

# the Bulletin

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Serving Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty,  
Lawrenceville and Stanton Heights Since 1975



## Pigs – and Groceries – Fly on Penn Avenue

By Paula Martinac  
*The Bulletin*

*Penn Avenue* – Early on the clear, chilly morning of June 5, hundreds of people waited patiently in line to be the first shoppers at the much-anticipated grand opening of Bottom Dollar at 5200 Penn Ave. – the corridor’s first grocery since 1987.

The line for entry to the discount grocery store – whose branding includes a flying piggy bank – snaked down Penn and around the corner to South Atlantic Avenue, almost reaching Coral Street at one point.

“I love groceries, so I’ll be moving in,” quipped Rev. Ricky Burgess, City Council member for District 9. He was joined at the 7:40 a.m. ribbon cutting by County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, City Council member for District 7 Deborah Gross, and City Chief Operations Officer Guy Costa and Community Affairs Manager Grant Gittlen, who represented Mayor Bill Peduto.

Shoppers reportedly started lining up as early as 3:30 a.m., bringing chairs so

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ABOVE: Store Manager George Bianchi (second from left), County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Aggie Brose of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and Rev. Ricky Burgess presided over the ribbon cutting for the Bottom Dollar grocery store on Penn Avenue. Read the full story at right. Photo by Paula Martinac.

## Career Connections School Closes

By Taia Pandolfi  
*The Bulletin*

*Lawrenceville* – After a two-year fight between the Pittsburgh Public Schools board and Career Connections Charter High School, a rejection of CCCHS’s most recent appeal closed the

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## Anti-Poverty Program to Launch in East Liberty

By Taia Pandolfi  
*The Bulletin*

*East Liberty* – According to East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI), poverty levels remain around 30 percent in East Liberty, despite increased development. Predicted to launch in July, a

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ABOVE: Volunteers planted flower boxes at 30 homes throughout Lawrenceville as part of the Lawrenceville Greenscapes Initiative. Read story on page 2. Photo by Rebekkah Ranallo.

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the Bulletin

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# NEWSBRIEFS

## Community Group Plants Flower Boxes

**Lawrenceville** – On Saturday, May 17, neighborhood volunteers planted flowers and herbs in 60 planter boxes at 30 Lawrenceville homes that are ineligible for street trees from the TreeVitalize program.

The Garden Club of Allegheny County generously provided funding to make this program possible, free of charge to homeowners. Lawrenceville United, whose mission includes neighborhood greening and beautification, was a founding partner of the initiative.

Known as the Lawrenceville Greenscapes Initiative (LGI), the project was born when six Lawrenceville Tree Tenders grew frustrated with the growing list of denied requests for street trees. While more than 700 trees have been planted in Lawrenceville through TreeVitalize, factors such as monolithic curbs, narrow sidewalks and conflicts with utility lines make hundreds of homes in the neighborhood ineligible for trees through that program.

LGI volunteers worked for months researching best practices, gathering feedback from Lawrenceville United and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, writing funding proposals and assessing each denied property. The flower boxes are now installed and planted with a variety of beautiful flowers and herbs in all three wards of Lawrenceville.

Due to high demand, LGI has created a waiting list of homeowners seeking flowers boxes for next year's program; the group is pursuing additional revenue to sustain the initiative in coming years.

If you live in Lawrenceville and are interested in receiving a flower box, please send an email to [greenscapeslawrenceville@gmail.com](mailto:greenscapeslawrenceville@gmail.com) to have your name added to the waiting list. Those who are ineligible for street trees will receive priority. – *Rebekkah Ranallo, Lawrenceville Greenscapes Initiative*

## Babyland Hearing Postponed

**Penn Avenue** – The partnership that purchased the former Babyland properties in 2012 will have to wait another month to present its case to the city's Zoning Board of Adjustment in support of the construction of an AutoZone retail store at the corner of Penn and South Negley avenues.

The zoning board's chair, Alice Mitinger, granted a continuance at a June 5 hearing at the request of John Axtell, a Friendship resident and attorney. Axtell told the board that the developers had yet to meet with any of the community organizations in the area, who he said are concerned about the proposed project.

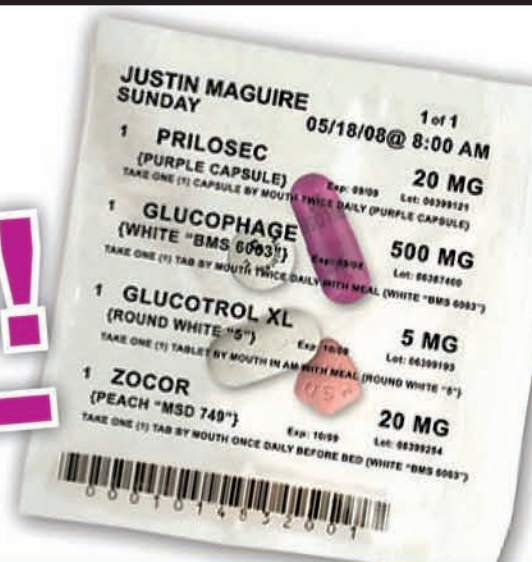
Axtell said that the organizations he's spoken with would prefer to have legal counsel representing them now that the property owner, 5542 Penn LP, has retained Jonathan Litman, a Downtown attorney. Litman, after conferring with representatives from the limited partnership, did not object to the continuance.

The zoning board is being asked to grant five variances that would permit the construction of a one-story masonry building with 15 parking spaces at 5534-42 Penn Ave. The demolition of the old Babyland building, along with the razing of two buildings on the opposite side of an existing parking lot, is being proposed in order to accommodate the new auto parts store. A 7,200-square-foot store would occupy the corner, much as the vacant Babyland storeroom does today.

Community groups representing Garfield, Friendship, East Liberty and Highland Park all had representatives in attendance.

The zoning board has rescheduled the hearing, which is open to the public, for July 17 at 10:10 a.m. in a first-floor conference room at 200 Ross St., Downtown. – *Rick Swartz, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

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# Job Fair Breaks Records



**East Liberty** – The Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) hosted a mega job fair on June 5 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church on North Highland Avenue. Eighty-plus employers sent 180 staff members to connect with a record number of job-seekers – 1,712 people, by ENEC’s count, jammed the church’s two social halls. About 40 volunteers staffed the event, helping people register and find their way around.

Employers at the job fair represented banks, training programs, retail stores, health-care organizations, social services, food service, labor organizations and more. The event also featured one hour of early access for veterans, youths in foster care and people with criminal background issues who needed extra assistance with applications.

“Now there’s all the follow-up with employers and job-seekers,” said Rick Flanagan, manager of ENEC, to determine the outcomes of the event. *Photo by Paula Martinac.*

## Penn-Negley Site Goes Before Zoning

By Joe Reuben

*Bulletin Contributor*

**Garfield** – Old-timers in the East End might remember the site as the location of a longtime Gulf gas station and garage. But latecomers probably have known the lot at Penn and North Negley avenues only as a spot where mounds of construction debris and materials have appeared from time to time behind a chain-link fence.

On June 12, the city’s zoning board heard an appeal from the lot’s owners, Monro Muffler, Inc., asking the city to waive the requirement that any storage of this type be permitted only if it’s within a structure already situated on the site. Monro did not send a representative to the hearing, preferring that the current tenant of the property, W. G. Tomko, Inc., a general contractor out of Finleyville, Pa., make the case for the waiver.

The board heard testimony from Tomko’s representative, Shaun Rohland, that the firm has been using the lot in recent months to help with storage of debris and materials originating from projects elsewhere in the city. Rohland said the company was unaware that the lot lacked a valid occupancy permit for such a use. He was unable to estimate how long Tomko intended to use the lot for this purpose, other than to say, “It would depend on what other contracts in the city might be awarded to us.”

