



The Bulletin

A Publication of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

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Garfield Native Invests in Peabody H.S.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

Keith B. Key, a successful businessman who grew up on Columbo Street in Garfield and graduated from Peabody High School in 1983, launched a pilot of "The Challenge Program" at a Peabody assembly on October 15. Key presented his alma mater with a check for \$3,500, providing seed money for an incentive program that challenges students to excel in four areas: Best Overall GPA; Most Improved Academically; Best Attendance; and Most Community Service. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors are eligible to compete, and twelve winners will each receive a check for \$250 at the end of the school year. "Twenty-four years ago I was sitting right out there," Key told the students to enthusiastic cheers. "I had a dream, and now I'm a millionaire. You can get there, too...I believe in you." Key is CEO of Columbus, Ohio-based KBK Enterprises, the company that is developing the new Garfield Heights affordable housing plan.

Celebration Turns Spotlight on After-School Programs

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Hundreds of parents, children, community members, and business people

crowded the Peabody High School auditorium on October 18 for a "Lights on Afterschool" event, hosted by State Rep. Jake Wheatley (19th Legislative District) and Wireless Neighborhoods, an alliance of community and faith organizations that provide after-school programming. The event was part of a nationwide celebration that turned a spotlight on the importance of quality after-school programs to students' success both during their school years and later in the workplace.

Approximately 146,000 children and youths aged 5 to 17 live in Allegheny County, with about 88 percent of them having either one or two parents in the labor force – which means that many

kids may be unsupervised for up to 25 hours a week. The lack of supervision

can lead to drug use, youth pregnancy, and crime. Mayor Luke Ravenstahl pointed out to the audience that the majority of crimes committed by youths occur during the hours of 3 to 6 p.m. In this county, about 3,600 young people aged 10 to 17 already have a juvenile court disposition record.

Pittsburgh Public Schools Superintendent Mark Roosevelt noted that the changing economy, especially in formerly industrial cities like Pittsburgh, has been "relentlessly cruel to undereducated people." About 20,000 children and young people in the county now live below the poverty

SEE SCHOOL, page 12

Garfield WWII Veteran Gets Late Recognition for Service

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

A decorated war veteran whose name was accidentally left off the World War II monument in Garfield 60 years ago finally got his proper recognition on October 21 at a dedication ceremony at the memorial site on Penn Avenue.

Garfield native Frank S. Pistella, now 85, saw active duty as a U.S. Army PFC in the European Theater of Operations from 1942 to 1945, surviving major battles in France and Germany, including the invasion of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge. Blown off a tank and a victim of combat fatigue, Mr. Pistella garnered five medals before returning home to Jordan Way. Waiting for him were his wife, Kay, and infant son,

who was born while Mr. Pistella was fighting in a foxhole in Europe. The Pistellas later had a daughter and raised their family on North Fairmount Street.

Today, Mrs. Pistella says her husband still has visions of the horrors he witnessed during the war. "The image that sticks with him is bodies stacked up in piles in the street," she notes.

But when it came to official acknowledgment of his valiant service, Mr. Pistella's old neighborhood inadvertently forgot him. After the war, a committee of Garfield women raised funds from local businesses and

individuals to erect a war memorial on Penn Avenue. Mr. Pistella's own family contributed to the fund.

Mr. Pistella's cousin had also been in the war, so there were two Frank Pistellas on the list of veterans, and someone erroneously assumed that one name had been repeated by mistake. That's why, in 1947, only "Pistella, Frank J." was inscribed on the memorial, which stands next to UPMC St. Margaret Family Health Center, but was originally located across the street, near the present-day A&M convenience store. President Harry S. Truman even made a stop at the monument in 1948, on his famous "whistle-stop" campaign tour.

SEE VETERAN, page 4



Courtesy Mrs. Kay Pistella

HOME FROM THE WAR, YOUNG FRANK S. PISTELLA POSED IN HIS UNIFORM ON JORDAN WAY.

DECEMBER DEADLINE!

The **FINAL DEADLINE** for the **December 2007** issue of The Bulletin is **Thursday, November 15, 2007**. 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



Paula Martinez/The Bulletin

Women Unite, Take Back the Night!

On October 18, dozens of women, men, and children gathered at East Liberty Presbyterian Church for a commemoration of the 30th anniversary of "Take Back the Night," an internationally observed rally to stop violence against women. The famous phrase "Take Back the Night" comes from a speech given in 1977 right here in Pittsburgh by Anne Pride, former executive director of Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR). The phrase literally means that women must take back their sense of safety on the streets, and that all should be free to live without fear. This year's event, organized by PAAR, included performances, self-defense demonstrations, speakers, a survivor speak-out, a candlelight vigil, and a display of "The Clothesline Project" (above). The Clothesline Project began on Cape Cod in 1990 as a visual display that calls attention to violence against women; the project displays T-shirts designed by women survivors of violence and their families and friends.

Lawrenceville United Receives Public Safety Award

Lawrenceville United (LU) and the City of Pittsburgh Police Department were honored on October 17 by MetLife Foundation for significant accomplishments in reducing crime and improving quality of life in the Lawrenceville neighborhood. Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, City Councilman Len Bodack, Police Chief Nate Harper, Assistant Chief Paul Donaldson, and MetLife Marketing Director Bruce Bickar were on hand at the award ceremony at the Estelle S. Campbell Boys & Girls Club at 4600 Butler Street.

The awards, sponsored by MetLife Foundation and administered by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), recognize partnerships between community development groups and police departments that have reduced crime and spurred housing development and economic activ-

ity and improved community services in low- and moderate-income communities. The Pittsburgh partners received a \$10,000 third-place Neighborhood Revitalization Award to sustain their community safety activities.

LU and its police partners have spearheaded a block watch network, community crime surveys, and a public safety newsletter. LU's successful strategies also include streamlining the condemnation and demolition of blighted and abandoned properties that serve as havens for criminal activity, and assisting police in targeting such properties in law enforcement operations. By working together on these projects, the partners have contributed to a significant decline in crime and an influx of new investment to Lawrenceville. Congratulations, LU and partners!

