



The Bulletin

A Publication of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

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District 7, 9 City Council Candidates Address Friendship Residents at Candidate Forum

Friendship holds a unique place in the city of Pittsburgh, having the honor of being represented by three different Council members.

With two of those seats essentially up for grabs in the upcoming May primary (there are no Republican or third party challengers for either of the seats) Friendship Development Associates and Friendship Preservation Group hosted a candidate forum on April 18 to allow all candidates a chance to present themselves and audience members a chance to question the candidates. The forum was moderated by State Representative Lisa Bennington.

District 7 Council Candidate Patrick Dowd started the night by reinforcing to the audience his experience on the Pittsburgh Public School Board. Dowd says that when he joined the school board, the PPS had

financial issues similar to what the city now faces. Dowd says that he feels that tackling the city's financial issues should absolutely be a top priority. "If we don't get our finances under control," Dowd said, "we will have to deal with it five, ten years down the road."

"It's time to throw out the playbook and start to rethink how we do things here."

Dowd also said that, if elected, he plans to make sure that city services are distributed based on a system of "performance," not "patronage."

"Your street should not be paved based on who you know," Dowd insisted, "or what position you hold."

Dowd also said that he feels that he has the ability to work hand-in-hand with other Council members to reach the goals that he

By Mandy Kendall
The Bulletin

feels the city must set to improve its future.

Dowd's opponent, Councilman Len Bodack, says that he was not able to attend the candidate's forum due to a personal conflict. In comments submitted to The Bulletin, Bodack pointed to accomplishments during his time in office that he feels reflect his ability to provide his constituents with the city leadership they need.

In reference to city finances, Bodack refers to a history of restoring essential city services like rodent control and re-opening pools and recreation centers, as well as working to provide funds for crossing guards for the city.

Public safety has also been a priority of his time in office, Bodack says, as he participated in the closing of nuisance bars

such as the Horoscope in Garfield and JK's in Lawrenceville, as well as helping to establish neighborhood block watches to curtail violent and criminal activity. Bodack also brought resources that led to drug arrests and the confiscation of over 300 bags of heroin at the corner of Stanton and Negley Avenues.

Bodack also points to recently introduced city legislation, which he co-sponsored, to eliminate property blight and hold absentee landlords accountable.

Bodack says that his staff has a good history of working with constituents and community groups, and that his "daily interaction with residents provides invaluable insight for community revitalization."

District 9 Council Candidate Leah

See **CANDIDATES**, Page 10

Façade Collapse Brings Lawrenceville Neighbors Together

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

When part of the façade of her century-old brick rowhouse collapsed, Loretta Jennis didn't realize that the calamity would actually strengthen her ties with her Lawrenceville neighbors.

On the morning of February 23, Jennis's neighbor, Ray Halyak, a retired PennDot worker, had just finished shoveling the snow from Jennis's walk and returned to his home four doors up Holmes Street. What he heard next "sounded like a big peal of thunder, like in the summer," said Halyak, who has lived on the block for 40 years.

Jennis, a lifelong Lawrenceville resident who has been in her house for 10 years, said there had been no forewarning of trouble, just the giant boom that signaled disaster – the lintel and top portion of her façade had crashed to the



Photo by Ray Halyak

ground. "You couldn't believe how fast it came down," noted Halyak.

See **FACADE**, Page 8

Neighborhood Academy Students Volunteer in New Orleans Rebuilding

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Five neighborhood high school students got a close-up look at the destruction wrought by Hurricane Katrina, when they traveled to New Orleans during the first week of their March spring break to volunteer in the city's reconstruction.

Teens from the Neighborhood Academy, a private school of 60 students located at 5231 Penn Avenue in Garfield, spent two and a half days gutting houses in Hollygrove, one of the New Orleans neighborhoods hit hardest when the levees failed and flood waters surged. The deadly August 2005 storm demolished more than 200,000 Louisiana homes, many of which are still in ruins.

The Neighborhood Academy students included eleventh grader Abby



Photo courtesy of Emily Baldwin

Buettner, tenth graders Raisaunya Jones and DonQuia Snowden, and ninth graders Leyland Foizey and Cevian Williamson. Faculty members Emily Baldwin, Alexis Book, and John McClelland supervised the group.

The students said they had seen Katrina's damage in the paper and on television, but the visit brought the

See **NEW ORLEANS**, Page 9

**JUNE
DEADLINE!**



The **FINAL DEADLINE** for the **June 2007** issue of The Bulletin is **Friday, May 15, 2007**. This includes ALL classified ads, Bulletin Board announcements, story submissions and ad space reservations. Information is accepted on a space-available basis.

For more information, call 412- 441-6915.

PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE REPORT

Citizen Observer Links Police, Public to Protect Neighborhoods

An important new public safety initiative is coming to Pittsburgh!

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Citizen Observer delivers free citizen alerts and crime prevention information to the community, providing an effective Internet communication tool to protect neighborhoods. More than 300 communities throughout the country are currently plugged into the system.

Here's how it works. By registering at the Citizen Observer website (www.citizenobserver.com), individuals and businesses can get up-to-the-minute information and alerts on recent crimes, wanted fugitives, and crime prevention from the police in their neighborhoods — like having personal access to a police radio. In addition, Citizen Observer posts photos and descriptions of missing persons, such as children or Alzheimer's patients who have wandered off.

Users stipulate how they want to receive their alerts — via the Internet, e-mail, fax, pager, or text messaging. The speed of the system's technology means that alerts may arrive in as little as 45 seconds after the police release the information.

Registered users can also provide anonymous tips to the police to help solve local crimes, becoming part of a two-way communication system between the public and law enforcement. The program bolsters the work done by neighborhood watch groups, making their efforts even more effective.

Citizen Observer began in Pittsburgh in March as a pilot program in Zone 1 (the Northside communities), and will be available soon in Zones 2 through 5. To fund the pilot for the first two

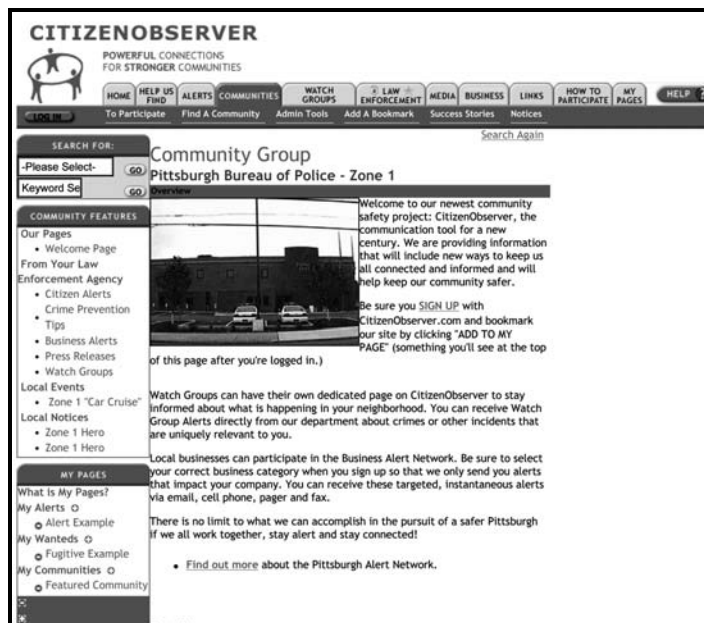
years, Zone 1 community leaders raised \$11,000 in

small grants from local banks and in district funds from City Council Members Tonya Payne and Darlene Harris.

An additional \$44,000 is needed to cover expansion of the program throughout the city for two years. On April 23, members of the Committee on Public Safety Services of the Pittsburgh City Council took up the issue of funding Citizen Observer citywide, hearing a presentation by police and community leaders from Zone 1. The program, said Rhonda Brandon of Northside Leadership Conference (NSLC), is a good way for "people to begin to trust and work with the police" to improve their neighborhoods.

"We can't sell houses or attract businesses to our community if people don't feel safe," added Mark Fatla, of NSLC. "This is a way to combat ignorance and fear, and an important community development strategy."

The Council committee moved to bring a bill before the full City Council on May 1 to fund the implementation of Citizen Observer throughout the city. Councilmember Payne called the program "a proactive way for citizens to participate" in the public safety of their communities. Council President Doug Shields praised it as "a comprehensive tool for our citizenry" and said he could foresee other valuable uses for the system, such as issuing reports on water main breaks, landslides, and mass evacuations. Shields vowed that Council would fast-track the funding of the system.



