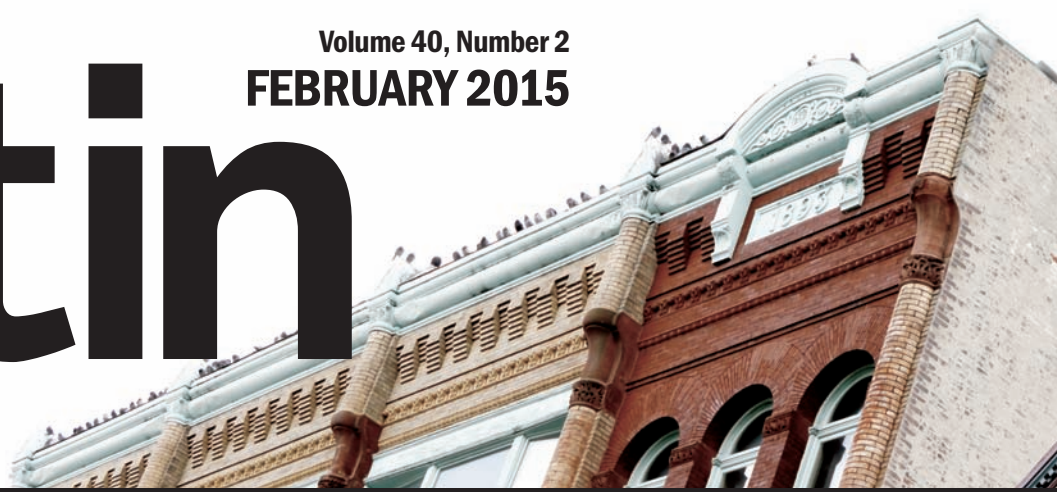


the Bulletin

Volume 40, Number 2
FEBRUARY 2015

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



Construction underway at 4800 Penn Avenue

By Joe Reuben *Bulletin Contributor*

Bloomfield – With most of the \$11.6 million in financing now in place, ACTION-Housing, Inc. is moving forward with the development of a residential-commercial complex at 4800 Penn Ave. in Bloomfield, to be known as the Penn-Mathilda Apartments.

Nearly two years of planning and meetings with neighborhood groups will culminate in the construction of a three-story building with 39 apartments and four commercial storefronts, replacing what is now several one-story garages at the Penn and South Mathilda Street site.

According to Lena Andrews, planning and development officer for ACTION-Housing, all of the apartments will feature rents that will put them within reach of households earning 60 percent or less of the median income for the region. The building will be largely one-bedroom apartments, which means a one-person household would have to earn less than \$27,600 annually to qualify as a potential tenant.

The development is benefiting from an

See **Penn-Mathilda** | page 3



ABOVE: Visitors interact with the “Color Me Pittsburgh” exhibit at Kelly Strayhorn Theater’s sixth annual “East Liberty Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day” event on Jan. 19. Learn more about the exhibit’s upcoming debut at Assemble in Garfield on page 16. Photo by Mark Simpson.

Mayor, county executive push to keep grocery store

By Aggie Brose
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield – Mayor William Peduto, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, and community leaders are scheduled to meet in early February with Aldi executives to discuss the future of the

See **Bottom Dollar** | page 2

2

School partnership program grows

By Dave Breingan
Lawrenceville United

Lawrenceville – It’s said that strong public schools benefit the entire community, and education works best when schools, families, and the community work together. That’s the principle behind the

See **Partnership** | page 5

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ABOVE: Brant Meehan offers free art therapy sessions for cancer patients and their families at the Cancer Caring Center in Bloomfield. Read the full story on page 8. Photo by John Colombo Photography.

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the Bulletin

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Bottom Dollar from page 1

former Bottom Dollar grocery store at 5200 Penn Ave.

Aldi is in the process of purchasing 5200 Penn Ave., along with 45 other stores in Pennsylvania, from the Delhaize Group, the parent company of Bottom Dollar Foods. The Penn Avenue Bottom Dollar

closed on Jan. 12, three days earlier than the closing date given in a press release from the Delhaize Group.

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) cancelled a Jan. 15 bus trip to Aldi's Saxonburg office, in hopes of initiating a dialogue with Aldi, once the

February meeting was scheduled with Aldi executives and elected officials.

Mayor Peduto helped initiate this meeting through a conference call with Aldi's Saxonburg division vice president, Brent Laubaugh. County Executive Fitzgerald and City Councilman Rev. Ricky Burgess also scheduled conference calls with Aldi executives.

BGC staff members have been in communication with Laubaugh and with Teross Young, Delhaize's vice president of government relations, to extract a

commitment from both parties to keep all grocery store fixtures and equipment in the building until the sale of the store is completed.

Residents may express their desire to keep a grocery store on Penn Avenue by signing an online petition at http://bit.ly/aldi_petition, and by writing letters of support. Letters can be mailed to the BGC's office, 5149 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15224. The BGC will then organize these letters and share them with Aldi and Delhaize executives. ♦



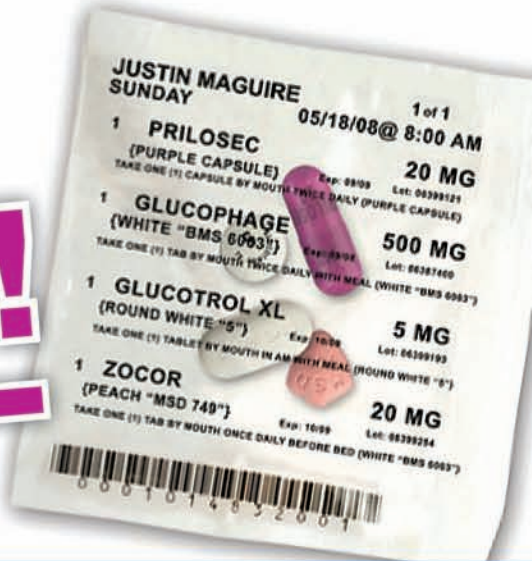
ABOVE: The South Side Aldi location at 2628 E. Carson St. is similar in size and layout to the former Bottom Dollar store in Garfield. Photo by Rick Flanagan.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

The Pittsburgh Police Department arrested Charles Stevens in late December. Stevens was wanted in connection with the murder of Naytel Pack, which occurred last July in Garfield's Nelson Mandela Peace Park. The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) credits the Pittsburgh Police Department for the intensive investigation that led to his arrest. Stevens was held for trial at a preliminary hearing in mid-January.

The Pittsburgh Police Department has also organized a one-day "Moms and Cops" training on child care, recognizing tell-tale signs of child abuse, and preventing intimate partner violence. The workshop will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 4 in the BGC Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave. Breakfast, lunch, and child care will be provided. Call 412-206-9849 to register. ♦

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The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service, is once again assisting individual taxpayers with filing federal and state tax returns online.

There is **no charge** for this service, which will be offered **every Saturday**, beginning Feb. 7 and ending on April 11. Taxpayers will need to make appointments in advance, and then come to the BGC Community Activity Center in Garfield, **113 N. Pacific Ave.**

The first appointments are at 12:15 p.m., and the last at 4:15 p.m. We do not assist business filers or individuals who have rental income or sizable capital gains to report. City residents will also be able to receive help in filing their city tax returns.

Call Rick Swartz at 412-441-6950, ext. 11 to schedule an appointment.

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the Bulletin

A publication of the
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation



Serving Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty, Lawrenceville, and Stanton Heights Since 1975 with the mission of reporting on activities affecting those communities and offering an opportunity for residents to express opinions and exchange ideas.

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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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Penn-Mathilda *from page 1*

award of federal housing tax credits, which greatly reduces the amount of debt the project will have to carry over the long term.

“Without the tax credits, delivering housing that is affordable to people of working-class backgrounds is nearly impossible to do,” Andrews told The Bulletin. “But with the tax credits come more operational responsibilities than what you’d typically find with a conventional apartment complex.”

