## Festival Honors Women of Penn Avenue Arts Corridor

Since June, the New Hazlett Theater has been hosting a year-long festival called "Women in the Arts: Founders, Pioneers, Instigators," honoring 36 female leaders and their organizations in the Pittsburgh arts community — six of whom are from the Penn Avenue arts corridor.

Sara Radelet, executive director of the New Hazlett Theater, explained that "even though these organizations and women have done so much for the Pittsburgh community, they haven't really been celebrated in this way before. Our goal is to focus on their great accomplishments and continue to emphasize the impact of the arts in the community."

Three of the art establishments honored — Attack Theatre, Dance Alloy Theater, and the Pittsburgh Glass Center — are all located on Penn Avenue, and the work of each of these organizations has stimulated the corridor and brought new life and people to the area. Five of the female honorees of this "Women in the Arts" festival who directly impacted the Penn Avenue arts scene are Michele de la Reza, co-artistic director of Attack Theatre; Beth Corning, artistic and executive director of Dance Alloy

Theater; Susan Gillis and Elsa Limbaugh, co-founders of Dance Alloy Theater; and Kathleen Mulcahy, co-founder of the Pittsburgh Glass Center.

The sixth woman, Cathy Lewis Long, is the founder and executive director of the Sprout Fund, an organization located on Penn Avenue that helps subsidize numerous community art and mural projects, hence contributing to the advancement of the arts throughout the city.

Dance Alloy Theater was founded in the 1970s, sparking change as one of the first art organizations on the avenue. Radelet explained that, currently, "both Dance Alloy Theater and Attack Theatre are energizing, building, and investing in the change of Penn Avenue, while the Pittsburgh Glass Center is also a big, vibrant center of learning." Meanwhile, the Sprout Fund is also contributing to the arts community by finishing up its 2007 public art mural initiative, which added 40 new murals around the city.

By Teresa Kim Schmittberger  
*Bulletin Intern*

**"They knew they had an artistic vision, and in order to recognize it, they had to do their own thing."**

Together, the organizations have laid a solid foundation of arts organizations on Penn Avenue, all because of the hard work of these dedicated women.

The next event in the festival, a symposium called "Creativity: Making Work, Making Community," will be held January 18 and 19. Radelet said that "the January symposium will be emphasizing the value of arts in the community, which can sometimes be overlooked. The symposium was influenced by these women, and it can hopefully motivate people in the public to see the real-life efforts of what these women have done, [so that they] serve as an inspiration for others."

On January 18, there will be a panel discussion and workshops about how art has contributed to community development in Pittsburgh, in comparison to other cities, and what the future holds for the local arts community. On January 19, sessions will cover what is

involved in beginning a new art project, and will feature the success stories of many of the women honorees.

After the symposium, the next "Women in the Arts" event, called "Preserve and Pursue," will be held February 1-6, and will include new work from Attack Theatre that features the company's three primary dancers. Radelet commented that Attack Theatre "knew they had an artistic vision, and in order to recognize it, they had to do their own thing."

Michele de la Reza, co-artistic director of Attack Theatre, wanted to contribute to the "Women in the Arts" festival because she felt that the event "brought together a group of women whose stories explained how things could begin and lead to success." De la Reza added that Radelet, and everyone from the New Hazlett Theater, "had done an amazing job, and honored women from a great spectrum of the cultural community."

For more information about the upcoming symposium, "Preserve and Pursue," and future events of the "Women in the Arts" festival, visit [www.newhazletttheater.org](http://www.newhazletttheater.org) or call (412) 320-4612.

## Family Health Center Promotes Literacy with Holiday Book Giveaway

Holiday cheer abounded on Friday, December 14, at the UPMC St. Margaret Health Partnership Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's annual holiday celebration. The BGC Community Activity Center on North Pacific Avenue was decorated with lights, ornaments, garlands, and a Christmas tree. Hot cocoa and Christmas-tree-shaped sugar cookies were served to all of the families and children that attended. There was even a special visit from Santa Claus.

In addition, the UPMC St. Margaret Bloomfield Garfield Family Health Center joined in the merry-making this year. Every youth who attended the celebration received a complimentary book as a part of the Family Health Center's "Reach Out and Read" program, a national initiative promoting early childhood literacy. Seventy-five youths, ages 1 to 13, received a book at the holiday celebration.

