



The Bulletin

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Candidates Line Up To Fill Bennington's Seat

The formerly staid 21st state legislative district seems to be turning into the "Wild West" of Pittsburgh-area politics.

After nearly 30 years of representation in Harrisburg by one individual, Frank Pistella, and then a single term served by Lisa Bennington, voters in the 21st will choose from among four

candidates in the Democratic primary April 22. The district covers all or parts of Bloomfield, Garfield, Friendship, Stanton Heights, Lawrenceville, Sharpsburg, Millvale, Etna, Ross, Reserve, and Shaler.

Pistella had been in the state House since the late 1970s, but was ousted in the 2006 Democratic primary by Bennington, in the wake of the legislative pay-raise controversy. After winning the general election that year and spending only one year in office, Bennington announced in January she would not run for re-election. She complained about the glacial pace of the legislative process and the inability of any one individual, especially a freshman, to make significant progress toward reform; she is return-

By P.J. Maloney
Bulletin Contributor

ing to the full-time practice of law.

Bennington's decision opened the door not only for

Pistella to make a run for his old office, but for three other candidates: Brenda Frazier, Dom Costa, and Len Bodack, the county Democratic Party's endorsed candidate.

Dan DeMarco, an attorney and Ross Township commissioner, announced in January that he would run, but dropped out when he didn't get the county Democratic committee endorsement. In doing so, DeMarco expressed disappointment that he didn't receive support from most of the Democratic committee members in Ross.

Meanwhile, Paul McKrell, the former Pennsylvania executive director

of the Young Democrats of America, was reportedly talking several months ago about challenging Bennington in this year's primary, but then decided against it in the face of criticism from others active in Democratic politics. When Bennington announced she would not stand for re-election, McKrell reportedly revisited the idea of entering the primary, but after losing the endorsement, he didn't file the necessary petitions to get his name on the ballot.

Pistella, who represented the 21st district for 28 years, said that, although he filed his petitions to be on the ballot, he may yet decide to drop out, depending on the outcome of the upcoming lottery that determines the position of names on the ballot.

See **CANDIDATES**, page 5

READY... SET...VOTE!

The last day to register to vote in the Pennsylvania primary or to change your political party affiliation is Monday, March 24. For more information on voting, please call 1-877-VOTESPA (877-868-3772) or visit www.votespa.com.

Community Meeting Kicks Off "Bride Row" Redevelopment Plans

The redevelopment of "Bride Row" – the popular name given to the eight turn-of-the-20th-century houses that line the north side of Penn Avenue between Graham and Roup – was the topic of a preliminary community meeting hosted by Friendship Development Associates (FDA) on February 7. Jeffrey Dorsey, executive director of FDA, opened the meeting by dubbing that section of the avenue "one of the most memorable spots in the neighborhood."

The row of houses takes its name from a mural on the building at the corner of Penn and North Graham, "The Bride on Penn Ave.," which serves as a gateway to Garfield. The 50-foot mural, depicting an African-

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

American bride ascending the steps of one of the homes, was co-designed by artist Judy Penzer and architect Jill Watson and completed by Penzer in 1995. As Penzer wrote in *The Bulletin* at that time, the mural "encourag[es] people to enjoy where they live." Indeed, many in the neighborhood feel a sentimental attachment to the historic row because of the dramatic image, but also because both Penzer and Watson perished tragically in the explosion of TWA Flight 800 in July 1996.

At the February meeting, Courtney Ehrlichman of FDA reported on the current condition of the eight properties, which are in various states of dis-

repair. FDA already owns three of them; the three in the middle are owner-occupied, and FDA is in talks with the owners about possibly purchasing them. The two remaining houses have been vacant and tax-delinquent for several years.

Sallyann Kluz, an associate with Loysen + Kreuthmeier, the architects retained by FDA to work on the "Bride Row" project, laid out a host of



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

possibilities for redeveloping the properties. In general, she said, "the physical character lends itself to residential use"; but given their large size, they would probably work best as multi-unit dwellings. One suggestion

See **"BRIDE ROW,"** page 4

**APRIL
DEADLINE!**

The **FINAL DEADLINE** for the **APRIL 2008** issue of *The Bulletin* is **FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 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

Graffiti Be Gone!

Recent graffiti activity in Garfield has brought to light changes

that the city has made in addressing graffiti. Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and the Department of Public Works (DPW) worked with the Bureau of Police to streamline the graffiti reporting and removal process. DPW is now working closely with the Graffiti Task Force (GTF) to ensure that graffiti is reported and removed in a timely manner. Here is how you can help – or get help – to eliminate and deter graffiti in your neighborhood:

- Dial 911 if you witness someone in the process of "tagging" (i.e., marking property with graffiti).

- Dial 911 if your personal property is vandalized with graffiti.

- Dial 311, or report to the city's online 311 service (http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/mayor/html/311_request_form.html) if you notice graffiti on another person's property, commercial property, or public property.

- If the graffiti is on your personal property, after reporting it, call DPW's Graffiti Busters office at 412-255-2872. They will send you a permission slip to allow DPW onto your property to remove the graffiti.

DPW will respond to complaints as quickly as possible, with public property being the first priority, followed by private property. The Graffiti Task Force is training DPW to take accurate pictures and measurements for the GTF to investigate. This enables DPW to immediately begin removing

By Deadra Keener
Public Safety Coordinator

the graffiti, rather than waiting to coordinate scheduling with the GTF. DPW will then alert 311 once the graffiti is removed.

Other positive graffiti removal policy changes include:

- DPW will now remove any graffiti that they can reach.

- DPW will allocate more staff during the summer months, when graffiti reaches its peak.

- DPW will now work during the evening and weekend shifts to ensure that graffiti is removed in a timely manner.

Additionally, the Graffiti Task Force is working swing shifts, allowing the detectives to take a variety of shifts in order to best target graffiti artists.

Property owners can, of course, choose to remove or paint over the graffiti themselves; however, they are requested first to report the vandalism in order for a report to be filed and photos and measurements taken. GTF will enter the information into a graffiti tracking system, which maintains information on all graffiti cases in the city, and helps detectives to track, connect, and prosecute cases.

Note that citizens and merchants can be fined for leaving graffiti unattended on their property, so it pays to address the vandalism immediately. Another benefit to aggressively reporting graffiti is that the less "tagging" is tolerated in your community, the less likely it will continue.

Public Safety Task Force Meetings

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

Wednesday, March 12
Bloomfield-Garfield Corp. Community Activity Center
113 North Pacific Avenue (corner of Dearborn)
4:00 p.m.

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



GRAFFITI ACTIVITY IN GARFIELD HAS RECENTLY INCREASED.

Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

Take Pride in Pittsburgh

Last month, I asked Pittsburghers to share what they love about our great city

as part of a Valentine's Day Contest. The impressive number of heartfelt and sincere responses was inspiring, but not surprising. As I have said time and again, Pittsburgh is a city of neighborhoods and residents. Pittsburghers have made Pittsburgh all that it is. We must continue to stay positive, talking about all of the things that make us proud. Whether it's our sports teams, our cultural district, or simply our friendly people, this is a place to go to school, go to work, raise your children, and retire. Pittsburgh has it all.

As we continue to preserve our rich history and traditions, we are making changes to ensure that we continue to grow, attract, and maintain residents and businesses, and also to create the cleanest and safest city possible. I want to keep Pittsburgh a place that you are proud to call home, and we are taking proactive measures to ensure that you can.

Working with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, we have answered the call to re-establish a proactive police presence in our neighborhoods. I pledged to reinvest in the "beat cop" program last year. The beat cop program is now up and running. Police Chief Nathan Harper has assigned four beat cops to each of the city's six police zones. Zone commanders will assign the officers to business districts based on community need and crime-data analysis.

