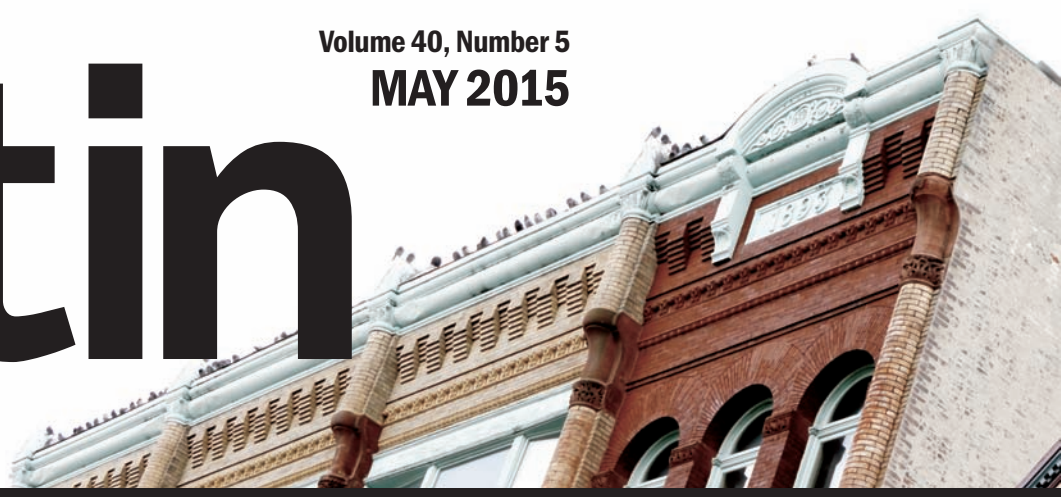


# the Bulletin

Volume 40, Number 5  
MAY 2015

Serving Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty,  
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**ABOVE:** During a press conference for the East End Works Teen Job Fair at the East Liberty Carnegie Library (130 S. Whitfield St.) on April 10, Hannibal Hopson (left) speaks of the positive impact that local libraries and summer jobs can have on young adults like himself. Along with many other high-schoolers and members of the media, students Jhonaziya Brooks (middle) and Shianne Brown listen in with Mayor Bill Peduto. See more photos from this well-attended community event on Page 11. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

## East End groups repurpose stormwater with green solutions

By Elizabeth Sensky

*East Liberty Development, Inc.*

*East End* – When most Pittsburghers hear the term, “green infrastructure,” they think of complicated installations, high-tech solar panels, or massive wind turbines. Yet green infrastructure is actually just as simple as a rain garden, and several organizations across the East End want to spread the word about it.

The purpose of green infrastructure, which has become synonymous with “storm water management” in recent years, is to help mitigate the overflow of sewer systems. When rain falls in urban areas, any water that remains unabsorbed by natural elements is then drained into the sewers. Pollutants and untreated sewage enter our waterways when these systems overflow.

Project 15206, an organization aiming to minimize this problem in the city’s East End, states that it takes only one tenth of an inch of rainfall for raw sewage to begin seeping into Pittsburgh’s waterways.

According to hydrologist Ian Lipsky,

See **Green Infrastructure** | page 6

## District 9 City Council race heats up; candidates answer questions

*District 9* - As the May 19 election draws closer, City Council candidates prepare for even more debates and town-hall meetings, where they will field citizens’ questions about how they plan to

See **Candidate Responses** | page 3

3

## Proposal to convert Rogers School to housing

By Joe Reuben

*Bulletin Contributor*

*Garfield* - The developers who purchased the former Rogers Middle School in Garfield from the Pittsburgh School Board for \$275,000 in February are ready to move ahead with plans to

See **Rogers School** | page 5

5



**ABOVE:** BodyCartography Project performs ‘Super Nature,’ a feature of Kelly Strayhorn Theater’s annual newMoves Contemporary Dance Festival. Learn more about this progressive dance piece on page 7. Photo by Ian Douglas.

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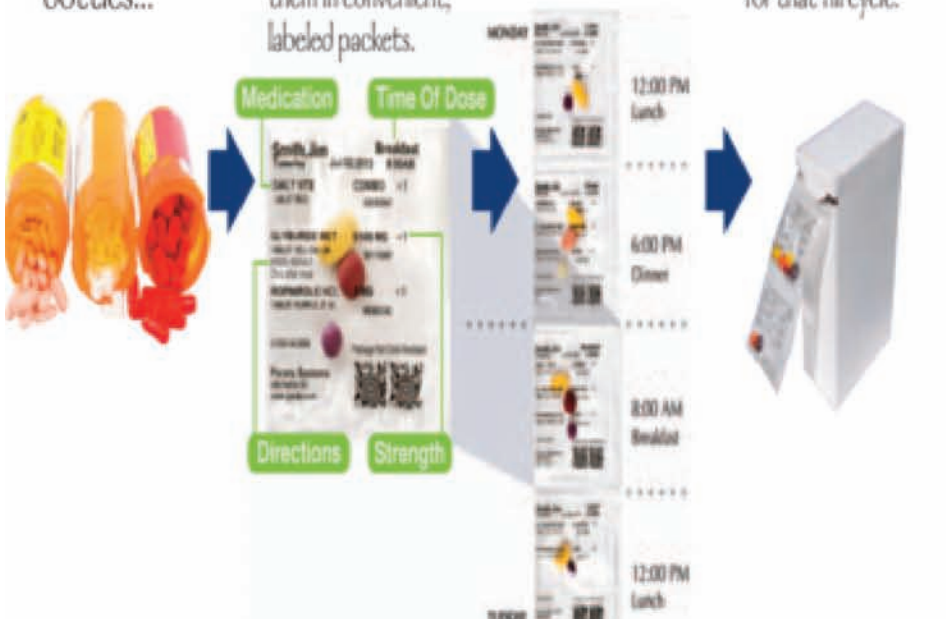