"We, as a family health center in this community, appreciate the opportunity to be in the community promoting literacy as a cornerstone for children's development," says Laura Macbeth, social worker for the

**By Emily Welsh**  
Health Coordinator

Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health Center.

"We had a great time doing it this year at the BGC holiday celebration."

UPMC St. Margaret is dedicated to the promotion of childhood literacy in the communities it serves. All three UPMC St. Margaret Family Health Centers – Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health Center, Lawrenceville Family Health Center, and New Kensington Family Health Center – participate in "Reach Out and Read." At the Family Health Centers, children from 6 months to age 5 receive books at their well-child visits, in order to encourage parental involvement in developing reading skills. The UPMC St. Margaret Family Health Centers wanted to continue the development of reading skills in their pediatric patients ages 6 through 12. The Reading Is FUNDamental Pittsburgh Program provides age-appropriate books for those patients during their well-child visits. A grant from the Grable Foundation makes "Reach Out and Read" possible at all the UPMC St. Margaret Family Health Centers.



EMILY WELSH FROM UPMC ST. MARGARET PRESENTED FREE BOOKS TO NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTHS AT THE BGC HOLIDAY PARTY.



SANTA CLAUS WAS ALSO ON HAND AT THE DEC. 14 HOLIDAY CELEBRATION.

Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

## Friendship Resident Publishes Book of Poems



Angele Ellis, Friendship resident, community activist, vice president of Friendship Preservation Group, and former member of the Bloomfield-Garfield Public Safety Task Force, has published her first book of poems, *Arab on Radar*, with Six Gallery Press. It is available now at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), or can be ordered from your favorite local bookstore. Written in response to a post-9/11 world, the book reclaims the author's Arab-American identity, and reaffirms the power of imagination in the wake of political and personal crisis. Congratulations, Angele!

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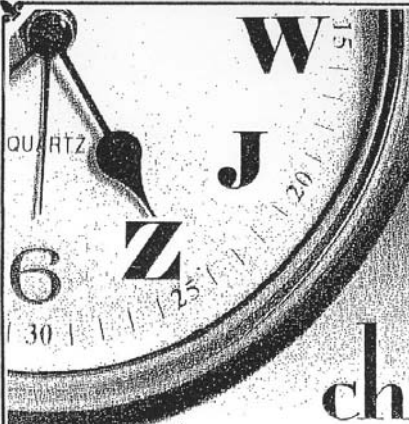
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## BULLETIN BOARD

### VINTAGE SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS

Vintage Senior Community Center, 401 N. Highland Avenue, East Liberty, encourages older adults 60+ to make 2008 a healthy new year by exercising in their fitness studio, equipped with state-of-the-art treadmills, recumbent bikes, weight training gym, and flat-screen television. Call 412-361-5003, x 104.

### 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.

### 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](http://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.

### ENEC's FREE SERVICES

Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center serves businesses and job seekers in the East End. We offer a variety of FREE services, including:

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Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Job Retention Program  
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Call to make an appointment, or stop by from 1 to 5 p.m., 5100 Penn Avenue, 2nd Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15224. Phone: 412-362-8580; fax: 412-362-8590.

### TRINITY GALLERY'S WINTER EXHIBITION

Trinity Gallery, located at 4747 Hatfield Street in Lawrenceville, will showcase the work of two local artists, Helen Stokan and Anne Clair Goodman. The exhibition, titled "Back to Basics," runs from January 12 through February 23. The opening reception is on Saturday, January 12, from 7-9:30 p.m. and is free

to the public. Both women are from Lawrenceville: Ms. Stokan will feature her black and white photography, while Ms. Goodman will show a series of watercolor paintings. For more information, contact Dan Gaser at 412-687-2458 or email him at [imdan@verizon.net](mailto:imdan@verizon.net).

### "HISTORY OF THE FLAG" LECTURE AT LHS

Lawrenceville Historical Society presents Clark Rogers of the National Flag Foundation speaking on the history of the flag and the mission of the Flag Foundation, at Canterbury Place, McVay Auditorium (1st Floor), 310 Fisk Street, Lawrenceville, Jan. 17, at 7:00 p.m. For more information e-mail [usinfo@LHS15201.org](mailto:usinfo@LHS15201.org).