Public safety is not just about eliminating crime in a neighborhood. We must eliminate the blight and abandonment that encourages and accepts criminal activity. I doubled the demolition budget for 2008, and set a goal of bring-

By Luke Ravenstahl
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

ing down many more structures this year. We are

taking a new look at an old problem, changing the way we prioritize demolition to change the face of our neighborhoods. My administration held meetings with the city's economic development and public safety departments, charging them with the arduous task of overhauling the city's demolition process.

The former process was too reactive, and in order to confront the problem and to make any real changes, we needed to be proactive. We have worked together to find new ways to tackle hazardous, crime-ridden structures as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The city's most dangerous structures will continue to be torn down as a first priority, sometimes resulting in scattered demolition bids. However, through the revised approach, the city's public safety and economic development bureaus are now working together to create another layer: geographical second-tier demo-zones. City taxpayers will get more for their money when we designate demolitions in close proximity to each other, and with the new process, we will not simply be razing houses. The remaining vacant lots must become assets to their communities. We will be aggressively implementing greening strategies to create further economic development opportunities in our neighborhoods.

As spring approaches, we will continue to clean up and green up the city. I ask that you, too, help in our efforts to proactively address the problems facing our neighborhoods, so that we can continue to take pride in Pittsburgh.

Public Meeting Will Launch Penn Avenue Reconstruction

It's been 12 long years in the works, but the reconstruction of Penn Avenue

is finally getting underway, with the first formal public meeting for the ongoing Penn Avenue Corridor Phasing Plan Study set to take place on Tuesday, March 11, at 6 p.m. "This is the kick-off the community has waited for so long," said Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and chair of the Penn Avenue Corridor Phasing Plan Committee (PACPPC). "Patience pays off."

The city of Pittsburgh, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and PACPPC, will conduct the public meeting, which will take place at the Saint Lawrence O'Toole Activity Building on North Atlantic Avenue in Garfield. The overall purpose of the meeting is to present the scope of the Penn Avenue project – which extends two miles, from 34th Street in Lawrenceville to Negley Avenue – and to gather feedback from the community.

Sign-in for the meeting will begin at 6 p.m., with refreshments donated by state Sen. Jim Ferlo. A short presentation of the parameters of the project will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by breakout discussions in which the community will be able to offer input. Patrick Hassett, assistant director of the Pittsburgh Department of Public Works' Bureau of Transportation and Engineering, said that some specific questions for the community include, "How do you use the corridor?" and "What are your issues with Penn Avenue?"

The project includes 31 intersections (14 with traffic signals) and extends from building line to building

By Brian Krul and
Paula Martinac

line, including the cartways, sidewalks, street-scapes, and utilities.

The project limits include the neighborhoods of Lawrenceville, Bloomfield, Garfield, Friendship, and East Liberty. Meanwhile, the scope of the study is to assess Penn Avenue's infrastructure needs and to develop and prioritize a list of improvements for construction.

The city selected L. Robert Kimball & Associates to formulate the Penn Avenue Corridor Phasing Plan and advise the city in programming and advancing transportation improvements along the avenue. Project elements include addressing congestion, safety, and deteriorated conditions through a number of street, traffic, and streetscaping improvements. Some of these improvements may include new traffic and pedestrian signals, new crosswalks and sidewalks, street trees and furniture, new street lighting, street paving and reconstruction, and associated engineering tasks. The plan will take into account the corridor's needs, community priorities, and available funding, while striving for the creation of a safe and sustainable infrastructure that promotes community ownership, pride, and stewardship over the street and public spaces.

The Penn Avenue Corridor Phasing Plan Committee is an ad hoc group consisting of community representatives from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation; Friendship Development Associates; Garfield-Jubilee Association; Friendship Preservation Group; Lawrenceville United; and Lawrenceville Corporation, as well as local and state public official representatives.



Notice of Public Meeting Penn Avenue Corridor Phasing Plan City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Date: March 11, 2008

Location: Saint Lawrence O'Toole Activity Building
North Atlantic Avenue
Neighborhood of Garfield
City of Pittsburgh, PA

Time: 6:00PM – Sign In
6:30PM – Presentation
7:00PM – Group Breakout Discussions

The City of Pittsburgh, in cooperation with the PA Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Penn Avenue Corridor Phasing Plan Committee, will conduct a public meeting for the ongoing Penn Avenue Corridor Phasing Plan Study.

The purpose of the meeting is to present the scope of the Penn Avenue revitalization project and to gather feedback from the community. The project is located on Penn Avenue in the City of Pittsburgh from 34th Street to Negley Avenue, approximately 2 miles in length. The project limits will include the City of Pittsburgh neighborhoods of Lawrenceville, Bloomfield, Garfield, Friendship, and East Liberty. The scope of the study is to assess Penn Avenue infrastructure needs and develop a list of prioritized improvements for construction.

The project team will be present at the public meeting to answer any questions and gather input concerning the proposed transportation improvements. The meeting location is accessible to persons having disabilities. Anyone who needs additional information, has special needs, or requires special aids should contact:

Patrick Hassett, Assistant Director, City of Pittsburgh, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Transportation and Engineering at 412-255-2883



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**Celebrate International Women's
Day, March 8!**

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 OF THE MONTH

Each month we highlight either property owners who have admirably maintained or renovated their properties, or whose neglect hurts the neighborhood. Properties are nominated by community members. To nominate a property as either Showcase or Eyesore of the Month, call Aggie Brose at 412-441-6950 x 15.

Blighted, Vacant Property on Penn Transformed into "State-of-the-Art" Building

The property at 4600 Penn Avenue had been in a state of disrepair and abandonment for years, and it seemed that the only future in store for it was demolition.

Until June of 2005, that is – that's when the property was acquired by Connie and Albert Lardo of Murrys ville, Pa., who turned the property into what Mr. Lardo calls a "state-of-the-art" building.

The Lardos undertook a total gutting of the building, from roof

to basement. Mr. Lardo reported to the BGC staff that they have "created a brand, spanking-new building."

The property will house offices on the first floor and residential tenants on the second and third floors. The Lardos have already secured their first commercial tenant, *Lux Magazine*, an upscale publication

covering urban culture, entertainment, and nightlife.

We applaud the Lardos for investing in our community and helping to rebuild Penn Avenue.



Courtesy Al Lardo



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

THE ONCE-BLIGHTED BUILDING AT 4600 PENN AVENUE (LEFT) HAS BEEN GUT-RENOVATED. THE PHOTO ABOVE SHOWS THE REFURBISHED INTERIOR OF ONE OF THE RENTAL APARTMENTS ON THE SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS.

"BRIDE ROW," from page 1

is to reserve a few of the houses for local arts organizations to rent as short-term lodging for visiting artists.

Given that some of the houses are in very bad condition, Kluz noted another possible scenario: that only the facades and porches of four adjacent houses would be preserved, with new multi-unit construction erected behind them. And, if FDA is unable to acquire all eight houses, rehabbing might occur just two houses at a time, or FDA could work with the owners to get funding for façade renovation alone.

Kluz outlined the many challenges of redeveloping "Bride Row."

Expense is a big one: In fact, "it's much more expensive to save [the houses] than to tear them down and built something else." But as Ehrlichman noted, people in the community seem to be "really interested in preserving their historical identity."

Other challenges noted by Kluz include parking (which, when the houses were built around 1900, obviously wasn't an issue), and topography, as the houses sit up from the avenue, with a steep grade behind them, making access for vehicles and contractors difficult.

Members of the community in attendance expressed strong support

for the idea of multi-unit buildings, some for permanent, long-term residents, and some for visiting artists affiliated with responsible arts organizations. "The key will be having good management" of the dwellings, pointed out Grady Roberts, a Bloomfield-Garfield Corp. board member.

The next step will be for the architects to work on various design concepts and come back to the community in a month or two with firmer ideas and site configurations. "Our job," said Kluz, "is to get over the hurdles" and create "a very strong presence on the avenue...a great place to live."