Courtesy of Citizen Observer / Used with permission

SAMPLE PAGE FROM WWW.CITIZENOBSERVER.COM, SHOWING PITTSBURGH ZONE 1 INFORMATION

Neighborhood "Demolition" Watch!

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) has become aware of an illegal contractor who has been stripping vacant houses in this area, claiming that he is preparing them for demolition. If you see a demolition in process in any of the neighborhoods covered by *The Bulletin* (Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty, or Lawrenceville), please call Aggie Brose at 412-441-6950 with the location of the building so that BGC and the city can verify

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Zone Meetings

If you would like to stay up-to-date with police efforts in your area, then please attend one of the monthly zone meetings, held by each zone's police dept.

The Zone 5 Meeting is held the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. on the 3rd floor of the Zone 5 Police Station in East Liberty. For more information, call Zone 5 at 412-665-3605.

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

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Peabody High School, Making a Change in Schools and Communities

Thirteen students at Peabody High School, who are participating as part of the Earth Force project in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh's CAST program, have presented their graduation project on recycling and a community-wide clean-up.

The students have been working to make a difference by recycling trash and keeping their school and communities clean. They organized a few events to provide information about recycling and keeping the environment clean.

The students' week of events, which began Tuesday, April 10th, culminated in a student-run assembly on Friday, April 13. The informative assembly explained why people should recycle, and included speeches by representatives from the Mayor's office, ABITIBI, and the PA Recycling Council, as well as Peabody's

By Kostoula Vallianos
Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force

own principal, John Vater.

The assembly was highlighted by a fashion show featuring clothing made from recycled materials.

As part of the students' project, an ABITIBI paper recycling bin has been placed at Peabody. This bin will be open to all members of the community who want to contribute used paper items for recycling.

ABITIBI pays schools and organizations that have bins on their property based on the amount of paper collected. Peabody will benefit greatly if everyone in the community uses the bin.

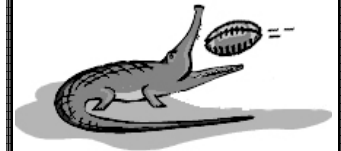
The students would also like to remind everyone of the Community Clean-Up that will take place on Saturday, May 12, in conjunction with the Excellence for All event, which will take place on the same day. (See ad, page 9.)



Photo Courtesy of Kostoula Vallianos

PEABODY STUDENTS SHOW OF FASHIONS INSPIRED BY RECYCLED MATERIALS AT AN ASSEMBLY TO CELEBRATE THE COMPLETION OF SENIOR PROJECT, WHICH FOCUSED ON RECYCLING AND COMMUNITY-WIDE CLEAN-UP.

Garfield Gators are recruiting!



The Garfield Gators are recruiting youth fotoball players and cheerleaders for the 2007 season.

Sign-up will be held on Saturdays in May (May 5, 12, 19 and 26) from 2-4 p.m., at the Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Avenue in Garfield.

Anyone who is interested, please come!



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Reflecting on Mother's Day

Mother's Day can be a sad time for those whose mothers are no longer living. Whether this is your first Mother's Day without your mother or if it has been years since she has died, there are many ways to honor your deceased mother or grandmother on Mother's Day.

We would like to offer the following suggestions:

- Talk about your mother with people who remember her.
- Bring out pictures of your mother, and show them to other family members.
- Consider taking flowers to the cemetery.
- Do something your mother would have enjoyed.
- Give a Mother's Day donation to your mother's favorite charity in her name.
- And finally, bring back the tradition of wearing a single white carnation in memory of your deceased mother.



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The Bulletin

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

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

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- report on activities and ideas
affecting those communities
- offer an opportunity to express
opinions and exchange ideas

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City of Pittsburgh, and State Senator
Jim Ferlo for their support.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

On April 4th retired Senior Editor for
the Post-Gazette and member of the
District 2 School Board Coalition Mr.
Clarke Thomas wrote a [perspective]
piece in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
where city Council candidate Patrick
Dowd accuses Lawrenceville United of
drawing a direct correlation between
race and crime. Mr. Dowd's unfounded
and irresponsible comments have
deeply offended our organization. The
following are statements attributed to
Mr. Dowd, and the response from
Lawrenceville United.

Mr. Thomas writes in his April 4th
article: These questions (To be
answered by City Council candidates)
were gleaned from a list drafted by
Patrick Dowd in his race for the District
7 seat on City Council.

"Many housing experts have criticized
groups like Lawrenceville United for
drawing a one-dimensional correlation
between race, crime and low-income
housing. What do you think are the
major contributors to crime in your dis-
trict? And what would you do about
them?"

Lawrenceville United Executive
Director Tony Ceoffe writes in
response: In his April 4th Perspectives
column, Clarke Thomas urges local vot-
ers to wake up and ask political candi-
dates the tough questions that will affect
the "future welfare of the city." Ironi-
cally-or perhaps hypocritically-Mr.

Thomas himself has relied on a political
candidate to spoon-feed him the ques-
tions that voters should ask of their city
council representatives. Mr. Thomas
adds a caveat of "full disclosure," noting
that the source of his questions is a cur-
rent candidate for city council. We hope
that readers don't think that, simply
because Thomas tells us that he's copy-
ing off Patrick Dowd's paper, this
excuses his journalistic laziness.

Furthermore, as Lawrenceville resi-
dents who have worked hard to improve
our neighborhood's quality of life, we
take issue with the portrayal of our
organization in an unfavorable light.

Mr. Thomas and Patrick Dowd unfair-
ly singled out our organization's work,
stating that Lawrenceville United has
been criticized by "housing experts"
(who will apparently remain comfort-
ably anonymous).

Mr. Thomas suggests through
Patrick Dowd's words that we do not
understand how "low-income housing,"
crime, poverty, and racial disparity cre-
ate complex challenges in our city's
neighborhoods. In fact, we do recognize
a strong correlation between housing
and crime, and we also make a distinc-
tion between low-income housing and
severely blighted, substandard housing
that is unfit for human habitation. In our
neighborhood, crime data [have shown]
us that these severely blighted buildings
owned by absentee landlords are often

the home base for criminal activity.

These are houses with broken or
boarded windows, lacking safe heat-
ing or lighting systems, and infested
with insects and vermin. These are
structures that people do not want to
live in; sadly, these buildings inade-
quately serve as homes for people
without better choices. In addition,
they are inhabited by a different
group[of] people who exploit our resi-
dential neighborhoods by using
these buildings as headquarters for
their criminal enterprises.

We are working to make
Lawrenceville safe and healthy for
ALL people, regardless of race, age,
or income, but that won't happen
until the twin problems of blight and
crime are addressed. Mr. Thomas is
right to suggest that city residents
should consider the causes and
effects of crime in our neighbor-
hoods. But we won't find answers by
adopting a line of questioning that is
designed to serve a single candidate,
or by unfairly criticizing organiza-
tions that are working to create a
solution.

Tony Ceoffe

Executive Director
Lawrenceville United

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

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

Housing Court (Finally!) Gets Tough on Problem Property Owners

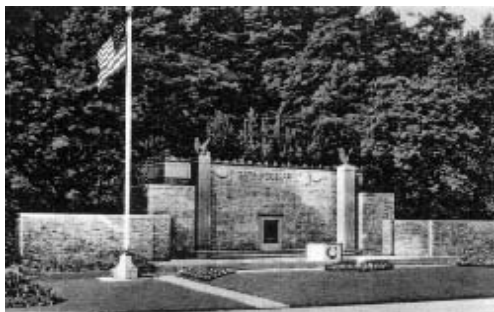
Almost five years ago in our November 2002 issue of *The Bulletin*, Louis V. and M. Sebastian, the recorded owners of 5014 Jordan Way and 5120, 5022, 5024 and 5031 Broad Street were highlighted in a feature that was then called "Bad Property Owner of the Month." At that time, the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) had issued several citations, including rubbish, overgrown weeds, and broken window panes, among other violations. Additionally, all of the aforementioned properties were vacant and condemned. Although several cases were filed against the



Photos by Mandy Kendall / The Bulletin

See **PROPERTY**, Page 7

Allegheny Cemetery Invites the Community



Annual Memorial Day Service
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Financial Education Fair Invites Residents to Take Control of Their Money

In America in 2007, it is more important than ever

By Emily Keebler
Neighborhood Housing Services

League of Pittsburgh. The Fair will include semi-

to know how to manage your money. The most recent records show that from 2000 to 2004 real income (income adjusted for inflation, the upward movement of prices of goods and services) decreased by 3%, an equivalent of \$1,600* in just four years. If we are essentially making less and less money each year, we must be sure to make wise decisions with the money we do have, by budgeting, saving and investing, and avoiding unnecessary, expensive financial "opportunities" such as predatory loans.

