



The Bulletin

A Publication of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

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Cortesy L. Robert Kimball & Associates

CRACKING THE CASE

Gene Miller of L. Robert Kimball & Associates measures a pavement crack on Penn Avenue as part of the pavement condition survey for the Penn Avenue Corridor Phasing Plan. Kimball, the company contracted by the City of Pittsburgh to oversee the Penn Avenue infrastructure project, will continue its pavement survey through early June, along with an investigation of the existing sidewalks and an on-going analysis of traffic conditions along the avenue.

Makeover Planned for Community Center

The Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center, located at 113 North Pacific Avenue and owned and operated by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), will receive a much-needed makeover. Plans for the renovation will be unveiled at the center during this year's Art Cubed event on Friday, June 6, from 7 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, June 7, from noon to 4 p.m.

The building – which has played an important role in the community since its founding as the Pacific Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church in 1896 – will undergo a combination of infrastructure and cosmetic improvements

By Freddie Croce
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

through a three-phase construction schedule. EDGE Studio on Penn Avenue has completed preliminary design work, funded by the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh.

The large arched window openings on the exterior, which have been partially covered for several years, will be replaced with new, full-size, high-performance windows, while the main entry will be upgraded and made fully accessible. The interior will gain a new high-efficiency (and quieter) heating and air-conditioning system,

See MAKEOVER, page 10

Four CDCs Collaborate on New East End Partnership

Jonathan Cox enjoys working on old houses, including his own. In many ways, his job as director of the brand-new East End Partnership – a community development collaboration to work on revitalization strategies for four diverse East End communities – dovetails perfectly with his hobby. "I like working with something that has great bones, character, history," he says, "and trying to bring it back to what it once was." That could be one house, or, in the case of his new position, entire neighborhoods.

Cox just started his job in March, but the East End Partnership, he explains, "kind of jelled in late 2005," stemming from conversations among leaders of four East End community development corporations – Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, East Liberty Development Inc., Friendship Development Associates, and Lawrenceville Corporation. The four groups had been talking about engaging in a collaborative effort to address economic change in their communities, and had received a \$100,000 grant from the New York-based Surdna Foundation to study what a more structured process would look like.

When it came time to apply the results of the initial Surdna study, it was clear, says Cox, "that in order to move forward they needed a body." Surdna provided an additional \$200,000 for implementation, and Cox was hired to bridge the four organizations and help them pull their individual strengths to benefit the East End as a whole. Although he and

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

the Partnership are physically housed at Lawrenceville Corporation on Butler Street, he is

"a shared employee," he makes clear. "All four partners have a piece of me."

Before accepting his new position, Cox spent five years as Vice President of Operations at the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, managing all



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

JONATHAN COX TAKES A BREAK AT THE QUIET STORM ON PENN AVENUE.

public spaces and "keeping Downtown clean and safe." Prior to that, he spent 17 years working in curatorial and administrative positions in museums and historical organizations in Harrisburg and Philadelphia. "History is the thread that runs through my career," he observes. "But also, I've been a city person all my life, and I like helping cities thrive and become healthier." An East Ender himself – he lives with

See PARTNERSHIP, page 11

**JULY
DEADLINE!**

The **FINAL DEADLINE** for the **JUNE 2008** issue of The Bulletin is **MONDAY, JUNE 16, 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

Clean Neighborhoods Promote Safe Neighborhoods

The "broken window theory" states that "at the community level, disorder and crime are usually inextricably linked, in a kind of developmental sequence. Social psychologists and police officers tend to agree that if a window in a building is broken and is left unrepaired, all the rest of the windows will soon be broken. This is as true in nice neighborhoods as in run-down ones...one unrepaired broken window is a signal that no one cares, and so breaking more windows costs nothing." (Source: *The Atlantic Monthly*, March 1982) Although other factors may also affect crime, evidence supports this theory.

The theory also purports that whether crime is on the rise or not, the broken windows will create the perception that the neighborhood is unsafe. This perception leads to residents avoiding certain streets and even each other, leading to a neighborhood that is then disconnected - just a place to live rather than a home. Apathy and fear set in, and though it all started with just a broken window, the window is now open to allow more criminal behavior.

Now replace "broken window" with "litter." Using the "litter theo-

ry," it's no wonder that Garfield has a serious littering and trash problem! Yes, we could focus on larger crime and safety problems; but let's focus on the litter, as it is part of the foundation that is allowing bigger problems to build up. It is also an issue that can be addressed by residents with little effort and with no danger involved - no snitching, no police action required.

Litter, trash, and illegal dumping are currently a harsh reality in Garfield. But you can easily help change that! There are simple actions that Garfield residents can take that have the power to create lasting change. These actions include:

- Not littering. While it may not seem like your one piece of trash will make a difference when so much more is already lying on the ground, remember that it does.
- Educating others, particularly children (our future!), that littering is not okay.
- Reporting any illegal dumping or trash piles to 311, either via phone

By Deadra Keener
Public Safety Coordinator

or online. Or call the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation at 412-441-6950, and we will report it for you.

- Taking care of your property. This is a sign to others that someone cares, and might even motivate others to do the same. This can be as simple as picking up litter just in front of your residence.

Another action is to participate in the Garfield Community Cleanup, scheduled for Saturday, June 14, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. This is a different kind of cleanup, where residents focus only on cleaning up their individual sidewalks/yards/porches. If you are motivated to do more, go for it! But the goal is really to help folks

see how good Garfield can look, and hopefully start a movement to keep Garfield looking good.

As Jennifer Quinio, a local resident and owner of Modern Formations gallery, said, "A clean neighborhood leads to less crime, leads to business coming to the area, leads to people having more job opportunities, leads to respecting themselves more, leads to respecting each other more, leads to respecting the environment more...it all goes hand-in-hand." If that sounds good to you, then let's work together to clean up the neighborhood - and keep it clean! We can make a start on Saturday, June 14.

Note: Another Garfield cleanup event, sponsored by Garfield Jubilee Association, is being held on June 7. See page 15 for details.

Public Safety Meetings

The **Zone 2 Public Safety Council Meeting** is held the last Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at Hill House, 1835 Centre Avenue. For more information, call 412-255-2827.

The **Zone 5 Public Safety Council Meeting** is held the second Tuesday of each month, with representatives of the police department in attendance. Meetings start at 7 p.m. at The Union Project, 801 North Negley Avenue (at Stanton). For more information, call 412-665-3605.

The **BGC 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 Bloomfield, Garfield, and Friendship. Residents and business owners are invited to attend the first 15 minutes of each meeting to raise specific concerns, or present concrete information about criminal activity to the Task Force. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, May 14, at 4 p.m., at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corp. Community Activity Center, 113 North Pacific Avenue (corner of Dearborn). For more information, contact Aggie Brose, chair of the Task Force, at 412-441-6950 x15.

Garfield Community Cleanup

Saturday, June 14, 10 a.m. - Noon

This is a time for residents to clean up their individual properties (sidewalks, yards, and/or porches). Imagine how clean and nice Garfield can look if we all do our small part!

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation has trash bags (to fill and put out with your regular trash) and gloves (to borrow, if needed) - just stop by the office (5149 Penn Avenue) earlier that week. For more information, contact Deadra Keener at 412-441-6950 x17.



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BGC Helps Young Adults Find Jobs, Continue Education

Time and again, young adults cite one major obstacle when it comes to landing a job – lack of experience. Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's Youth Employment Program (YEP), located at 5129 Penn Avenue, has been helping young adults gain experience in quality placements for some time now, and would love to help you!

The YEP is currently recruiting young adults who are not in school, ages 17 through 21, with an interest in gaining paid work experience for bright futures in a wide variety of career opportunities. Included in the possibilities are entry-level positions in local hospitals such as UPMC St. Margaret, UPMC Shadyside, Children's Home of Pittsburgh, and West Penn. There are also placement possibilities at financial institutions such as The Bank of New York Mellon and Allegheny Valley Bank, and at excellent local organizations

and businesses such as The Union Project, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, the Quiet Storm, and 3RC Computer Clubhouse.

The YEP not only focuses on employment, but the program wants to make sure its participants reach their potential in other ways to prepare for their future.