Lawrenceville Unveils New Identity, Gateway Signage

"History in the Remaking" defines the new identity developed for the Lawrenceville neighborhood of Pittsburgh. The identity promotes a positive perception of Lawrenceville as a unique, vibrant place in which to visit, shop, eat, live, and work. It was unveiled in January, with the installation of new, custom gateway signage.

The cornerstone of the identity campaign is the Lawrenceville logo, which represents both the historical significance and the creative rebirth of the neighborhood. The logo won a statewide award from the Pennsylvania Downtown Center in 2007. Components of the identity campaign have included advertising (billboard, print, and radio), lightpole banners along Butler Street, and promotional items like T-shirts, posters, and window decals.

The identity campaign culminated in the installation of gateway signage. The large, custom-designed signs are metal versions of the logo, with each element fabricated separately and layered for a striking, multi-dimensional effect. The signs will promote a positive community identity and improve the aesthetics of our gateways, extending a warm welcome to those who live in and pass through our neighborhood. Five metal signs are being installed at key gateways into Lawrenceville on Butler Street, Penn Avenue, and Liberty Avenue. Custom metal benches featuring the logo have been installed at 51st and Butler Street, and custom trash cans, also featuring the new logo, are being installed along Butler

By Jennifer Kent
Lawrenceville Corporation

Street.

The identity campaign also has a virtual component:

www.lawrenceville-pgh.com. Created with oversight by the Lawrenceville Corporation's (LC) Mainstreets Committee and using Lawrenceville-based vendors, the site reflects our new identity, and features videos of residents and business owners telling their own stories of why they love Lawrenceville.

What makes this identity project distinctive is that it was locally grown. The LC's Mainstreets Committee spearheaded the creation of the new logo; a Lawrenceville resident (Paul Schifino/Wolfe Design) designed the logo; and a Lawrenceville-based company (McKamish) designed and fabricated the gateway signs. A Lawrenceville-based marketing firm (Group 2 Design), graphic designer (Katy D. Design), and website developer (art:product) have created advertising and the new website, and a resident (Josh Bayer) donated the video services for the website. The Lawrenceville community has responded positively, rallying behind an identity that reinforces all aspects of this diverse and unique neighborhood.



Courtesy Lawrenceville Corporation

50 NEW TRASH CANS BEARING THE LAWRENCEVILLE LOGO ARE BEING INSTALLED ALONG BUTLER STREET.

The gateway signage project was made possible with financial support from Lawrenceville's Weed and Seed program, the Department of Community and Economic Development, the Pennsylvania Downtown Center, former city Councilman Len Bodack, the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh's Mainstreets program, and in-kind support from Lawrenceville-based custom metal fabricator McKamish.

CANDIDATES, from page 1

Bodack, the former Pittsburgh city Councilman whose father served many years in the state Senate from this area, reportedly made personal contact with many of the county Democratic committee members, and it paid off when the committee overwhelmingly endorsed his candidacy at their February 10 meeting. Bodack said he feels the endorsement is important, and that rank-and-file Democrats respect it.

Frazier told *The Bulletin* that, despite losing the endorsement, she is pressing on with what she calls "a vigorous campaign."

"I've been elected to county Council three times without the endorsement," Frazier noted, "so I know how to go directly to the voters to convince them that I'm someone who can give them good representation in government."

Frazier said if she makes it to Harrisburg she wants to fight to bring tax dollars back to Allegheny

County. She said she wants to focus on funding for education and mass transit, and will work toward a statewide smoking ban.

She said she also feels it's important to provide a female voice in state government.

Costa said he expected Bodack to get the endorsement, but will continue to run anyway because of the commitments he's already given his supporters, including those who've contributed cash to his campaign.

He also said he had been planning to run in the 21st even before Bennington decided to drop out. "I had been hearing that Lisa wasn't getting back to the neighborhoods after winning the election," said Costa, "and I think it's vitally important to stay in constant touch with the people who elected you."

Costa said his top issues are property tax reform, public safety, and reducing the size of the legislature.



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Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

THE SOJOURNER HOUSE MOMS RESIDENCE (LEFT) ON HAYS STREET WILL BE JOINED BY THREE ADDITIONAL MOMS FACILITIES THIS SPRING, INCLUDING ONE RIGHT NEXT DOOR.

Sojourner House MOMS Honored for Work Against Homelessness

Sojourner House MOMS, a partnership of Sojourner House, East Liberty

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Development Inc. (ELDI), and the Negley Place Neighborhood Alliance, was a finalist in the Maxwell Awards of Excellence given in January by the Fannie Mae Foundation. The national award – a recognition of the program's work fighting homelessness – comes with a \$10,000 grant, which will help fund new construction.

Launched in 2004, MOMS (which stands for "motivation, opportunities, mentoring, and spirituality") offers a fresh start to homeless single mothers who have been dually diagnosed with drug or alcohol addiction and a mental health disorder. The program provides housing for them and their dependent children, while the women receive support and counseling to continue their recovery.

Unlike many other programs, MOMS participants "can stay indefinitely, as long as they follow the rules," says Susan Orr, vice president of the Sojourner House board of directors. In addition, the program provides activities for the children, from infants to high school, including after-school tutoring.

"It's a beautiful program that treats the whole family," says Sojourner House executive director Joann Cyganovich. "It lets mothers get support so they can keep their kids."

Ironically, MOMS 1, as the facility on Hays is known, was once a reported crack house. The Negley Place Neighborhood Association, seeking to create change in the neighborhood, approached Dr. Norma Raiff,

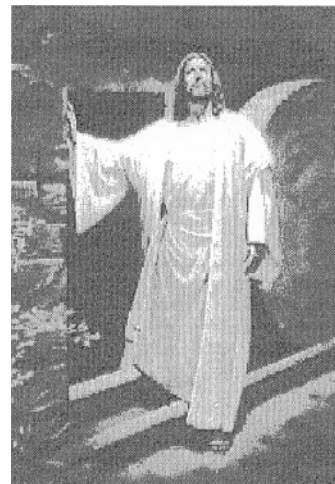
with the idea of transforming the building. ELDI also came on board, rehabbing the property into six units of three and four bedrooms, since "women with larger families often have trouble finding supportive housing," Cyganovich notes.

The program is expanding rapidly, attesting to the need for this kind of housing. Three additional MOMS residences – two on Hays, and one on Black Street – will join MOMS 1 this spring. MOMS 2 is located next door to MOMS 1, and was allegedly once a home to prostitutes; the two other residences will be brand-new construction.

One small glitch in the program has been the lack of a computer. But that will be changing soon, when the Homeless Children's Education Fund creates a computer center for MOMS 1, with state-of-the-art computers and educational software. The center will be ready in time for the 2008-09 school term, and will be shared by all four MOMS facilities.

Cyganovich says that the MOMS program is always looking for volunteers to serve as "homework helpers" for the children. And on March 29, at its fourth annual afternoon tea "friend-raiser," Sojourner House will honor Dr. Raiff – the woman who helped give the MOMS program its start – as its 2008 "Pearl of Hope."

For information on admission to MOMS, please call 412-361-1213.



**He has risen!
He is not here.**

Mark 16:6

May the triumph of our Lord fill you with hope, strength and joy on Easter and always!



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Senior Citizen Property Tax Relief

Did you know that senior citizens in Allegheny County are entitled to a flat 30% discount of the real estate tax on their primary residence? Once approved, a qualified applicant continues to receive tax relief as long as the applicant is the property owner/occupant. (There's an additional 2% discount for paying county taxes in full by March 31.)

To qualify for the senior discount, an applicant must have owned and occupied a primary residence in Allegheny County continuously for the past 10 years. A property owner who has moved within the past 10 years and has continued to own and occupy the new property as a primary residence shall be eligible.

Also, to qualify this year, an applicant must meet one of the following age requirements by December 31, 2008:

- Be age 60 or older; or, if married, at least one spouse must be 60 or older
- Be a widow or widower age 50 to 60 years
- Be permanently disabled and age 18 to 60

An applicant's income must not exceed \$30,000 a year. For calculating income, use 50% of your Social Security benefit, SSI, or Railroad Retirement Tier I benefits.