John Axtell, a Friendship resident, told the zoning board that the zoning code “was clear in the protection that it is trying to afford neighborhood commercial districts” by requiring the presence of a structure for storage of such materials. He questioned whether Monro as the appellant had shown a compelling reason why it should be granted any relief from this requirement, “given the prominence of the site at a major city intersection.”

Rick Swartz of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) said it was likely that Monro would seek to lease the lot for storage “for the long term, because the company (Monro) told us previously it has no plans to erect a structure on the property.” Swartz speculated after the hearing that the company’s reluctance to develop the property stems from “their desire not to block the view of their auto repair facility on Penn, behind the lot in question, from Negley Avenue or for those traveling west on Penn from East Liberty.”

Aggie Brose, the BGC’s deputy director, told the zoning board that “it was not until the BGC and residents brought it to the attention of the city’s Bureau of Building Inspection that any action was taken by the city to enforce the applicable sections of the zoning code.” A decision on Monro’s appeal should be forthcoming from the board by mid-July. ♦

## the Bulletin

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**Board Meetings** are held by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at 5321 Penn Ave. and are open to the public.

The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the publisher.

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## School Proposes Garfield Expansion

By Taia Pandolfi

*The Bulletin*

**Garfield** – In early May, the Environmental Charter School (ECS) submitted a proposal to Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) for an expansion into the former Fort Pitt and Letsche schools in the neighborhoods of Garfield and the Hill District, respectively. If this proposal is approved ECS will add a high school at the Letsche site and a K-8 at Fort Pitt. ECS already has a K-3 in the Park Place neighborhood and a 5-8 in Regent Square.

Although ECS considered a number of spaces before formalizing the proposal, Nikole Sheaffer, ECS’s director of innovation and development, said that the Fort Pitt site offers a unique combination of location and purpose. The school administration is examining ways to renovate the building to make it more environmentally friendly, but intends to reuse as much of the original structure as possible. The strong interest of residents in Garfield in having a school at the site was another motivating factor, Sheaffer said.

“We want to develop active, engaged citizens by teaching students how their

choices can impact the world around them,” she said. “We are hoping to graduate seekers, critical thinkers and thoughtful innovators.” Scheaffer added that by working in partnership with community organizations, local agriculture hubs and businesses, ECS plans to build mutually beneficial relationships that enhance the neighborhood.

On June 23, PPS held a public hearing on ECS’s proposed expansion. Bob Jones, a co-founder of Garfield Youth Sports who attended and spoke in favor of the proposal, said that the responses were split down the middle. He voiced his hope that, were the proposal to succeed, Garfield families would act quickly.

“I would hope if [ECS] come[s] to Garfield that folks would flood the application process and increase opportunities for our young people,” he said.

In a letter to parents, city council and the mayor’s office, Jon McCann, the school’s chief executive officer, high-

See **School Expansion** | page **11**

**Thank you!** The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation would like to acknowledge its main corporate partners, PNC Bank, Dollar Bank and Allegheny Valley Bank. Thanks also to BNY Mellon, First Niagara Bank, WesBanco, Allegheny Health Network, Citizens Bank and all of *The Bulletin*’s advertisers.



# Busy Beaver to Open in Lawrenceville

By Taia Pandolfi  
The Bulletin

Lawrenceville – After being vacant for the past five years, the former Giant Eagle on Plummer Street will reopen as a Busy Beaver home improvement outlet in September.

Steven Derr, Busy Beaver’s marketing director, said the location is “an almost-perfect fit” for the Pittsburgh-based store, both for its ample space and desirable location in the East End.

The 22,000-square-foot building will require a few renovations, but Derr stressed the company’s commitment to making the location a friendly neighborhood place that will do credit to Lawrenceville.

In partnership with the Lawrenceville Corporation and Lawrenceville United, Busy Beaver is developing ways to integrate itself into the community by conducting surveys of residents to ascertain which products and services would be most desirable.

Lauren Byrne of Lawrenceville United highlighted Busy Beaver’s interest in “meeting with community organizations to talk about how they can be a good neighbor and be a neighborhood-serving business.”

Byrne said the feedback from residents of the neighborhood has been positive. “It’s something they can walk to that will be accessible and affordable,” she said. “Most of the neighborhood is pretty excited about it.”

The community survey is being distributed via the Lawrenceville Corporation and Lawrenceville United throughout the neighborhood.

The survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/Beaver-LVSurvey>. By completing the survey, each respondent will be registered in a drawing for a \$50 Busy Beaver gift card.

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ABOVE: In September, Busy Beaver will open a new store in Lawrenceville. Photo by Paula Martinac.

## Goodwill Offers Electronics Recycling

By David Tobiczky  
Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania

Lawrenceville – For nearly 100 years, Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania has been a reuse pioneer. Most people are familiar with the agency’s practice of collecting clothing and household items for resale in Goodwill stores. More recently, however, Goodwill started collecting computers and other electronics for resale and recycling.

Goodwill SWPA became the first Goodwill in the nation to establish a formal computer recycling program in 1995, when Carnegie Mellon University donated its inventory of used computers and provided technicians to help launch the Computer Recycling Center (CRC). The agency’s involvement in computer recycling grew significantly in 2006 through a commercial partnership with Dell Inc. called Reconnect Pittsburgh. The Reconnect Pittsburgh alliance is a comprehensive computer recovery, reuse and environmentally responsible recycling program that combines Goodwill’s donation infrastructure with the recycling experience and resources of Dell.

With the recent passing of Pennsylvania’s Covered Device Recycling Act, which requires that certain electronic items be recycled and bars them from landfills and other disposal facilities, Goodwill’s CRC has become an even more important service for consumers.

To provide a better outlet for Lawrenceville area residents, Goodwill will be holding a Community Electronics Collection Day on July 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the agency’s Workforce Development Center in Lawrenceville. The facility is located at 118 52nd St., and Goodwill will accept donations of computers, monitors, printers, fax machines, cellphones, digital cameras, adapters or microwaves. Anyone dropping off items will receive a

donation receipt for tax purposes. Unfortunately, Goodwill is not able to accept televisions.

Donated equipment is taken to the CRC in Goodwill’s Workforce Development Center, which processes thousands of donated computers annually. Some donated computers are refurbished to be sold at Goodwill’s ComputerWorks store at 125 51st St. in Lawrenceville, and some are “de-manufactured” to remove valuable components and precious metals to be sold as salvage materials. Anything that cannot be reused is disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner.

Although Goodwill SWPA and Dell are not responsible or liable for personal data or hard drives, newer computers have the hard drives wiped exceeding Department of Defense standards, and the hard drives of older computers are destroyed. A number of free services are available online to completely erase hard drives if individuals wish to do so before donating.

“We greatly appreciate computer donations because they generate dollars for Goodwill’s job training and education programs,” said Bora Caliskan, director of operations at Goodwill SWPA. “Computers become part of the ‘Good-to-Go’ computer packages, sold at the ComputerWorks store, or are recycled. It is free, safe, easy and environmentally responsible to donate your computer to Goodwill.”

If donors are unable to come on July 19, computers and other electronics can be dropped off at any Goodwill SWPA store during regular store hours. Store locations can be found at [www.goodwill-swpa.org/goodwill-stores](http://www.goodwill-swpa.org/goodwill-stores). ♦

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# Career Connections from page 1

school at the end of this term.

The PPS board declined to renew the school's charter in 2012, but CCCHS appealed to the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania in the hopes of receiving an extension of its charter.