Terrenzo Lewis, a 2007 graduate of Pittsburgh Peabody High School, has been with the YEP for almost a year. After graduation, he sought help from the YEP, and was able to enroll at Community College of Allegheny County in an Environmental Services program. Now, a year later, he is graduating from CCAC with a valuable certification. He has gained a lot of work experience through a placement with the YEP that allowed him to

By BGC Youth Employment Program Staff

apply the skills he was learning in school.

Says Lewis, "At Bloomfield-Garfield [Corporation], they are helping me find a job and helped me get into college. I learned more math and reading skills, and learned how to budget and save the money I made. College showed me the way to properly use

items to perform my job well. I am thankful for my experiences."

If you or someone you know is looking for work opportunities, as well as other skills to equip you for great future success, or you would like more information, please call Angelica Starkey or Mollie Smith at YEP to schedule an interview at 412-441-9833.



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Jeff DeZulovich
Owner,
JAD Contracting, Inc.

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Don't miss *The Bulletin's* blog for all the latest news about community goings-on and events you won't want to miss:

www.bgcbulletin.blogspot.com

Now you can sign up to get blog updates by e-mail!

The Bulletin

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



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

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SUBMISSIONS POLICY

All submissions to *The Bulletin* 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.

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and thank our advertisers and the BGC's funding partners, including The Bank of New York Mellon, Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, The United Way, National City Bank, Dollar Bank, PNC Financial, Citizens Bank, The City of Pittsburgh, and State Senator Jim Ferlo for their support.

BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD CORPORATION'S

EYESORE OF THE MONTH

Every other month, we highlight property owners whose neglect hurts the neighborhood. Properties are nominated by community members. It's easy to do! Just make a quick call to Aggie Brose at 412-441-6950 x 15 with your choice for "Eyesore of the Month."

North Atlantic Property Reaches a "Dead End"

The property at 312 North Atlantic Avenue was nominated for Eyesore Property of the Month. According to the Allegheny County Real Estate website, Charles and Sylvia S. Clark are the recorded owners. The mailing address for the tax bills is 312 North Atlantic Avenue (which is abandoned). The Clarks acquired the property in 1992 for \$1. At present, the taxes are heavily delinquent.

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) staff visited the property and found that it fits the criteria of an eyesore. The fenced-in front yard is nothing more than a big trash heap, with the garbage producing a terrible odor. The doors are boarded up, but a front window is broken, with an old shredded curtain blowing in the wind. The side wall is cracked and deteriorating; the back yard has debris and high weeds. The photos here speak louder than words.

BGC staff contacted the city's Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) and found that the property was condemned and declared a "dead end." The dictionary definition of a "dead end" is "a point beyond which no movement or

progress can be made; impasse." When the BBI declares a property a "dead end," it is because it has diligently tried to reach the recorded owners and failed. As a result, the BGC cannot even report the property to the Allegheny County Department of Health, because there would be no one at the address to receive the notice.

These dead-end properties create the worst blight in a neighborhood, as there is absolutely no one to hold accountable. The BBI staff informed us that they would move on demolishing the property — unfortunately at a cost that is usually absorbed by the city.

But that does not address the "dead end" issue, because after the demolition, the lot will still be owned by the Clarks, with all the delinquent taxes and any other recorded liens on it. Unfortunately, the Clarks have moved on, possibly have even passed away, but we, the community, have inherited their property.

Blight has a devastating ripple effect — it's very contagious, like a virus. While at the site,

the BGC staff turned the corner onto Brown Way and saw that 5303, 5305, and 5307 Brown Way are all abandoned and in the same condition as 312 North Atlantic Avenue. The BGC will work with the BBI to have these properties demolished.

The good news is that the staffs at the BBI and the Board of Health are great working partners and are always accountable to our neighborhood. And BGC and Garfield Jubilee Association (GJA) are in the progress of planning another critical master housing plan, and will be assembling "dead end" properties for new development. We will keep the community informed.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin



THE PROPERTY AT 312 NORTH ATLANTIC IS AN EYESORE FROM FRONT (ABOVE) TO BACK (LEFT).

Children's Hospital ED Access Designed To Ease Traffic, Frustration

By Brian Connelly

*Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
of UPMC
Public and Government Affairs*

Navigating the hospital driveway is a frustrating experience for families arriving in Oakland at the present Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. Despite the hospital's best efforts, the Main Tower driveway entrance simply is not designed for easy traffic flow. Currently, all hospital traffic – ambulances, drop-offs to the Emergency Department (ED), family parking – is funneled through the driveway from Fifth Avenue. The ED entrance, ambulance drop-off, and Main Lobby entrance all share one crowded stretch of driveway. Cars waiting to enter the driveway routinely are backed up several deep down Fifth Avenue.

That is how most patient families now enter Children's front door. It is a frustrating situation – but Children's campus in Lawrenceville stands in very stark contrast. Frustration for arriving families has been designed out.

On the Lawrenceville campus, arrivals at the ED are separate from arrivals at the main entrances – the entrance ramp for patients is on 44th Street, a full block away from the main patient entrance on 45th Street. A ramp from 44th Street goes directly to the ED entrance for public access.

Short-term parking for drop-offs is available next to the entrance, and longer-term parking is conveniently accessed via a ramp down to a below-ground parking garage.

The ambulance entrance to the ED

is entirely separate from the public entrance. This not only means that arriving families are not competing for space with ambulances, but also that teams transporting patients don't pass the ED waiting room. Families experiencing the normal stress accompanying any ED visit don't experience additional stress caused by seeing another child arriving in a serious condition.

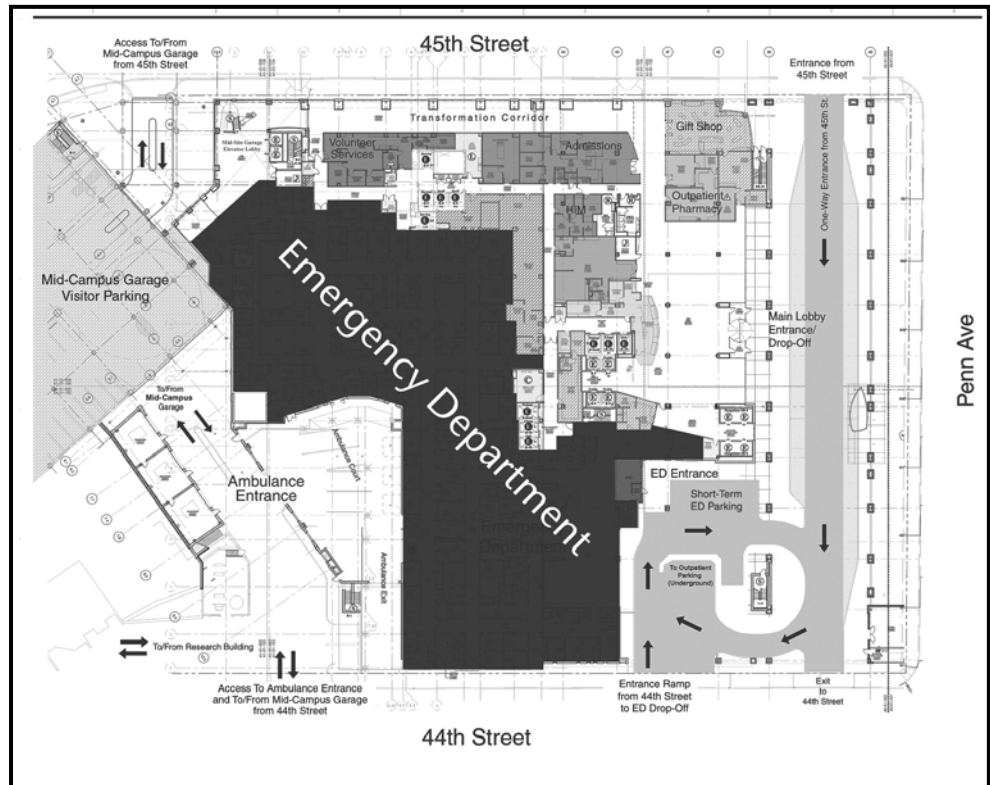
Note the driveway along the front

of the hospital, parallel to Penn Avenue on the diagram above. The driveway – one way, covered and several lanes wide – is the access to the main public lobby entrance.