To help residents of the Pittsburgh area do just that, local non-profits, government agencies, and financial institutions have come together to form the Financial Education Consortium of Southwestern Pennsylvania. This collaboration of financial service educators will hold the first-ever Financial Education Fair in the Pittsburgh area on Saturday, June 2, 2007: "You Control Your Money: Be Wealthy for Life".

The Financial Education Fair, a free event, will open with remarks from the Fair's Honorary Chairwoman, Esther Bush, President and CEO of the Urban

nars on Knowing Your Credit, Budgeting, Avoiding Predatory Lenders, Youth Financial Literacy and other beneficial topics. In addition, over 40 agencies will be on hand to speak with participants one-on-one about financial education programs that are available in the area, such as matched savings programs, free homeownership classes, low-interest loans, and much more.

The event will be held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Downtown Pittsburgh from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Saturday, June 2, 2007. Attendance is free to all, and prizes will be raffled throughout the day. Participants may come for just one seminar, but are encouraged to stay the whole day.

For more information on the Financial Education Fair, contact the Financial Education Consortium at 412-281-9986 or ekeebler@nhsdpa.org.

* The State of Working American 2006/2007, The Economic Policy Institute, www.stateofworkingamerica.org.

A Good Credit Score Is Worth the Discipline

In the market for a new or used car? Or thinking about buying a

By Cathy Niederberger
PNC Senior Vice President,
Community Development Banking

credit worthiness can come from a variety of sources.

For instance, some

home? How much you can borrow, and the rate of interest you pay, will determine how much car or house you are able to buy. What you may not know is that your record of payment on credit cards and loans, the amount of debt you currently have outstanding, and whether you have paid your bills on time will impact the amount of a loan and the interest rate you are able to get. These factors are best summed up in your credit score.

Credit scores are based on a scale of 300 to 900, with 676 being the national average score. Your credit score is a reflection of your credit history. According to The PNC Financial Services Group, the higher the score, generally the more qualified you are to receive a better interest rate and/or a larger amount of loan. In addition to the items mentioned above, it will include any negative information, such as late payments, delinquencies, liens and judgments.

In calculating a credit score, it is usually the case that roughly 35 percent is based on payment history, 30 percent on outstanding debt, 15 percent on the length of time a consumer has had credit, 10 percent on the number of inquiries into a report, and 10 percent on current types of credit.

The use of a credit score is not limited to those who make loans. Insurers, employers and landlords also use the scores to screen applicants. And the reporting of your

utility companies, and others who bill for their services, will also track your payment history and report on your creditworthiness.

Tips to Improving a Credit Score

- Pay bills on time – Pay at least the minimum due, but paying more is even better.

- Establish credit - If you haven't established credit in your own name, start small by getting one or two credit cards. They could be a department store card, gasoline credit card or some other retailer whose services you use.

- Watch for warning signs of credit trouble – Paying only the minimum balance, paying late, and using cash-advances for daily living expenses might put one in the credit "danger zone." For more information on debt management, contact the National Foundation for Consumer Credit (www.nfcc.org)

- Evaluate credit reports annually – You want your credit report to be accurate for when you apply for future credit. Everyone is entitled to receive a free copy of their credit report. To get yours, go through the Federal Trade Commission's website at www.annualcreditreport.com, or call 1-877-322-8228.

- If an error is found, the credit reporting agency must investigate and respond within 30 days of your reporting the error.

- Errors should be reported directly to

See CREDIT, Page 13



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www.dowdforpittsburgh.org

TOGETHER WE CAN.

PATRICK DOWD
CITY COUNCIL • DEMOCRAT DISTRICT 7

PROPERTY, From Page 5

Sebastians in Housing Court, for years, they remained unpunished.

A visit to the property now would reveal that not much has changed in almost five years. The rear and cellar doors of the house on Jordan Street sit wide open, inviting a whole host of problems. The properties on Broad Street, while boarded up, still have garbage and debris filling the back yard, including a car bumper. To make matters worse, the Broad Street properties sit directly behind two new homes that were built on N. Winebiddle - properties with beautiful backyards and a hideous view of the blight.

But, on April 17, the Sebastians had a hearing in Housing Court, and Judge Kevin Cooper finally served our community some justice. Although the Sebastians did not appear for the hearing, they were each fined \$2015 for their Broad Street and Jordan Way properties, in addition to fines they

received for two other properties they own.

While the fines may not seem significant, what else Judge Cooper ordered may be. In addition to the fines, Judge Cooper issues warrants for the Sebastians' arrest for their failure to appear at the hearing.

This sets a landmark precedent and sends a message to slum landlords that they cannot continue to rob our communities of their equity and simply blow off their responsibilities.

Thanks to the commitment of BBI and its attorney, C.J. Liss, and the vigor of Judge Cooper, those who have lost hope in the system may now see a reason to believe again. The staff of the BGC hope that this precedent means that housing court will continue to come down harder on the property owners who think that they can simply walk away from their social responsibilities to our neighborhoods.

MY OPINION**What About the School Buses?**

By Lynn Manley

Author; Former Garfield Resident

The law is set on the safety of our children in America. We have Mr. Yuk Stickers, plug covers, safety gates, child protection locks; I can go on, and on.

I find myself asking the question, what about safety on the school buses? I know they are on the "short" buses, but what about the regular buses?

We have to put our seat belts on us and on our children or we will get a ticket: "Click it or Ticket". What's wrong with the rules that they don't apply to the school buses? Is it that children won't get hurt on the school buses, or is it a money issue?

There are so many bus incidents, do we really need more? My daughter's bus was going around a

car and went on the sidewalk, and some of the kids fell out of the seats. The kids were tossed around a bit, but no major injuries.

There was nothing to keep those kids in their seats. When we put our kids on the bus and kiss them goodbye, do we also say to them, "buckle-up"? No! There are no seat belts.

Parents: think about that the next time you put your child on the bus. We all have a voice, let's use it. This should be a concern to everyone. There are funds for other safety issues, why not seat belts? I hope that this will change the way we all think about the school buses we put our children on. Safety belts on school buses should be the law too.

**Dear Neighbor,**

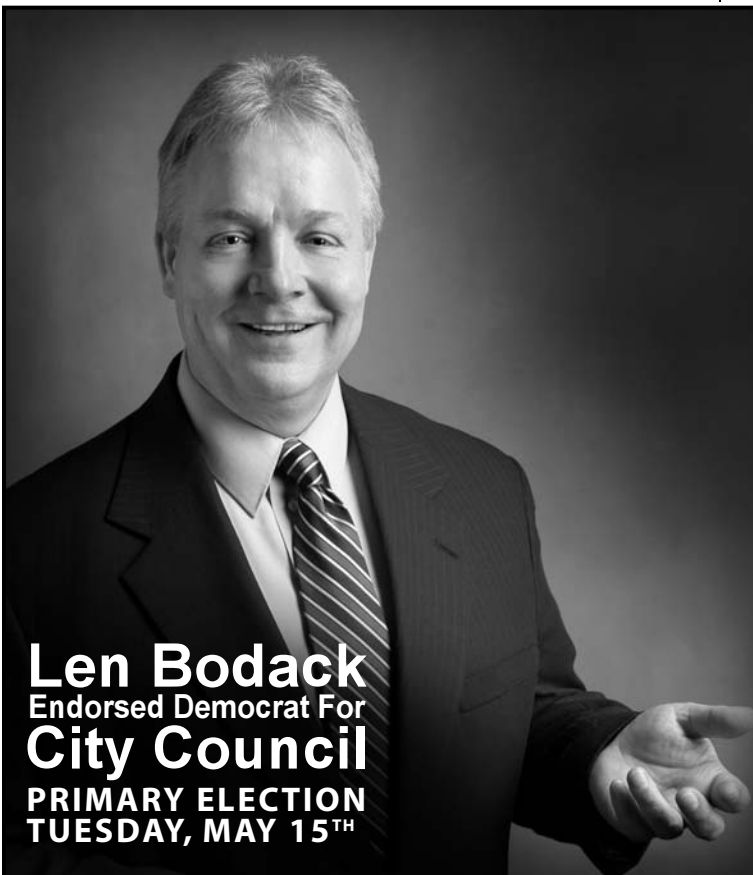
During my term on City Council, I have fought to improve our quality of life. We have added police, we are fighting drugs, and we put beat cops back on the streets of our business districts.