"I think public education in Pittsburgh is diminished by our school closing," said Tim McElhone, the chief executive officer of CCCHS. "This is a mistake."

In the opinion filed May 19, Judge Dan Pellegrini cited a number of academic and administrative reasons for his finding in favor of PPS. Pellegrini affirmed PPS's argument that CCCHS failed to uphold its charter by altering its stated academic structure, classes offered and commitment to placing each student in the internship program.

McElhone expressed his regret at the judge's decision. "I'm stunned that the issues with our charter were enough to close the school," he said.

CCCHS had 280 students in grades 9 through 12 who live in different areas of the city. Students who did not graduate this year will likely be funneled back into their respective feeder schools in the public school system for the upcoming year, as the magnet and charter school application process is already closed. The former students of CCCHS are in the

following feeder patterns: UPrep, Allderdice, Perry, Brashear, Carrick and Westinghouse.

Parents have the option of signing their children up for waiting lists at charter and magnet schools, as other families in the PPS system have done. CCCHS students will not receive preference in waiting lists, however. Openings remain in Brashear, Obama (which has a language proficiency requirement), Perry and UPrep.

Local charter schools have sent CCCHS students information about the application process for future reference. After the judge's decision was handed down, the teachers and administrative personnel at CCCHS supported the students as they considered their options, McElhone said. Once summer began, however, those resources were not available to students as the school was formally closed.

The apparent issues of communication between PPS and CCCHS have left the plans for transitioning students muddled. "It's primarily [PPS's] responsibility to figure out the transition process," McElhone stressed. "We [had] to close out the school and the organization. We're not really in the position to deal with [students' plans for next year]." He said that PPS and CCCHS will not work

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## Garfield Community Farm Expands



*Garfield* – Garfield Community Farm has experienced a great season of growth and expansion since last season when the bioshelter greenhouse was built, according to founder John Creasy. During the fall of 2013 the farm hosted its first class on "Organic Agriculture and Permaculture" through the Saxifrage School on Penn Avenue. Thanks to this class and many volunteers, the farm was able to implement the design of a new garden space around the bioshelter (see photo). The farm is now growing more vegetables and fruits than ever before, says Creasy, and is offering the permaculture class twice a year, incorporating hands-on learning, design work and classroom time.

The farm also expanded its mission to other parts of the world. Through the Open Door Church, where Creasy is associate pastor, Creasy and his family were sent to work with friends and partners in mission in Mexico. For six weeks the Creasy family worked in Mexico City on a small vertical garden; in El Huizachal, where they began implementing ideas for food-forest production; and at an orphanage where self-sufficiency and communal dependence are goals for the children. *Photo courtesy of John Creasy.*



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# What's Up with Penn Reconstruction?

By Ed Jones

L.R. Kimball

**Penn Avenue** – Most of the underground drainage issues affecting the Penn Avenue reconstruction project have finally been resolved, with the exception of a few inlets at the intersections.

This past March, the contractor finally started roadway construction along the northern side of Penn Avenue, including removal of the existing asphalt pavement and pouring of the new concrete pavement and curbs.

At the end of April, the block west of Mathilda Street was completed, and the contractor is currently removing existing pavement on the northern side of the blocks between Mathilda and Winebiddle streets. Before the new concrete pavement and curbs are installed, underground utility lines need to be lowered so they do not interfere with the new roadway base. In this stage of reconstruction, lanes have been delineated in order to keep pedestrian and vehicular traffic open to all the businesses.

After the final block east of Evaline Street on the northern side of Penn Avenue is completed, the contractor will

start Stage 2 of the project, which is the reconstruction of the northern sidewalk in the same area. The streetscaping (trees, benches, etc.) and lighting will also be completed for the northern side during this stage.

In Stage 3, the construction team will move to do the roadway construction for the south side of Penn while the inbound traffic will use the newly constructed inbound-traffic and parking lanes. Finally, in Stage 4, the sidewalk along the southern side of Penn will be completed along with the new traffic signals, streetscaping and lighting.

Currently, Aggie Brose of Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation is working with Pittsburgh Public Schools to revise drop-off locations in the project to help ensure the safety of the students. Brose stated that the team has been working toward addressing all concerns from the community as they come in.

If you have questions or concerns during reconstruction, call Aaron Pickering, field manager, at 412-292-7265 or Aggie Brose, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, at 412-441-6950 ext.15. ♦

# Anti-Poverty *from page 1*



ABOVE: Volunteers, staff, board members and partners of Open Hand Ministries pose at a house dedication event last November. Open Hand Ministries is working with ELDI and other organizations in East Liberty on an upcoming anti-poverty initiative. Photo by John Colombo Photography.

chapter of the national anti-poverty program Circles USA will promote collaboration across socioeconomic classes to fight generational poverty in the neighborhood.

The local chapter will be organized and maintained by ELDI, Open Hand Ministries, Repair the World: Pittsburgh and East End Cooperative Ministries (EECM).

The structure of Circles relies on the involvement of both lower-income and middle-to-higher-income families to effectively combat poverty; it pairs lower-income families (“leaders”) with two middle-to-higher-income families (“allies”) to create a strong network of support.

Allies focus on developing leaders’ budgeting, education opportunities and workforce skills to give them the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty.

“It’s not about an immediate shift,” said Kellie Wild of EECM. “We want people to learn to make sustainable, long-term changes in their lives.”

Leaders and allies are expected to meet in person and be available for each other to ensure that their goals are completed over a two-year period.

Although the program has general goals for each family – stability, self-sufficiency and advancement, among others – more specific goals are set by matched leaders and allies according to their needs.

Another goal of the program is to see leaders eventually become allies once they have reached a desirable level of stability and social connectivity through the program.

The one-on-one structure of Circles ensures that leaders have access to the social capital and connections of their ally counterparts.

Social isolation – a byproduct of economic segregation in housing and lack of access to, or influence on, community institutions – is a main driving factor in generational poverty, according to Melnyk.

Families that do not enjoy access to these networks tend to see that division continue through generations.

By creating bridges between lower income families and these institutions and resources, Melnyk said, Circles aims to bring together the diverse community of East Liberty through more equitable access to its opportunities.

“Circles is trying to enhance connections, build relationships across racial and socioeconomic lines and create a broader network base that is close to people in the neighborhood,” said Zack Block, director of Repair the World: Pittsburgh.

Before families are paired, however, both leaders and allies must go through a training period to prove their commitment to the program.

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# Neighborhood FOCUS

# Students Revitalize Historic Park

Youths learn about Arsenal Park's history, help shape its future

By Dave Breingan *Lawrenceville United*

*Lawrenceville* – The students at Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5 and Arsenal 6-8 are fortunate to have historic, nine-acre Arsenal Park as their closest neighbor. The early childhood classrooms can be found regularly on its playground, the elementary school has its annual field day in the park, and middle school students use the park to have science concepts like erosion brought to life.

On May 29, 170 Arsenal students – alongside family members, school staff and local community groups – spent some of their school day beautifying the park through the Love Your Block program, a partnership of the City of Pittsburgh's servePGH initiative and the Home Depot Foundation to revitalize Pittsburgh block by block. The children planted hundreds of flowers at the main entrances with representatives from the Home Depot, Friends of Arsenal Park and Lawrenceville United. Students also picked up litter, some of which was recycled into banners bearing the slogans "Arsenal Pride" and "Arsenal Cares."

"There was too much littering," said seventh grader Asha Salim. "We even found a shoe. But it was awesome to see the banner from the different materials."

The day also included educational activities with local community groups. Tree Pittsburgh led students on an environmental scavenger hunt through the park, while other students created bird feeders with MGR Youth Empowerment, an organization that started an environmental justice club this year at the middle school.