Many improvements are also part of the interior design of the Lawrenceville ED. There will be more and larger exam rooms. The ED is divided into designated treatment zones and designated critical care areas. Inside trauma rooms, radiology

equipment is designed on a flexible ceiling track system, so the patients don't have to be moved for tests. Children's Emergency Department will also have its own state-of-the-art computed tomography (CT) scanner.

The new Children's Hospital is scheduled for a May 2009 opening. You can find out more about the plans for the hospital at www.chp.edu/new_campus.



Courtesy Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC

Groundbreaking Set for Penn Avenue's Glass Lofts

On Wednesday, June 4, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, Friendship Development Associates (FDA), and community partners will host a groundbreaking ceremony for the Glass Lofts, a "green," mixed-use development. The groundbreaking starts at 2 p.m. at 5485-99 Penn Avenue, at the corner of North Fairmount Street.

The new construction will include 18 unique, for-sale lofts, a 3200-square-foot restaurant space, several artist studios, and 1200 square feet of office space. This "green" (i.e., environmentally friendly) building, with modern architecture by award-winning architect Arthur Lubetz, will feature high-efficiency heating and cool-

ing and environmentally low-impact materials. Amenities include concrete flooring, retractable glass garage doors, and open floor plans. The one- and two-story lofts will range in size from 845 to 1,873 square feet, and buyers will pay no local or state income or property taxes through 2010. Affordable financing is available for qualified buyers.

"Once we acquired the Eat n' Park site and realized the endless possibilities for the parcels, we directly engaged the community and involved them in the master planning process," said Jeffrey Dorsey, FDA's executive director. "As a result, we were able to

By Sarah Collins
Friendship Development Associates

addresses the direct needs of the community."

Dorsey said that FDA is "thrilled to develop a key corner in our district and to produce a mixed-use and mixed-income project that creates jobs and truly represents the diversity of our neighborhoods. With this project, we're empowering neighborhood constituents who are currently renting to actually buy and own."

The Glass Lofts is the second phase of 3.2-acre development project. The first phase, the Penn Fairmont, is located at 5461 Penn Avenue, and includes 60 low-income, senior apartments and 7800 square feet of retail

space on the first floor. The project is made possible by the support of Citizens Bank, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, Community Design Center of Pittsburgh, and a foundation that prefers to remain anonymous.

FDA is a neighborhood-based community development corporation that uses place-based real estate development strategies to bring about lasting, beneficial market change in an unstable real estate market.

Publicolor Brightens the Halls of Pittsburgh Peabody

By James Eldred
The Bulletin

Pittsburgh Peabody High School is getting a fresh coat of paint, thanks to Publicolor, a New York-based non-profit organization that helps school students take an active role in their environments and teaches them valuable skills in the process.

Publicolor was founded in 1996 by industrial designer Ruth Lande Shuman, and works with students to improve their surroundings with paint. After staying strictly in the New York City area for the past 11 years, Publicolor is now branching out and chose Peabody for its first expansion.

Publicolor's director of replication, Dana Bishop-Root, said that the time

for expansion had come.

"We've had a lot of requests to replicate [the program], and Pittsburgh met all of the criteria of our mission, [which] is to help at-risk students in their education by teaching them the marketable skill of commercial painting."

According to Bishop-Root, Publicolor teaches students the value of their surroundings, while improving their own well-being and teaching them a skill they can take into the job force. Work began at Peabody in April, with students working on the cafeteria. Under the supervision of Publicolor employees, the students have a say and participate in all aspects of the project, from applying painter's tape and primer, to picking the colors and painting the walls.



James Eldred/The Bulletin

THE WALLS OF PITTSBURGH PEABODY CAFETERIA ARE GETTING A FRESH COAT OF PAINT THANKS TO PUBLICOLOR AND STUDENT VOLUNTEERS.

Lauren George, Publicolor's site manager for the project, said that they've had a steady number of students turning up every day, eager to paint and improve the appearance of their school.

"We average about eight to 10 students per day, with five or six kids coming regularly every day," she said.

The school year is drawing to a close, but the work won't come to an end during summer break, as some Publicolor volunteers might turn their experience into real, paying jobs.

"We plan on starting a summer job program for some of the kids that have been working with us, and working throughout the summer at community sites throughout East Liberty," said George.

Once summer is over, the program

will resume at the school, branching out into the commons area and the main entrance hallway. Other areas of the school are expected to follow.

"We want to start with the most public spaces and then go from there," said George.

Melissa Friez, administrative resident at Peabody, said she is happy that the organization is doing their work at the school, especially since it comes at no cost to the school system.

"I think it's a great idea, because it lets our students really express themselves and how they want their school to be viewed," she said. "It's just one of many things we've done to change the perspective [of Peabody]. We're really excited about the process, and have a really good response from our students."

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*The expiration for the \$199 offer is September 30, 2008.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

BRYANT K. SMITH WAS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE SECOND ANNUAL PITTSBURGH PEABODY EVENT, "PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE: REDUCING TEEN VIOLENCE AND ENHANCING LIFE OPPORTUNITIES," AT THE SCHOOL ON MAY 10. ACCORDING TO THE SCHOOL'S COUNT, MORE THAN 600 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE EVENT, WHICH INCLUDED A PROVIDER FAIR, DOZENS OF WORKSHOPS, AND A YOUTH TALENT SHOWCASE.

206 Project Creates Opportunities for Youth Leadership

By Joe Dostilio

*Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation
Youth Development Center*

206 Project is for youths by youths in the city's East End. The project's design had its genesis in a series of guided discussions between East End youths, youth providers, and concerned residents, all participating in the Youth Engagement committee of the East Liberty community planning process.

Throughout the "community solutions" planning process led by East Liberty Development Inc., the recurring message was that the East End needed a communication tool for youths, created by youths. 206 is a direct by-product of that community planning effort. Titled "206" for the East Liberty and Larimer zip code, the project is designed to support a cohort of youths who develop and design communication tools in a variety of mediums – written word, art, photography, video, and audio – to inform other East End youths and families about the abundance of positive opportunities that exist in the East Liberty, Garfield, and Larimer neighborhoods.

To these ends, 10 Peabody youths have been hired through a selective interview process, and are leading the way as the project catalogs community youth resources, interviews identified youth-serving organizations, produces marketing materials and event calendars, determines the communication tools that will be most effective, and learns how to utilize these communication tools to reach youth audiences. The ultimate goal is for East End youths to turn this project into a self-sustaining business model that will support an on-going youth-driven, youth-focused media outlet.

206 Project is part of the larger Community LEARNS program led by Wireless Neighborhoods and delivered by community and faith partners – Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Mt. Ararat Community

Activity Center, and the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center. The program provides after-school and summer educational, recreational and supportive services to 9th through 12th graders of Peabody High School. All of the employees of 206 Project are required to participate in 90 minutes of tutoring each weekday, two hours of tutoring most Saturdays, and three hours daily throughout the summer as part of their responsibilities as members of the 206 staff.

Wireless Neighborhoods and its Community LEARNS partners employ this "Academics First" model in all of their programming to afford young people the opportunity to grow and learn in the workplace and in the community, while always being able to remain focused on their most important job – succeeding in their education at Peabody High School.



New Faces of Leadership

Funding for Community LEARNS is made possible by the United Way, Heinz Endowments, Grable Foundation, One Vision One Life, Pittsburgh Weed and Seed, the City of Pittsburgh's Pittsburgh Partnership, and the Pittsburgh Public Schools (via Supplemental Educational Services).

For more information on the 206 Project or to speak with a 206 project leader about advertising your youth services, please call 412-363-1914.

DOODAH DAYS

www.doodahdays.com

Stephen Foster Music and Heritage Festival

Saturday, July 12, 2008 12:00P.M. to 5:00P.M.