Avoid Head- and Heartaches by Hiring the Right Contractor

Repairs are a fact of life of property ownership. For the repairs that you can't tackle

By Deadra Keener
Public Safety Coordinator

go awry (check your policy to determine whether this applies to you). A license also

shows initiative on your contractor's part. Request a copy of the contractor's liability insurance and worker's compensation certificate. As contractor work usually involves plenty of opportunities for injury, you do not want to be held liable for an uninsured contractor's injury - or a worker's injury. Also, the contractor's insurance should cover costly bills should they accidentally damage your property.

Following are some tips to help you find and hire the right contractor:

- Know what you want to have done and prepare a list and/or description before contacting a contractor. Being vague or unclear can lead to unmet expectations. Also have a budget in mind (with a cushion for unexpected problems).

- Ask around for references. Friends, neighbors, co-workers, family members, and local home-supply stores can be good referral sources. Anyone can place ads regardless of experience or work quality, so basing your decision solely on a fancy ad is risky. Once you have narrowed down the field, checking with the Better Business Bureau and/or a website like Angie's List can't hurt.

- Meet with and get bids from a few potential contractors - three is standard. Make certain that you give the exact same work specs to each contractor to ensure you are comparing apples to apples when looking at their bids. Base your decision not just on price, but also on whom you feel the most comfortable with and communicate well with, and who you feel will do the best job. Be very skeptical of a bid that is significantly cheaper than the other bids - it could be a red flag.

- Consider visiting their current job sites to view their work and talk to the owners before making your final decision. Calling past clients for a reference is another option - a good contractor should be eager to supply references.

- Find out if the contractor is licensed. Some small jobs may not require a licensed contractor, but for larger jobs, this is a must. Hiring a licensed contractor adds an extra layer of protection, as your insurance company may not pay, should an unlicensed contractor's work

shows initiative on your contractor's part. Request a copy of the contractor's liability insurance and worker's compensation certificate. As contractor work usually involves plenty of opportunities for injury, you do not want to be held liable for an uninsured contractor's injury - or a worker's injury. Also, the contractor's insurance should cover costly bills should they accidentally damage your property.

- Get a contract in writing. The contract should include: a detailed description of the work to be performed, labor estimate, materials estimate, work start and completion dates, and a payment schedule. Also, consider including an agreed-upon financial penalty if the work is not completed on time (barring unforeseen major problems, natural disasters, etc.). If you want certain brands or materials used, do include that as well (though a reputable contractor should always use quality materials). Diagrams and drawings are also good. Bottom line: Try to provide as much information as possible in writing.

- Get any change orders (anything that arises that changes the agreed-upon price or schedule) in writing.

- Ask what kind of guarantee the contractor offers on his/her work. A good contractor will strive to ensure a satisfied client.

- Never pay in full up front! This gives a potentially unscrupulous contractor no incentive to finish the job in a timely manner - or to do the best job possible! Deposits are standard (up to 50% of the total cost), but never pay in full until the work is completed as per the contract. If a contractor asks for payment in full up front, that is usually another red flag.

- Once the job is finished to your satisfaction and you have paid in full, get a signed receipt (or a "release of liens") from the contractor stating that you have paid in full.

And finally, once you find a contractor that you are happy with, stop the search and cultivate the relationship! Continue using him/her as long as he/she continues to supply solid, timely work, and you'll find your loyalty rewarded.

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TRIAL DOCKET

On September 27, Garfield resident Justin Bailey was found guilty of two counts of "Possession with Intent to Deliver" a controlled substance, and was sentenced by Court of Common Pleas Judge Kathleen Durkin to 1 to 4 years in prison. Bailey has already served 6 months, which will be applied to his sentence; he has been held on \$20,000 bond since April for failure to appear at a scheduled trial hearing at that time. Bailey was originally arrested in July, 2006.

New Coordinator Finds Meaningful Jobs for Students

New youth employment coordinator Mollie Smith is making a big difference within Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's Youth Employment Program. Mollie assists youths aged 14 to 18, who are also enrolled in high school, and helps place them in after-school jobs in their interest areas.

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation works with the Eastern Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) to recruit and train young members of the community in order to prepare them for eventual employment. The youth job training program involves resume development, interviewing skills, and online job searching skills. The ENEC hosts a three-day job readiness program for the youths, explaining how a meaningful job can add purpose to a person's life.

Mollie directly helps young people find jobs, and assists them along the way. Once the youths go through the job training program, they are placed in job orientation, and given a one-month bus pass to get them started. After the youths begin work, Mollie and other youth employment workers continually follow up with them to

By Teresa Kim Schmittberger
Bulletin Intern

give support and advice for the workplace.

Mollie recruits young people from local high schools for after-school employment. Students are chosen for this program if they are in good academic standing or are looking for an opportunity to pursue their aspirations outside of school. Some of these students are looking for employment opportunities to build their resumes. Mollie especially looks for employers where there is potential for the students to be taught new skills, while also receiving income.

After she graduated from Auburn University, Mollie lived in China for a year. But she always had an interest in working with kids, so when she returned, she took a job with Mission Year, a program in inner-city Chicago aimed at assisting kids with their academic and extra-curricular interests. Mollie helped kids with their math and reading skills, and she also coached basketball and soccer.

Mollie expressed how much she is enjoying her job as a youth employment coordinator. She loves being able to place her students in fields that excite them. She explains, "If a person wants to cook, we will find them a job where they will get to cook."

(AT RIGHT) YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM STAFF GAVIN DEMMING AND MOLLIE SMITH.