### FREE 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, Garfield, 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 on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday evenings, or on Saturday mornings, in various locations. During each class, a meal is provided. Childcare is also available for those in need.

Upcoming class schedule: PSC Family Support Center, Thursdays, 5:45-8 p.m., beginning Jan. 17; East Liberty Family Support/Kingsley, Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m., beginning Jan. 16; Homewood-Brushton Family Support/YMCA, Thursdays, 6-9 p.m., beginning Jan. 17; Mt. Ararat Baptist Church, Mondays, 6-9 p.m., beginning Jan. 14; Sixth Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Saturdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., beginning Jan. 19; Rodman Street Baptist Church, Wednesdays, 5:30-8 p.m., beginning Jan. 16; Radiant Life Alliance Church, Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m., beginning Jan. 8; Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Mondays, 6-9 p.m., beginning Jan. 14. There will also be classes at Morningside C.O.G.I.C. and Wilkinsburg Family Support, at times to be announced. For more information, directions, or to register, call Shawn Pinkston at 412-325-0602 or visit [www.themariageworks.org](http://www.themariageworks.org).

### LEARN T'AI CHI

Tai Chi will again be offered at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland Ave., beginning Tuesday, January 15, 10-11 a.m. and 6-7 p.m. Judy Crow returns as the instructor. A donation of \$3 per class is requested. For questions or further information, contact Patrice Fowler-Searcy, 412-441-3800 x30.

### PDA WINTER SESSION

Pittsburgh Dance Arts winter session begins January 5. Expert instruction for children in Pre-dance, Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Musical Theatre, and a new class in Tumbling; and for Adults, all levels of Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Pilates, Fitness, Bhangra, and Flamenco. Discounts for

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#### Preschool Storytime

For ages 3-5. Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31

#### Raising Reader Parent Club

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m., January 5, 12, 19, and 26. Parents of young children ages 3-6 are invited to this special club for parents. Receive free books each week.

#### 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. Friday, January 4, 2:30-4:30 p.m. OR Tuesday, January 15, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

#### *Introduction to Library Services*

Learn how to search the online catalog, about the library's databases, and how

you can access your library account online. Prerequisite: Learn the WWW class or solid WWW experience. Thursday, January 24, 2:30-4:30pm

To register for these classes or 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 Street 412-682-3668**

#### *Storytime*

For ages 3-5. Thursdays, 11 a.m.,

January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31.

#### *Life-Sized Candyland*

For ages 2-5. Come romp through our glittering Candyland, enjoy a story, and some sweet treats! Thursday, January 17, 11 a.m.

#### *Family Fun: Make a Sock Puppet!*

All ages welcome. Saturday, January 26, 11 a.m.



## BULLETIN BOARD

family packages, and multiple classes. Also auditions for "Snow White": Kids Musical Theatre of Pittsburgh Dance Arts will be auditioning children of reading ability or age 6 and up on Monday January 28, 4-5 p.m. at Pittsburgh Dance Arts studios, 4059 Penn Avenue (near Main). Performance in June. For more schedule information go to [www.pgh-dance.com](http://www.pgh-dance.com), or call 412-681-7523.

### INDOOR WALKING PROGRAM IN L'VILLE

Twelve-week indoor walking program beginning January 5 at 9 a.m. at St. Matthew's Church, 5322 Carnegie Street, Lawrenceville. Perform at your own comfort level, and increase endurance steadily, at your own pace. To register or for more information, visit [www.lifecyclesunlimited.org](http://www.lifecyclesunlimited.org) or call JoAnn at 412-654-5476.

### GPLC TUTOR TRAINING

Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council (GPLC) is seeking volunteers to teach Basic Literacy (reading, writing, math, computer skills) to adult students throughout the East End neighborhoods.

In January, GPLC is offering a workshop for volunteers wishing to tutor Basic Literacy. This workshop will be held in East Liberty at the GPLC Main Office on January 26 and February 2 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This workshop provides volunteer tutors with 12 hours of training that equips them with the necessary skills to help their students. Advance registration is required. To obtain more information and registration forms, please call Peggi at 412-661-7323 or visit our website at [www.gplc.org](http://www.gplc.org).