During a presentation next to the powder magazine, which is one of the oldest standing buildings in Pittsburgh, Tom Powers of the Lawrenceville Historical Society spoke to the youths about the arsenal that gave the park and school their names.

"That's really cool how the school is named after the arsenal," said sixth grader



ABOVE: Volunteers plant flowers at Arsenal Park in Lawrenceville. Alongside family members, school staff and community groups, 170 students participated in a service day at the park on May 29. Photo courtesy of Lawrenceville United.

“It was...inspiring to see the students get so excited about service.”

Miciah Stowers. "Under the park there's probably still gunpowder and bombs."

Not only did students learn about Arsenal Park's past, but they also got a chance to imagine its future with MKSK, the landscape architecture firm recently hired to take community input and create a master plan for the park. On top of maps of the grounds, kids worked with their parents and teachers to redesign the space by constructing models out of various materials.

"We made 'Arsenal Wonderland,' with an arcade, a pool, a place where people can eat, everything," said Tammy Hess, a resident who participated alongside her grandchildren.

The service day was planned by Arsenal parents connected to PEP Rally, a pilot program housed at Lawrenceville United that aims to empower parents to strengthen and support neighborhood public schools.

"The whole idea was to teach kids to have pride in their school and in their community," said Tina Russell, an Arsenal parent and Lawrenceville resident who first came up with the idea for the event. "I was delighted to see how well the Arsenal students responded."



ABOVE: An "Arsenal Pride" banner was created from recycled litter collected by students. Photo courtesy of Lawrenceville United.

LEFT: Flowers brighten the Arsenal Park entrance. Photo courtesy of Lawrenceville United.



# Groceries from page 1

they could relax while they waited to get one of the 250 gift cards Bottom Dollar gave away as an opening-day promotion. The cards were valued between \$5 and \$250, and customers did not know which amount they had scored until they checked out. Within 30 minutes of opening, the gift cards had all been distributed.

At the opening ceremony, Store Manager George Bianchi said that Bottom Dollar is “excited to be joining the community” and that “giving back is what we do.” He then presented a check for \$1,500 in products to each of two nonprofits, Sojourner House and Mercy Behavioral Health Renaissance Center, both located on Penn Avenue. The donations are geared to helping residents of the two facilities learn about healthy eating, Bianchi said.

“I get to go to a lot of ribbon cuttings,” noted County Executive Fitzgerald, who grew up in the neighborhood and remembers his mother shopping at the Giant Eagle that once occupied the Bottom Dollar site. “But there is nothing more special than being here today. Garfield is back.”

Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, beamed, “You can just call me Miss Bottom Dollar today.” She thanked the community, noting that “this store would not be here without you.”

Rev. Burgess told the crowd that when he saw the line for the store, it reminded him of the “children of Israel crossing the Red Sea;” the store, he said, is “a miracle.” He credited Brose with being “a visionary ... This store’s here because she loves this community.” Then he joked that he would race people to the cookie aisle.

As a result of a job fair hosted by Bottom Dollar and the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center in early April, 53 local people were offered staff positions in the new store. “You’re going to see your neighbors working inside,” Brose told those in attendance.

According to Pamela Clark, the training manager for Bottom Dollar in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, the Philadelphia team helped train the staff for the Penn Avenue store. “And we’re ready to go,” she told *The Bulletin* proudly, just minutes before the store opened for business. “It’s going to be a great day.” ♦

## Students Revitalize continued

The parents organized the day in partnership with a team from Public Allies Pittsburgh.

“It was wonderful to work on something that empowers students to take ownership of their community, and inspiring to see the students get so excited about service,” said Clara Kim, a Public Ally who led a group of students through the activities.

Other groups like the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8’s Male Social Leadership Group pitched in to help shape what the day would become.

“The Arsenal Park service day exemplified the community spirit of Lawrenceville residents and students,” said Kevin Boyle, coordinator of the Love Your Block program. “I was lucky enough to witness the hard work of students, parents and volunteers not only in beautifying Arsenal Park, but also in recognizing its historical and environmental significance.”

The event fit well with existing efforts at Arsenal to connect students to the community and to service. A class at the middle school was recognized recently by Mayor William Peduto at servePGH’s “Beautify Our ‘Burgh” sign unveiling for previous work cleaning up litter, and elementary students in the 21st Century After-school Program participate in monthly volunteer activities like singing to seniors.

“Civic engagement is so important to our neighborhoods,” said Lauren Byrne, executive director at Lawrenceville United. “We’re very lucky to have administration and teachers at Arsenal who share those values and prepare kids to be leaders in their community.” ♦



ABOVE: The first 250 customers at Bottom Dollar’s grand opening received gift cards valued at \$5 to \$250. Photo by Paula Martinac.

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# Garfield Native Honored with National Award

By Taia Pandolfi

The Bulletin

*Garfield* – Kenya Boswell, a Garfield native and the newly promoted vice president of the BNY Mellon Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania, has been recognized by the Harlem YMCA as a “Black Achiever in Industry.” The award, which was given in March of this year, honors achievements in corporate leadership and community work.

Although Boswell initially planned to work in the medical field, halfway through studying at the University of Pittsburgh she was presented with an opportunity to experience community development firsthand. “It wasn’t until a summer job with the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) that I became interested in

community work,” she said. “It was my first experience with a community organization, and an opportunity for me to open my eyes to that kind of work.”

“We’re very proud of how far Kenya has come,” said Rick Flanagan, director of youth development at the BGC.

After graduation, Boswell said, she considered applying to the University of Pittsburgh’s physical therapy program, unsure of where to take her interest in community advocacy. “I didn’t know at the time that you could make a career out of social work and community work,” she said.

A community-outreach and youth-

education position with the Carnegie Science Center changed her mind about the viability of community work as a career, and she spent the next five years working there. Two years into her time with the science center, Boswell decided to pursue a master’s degree in nonprofit management at Robert Morris University. The program is part of the School of Business and emphasizes the financial aspects of nonprofit work. Boswell focused on financial models within the nonprofit world and their comparative sustainability.

Boswell took this experience to a position at the BNY Mellon Foundation, where she became the charitable giving manager for the Southwestern Pennsylvania region. “The company really rewards hard work and dedication,” she said. Her promotion to vice president earlier this year came as “a total surprise” to Boswell, who said she feels empowered to continue her work with community development and supporting local nonprofits.

The award from the Harlem YMCA came as another surprise. “I felt like I won an Oscar,” she said. “This is what I wanted to do for a living, so getting this recognition is very meaningful to me. I feel like I need to work even harder now.”

In addition to her many responsibilities with the foundation, Boswell has served as a board member for a number of Pittsburgh organizations, including A+ Schools, WQED, Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board Youth Policy Council and Pitt’s Institute of Politics Workforce Development Committee. She also returned to the BGC as the secretary of the board from 2000 to 2007, just a few years after she had worked there during college. “BGC is a stepping-stone for young people to get into the professional world,” said Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC.

Through her position in the BNY Mellon Foundation, Boswell has worked



ABOVE: BNY Mellon Foundation Vice President Kenya Boswell got her start in community work with the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation. Photo courtesy of Kenya Boswell.

intimately with the Powering Potential Pathways Program, which was developed in partnership with other community organizations in order to provide food, clothing, energy and housing assistance, and access to job training, education and employment to young people in need. “I’m proud that our company made an investment in this area,” Boswell said. “It’s not glitzy or a big splashy photo op. We really want to demonstrate change at the community level.”

Her workload includes examining the financial sustainability of the foundation’s programs, solidifying relationships with community partners, overseeing volunteer opportunities for BNY Mellon employees and supporting local nonprofits to create sustainable change.