ACTION-Housing hopes to see a number of the apartments leased to veterans of the recent conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Persian Gulf.

“From meetings we’ve had in recent months with veterans’ organizations, we’ve learned of the difficulty that those who’ve served our country are having in finding good-quality, affordable housing,” Andrews said. “The building at 4800 Penn will place many of them closer to job and education opportunities in the

heart of the city.”

The four first-floor storefronts will be developed to accommodate three retail enterprises, along with one space available for the upstairs tenants and the community to use for different types of programming.

Rick Swartz, executive director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), said the BGC “will be working with ACTION to identify tenants whose businesses or activities will complement the street, without disrupting life for those in the adjoining residential area.

“Ideally, we’d love to see a restaurant in at least one of those spaces, but one whose hours don’t translate into customers going to their cars at 2 a.m.,” Swartz said. “We’re



ABOVE: A long-facade view of the Penn-Mathilda Apartments, which will be constructed at 4800 Penn Ave. in Bloomfield. Image courtesy of Moss Architects.

working to make the storerooms available at rates below what developers would typically charge for space of this nature.”

The BGC will be responsible for managing the leases and helping to program the events that take place in the fourth storefront.

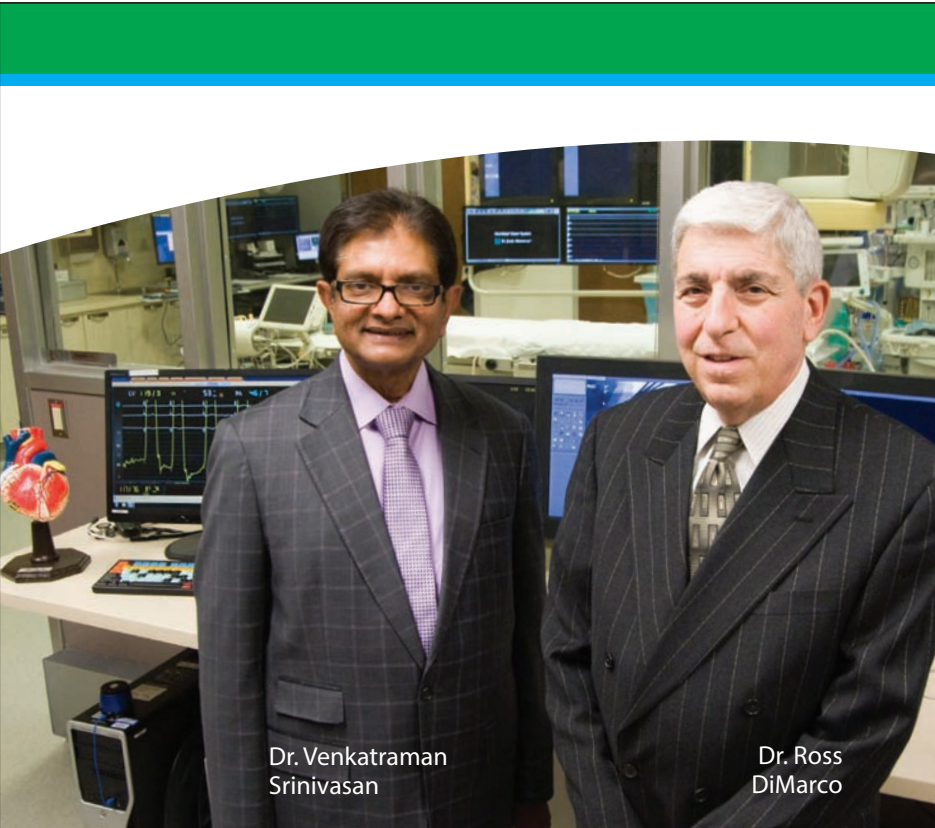
Repal Construction of North Huntingdon is the general contractor, and Moss Archi-

itects of Lawrenceville is providing the design and construction supervision services for the project. Financing for the development is being furnished by BNY Mellon Community Development Corp., the Urban Redevelopment Authority, and Bridgeway Capital.

For more information, email Lena Andrews at landrews@actionhousing.org.



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



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Friendship Perk and Brew to open this year

By Aggie Brose Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Friendship – Nick Redondo plans to open a new restaurant, Friendship Perk and Brew, at 300 S. Pacific Ave. later this year.

“I want this to be a place for the community to come in and enjoy themselves,” Redondo said, noting that he plans to open at 6 a.m. to serve early morning traffic, especially those traveling to work at West Penn Hospital.

This restaurant will seat 30 to 40 people and will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Redondo said that he and his son plan to spend a considerable amount of time on site managing this restaurant, and that he will hire approximately six employees.

The fare will include baked goods and coffee in the morning, and then soups, paninis, salads, and similar menu items for lunch and dinner. Redondo also plans to sell local craft beers and six-packs to go.

The Friendship Community Group (FCG) has worked closely with Redondo on the opening of this restaurant.

“We are encouraged by Nick’s outreach to his neighbors through both community meetings and informal conversations,” the FCG’s housing and business borders committee said in a statement. “Additionally, Nick has agreed to enter into a community agreement with the FCG, which will cover such matters as hours of operation, beer sales, staffing, [and] sound and litter management.”

The committee’s statement went on to praise Redondo for his willingness to balance his business interests with the concerns of nearby neighbors.

An orange placard on display at 300 S. Pacific Avenue indicates that a zoning board hearing is scheduled for 10:10 a.m. Feb. 5, regarding Redondo’s application for a zoning code exception that will allow him to use the first floor of the building as a restaurant that will sell beer and other malt beverages. The hearing will take place on the first floor of the John P. Robin Civic Building at 200 Ross St. in Pittsburgh.

Redondo said he hopes to open Friendship Perk and Brew after completing the renovation of the 300 S. Pacific Ave. location and obtaining the proper permits and licenses. ♦

In memoriam: Tony Crisafio

By Julie Williams Lawrenceville United

Lawrenceville – A lot has changed on the 4000 block of Penn Avenue since 1930, but, until recently, Frank’s Barber Shop was something that had stayed exactly the same. The passing of Tony Crisafio at age 95 marks the end of an 80-year career as a barber in one of Pittsburgh’s oldest family businesses.

Frank’s Barber Shop was opened by Tony’s brother, Frank, in 1929. Tony began cutting hair there five years later when he was fresh out of barber school at age 15. The Crisafio grandparents converted their living room into the barber shop during the Depression, and, at one point, there were several generations and three branches of the family living in that one house.

Tony’s background as an Italian immigrant influenced how he interacted with his customers for the duration of his time on Penn Avenue.

“He cut hair for pretty much everybody – workers, to attorneys, to politicians,” said Francis Crisafio, Tony’s son. “He wouldn’t differentiate between common people and the more elevated people in the community.”

Tony’s empathy certainly represents the strength that comes from Pittsburgh’s history of immigration. As someone who started cutting hair when, as Francis says, “they were still herding cows up Penn Avenue,” Tony also maintained a constant presence during Pittsburgh’s rapid transition from an industrial steel town to a technological powerhouse.

“He was just fascinated by the changes he saw outside his window,” Francis said.

Despite all of the changes outside of the shop, Tony continued to offer haircuts for \$8.25 until he passed away on Nov. 7. Because Frank, the owner of the barber shop, passed away in 2005, the future of the Crisafio business is uncertain. What is certain is the positive legacy that Tony, the barber, has left behind on Penn Avenue and in the Lawrenceville neighborhood. ♦

Partnership from page 1



ABOVE: Our Lady of the Angels Parish leaders and community volunteers pack a truck full of toys and winter items to go to Arsenal Elementary students. Photo by Dave Breingan.

Arsenal School Partnership Program, which was created to connect local businesses and organizations with neighborhood public schools and their students.

The initiative was launched in the fall by PEP Rally, a program housed at Lawrenceville United that aims to rally parents and community partners to support and strengthen neighborhood schools in the East End. The starting focus for the partnership program has been connecting Lawrenceville businesses and organizations with Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5 and Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8. A Woolslair School Partnership Program has also been developed and will launch soon to connect the Bloomfield business community with Woolslair Elementary, its neighborhood elementary school.