Allegheny Cemetery in Pittsburgh, Pa

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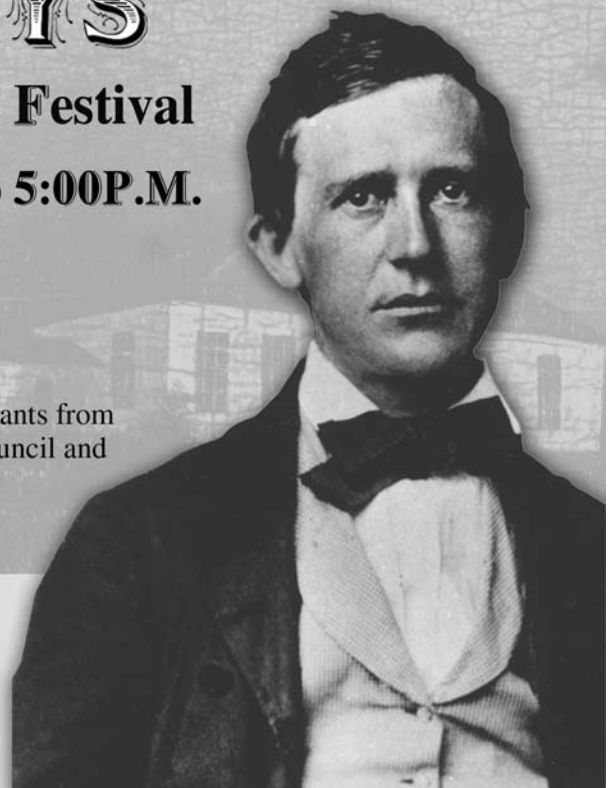
Food Vendors

Funding was in part by grants from
the Pennsylvania Arts Council and
Senator Jim Ferlo



Allegheny Cemetery
Historical Association

Foster Hall Collection, Center for American Music, University of Pittsburgh Library System





By Lisa Porter Werner
Bulletin Contributor

ROYAL CARIBBEAN

Location: 128 S. Highland Ave.
Phone: 412-362-1861
Hours: Tues.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Sun. 1-8 p.m. (owner's discretion)

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Reservations recommended for parties of four or more, especially on the weekend. Take-out recommended for people in a rush.

No smoking.

East Liberty Restaurant Stirs Up a Flavorful Melting Pot

The tables at Royal Caribbean aren't filled to its capacity yet, but that doesn't mean this modest, 1,600-square foot restaurant isn't busy.

My latest visit, on a brisk Thursday evening in May, started out bumpy. Our party of four decided to seat ourselves upon arrival because there was nobody available to seat us. We waited quite some time before someone noticed that we needed to see menus. Our fellow diners, seated at two nearby tables, sympathized with our wait. The general consensus, however, was that the real old-fashioned Island cuisine was well worth the wait. A continuous flow of take-out diners was lined up in the back of the restaurant waiting to pick up orders, which appeared to be the hold-up.

The laid-back atmosphere of the restaurant, with its muted red, green, and yellow walls, paper place mats, solitary decoration (a lacquered painting of Bob Marley propped against the faux tikki bar in

the back of the restaurant), and the skipping reggae music made us feel like we were no longer in Pittsburgh. The menu, with its traditional Caribbean Island dishes – specifically jerk chicken, braised oxtails, curried chicken, goat and extensive fish and shrimp selections – catapulted us to the Islands, namely Jamaica.

We started with three orders of the deliciously mouth-watering Seafood Fritters (\$4.50), deep fried bread on the sweet/salty side stuffed with a generous portion of shrimp, scallops, and white fish accompanied by a tangy tarragon dipping sauce, which could be a meal itself; Crab Cakes (\$7.50), fried miniature gobs of crab meat patties with a distinct hint of Jerk spice; and Jerk Shrimp (\$7.99), deep fried and served with mango chutney. Fried Plantains (\$2.99) are also offered. The appetizer dishes are prepared on the spot, and each order came out one at a time (literally). Appetizers range from \$2.99-\$7.99. Dinner salads range from \$6.00-\$8.99.

The hearty entrees, presented in a no-fuss manner, come with two choices of rice and peas (red beans), white rice, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, black beans, greens, or steamed cabbage. The side dishes are intended to tame the fire of the heated mixture of spices, including Scotch bonnet (a pepper that makes a jalapeño taste like a grape), thyme, nutmeg, and pimento or allspice, used in the Jerk marinade.

"Did you miss me?" piped up the house waitress as she brought out our entrees with a smile and a big dash of personality. The Royal Shrimp (\$13.25), a generous portion of jumbo shrimp sautéed in a "unique" brown Royal sauce with tomatoes and onions, beckoned my growling appetite. This dish was amazingly full of flavor and simply divine. The Curry Chicken (\$9.25), lightly browned and simmered in curry sauce with potatoes and fresh garden seasonings, so tender that it fell off the bone, was another crowd pleaser. Ox Tails (\$11.00), the tail of beef cattle (once known as discarded scrap meat, now considered a delicacy by Caribbean Americans), was seasoned, marinated, and braised so tender that it melted away

with each bite. Classic Tofu & Vegetables (\$9.50), browned and steamed in coconut sauce, was also tasty.

Nearly half of the menu consists of fish and shrimp entrees. Among several other fish preparation choices, escovitch – similar to ceviche, a common method of pickling cooked fish in vinegar with garlic, thyme, and pimento seeds – is one of the notable fish preparation choices.

We wanted to try the Bammy bread, a Jamaican flat bread, often compared to American pancakes, that accompanies spicy foods, but they were out of it. Desserts are available, but not listed on the menu. The banana flambé (\$5.50) a generous slice of spiced pound cake adorned with a sautéed banana and vanilla ice cream, was delightful. Light rum cake (\$2.50), pound cake drizzled with rum and served with vanilla ice cream, and Jamaican rum cake (\$3.50), a heavier piece of spiced pound cake with raisins and other pieces of dried fruit, are usually offered.

Although the restaurant is laid-back, a strong vibe of positive, diverse energy flows through it. This is not surprising, since the rich history of Jamaica itself is a spicy melting pot of assorted energy, with its residents hailing from all over the world. A perfect global blend of cooking techniques and ingredients mixed together with the fruit of the tropics makes this cuisine one of the most flavorful in the Caribbean. If you're not in a hurry, dining at Royal Caribbean definitely is well worth the wait.



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Custody and Visitation Rights Explained

By Frank Pistella
*Neighborhood Legal Services
 Association*

Perhaps the most difficult situation for a family to face is what happens to the children when parents are no longer living together. The potential for serious disagreements involving the children increases when parents face separation or divorce. The best thing for parents is to mutually agree about custody without involving the courts. The most important thing to remember when working through custody or visitation arrangements is that the primary concern should always be the best interests of the children.

Any custody agreement should consider both the actual living arrangements for the children, referred to as "physical custody," and who will make the educational, medical, and religious decisions for the children as they grow, referred to as "legal custody." Both physical and legal custody should be described in a written document called a "custody agreement," signed by both parents.

Physical custody is divided between primary physical custody and partial physical custody. One example of a standard custody arrangement would have the child live with one parent Monday through Friday (the primary custodian), while spending Saturday

and Sunday with the other parent (the partial custodian). Another custody arrangement is one in which the child lives with each parent on alternating weeks. This is known as shared custody, and could be hard on the child if the parents are not in the same school district. If there is some danger to the child that would prevent a parent from having unsupervised contact with him or her (drug and alcohol issues), that parent may only receive the right to visitation. In this situation, the visiting parent may not take the child from the primary custodial parent's home, or may be required to visit under the supervision of a third party at all times. It is very unusual for a parent to be denied all contact with their children.

Regardless of the living arrangements that the parents agree upon, legal custody must also be determined. Who will be responsible for the decision-making that will affect the child's life? Who will determine the day-care center where a child will be placed, the elementary or high

school he or she will attend, and even who will sign permission slips for the child to be treated in emergency situations? In most circumstances, parents share legal custody.

When the parents agree to a custody arrangement, the next step is to get the agreement put into writing. An attorney can prepare the agreement and ensure that the parties understand their rights. One attorney should not give both parents advice. Each parent should seek independent counsel.

Any drafted agreement can be taken to court and entered as a legally binding court order. The benefit of having a custody agreement turned into a court order is that the parents' compliance with the agreement now rests with the court, which can force each parent to follow the terms of the agreement. Without such a court order, both parents have an equal right to custody, and either parent can then take lawful possession of the child at any time. However, if one parent takes a child away from another parent without consent or denies a parent all access to the child, this can later be held against the offending parent in future court proceedings. Under these circumstances – when a child is taken and an agreement can not be worked out for the child's return – a parent may file a custody case and ask a judge to order the child's return.