Working with our community, we have shut down nuisance bars, brought new money for essential projects and leveraged funds to tear down dilapidated houses and clean up blight. We have made a good start. There is much, much more to do.

We have been able to restore previously cut essential services like rodent control and reopen some rec centers and pools. And last year we restructured the existing city debt so we could restore a modest capital budget to pave streets and purchase police cars and fire equipment without raising taxes.

My wife Sharon and I are raising our children here, and teaching them the values we learned from our parents, respect for our neighbors, and the belief that as a community we are all in this together. I am running for re-election to City Council. I ask for your vote so I can continue to work for all of us.

Len Bodack



Len Bodack
Endorsed Democrat For
City Council
PRIMARY ELECTION
TUESDAY, MAY 15TH

FAÇADE, From Page 1

No one was injured by the falling bricks and stone. "It was morning, and the kids were coming to school," said Jennis, whose house sits directly across the street from McCleary Elementary School. "Sometimes during fire drills, they bring the kids across the street. It could have been a lot worse!" Only Jennis's property was affected; even cars on the street escaped harm.

The police and firefighters who responded to Jennis's 911 call notified the Housing Authority, which ended up inspecting the entire block, since the houses are connected in two rows. On March 5, the city's Department of Public Safety slapped all 13 homeowners

with building code violations, notifying them of "an unsafe condition" and ordering them to complete all repairs within a mere 15 days.

"That was the worst part," said Jennis. "I panicked - 15 days to fix everything!" The falling bricks also damaged her awning and porch roof. Jennis called her city Council member, Len Bodack, and state senator, Jim Ferlo, whose offices helped get an extension to do the work - as long as it takes to make the improvements.

Bodack's office also alerted her to the possibility of a 0% home improvement loan from the city. (See sidebar.) Jennis's façade repair will cost about \$5,000, which her insurance company declines to cover, claiming that the damages were caused by 20 years of repeated freezing and thawing. Insurance will, however, pay for the awning and porch roof. At press time, Jennis had just signed the contract for her repair work to begin.

But there's more to the story. After receiving their citations, the homeowners on the block - a mix of longtime residents and fairly new arrivals - held a meeting in Jennis's home to share information and plan a course of action. "Neighbors didn't really know each other," Jennis said. "I was so impressed with how everyone came together."

Five of the homeowners, Halyak said, ended up hiring the same contractor to



Photo by Ray Halyak

HOMEOWNERS IN THE 5200 BLOCK OF HOLMES AVENUE IN LAWRENCEVILLE (FROM LEFT): HELEN SCHMIDT, LORETTA JENNIS, FRANK PADOL, DAN GIBBONS, KAREN GIBBONS, JAY RESSLER, BRIGITTE MARY, AND MARGARET COSTELLO; (ON PORCH) JOY HALYAK AND MARTHA RESSLER.

work on their homes, which turned out to be minor brick pointing and similar repairs. Jennis and her next-door neighbor joined together to hire a different contractor, as their homes required more significant work than the rest of the block.

After their first meeting, the neighbors reconvened two weeks later, and "we're just going to keep meeting once a month, even if we don't have to," said Jennis, who noted that neighbors take turns hosting the brand-new block association. Ideally, they would like to see

the neighborhood return to what it once was - a safe place to own a home and raise a family.

Jennis and Halyak both noted negative changes in the neighborhood, including a shooting two years back and a recent drug bust. "We just come home, lock the door, and stay in, scared to go out at night," said Jennis. "The 10th Ward could really use some help."

The neighbors offered advice for other homeowners. "Get to know who's living next door. Who's on your block? Who's looking out for you?"

Affordable Home Improvement Loans

Did you know that the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Pittsburgh Home Rehabilitation Program offers 0% interest loans to homeowners for making improvements to their residences? Examples include correcting building code violations, removing lead hazards, and providing disability access. Homeowners may borrow up to \$25,000 for a single unit and \$35,000 for a two-unit home, with terms ranging up to 20 years.

To qualify, you must own and occupy a residence within the city of Pittsburgh and fall within specific family income limits. More information is available from URA at 412-255-6666, or on the Web at www.ura.org/phrp.html.



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NEW ORLEANS, From Page 1

news vividly to life. "I just wanted to see what it looked like and what happened," said Williamson, who had never been that far from home.

"Other people were helping out, too," said Jones, about her decision to lend a hand. Baldwin arranged for the group to work with Trinity Christian Community, a New Orleans ministry active in the rebuilding efforts, often with the help of out-of-town volunteers.

The group had to raise funds to cover their own travel expenses. A talent show at the school, gifts from family and teachers, and donations from local businesses like Dozen Cupcakes in Squirrel Hill, National City Bank, and Del Monte, brought in over \$5,000 to cover their costs.

When they arrived in New Orleans, the devastation was "so much worse than I thought it would be," recalled Foizey. "It was just insane. There would be a ceiling that looked like it was falling in, and it was amazing that it hadn't."

Outfitted in respirator masks to protect against mold and other environmental hazards, the students performed hard physical labor from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., tearing down dry wall and ripping out damaged insulation, leaving only wooden frames standing. Then they carried debris to the street

for collection. Other volunteer groups will finish the rebuilding process.

Foizey said he had done remodeling work before, when his family remodeled its attic. But Jones admitted she "had never done anything that hard before - except for homework!"

Although they received no school credit for the trip, the students said they wouldn't have missed the experience. From now on, Jones said that she will think long and hard about asking for things from her family, since she witnessed firsthand how so many people lost everything. "It made me appreciate everything I have so much more. It made me appreciate my family."

"It made me appreciate my fridge," Foizey quipped, but he meant he was grateful to have enough to eat, unlike many residents displaced by the storm.

The trip wasn't all work, however, and the group had plenty of time to sample local cuisine like po'boys and "alligator bites" and to explore tourist attractions that were not damaged by flood waters, including the historic French Quarter.

Baldwin said the students will create a PowerPoint presentation of their trip to share with the rest of the school, using the dozens of photos they took to document the experience.



Photo courtesy of Emily Baldwin



Photo courtesy of Emily Baldwin

(FROM LEFT) ALEXIS BOOK, ABBY BUETTNER, JOHN MCCLELLAND, DONQUA (D.Q.) SNOWDEN, LEYLAND FOIZEY, RAISAUNYA JONES, CEVIAN WILLIAMSON, AND EMILY BALDWIN TAKE TIME OUT IN NEW ORLEANS' FRENCH QUARTER.

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FOR ALL

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or use the web address,
www.aplusschools.org/wn.html



SATURDAY

MAY 12 2007
8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at PEABODY HIGH SCHOOL
515 North Highland Avenue

A Community-Building Event to Support East End Students and Families

On May 12, 2007, Peabody High School will be collaborating with their community partners to host 'Excellence for All: An East End Community-Building Event.' Special Keynote Speaker: **Cle "Bone" Sloan**, now an inactive member of the L.A. Bloods Gang and author and star of the award winning documentary, *Bastards of the Party*. Currently airing on HBO, *Bastards of the Party* is the story of "one gang's violent evolution and a new generation's search for a way out." Sloan makes a positive call for change in modern gang culture with his message of reformatting the current gang structure to non-criminal and positive activities that build a societal connection and a larger purpose.

Superintendent Mark Roosevelt will provide introductory remarks about the important role that residents of all ages, community organizations and service providers play in improving the academic performance for all East End students through *Excellence for All*.

The purpose of the event is to connect the resources of the community, provide meaningful opportunities for community involvement and strengthen the East-End community for the advancement of all students. In addition, speakers and workshop presenters will be on site to discuss issues that address the needs of students in the surrounding community.