The program invites businesses to get involved by catering a “family fun night,” committing to mentoring a student, sharing a skill or hosting a class visit, showing thanks on National Teacher Appreciation Day, or donating gift cards, coupons, merchandise, or services that the school can use to reward student or teacher excellence. Participating businesses receive a “Proud Partner of Arsenal Schools” window cling designed by Arsenal students, as well as recognition in newsletters and opportunities for student service projects.

Several groups have already officially signed on to the Arsenal School Partnership Program, with more currently being processed. A variety of partnerships has already developed.

The first business to join the program, Greybox Theatre, volunteered to host a special student performance at their space.

“As an arts space and a business, I think it’s essential that we [give back to] our

neighborhood and focus on education and family development, because it’s the essence of a community’s survival,” said Gina Desko, owner of Greybox Theatre. “It’s imperative for other businesses to get involved. If we don’t do it, no one will.”

Another business, Dive Bar & Grille, became an Arsenal School Partner by hosting a Thanksgiving meal for Arsenal families, while donating a portion of their monthly sales to PEP Rally.

“My family was very thankful for all the good food and the great hospitality we were given and greatly appreciated it,” said Kim Walter, an Arsenal parent and Lawrenceville resident who participated.

Our Lady of the Angels Parish collected winter clothing items and Christmas toys for 75 families, while also signing up mentors from the church parish.

A foundation wishing to remain anonymous contributed \$1,000 to purchase clothing for students whose families can’t afford it.

The Lawrenceville branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh visits Arsenal regularly with children’s and reading programming, and has also joined the school’s “Ready Freddy Team” to help build positive transitions into kindergarten.

Deli on Butler and Graziano’s Pizzeria donated gift cards to reward students showing strong progress in school, and Timbeleza, a Brazilian drumming group, signed on to lead a monthly Friday club for Arsenal Elementary students to learn the group’s musical styles. Lawrenceville Corporation has also pitched in by helping to market the program to Lawrenceville businesses and by making the program a new membership option.

To sign up for the school partnership program, or for more information, visit www.lunited.org/programs/PEP-Rally or call 412-802-7220. ♦

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TEDxGrandviewAve unveils new name and vision for 2015

By Elizabeth Sensky *East Liberty Development, Inc.*

East Liberty – As anyone who is familiar with “TED talks” knows, TED has come to stand for much more than a three-letter word for a man’s name. So, what exactly is a TED talk?

TED talks are a special breed of lectures born out of a four-day design, technology, and media conference started 30 years ago in California. Scientists, intellectuals, artists, doers, and thinkers of all kinds speak for 18 minutes or less about an “idea worth spreading.” The goal is to share ideas that inspire and motivate change.

Once limited to official TED conferences, the TED brand expanded in 2009 to include another platform: TEDx. The “x” events are independently organized, allowing people all around the world to create their own TED-inspired meetings that follow a set of general guidelines.

In 2011, Kacey Wherley, an Art Institute of Pittsburgh graduate, decided to bring one of these events to Pittsburgh. She wanted to create a forum for innovative ideas that was accessible to anyone, no matter their age, career, or background.

“As a 24-year-old art school graduate in a



ABOVE: Leah Lizarondo delivers her talk, “Why the farm is not getting to the table,” at TEDxGrandviewAve’s “Dare to Create” event last year. Photo courtesy of Anna Bender.

tech field, I wanted to sit with a diverse group where an invite and high ticket price weren’t needed,” Wherley said.

“TEDxGrandviewAve” was Wherley’s solution. The first event was held in spring of 2013, and a second conference took place last year at the New Hazlett Theater.

In the first two years, TEDxGrandviewAve grew from 100 to 500 attendees, with 19 local thought leaders sharing their stories. From Ian Rosenberg, founder of the East Liberty-based business, Thread, to John Fetterman, the mayor of Bradock, the events included a diverse lineup of speakers and attracted a lot of attention within the Pittsburgh community.

The only thing the event was missing was a name as broad and impactful as its lineup.

“When TEDxGrandviewAve started two years ago, the ‘TEDxPittsburgh’ name was unavailable,” said Gina Vensel, marketing lead for this year’s event. “Another group had received the licensing rights to the name, yet the event was dormant for a while.”

Leadership Pittsburgh, a nonprofit organization focused on leadership development within the city, hosted the first TEDxPittsburgh event in 2009 after receiving permission to use the name. The group hosted one more conference in 2011 before shifting their focus to their own event, “Leadership Pittsburgh Unboxed.”

That’s when Wherley reached out and asked if they could transfer ownership of the name, and Leadership Pittsburgh agreed. This January, with the approval of the TED organization, TEDxGrand-

viewAve was officially deemed TEDx-Pittsburgh.

“The pride that the city has [in] its name is immense; a lot of people thought we were TEDxPittsburgh anyway,” said Sara Coffey, co-organizer and lead designer for this year’s event. “We feel honored to have the title and are excited for our first event with the new name.”

An East Liberty resident, Coffey has been involved with TEDxGrandviewAve from the beginning, taking charge of design and branding for the event. This marks her first year heading up the planning team, as Wherley’s career has led her outside of Pittsburgh, though she still

remains an active advisor.

“Our vision has changed a bit, with restructuring the team and the name change. We really want to make Pittsburgh proud with our new name,” she said.

Coffey is hard at work with the 15-member leadership team to make that vision a reality. East Liberty serves as the hub for this process.

“Much of TEDxPittsburgh’s planning takes place in East Liberty. We host our planning meetings at the Beauty Shoppe, and shot the rebrand video at The Space Upstairs,” Vensel said. “TEDxPittsburgh has hosted monthly meet-ups in East Liberty as well.”

And while the messages of this event resonate for all of Pittsburgh, Vensel explained why they are particularly poignant for the East Liberty neighborhood.

“The climate of the East Liberty community is promoting the ‘new’ Pittsburgh, the evolution of the Steel City’s past to a community dedicated to sustainability, small businesses, and creativity,” Vensel said. “TEDxPittsburgh will bring the city together to ignite this creative energy.”

TEDxPittsburgh’s conference will occur sometime this spring or early summer, with exact dates yet to be released. Follow the TEDxPittsburgh team on Facebook and Twitter for more information about the 2015 event. ♦

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Jobs available in East End

By Asia Carter *Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center*

East End – The Lawrenceville Shop n’ Save at 450 56th St. is seeking job applicants for the following departments: deli, bakery, produce, and front-end cashiers. No experience is required and training will be provided, but previous grocery or retail experience is a plus.

The Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) in Garfield is encouraging former Bottom Dollar employees and those seeking employment in food services to apply for these positions. The ENEC will assist job seekers with the application process and scheduling immediate interviews. Interested candidates can contact ENEC employment coordinator Shahira Wahba at 412-362-8580.

The ENEC also encourages job seekers interested in pursuing careers in the health care industry to participate in UPMC’s Partnership On Workforce Readiness and Retention (POWRR) program workshops. These events target job seekers with entry-level skills and those who are new to the workforce or are transitioning to the health care industry.

Workshops will be held at the ENEC’s 5321 Penn Ave. office every Friday at 10 a.m. Interested participants can register for the workshop by calling the ENEC at 412-362-8580. ♦

Film showcases Penn Avenue businesses

By Sarah Burke *The Bulletin*



Penn Avenue – When David D’Agostino, Will Zavala, and Michelle Fried saw local businesses suffering during the Penn Avenue reconstruction, they came up with a creative idea to help. Franker Films, their new company specializing in documentary films, collaborated with the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) to make a 90-second film, “Yes, We’re Open,” to help attract shoppers back to the avenue.

Completed just after two-way traffic reopened on Penn in late December, this brief documentary showcases a wide variety of restaurants, galleries, studios, community spaces, and retail shops along the corridor.