If parents are unable to reach an arrangement, they should consider mediation services or parental counseling services that may be helpful in achieving an agreement. If mediation is not available, going to an attorney is the next step. If attorneys cannot help the parents reach an agreement, then



the court may decide the terms of a custody or visitation arrangement.

Either parent can go to court to begin a custody action. At some time, either before the hearing is held or during the hearing, the court may require the parents and the children to attend counseling sessions to try to work out an agreement. The judge may consider the counselor's report in crafting the custody order. If the counseling process does not produce an agreement, a hearing will be scheduled. At the hearing, each parent will be able to present evidence, including relevant witnesses.

The judge will make a decision, at the conclusion of the hearing, based upon what is in the best interest of the child. All of the evidence submitted to the court is analyzed against this standard. A parent's income will not prevent him or her from gaining custody. As long as a parent has enough income to provide for the child's basic needs, he or she can be awarded custody. The law requires that mothers and fathers be treated equally. No parent has an automatic advantage to gain custody based on their sex, regardless of the age of the child. After a custody order is granted, either party may, in the future, request that the order be changed, if it appears that the change

See CUSTODY, page 12



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

The Advance EITC allows those taxpayers who expect to qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in 2008 and have at least one qualifying child to receive part of the credit in each paycheck during the year. Eligible taxpayers can receive their EITC when they truly need it each pay period, and reduce their need for costly refund loans. For tax year 2008, the maximum Advance EITC amount that an employer is allowed to provide throughout the year with an employee's pay is \$1,750. You can check to see if you qualify for Advance EITC payments by completing the five questions on the back of Form W-5, "Earned Income Credit Advance Payment Certificate," available at www.irs.gov or through your employer.



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What Is Asthma?

By Amy J. DiPlacido, M.D.

*Bloomfield-Garfield Family
Health Center*

Asthma is a common cause of reversible airway obstruction. It is a chronic medical condition that can be controlled but not cured. When a person has an asthma attack, the airways tighten up and make mucus.

Symptoms of asthma may include wheezing, coughing, and chest tightness. However, wheezing can be caused by several different conditions. Only your doctor can determine if your wheezing is due to asthma.

To diagnose asthma, your doctor may order pulmonary function testing. This involves breathing into a machine to test lung volumes and the response to medica-

tion that dilates the airways.

It is important for people with asthma to try to identify what triggers an asthma exacerbation, so that those triggers can be avoided. Triggers can include exercise, allergies, cigarette smoke, cold weather, and infections. But sometimes people cannot identify a trigger.

Some people have mild asthma that can be controlled by using an inhaler when needed. Other people may need to use inhalers once or twice a day to control their symp-

toms, and another inhaler during acute exacerbations. Sometimes people need pills in addition to inhalers. People with asthma should not smoke or be around smokers.

During asthma exacerbations, a person may need to be hospitalized for close monitoring and to receive steroids to help decrease the inflammation. Occasionally people need to be in the intensive-care unit or intubated with a breathing tube for very serious flares.

If you think you may have asthma, see your doctor for an evaluation.

MAKEOVER, from page 1

new and renovated toilets, refurbished interior walls, door and lighting treatments, and new conference and work spaces in the basement to be enjoyed by the community and the BGC's Youth Development Program.

Local resident and BGC board member Eileen Kraus-Dobratz said of the proposed renovation, "We're hoping to make the center truly welcoming, a symbol of Garfield's resurgence, a place where visitors and users say, 'Wow!' "

The project will engage the participation of community members and local artists, truly making the center a distinctive neighborhood landmark. Interested residents may review and comment on the plans at the center during Art Cubed weekend, or contact the BGC at 412-441-6950.

During Art Cubed, the center will also host an interactive display about improving the Penn Avenue streetscape through "greening and screening," and encourage community members to identify their favorite parts of the avenue. All day Saturday,



EDGE STUDIO RENDERING OF RENOVATED COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTER ON NORTH PACIFIC AVENUE.

there will also be an art project by Christine Bethea and Brenda Brown that allows people of all ages to produce colorful magnet "tiles" and cool paper people that will connect to form

a "neighborhood." This project will serve to display how people of all backgrounds are "connected" by their love of community and their love of the arts.

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's annual membership drive kicks off this month, so watch for your renewal notice in the mail. Individuals and families join each year because they feel there is a value to the BGC pushing for change in their neighborhood or offering a program that no one else does. When you become a member of the BGC or renew your membership, you make a personal investment in the future of your neighborhood!



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NEIGHBORHOOD VIEWPOINT

Suspended Ceilings Won't Guard Against Loose Plaster

Here is a safety tip for folks living in older homes: Do

not mistakenly believe that suspended ceilings will catch loose plaster that falls. Mine didn't!

If you live in an old house or building with suspended ceilings, it is crucial to check up under the ceiling tiles once in a while. Houses around here can be over 100 years old, and they have "settled." Cracks and bowing can appear in the plaster, but be hidden by suspended ceilings, and then collapse with no warning.

The old horsehair plaster is extremely heavy and will take the suspended ceiling with it. The average-sized section to fall (based on three local ceilings) is about 6 x 4 feet, and can weigh as much as 200 pounds.

In addition to the obvious safety hazards and health risks for those with asthma, electronics like your computer and printer will hate the dust and the accumulated black soot that comes down. (Vacuum the keyboard; do not use the compressed air canisters to remove the debris.)

By Angelle Guyette
Lawrenceville Resident

Of course, the best choice when you find sag-

ging, cracked ceilings is to completely replace them - but often that is not a financially viable option.

When asked how to prevent such a collapse inexpensively, if you can't afford to gut and plaster the ceilings under the tiles, one local handyman suggests a temporary fix - placing drywall up over the cracks and screwing that to the lathing. Another used screws with big, 2-inch washers on either side of the cracks. The idea is just to support the weight of the plaster that is bowing and pulling away from the lath, to prevent further pulling away.

Most importantly, while such loosening of the ceiling plaster can be just the result of vibrations from heavy traffic and normal settling of the house, it can also be caused by moisture getting in. So have your roof, flashing, and gutters checked - and stay safe!



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



Want To Play?

My name is Cooper, and boy, do I have a lot of energy for running, playing, and just about any physical activity you can think of! I am a 5-year-old Redbone Coonhound and Rhodesian Ridgeback mix. I'm an excellent walking partner and a perfect gentleman on a leash. Oh, and did I tell you I also love my treats? Any kind will do! I'm neutered and up-to-date on all my shots and vaccinations. I came to the Animal Rescue League when I grew too big for my original owner - but if you are someone who wants a large dog, then I'm the boy for you! I guess I should also tell you that I'm a card-carrying member of the "hound choir," so I'll be delighted to accompany you or anyone else in a duet. My ARL ID # is A04214685.

Cooper is available at the Animal Rescue League, 6620 Hamilton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. Call 412-661-6452 for more information.

Breed Tip of the Month: Coonhounds are American scent hounds bred for the unique quarry and working conditions in the United States. Rhodesian Ridgebacks are indigenous to South Africa, and have as a distinguishing feature hair that runs down their backs in the opposite direction to their coat. They are loyal and intelligent animals that have a tendency towards "loving mischief." (Source: Wikipedia)

PARTNERSHIP, from page 1

his wife and two daughters in Squirrel Hill - Cox appreciates neighborhoods where people "can live, walk, go out to eat, get entertainment."

In his first two months on the job, the new director has been busy "learning about the community and getting the lay of the land," meeting community leaders, boards of directors, stakeholders, and business owners, and trying to get a handle on the needs and workings of each of the four organizations he represents. One of his first tangible projects is devising a solution to the serious lighting problem on the stretch of Penn Avenue between St. Mary's and Allegheny cemeteries. With the cooperation of the cemeteries, he has approached Duquesne Light's neighborhood lighting project for funding to "uplight" the trees along the stone wall and the Allegheny Cemetery gatehouse, to make those very dark blocks brighter and safer.

Another project includes applying to the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development (PPND) to try to obtain "Multi-neighborhood Strategic Corridor Designation" for Penn Avenue. If secured, the designation will allow the Partnership to apply

to PPND for small grants for market analysis, architecture and engineering studies, and the like.