“My job is making sure that we are creating the biggest impact that we can with our resources,” she said. “The most rewarding part is being able to demonstrate the impact of our work not just through money but with our commitment and partnerships with nonprofits, and our direct involvement with the community itself.” ♦



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## School Expansion *from page 3*

lighted the positive feedback the proposal has received, citing 461 letters of support, 273 intent-to-enroll forms, and 895 petition signatures that accompanied the proposal. At this point, however, it is largely in the hands of the board to decide what will happen to the proposed expansion, according to Sheaffer.

The PPS Education Committee will discuss the proposal at a review meeting on July 16 at 5:30 p.m. The board will then vote on July 23 at 7 p.m.

Sheaffer stressed the importance of taking the promotional process slowly until the board votes. "We're putting our toes in," she said. "As much as we want to be working in [Garfield], it's not our decision. We don't want to get folks too involved in the process before we know if the board will vote it up or down."

If the PPS board votes in favor of the expansion, ECS will move forward with its plan to involve community members and organizations with the implementation of the proposal.

There are currently 26 children from the Bloomfield, Garfield and Friendship area and 17 from Lawrenceville who attend ECS, and Sheaffer voiced her hope that these numbers might grow as the neighborhood becomes more involved with the potential expansion into the Fort Pitt site.

The expansion would not only meet the high demand of local families – the school has had a long waiting list each year – but would also reintroduce a school environment to Garfield, one Sheaffer said would be committed to building a strong and lasting relationship with the neighborhood and its organizations. ♦

## Busy Beaver *from page 4*

The building's size and location accommodate ample parking and space for an outside yard, which will allow Busy Beaver to carry its normal product mix with a few expanded assortments, such as bicycle accessories, flooring, snack food, tool rental, awnings, door locks and security, Derr said.

Busy Beaver is also interested in hiring locally and "would love very much for most of the staff to be residents of Lawrenceville and the surrounding communities," Derr said.

He added that Busy Beaver has committed to working with the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center in order to recruit employees and inform

residents of hiring opportunities.

In addition to working with these neighborhood organizations, Busy Beaver will partner with Tree Pittsburgh in order to create some green space on the property.

The company currently has 14 stores in the tri-state area and has been operating in the Pittsburgh region for more than 50 years. In preparation for the September opening of its Lawrenceville store, Busy Beaver is now accepting job applications at [www.busybeaver.com/careers/apply](http://www.busybeaver.com/careers/apply).

The store is open to feedback from residents and interested parties at [comments@busybeaver.com](mailto:comments@busybeaver.com) and 412-423-2812. ♦

## Doo Dah Days Offers New Attractions

By James Wudarczyk

Lawrenceville Historical Society

Lawrenceville – The ninth annual "Doo Dah Days: The Stephen Foster Music and Heritage Festival" kicks off Saturday, July 12, at 11 a.m. at the Butler Street entrance to Allegheny Cemetery and runs until 4 p.m.. This internationally acclaimed event honors Pittsburgh's most beloved composer with family-friendly entertainment.

Sponsored by the Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association and the Lawrenceville Historical Society (LHS), the event include four free concerts, a new trolley tour of Allegheny Cemetery, horse-drawn carriage rides, food and re-enactors. The master of ceremonies for the event will be Dan Simkins, president of the Lawrenceville Historical Society.

The schedule for this year's free musical concerts on the cemetery lawn includes Steel City Ukuleles at 11:15 a.m., Home Front at 12:30 p.m., Hey Mavis at 1:45 p.m. and Harpers Ferry Minstrels at 3 p.m.

LHS member Tim Neff and his docents will provide a new trolley tour of the cemetery. This narrated tour will highlight many of the otherwise forgotten historical and architectural aspects of Allegheny Cemetery. There will be a modest charge for the trolley and carriage rides.

Because 2014 commemorates the 200th anniversary of the founding of Lawrenceville, LHS has issued a commemorative coin, priced at \$15 each. Only 200 coins have been issued and will be sold at Doo Dah Days to help offset the cost of the festival.

This year also marks the bicentennial of the Allegheny Arsenal, which served the military from 1814 until 1926. To celebrate this event local plein-air painter Ron Donoughe created a beautiful anniversary



ABOVE: Limited-edition wine growlers will be available at this year's Doo Dah Days. Photo courtesy of Arsenal Cider House.

painting of an autumn scene at the historic Allegheny Arsenal gatehouse. Only 200 signed and numbered prints will be issued. Prints will be available in two (approximate) sizes: 17-by-23 inches and 11-by-17 inches.

In addition, to honor the 150th anniversary of the death of Stephen Foster, LHS and the Arsenal Cider House at 300 39 St. have issued a limited edition of 150 wine growler bottles. The empty one-liter growlers are destined to be a collector's item and are labeled "Hard Times," after Foster's song "Hard Times (Come Again No More)." With a picture of a weeping Stephen Foster, the label includes lyrics from the song: "Let us pause in life's pleasures and count its many tears." ♦



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# Career Connections from page 5

together over the summer to help students and parents figure out their options, enroll and prepare for the 2014-2015 school year. Once the school closed, it fell to PPS to take the lead.

On Thursday, June 12, PPS hosted a meeting for parents and students at University Preparatory School in the Hill District for potential new students in the upcoming year. According to Rick Flanagan, Youth Development Director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, a tiny contingent of the students from CCCHS was represented at the meeting.

CCCHS had offered a dual-enrollment program, which provided students with the option of being enrolled in high school while taking Community College of Allegheny County or La Roche College classes as well. "It just won't be available to students anymore," said McElhone. "[PPS] used to have [a dual-enrollment program] but that was dropped a few years ago. The option is going to be gone." The CCCHS students who were registered for the dual-enrollment program for the 2014-2015 year will drop out of those classes.

It remains unclear how credits will transfer as students enroll in their new schools for the fall, particularly those credits obtained through the dual enrollment program. Dara Ware Allen, assistant superintendent of student support services for the Pittsburgh Board of Education, said that the individual counselors at each

school would determine credit transferal. She gave no further details about that process.

Although a few community organizations and individuals have suggested that PPS hold a public meeting to inform parents of how they should move forward, no such meeting has been planned.

There are no hard deadlines for registering students for public school in the fall, but Allen stressed the importance of enrolling as soon as possible to ensure students a spot in their feeder school. Graduated seniors who are behind on credits should be aware that they are able to attend a PPS-run summer school at Allderdice for all feeder high schools.

The Pittsburgh Public School website houses information about enrolling in the public school system under "Neighborhood School Enrollment." Parents must provide a number of required documents, including evidence of child's date of birth, immunization records and proof of residence, in order to complete the process.

The parent hotline is available during the summer at 412-622-7920 and parenthotline@pghboe.net. Registration can also be completed at the Summer Welcome Center in the Office of Support Services, Room 440 of 341 S. Bellefield Ave.

To contact PPS directly, Dara Ware Allen can be reached at 412-622-3950. ♦

# Perry Senior Serves as Role Model

By Dave Breingan  
Lawrenceville United



ABOVE: *Tori Epps builds strong relationships with students at Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5. Photo by Nancy Walker.*

Lawrenceville – At the 21st Century After-school Program at Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5, a group of elementary students crowds around Tori Epps, a graduating senior at Pittsburgh Perry Traditional Academy and a staff member at the after-school program. She's sharing pictures of the dress she plans to wear to prom, and the kids are enamored. They pepper her with questions about the dress and her hair. One student even asks Tori if she can come to the high school prom, too.