Exciting entertainment, speakers and lunch is planned throughout the day.

CANDIDATES, From Page 1

Kirkland, the first of five District 9 candidates to speak at the event, told residents she felt that a lack of economic development, unemployment, and "parents outliving their children," were the most pressing issues in District 9. The biggest roadblock the district faces in moving forward, Kirkland feels, is that it lacks the sense of neighborhood that she sees still existing in Friendship. The communities in District 9, Kirkland insisted, need to come together and break the barriers between neighborhoods in order to work together for the health of the district as a whole. "Segregation is over," Kirkland said. "We cannot segregate ourselves."

Kirkland says that it is also important to hold community groups accountable for actually providing the services that they claim to provide to the community.

When asked how she would accomplish bringing the neighborhoods together, Kirkland suggested that town meetings would be one way for communities to meet on issues that affect all of them.

District 9 candidate Eric Smith also named the economic conditions of District 9 as his highest priority. Economic blight must be addressed "before we're all movin' out of here," Smith quipped, referring to Pittsburgh's population loss.

Smith also said that city residents need to see a better return on their tax dollars, in the form of better city services for all residents, regardless of district, and money being put back into preventative programs for youth.

Smith proposes that the city and county look at ways to make the Port Authority more profitable, perhaps by allowing private bus companies to take over some of the services, and finding other economic opportunities to bring money back into the city.

Ora Lee Carroll, executive director of the East Liberty Concerned Citizens Council and also a District 9 candidate, pointed to her extensive background as a community leader as an indication of her ability to be a successful council member. Carroll has worked on a wide variety of programs, such as a behavior modification program for youth, and has worked with the local, state and federal governments to create successful community programs.

Carroll says that it is important for council to develop a plan to obtain a fair distribution of city services for all residents, and that neighbors must connect and work together to improve their communities.

Using the Larimer Community Plan as a model, Carroll says that she would push to rehab existing housing stock for low-income residents and clean up vacant lots for community use.

Rev. Ricky Burgess, the endorsed Democrat for the District 9 council seat, insists that the most important thing is to look at the "future of the district," rather than focusing on the past. Burgess says that economic stability and public safety initiatives would be the priorities of his council term. Burgess says that as a council mem-

ber, he would make public safety a top priority, and would push for both targeted police sweeps to take out drug and sex offenders, combined with targeted social service efforts to prevent people from turning to such crimes in the first place.

Burgess promised that, if elected, he would, within the first 100 days of his time in office, take specific steps for violence reduction and economic development.

Burgess says that currently, each community has its own economic development plan, and that by creating a comprehensive district-wide plan instead, the district has a better chance of pulling out of economic distress.

District 9 candidate Judith Ginyard said that she feels it is important to bring fiscal responsibility back to the city. "We've been doing this the same way too long," Ginyard says.

Ginyard says that her history as the former executive director of the Lincoln Larimer Community Development Corporation gives her the experience of knowing how to run a fiscally solid organization.

Creating homeownership opportunities is also a priority for Ginyard, who has the experience of being a Pa. Department of State licensed Real Estate Broker. Ginyard also serves on the Executive Board of the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG).

"Whatever needs to be done in our neighborhoods, we as a people must do it."

Absent from the forum was District 9 Councilwoman Twanda Carlisle. Representatives of Councilwoman Carlisle said that she was unable to attend the forum due to a previously scheduled event with the Black Contractors. Councilwoman Carlisle had not returned a request for comment as of The Bulletin's press time.

Although not part of the Friendship candidates forum, another important race for the East End is the one for county executive, between incumbent County Executive Dan Onorato and Richard Swartz, executive director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC is the publisher of *The Bulletin*), and a relative newcomer to politics. Asked what he has to offer the County, Swartz responded that he wants to work with "the many interests who want to see a stabilized funding picture for the bus transit system at the Port Authority, so that no communities are left without service..." "in addition to looking at a light rail system that could serve the entire county."

Swartz also says that he would like to remove the freeze on the real estate assessment system, which he calls "inequitable both for those who have purchased or built new homes recently, and for those living in neighborhoods or communities where market values are falling."

Among Swartz's other priorities would be conducting an in-depth review of the criminal justice system, specifically exploring

See CANDIDATES2, Page 16

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Playshop

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Preschool Storytime

For ages 3-5. Thursdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 at 10:30 a.m.

East Liberty PC Center:

Buying a Computer

In this class, you'll learn how to read those crazy computer ads, handle slick salespeople, and discover helpful resources to aid you in your purchase of a personal computer. Friday, May 18 from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Introduction to Library Services

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

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the library works. Prerequisite: Learn the WWW or solid WWW experience. Tuesday, May 22 from 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. This service has been funded with federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds administered by the Office of the Commonwealth Libraries.

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

Preschool Storytime

For ages 3-5. Thursday, May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 at 11 a.m.

Celebrate Mother's Day with a Gardening Party!

Bring Mom to the library for coffee

and muffins. Plant a beautiful flower to take home. Stay for additional crafts and activities. Registration required. Saturday, May 12 from 10-11:30 a.m.

Adult Book Discussion Group

This month's title is *Seminary Boy* by John Cornwell. Monday, May 14 at 5 p.m.

Parent Program

Discover new ideas on how to keep your children busy during summer vacation. Monday, May 21 at 10 a.m.

Annual Used Book Sale

Come and pick up a few good books for a few good bucks in the library auditorium! Saturday, May 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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A Message from the Mayor



By Mayor Luke Ravenstahl
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

Over the past month, I have begun acting upon my pledge to create a new Pittsburgh today and a better Pittsburgh tomorrow. We've persisted in our efforts to produce fresh ideas and bold leadership to ensure our city's fiscal recovery. We are finding new ways to make the most out of every taxpayer dollar, through public/private partnerships and by addressing, head-on, our city's largest budget dilemmas related to pensions and health care. At the same time, we are finding new ways to make sure our residents have state-of-the-art recreational facilities and enjoy living in one of America's cleanest and safest cities.

I've been visiting our neighborhoods, joining residents for community clean-ups, even rappelling down Mt. Washington's hillside. On Earth Day, I took the final steps to give our citizens another great regional park. The Grandview Scenic Byway Park, the first regional park located in Pittsburgh's south neighborhoods, has been talked about by local officials for years. We realized that the only way to ensure the park's existence was to work together with our non-profit organizations and foundations for funding, expertise, and resources. We also announced the opening of Schenley Park's new 'Sportsplex.' This new track and soccer field is another example of our strategy to revitalize our neighborhoods through public/private partnerships. We are the black and gold and green city and we recognize that our natural assets are as important as our great sports teams.

We are also making real strides in addressing our largest budget dilemmas. We cannot rely on outside organizations to fix a problem that is affecting every city in America. For that reason, I called together

Pennsylvania's first Mayor's Pension Summit, gathering mayors, government officials, and budget experts for a day of roundtable discussions and problem solving. The summit signaled a first step toward creating a solution, not just managing a problem.

We have also been proactive in controlling our city's health care expenses. Both pension and healthcare are the largest strains on our city's budget, and if not addressed, will deter our goal of continued fiscal recovery. As a result of our competitive bidding process for a new health care provider, we will save taxpayers over \$17 million dollars while keeping our promise to City workers by maintaining their benefits at no additional cost.

These cost savings help to ensure fiscal security for our City, which in turn spurs investment and development throughout. I kept my promise to the residents of the Hill District by bringing \$90 million dollars of development into Oak Hill, a project that had been stalled for more than 10 years.

Pittsburgh's Urban Redevelopment Authority implemented my Green Building Agenda, an agenda which celebrates sustainable building and living, and offering local development economic advantages by positioning and marking Pittsburgh as the black and gold, and green city. By providing financial incentives such as lower rates and extended payment deferral periods for development projects pursuing green building standards, we are encouraging that the money invested in green manufactured products be spent right here in our Pittsburgh. We need to be smart in ensuring we utilize as many economic development tools as we can, and by doing this we will give our developers more of a reason to build green, in turn strengthening the economic development of our city and ensuring our fiscal recovery. In order to keep moving this agenda forward, we will make certain that the implementation of green economic development principles are monitored by a new, full-time staff position with the City's URA.