The deadline to file for relief this year is June 30, 2008. For more information, call 412-350-4100 or toll-free 1-866-282-8297. Information and applications are also available online at www.alleghenycounty.us/treasure/act77.aspx.



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“So You Think You Want To Work in a Casino...?” Workshop Comes to Garfield

By Randy Lheureau
Northside Leadership Conference

By now, almost everyone reading this is aware that the Majestic Star casino is being built on the North Side, and is scheduled to open its doors in May 2009. When it does, slightly more than 1,000 new jobs will be created, providing good salaries, benefits, and advancement opportunities to the local workforce.

However, the reality is that gaming in Pennsylvania is still a relatively new industry. Given that, it would be difficult for anyone to know the answers to some important questions about working in a casino. These questions include: Is working in a casino right for me? What do I need to know before I decide? When should I start?

Anticipating these questions, the Northside Leadership Conference (NSLC) and the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) are working together to conduct free community workshops throughout the region. Titled “So You Think You Want To Work in a Casino...” these

workshops are open to the public, and provide the means to help everyone decide for themselves if working in a casino is right for them. The workshop covers: employment information; qualifications and work environment; employment barriers; and the process of applying to the state of Pennsylvania to receive a credential required to work in a casino.

Each attendee is encouraged to do a self-assessment after the workshop to ascertain his or her level of interest, employment barriers, and level of skills compared to the requirements for working in a casino. A list of area agencies that will help a person address employment barriers is provided to attendees to use during their preparation. NSLC will follow up with attendees after the workshop is completed, and maintain contact to make sure they keep to the program

that they’ve decided is best for them.

Thoroughly addressing employment barriers and providing the information required to gain the state credential can be time-consuming. Accuracy and total disclosure is vital. Those attending the workshop will have a head start in the process. Because the hiring process is expected to be extremely competitive, everyone is encouraged to start now, even though the casino opening is more than a year away.

A free workshop in the Garfield area will take place on Tuesday, April 8, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Bloomfield Garfield Activity Center, 113 North Pacific Avenue. Other workshops will be held throughout the region, so watch for the schedule in newspapers, or on the NSLC website at www.pittsburghnorthside.com. All programs are free and open to the public.

For more information, please call (412) 330-2551 or e-mail casinocareers@pittsburghnorthside.com.

March Events Focus on Teens at Risk for HIV/AIDS

On March 26, 2008, high school students from across Allegheny County will head to the Westin Convention Center Hotel downtown to hear a series of lectures about AIDS awareness, as a part of the eighth annual “Teen HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.”

Eight years ago, a senior in high school, Kezia Ellison, started an organization called “Educating Teens about HIV/AIDS Inc.” as her service learning project for the Pennsylvania Governor’s School of Excellence for Health Care. Kezia urged the Pittsburgh City Council in 2001, and a year later, the Allegheny County Council, to proclaim the month of March as “Educating Teens about HIV/AIDS Month.”

Kezia was inspired to begin the project after she served as a Pennsylvania delegate to the National Summit on Africa and learned about the effects of the virus on that continent and throughout the world. Her plan was to create a dialogue in the community about the virus, especially among teenagers, an age group that has become increasingly affected by the disease in recent years.

Teen HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

has been held annually since, educating a larger group of teenagers each year about all aspects of the disease and prevention methods through speakers and discussion. Although Teen HIV/AIDS Awareness Day began in Pittsburgh, it is now also held in Harrisburg and Philadelphia, with the hope that bringing understanding about the disease to as many young people as possible is an important way to effectively combat it in our community.

Recent statistics from the Center for Disease Control show that the number of teenagers with HIV is increasing, and 6,000 new teenagers are infected with the virus each day. The most at-risk age group is 15- to 24-year-olds, accounting for over half of newly diagnosed HIV infections. There has been an especially dramatic increase in the HIV infection rate among teenage girls, partic-

By Teresa Kim Schmittberger
Bulletin Contributor

ularly African-American girls.

In the two days leading up to

Teen HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, a conference for all community members – including businesses, school officials, health providers, parents, educators, and houses of worship – is also being held at the Westin Convention Center. The theme is “Putting our

Future First: Reclaiming Our Youth through Community Connections.” The conference will focus on the economic impact of HIV/AIDS in all different areas of the community, and will also

explain the importance of education about prevention methods. Speakers will discuss how HIV/AIDS directly affects our community, financially and culturally, and what can be done to prevent the spread of the virus. All interested community members are welcome to attend.

If you would like to learn more

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LEGAL EASE

You Can Get Protection from Abuse

PFA stands for "Protection from Abuse," whether it is physical abuse, sexual abuse, or the threat of either - abuse is against the law, and you can get protection. Even if you choose not to bring criminal charges against your abuser, you can still get protection for yourself and any minor children. The Pennsylvania civil law that provides these protections is known as the "Protection from Abuse Act."

To file a PFA action, you must be an adult, or an adult guardian acting on behalf of a minor child, and you must have one of the following relationships to the abuser: be related by marriage (spouse or in-law); be related by bloodline (parent, children, cousins); be a biological parent of a child; or be a current or past intimate partner of the abuser. The term "intimate" is not limited to a sexual relationship - dating is sufficient. In addition, there is no requirement that you live with the abuser.

The Protection from Abuse Act defines abuse very broadly. Abuse is considered to be any one of the following acts: causing or trying to cause physical harm, whether or not a weapon is involved; rape or sexual assault; physical or sexual abuse of minor children; putting another in reasonable fear of immediate and serious physical harm; stalking; repeatedly committing other acts

that cause reasonable fear of bodily injury; or interfering with a person's freedom of movement.

In Allegheny County, you can apply for a PFA order with the Family Division of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. When the Court of Common Pleas is closed, an emergency PFA may be granted by a magisterial district justice. This emergency order only lasts until the next business day when the Court of Common Pleas is in session.

You normally do not need an attorney to file the paperwork. Most courts have what is called a "pro se" (on your own) system. You will be asked to describe the incidents of abuse, including the date(s) it occurred. If the judge hearing the PFA request believes that you need immediate protection, a temporary protection order can be issued, along with a date for a final hearing. The abuser is not present at the time you ask the court for the temporary order.

The abuser must be given notice of the filing of the PFA petition, along with the date of the final hearing. The police, or anyone 18 years of age or older, can serve the alleged abuser with the PFA petition and temporary order. The person serving

By Ed Van Stevenson
Neighborhood Legal Services Association

the documents on the alleged abuser must sign and file an affidavit attesting that he or she, in fact, served

the abuser with notice of the petition and temporary order. All of these steps in the process are done without the payment of any fees or court costs relating to filing, serving, or enforcement. Once the case is over, the judge will decide if the abuser or the county will pay the court costs.

If the abuser chooses to attend the final hearing, there are several possible outcomes: the abuser can either agree to stay away for the duration of the order or request a full hearing, after which the judge will decide if the temporary order should be extended. If there is a full hearing before a judge, you will have what is called the "burden of proof," meaning that you must convince the judge the abuser abused you in one of the ways described above. You will be required to testify under oath about the abuse and present witnesses who can confirm that they saw the abuse. Even if you do not use an attorney to file the paperwork, you should strongly consider having an attorney represent you at the final hearing. Domestic violence shelters can provide safe shelter and support to individuals going through this process.

A final order of protection can be issued for up to 36 months. The order can do any or all of the following: order the abuse to stop; remove the abuser from the home; establish temporary custody, partial



custody, or visitation rights; order the abuser to stay away from your job or school; and order the payment of support, including health insurance coverage, rent, or mortgage payments. If support is ordered, you must file a separate support case in the court within two weeks. The order can also require the abuser to relinquish weapons, ammunition, firearms, and firearms license. The abuser may also be required to reimburse you for financial losses, including medical and moving expenses that result from the abuse. If necessary to protect you, your address can remain confidential, and school districts, law enforcement agencies, and human service agencies can be ordered not to disclose information about your location.