For Nancy Walker, coordinator of the afterschool program, the question comes as no surprise. Over the course of the school year, Walker said, she has witnessed Epps develop into more than just a tutor; she has become an integral staff member and a positive mentor to the students.

"She is a nice person, and she has a good attitude," said Kylie Harris, a fourth grader in the afterschool program. "She's special."

A motivated Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) trainee with college and career ambitions, Epps is a strong role model to the elementary

students, despite a history of personal challenges that she has had to overcome. Raised in foster homes and adoptive families, Epps said she does not look back fondly on most of her childhood home life and recalls a string of social workers who were disengaged or absent.

Yet she has found support in other places. For making it this far, she credits staff at the Three Rivers Youth group home where she has lived for the last several years, as well as having older girls to look up to. One older girl inspired her to join the JROTC program at Perry, and Epps said the training there has made a big impact on her as well.

"They keep pushing and pushing you," Epps said. "They don't ever want you to give up."

Among the tight-knit staff at the 21st Century Afterschool Program at Arsenal, Epps found a love for working with children and another support group that provided a sense of family. Epps was a part of a team that was dedicated to working hard and focusing on the best interest of children.

Epps' employment was funded by a partnership between the Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC). After navigating the college application and enrollment process with the help of Erin Heryford, youth program coordinator at the BGC, Epps is bound for Edinboro College next year. She said she plans to become a social worker "because I would like to help kids get the help I didn't get."

For children who want to achieve what she has, Epps' advice is simple: "Don't ever give up." ♦





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## Anti-Poverty *from page 6*

The training focuses on dispelling myths about poverty, learning to develop healthy relationships between leaders and allies, and giving both groups the tools to effectively combat poverty.

Once training is completed, the families will move into weekly Circle-wide gatherings, where they are matched by the Circles coaches based on their interests and similarities to other families.

These larger meetings focus on community issues that affect everyone, such as housing and transportation.

To be part of the national organization, interested communities must apply for membership and pay an annual fee to use the Circles framework and materials.

Circles coordinators and coaches must go through Hands on Training conducted by the national organization to ensure that the program is carried out in full.

Once this is completed, the trained coordinators and coaches implement the program in their local chapter.

Block said that as the East Liberty chapter of Circles launches, ELDI, Open Hand Ministries, Repair the World: Pitts-

burgh and EECM will bring their own strengths and resources to the table.

With connections to different groups of interest in the East Liberty community, each organization has the potential to recruit leaders and allies for Circles.

“In order to be a successful organization we need to be able to collaborate,” Block said. “We’ve partnered with like-minded organizations to help ensure the success of this program.”

The local chapter has already received some interest from families in the neighborhood, but further recruitment and promotion will take place before the program launches.

Melnik said they have also discussed opening a few more Circles groups in 2015, offering the possibility of expanding it to other neighborhoods in Pittsburgh.

For more information about the program, please contact Ted Melnyk of ELDI at [ted.melnik@eastliberty.org](mailto:ted.melnik@eastliberty.org) or Akirah Robinson of Open Hand Ministries at [arobinson@openhandspittsburgh.org](mailto:arobinson@openhandspittsburgh.org). ♦



ABOVE: Students explore the Great Allegheny Passage on bicycles. The trip was part of MGR Youth Empowerment's Positive Spin program. Photo courtesy of the Braddock Youth Project.

## Youths Spin into Summer

By Shannon Hussey

MGR Youth Empowerment

Lawrenceville – For most young people, the end of May signals rest and relaxation as the school year comes to a close. For those involved in MGR Youth Empowerment's "Positive Spin" youth cycling program, this time of year means the most work – and fun.

MGR Youth Empowerment provides in-school and after-school art, health and environmental-justice programs to youths in underserved schools in the Pittsburgh public school system. In the Positive Spin program, participants learn about bicycle safety, mechanics and advocacy, as well as ways to live an active, healthy lifestyle. During the school year, students go on several biking trips in and around their communities in order to prepare for a culminating summer excursion.

During the last weekend of May, 23 students from Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8 and Schiller 6-8 spent two days at River's Edge Campground in Connellsville, Pa. While there, the students were given the opportunity to bike 24- and 44-mile sections of the Great Allegheny Passage trail.

The Great Allegheny Passage, a 335-mile walking and bicycling path, connects Western Pennsylvania to Washington, D.C. Abundant natural features – winding rivers, shaded valleys, trees and wildflowers – surround the trail, enabling the young riders to experience and appreciate nature in ways not possible in an urban environment.

The trip rewards the year-long efforts of the students by challenging them to

use the skills they have cultivated in Positive Spin. Completing either of the trail sections serves as a major accomplishment for the young riders, as it is the longest ride they will take within the program.

In addition to the trail rides, the youths were given a traditional camping experience – sleeping outdoors in tents, roasting s'mores by a fire and enjoying time in the sun. “This is the most fun I have ever had,” one student said.

Several volunteers from Braddock Youth Project, a job and skills training program for young adults, assisted the Positive Spin staff during trail rides and camping activities to ensure the trip was a success. Volunteers from the AmeriCorps program facilitated the load-in and return of bicycles from storage and preparation of supplies.

Kindred Cycles, a Lawrenceville-based bicycle shop, also supported the effort. Prior to the trip, expert mechanics at Kindred Cycles helped repair the fleet of bicycles used by the students during the school year so they would be in top condition for use on the trails.

The students appeared to have had such a good experience that they passed around a petition to stay at the campsite for three days instead of two. Active Health Program Coordinator Julie Mallis said, “The youth came together as a collective and used their advocacy skills to try and extend their trip. Although we were not able to grant their petition due to logistics, it was an admirable effort to see them put their ideas into action.” ♦

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July 2

EAST LIBERTY

Music/Audio Workshop

The Labs @ CLP is a place for teenagers to learn and create. Every first week of the month, we focus on music and audio production at The Labs. Aspiring musicians, singers, rappers, DJs and podcasters of all skill levels are welcome to explore their interests. Open to students from grades 6 to 12. Runs from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty branch, 130 S. Whitfield St. Call 412-363-8232 or visit eastliberty@carnegielibrary.org for more information.

July 3

GARFIELD

Art Exhibit

“Blind Intersections: Another Series of False Leads” is an art exhibit that will open at the Irma Freeman Center for Imagination, located at 5006 Penn Ave., from 7 to 10 p.m. This is a Stadium-trash group exhibit, meaning that it was curated by Pittsburgh underground music veteran Tee Glitter. The Emily Rogers Band will be performing, and there will be a reading by Tee Glitter.

EAST LIBERTY

Open Lab

The teen-only Open Lab period gives you some space to work on whatever creative and/or tech project you like. Need help? Ask a mentor in The Labs. Open to students from grades 6 to 12. Runs from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St. Call 412-363-8232 or visit eastliberty@carnegielibrary.org for more information.

July 5

BLOOMFIELD

Saturday Market

This outdoor community farmer’s market takes place every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through November 1 at the West Penn Hospital parking lot located at 5050 Liberty Avenue. July programming includes music by Brad Yoder on July 5 and Bike Day on July 26, with cooking demonstrations, mini exercise classes, health screenings, and nutrition and healthy living information every week. A new Family Support Tent will be provided by the Allegheny Health Network, featuring a changing station and two seats for breast- or bottle-feeding caregivers. The Allegheny Health Network will also give away four Pirates tickets at each market.

Sorry, we do not accept listings by phone.

The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, fundraising events and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Listings published on a space-available basis; we cannot guarantee placement. **Announcements for the August issue are due Tuesday, July 15, via email to bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org.**

Call 412-708-1277 or visit www.bloomfieldnow.com for details. Upcoming dates include: July 12, 19 and 26.