By providing new resources for our citizens and finding new ways to implement fresh cost-saving ideas, we are furthering the economic development climate in our City. We are staying focused in providing the most we can for our taxpayer so that companies will want to invest in our city and our youth will want to stay.

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Professional Organizer Carol Briney offers suggestions and answers your questions about overcoming the clutter in your life.



Busy versus Busyness

Are you truly busy or is busyness a way of

avoiding your life? As someone who has coached and spoken to hundreds of people about having a simplified and balanced life, I have noticed two major categories into which most people place their lives.

The first category is being busy. We are all busy in this fast-paced overly informed world. The trick is to choose, really choose what you want to be busy with. How do you want to spend the 24 hours you have in each day?

I do believe that we all have a choice on how we spend our lives. However, most people spend more time planning their one-week vacation than they spend on decid-

By Carol Briney
Professional Organizer

The second category is busyness. Most of you who have been reading my column for years know that I believe that being "too busy" is a choice that we make. People call me all of the time and speak to me about being "too busy." They tell me I just do not understand their life. What I do know is we all have choices. We can all choose what we really want to do and what does not seem to fit for us.

I had a woman client in the past who told me that she had heard me speak at the National Bi-Polar Association Convention and thought that I might be able to help

ing what they do want in their one and only life.

See BUSY, Page 16

Family Services of Western PA Honors the Contributions of Foster Parents

In honor of Foster Care Awareness Month, Family Services of

By Sue Kerr
Family Services of Western Pennsylvania

is heartbreaking, but making a difference in a child's life is more fulfill-

ing than you can put into words. We have experienced the miracles that can happen when you offer love, patience and understanding. [The miracles] are what makes being a foster parent worth it all." Bonnie and her husband Nick have fostered over 120 children.

Another couple, Jana and Ken, have traveled all over the world and have seen first-hand the impact of poverty on children in Asia, Africa, and South America. So, when they came back to Pittsburgh and settled in a Northside neighborhood with their young son, they decided to do something to help local children in need and become foster parents with Family Services. "If we could come back to the States and make a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable children, we were determined to do it," says Jana.

After completing the necessary training and paperwork, Jana and Ken have opened their home to four

See FOSTER, Page 16

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CREDIT, From Page 6

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- Experian:
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- TransUnion:
1-800-888-4213,
www.transunion.com

• Don't skim, read the fine print – A loan or credit card application is a contract, so read it thoroughly before signing. Be aware of introductory rates that expire as well as the length of monthly billing cycles.


• Set a budget and stick to it – Developing a financial plan will help you keep your finances in order. Don't spend more than you can afford, and don't reach your credit limit or "max out" your cards. Be

sure to have a plan to pay down your debt, and stick with it.

- Apply for credit sparingly – Having too many open lines of credit will lower your score.
- Compare credit card and loan offers – don't jump at the first appealing offer; compare rates and fees offered through mail solicitation, on the Internet or at the local bank.

For more helpful information on your credit score, visit www.pnc.com and click on Account Services located under Products and Services. Scroll down and select TrueCredit. Or, visit any PNC bank branch and speak with a representative.

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for general labor, trash removal, mowing, painting. Self-starter, valid
driver's license, property improvement skills,
able to lift 50 lbs., pass background check.
\$10/hour. For more information or to apply, call
Lawrenceville United: 412-802-7220.

**Advertising Sales
Representative Needed**

The Bulletin is seeking a part-time
advertising sales representative.
Responsibilities include: finding new
advertisers for community-based newspaper
(circulation 20,000), maintaining relationships
with advertisers, and invoicing. Hours are
flexible; compensation is commission-based.
Previous sales experience is preferred.

To apply, send cover letter and resume to:

The Bulletin
5149 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
or fax to: 412-441-6956
or e-mail to bgbulletin@yahoo.com

No phone calls, please.

BULLETIN BOARD

LHS PRESENTS 1930s LABOR/POLITICS

Join the Lawrenceville Historical Society on Thursday, May 17, for "Labor and Politics in the 1930s," and find out how Pittsburgh went from a Republican stronghold to a Democratic bastion. Dr. Eric Davin, Professor of History at the University of Pittsburgh, is the invited speaker. The event is free, and it's happening at Canterbury Place, McVay Auditorium (1st floor), 310 Fisk Street, Lawrenceville. Starting time is 7 p.m. For information, e-mail info@LHS15201.org.

NEW BETHEL CHURCH FREE TUTORING

New Bethel Church is looking for students in grades 1 through 9 who require tutoring and homework help in math, reading, and language arts during the school year. The free tutoring takes place Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon at 221 43rd Street, Lawrenceville. Skill Builders software helps students study at their own pace. If you can work a keyboard and need help in any of the subjects listed above, this is the place for you! Refreshments are served at the end of each session. Please contact Nicita Moses, Tutoring Administrator, at 412-728-4046 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, or by e-mail at nicitamoses@verizon.net; or Dallane Ratley, Tutoring Instructor, at 412-605-0126.

MORNINGSIDE C.O.G.I.C. PENTECOST SERVICE

"The Holy Ghost" is the theme of Morningside Church of God in Christ's Pentecost Service on Sunday, May 20, at 4 p.m. The speaker will be Dr. Willa M. Johnson, Pastor Emerita. Morningside C.O.G.I.C. is located at 5173 Dearborn Street in Garfield. For more information, please call 412-361-9865.

DAT's SUMMER SESSION REGISTRATION

Dance Alloy Theater's 8-week summer semester starts June 9, and registration by May 25 receives a \$10 discount! Visit us online at www.dancealloy.org and register yourself or your kids today! A wide range of creative movement classes are offered for children as young as 3 years old, including First Steps, Creative Movement, Creative Pre-Ballet and Introduction to Dance, as well as a variety of classes for tweens, teens and adults. From Modern Technique, Jazz and Ballet to Hip Hop, Salsa and Middle Eastern Dance to the popular Pilates classes, Dance Alloy Theater has something for everyone. This semester we're also offering three new classes in Irish Step Dancing for kids and adults - no experience necessary! Get great exercise and enjoy moving to traditional and contemporary Irish music as you learn the basic elements of proper technique for reels, jigs, slip jigs, and figure (or team) dancing! All dance and movement classes are taught in a fun, cre-

ative and uniquely non-competitive environment with seasoned master teachers, often with live accompaniment, at DAT's studios at 5530 Penn Avenue, in Friendship/East Liberty. For more information, please call 412-363-4321.

GROW YOUR OWN FOOD!

Plots are available in two spots on Dearborn St. for those wishing to garden. Youth are especially welcome. The ground will be turned over for you. Some tools will be made available. Some seeds and seedlings will be provided from last year, but feel free to purchase your own. Why not grow your own fresh vegetables, get a little exercise, and watch Mother Nature do her thing? Call Tim at 412-661-0805 for questions, encouragement, gardening tips or to reserve a plot.

YOUNG MOTHERS GATHERING

The Parish Nurse Ministry of Our Lady of the Angels Parish cordially invites you to attend "A Gathering of Young Mothers" from our community. The event will take place on Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Holy Family Social Hall, 256 44th Street. The free gathering includes continental breakfast, a speaker, and a Mother's Day remembrance. Free childcare is available in the Fingerprints Day Care Center. Please register by May 4 by calling Linda at 412-828-2850 or Joan at 412-781-4133.

VALLEY VIEW CHURCH TOWN HALL MEETING AND COMMUNITY DAY

At Valley View Church, we believe Jesus has called us to be a community church, to love and serve and work for the renewal and restoration of our neighborhood, Garfield. Therefore, we are hosting a Town Hall style meeting from 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, May 10, at Valley View (corner of Aiken and Black). We want to listen to the many concerned voices of our community. Please come and share. There will be light refreshments! Any questions, please call the church at 412-361-0870 or Rev. Chad Collins at 412-708-6158. Also, come and worship with us Sunday, May 6, at 11:00 a.m. as we listen to God speak to us concerning our community Garfield.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR "OFF THE FLOOR"

Off the Floor Pittsburgh is a ministry dedicated to eradicating poverty in the Pittsburgh area by providing the most basic needs of bedding, furniture, and kitchen utensils to families who are eating and sleeping on the floor. St. Andrews Church has a small team of men dedicated to doing an occasional Saturday pickup and delivery job for this project, but we could use a few more volunteers from the neighborhood because not everyone can make it each time there is a call for our services. Membership in St. Andrews

is not required. For more information and/or to sign up for the team, please contact Al Mann, 412-661-5947.