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Schedule of Events

12:00 p.m.
Cash bar
Music by pianist John Hughes

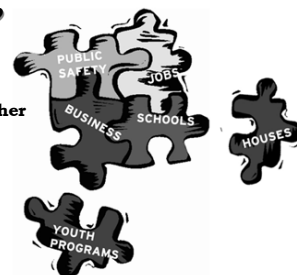
12:30 p.m.
Three-course lunch served

Welcome and Opening Remarks:
Grady Roberts Jr., Ph.D., president of the
BGC Board of Directors

1:00 p.m.
Master of Ceremonies: PJ Maloney,
KQV Radio

For The Bank of New York Mellon:
Rose Gabbianelli, Executive Vice President
and Global Director, Public Affairs

Special Guest: Jerome Dettore, former
executive director of the URA



Friday, November 16
Noon to 2 P.M.

Pittsburgh Athletic Association
4215 Fifth Avenue, Oakland

Tickets: \$50/person

Ticket price includes three-course lunch. Indicate choice of chicken or vegetarian entrée with ticket order. Make checks payable to Bloomfield-Garfield Corp., and send to BGC, 5149 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224, by Nov. 9. All tickets will be held at door. Business attire required. Information: 412-441-6950.



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The Bulletin

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

LETTERS

Penn Avenue Does Stellar Cleanup

I would like to thank everyone who was involved in the trash clean-up and tree tending on Saturday, September 15, in preparation for the Friendship House Tour on September 16. I would especially like to thank those business owners and residents on Penn Avenue who took the time to pick up trash around their properties. Penn Avenue presents its own challenges when it comes to keeping it clean, and regular daily attention to this issue is a much more efficient and effective way to deal with it.

I am particularly grateful to the owners and employees of Carl's TV,

who did a stellar job with rake and broom, cleaning up around their corner on Winebiddle and Penn. I am much more inclined to patronize and recommend to friends business owners who exhibit their commitment to their enterprise through these kinds of efforts.

Martha Ann Terry
Friendship Resident

Celebrating the Friendship House Tour

On September 16, 2007 over 500 people came out to celebrate the beautiful glass in the Friendship neighborhood for the 14th Annual Friendship

House Tour - Celebrating Glass. The weather was absolutely gorgeous, and guests bustled from house to house anxiously awaiting the treasures within!

Friendship Development Associates Board of Directors and staff would like to thank all those who were involved to help make the 14th Annual Friendship House Tour - Celebrating Glass such a great success! Without your time and support this fabulous event would not have been possible!

Board and Staff
Friendship Development Associates

VETERAN, FROM PAGE 1

Mr. Pistella's son, Frank, proprietor of Pistella's Beer Distributors on Penn Avenue (a business he started with his dad in the early 1980s), said his father "was always disappointed" by the unintended slight. But it wasn't something the older man talked about. In fact, Peg Otley, Mr. Pistella's niece, found out about the decades-old oversight only a year ago. She immediately set about to try to right the wrong, but hit a lot of dead ends. "I'd make calls, and it would take a month for someone to get back to me," she recalls. "I was bounced from one office to another," throughout city and state government.

The problem was that the committee women who had overseen the monument had long since died, and no one officially owned the memorial, which

the city considered to be "abandoned." Mary Ann McGill, who works at nearby Laurentian Hall, a senior citizen residence, knew about the monument's history from stories her father told, and she put Ms. Otley in touch with Joe Pulgini of the Catholic War Veterans. Mr. Pulgini dashed off a letter to the mayor's office, "and within two weeks we had clearance" to add Mr. Pistella's name to the plaque, says Ms. Otley.

But there were still hurdles to surmount. Ms. Otley placed the order for her uncle's nameplate with Carlini Brothers in Squirrel Hill, but her order was misplaced twice. (Carlini eventually donated the nameplate, making up for the inconvenience.) Finally, after four months, Ms. Otley was finally able to give her uncle the good

news - a strip with the inscription "Pistella, Frank S." was ready for addition to the monument, right below the name of his deceased brother, Lewis. "I called him in tears," she says. "He hadn't been in the best of health."

On a bright Sunday morning, about 60 friends and family members - including 11 Pistella great-grandchildren wearing custom-made T-shirts bearing the 1940s image of "Pap" in uniform - gathered at the monument for an emotional dedication ceremony, officiated by two members of the Army's 99th Regional Readiness Command. "Without you, we wouldn't be here," said Capt. Annette Sabado, who, along with Master Sgt. Rhonda Beck, escorted Mr. Pistella to the memorial for the unveiling.

Mr. Pistella voiced his gratitude for his niece Peg's efforts on his behalf. "I'm really proud of her," he told *The Bulletin*. "She put her heart and soul into it, and she never gave up."



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

CAPT. ANNETTE SABADO OF THE 402ND QUARTERMASTER BATTALION IN NEW CASTLE, PA., PRESENTED A MEDAL TO FRANK S. PISTELLA FOR HIS SERVICE DURING WWII, WHILE MRS. KAY PISTELLA (CENTER) LOOKED ON.

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Parental Stress Center Launches Economic Empowerment Initiative

This spring, the Parental Stress Center (PSC) in East Liberty launched a new program called the Economic Empowerment Initiative (EEI). The EEI aims to empower low-income families and older youth to work toward economic self-sufficiency and become full participants in the life of their communities. Through the EEI, PSC will be offering financial education workshops, free tax filing assistance for low-income workers, information and tools for accessing public and private benefits and resources, and citizen engagement activities. The EEI is also collaborating with workforce development, community and family development, and financial institutions and private businesses to fill gaps in economic self-sufficiency resources and opportunities in the Pittsburgh's East End and the region.

PSC's mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect by providing supportive services, education, and solution-

focused counseling to families living throughout southwestern Pennsylvania. Craig Stevens, EEI Coordinator since February, said, "PSC created the EEI to provide support to families and individuals who are struggling to make ends meet. We are helping them develop knowledge and skills, access resources, and build assets that will enable them to climb out of poverty." Gwen Williams, a long-time parent educator and youth and family advocate, is serving as EEI's Educator/Advocate. Ms. Williams said, "I am working with families and youth to develop their skills and confidence so that they can achieve their financial and personal goals."