July 6

GARFIELD

Old-Time Gospel Musical

The Morningside Church of God in Christ, located at 5173 Dearborn St., will host a multi-choir musical event at 3:30 p.m. Presented by the Young Women Christian Counsel and Pastor Elder Lamont B. Shields, this event will feature The King of Kings Choir, Evangelist Earlene Smith, The Morningside Combined Choir, and Sister Tammy Womack, among others. Come out to enjoy your favorite gospel tunes.

July 7

EAST LIBERTY

SAT/ACT Study Club

Teens: It’s hard to make space and time to study, especially if you’re doing it on your own. Come to the Test Prep Study Club and learn about test-taking strategies. Take advantage of experienced tutors, library resources and apps. Every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St. Runs through August 26. Call 412-363-8232 or visit eastliberty@carnegielibrary.org for more information.

July 9

EAST LIBERTY

Installation Art Workshop

Teens: Explore the library in a way you have never before imagined with the Mattress Factory. Create happenings, installations and unexpected art that we will install in the library. Four free sessions July 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 4 to 7 p.m. Beginners are welcome and equipment is provided. Space is limited and registration is required. Sign up now at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St. Call 412-363-8232 or visit eastliberty@carnegielibrary.org for more information about the event.

July 11

EAST LIBERTY

Comics Making Club

Teens: Do you enjoy reading manga, comics and graphic novels? Want to learn how to make your own or hone your skills? Join a free comics club at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty, 130

S. Whitefield St. on Fridays from 3 to 5 p.m. through August 15. Call 412-363-8232 or visit eastliberty@carnegielibrary.org for more information.

July 12

GARFIELD

Youth Rally

The Morningside Church of God in Christ at 5173 Dearborn St. will host an outdoor Youth Rally from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be face painting, games, mimes, dancing, singing, open mic and speakers. Come, bring your friends, have fun and be blessed. Refreshments will be served. Contact Elder Lamont B. Shields, Pastor, at 412-361-9865 for more information.

July 13

LAWRENCEVILLE

Night Gallery Art Bash

The Night Gallery is an urban art space in Lawrenceville at 4936 50th St. From 1 to 10 p.m. Pittsburgh’s most exclusive horror and underground artists will be showing their works for one day only. Free food and live music will be available after 4 p.m. Event is open to all ages. There will be no drinks served at the event, so BYOB. Call Cheryl at 412-915-9254 for more information about the artists and the venue.

July 14

LAWRENCEVILLE

Super Science Camp

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., is bringing a 5-day science camp to students entering grades 1 through 5 in the fall. Explore different types of science through fun activities and challenging hands-on experiments that demonstrate the importance of science and encourage critical and creative thinking. Supplies provided. Registration is required for all five days. Please call 412-682-3668 for more information. The camp runs through July 18.

July 16

GARFIELD

Bank Recruitment

First Commonwealth Bank will be recruiting from 11 a.m. to noon at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Ave. Whether you are looking to start a new career or you are a seasoned worker in the banking industry, First Commonwealth is seeking enthusiastic candidates. Learn more about requirements and eligibility at the recruitment session. To register, call 412-362-8580.

HIGHLAND PARK

Summer Family Yoga

Two family-friendly yoga classes will be offered at The Union Project, 801 N. Negley Ave. The class for kids ages 5-11 will be from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and

the class for kids and teens will be from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to participate with their children. Donation-based class fee (recommended \$5-15 per person). Please bring a yoga mat to class and arrive 10-15 minutes prior to class start time. Classes are taught by therapeutic yoga instructor, Ali Popivchak, RYT. Please feel free to email Ali with questions prior to class at ali.popivchak@gmail.com

July 17

LAWRENCEVILLE

Speaking Pittsburghese

The Lawrenceville Historical Society will host Dr. Barbara Johnstone, author of the recently published book “Speaking Pittsburghese.” Unlike many of the campy books on the subject, Dr. Johnstone, a professor of Rhetoric and Linguistics at Carnegie Mellon University, will deliver a serious address on how our unique speech pattern developed. The lecture takes place at Canterbury Place, McVey Auditorium, 310 Fisk St., at 7 p.m. and is free and open to the public. No reservations required.

July 19

EAST LIBERTY

Talking Permaculture

Come to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty at 130 S. Whitfield St. to hear a talk from John Creasy of Garfield Community Farm from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. to learn about permaculture. You will leave this workshop with practical solutions to basic gardening questions, ideas for sustainable living and inspiration to continue experimenting with permaculture. Call 412-363-8232 or visit eastliberty@carnegielibrary.org for more information.

GARFIELD

Dance Community Day

Los Sabrosos Dance Company, located at 4909 Penn Ave., is bringing Garfield a community day with a variety of dance classes for \$1 each. Zumba at 3 p.m., Salsa at 4 p.m., Cha-Cha at 5 p.m. and Bachata at 6 p.m. Call 412-465-0290 for more information.

July 20

GARFIELD

Annual Women’s Day

The Morningside Church of God in Christ, located at 5173 Dearborn St, will host the Annual Women’s Day at 3:30 p.m. Dinner will be served in Fellowship Hall following morning service. For information contact Evangelist Mary Shields at 412-361-9865.

July 21

LAWRENCEVILLE

Imagination Builders: Legos

Children and caregivers are invited to use their imagination to build Lego structures. Building



# Volunteer Opportunities & Services

blocks are more than fun toys; they are valuable educational and creative tools. Join us for this family program for children of all ages. Call the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., at 412-682-3668 for more information.

August 13

## EAST LIBERTY

### Magic of Electrons

The Labs @ CLP is a place for teenagers to learn and create. This free workshop with TechShop will cover the basics of electronics. Each student will learn how to solder and build his or her own POV (Persistence of Vision) Kit. It runs from 4 to 7 p.m. Beginners welcome. Equipment is provided. Space is limited and registration is required. Sign up now at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty branch, 130 S. Whitfield St. Call 412-363-8232 or visit [eastliberty@carnegielibrary.org](mailto:eastliberty@carnegielibrary.org) for more information.

Further Out

## GARFIELD

### SAT Prep Scholarships

Looking for free SAT help? Neighbors in Need is offering five scholarships for Pittsburgh U Prep's summer intensive course. For more information, and to apply, visit [ninpittsburgh.com/satprep](http://ninpittsburgh.com/satprep) or contact [nicjedema@pittsburghprep.com](mailto:nicjedema@pittsburghprep.com)

### Garfield Rebels Reunion

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1964 undefeated championship season of the Garfield Rebels, a youth football team, Jim Kohler – who played offense that year – is organizing a reunion to be held in October, 2014. The event is open to former team members and their families as well as anyone who fondly remembers the team. If you have information about team members and their whereabouts, or if you'd like to attend the reunion, contact Kohler at 412-853-1895.

## LAWRENCEVILLE

### Call for Houses

The annual Lawrenceville Hospitality House Tour will be held on Sunday, October 5 from 12 to 5 p.m. The House Tour Planning Committee is seeking neighborhood "labors of love" to feature on this year's tour. If you reside in the 6th, 9th or 10th wards of Lawrenceville and are interested in participating or getting more information please visit our website at [www.lha15201.org](http://www.lha15201.org) or contact Kate at 412-621-2573 or [kateb1950@gmail.com](mailto:kateb1950@gmail.com).

## Classifieds

### Services

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We clear basements, yards, garages, attics, estates

**Fast, Reliable, Reasonable**

Also demolition work, minor repairs, grass cutting, salvage credit.

412-687-6928 **Call Walt** 412-773-0599

## Learning about Healthy Snacking



*Garfield* – On May 24, Magee Hospital of UPMC hosted a workshop for children at Kincaid Community Garden on how to make and enjoy healthy snacks. Chris Vitsas, dietary director at Magee, led the workshop, which about 10 children attended.