SPRING CLEANING IN FRIENDSHIP

Is the garden ready? Weed and mulch Baum Grove for Friendship Folk & Flower Festival, Saturday, May 5, 8 a.m.-noon. Meet at Baum Grove, and please bring gardening tools and gloves. Coffee and bagels for the early birds! Please contact Julie Grove, Neighborhood Environment Chairperson, with questions: 412-600-1210.

PITTSBURGH DANCE ARTS SUMMER CLASSES

Summer Classes in Dance, Fitness, and Kids Musical Theatre! Don't miss a beat with ongoing classes throughout the summer. Great time for Beginners to start, Advanced students to work on technique, and everyone to get in great shape physically and creatively. Starting in June, new classes for Beginner Ballet and Super-Fit (part Pilates, part Calisthenics), as well as Tap, Jazz, Pilates, Belly Dance, Kids Musical Theatre. Please go to our website at www.pgh-dance.org for a complete list of schedules and rates, or call us at 412-681-7523. Conveniently located at 4059 Penn Ave. near Main Street.

EARTHEN VESSELS SUMMER DAY CAMP

Seeds of Hope Church, Earthen Vessels Outreach announces the 6th year of Summer Day Camp (located in the Garfield, Bloomfield, Friendship area). Six weeks 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday June 18-July 28. Camp includes hot breakfast and lunch. Morning program includes Bible, math, reading and computers. Afternoon includes swimming, tennis, soccer, basketball, recreational activities, arts and crafts etc. Examples of some field trips include bowling, Idlewild, Pittsburgh Zoo and Science Museum. Cost is \$120-\$300 for the entire summer (based on a sliding scale). After-camp academic day care provided \$20 weekly. Call Ms. Marilyn 412-414-2993 for registration. Special thanks to the Grable Foundation for their support.

FRIENDSHIP FLOWER & FOLK FESTIVAL

Friendship Preservation Group and Friendship Development Associates are once again co-sponsoring the Friendship Flower and Folk Festival (F4) on Saturday, May 12, from 11 am to 4 pm. at Baum Grove (corner of Roup and Fairmont). Locally grown flowering annuals and perennials, herbs and vegetables will be for sale -- proceeds support maintenance of Baum Grove, Friendship's own greenspace. Gently used books, food and raffle tickets are also for sale -- proceeds support Friendship Preservation Group's efforts to ensure the quality of life for all Friendship

residents. Highlights of this year's festival include performances by local musicians, dedication of poetry benches and gardening, belly dancing and police dog demonstrations throughout the day. This is a family-friendly event -- kids are encouraged to bring their skates, skateboards, bikes and trikes and to try the climbing mountain. See you there! For more information, please call Sarah Collins at 412-441-6147 x 7.

PEABODY HIGH SCHOOL "ALL CLASSES" REUNION

Come join your former classmates and friends for a Peabody High Class Reunion for "ALL Classes." on Wednesday, July 4, 2007. The theme will be "Remembering Garfield, The Way It Was." The reunion will take place at the St. Lawrence O'Toole Activity Center, located at 140 N. Atlantic Avenue in Garfield from 6 p.m. til 12 a.m. After you've had the picnic with your families, join us for an evening of "Remembrance, Dance and Song." Hors d'oeuvres will be served; event is BYOB. Cost is \$10 per person, payable at the door. For more information, please contact Michelle Glass-Franklin at 323-496-0412 or by e-mail at LHFranklin@msn.com; or Roxanne Miles-Thomas at 412- 661-2710 We hope to see you all there!!!

PANIC-ANXIETY / DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUP

A panic-anxiety / depression support group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at U.C.P. Community Center, 4638 Centre Avenue at Neville Street in Oakland. For information, call 412-255-1155, or just drop by. NO FEE.

A FLAVOR OF THE EAST END FUNDRAISER

East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM) invites the public to the first annual awareness and fundraising event - A Flavor of the East End - which is being held June 2, 2007, from 7 - 10 PM at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium - Water's Edge. The purpose of this event is to raise community awareness about EECM's mission as well as funds to support its programming. The evening will feature "grazing stations" with a variety of delicious small plate appetizers, lively music by Brad Yoder and Company, fun and furry polar bears, and a silent auction with fabulous items up for bidding! The honorary Co-Chair persons are Mayor and Mrs. Luke Ravenstahl and Mr. and Mrs. Dan Onorato. Sponsored in part by Federal Home Loan Bank, Gateway Health Plan, Giant Eagle Market District, Mellon Financial Corporation, National City Bank, Dollar Bank, and Mistick Construction, the evening promises to be a fun filled time. See the new polar bear exhibit while helping those most vulnerable members in our community. Tickets to A Flavor of the East End are \$75 per person before May 15th and \$85 per person after that date. Please join us in our

BULLETIN BOARD

efforts "to build a community of opportunity in Pittsburgh's East End" It'll be unbearable without you!!! To reserve your tickets, or for more information contact EECM at 412-361-5549 ext. 411, email eeem@eeem.org or visit www.eecm.org and www.eecmblog.org.

SOURCE OF INCOME DISCRIMINATION STUDY

The Fair Housing Partnership is investigating source of income discrimination. We want to know how difficult it is for people who have Section 8 housing vouchers, or other forms of rental/income assistance, to find decent housing. If you have been denied housing because you had a Section 8 voucher or were receiving SSI or some other form of government assistance or grant, we want to know about it. Right now it's legal for landlords to deny someone housing based on source of income, but that could change. If you have been denied housing or have left messages about vacant units that were never returned, or if a landlord has told you they do not accept Section 8, please call Tina Doose at Fair Housing Partnership: 412-391-2535.

UNBLURRED: FIRST FRIDAYS ON PENN

Penn Avenue Arts Initiative hosts Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn Friday, May 4th. Unblurred is a monthly event that opens the Penn Avenue Arts District (4800-5500 Penn) for exploration by adults and children. This month's Unblurred showcases "Nappy Headed Hoe's and Other Relevant Commentaries", at The Clay Penn - recent work by Vanessa German, with spoken word performance at 8:00 with Vanessa German, Rizesista and Kellee Maize. The evening also features events at Modernformations and The Union Project, among others. For a complete schedule visit www.pennavenuearts.org, or pick up a handbill/map at participating locations.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB PRESENTS "CAREERS WITHOUT DEGREES"

Yes - there are good paying jobs that don't require a college degree. There is no question that more education results in better paying jobs, but there are many jobs with skills and good wages that do not require a 4 year college degree. To explore jobs that don't require a college degree, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania will host a Career Fair for 7th and 8th graders and their parents to learn more about alternatives to undergraduate training. This special event will take place on Thursday, May 17, 2007 at the Teamsters Hall on Butler Street in Lawrenceville from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. There will be a pizza and salad buffet at 11:30 a.m. for all attendees who R.S.V.P. For more information or to R.S.V.P. please call the Boys & Girls Clubs of W. PA at 412-782-5710 x 100.

SONLIGHT ACADEMY SUMMER PROGRAM

SonLight Academy is a not-for-profit organization that provides childcare for children ages 6 to 12 years old. SonLight Academy's goal is to provide safe and affordable childcare that is fun and educational. Currently registrations are being received for the summer program that begins June 11 and ends August 24. The hours of operation are 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday thru Friday and the cost is \$75 per child per week.

F'SHIP HOUSE TOUR

Mark your calendars! The 14th Annual Friendship House Tour will be held on Sunday, September 16, 2007 from 11am-5pm. As 2007 is the "Year of Glass" in Pittsburgh, the tour will begin at the Pittsburgh Glass Center, right in the heart of the Penn Avenue Arts District. Many of the homes on tour have interesting glass amenities as well. For more information, please contact Sarah at 412-441-6147 x 7.

GLASS ACTION JOB TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Glass Action is a stained glass restoration social enterprise that will employ low-income individuals in the art of stained glass restoration. We will target historic structures in need of stained glass restoration that may not be able to afford go-rate restoration and contract with them on an application-based sliding scale. Glass Action will promote historic preservation, community and economic development and job creation and training. We are issuing a call for applications from ex-offenders who are interested in FT employment with benefits. Prospective employees must have demonstrated a commitment to recovery, employment and teamwork. No skills in stained glass restoration are required, though people who are good with their hands and able to learn new skills in manual labor are preferred. Please send resumes, references and cover letters to: Glass Action, Union Project, 801 N. Negley Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 Fax: 412-363-1216.