EEI financial education classes and workshops cover such topics as financial planning, managing a checking and savings account, how to increase assets,

By The Staff Parental Stress Center

and understanding credit. EEI also provides participants with a wealth of information about public and private resources available in the region to help them work toward economic self-sufficiency. EEI classes are held at the PSC Family Center as well as at family, youth, and residential program sites.

In November, EEI will begin offering Benefit Bank services at the PSC Family Center. The Benefit Bank is an online tool that allows users to check their eligibility and file online for cash assistance, food stamps, medical assistance, and PACE/PACENET. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) applications and Pennsylvania rent and property tax rebate forms can also be completed on The Benefit Bank.

PSC will be offering free tax preparation and filing services for the third year

starting late January 2008. Families with gross annual incomes of under \$40,000 and individuals ages 25-64 with annual incomes below \$15,000 are eligible for the program. PSC is a member of the local "Money in Your Pocket Campaign," a network of community-based IRS-certified Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites led by Just Harvest. The goal of the program is to increase the number of low-income taxpayers taking advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which may result in a federal tax refund of up to \$4,500, depending on the taxpayer's income.

For more information on how you or your organization can participate in EEI programs, contact Craig Stevens, Coordinator, phone: 412-361-4800 x 215, or Gwen Williams, Educator/Advocate, phone: 412-361-4800 x 225. Learn more about the Parental Stress Center at www.pscfamily.net.



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The Bulletin has a new blog -
www.bgbulletin.blogspot.com.

Check it out for news and events you won't want to miss!



TAX MAN

by Patrick N. Price

*Tax Consultant
Internal Revenue Service*

We hope you enjoy this new column, offering brief, helpful tax tips for individuals.

The Internal Revenue Service has a special section on the IRS website for people who have lost their homes due to foreclosure. The IRS wants to reassure homeowners that, although mortgage workouts and foreclosures can have tax consequences, special relief provisions can often reduce or eliminate the tax bite for financially strapped borrowers who lose their homes. The IRS urges struggling homeowners to consider their options carefully before giving up their homes through foreclosure. However, the IRS cautions that under the law, relief may be limited or unavailable in some situations where, for example, part or all of a home was ever used for business or rented out. For more information, taxpayers should visit www.irs.gov and search under the key words "foreclosure relief."



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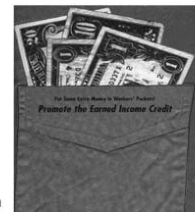
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VOLUNTEER TAX PREPARERS NEEDED!

Provide free, basic income tax preparation services to low-income workers in Allegheny County. Be a part of the *Money in Your Pocket Campaign**.

Bloomfield Garfield Corporation (BGC) and the Parental Stress Center (PSC) in East Liberty are two sites in the East End where working families and individuals can get Free Tax Services to file federal, state and city taxes with the assistance of IRS-certified tax preparers.



We are seeking volunteers who:

- ♦ Are friendly and dependable, with good communication skills
- ♦ Have some knowledge of taxes & good computer skills
- ♦ Can commit to one 4-hour shift each week during tax season (January 21st - April 15th)
- ♦ Can attend training or learn online and pass an IRS certification test

Volunteer Tax Preparation Training for BGC & PSC East End Tax Sites**

Saturday, December 1, 9:30 AM to 5 PM.

BGC Community Activity Center,
113 N. Pacific Ave., Garfield,
Breakfast & lunch

** Additional training dates will be scheduled in January if you can not attend this session.

**Contact BGC to register for December 1st Training: (412) 441-6950 or
Call BGC or PSC to sign up to volunteer and receive training at future date:
PSC - 412-361-3800 - ask for Craig Stevens, PSC VITA site Coordinator**

* The Money in Your Pocket Campaign is a coalition of non-profit and government agencies in Allegheny County providing tax credit information and free tax preparation assistance to low-income workers in our community so they can receive their full refund at tax time. For more information about the Campaign, contact Kristie Weiland at Just Harvest at 412-431-8960.



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



On Donner...!

Donnor is a 12-year-old mixed breed and quite the gentleman. He is a sweet senior citizen with a calming influence who likes to wag at every person he sees. Donnor was rescued last July when police were investigating a homicide case. He was living with three other dogs, two cats, and a kitten in horrible conditions. Donnor was emaciated and suffering from hair loss when he arrived at Animal Friends. Donnor is doing much better now and loves to cuddle, take walks, and ride in the car.

Even though Donnor is no longer a puppy, he still has plenty of love to give. His patient, gentle demeanor would appeal to just about anyone. He is housebroken and very polite and gentle. He has lived with other cats and dogs, so it is expected he would get along well with another mellow canine. He would make a great companion to a fellow Senior Citizen, a household with older children, or an adults-only family. If you have some room in your heart and in your home for a sweet friend, Donnor is waiting to meet you!

To find out more about Donner or other wonderful animals available for adoption, please contact Animal Friends at www.animal-friends.org or call 412-847-7000.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6!

Advance Health-Care Directives: Planning for When You Can No Longer Make Decisions

By Frank Pistella
Neighborhood Legal
Services Association

In this final installment of the series on estate planning, the focus will be on making health-care decisions under Pennsylvania law. The term "advance health-care directive" covers several documents that are used to inform health-care providers of your wishes regarding health care when you are unable to make or communicate those decisions - health-care powers of attorney (POA) and living wills.

Health-care powers of attorney and living wills are written legal documents - prepared in advance of when you need them - that instruct or authorize others to act in your behalf if you should experience a medical emergency or become incapacitated, or when, in certain situations, you simply prefer not to handle your own affairs. Health care POAs, living wills, and documents that are a written combination of the two will all come under the definition of "advance health-care directives."

A POA authorizes a person or "agent" of your choosing to handle your affairs and/or make decisions for you. (The person who signs a power of attorney and who names an agent is referred to as the "principal.") A living will states your explicit wishes and feelings about medical treatment that sustains or prolongs your life, if you have an end-stage medical condition, suffer irreversible brain damage or disease, or enter a permanent-

ly unconscious state. It ensures that your specific instructions are followed and relieves your family of the burden associated with making the "right" decisions about such procedures as tube feedings, ventilators, chemotherapy, radiation, dialysis, surgery, antibiotics and resuscitation. An agent may also be named in a living will. You can tell the agent that he or she is required to follow your instructions exactly as you have written them, or alternatively, you can inform your agent that the instructions are only guidelines. This permits your agent to have the final decision regarding your health care or to override your instructions.