“I live in Friendship, so I felt [the construction’s impact] too, but nothing like the folks trying to do business in the middle of the construction zone,” Zavala said. “We decided to do what we could to help – and really just to get the ball rolling for our business, too.”

The film can be viewed online at <http://vimeo.com/116938234>. To learn more about Franker Films, visit www.frankerfilms.com or call 412-447-1740. ♦

Pitt students visit Garfield for ‘MLK Day of Service’



Garfield – On Jan. 19, a group of students from the University of Pittsburgh helped paint the interior of a building at 5530 Penn Ave. as part of a “Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.” The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation thanks Rachel Zadnik from the University of Pittsburgh’s Office of PittServes for helping to organize the event, Pittsburgh Paints for donating supplies, and the Pitt students for their hard work. *Photo (above) by John Colombo Photography. Photo (below) by Wesley Davis.*

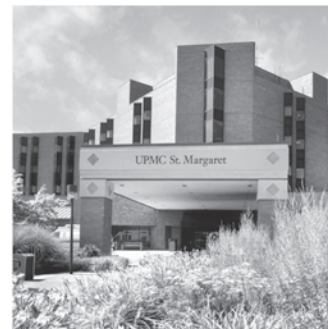


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NeighborhoodFOCUS

Art therapy inspires cancer patients

By Rebecca Whitlinger *Cancer Caring Center*

Bloomfield – As a social worker, Brant Meehan, MSW, understands the importance of helping cancer patients move forward after a diagnosis. As an artist with an undergraduate degree in art therapy, he also knows that artistic projects can be a wonderful distraction, but possibly intimidating to the “art-challenged.”

The resident artist at the Cancer Caring Center in Bloomfield, Meehan creates projects once a month that anyone and everyone can do – and be proud of.

“It’s not about the art; it’s about the journey,” Meehan said, emphasizing that talent is not required, just an open mind. “Everyone can be creative in their own way, and my job is to bring out the inner artist.”

Art therapy sessions are offered at the Cancer Caring Center, 4117 Liberty Ave., on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This program, like all others offered by the center, is free and open to cancer patients and their loved ones.

Brant is proficient in a variety of media, including clay and paint, but he gears the sessions to fit participants’ abilities.

“I was kind of shy and definitely positive that whatever I would make would be laughable, but I was pleasantly surprised and thrilled,” one of the participants said. “Brant knew how to wake up my sleeping talent. It’s something fun and constructive to do, and it took my mind off being sick, at least for one night.”

Meehan echoed that assessment.

“The camaraderie between clients can function like a mini support group. Everyone is bonded together by the event of cancer. People become very supportive,” he said. “You can see a lively exchange between them as they compare creations and help each other out if necessary. At the center, there are no wrong answers and no bad creations. I view all finished products as masterpieces and am honored to be here to



ABOVE: Brant Meehan leads free art therapy sessions at Cancer Caring Center in Bloomfield. Photo by John Colombo Photography.

guide them from start to finish.”

Projects are vast and varied. Meehan will ask in advance if anyone has something special they would like to try so he can acquire the appropriate materials.

“It’s not about the art; it’s about the journey. Everyone can be creative in their own way, and my job is to bring out the inner artist.”

– Brant Meehan, Cancer Caring Center

If not, he relies on a treasure chest of ideas, including an “affirmation box” which holds an assortment of uplifting written sentiments. To make this project, clients embellished small wooden boxes with decals, paint, and other materials. Then they chose from dozens of printed verses to fill the boxes.

At a later date, perhaps when feeling down or uninspired, they can open the box and read a comforting statement.

“Timing is everything,” Meehan said. “It’s a small but feel-good kind of pat on the back – something to draw strength from.”

Previous projects have included masks, flower pots, jewelry, and holiday gifts.

“When our clients leave the center with the finished piece, they always feel like they have accomplished something, and that is very gratifying,” Meehan said.

To learn more about the Cancer Caring Center’s free supportive services for patients and families – including individual counseling, a telephone helpline, wellness activities and much more – visit www.cancercaring.org or call 412-622-1212.

The center was founded in 1988 and works with patients from all health care systems. ♦

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Cuban dance troupe comes to East Liberty

By Paula Simon *Kelly Strayhorn Theater*

East Liberty – In December, President Barack Obama announced plans to normalize diplomatic relations with Cuba after a decades-long embargo. The decision comes at a time when Pittsburgh is establishing itself as an international hub for global citizenship and entertainment. From Vibrant Pittsburgh's "¡Hola, Pittsburgh!" campaign to food-specific cultural events hosted by Cafe Con Leche, Latin American culture is establishing a more visible presence in the Steel City.

The news to normalize relations was timely for local arts organizations like the Kelly Strayhorn Theater (KST), which announced this past December it would be bringing Cuba's Malpaso Dance

supporting international arts programming in Pittsburgh's East End. For years, East Liberty has been recognized as a hub of diversity in Pittsburgh, with internationally focused businesses, and restaurants featuring cuisine from Africa, South America, and the Caribbean. As such, celebrating the cultural richness of the neighborhood has become a core value of KST's work.

"As U.S. and Cuban relations resume, Malpaso [offers] a great opportunity to bridge gaps in cultural understanding through art and audience engagement," said Janera Solomon, KST executive director. "We're looking forward to creating more great opportunities like this

"As U.S. and Cuban relations resume, Malpaso [offers] a great opportunity to bridge gaps in cultural understanding through art and audience engagement."

– Janera Solomon, *Kelly Strayhorn Theater*

Company to Pittsburgh in February. Based in Havana, Malpaso is performing in Pittsburgh through a partnership between KST and the Joyce Theater of New York City. The two-night appearance at KST will feature Malpaso's world premiere of two brand-new works, each with noteworthy collaborators — one featuring choreography by Trey McIntyre, the other featuring music by Grammy-award-winning musician Arturo O'Farrill.

The presentation is part of the KST's World Stage Fund, an initiative

to cultivate diversity through art in our community."

Kenya C. Dworkin y Méndez, a professor of Hispanic studies at Carnegie Mellon University, has noticed Pittsburgh's gradual evolution over the past 20 years.

"It's receiving a lot of immigration and becoming more of a multicultural place," she said.

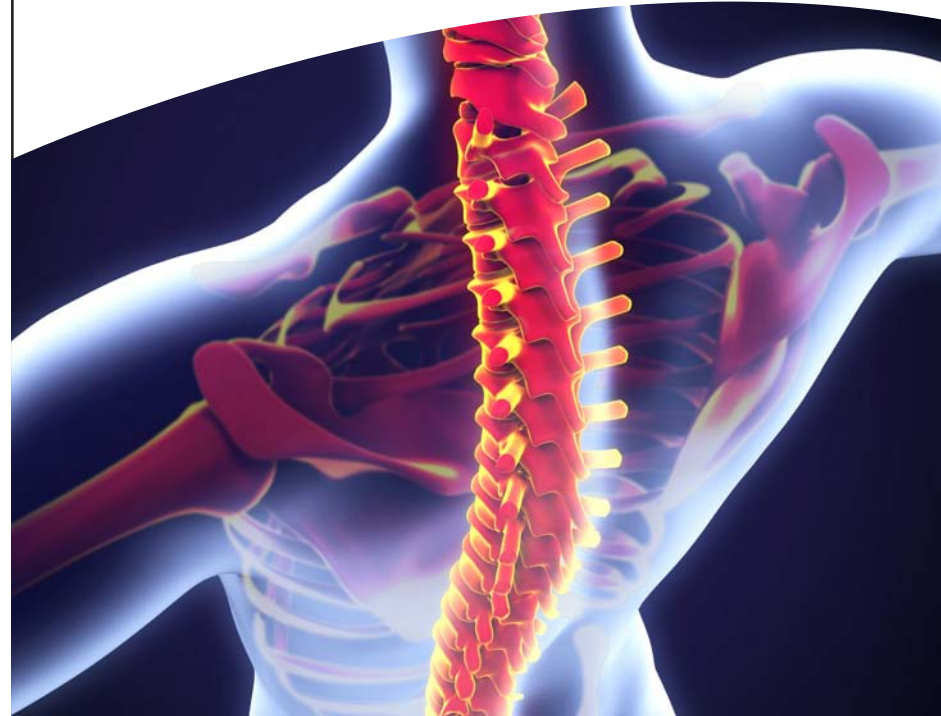
Originally from Cuba, Dworkin y Méndez has become a local leader in matters of Latin American culture, serving as the vice president of Pitts-

See **Malpaso** | page 12



ABOVE: Cuban group Malpaso Dance Company will premiere two new works at Kelly Strayhorn Theater this month. Photo by Roberto Leon.