### DAT'S NEW CLASSES

Dance Alloy Theater offers noncompetitive dance and movement classes for all ages and abilities at their studios at 5530 Penn Avenue. Start the new year off with Afro Modern, Ballet, Ballroom, Belly Dance, Creative Movement, Hip Hop, Irish Step, Jazz, Modern, Pilates, Salsa, or Tango. New class offerings include Zumba on Mondays evenings and West African Dance on Saturday mornings. Classes run January 25 through April 19. Register before January 11 and save \$10. To learn more and to register visit <http://dancealloy.org/school.html> or call 412 363 4321.

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or visit [www.westpennburncenter.com](http://www.westpennburncenter.com).



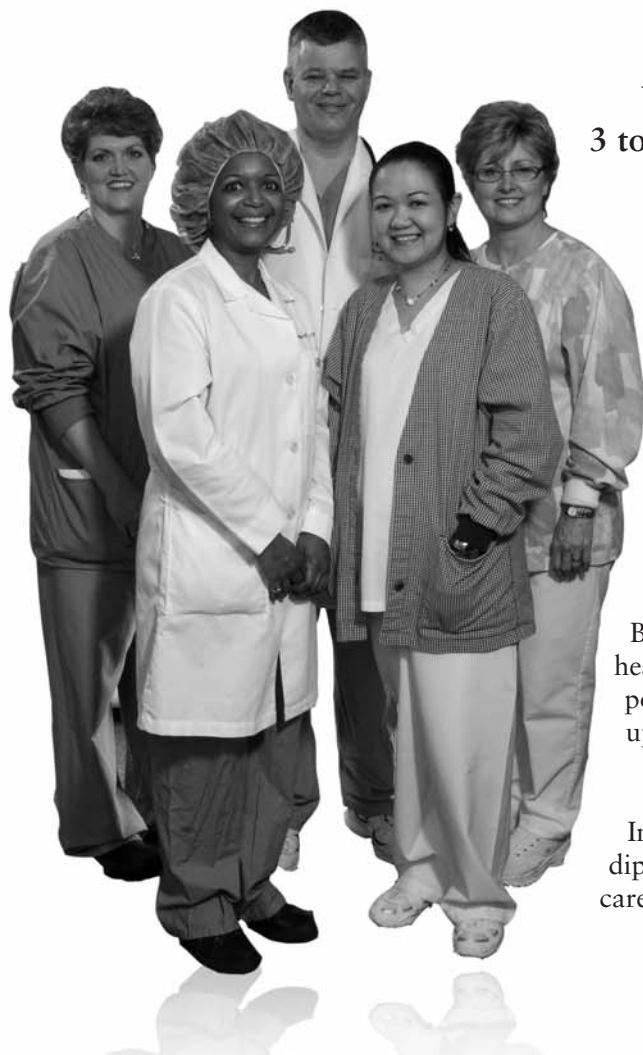
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PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL**

WEST PENN ALLEGHENY HEALTH SYSTEM

Provider of Choice

**Eyes tired from scanning the “Want Ads?”  
Cramp in your hand from filling out job applications?  
Feet hurt from pounding the pavement?**

Join the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center for a  
**Career Check Up!**



Wednesday, January 23, 2008  
West Penn Hospital, Wintergarden, First Floor  
3 to 8 p.m. – Onsite interviews for available positions  
5:30 p.m. – A Health Careers Check Up

**John Lasky**  
Vice President, Human Resources  
West Penn Allegheny Health System

Apply for a variety of positions, including:

Nursing positions

Medical Assistants

Pharmacists

Surgical Technologists

Entry level part-time and casual positions

Bring your resume and plan to explore career opportunities in healthcare. Learn more about requirements for Nursing Support positions, Unit Secretary training programs and more. “Check up” on what healthcare professions fit your interests, abilities

and personality and learn about opportunities for career advancement within West Penn Allegheny Health System.

Information on educational programs, including the nursing diploma program, School of Respiratory Care and other health career training programs at The Western Pennsylvania Hospital and throughout the region will also be available.

For more information on the Health Careers Check Up or to get assistance with preparing your resume, please call Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center at 412-362-8580.