The single most important decision a principal can make when considering a power of attorney is whom to name as the agent. Name someone who will act according to your wishes, which may differ from acting "in your best interests." When an individual acts in your "best interests," he or she will decide what would be best for you, without regard to your wishes or preferences. Under a living will, a health-care agent may be called upon to decide what your wish or preference would be in a particular situation. This is why it is important that you choose a health-care agent who knows you well enough to make those judgments. Secure his/her consent in advance, and inform him/her once you have signed your living

will.

Also, it is advisable to name at least one alternate health-care agent. An alternate may be needed if your first choice is unavailable or unable to act on your behalf. An alternate health-care agent may also be needed if your first choice is your spouse and that designation has been automatically revoked as the result of a divorce. It is possible to include language in your health-care POA or living will that prevents the automatic revocation in this situation.

As with a regular POA, you can arrange for the health-care POA to "spring" into effect with a specified event, such as the onset of disability or incapacity, or you

"A living will...relieves your family of the burdens associated with making the 'right' decisions."

can request that the POA be effective as soon as you sign it and it has

been witnessed. A durable health-care POA is one that survives or comes into effect when you become incapacitated or disabled. This is the time when it is most important to have an agent in place.

Once you have decided what the best advance health-care directive is for your situation, you should give a copy of it to your agent and to your health-care provider. Also, let your family members know of the advance health-care directive and discuss it with them. You may wish to discuss your advance health-care directive with a member of the clergy from the faith that you practice. You should retain the original with your important papers; do not place it in your safe deposit box, because it may not be accessible when you need it.



Remember, you can change or destroy your advance health-care directive if you choose. Generally speaking, this can be done at any time, providing you are of sound mind when you wish to revoke or change it. If you do not have an advanced directive, your health-care decisions will rest with your family, your doctors, and possibly the courts. Without an advanced directive, your family members may be confused or could disagree on your care. Your wishes may never be followed. There have been some recent changes in the laws in Pennsylvania. If you have not named an individual to act for you or if you have named an individual to act for you and that person and his/her alternative are not available, a health-care representative can be named. Pennsylvania law specifies who may be designated as the health-care representative.

Neighborhood Legal Services Association (NLSA) has a toll-free number for its Pittsburgh office, which can be accessed from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (1-866-761-6572). For more information on NLSA, please visit us at www.nlsa.us. At our website, you will also find a link to www.PaLAWHelp.org, which provides valuable legal information on a multitude of legal topics.

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"Unblurred" Exposes Penn Avenue Arts Once a Month

Since 2002, Penn Avenue Arts Initiative's "Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn" has drawn thousands of area residents to Penn Avenue and nearby streets to celebrate the local galleries, theaters, and restaurants of the area. Unblurred began as an annual occurrence, and has now grown to a monthly event bringing anywhere from 500 to 750 people to the arts district each month. August's Unblurred was the largest in the history of the event, with an estimated attendance of 1,250. This past October, your favorite *Bulletin* intern attended Unblurred, and witnessed the excitement of the event personally.

The evening of Unblurred, Penn Avenue transforms into an open showcase of many community attractions ranging from general tours of nearby institutions, such as the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh, to theater performances at places like the Attack Theatre or the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater. Each Unblurred location offers something unique, and each of the activities is created independently by the individual establishments.

My first stop on the night of Unblurred was the Pittsburgh Glass Center, located at 5472 Penn Avenue. One of the regular Unblurred partici-

pating locations, PGC features family-friendly hands-on activities and glass-blowing demonstrations. I was surprised to see people of all ages observing the creation of glass beads while wearing safety glasses. Both parents and children alike seemed to be equally impressed by the various demonstrations. Attendees were also able to place pieces of glass within a large glass mosaic of a tree and its surrounding landscape.

Next, I headed to the grand opening of the Sprout Fund's new building (see related article, page 9). Hundreds of community members toured the space, while the Sprout Fund offered appetizers in a tent next to the building. The open house energized a portion of the avenue that normally has less activity during Unblurred. Sprout Fund employees were available outside and inside the building to answer questions from the public about the future plans of the organization.

I continued my night at a gallery I had never visited before, the Abyssinia Gallery, where I found myself surrounded by African art and gifts that were for sale to the public during the evening. The Abyssinia

Gallery recently moved to its new location at 5515 Penn Avenue, and

October was only its second time participating in Unblurred. PAAI actually helped the gallery find a working space on the avenue. The jazz ensemble "It Takes Two" filled the space with music throughout the evening, while guests enjoyed complimentary food and beverages.

The Clay Penn was my final stop on the night of Unblurred. The gallery displayed the various works of Jorge Myers. The Clay Penn was one of the early success stories of the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative, as it is one of the original 16 buildings on the avenue that made up PAAI's building intervention strategy and was rehabbed for an arts-related use.

These three locations were only a few of the many events offered the night of Unblurred. Unblurred successfully draws outside community members to Penn Avenue, helping to expose a Pittsburgh community that isn't nor-

mally seen on a daily basis. The purpose of PAAI is to allow art to attract potential new businesses and people to the area. In the coming years, PAAI is planning possible themed events, including family or entrepreneurial themes, to further enhance the event and, hopefully, bring even more attention to the avenue.

The next Unblurred will be Friday, November 2, and the schedule for the evening can be found at www.pennavenuearts.org.



Teresa Kim Schmittberger/The Bulletin

THE CLAY PENN, OWNED BY LAURA JEAN MCLAUGHLIN, IS LOCATED AT 5111 PENN AVENUE.