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Neuro Spine Talk

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Bloomfield agency sweeps awards



Bloomfield – Dan Droz, president of Droz Marketing, has captured 50 percent of all “Marketer of the Year” awards granted by the American Marketing Association, including the coveted “Agency of the Year.”

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– From a press release

Hardworking youth forges bright future

By Mallory Helbling *Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

Pittsburgh – Hardworking, dedicated, ambitious, and always happy are just a few characteristics that describe Byanka Smith, a recent graduate of the Pittsburgh Job Corps’ medical assistant program. Smith is one of the youths who have taken advantage of opportunities presented by the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC).

Rick Flanagan, the BGC’s youth development director, said he has enjoyed watching Smith grow over the past three years.

opened up to engaging with patients,” Smith said of her employment experience.

Smith was also an asset to the clinic. Asia Carter, an employment coordinator at ENEC, said she watched Smith not only work the required hours but volunteer hundreds of extra hours as well.

“Byanka is amazing and really did go beyond what was expected of her,” Carter said.

The medical field has interested Smith since she was a child, and she said she

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“Byanka is amazing and really did go beyond what was expected of her.”

– Asia Carter, *Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center*

“[She is] a rising star in all of the employment programs implemented by the BGC,” Flanagan said. “Any employer who picks her up will greatly benefit.”

During her time in the BGC’s youth programs, Smith was placed at UPMC Lawrenceville Family Health Center.

“[I gained] experience in the real medical field, saw procedures firsthand, and was

looks forward to starting her career and potentially continuing her education.

While finishing her Job Corps training, Smith also worked in the ENEC, which sharpened her skills and gave her valuable face-to-face experience with clients.

For more information on these programs, visit www.bloomfield-garfield.org, www.enecpittsburgh.org, or <http://pittsburgh.jobcorps.gov>. ♦

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ABOVE: Byanka Smith has had the chance to jumpstart her career, thanks to opportunities provided by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, and Pittsburgh Job Corps. Photo by Rick Flanagan.



Follow the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation on Twitter @BloomGarCorp!

New restaurant to open in former Quiet Storm

By Amber Epps Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Penn Avenue – A new restaurant called Taste will open this spring in the former Quiet Storm space at 5430 Penn Ave., under the direction of partners Christian Frangiadis and Andy Tepper.

The restaurant will initially be open from 4 to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday, Frangiadis said. The rotating weekly menu will feature items such as house-prepared mozzarella, pasta, brick-oven pizza, and small plates.

Frangiadis said the menu will also include a bit of island influence, as his wife, who is Dominican, will be working in the kitchen. The restaurant, which will feature an exhibition kitchen, was designed by Julie Streich.

Jonathon Corey, who worked with Frangiadis in the Virgin Islands, will serve as general manager. After his time in the Virgin Islands, Corey moved to South Carolina, where he took a position at the world-famous McGrady's. ♦

Stanton Heights community assessment begins

By Lissa Geiger Shulman Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association

Stanton Heights – The Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association (SHNA) has begun work with consultant Ron Porter to develop an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of both the community and the organization, and to effectively advocate for the neighborhood.

After an initial meeting in December, a survey was distributed to the membership, and results were shared at the January meeting of the neighborhood association. After discussion and debate, a list of community priorities was assembled. Many participants reported enjoying the community roundtable format of the meeting, as well as the new location at the Three Rivers School, the former site of United Methodist Church.

“Working with Ron is an excellent opportunity to give voice to everyone in the community and then move forward to take action,” said Jessica Varone, SHNA board president.

Neighborhood issues that have so far been identified include traffic and speeding, street plowing, improvement of communication across the community, deer management, and business and economic development. The community will continue to work with Porter over the next three months to refine priorities and obtain needed resources.

Porter is an internationally recognized consultant and facilitator with expertise in strategic planning, leadership development, and managing diversity. He has worked in the Pittsburgh region for the last 30 years with both businesses and nonprofit organizations.

The community assessment is a key piece of the work SHNA is doing to expand its activities. In the last six months, the neighborhood association has formed a social committee to host monthly happy hours and a green committee that focuses on the environmental resources and community appearance. ♦

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Malpaso

from page 9

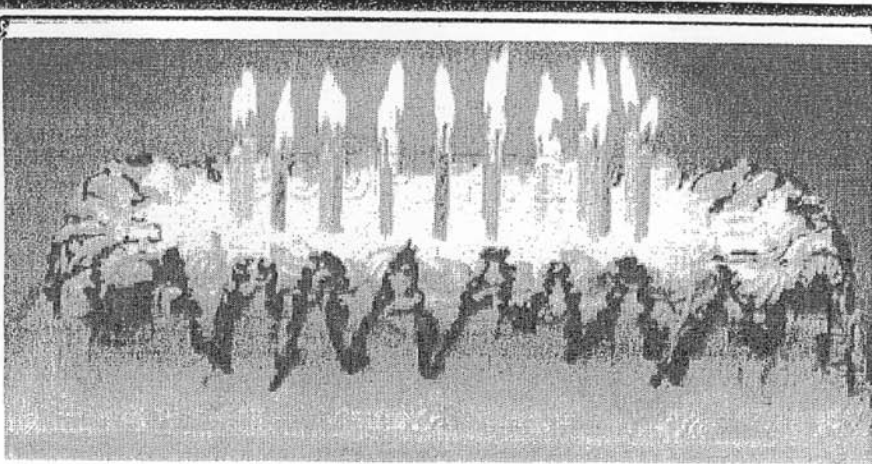
burgh's Latin American Cultural Union and as the executive director of Coro Latinoamericano, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting Latin American culture through concerts and events.

"There is still a lot of ignorance about different groups," she said. "I want to use Coro as an opportunity to continue to use cultures from south of the border and cultures that exist within the U.S. to build bridges in traditional communities here in Pittsburgh."

In addition to paving the way for tourism and economic gains, the diplomatic thaw is an opportunity to transform how the U.S. views Cuban arts and culture. Dworkin y Méndez said she sees the new policy as an opportunity to create dialogue and exchange through the arts.

"The arts scene in Cuba was and is extremely vibrant and continues to be so," she said. "I think there is going to be a lot more opportunity for people to want to come up here and vice versa. When the day comes that Americans can go [to Cuba] freely, then people who are interested in the arts are going to see that there's an incredible arts scene."

Visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org for tickets to Malpaso's performance. ♦



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New shop thrives on Penn Avenue

By Carrie Garrison *The Bulletin*

Friendship – Robin Snyder, a Westmoreland county native, came out of retirement to set up shop at 5504 Penn Ave. last May. Her colorful store, Robin's Nest, sells locally made gifts, decorative items, and an array of Pittsburgh wall art.

"There are plenty of decorative, but functional, items for the home," Snyder said.

Snyder has wasted no time in developing her shop's unique niche and style, with items offered at a variety of price points. Snyder said she wants it to be viewed as a "neighborhood store," where everyone can find an item they can afford.

The store's walls showcase Pittsburgh-themed visual art and give the space a gallery-like feel. Jewelry hangs beside leather handbags and brightly colored scarves. Colorful pottery stands alongside wood and glass products. The store's vast array of merchandise holds something for everyone, Snyder said.