Cox says he will also be working on setting up a collective approach to recruiting businesses to the four neighborhoods; what's good for one community, he says, is good for the whole. "Just because a business locates in one neighborhood - like Target coming to East Liberty," he points out, "doesn't mean it doesn't benefit the other neighborhoods in the area."

Since right now there is only funding for the director's salary for two years, Cox acknowledges that one of the requirements of his new position is "a sense of adventure."

"We're in uncharted territory," he admits, "and there are a lot of unknowns. The Partnership is definitely a work in progress."

And, although Cox answers to all four organizations, says Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation executive director Rick Swartz, ultimately "the end products of the Partnership's collaboration will result from the contributions of many different institutions, groups, and individuals."

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Be Smart with Credit Card Use

There are many good reasons to have a credit card. They are safer than carrying cash, and useful for purchases over the phone or Internet, or when you don't have cash on hand. And they are handy in emergencies.

But remember, credit cards are still credit, and smart use of them will have a positive affect on your credit report. Poor use, however, can result in bad credit, which can take years to repair.

Credit Card Basics

Credit cards are unsecured loans offered by a bank based on your ability to pay as determined by your credit history and other factors. The interest rate on unpaid balances will tend to be higher than on loans secured by assets such as a car or house. The benefit, however, is that you can re-use the credit over and over again each time you pay the balance down, provided you have taken good care of the credit. A healthy credit score or payment history will determine the amount of the line of credit (limit) and the interest rate charge to the balance.

If you don't have a credit history, a credit card can help to establish one. But start out slow. Apply for a low-limit credit card. Make every payment on time, and do not apply for too many cards.

Once you've had the card for six months or more, and are comfortable with the payment requirements, add a new credit card with a higher balance limit or request a higher line on your existing credit card. But continue to

By Cathy Niederberger
Managing Director of Community Development Banking

pay at least the minimum on a timely basis.

Common Features

Some common features of credit cards are worth reviewing. For one, credit cards will have a limit on how much you can borrow. In addition, they:

- Charge interest after a certain period of time
- Require minimum monthly payments
- Charge late fees on top of the monthly payment if you do not pay your bill on time
- May offer added services, such as rebates, extended warranties, cash-back incentives, or even air miles

Before you accept a credit card, make sure you ask the following questions:

- What is the annual fee, if any?
- What is the annual interest rate?
- How are the finance charges calculated? Sometimes the finance charges are based on the entire amount due, not just the unpaid amounts.
- How many days before the credit card company starts charging interest?
- Are there any transaction fees? Some lenders charge a fee for cash advances, late payments, or exceeding your credit limit.
- If you're being offered a special introductory rate, what will the rate be when the special offer is over?

Achieving a Healthy Credit Score

Understanding a credit card and its features is only part of the story. Here are some tips for managing a credit card to help maintain or achieve a healthy credit score:

- Pay more than the minimum amounts on credit card balances. This way, you will pay them off sooner.
- Keep credit card debt within your own personal limits. If having credit cards encourages you to spend too much, cut up the cards that hold the greatest temptation. Don't accept or apply for any new ones until or unless you can financially manage them. If you buy beyond your means, you'll rack up expensive interest charges that can take years to pay off.
- Save cash advances for emergencies. Fees and interest rates are usually higher.

So, even though banks and stores are mailing you credit card offers all



the time, be selective. Just because a bank gives you a credit card with a large limit doesn't mean that you should spend all the way up to the credit limit, or that you can't request that the institution lower the credit limit. If you use your credit card wisely, you can improve or maintain a good credit rating, while enjoying the convenience and payment flexibility that credit cards can offer.

To learn more about PNC Bank's products and services, please stop by a local branch, call 1-888-PNC-BANK, or visit www.pnc.com.

CUSTODY, from page 9

will be in the best interest of the child.

A parent who disobeys a custody order may be held in contempt of court or charged with a crime. This may result in the parent paying a fine or being jailed. A judge may even deny a violating parent custody or visitation rights.

There is a growing interest by grandparents in pursuing custody or visitation when their access to a grandchild is being denied or severely restricted by a parent. If a grandparent is seeking custody or visitation, the court will consider whether or not the child has lived with the grandparent for 12 or more months, whether the parent to whom the grandparent is related is deceased, or whether the marriage of the child's parents has been dissolved or the parents are separated.

There are some situations in which a grandparent may seek primary physical custody of a grandchild from the

parents: if the child is at risk because of abuse, neglect, drug or alcohol abuse, or mental illness on the part of the child's parents; if the child is dependent but is neglected, abandoned or without proper care and control; or if the grandparent has assumed the responsibilities of a parent for at least 12 months.

Other relatives such as aunts or uncles may also seek primary custody of a child. These cases are rare. In many of these instances, the child has been placed in the custody of the Children and Youth Services agency. If there is a family member available, they can always try to seek primary custody of the child.

You can reach Neighborhood Legal Services Association toll-free at 1-866-761-6572, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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East End Groups Team Up for Weekend of Art and Culture

The Penn Avenue Arts Initiative, Lawrenceville Corp., and East Liberty Development Inc. are teaming up to host Art Cubed, a celebration of art, music, and culture in Pittsburgh's East End, on June 6 and 7. The event aims to unite the three communities, while celebrating the character of each neighborhood.

"We are thrilled about collaborating with Lawrenceville and East Liberty," says Jeffrey Dorsey, executive director of Friendship Development Associates and a partner with the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation in the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative. "Organic collaboration such as this not only showcases the work the groups are doing in response to their respective main streets, but demonstrates how together the arts and design niche communities have a strong foundation in the East End."

Festivities kick off on Friday, June 6, with "Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn." Various galleries in the Penn Avenue Arts District (4800-5500 Penn Avenue) – all within walking distance of each other – will open their doors and showcase a variety of artwork and performances by an eclectic mix of artists. Many of the district's per-

formance studios often involve their audiences in the creative process, and both Attack Theatre and the Pittsburgh Glass Center will engage their audiences in the creative processes of dance and glass-making.

Participating art venues span all artistic mediums – glass, dance, sculpture, clothing, paintings, clay, spoken word, and a vast array of music. For a complete listing of participating venues, please visit www.pennavenuearts.org and click on the "Unblurred" sign.

Art Cubed continues on Saturday, June 7, when youth and family-oriented art activities will be offered throughout the Penn Avenue Arts District. Parents and children will be able to take a dance class, create a neighborhood mosaic, or silkscreen a T-shirt at various locations on and off the avenue.

In Lawrenceville, visitors will experience the creative vibe and friendly community feeling that defines the neighborhood. Beginning

By Sarah Collins
Friendship Development Associates

at 11 a.m., Lawrenceville businesses will open their doors for an all-day sidewalk sale. Hours vary by business; some venues will be open late with live music.

Guests are encouraged to explore the shops, boutiques, galleries, restaurants and coffee shops, music venues, a theater, library, bowling alley, tea room, and more. Nearly all of the businesses are locally owned, and many feature products handcrafted by local artists, emerging designers, and the proprietors themselves, as well as vintage wares and antique home furnishings. Home to the 16:62 Design Zone, Lawrenceville boasts more than 60 arts- and design-related businesses, all independently owned, and many housed in beautifully restored turn-of-the-century buildings. Learn more at www.lawrenceville-pgh.com.

East Liberty will host Proud Hood, a celebration of East Liberty's arts and culture, diversity, history, and community connections on Saturday. History has shown that this is a community of strong character, resilience, and soul.

After the hardships that East Liberty has gone through, the neighborhood has reason to be proud that people can come together as a community and share vibrant, unique cultures. Join residents and patrons for the festivities on Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. in East Liberty's Town Square, surrounding East Liberty Presbyterian Church (ELPC) on Whitfield Street, between Penn Avenue and Baum Boulevard. There will be live music, performance art, crafts, youth talent performances, a

history showcase, and so much more celebrating the neighborhood.

For easy access to all three neighborhoods, Art Cubed buses will be circulating throughout the neighborhoods during the day on Saturday, beginning at noon.

Art Cubed has been made possible with the generous support of City of Pittsburgh, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, Mainstreets Pittsburgh (a program of the Urban Redevelopment Authority funded in part by the City of Pittsburgh, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development) and sponsorship from Pittsburgh City Paper, Port Authority, Whole Foods Market, and Imagebox.