A TALENT GROWS IN BLOOMFIELD



Twelve-year-old Lucy Crelli of Bloomfield was one of five winners of the second annual "Kids Helping Kids" art contest sponsored by the Children's Home and Lemieux Family Center on Penn Avenue. Lucy is pictured above with her original artwork, "A Little Caring Goes a Long Way," which will appear on products such as coffee, fudge, and stationery to raise money for the Children's Home. To view all the winners or to purchase products, visit www.childrenshomepgh.org.

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Sprout Fund Takes Root in New Location

By Teresa Kim Schmittberger

Bulletin Intern

On October 5, on the night of "Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn" (see related story, page 8), the Sprout Fund opened its doors to the public to show off its new digs at 5423 Penn Avenue. Since September of 2001, when the Sprout Fund was founded, until June of this year, the organization was located at 4920 Penn Avenue. The new location is only half a mile from the old one, inspiring many community members to wonder about the reason for the short move.

Executive director Cathy Lewis Long explained that the organization was forced to move after the staff outgrew its former location. "When I noticed one of our staff members working out of the kitchen, I knew we had to do something," commented Long. The Sprout Fund was still committed to Penn Avenue, and wanted to try to remain in the corridor. "The organization made a decision not to move to a high-rise downtown, preferring to position itself as a 'storefront' organization," said Long.

The Sprout Fund's search led to 5423 Penn Avenue, a condemned and uninhabitable building, located across from The Quiet Storm coffeehouse. In exchange for committing to a five-year lease, Lawrenceville developer Bill Barron agreed to purchase and renovate the building for the Sprout Fund. Barron, along with the Red Star Iron Works contracting company and designer Matt Clifford, transformed the dilapidated

building into spacious modern offices.

Ironically, the same day the new building was finished, June 20, the Sprout Fund received a letter declaring that the organization was awarded independent, nonprofit status. Previously, the Sprout Fund's backbone office management and fiscal management were provided by the Tides Center, a national sponsor for social change groups. In July, the newly independent Sprout Fund moved into its new location, with plenty of offices for its staff and a large meeting space for its workshops.

The Sprout Fund is a nonprofit organization that attempts to connect Pittsburgh youths to their community by sponsoring various projects invented and implemented by residents between the ages of 18 and 40. The projects are geared toward community improvement, while involving young people directly in this change. The Sprout Fund's Seed Award Program evaluates projects monthly for potential financial assistance. The Sprout Fund also recently completed its 2007 public-art mural initiative, and over the summer, 40 new murals were painted throughout the city. The 2007 Bloomfield mural, painted by Monika McAndrews, can be viewed at 4727 Liberty Avenue on a wall alongside

the Bloomfield Drugstore. Another local mural painted during the 2004 initiative, "Lend Me Your Ears," located at 5900 Penn Avenue, is sized at 8,500 square feet, making it the largest mural in the history of the initiative.

The Sprout Fund is currently working on "Community Connections," an initiative of Pittsburgh 250. Pittsburgh 250 is the celebration planned for the year 2008, marking the city of Pittsburgh's 250th anniversary. The Sprout Fund raised \$1 million to sponsor events throughout Allegheny County that would be featured projects of the Pittsburgh 250 celebration. Appropriate projects needed to increase overall citizen engagement in the community, as well as have a lasting effect on the community. County residents were able to submit ideas throughout the summer for approval, and final projects will be decided by December. The projects will then be sponsored and carried out throughout 2008.

5423 PENN BEFORE...



Photo courtesy Barron Commercial Real Estate



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

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Thanksgiving's Simple Meaning

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to give thanks to God for all that He has blessed us with.

May we long to live in a nation that acknowledges the gifts of our Creator and seeks His wisdom and guidance.

May you and your family have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.



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CLASSES FOR OLDER ADULTS

St. Margaret Foundation will present classes for older adults at Canterbury Place, 310 Fisk Street, Lawrenceville, during November. All classes - including the free ones - require advance registration by calling 412-783-5313 or visiting www.stmargaretfoundation.org/events. On Nov. 6, from 1:30-3:30 p.m., "Music Appreciation": You will rediscover the musical sounds of the 1920s, '30s, '40s, and '50s, covering the genres of classical to jazz, old standards, show tunes, and more (cost: \$10, payable to St. Margaret Foundation). On Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to noon, "Veterans Benefits": Discussion of benefits available to people who served in the armed forces. A question and answer session will follow (cost: free). On Nov. 29, from 1-3 p.m., "Advance Directives": Two-hour class will utilize the "Five Wishes Living Will," which discusses your personal, emotional, spiritual, and medical needs. Presented by Hope Hospice (cost: free).

EXHIBIT AT MIDWIFE CENTER

Come to a public installation of "Trappings," an exhibit about the relationship of power to childbirth, body image, and health, at The Midwife Center for Birth and Women's Health, 2825 Penn Avenue. The exhibition opening and open house will be held Friday, November 16, from 6-8 p.m. For more information visit www.TwoGirlsWorking.com or www.midwifecenter.org.

PPS FREE TUTORING AVAILABLE

Students who attend Pittsburgh Carrick, Oliver, Peabody, Schenley, Perry, and Westinghouse High Schools during the 2007-08 school year and receive a free or

reduced-price lunch may be eligible for free tutoring to improve reading and math skills through the Supplemental Educational Services (SES). The application requires reviewing the provider list and completing a provider selection form and waiver. The application deadline is Nov. 30; information and applications (and, if needed, help with choosing a provider) are available by calling Tamiya Larkin at 412-622-3727.

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS HEALTH FAIR

There will be a Health Fair sponsored by the Parish Nurse Ministry of Our Lady of the Angels Parish on Saturday, November 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Holy Family Social Hall 233 44th Street, Lawrenceville. The Spirit of Health Van will be present to provide a full complement of services. Flu shots will be provided by the Sisters of Saint Francis in Millvale and administered by the Our Lady of the Angels Parish nurses. Health-care professionals from the community will also be present. All are welcome. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Toni 412-621-6953 or Linda 412-828-2850.