Snyder's background has helped her in this venture. In addition to receiving her

master's degree in business from Carnegie Mellon University, Snyder also has manufacturing experience and learned many skills while working at PPG Industries that have aided her in owning her own business.

"Given my background, I had an open mind about putting a business together and positioning it," Snyder said. "I think it can be done; I think you can buy a lot of things for yourself and your house made by locals."

Snyder's passion for locally made products is evident within her store. These products have turned out to be very popular, Snyder said.

"I see that it brings a lot of traffic to the neighborhood," Snyder said.

Robin's Nest has participated in Unblurred gallery crawls on Penn Avenue, as well as Small Business Saturday. Snyder has also purchased advertisements in community publications such as Shady Ave Magazine, Pittsburgh City Paper, and The Bulletin.

Snyder said she is thrilled about Robin's Nest and its success, and she has been pleased that many patrons share her passion for locally made products.

"They love the fact that it's local," Snyder said.

Snyder originally anticipated that foot traffic would bring in only about 5 percent of the shop's profits, but it has accounted for about half of her store's income, which has validated her aspiration to be a neighborhood store. Overall, Snyder said, business has been promising, and she looks forward to the future.

"It's definitely on the upward trend," Snyder said. ♦



ABOVE: Pottery sold at Robin's Nest gift shop in Friendship is all made by local artists. Photo by Carrie Garrison.

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Youths deliver message of peace in new year

By Shannon Hussey MGR Youth Empowerment

Pittsburgh – To usher in the new year, students from Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8 and Pittsburgh Schiller 6-8 participated in the First Night parade in downtown Pittsburgh on New Year's Eve. As a part of their activities in MGR Youth Empowerment's "Arts in Action" and "Positive Spin" programs, the students created puppets, props, and a social media campaign meant to inspire their communities.

The students, their teaching artists and instructors, as well as volunteers and family members, marched together through the parade route from the David L. Lawrence Convention Center through Downtown to 10th Street, sharing their art and messages encouraging imagination.

The First Night parade – a component of the Highmark First Night lineup of New Year's Eve events – enables groups connected to the Pittsburgh arts-and-culture scene to come together and to promote their work. Those involved display their artistic abilities through media such as musical and dance performances, puppets, costumes, and decorated vehicles. FedEx Ground, the parade's sponsor, chose the theme "Imagination Delivered" to guide the creations featured by parade participants.

MGR Youth Empowerment provides art, health, and environmental consciousness programs to under-resourced youths and places special focus on teaching young people advocacy skills in these areas. The First Night parade enabled students to exercise what they've learned in MGR's programs to deliver information and spur action in an audience. Since the establishment of the Pittsburgh branch of the

organization in 2008, MGR has participated in the parade, a project that continues to connect young people to their city and provide a public platform for their expression.

This year, to align with the parade's sponsor and chosen theme, students in MGR's programs designed and built representations of delivery vehicles that would convey peace to their communities. The fleet included a Flintstone-inspired, foot-powered shopping cart and an airmail plane with bird wings and a fuselage in the form of a pencil, a design based on a logo created by Arsenal student Aria Adams-Thorpe. The students also revived a delivery person they had created for the 2014 parade under FedEx's "Special Delivery" theme.

The theme similarity in the last two years has enabled students to develop a long-term concept and revise their ideas.

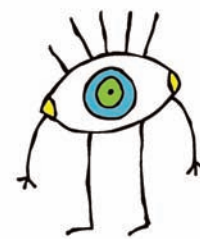
"Arsenal has been building our 'Peace Mail' squad for two years now, first with our mailman and now with our own delivery jet," said Maggie Negrete, a teaching artist for MGR. "A student, Jackie Jetter, designed the central logo of a dove carrying a letter."

Along with creating tangible figures of peace, students also promoted their ideas through a social media campaign centered around the hashtag #ImagineIf on Facebook and Twitter. The phrase prompts readers to fill in the blank by supplying an unrealized scenario for their lives or communities, such as "#ImagineIf all students had access to art," and to consider the results of this new perspective. ♦

Reicher visits afterschool program



Lawrenceville – Leslie Reicher from the Allegheny County Department of Human Services came to visit the children and staff of the Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5's "Little Learning Warriors" afterschool program on Jan. 15. The program is a partnership between Neighborhood Learning Alliance (NLA) and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation that serves approximately 50 students per year in kindergarten through fifth grade, with the support of Allegheny County. According to NLA staff, Reicher was a natural in the afterschool environment and led the children through a series of enjoyable read-alouds. The children made thank-you cards for Reicher, and many have already asked when she is coming back. *Photo by Rick Flanagan.*



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ABOVE: Participants in MGR's "Arts in Action" and "Positive Spin" programs gather with staff and their creations at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center before the start of the First Night parade. *Photo by Mayada Mansour.*



The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation now has an email newsletter!

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the

Bulletin

BOARD

Local Events
Announcements

Classes
Fundraisers

January 31

EAST LIBERTY

Lecture on Race

Willie James Jennings, a Grawemeyer Award in Religion winner, will give an informative talk on “Race, Violence, and Faith in our Time” at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, 616 N. Highland Ave., beginning at 2 p.m. The lecture will be followed by small group workshops and dinner. Call 412-924-1345 to register and visit www.pts.edu/Jennings_2015 for more information. Worship and discussion will take place at 6:30 p.m. at Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ, 6300 E. Liberty Blvd.

February 1

LAWRENCEVILLE

Ashtanga Yoga Workshop

This workshop is designed for the beginner and the seasoned yogi alike. If you are new to Ashtanga Yoga, this workshop will help you gain a deeper understanding of the Ashtanga practice as you begin to explore classes at The Shala, 4319 Butler St. The workshop will include yoga instruction from 1 to 4 p.m. on Feb. 1, as well as unlimited yoga classes from Feb. 1 to 21. Visit <http://www.theshalapittsburgh.com/workshops/> for details and pricing.

Super ‘Bowl’ Sunday

From 9 p.m. to midnight, there will be free bowling for those 21 and older at Arsenal Lanes, 212 44th St. Call 412-683-5992 for more information.

February 2

BLOOMFIELD

Prenatal Yoga

Looking for an ideal way to stay in shape during pregnancy? Discover prenatal yoga. This age-old practice will help keep you limber, tone your muscles, and improve balance and coordination during pregnancy. Our carefully chosen, experienced yoga instructors facilitate the “Zen Mama” class, which is specially designed for the expectant mom. The class takes place from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Burstin Room at West Penn Hospital, 4800 Penn Ave. The cost is \$50 for a four-week session, and written permission from your doctor is required. For more information, visit ahn.org/westpenn or call 412-578-7030. Repeats on Feb. 9, 16, and 23.

STRIP DISTRICT

Garfield Farm Benefit

Garfield Community Farm is participating in a “No

Menu Monday” event at Bar Marco, 2216 Penn Ave. Each month, Bar Marco contributes all the proceeds of a special Monday night dinner to a local nonprofit. Garfield Farm is teaming up with Chef Chad Townsend and other local chefs for this fundraiser, which will feature amazing French-inspired dishes. Go out to dinner and know that you are supporting Garfield Farm, a ministry of The Open Door Presbyterian Church that exists to grow healthy food for its Garfield neighbors, especially those of lower income. Contact Bar Marco to make a reservation at 412-471-1900.

February 3

LAWRENCEVILLE

Kids Club: Tween Scene

Come to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., at 4:30 p.m. to celebrate Black History Month. Learn about the accomplishments, contributions, and history of African Americans by participating in a dance contest, music and beat-making, and cooking. Open to grades 3 to 5. Repeats on Feb. 10, 17, and 24.

Adult Game Night

Join your neighbors at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., every Tuesday at 6 p.m. for board games, card games, or even video games. Games played in the past include Quantum, Ticket to Ride, Quiddler, Seven Wonders, Mexican Train Dominoes, and backgammon. Ages 18 and up only. Repeats on Feb. 10, 17, and 24.