The Penn Avenue Arts Initiative is generously supported by an anonymous donor, Pittsburgh City Paper, Community Design Center of Pittsburgh, the Heinz Endowments, Hunt Foundation, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Main Street Pittsburgh (a program of the Urban Redevelopment Authority funded in part by the City of Pittsburgh, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development), Pittsburgh City Council, Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, R.K. Mellon Foundation, Saturday Light Brigade, and the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh.

The Lawrenceville Sidewalk Sale is being organized and supported by the business community, with assistance from the Lawrenceville Corporation.

Proud Hood is made possible by Coldwell Banker, PNC Bank, Scion, Nakturnal, and Fifth Third Bank.

For more information about Art Cubed, call 412-441-6147 x7, 412-782-5100 x102, or 412-361-8061 x19.



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The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, announcements, fundraising events, 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.

SUMMER TERM AT DANCE ALLOY THEATER

The Dance Alloy Theater School will have expanded class offerings during its 2008 Summer School Term, which runs June 7 through August 8. Zumba, a fusion of Latin and international music that creates a dynamic, exciting and effective fitness system, will be offered, and an advanced level of Pilates will be available for those students who have already mastered the foundation. An all-ages Communal West African Dance class will be offered with Master of Traditional African Drum & Dance/Choreographer, Aboubacar "Oscar" Camara. (A special open class for parents and kids will be available for \$5 per person at noon, Saturday, June 7, as part of Art Cubed. Refreshments will be provided, space is limited and first come, first served.) Break Dancing will be available in three dynamic workshops taught by local artist Devin Fay - no prior dance experience required. A range of creative movement classes continue to be offered for children as young as 3, including First Steps, Creative Movement, Creative Pre-Ballet, and Introduction to Dance, as well as a variety of classes for teens, adults, and adults. For information, call 412-363-4321 or visit www.dancealloy.org.

VALLEY VIEW SUMMER FREEDOM CAMP

Valley View Presbyterian Church, located at 601 North Aiken Street, presents "Freedom Camp 2008," from June 25 through July 26, Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Arts & crafts, music, math, field trips, Bible study, and language arts for boys and girls, ages 6 to 12. Registration: Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Sundays 1-2 p.m. For more information, call Jeris White at 412-361-0870, or Pastor Chad Collins at 412-708-6158.

SAVE THE DATE: FRIENDSHIP HOUSE TOUR

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, September 21, Friendship hosts the 15th Annual Friendship House Tour. In the celebration of Pittsburgh's 250th birthday, Friendship is celebrating the pride

and progress of our community by showcasing what makes us unique - architects and architecture! This year's tour is titled, "Pride and Progress - the history of architects and architecture in Friendship." The tour begins at EDGE studio and features homes with interesting architectural amenities, as well as the homes and businesses of various architects in the community. A particularly interesting stop along the tour route will be the home of prominent 19th-century architect Charles M. Bartberger and the school he designed, now Pittsburgh Montessori. Please stay tuned as further information unfolds!

SUMMER CLASSES AT PGH DANCE ARTS

Come spend the summer with Pittsburgh Dance Arts, 4059 Penn Avenue (near Main Street). Experience the magic of dance, theater, and tumbling with our expert teaching artists, in our safe and friendly environment. Increase strength and flexibility, develop coordination, and improve motor skills. Tumbling & Dance Camp (June 23-27, ages 4-12); Performing Arts Camp (July 28-August 4, ages 5-14); and Ballet Intensive (August 4-8, ages 7-14 - for the serious ballet student). For adults, join us for on-going, energizing, inspirational, and fun classes (all levels) in Ballet, Tap, Jazz, and more. Call 412-681-7523 or go to our website for schedule information: www.pgh-dance.com.

LITERACY VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council (GPLC), Pennsylvania's second largest adult education agency, is seeking volunteers to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) to adult students throughout Allegheny County, and especially in the East End. This month, GPLC is offering one workshop for volunteers wishing to tutor non-native English speakers in English as a Second Language. The workshop will be in East Liberty at the GPLC Main Office on June 17, 19, 24, and 26 from 6 to 9 p.m. No foreign language experience necessary. 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.

MORNINGSIDE C.O.G.I.C. JUNE PROGRAMS

The Summer Vacation Bible School of the Morningside Church of God in Christ, 5173 Dearborn St. in Garfield, will be sponsoring a Children's and Youth Day service, Sunday, June 8 at 4 p.m. Guest groups will be participating. Also, on

Saturday, June 21, at 6 p.m., there will be "A Night of Elegance" (semi-formal), sponsored by the Sight and Sound Ministry of the church. Evangelist Karen Arrington of Living Water Ministries and Pastor Joseph Lewis of Trinity AME Church in Chartiers will be ministering in song. For more information, call 412-361-9865.

LOW-INCOME HOME BUYERS' PROGRAM

Allegheny Valley Bank has partnered with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh to offer the First Front Door Home Buyer Program. Qualified Allegheny Valley Bank customers can receive up to \$5,000 in matching dollars toward the down payment and closing costs associated with home ownership. To qualify for the program, applicants must meet certain criteria, such as be first-time homebuyers and be able to contribute personal funds as part of the down payment and closing costs. Applicants' income level must be at or below 80 percent of the area median income, and they must be willing to complete at least four hours of homeownership counseling prior to the purchase of the home, which will include the topic of predatory lending. Prospective home buyers should contact Anthony Deluca at 412-745-2828, or visit any of AVB's local offices.

TAI CHI CLASSES AT ELPC

Stretch yourself this spring with Tai Chi! Classes are again being offered weekly at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland Avenue, on Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. and 6-7 p.m. Judy Crow will return as the instructor. A donation of \$3 per class is requested. For questions or further information, contact Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy at 412-441-3800 x 30.

L'VILLE HOUSE TOUR

It's already time to start thinking about the Lawrenceville Historic House Tour, which takes place Oct. 4-5. In honor of Pittsburgh's 250th Anniversary celebration, the house tour is kicking it up a notch! The event will spotlight historic residences throughout the Lawrenceville neighborhood and include historic reenactments and performances at various locations. And, for the first time, you can nominate your own Lawrenceville house - or somebody else's in the community - to be included in the "Snapshots Through Time" Lawrenceville Historic House Tour. Houses that are nominated should represent a particular time period, or have an interesting history or individual associated with the house. Houses should also be either restored or renovated in a thoughtful or unique manner. Modern and "green" restorations are also welcome! Mail nominations to Kate Bayer, 4738 Hatfield Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201, call

412-600-2068 or visit www.lawrencevillehousetour.org. Also, contact Kate if you'd like to volunteer.

"SO YOU WANT TO WORK IN A CASINO?"

The Northside Leadership Conference (NSLC) and the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) will offer a free workshop in Lawrenceville on Tuesday, June 3, from 6 to 9 p.m. called "So You Want To Work in a Casino?" The workshop is open to the public and will cover employment information, qualifications and work environment, employment barriers, and the process of applying to the state to receive the credentials required to work in a casino. The information session will be held at the Stephen Foster Community Center, 286 Main Street. Other workshops will be held throughout the region, so watch for the schedule in newspapers or on the NSLC website at www.pittsburghnorthside.com. For more information, please call 412-330-2551 or email casinocareers@pittsburghnorthside.com.

PITTSBURGH DANCE ARTS RECITAL

"Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs" and "The Pittsburgh Dance Arts Student Company Recital" will be held June 16, 6:30 p.m., at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Ave. Tickets at the door. Call Pittsburgh Dance Arts for more info: 412-681-7523; or go to www.pgh-dance.com.

SEEDS OF HOPE SUMMER DAY CAMP

Seeds of Hope Church Earthen Vessels Outreach announces its seventh year of Summer Day Camp (located in the Garfield, Bloomfield, Friendship area). Six weeks, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, June 16-July 25. Camp includes hot breakfast and lunch. Mornings: Bible, math, reading and computers. Afternoons: swimming, tennis, soccer, basketball, recreational activities, arts and crafts etc. Field trips include bowling, Idlewild Park, Pittsburgh Zoo, and Carnegie Science Center. Sliding scale cost. Call Ms. Marilyn 412-414-2993 for information and registration.