"BEHIND THE CURTAIN"

On Nov. 16 at 7 p.m., Dance Alloy Theater presents the founder of the critically acclaimed NYC company The Bang Group, David Parker, during an informal wine and cheese studio showing of his new work-in-progress in the next installment of the "Behind the Curtain" series at 5530 Penn Avenue. David Parker's new work will intertwine Highland Park's Dilworth Traditional Academy's brilliant group of 4th and 5th grade "World Drummers" and DAT's professional dancers to create "Heard as Well as Seen," a newly commissioned work made possible in part with funding by Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation. Known for his

witty, satirical approaches to choreography, Parker explores society's view of concert dance vs. street dance - the silent theater reverie vs. vocal rallying - and what happens if this model is turned on its head. "Heard as Well as Seen" will be featured in "...A DIFFERENT DRUMMER," DAT's Fall Home Season, December 7-10, at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater. Tickets: \$5, reservations strongly suggested. Tickets/Info: 412-363-4321 or www.dancealloy.org.

"CASINO ON THE GREEN" FUNDRAISER

"Casino on the Green," a fundraising event to benefit CONTACT Pittsburgh, Allegheny County's only crisis and suicide hotline, will be held at the Green Oaks Country Club at 6:30 p.m. on November 3. Casino games, great food, a silent auction, and music will highlight the evening's activities. Visit www.contactpgh.org, e-mail casinonight@contactpgh.org, or call 412-820-0100 for more information.

WOMEN AND GIRLS OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

Girl Scouts - Trillium Council is now accepting nominations for the 2008 Women & Girls of Distinction Awards Reception. The ceremony, to be held Tuesday, May 6, 2008, 4:30-6:30 p.m., at Westin Convention Center, will recognize women and girls who have demonstrated extraordinary achievement or leadership in one of the following seven award categories: Arts & Humanities; Advocacy; Community Service; Healthy Initiatives; Professional / Leadership; Technology & Innovation; and the Girl Scout Spirit Award (honors a registered Girl Scout who has uniquely furthered the Girl Scout mission). The deadline for nominations is Monday, Dec. 10, 2007. Nominees, except for the Girl Scout Spirit Award category, DO NOT have to be registered Girl Scouts. Girl Scouts - Trillium Council board members and staff are not eligible. For more information, to receive a nomination form, or for sponsorship information, please contact Adriene Alarcon at 412-594-2210 or alarcon@gstrillium.org. A nomination form can be downloaded by visiting www.girlscouts-wpa.org.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA IN LAWRENCEVILLE

Santa Claus is coming to town, and he wants to have breakfast with you! Our Lady of the Angels Parish invites you to their annual event, Saturday, December 1, from 9 a.m.-12 noon at the Holy Family Social Hall on 44th Street in Lawrenceville. Tickets will be sold in advance only at the parish office or at all weekend masses. Tickets are \$5 per person, which includes a hot breakfast,

crafts, tattoos, games, a picture with Santa, and a chance to win special toy prizes! For more information, please call 412/682-0929.

"CHARACTERS IN THE BIBLE" AT C.O.G.I.C.

Morningside C.O.G.I.C. presents "The Characters in the Bible": Old Testament, Friday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m.; New Testament, Sunday, Nov. 18, 5 p.m. For more information, call 412-361-9865.

MORE "JOY OF COOKIES"!

Lawrenceville merchants will serve up tasty samples of cookies to visitors during the 7th annual Joy of Cookies Cookie Tour, Nov. 29 and 30, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Dec. 1, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Dec. 1, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Cookie Tour includes businesses on Butler Street between 35th and 53rd, and there are also stops on 43rd, 44th, and Hatfield Streets, and on Penn Avenue. The tour offers the perfect "un-mall" experience for discerning shoppers who don't want to settle for ho-hum gifts. While shopping, visitors can nibble on samples of home-baked cookies at some 25 different shops and take home free recipe cards for their own baking. Merchants will also offer other holiday treats, including discounts, giveaways, and fun activities for all ages. Visitors can catch a trolley cruising throughout the neighborhood on Dec. 1. For more information, contact Mary Coleman at 412-683-6488 or Jennifer Kent at 412-782-5100 x103, or visit www.lawrenceville-corp.com.

NEW HOURS FOR EMPLOYMENT CENTER

Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) has new hours, 1-5 p.m. daily. ENEC offers FREE services for job seekers including: computer & Internet access, improving or developing a resume, up-to-date job postings, one-on-one job counseling and a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) job retention program. Call or stop by to check out our services: 5100 Penn Avenue, 2nd Floor; 412-362-8580.

SMALL BUSINESS LEGAL ISSUES SEMINAR

The University of Pittsburgh's Community Economic Development Clinic is sponsoring a small business seminar entitled "Legal Strategies for Small Businesses" on Saturday, November 17, for those who want to start a small business or those who have already done so and do not have the resources to pay for legal advice. Topics to be covered include: Creating a Business Plan, Choosing a Business Structure, Lease Negotiation and Code Compliance, Basic Employee Issues,



THE UNION PROJECT HOSTS A FREE MONTHLY "YOUTH TALENT SHOWCASE" IN ITS GREAT HALL AT 801 N. NEBLEY AVENUE AT STANTON. ABOVE, A CROWD OF ABOUT 50 PEOPLE ENJOYED A PERFORMANCE BY DWG/SCR, WHO TOOK FIRST PLACE IN THE OCTOBER SHOWCASE. THE NEXT SHOWCASE WILL BE ON NOV. 6 AT 7 P.M. IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION OR KNOW YOUNG PEOPLE YOU THINK SHOULD BE COMPETING, CONTACT HILARY@UNIONPROJECT.ORG OR CALL 412-363-4550.

BULLETIN BOARD

Raising Money, and Branding and Marketing. The seminar runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is \$20.00, which includes lunch and materials. RSVPs can be sent to: pitt.ced.clinic@gmail.com and need to be received by November 8. For more information, call 970-219-0433 or email bonnie.page@gmail.com.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS

Trinity Hospice is recruiting volunteers for patient visits, respite for caregivers, administrative work (computer), and community projects (knit and crochet). Trinity Hospice is an organization that affirms the belief that it is important to make every life as meaningful as possible, from the first days of a life-limiting illness to the last. Training is available. Contact Deborah Scott at 412-351-4494.