The workshop came about when Garfield Community Action Team (GCAT) volunteer Minette Vaccariello, who works for UPMC, entered a contest at work, submitting an essay on why she likes to volunteer and where she spends her volunteer hours.

"I wrote about Kincaid Community Garden, and it was selected as a winning volunteer project for UPMC," Vaccariello wrote in an email to *The Bulletin*. "As a winner, I could select a volunteer event of my choice, and UPMC would recruit volunteers to participate in volunteering at that event."

Vaccariello teamed up with Judy Focareta, coordinator of environmental health initiatives at Magee, to create an outreach event for kids at the Kincaid Street garden.

The children who attended the workshop learned how to make an easy snack called "ants on a log" – peanut butter and raisins in celery sticks. *Photo by James Souder.*

## Thill Recognized for Serving Children



*Garfield* – On May 29, Leah Thill with Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience (PULSE) won a United Way of Allegheny County "Be There" Award for her work in the community – specifically for her work in getting youths involved in the Kincaid Community Garden and bringing the Little Free Library to Garfield. A part of United Way's countywide school attendance campaign, the "Be There Awards: Celebrating Adults Who Show Up for Kids," is an effort to recognize those community members and educators who have gone above and beyond in their support of children across the county. In the photo, Thill received her award in the category of community volunteer from Bob Nelkin, resident and CPO of United Way of Allegheny County. *Photo courtesy of Kathryn Vargas.*

July 22

## GARFIELD

### AARP Recruitment Event

AARP WorkSearch program is holding a recruitment event from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Ave. To qualify you must be 55 or older, unemployed, an Allegheny County resident, and low income. To determine eligibility you must bring the following: PA ID or PA driver's license, Social Security card, resume, void check or direct deposit authorization and documents showing past 12 months of income, including spouse. (Examples: wages, SNAP, SSI, SSDI, unemployment benefits, pension, last pay stub for 2013 & 2014, veteran's disability, etc.). Documents can be copied on site. To register, call 412-362-8580.

August 2

## LAWRENCEVILLE

### Flea Market

New Bethel Baptist Church at 221 43rd St. will host a flea market and vendor's market place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Barbecue and sweet potato pies will be available. Vendors should contact Catherine Curry at 412-441-5968 for more information.

August 4

## EAST LIBERTY

### VBS- Crossroads Church

Kids can feel weird, different, or even lost in a crowd, but there is a place for every child at Vacation Bible School. This year, August 4 through 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. the Crossroads Church East Liberty Campus is offering a community-wide VBS for children from Kindergarten through fifth grade. Our VBS is free to all attendees and comes with only one expectation: that you have a lot of fun. Space is limited so register early at [www.crossroadsumc.org/eastliberty-vbs](http://www.crossroadsumc.org/eastliberty-vbs) or call 412-363-2222.

August 6

## EAST LIBERTY

### DJ Workshop

Hip-Hop on L.O.C.K. will teach teens how to jump on the wheels of steel and learn to DJ. Workshop runs from 4 to 7 p.m. and is free. Beginners welcome. Equipment is provided. Space is limited and registration is required. Sign up now to secure your spot for this awesome opportunity at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St. Call 412-363-8232 or visit [eastliberty@carnegielibrary.org](mailto:eastliberty@carnegielibrary.org) for more information and to register.



# Changes Afoot at The Bulletin

By Bill Cornell  
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

*Garfield* – As Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation board president, I sat down to talk with Paula Martinac and Sarah Burke to mark Martinac’s leaving her position as The Bulletin’s editor after seven years and Burke’s joining the BGC staff as her replacement.

**Bill Cornell:** Paula, you’ve made huge contributions to the BGC and The Bulletin during your time with us. What is taking you away from Pittsburgh?

**Paula Martinac:** My partner got a great job at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte, so I’ll be an academic spouse for a while. I’ll be doing some freelance writing and teaching a couple of classes at UNC next spring, but I’ll take my time to figure out what I really want to do next.

**BC:** Looking back on your time with *The Bulletin*, what stands out to you?

**PM:** Probably the biggest thing is the most recent – the opening of the Bottom Dollar store. I am so glad that I was still here to cover opening day, to see that long line of people down two blocks, all the happy faces. I’ve been covering that story for almost three years, all the back and forth – will we get the store or are we going to lose it? So to see it open has been wonderful.

**BC:** So if you were doing my job and asking you questions, what would you ask yourself?

**PM:** I’d ask what has been the best part of my job. And I’d answer by saying it’s all the people I’ve met. I’ve talked to so



ABOVE: Paula Martinac served as editor of *The Bulletin* for seven years. She’ll be moving to North Carolina with her partner this summer. Photo by John Colombo Photography.

many people I would never have met any other way. Before I started with the BGC I was a freelance writer working alone out of my office on the third floor of my house. You can get pretty weird working by yourself so much.

**BC:** And what you are proudest of?

**PM:** The redesign of *The Bulletin*. The PPND [now Neighborhood Allies] grant to redesign The Bulletin was so important. I am really proud of that. *The Bulletin* has become a real newspaper, and an amazing number of people read it and talk about it. I love it when people tell me how much



ABOVE: Sarah Burke is joining the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation staff as communications and marketing manager, and as editor of *The Bulletin*. Photo by Paula Martinac.

they enjoy it.

**BC:** And so, Sarah, would you introduce yourself to the community by saying something about what excites you about your new job?

**Sarah Burke:** I’ve been living in Pittsburgh for less than a year, so I’m most excited about the opportunity to meet people and build relationships. I love how *The Bulletin* gives the community a voice, and my first priority is to keep it going strong. Since Paula’s position was part-time and mine is full-time, I’ll have more of an opportunity to strengthen the BGC’s

social media presence and start an e-newsletter. I’ll also be working 10 hours per week at the Neighborhood Learning Alliance, so I’m looking forward to learning more about both organizations and helping them share their stories. As an added bonus, my new office is right down the street from my house. I couldn’t ask for a better commute.

**BC:** What were you doing before the move here?

**SB:** Most recently, I earned my master’s degree in creative writing and environment from Iowa State University. While I was there, I worked as a communications assistant for Iowa State’s College of Human Sciences; as a freelance writer for the Women, Food and Agriculture Network; and as managing editor for *Flyway: Journal of Writing and Environment*. After moving to Pittsburgh, I started a communications internship at Lawrenceville United and discovered how much I enjoyed working for a small, busy, community-based nonprofit. When I saw this job opening at the BGC it sounded like the perfect fit.

**BC:** And what’s your first impression of the BGC?

**SB:** I admire the work the BGC is doing, and the staff and board members I’ve met so far are great people. There is so much energy and commitment here. I know it’s a place that will grow with me and allow me to learn new skills and wear a lot of hats. I don’t think I’ll ever be bored.

**PM:** I guarantee you won’t be bored. ♦

## In Memoriam: Bertha Nesser

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation mourns the passing of Bertha Nesser, 43, former lead site coordinator for 21st Century Pittsburgh LEARNS, an after-school program of Neighborhood Learning Alliance and the BGC. Nesser passed away peacefully on May 22, 2014, surrounded by her family and her boyfriend. A native of Uniontown and graduate of St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Nesser led the afterschool program at Pittsburgh Fort Pitt Elementary School for four years. At the time of her death, she was living in Scottsdale, Pa., and pursuing a master’s degree in education from California University of Pennsylvania.



ABOVE: Bertha Nesser with students at Fort Pitt Elementary in late 2007. Photo by Paula Martinac

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