GARFIELD FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

The Garfield Family Support Center provides free services to parents of young children to keep them abreast of their early childhood developmental expectations, as well as having the opportunity to enhance their parenting skills. The Support Center is a place in the community for parents and children to come together to share, support one another and learn about their community's resources and special events. The mission of the Garfield Family Support Center is to provide support and interact with families living in the Garfield community. The Support Center will focus on bringing families together to promote unity, leadership and awareness

of the Garfield community. All Garfield residents who have children ages 0-5 years will be offered this free program and a full spectrum of services will also be available to school age children including homework and tutoring assistance. In addition, vocational training, educational programming and recreational activities will also be offered to teens and young adults. The Garfield Family Support Center offers the following services: • Home visits for individual parents w/ Children ages 0-5 years. • Child development activities • Family Goal plans • Parent to Parent interaction groups • Parent and child play interaction groups • Child development screenings • Health Insurance assistance • Computer classes for parents and children • Parent and child read to succeed program • Education and Employment and Career assistance • Housing Assistance • Conference lab for parent and group meetings • Health and Child care information • Food Bank • Family referral services to community/ Human and Social services. How do you sign up for these great programs here at Garfield Family Support Center? For more information about the Garfield Family Support Center, contact us at 412-661-9560 or just stop by the Garfield Family Support Center located at 5315 Hillcrest Street in Garfield.

DOOR OF HOPE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Join Door of Hope Community Church for the following community events in May:

Snapbooking: May 11 (second friday of every month) and May 28 (last Monday of the month), 7 p.m.

Women's Prayer Breakfast, May 5, 10 a.m.

Men's Dinner "Wing and a Prayer," May 25.

All events are at Door of Hope Community Church at 5227 Holmes Steet Lawrenceville. Call 412-781-6440 for more information.

CELEBRATE LIFE, CELEBRATE ART

Persad Center hosts its 19th annual Celebrate Life, Celebrate Art benefit auction at the Carnegie Museum of Art in Oakland on Monday, May 14. Presented by title sponsor University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), the event features both a silent and verbal auction with over 175 pieces of original artwork and special Art of Living packages including theater weekends and spa treatments. The auction serves as Persad's largest fundraising event and typically draws over 1200 attendees ranging from corporate and business leaders to art collectors; gay and lesbian community members; professionals of all ages, and over 200 regional, national and internationally contributing artists. All proceeds go to support Persad's unique counseling, wellness, education and research programs. Among the works to be sold in the verbal auction is Marcel

Mouley's internationally renowned "Nature Morte Aux Deux Instruments," a colorful lithograph donated by Wentworth Gallery in Florida. Mouly is the last living student of Pablo Picasso and his work is in the permanent collection of 22 museums including the Museum of Modern Art in Paris, Museum of Modern Art in Japan, Museum of Modern Art in Helsinki, Museum of Geneva, and Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris. Additional information can be found at www.persadcenter.org. To purchase tickets to Celebrate Life, celebrate Art, call 412-441-9786, ext 313 or visit www.persadcenter.org.

DREAMING SPRING AT L'VILLE GARDEN TOUR

Come join us for the 3rd Annual Lawrenceville Garden Tour, Sunday, June 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome to be part of the free tour! The tour starts at the Community Garden at 42nd and Sherrod Streets. If you would like to be one of the gardens on the tour, contact Liz: elizabethpascarella@yahoo.com

L'VILLE SPRING CLEANING & FLOWER PLANTING

The Lawrenceville community will celebrate Spring by planting flowers in its three volunteer-maintained community gardens at the 40th Street Bridge, the intersection of 48th and Butler, and the intersection of 57th and Butler on May 19 from 9 a.m. to noon. The Lawrenceville community will also plant flowers in its Penn Main District Garden at the intersection of Penn Avenue and Friendship Avenue on May 7 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Volunteers will meet at 4825 Butler Street at 9 a.m. on the morning of the May 19 planting and divide into teams to plant flowers in each bed. The beds will have been tilled and mulched beforehand by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. We will also be holding a neighborhood-wide clean up at the same time as the flower planting. Volunteers interested in eradicating litter from the streets of Lawrenceville can meet at the same place and same time as gardening volunteers. Anyone who is interested in helping with this effort can meet up on the morning of the May 19 event, or email jesse@lawrencevillecorp.com for more details. The annual garden planting is part of Lawrenceville's Clean Streets program, which is an initiative to keep the streets of Lawrenceville clean and attractive by engaging both businesses and residents. This year, community clean-up days will be held the third Saturday of every month from April through October to pick up trash in high-litter areas. These clean-up days are sponsored by Lawrenceville Corporation, Lawrenceville United, and Councilman Len Bodack. The garden planting is a joint effort of Lawrenceville Corporation, Lawrenceville United, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

BUSY, From Page 12

her. She told me that although she was not bi-polar, she thought I was speaking just to her that day. She came to me explaining that she literally could not move inside of her home because it was so full of stuff but her challenge was that she was so busy she did not have time to clean the house or purge any of the unnecessary items and this was making her crazy. At our first session together I had her tell me a little about how she spent her day. After listening to her talk nonstop for about 15 minutes about how much she had to do and how none of it could be changed I asked her if she really wanted things to change.

To make the changes we need to learn proper planning of our hours. We MUST take our life off of autopilot. We need to commit time to doing the right things for us and not just the next thing that comes along. Most of all we need to learn to spend our time effectively not just efficiently. To spend your life effectively you must decide, what are your values? What is it that

you hold dear?

Once you decide what your personal values are it is time to consciously decide what is right for you to be doing. The next step is to go about your day proactively choosing what the best activities are to keep your goals and values in alignment.

As you take these steps, it can be scary and uncomfortable at first. After all if you want what you have never had, you must do what you have never done. However, as you take the steps they will become more and more comfortable and soon, like my client, you too will be living an effective life that makes you happy and content.

Until next time, I wish you the true riches of life, peace, happiness, and time to enjoy it all.

Carol Briney is a speaker, trainer and home-based business coach. She can be reached at 412-781-8773. To find out how to attend one of her workshops, or to schedule one for your group go to www.universalor.com

FOSTER, From Page 12

children over the course of one year. Their most current foster child has been with their family for eight months.

The greatest strength of foster care is the foster parents. On May 20, 2007, Family Services will recognize the contributions and dedication of our foster parents at the Annual Foster Parent Recognition dinner at the Radisson Hotel in Monroeville. This evening will feature a keynote speaker, dinner, entertainment by local musician Eve Goodman and the presentation of awards to each foster family.

For more information on becoming a foster family, visit the Family Services website, www.fswp.org, or contact the Foster Care program directly at 412-661-1670, ext 649.

Family Services of Western Pennsylvania provides a wide variety of programs, services and activities for children, adults and families living in the Western Pennsylvania region. For more than 50 years, Family Services has maintained its commitment to its mission. For further information about Family Services of Western Pennsylvania or any of Family Service's other programs, services or activities, contact our office at 412-820-2050.

CANDIDATES2, From Page 10

alternative sentencing, focusing on upgrading investments in the infrastructure of distressed municipalities, and improving the public school system. Swartz says that constituent input is important to him, and that he would plan to run a "bottom-up" rather than "top-down" approach to government.

Onorato says that, if he is re-elected, he will work to "continue to stimulate economic development and growth, as well as explore opportunities to eliminate duplicated services and further streamline County government."

Onorato also says that he is committed to saving transit by working to ensure its long-term viability and sustainability.

"I'm the first elected official to take on outrageous costs at Port Authority," Onorato said, noting that he appointed new board members and a new executive director who share his goals of reducing management costs, rightsizing service, identifying dedicated funding and correcting union costs.

"We've already implemented changes to reduce management costs and taken steps to rightsize service. I'm working with legislators to identify dedicated funding for Port Authority - all of which will be used for service."

Editor's note: Mr. Swartz is the executive director of The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, publisher of The Bulletin. Although Mr Swartz frequently serves as a copyeditor for The Bulletin, he was not permitted by the editorial staff to review Mr. Onorato's comments before publication.

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