FLEA MARKET AND VENDORS MARKETPLACE

New Bethel Baptist Church will hold a Gigantic Christmas Flea Market and Vendors Marketplace on Friday, Nov. 30, and Saturday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 221 43rd Street, Lawrenceville. There will also be a Down-Home Fish Fry on Nov. 30 in the Fellowship Hall at 11 a.m. For more information, call 412-621-2155.

"CELEBRATION OF WOMEN" MONTH

New Bethel Baptist Church announces "Celebration of Women" Month in November with several special events: a Prayer and Praise Breakfast, Saturday, Nov. 10, at 9:30 a.m.; a service on Sunday, Nov. 18, at 10:45 a.m., with Rev. Diane Hobson of Nazarene Baptist Church and Pastor June Jeffries of First Baptist Church of North Vandergrift; and a Community Thanksgiving Dinner in memory of Sister Maria Greene, on Tuesday, Nov. 20, at 6:30 p.m. All events are at the church at 221 43rd Street, Lawrenceville. For more information, call 412-621-2155.

BENEFIT BANK OPENS

The Parental Stress Center (PSC) will begin offering "Benefit Bank" services this month, a computer-based, online service that allows you to check your eligibility and file applications for public benefit programs, including the LIHEAP program (which opens November 5), food stamps, and the Pennsylvania renters and homeowners property tax rebate program. The Benefit Bank will be open at PSC on Wednesdays, beginning November 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 7 p.m. PSC is located at 5877 Commerce Street in East Liberty, next to the AAA building. To make an appointment, call Gwen Williams: 412-361-4800 x 225.

CASA TRAINING

You can apply to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for abused and neglected children in Allegheny County. Attend an informational program to learn more about CASA, our upcoming volunteer trainings, and the application process. Programs are on Wednesday, November 28, and Wednesday, December 19, at 6 p.m. Both hour-long programs will be held at our Downtown office, located at 564 Forbes Avenue, suite 902. Contact CASA at 412-594-3606 or fill out our Web form at www.pgh-casa.org to RSVP.

"QUALITY TIME" ON THE AVENUE

Beginning Nov. 1 and continuing every Thursday, Matthew Galluzzo, Penn Ave. Arts District manager, will be holding office hours at The Quiet Storm coffee house, 5430 Penn Ave. During this "quality time," Matthew will be available to discuss any and all "avenue-related issues" with members of the community in an effort to make the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative and Friendship Development Associates more accessible to the surrounding neighborhoods. Join him for a chat and a cup o' joe!

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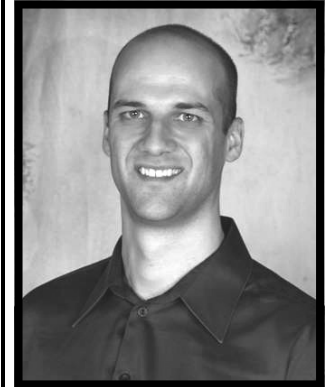
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Preschool Storytime

For ages 3-5. Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., November 1, 8, 15, 29.

Playshop: A Parent/Child Workshop

For parents of children ages 1-4 with their children. Fridays, 10:30 a.m., Nov. 2 and 9. Allows parents an opportunity to play with their child while receiving valuable information from resource professionals. Registration is required.

Family Fun Night: Yarn! Yarn! Yarn!

For families and children ages 5-12. Tuesday, November 13, 6 p.m. Make a craft project featuring yarn.

East Liberty PC Center:

Introduction to Computers

Do you know how to use a mouse? Do you know where the Enter key is? What about the different parts of the

computer? If you are unsure about any of these questions, this class is for you! Learn the basics of a computer, mouse, and keyboard as a prerequisite for all our other computer classes. **NOTE:** This class is designed for those who have little or no computer experience. Saturday, November 3, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. OR Monday, November 12, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Hotmail

This class assists you in signing up for your own free web-based e-mail account. **Prerequisite:** Learn the WWW class or solid WWW experience. Thursday, November 8, 2:30-4:30 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.

Preschool Storytime

For ages 3-5. Thursdays, 11 a.m., November 1, 8, 15, and 29.

Adult Book Discussion

Monday, November 8, 5-5:45 p.m. The featured book is *Thunderstruck* by Erik Larson.

Family Fun...Art Activity

For all ages. Saturdays, November 3 and 17, 11 a.m.

Turkey Time...Books and Crafts

For all ages. Monday, November 19, 4:30 p.m.

Holiday Card Making

For all ages. Thursday, November 29, 4:30 p.m.

 Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

SCHOOL, FROM PAGE 1

line. Quality after-school programming, he said, can help make them "beneficiaries of the new economy, instead of its victims."

The Pennsylvania Afterschool/Youth Development Network defines "quality after-school programs" as those fostering positive relationships; providing rich program activities that complement the public school curriculum; and offering both structured and unstructured learning opportunities. Kids in these programs, Rep. Wheatley told the audience, are "more likely to stay in school." They also tend to have higher grades, better conduct, lower truancy rates, better peer relationships, and fewer incidents of drug use, violence, and pregnancy.

Rep. Wheatley made a direct appeal to the business owners in the audience to help sponsor after-school programs

— not just for the benefit of young people, but in their own self-interest. "Your workforce is under-prepared," he commented. "You can pay the price later, or you can front-end the cost so you can be more competitive."

Following the speeches, about 500 children who are currently enrolled in after-school programs filed into the auditorium to enjoy a program of entertainment that included a reading of the children's story "Stellaluna," and performances by CAPA Musical Theater students and African drummers from Bethany House Ministries. In the final hour of the event, audience members visited scheduled activities by children and youths in various after-school programs, focusing on technology, art, reading, dance, and fitness and self-defense.



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