Once a PFA order is granted, it is automatically placed on the Pennsylvania state police registry so that it can be enforced anywhere in the state. If protection is needed in another state, a certified copy of the order can be filed with the appropriate court and police in that state. If the abuser violates the order, you should immediately call the police to report the violation. An indirect

See PFA, page 12



TAX MAN

by Patrick N. Price
Tax Consultant
Internal Revenue Service

You filed your federal tax return, and you're expecting a refund. You have just one question, and you want the answer now: "Where's my refund?" Access www.irs.gov to find out if the IRS received your return, and whether your refund was processed and sent to you. The program allows you to begin a refund trace online if you have not received your check within 28 days from the original mailing date. Some of you will also be able to correct or change your mailing address with this application if your check was returned to the IRS as undeliverable by the U.S. Postal Service. "Where's My Refund?" will prompt you when these features are available for your situation.

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Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC Serves Garfield Families

Family Care Connection & Learning Center of Lawrenceville is one of six family support programs managed by Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. The staff of community health nurses, child development specialists, and community aides would like to extend a warm welcome to the families of Garfield and invite them to contact the Lawrenceville center for more information about our services.

Family Care Connection (FCC) is located in the heart of the 10th Ward business district, at 5235 Butler Street, and has been serving families in the community since 1999. The program is free and voluntary, and provides a variety of services to families in the area, including assistance with managing and accessing the complex maze of social and support services offered by the community.

FCC services include, but are not limited to, home visits, family goal-setting and planning, child developmental assessments and education, medical transportation assistance, parent education and training on a variety of topics, and educational

By Jennifer Kiley
*Children's Hospital of Pgh of UPMC
Family Care Connection &
Learning Center*

field trips. Parents and children are invited to interact at on-site workshops, seasonal social events, play groups, parent support groups, literacy programs, and parent council activities. Assistance with basic needs such as housing, utilities, food, health care, clothing, and furniture are also provided.

Garfield fathers should know that they are also welcome to participate in all of our programming, including one specifically for them, "Focus on Fathers," a program designed to educate them on the health, safety, and parenting of their children, from infants through school age.

In addition, community health nurses are on staff to provide social support to improve health and pregnancy outcomes, including pediatric health assessments, management with acute and chronic illnesses, prenatal education, postnatal care, and preventive health education for families.

The newly upgraded space in Lawrenceville also includes a Learning Center for preschoolers ages 3 to 5 years old, to prepare them for kindergarten. The Learning Center provides a calm and friendly environment and a curriculum that includes pre-academic activities (reading, writing, numbers, mathematics, science, and geography), physical/expressive activities, life skills (personal care and group social activities), and free choice activities. The Learning Center operates year round, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Enrollment is open and ongoing.

Children's Family Care Connection & Learning Center of Lawrenceville is committed to working with and for



Courtesy Family Care Connection & Learning Center

(LEFT TO RIGHT) JENNIFER KILEY, CRYSTAL BELCHER, AND SANDY GEORGE IN FRONT OF THE LAWRENCEVILLE LEARNING CENTER ON BUTLER STREET.

the families of Lawrenceville, Bloomfield, and now, Garfield. Strong families build strong communities and we look forward to meeting and working with Garfield families.

For more information about Children's Family Care Connection & Learning Center of Lawrenceville, please contact 412-784-8683 or visit Children's website at www.chp.edu.



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



A Flower Waiting To Be Picked

Fiori means "little flowers" in Italian, and sweet Fiori lives up to her name. This sweet little pit bull loves the company of humans and strives to brighten up someone's life. Unlike many young pit bulls, Fiori would rather cuddle with a two-legged companion than romp about. Ear scratches and tummy rubs are her very favorite activities. This happy little girl enjoys exploring the trails at Animal Friends, and, as a bonus, walks very nicely on a leash. She loves kids and would do well in a household with children. Cute Fiori is much like a flower in that she can easily add beauty and pleasure to someone's life - and like a beautiful flower she deserves to be picked! In the right household, Fiori will blossom into a thing of wondrous beauty. Contact Animal Friends at 412-847-7000.

Tip from Animal Friends: Pit bulls are terriers, and like all terriers they have a strong prey drive. All terriers do best in homes that do not have other small animals, such as cats. Owners with previous experience with pit bulls and terriers are recommended.

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TO YOUR HEALTH

What Is a Heart Attack?

The heart is a muscle the size of your fist that pumps blood throughout the body. Blood enters the heart and then gets pumped into the lungs to pick up oxygen. Then, it re-enters the heart and gets pumped out again in pipe-like structures called arteries in order to spread the oxygen to the rest of the cells in our bodies. The heart needs oxygen, too, because it is also made of cells. There are arteries called coronary arteries that supply oxygen-rich blood to the heart. Oxygen is essential to life. If part of the body goes without oxygen for too long, the cells can become damaged or even die.

A heart attack (also known as a myocardial infarction) happens when the blood flow to the heart gets blocked. The cells of the heart are like the cells of the rest of our bodies. Without oxygen, they get injured and can die, causing the heart to not pump as well. Many people live after having a heart attack; however, if the heart attack is big enough, it can be life-threatening.

By Amy J. DiPlacido, M.D.

Bloomfield-Garfield Family
Health Center

The classic symptoms of a heart attack include chest pain or tightness, shortness of breath, sweatiness, and nausea. Although a person may not have all of these symptoms, he or she could still be having a heart attack (especially if the person has diabetes). The chest pain may travel down the person's left arm or up the person's neck to the jaw.

Some of the risk factors for a heart attack are ones that we can control, while some are not. It is important to eat a healthy diet, to watch our weight, to not smoke, drink, or use drugs, and to control our blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol. We cannot control things like age, family history, gender, or race.

If you have symptoms of a heart attack, call 911 for an ambulance right away. A doctor in a hospital can run tests to see the best way to treat your heart attack and, hopefully, get oxygen to your heart before the cells die. If you are not allergic to aspirin, you can chew one regular aspirin tablet



while waiting for the ambulance to arrive.

If you do not have the symptoms now but think you have had them before, see your doctor so that you can discuss what you can do to control your risk factors. Remember, we only have one heart, so we want to keep it as healthy as possible.

If you have suggestions for health-related topics you'd like to see covered here, please e-mail bgcbulletin@yahoo.com.



Rick Swartz/BGC

RENOVATION OF FOUR BADLY DETERIORATED HOUSES IN THE 100 BLOCK OF NORTH FAIRMOUNT STREET HAS PASSED THE HALFWAY POINT. ONE HOUSE AT 126 NORTH FAIRMOUNT (PICTURED ABOVE) IS UNDER SALES AGREEMENT, AND THE DEVELOPERS ARE LOOKING FOR BUYERS FOR 111, 113, AND 115 NORTH FAIRMOUNT. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD CORPORATION AT 412-441-6950 X 11.

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COMMENTARY

Open Communication Is Key to Successful Development

As has been well publicized, the Don Allen car dealership is set to close its doors. In its place, a \$230 million, mixed-use development of shops, offices, condos, and a hotel is being planned on the 7-acre parcel of land at Baum Boulevard and Liberty Avenue.

While the close proximity of such a large-scale development is exciting for many of the residents of Friendship and surrounding neighborhoods, the prospect also comes with some uncertainties and reservations. To help alleviate concerns and in an effort to reach out to community members, Richard Voelker, owner of Don Allen, and Christine Fulton, VP of external relations for the development company, DOC-Economou, met with the Friendship Preservation Group (FPG) at its February board meeting. Both board members and community neighbors were in attendance.

Voelker and Fulton gave a brief introduction and overview of the proposed project, stressing that much of the plan has not been finalized and remains fluid. The initial renderings of the buildings and other information on the development can be found at the DOC-Economou website - <http://www.doceconomou.com/baum-liberty/>.