VINTAGE GRAND PRIX FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Geno's Restaurant in Lawrenceville and the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Association announce two huge summer-time events to raise money for the Autism Society of Pittsburgh and the Allegheny Valley School. The first annual Pre-Grand Prix Celebration on Saturday, June 14, will feature special appearances from local celebrities, classic cars, auctions, raffles, prizes, gong show karaoke, and more! Steely McBeam will be available

for photo opportunities from 2 to 3 p.m. Doors open at noon, and the event runs until 2 a.m. Founded by Myron Cope 26 years ago, the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Association hosts a number of spectacular events over a 10-day period each July and has raised over \$2.5 million for autism since 1983. The Kickoff Rallye, taking place on Sunday, July 6, is an action-packed scavenger hunt on wheels that features appearances and participation by many local celebrities. The race starts at South Craig Street in Oakland and finishes at Geno's Restaurant, 5147 Butler Street. Register to participate in the PVGP Kickoff Rallye by visiting www.pvgp.org.

GARFIELD CLEANUP & BEAUTIFICATION EVENT

Garfield Jubilee Association and its Youthbuild participants will host a Garfield Neighborhood Cleanup and Beautification Event on Saturday, June 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 5315 Hillcrest Street (old Garfield YMCA). Volunteers are needed to help clean vacant lots, collect litter, weed, and plant flowers. For more information, call 412-665-5204 or 412-661-7982. (Rain date: June 14.)

F4 SAYS "THANKS!"

On behalf of the Friendship Flower and Folk Festival Committee, a big thanks to all those who came out to the event! The weather cleared, and the sun shined down. More than 400 people visited Baum Grove throughout the day! Thank you to all of those who volunteered, performed, or purchased flowers, food, books, or raffle items. Your support is greatly appreciated!

HAVE A SAFE, FUN, EDUCATIONAL SUMMER

The summer is here in the City of Pittsburgh. As the temperature increases, so do my efforts to improve and protect the streets of Pittsburgh. We will focus on families and on enriching the lives of our youth this summer, in addition to our continued efforts in renovating and restoring the land and buildings throughout our city.

The Pittsburgh Promise™ is off to a successful first year, with more than 950 applications received. The scholarships will go toward the academic year 2008-2009. The City of Pittsburgh and UPMC are collaborating in providing approved applicants with aid to be distributed over four years, and it is with great pride that we recognize their accomplishments and send them off to achieve even more!

As the city prepares and supports students to pursue higher education, we are also committed to providing service-learning, work, and career education programs through the Pittsburgh Summer Youth Employment Program (PSYEP). Last year's program had 197 students from ages 14 to 18 participating in city-wide projects. In celebration of Pittsburgh 250 and in light of the success of PSYEP 2007, this year we have expanded the size of the program to hire 250 students. The students will work on the Department of Public Works projects under the management

By Luke Ravenstahl
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

and supervision of the Student Conservation Association (SCA). This year's program has a stronger emphasis on education, with additional time spent on conservation service-learning projects. Students will balance their work with training from SCA on career exploration, environmental concerns, and stewardship of public lands throughout the summer.

I am committed to improving the opportunities available for all residents of Pittsburgh, young and old. I recognize that enhancing safety on the streets is imperative to successfully cleaning up the city. That is why I have made a commitment to a safer summer in Pittsburgh by increasing the number of cops on the streets during the summer months. The Beat Cop Program deploys three more beat officers in each city police zone, bringing the total number of beat officers to approximately five for each of 22 weeks. From May 1 through September 30, the police forces of Pittsburgh are increasing the number of beat officers, focusing on ensuring the safety of business districts and city parks, and targeting high-risk areas for closer surveillance.

The warm summer months are also the perfect time to take advantage of all the renovation efforts that have

occurred during the year. Bike lanes and trails have been transformed and expanded, and we now have 22 miles of riverfront trails for your biking and walking enjoyment! Through Green Up Pittsburgh projects, the city is moving toward a greener footprint, though our efforts to revitalize the environment around Pittsburgh do not stop at landscaping vacant properties. In a huge victory for the city and for you, we have received a \$1.35 million dollar grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the construction of recreational docks at the planned South Side Shore Riverfront Park at South Side Works. We endeavor to strengthen our city's ties to the water, as well as enhance opportunities for the economy to grow through an additional point of entry into South Side Works.

In addition to our newly renovated riverfronts, trails, and parks, it is residents like you that are at the heart of Pittsburgh, making each summer better and better. We are providing the services and opportunities for a safe, fun, and educational summer to you, but it is through your support and engagement that we are successful. I encourage you to take advantage of all of these programs and enjoy the summer to the fullest.

For more information on initiatives discussed in this article, log on to pghgov.com, or call 412-255-2566.

FREE TO THE PEOPLE

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

Preschool Storytime

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

Mattress Factory Art Lab

For ages 3-14, with family members. Saturday, June 7, 1 p.m. Make a puppet with found objects.

Dad's Day at the Library

For ages 3-12, with father or father figure. Saturday, June 14, 11 a.m.

Catch the Reading Bug: Dragonflies

For ages 6-12. Wednesday, June 25, 1:30 p.m.

East Liberty PC Center:

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. Wednesday, June 4, 2:30-4:30 p.m. OR Thursday, June 19, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Shopping on the WWW

Learn the basics of savvy shopping on the Web, including how to find good deals and product reviews, and how be

sure your personal information is secure. Thursday, June 26, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

To register for these classes or for more information about our free computer classes, call the PC Center-East Liberty at 412-363-6105.

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

Storytime

For ages 3-5. Thursdays, 11 a.m., June 5, 12, 19, and 26.

Adult Book Discussion Group

Monday, June 9, 5 p.m. This month's title is *The Road*, by Cormac McCarthy.

Art Cubed

Saturday, June 7, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Make a collage and other family crafts.

Summer Reading Kickoff

For everyone. Saturday, June 28, 1-3 p.m.



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

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Pittsburgh, PA 15224

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 - Stress
 - Trauma/Abuse
 - Relationship issues
 - Mental health illness
 - A desire to enhance parenting skills
 - The need to talk to someone
-there is help

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WORKSHOPS

B.O.D.Y. Personal Training/Dance/Fitness will be holding a Fitness Bootcamp in Arsenal Park, Lawrenceville, beginning on Sat. June 7 and running for eight consecutive Saturdays, ending July 26. Bootcamp will run 8-9 a.m. and will accommodate adults of all ages and fitness levels. Cost is \$120. You may pre-register at developingyou@gmail.com, or call 412-628-2986 for more information.

Wedding Consultants/ Wedding Coordinators and Event Planners Workshop

June 28, 2008
Courtyard Marriott
8:45 A.M.-12:00 P.M. \$60.00
Space limited
RSVP 412-362-3206

WORSHIP SERVICES

Morningside Church of God in Christ

5173 Dearborn Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15224
Office: (412) 361-9865 Fax: (412) 363-5414
Elder Lamont B. Shields, Pastor

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship.... 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship..... 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday Prayer 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday Evening Bible Band .. 7:30 p.m.
Friday Evening-YPWW (Young
People Willing Workers).. 6:00 p.m.
Friday Evening Evangelistic Service
7:00 p.m.

"For with God all things are possible." Mark 10:27

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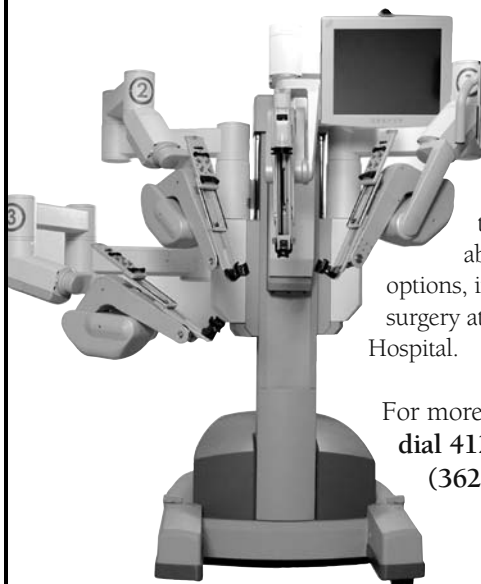
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