February 4

LAWRENCEVILLE

Art All Night Planning

It’s time to plan the 18th Art All Night: Lawrenceville. Everyone is welcome to come to the weekly planning committee meetings. The committee will meet for the first time on Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Stephen Foster Community Center, 286 Main St., and will continue to meet every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Join the committee to help plan this free, uncensored, unjuried art event this April.

February 5

STANTON HEIGHTS

Open Board Meeting

Join the Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association’s board members as they work with their consultant to make the organization a more effective advocate for the community. They will also refine a plan for gaining the resources needed from outside sources. The meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the

former Methodist Church Sanctuary.

February 6

BLOOMFIELD

Go Red Fair

West Penn Hospital hosts its annual Go Red Fair to remind residents about the importance of maintaining good heart health. Try your hand at fun games, win prizes, see the demonstrations, learn about proper use of AEDs, and much more. The event takes place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Wintergarden Conference Center at West Penn Hospital, 4800 Friendship Ave. To RSVP, call 412-330-4469. Space is limited.

Ladies’ Night Out

Come to Pittsburgh Dance Center, 4765 Liberty Ave., for mini-lessons in belly dancing, aerial silks, self-defense, and group chair dance from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. All ages are welcome, the charge is \$15 at the door, and refreshments are provided. BYOB.

GARFIELD

Unblurred Gallery Crawl

The first Friday of every month, from 6 to 11 p.m., venues in the Penn Avenue Arts District, 4800 to 5500 Penn Ave., open their doors to showcase the work of a variety of artists and performers.

Opening Reception

The Irma Freeman Center for Imagination, 5006 Penn Ave. will host an opening reception from 7 to 10 p.m. for “The First Cut is the Deepest: The Woodcuts of John Carruthers” and Rachna Rajen’s “Aligning the Exterior.” Details are available at www.irmafreeman.org.

Dollar Bank Recruitment

Jennifer Matcuk from Dollar Bank will visit the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Ave., from 1 to 3 p.m. to discuss open positions and the Dollar Bank job application process. Clients are required to bring an up-to-date resume. Applicants ages 18 and up will be considered. No banking experience required. To register, call 412-362-8580.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Couples’ Dinner

The women’s ministry of New Bethel Baptist Church will host a couples’ dinner at 7:30 p.m. at 221 43rd St., as part of a “Celebration of Love” weekend. Call 412-231-3128 for more information.

February 8

LAWRENCEVILLE

Celebration of Love

The women’s ministry of New Bethel Baptist Church will host a “Celebration of Love” service at 3 p.m. at 221 43rd St. Hors-d’oeuvres will be served, and the theme will be “The Greatest Love of All.” Call 412-231-3128 for more information.

February 9

LAWRENCEVILLE

Teen Time

Come to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., at 4:30 p.m. to celebrate Black History Month. Learn about the accomplishments, contributions, and history of African Americans and make your own music using the beat machine.

STANTON HEIGHTS

Green Committee

Join the Green Committee to work on a Love Your Block application and make plans for a spring project in the community. Meeting time is 7 p.m., and the location will be posted on www.stantonheights.org or facebook.com/stantonheights.

February 11

GARFIELD

Games Learning Party

Come to Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. to meet game programmers and board game designers, learn new games, and pick up tips to design your own game. This free event is for youths ages 6 to 15, and for adults. All materials are provided. Assemble’s monthly Learning Parties provide opportunities to look, learn, and make in an informal educational environment.

February 13

BLOOMFIELD

Annual Cupid Ball

Come to Pittsburgh Dance Center, 4765 Liberty Ave., for the third annual Cupid Ball and Sweetheart Swing Dance, featuring live music by Sweaty Betty. A 7 p.m. swing dance lesson will be followed by an open dance party until 11 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance at www.pittsburghdancecenter.com, or \$15 at the door. Refreshments are provided, and all ages are welcome.

FRIENDSHIP

Make-It-Now Valentines

Come to Pittsburgh Glass Center, 5472 Penn Ave. from 4 to 9 p.m. and make a glass flower (\$35), craft your own fused love letter in glass (\$25), or make a heart-shaped pendant (\$25). Make-It-Now workshops are an opportunity to try glassmaking in 20 minutes or less. No experience or pre-registration is required. For details, call 412-365-2145 or visit <https://www.pittsburghglasscenter.org>.



ABOVE: Make your own fused Valentine at Pittsburgh Glass Center on Feb. 13. Photo by Nathan J. Shaulis.

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 March issue are due **Friday, Feb. 13**, to bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org. Download submission guidelines at bit.ly/bulletin_news.

Volunteer Opportunities & Services

February 14

BLOOMFIELD

Argentine Tango

Come to Pittsburgh Dance Center, 4765 Liberty Ave., from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. for Argentine tango milonga. Tickets are \$10 at the door, and refreshments are provided. BYOB.

GARFIELD

Masquerade Ball

Come to Los Sabrosos Dance Co., 4909 Penn Ave., from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. for salsa romantica, sensual bachata, smooth cha-cha, sexy kizomba, and more. Complimentary champagne, performances, and surprises. The cover is \$10, and limited pre-sale tickets are available for \$8. BYOB. Tickets are available at <http://pgh.lossabrosos.org/valentines/>. For more information, call 412-465-0290, or visit the studio at 4909 Penn Ave.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Pancake Breakfast

The Lawrenceville Rotary will hold its 12th annual pancake breakfast at St. Mary's Lower Lyceum, 333 45th St. Tickets, available at the door, are \$7 for adults and \$3 for kids 10 and under. Pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs, and real maple syrup will be served from 9 a.m. to noon. Proceeds fund local nonprofit organizations and Rotary International projects.

February 15

LAWRENCEVILLE

Sun Salutation Workshop

Ashtanga and Vinyasa are two dynamic and cardiovascular styles of asana practice built around the Surya Namasakaras, or "Sun Salutations." The Shala, 4319 Butler St., will host a workshop from 1 to 3 p.m. in which participants will learn each pose in detail and put poses together by linking movements and breath. This workshop is appropriate for all levels and costs \$25 with advance registration. Visit <http://www.theshalapittsburgh.com/workshops/> for details.

February 18

LAWRENCEVILLE

Soul Food Cook-Off

At 6:30 p.m., bring your favorite soul-food dish to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., and see how it stands up to the competition. Prizes to be determined.

February 21

BLOOMFIELD

Country Line Dance

Come to Pittsburgh Dance Center, 4765 Liberty Ave., for a country line dance party. A 7 p.m. line dance lesson will be followed by open dancing until 11 p.m. BYOB and bring your own food. Tickets

are \$10 at the door.

February 22

GARFIELD

Black History Service

Come to Morningside Church of God in Christ, 5173 Dearborn St., at 3:30 p.m. for "Keep the Dream Alive," a Black History Month service. Call 412-361-9865 for more information.

February 24

BLOOMFIELD

Neuro Spine Talk

West Penn Hospital is hosting a free talk, featuring Ashvin Ragoowansi, MD, a neurosurgeon at Allegheny Health Network. In addition to highlighting the latest medical and pain management options for cervical and lumbar pain, he will answer your questions during an extended patient discussion. The event will take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at West Penn Hospital – Wintergarden, 4800 Friendship Ave. To RSVP, call 412-330-4469.

February 25

LAWRENCEVILLE

Little Learners

Come to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., at 6 p.m. for family playtime. Designed especially for little ones, this event allows infants and toddlers to get to know the world around them through play, exploration, and family bonding. Using a wide array of age-appropriate toys, Little Learners will experience something exciting with their caregivers at their sides. Recommended for newborns to three-year-olds and their families.

February 26

LAWRENCEVILLE

Family Playshop

Come to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., at 10:30 a.m. to laugh, play, discover, and explore. Parents and guardians will dive into quality playtime with their children. Over the course of this five-week series, babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and their adults will spend time together, make friends, use toys to learn about their world, and talk one-on-one with child development specialists.