By Ian Miller
Friendship Preservation Group

Attendees had numerous questions and comments. But one individual made what I thought was a very critical point, in pressing both Voelker and Fulton to keep their "civic duties" in mind as they move forward. An example was to provide space for nonprofit organizations, or perhaps affordable daycare.

Civic duty, I think, lies at the crux of what differentiates a good development from a great one. Communities have to keep in mind a developer's need to profit and satisfy the financial "numbers" and the backers of the project. A development of this scale, especially, comes with great risk to the developer, who deserves to be justly compensated. Conversely, a developer should look to the community that the development will primarily serve. They should look beyond the financial figures and explore means of enhancing the quality of life of those in whose neighborhood the development will be built.

At the core of these often competing, but what should be complementary, interests is the need for open, civic, and candid communication throughout the process. DOC-Economou and the Voelker family should be applauded for their efforts to date in engaging the community in



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

THE SITE OF THE DON ALLEN CAR DEALERSHIP AT BAUM BLVD. AND LIBERTY AVE. IS SLATED FOR A NEW MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT.

the process. In return, the neighboring communities have been, for the most part, receptive and supportive of the development concept.

Continued community input will move the process forward. In turn, being receptive to the community's wants and needs will do much to ensure a successful venture in the eyes of both the developers and the neighborhoods, for both the civic and economic concerns.

The intention of the discussion at the FPG board meeting was to be the first of many conversations with the community, to share the developer's

plans and to listen to what the community had to say. Further meetings will be scheduled in the future. And, to keep an open line of communication, questions can be directed to the Voelkers and Christine Fulton through me, the FPG president. Please feel free to email any questions or comments you may have to me at ian-fpg@hotmail.com.

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ON FEBRUARY 2, GARFIELD YOUTH SPORTS HELD ITS 14TH ANNUAL BANQUET AT JIMMY G'S RESTAURANT IN SHARPSBURG, TO CELEBRATE ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SEASON FOR ITS FIVE FOOTBALL TEAMS AND FOUR CHEERLEADING SQUADS. MORE THAN 300 ATTENDEES ENJOYED LUNCH AND WATCHED AS AWARDS WERE PRESENTED TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING COACH BOB JONES' MIGHTY MITES TEAM (PICTURED ABOVE, BOTTOM).



"...for better!"

"Black Marriage Day"

In support of the Wedded Bliss Foundation, a national initiative to promote marriage in the Black community, The Marriage Works is celebrating Black Marriage Day!!

Black Marriage Day is celebrated across the nation yearly, during the last Sunday in the month of March. This year's celebration is Sunday, March 30, 2008. Our theme is: "Getting Married is Good; Staying Married is Better; A Healthy Marriage is Best!!"

To increase couples' chances of staying together, modeling healthy marriages and relationships before their children, The Marriage Works is offering **free** marriage education classes to couples in five Pittsburgh East End neighborhoods: East Liberty, Garfield, Homewood, Lincoln-Lemington, and Wilksburg.

Register now for our next classes!!
Visit: www.themarriageworks.org
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Have you visited *The Bulletin's* blog?

www.bgcbulletin.blogspot.com

Check it out for community goings-on you
won't want to miss... plus a slideshow of
recent Bloomfield-Garfield Corp. events. Now
you can even subscribe to the blog by entering
your e-mail address on the main page!

PFA, from page 8

criminal contempt complaint can then be filed, and a warrant issued for the abuser's arrest. A hearing on the allegations of contempt is then held. If the judge decides that the order was violated, the abuser can be jailed for up to six months and/or fined up to \$1,000. The judge may also issue any other order deemed necessary. If the abuser is sent to jail, you should make sure the prison knows how to contact you in the event the abuser is released.

Remember: *abuse is a crime*. Criminal charges may also be filed against an abuser, whether or not

you decide to file under the Protection from Abuse Act.

Neighborhood Legal Services Association (NLSA) represents victims of abuse regardless of their income. Our toll-free number in Pittsburgh (between 9 a.m and 4 p.m Monday through Friday) is 1-866-761-6572. For more information on NLSA, please visit us at www.nlsa.us. At our website, you will also find a link to www.PaLAWHelp.org which provides valuable legal information on a multitude of legal topics.



Learning Center at Lawrenceville Family Care Connection 5235 Butler Street

Did you know that Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC opened a Learning Center right in your own neighborhood that prepares preschoolers for kindergarten? We offer a comprehensive curriculum taught in a welcoming environment. Your child deserves the expertise of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC Learning Center.

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ADA Sounds the "Alert" on Type 2 Diabetes

Diabetes is set to become the greatest public health crisis of the next quarter century. To address the burden of this disease, the American Diabetes Association (ADA) is issuing an urgent call-to-action for Americans to find out their risk for type 2 diabetes during the 20th annual American Diabetes Alert® Day on March 25. More than six million Americans have diabetes, but don't even know it. Another 54 million Americans have pre-diabetes, placing them at increased risk for developing type 2 diabetes.

On American Diabetes Alert Day, held annually on the fourth Tuesday in March, the ADA encourages people who are overweight, physically inactive, and over the age of 45 to take the American Diabetes Risk Test. The risk test asks seven simple questions about weight, age, lifestyle, and family history – all potential risk factors for type 2 diabetes. People scoring 10 points or more are at a high risk for diabetes and are encouraged to schedule an appointment to see their doctor. The risk test, in English or Spanish, is available by calling the Association toll-free at 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383) or by visiting www.diabetes.org/alert.

Among the primary risk factors for type 2 diabetes are being overweight, sedentary, over the age of 45, and having a family history of diabetes. African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders are at an increased risk, as are women who have had babies weighing more than nine pounds at birth.

Unfortunately, people with type 2 diabetes can live for years without realizing that they have the disease. While people with diabetes can exhibit noticeable symptoms, such as frequent urination, blurred vision, and excessive thirst, most people diagnosed with type 2 diabetes do not show these overt warning signs at the time that they develop the disease. Often, type 2 diabetes only becomes evident when people develop one or more of its serious complications, such as heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, eye damage, or nerve damage that can lead to amputations.

The American Diabetes Association is the nation's leading voluntary health organization supporting diabetes research, information, and advocacy. Founded in 1940, the Association has offices in every region of the country, providing services to hundreds of communities.

The Children's Home Receives First-Ever Federal Grant



Courtesy The Children's Home

On February 11, U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle (D-Forest Hills) presented The Children's Home of Pittsburgh & Lemieux Family Center with a check for federal funding totaling just over \$307,000, to support the organization's newly expanded facility. This was the first federal grant ever received by The Children's Home.

Founded in 1893, The Children's Home relocated to its new 63,000 square-foot facility at 5324 Penn Avenue in Friendship in 2007. With the move came the expansion of its pediatric specialty hospital to 28 beds, providing short-term, sub-acute care to infants and children. In addition, Child's Way®, a medical daycare program, now accommodates up to 60 medically fragile children per day, and the organization's adoption program has grown to include a satellite office in Washington County.

"For over a hundred years, The Children's Home has been working to improve the health and welfare of our region's children," said Congressman Doyle. "I'm glad that I could help it continue and expand its important work."

On hand for Congressman Doyle's (center of photo, holding check) presentation were (from left) Children's Home CEO Pam Schanwald; Children's Home board president Ranny Ferguson; city Councilman Patrick Dowd; Mayor Luke Ravenstahl; Jackie Erickson, representing U.S. Sen. Bob Casey; Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato; and city Council President Doug Shields.

For more information about the Children's Home and its programs, please call 412-441-4884 or visit www.childrenshomepg.org.

Way Back When...in Garfield

Did you know that the building at 5129 Penn Avenue, now home to the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's Youth Development Center, used to house a retail store called George E. Schurman? In a 1915 publication of the Garfield Board of Trade, Schurman advertised that it carried the "Leading Dry Goods and Gents' Furnishings of Penn Avenue." A note at the bottom of the ad to "Ask for stamps" referred to the practice of department stores issuing trading stamps as a bonus to customers, who could save and redeem them for merchandise.

If you have a historical tidbit or a photo related to the history of Bloomfield, Garfield, Friendship, East Liberty, or Lawrenceville, e-mail bgbulletin@yahoo.com about possible publication in *The Bulletin*.

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

TAKE A "REALITY TOUR"

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

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

Residents of Bloomfield, Garfield, East Liberty, Friendship, and Lawrenceville are invited to receive free health screenings from 10 a.m. to noon on the second Tuesday of each month aboard the Spirit of Health mobile wellness van at Our Lady of the Angels Parish, 225 37th Street, Lawrenceville. Screenings will include cholesterol, bone density and blood pressure screenings, and body fat analysis. Medication monitoring and referral services will also be offered. The Spirit of Health is a collaborative, faith-based mobile wellness program sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis at Mount Alvernia, Duquesne University's Mylan School of Pharmacy, and the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System. For more information, please call 412-508-2259.

MEDIA AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM

The Carlow University Forum on Media Education and Social Justice will bring members of the Pittsburgh community together to talk about the negative effects of media and some possible actions to

combat them. This free event is open to the public and will take place on Thursday March 13, from 4 to 8 p.m. in A. J. Palumbo Hall (Craft Avenue between Fifth and Forbes) on the Carlow campus. The keynote speech will be given by Lyn Mikel Brown, author of *Packaging Girlhood*. There will also be comments by local experts and public figures, including Tony Norman of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. For more information, contact Jennifer Snyder-Duch, 412-578-634, snyderduchjx@carlow.edu; or Jim Kelly, 412-578-8853, kellyjm@carlow.edu. Co-sponsors of the event include Chatham University's Psychology and Women's Studies Depts. and the University of Pittsburgh's Women's Studies Dept.

CASA VOLUNTEER TRAINING

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

MATURE MENTORS NEEDED IN GARFIELD

If you are 50 years of age or older and would like to make a difference in the life of a child, OASIS is looking for you. OASIS, a national education organization, located in Macy's Department Store, provides educational, cultural, and wellness programs to adults 50 years of age or older. OASIS is recruiting older adult volunteer mentors to assist in our Active Generations after-school program targeting children in 3rd to 5th grades at Ft. Pitt Accelerated Learning Academy in Garfield. Active Generations is an inter-generational nutrition/physical activity program that promotes the importance of physical activity and a healthy diet to assist in combating the childhood obesity epidemic plaguing today's children. Older adults mentor the children for 1 hour a week for six weeks, starting on Thursday, April 3, 2008. Training on the nutrition/physical activity program will be provided. If you would like more information, or are interested in volunteering, please contact Shirley Fisher at OASIS at 412-232-2023 or sfisher@oasisnet.org.

VINTAGE SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS

Vintage, 401 N. Highland Avenue, East Liberty, offers a nutritious, weekday lunch program for older adults 60+, with meals provided by the Area Agency on Aging. Light breakfast and lunch foods are also available in our Arbor Cafe. Make new friends and enjoy dining in our cheerful dining room and sunny skylight-lit spaces. Call 412-361-5003, x 104.

ARTHRITIS TREATMENT OPTIONS

Join St. Margaret Foundation and UPMC St. Margaret for a discussion called "Arthritis: What are the treatment options?" Learn ways to live every day to the fullest. Wednesday, March 12 from 10 a.m. - noon, at Canterbury Place, 310 Fisk Street, Lawrenceville. Class is FREE but preregistration is required by calling Jan Witucki at 412-784-5313 or booking online at www.stmargaretfoundation.org/events.

LOCAL WINNERS OF PCA FELLOWSHIPS

Seventy-four Pennsylvania artists recently won 2008 Individual Creative Artists Fellowships from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Among the recipients are two well-known East Enders: Angele Ellis of Friendship, for poetry; and Beth Corning, artistic director of Dance Alloy Theater, for choreography. Each received \$5,000 to support her work. Congratulations, Angele and Beth! For more information about PCA fellowships, visit www.pacouncilonthearts.org.

SEED STARTING 101

Learn how to start your own seedlings, save money, grow heirloom varieties, and increase the diversity of your garden this season. Hands-on class in seed-starting basics at Mildreds' Daughters Urban Farm in Stanton Heights, on Saturday, March 22, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Work in our fields and greenhouse to learn the basics of getting the most out of your garden this season. Tour of the farm and light refreshments included; cost: \$25. Reserve your space by sending an e-mail to mildredsdaughters@earthlink.net or calling 412-799-0833. For information about other classes and events, go to www.localharvest.org and search "Mildreds" under "Farms."

PEABODY "PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE" EVENT

Following the enormous success of last year's event, Peabody High School will once again host a community-building event, called "Promise for the Future: Reducing Teen Violence and Enhancing

Life Opportunities," to take place on May 10. Save the date! The day-long event will include a large provider fair, workshops, dynamic speakers, a Chinese auction, food, and live entertainment, and is free to all. Watch *The Bulletin* for more info!

F'SHIP HOUSE TOUR LOOKING FOR HOUSES

The planning for the 15th Annual Friendship House Tour is underway! This year's tour features an architecture theme and is titled, "Pride & Progress – the History of Architects and Architecture in Friendship." We're looking for homes that are owned by architects, designed by historical or prominent architects, or have unique architecture. If you are interested in placing your home on tour, please contact Sarah Collins at sarah@friendship-pgh.org or 412-441-6147 x 7.

HEAD START ENROLLMENT

Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh Head Start Programs are now enrolling children ages 3 to 5 for the next program year, which begins in September 2008. Head Start offers a broad range of services, including language development, math, science, reading, and social skills. Head Start services are provided free of charge. For additional information, call toll free 1-866-214-KIDS (5437).

HEALTH INSURANCE ADVICE FOR SENIORS

APPRISE is a free health insurance counseling program for Pennsylvanians with Medicare. In Allegheny County, APPRISE program services are delivered by staff and volunteers of Family Services of Western Pennsylvania in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Aging and the Allegheny County Area on Aging. APPRISE counselors are trained to answer your questions and provide you with objective, easy-to-understand information about Medicare, Medicare supplemental insurance, Medicaid, long-term care insurance, and the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit. For more information, visit <http://www.fswp.org/APPRISE.htm> or contact Bill McKendree at 412-661-1438 or McKendreeW@fswp.org.

"HISTORY OF L'VILLE'S 9TH WARD"

The Lawrenceville Historical Society will host a lecture, "History of Lawrenceville's 9th Ward," on Thursday, March 20, at 7 p.m. at Canterbury Place, in the McVay Auditorium (1st Floor), 310 Fisk Street, in Lawrenceville. Presented by Jim Wudarczyk, this is one lecture that

BULLETIN BOARD

any Pittsburgher interested in local history will not want to miss. Jim is author of four books and hundreds of articles on local history, the Civil War, and other topics. He has lectured throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania, and returns to LHS by popular demand. For more information, please e-mail info@LHS15201.org.

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

UPMC Shadyside is seeking volunteers to work in various areas of the hospital, including waiting rooms, information desks, offices, and patient areas. If you have good people, clerical, or computer skills, are interested in offering assistance or escort service, and can spare 4 hours a week, WE WANT YOU! Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age and will be required to submit an application with references, agree to a free background check and TB test, and attend orientation. Free training, meals, parking, and bus passes are provided. For more information, contact Laura Mullen at 412-623-2017, or apply at <https://www.volgstics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=758879>.

SUMMER CAMPS AT PDA

Three great camps, one location! 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, friendly environment. Increase strength and flexibility, develop coordination, improve motor skills, and learn new dance styles. Tumbling & Dance Camp, June 23-27 (ages 4-12); Performing Arts Camp, July 28-August 4 (ages 5-14); Ballet Intensive, August 4-8 (ages 7-14), for the serious ballet student. Also, for adults, we offer on-going classes in ballet, tap, jazz, Pilates, Superfit, and belly dancing. Call or go to our website for schedule information: 412-681-7523 or www.pgh-dance.com.