Ongoing

BLOOMFIELD

Lung Cancer Screenings

West Penn Hospital is offering a free screening program to patients at risk of lung cancer, in hopes of catching the disease at its earliest and most curable stages. Call 1-844-AHN-LUNG to schedule an appointment.

March Bulletin Deadline: February 13

Download advertising information: bit.ly/bulletin_ad

Download guidelines for stories, photos, and notices: bit.ly/bulletin_news

GARFIELD

Afterschool Programs

Assemble hosts "maker nights" for middle school girls on Mondays, and afterschool programs for children in grades 4 through 8 Tuesday through Thursday. All programs, offered from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at 5125 Penn Ave., are free and include homework help and hands-on making.

Adult Programs

Assemble now offers programs for grownups. S&B Community Sewing Circle now meets on a new day – the third Monday of each month – from 7 to 9 p.m. Bring a project and maybe a dish or drink to share. Instruction is available for beginners. "Complimenting Pittsburgh," a painting class with local artist Ryan Ian McCormick, will take place on the second Saturday of each month in 2015, from 5 to 9 p.m. He'll teach you his "complementary colors technique." \$30 includes a canvas to take home. BYOB. All programs take place at Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave.

Youth Maker Night

Assemble's free program for teens and tweens, ages 11 to 16, takes place from 5 to 7 p.m. on the second Friday of every month. Kids can come to Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., to get their hands dirty creating in a community setting. February's theme is food.

Kids' Dance Classes

Kids love to move and connect with each other through dancing. Los Sabrosos Dance Company classes for kids allow students to build a strong dance foundation while having fun. Students ages 4 and up are welcome, and pre-registration is required. Salsa takes place on Saturdays from 4 to 4:55 p.m., hip-hop takes place on Wednesdays from 6 to 6:55 p.m., and belly dance takes place on Thursdays from 5 to 5:55 p.m. To sign up, call 412-465-0290 or visit the studio at 4909 Penn Ave.

Belly Dance Basics

This fun, active class takes place Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Los Sabrosos Dance Company, 4909 Penn Ave. Wear comfortable clothes, and bring water and a smile. In this class, you will learn basic dance steps and movements inspired by the Middle East and Romani Trail.

Tour de Penn

The "Tour de Penn" campaign, sponsored by the Urban Redevelopment Authority, runs through Feb. 14. To participate, pick up a passport and visit businesses within the Penn Avenue construction zone, then enter weekly drawings. Participating businesses will have a blue-and-orange Tour de Penn map in the window. For more information, visit www.pennavenue.org/tourdepenn.

Night Market Vendors

This year's Garfield Night Market was a success, and the planning process has already begun for next season. If you are a vendor, or are interested in becoming a vendor, send an email to garfieldnightmarket@gmail.com. Also, stay tuned to <http://garfieldnightmarket.org> for updates.

Insurance Enrollment

Every Saturday through Feb. 15, noon to 4 p.m.,

individuals can meet with a trained health insurance enrollment specialist, called a Certified Application Counselor, who can guide applicants through the process of enrolling in affordable health coverage at 5321 Penn Ave. Call 412-205-1298 to schedule an appointment.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Volunteers Needed

The Estelle S. Campbell Boys & Girls Club is looking for adult volunteers for arts and crafts, computers, sports, and/or fitness. Volunteers must have current child abuse and criminal clearances. For details, call 412-682-4013.

Afterschool Programs

The Estelle S. Campbell Boys & Girls Club is accepting applications for membership in after-school and evening programs. Children ages 5 to 18 are welcome. The monthly fee for individuals is \$12, or \$10 per child for a family of two or more children. Call 412-682-4013 for more information. Don't miss out on the fun.

MULTIPLE

CLASS Kids Referrals

CLASS Kids offers a variety of programs to help children with disabilities have full participation in recreational and vocational opportunities in Pittsburgh. The Vocational Ventures program works with students ages 14 to 19 to develop career awareness, participate in networking opportunities, and create a resume. Participants are compensated for their time. The Family Partnership program works with students ages 5 to 13 to identify recreational interests. CLASS then assists the child in being incorporated into the activity. Stipends are available based on need. Both programs are offered at no cost. Call 412-683-7100 ext. 2245 or visit www.classcommunity.org for more information.

YouthBuild Americorps

Garfield Jubilee Association is looking for 75 young adults, ages 18 to 24, who want to give back to the community through service. YouthBuild Americorps offers GED classes and construction training, a college education award, job placement, and much more. Contact Linda L. Giles, case manager, at 412-655-5222 or youthbuildpgh@gmail.com to learn more about the next information session. First priority given to veterans.

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Assemble to open ‘Color Me Pittsburgh’ show

By Nina Barbuto *Assemble*

Garfield – “Color Me Pittsburgh” will open from 6 to 10 p.m. Feb. 6 at Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., as part of February’s Unblurred gallery crawl. Created by Anupama Jain and Lisa Brown, “Color Me Pittsburgh” is a collaborative, creative mechanism that promotes social justice and racial awareness.

Throughout the month of February, visitors will be able to interact with an oversized map of Pittsburgh, which Jain and Brown co-designed with local visual



ABOVE: “Color Me Pittsburgh” was displayed at Carnegie Museums’ Youth Summit on Race in October. Photo courtesy of “Color Me Pittsburgh.”

artist Alaric X, also known as Senque Little-Poole. Individuals are invited to articulate the groups to which they feel they belong, and also to gain a better understanding of the racial makeup of the region.

The designers focus on questions related to how location might influence personal identity. Through the use of social media, artistic response, and storytelling, the project opens conversations about race in ways that are thought-provoking yet non-confrontational.

The project debuted at Three Rivers Arts Festival last June and further evolved through participant contributions during Carnegie Museums’ Youth Summit on Race and Hear Me!’s Media Empowerment Student Summit, both held in October.

“Color Me Pittsburgh” will also be on display at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh’s Oakland community gallery this summer. People of all ages are welcome at the Unblurred opening event, and children ages 5 to 10 are invited to “Saturday Crafternoons” at Assemble, where Little-Poole and Brown will lead project activities. ♦

Amizade offers free student exchange program

By Julia Smucker *Amizade Global Service-Learning*



ABOVE: Students from West Virginia discover Cochabamba, Bolivia, through an Amizade-led exchange program. Photo courtesy of Amizade.

Lawrenceville – Amizade Global Service-Learning, a Lawrenceville nonprofit, is accepting applications for its Youth Ambassadors Program with South America (YAPSA), a program of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, administered by Amizade.

Bolivian and Peruvian culture and history and explore local sites.

“The hope for this program is to make global exchange more accessible and attainable to a broader group of youths,” said Sara Noel, assistant director of Amizade. “Amizade and our partners are thrilled at the chance to encourage local

“The hope for this program is to make global exchange more accessible and attainable to a broader group of youths.”

– Sara Noel, Amizade Global Service-Learning

YAPSA is an opportunity for high school students from Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia to travel to Bolivia and Peru free of cost. The three-week program will take place in summer 2015, and is open to high school students ages 15 to 18. Students will stay with local host families and will be accompanied by Amizade staff and two adult mentors.

The guiding goal of YAPSA is to build individual and collective leadership, problem-solving, and teamwork skills. Through this framework, participants will learn about themes of social entrepreneurship and environmental protection, participate in community service projects, and create a Community Action Plan (CAP) to implement in their home community. Students will also learn about

students to discover and develop their voices as leaders in their communities.”

Applications for youth ambassadors and adult mentors can be found on Amizade’s website, at www.amizade.org/yapsa. The deadline for applications is Feb. 23.

Through YAPSA, students from Bolivia and Peru will also have the chance to travel to Pittsburgh, Washington D.C., and West Virginia this fall. Amizade is seeking interested Pittsburgh families to host students and adult mentors for ten days. Host family information and applications can also be found at www.amizade.org/yapsa.

For more information, email YAPSA@amizade.org or call 412-586-4986. ♦

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