TRANSPORTATION LOANS

"Ways to Work" is a national program designed for low-income families with bad credit who are attempting to obtain transportation to and from work. Locally, it is administered by Family Services of Western Pennsylvania, located in East Liberty. The program features a low-interest transportation loan to purchase a used car costing up to \$4,000, or to repair an existing vehicle up to \$1,000. Annual income, family size, work status, and residency requirements must be met. For more information, call 1-866-965-5929, x 650 (toll-free); or 412-661-1670, x 650.

NOMINATIONS FOR L'VILLE HOUSE TOUR

The Lawrenceville House Tour is seeking nominations for houses to be showcased during the 2008 House Tour scheduled

for October 4 and 5. Houses will be shown only one day, can be nominated by their owner or community residents, and should be in the spirit of this year's tour: "Snapshots Through Time." Houses nominated should be representative of a particular period of time, or have an interesting history or person associated with the house. Houses should also be either restored or renovated in a thoughtful or unique manner. Modern and "green" restorations are also encouraged. Mail nominations to Kate Bayer, 4738 Hatfield Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15201, call 412-600-2068, or visit the website at www.lawrencevillehousetour.org.

FREE HELP WITH WILLS

The Stephen Foster Community Center, 286 Main Street in Lawrenceville, offers senior citizens and all those who are income-eligible FREE legal assistance with wills, living wills, and powers of attorney. Call 412-621-3342.

"DON'T BORROW TROUBLE"

Even the worst loan can look enticing when presented by a good salesperson. High fees, predatory interest rates, and changing terms are costly if you discover them after signing your loan agreement. Take advantage of the nonprofit Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG) and contact one of PCRG's 15 Financial Partners to discuss your loan needs. PCRG's Financial Partners can be found online at

"BRIDE ROW" COMMUNITY MEETING THANKS

Friendship Development Associates and our partners would like to thank all those who attended the Bride Row Community Meeting on February 7, 2008. We had a great turnout and received a lot of innovative ideas and input. We will be holding another meeting in the near future and hope that you'll come out again!

www.pcr.org/members. Plus, if you have already applied for a loan and are not sure the terms are right for you, or if you've signed a loan and think you may be the victim of a predatory lender, you can call PCRG's hotline (1-866-907-2285) for free advice.

"FROM THE GROUND UP" AT FE GALLERY

"From the Ground Up," an exhibition in conjunction with the national clay conference (NCECA), is showing at Fe Gallery, 4102 Butler Street in Lawrenceville, through April 18. A special reception during NCECA will be held on Thursday, March 20, from 7 to 9 p.m. Fe Gallery hours are 12 to 4 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday. For more information, contact Jill Larson at 412-860-6028.

FREE TO THE PEOPLE

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

Preschool Storytime

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

Craft with Beads

For ages 7 to seniors. Saturday, March 8, 2-3 p.m. Learn beading techniques and make a beaded bookmark. Registration required.

Won't You Be My Neighbor

For ages 3-adult. Saturday, March 15, 11 a.m.

Good Neighbor Day: Open House at the Library

Tuesday, March 18, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Neighborhood residents and business

owners are welcome to visit the East Liberty Branch for a meet-and-greet with staff and customers.

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. Tuesday, March 4, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. OR Wednesday, March 19, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Online Forms & Applications

Learn the basics about filling out forms and applying for services on the WWW. **Prerequisite:** Learn the WWW class or solid mouse, Windows, and WWW experience. Tuesday, March 18, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

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

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

Storytime

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

Adult Book Discussion Group

Monday, March 10, 5 p.m. This month's title is *By a Slow River*, by Phillippe Claudel

Get Your Game On! Teen Game Program

Wednesday, March 5, 4 p.m. Come and play PS2.

Library Open House: Get to Know Your Neighbors

Saturday, March 15, 1-4 p.m. Come meet and greet your fellow Lawrenceville neighbors. Representatives from local community organizations will also share information about programs and services for the area.



"FOSTER CARE: THE COFFEE HOUSE TOUR"

Ever considered becoming a foster parent? Family Services of Western Pennsylvania invites you to stop in during "Foster Care: The Coffee House Tour 2008" to learn a little bit more about the process, the available supports, and the rewards of being a foster parent. Upcoming local dates and locations in include:

Wednesday, March 5, 2-3 p.m. at the Union Project Cafe, 801 N. Negley Ave.

Thursday, April 10, 7-8 p.m. at the Union Project Cafe

Wednesday, April 16, 2-3 p.m. at The Quiet Storm, 5430 Penn Ave.

Tuesday, May 13, 7-8 p.m. at The Quiet Storm

For more information on foster parenting, visit the Family Services website at www.fswp.org or contact Sue Kerr at 412-661-1670 x649 or kerrs@fswp.org.

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Pittsburgh, PA 15224

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Lawrenceville

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Three positions available with Presbyterian SeniorCare. Seeking full-time Maintenance Tech in Homewood/Garfield and Friendship areas. Perform variety of duties related to building maintenance, including plumbing, electrical, boiler repair, mechanical repairs, carpentry, janitorial, and groundskeeping. Valid PA driver's license required. Must pass criminal background check. Qualified candidates should send resume/letter of interest to scncareers@srcare.org, mail to Maintenance Tech II, c/o SeniorCare Network, Inc., 1215 Hulton Road, Oakmont, PA 15139 or fax to 412-826-6520. EOE

EVENTS

5 YEARS TOO MANY

MARCH 29

Bring the Troops Home NOW

1:00pm Rally/March

5th and S. Craig (Oakland)

2:30pm Memorial Service

Flagstaff Hill, (Schenley Park)

Organized by the Thomas Merton

Center Antiwar Committee

www.pittsburghendthewar.org

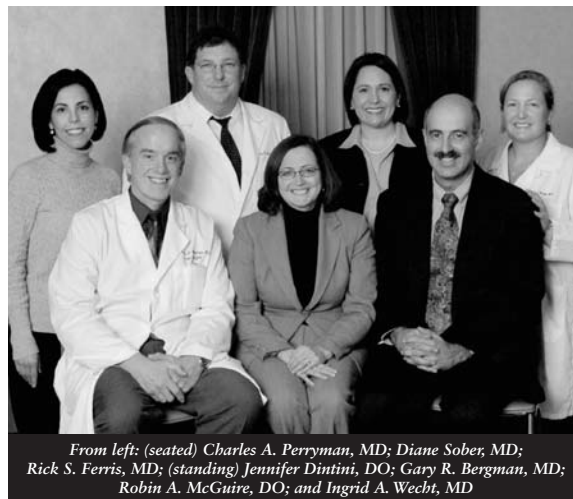
info@pittsburghendthewar.org

412-361-3022

FOR SALE

Peabody High School yearbooks, from 1988 to 2002. If you did not buy a yearbook during your senior year, this is your chance! Call 412-665-2092. If we are in class, just leave a message.

Pittsburgh GynOb Welcomes Diane Sober, MD



From left: (seated) Charles A. Perryman, MD; Diane Sober, MD; Rick S. Ferris, MD; (standing) Jennifer Dintini, DO; Gary R. Bergman, MD; Robin A. McGuire, DO; and Ingrid A. Wecht, MD

Pittsburgh GynOb is pleased to welcome Diane Sober, MD, to its team of outstanding medical professionals. Board-certified in obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Sober sees patients in Pittsburgh GynOb's four convenient office locations.

One of the largest obstetrics and gynecology groups in the region, Pittsburgh GynOb provides family-oriented care for women of all ages. The practice offers a full range of services, including both routine and high-risk pregnancy care, minimally invasive gynecologic surgery, and infertility treatment.

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