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The diagram illustrates a four-step process for medication synchronization. Step 1: 'From regular prescription bottles...' shows three different colored pill bottles. Step 2: 'We sort your medications into doses for each day and time and seal them in convenient, labeled packets.' shows a 'Medication' strip with labels for 'Medication', 'Time Of Dose', 'Directions', and 'Strength'. Step 3: 'Packs come in strips in the order they are to be taken.' shows a 'Time Of Dose' strip with a daily schedule: 12:00 PM Lunch, 6:00 PM Dinner, 8:00 AM Breakfast, and 12:00 PM Lunch. Step 4: 'We synchronize your refills and give you a dispensing box containing your strips for that fill cycle.' shows a white dispensing box with a slot for the medication strip.

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Students focus art on Arsenal Park

By Shannon Hussey MGR Youth Empowerment

Lawrenceville - While much debate exists over changes to Arsenal Park, students at nearby Arsenal Middle School are doing their part to enjoy and enhance the park's current condition by creating unobtrusive community art.

These young voices are now engaging in an ongoing dialogue about proposed park alterations through MGR Youth Empowerment's "Arts in Action" after-school program.

At Arsenal Park, neighboring their school between 39th and 40th St., Arts in Action students have learned to use art as a tool for social change. Working on a life-drawing project to share memories and highlight their favorite aspects of the park, they sketch the natural features and historic structures that make the space so unique. Sixth grader Damesha Porter believes, "it will show people we have a nice environment."

In 1814, the Allegheny Arsenal began its century-long tenure as a legendary U.S. arms warehouse. Only a stone gunpowder warehouse and a large section of wall remain intact at the site; many neighbors and local preservationists fear that park renovations might jeopardize or damage these historic features.

Proposed renovations include plans for more multi-purpose courts, performance spaces, and handicap-accessible entrances and pathways, all of which could potentially alter the park's appearance and spur objections from its local enthusiasts.

"It makes me upset," said Alaya Fancher, an Arsenal student. "It's like we don't live here anymore, like it's not our space."

Sixth grader Cayden Davis has been working on a photo-journalism project to document the park's features and discuss the impact an accessibility upgrade might have upon the community.

"It's a nice park," he said. "I would hate to see other people not be able to enjoy it."

With large stone steps and few level areas, the park does not offer enough access for its disabled and elderly visitors. Davis credits the project with helping him understand this point of view.

He and other students will display their work at school, and also within Arsenal Park, to encourage conversation and site visits. The Arts in Action project aims to connect neighbors to this important community space by amplifying students' thoughts about its history as well as its future social value. ♦

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Zone 5 Police Officers indicated a recent increase in car break-ins in the neighborhoods they serve: Garfield, Bloomfield, Friendship, East Liberty, and Homewood.

The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police said that car break-ins are a "crime of opportunity" and encourages local drivers to park in well-lit areas while also making sure to lock their vehicles and secure windows before exiting.

Anti-theft devices are good deterrents, but the best way for drivers to protect their belongings is to remove all valuables from the vehicle or stow them out of sight. Thieves also target vehicles where firearms are stored in plain view. This presents a very dangerous situation that can easily be avoided by never carrying firearms in a vehicle.

"It takes less than 30 seconds for a thief to break into your vehicle and steal your valuables," according to the Bureau. "It takes you 20 seconds to secure your valuables." ♦

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# Neighbors rally for kindergarten registration

By Dave Breingnan *Lawrenceville United*

*East End* - On May 2 and May 9, over 100 volunteers will take to the streets of Bloomfield, Garfield, and Lawrenceville for the “Family Outreach Rally.” The goal of the huge canvassing effort is simple: ensure that every child is registered for kindergarten on time while also informing parents about available family resources.

Among the volunteers knocking on doors will be teachers, principals, and parent leaders from Arsenal Elementary and Woolslair Elementary schools. Councilwoman Deb Gross and Pittsburgh School Board member Dr. Regina Holley will join these volunteers alongside youth-serving community organizations like the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and Reading is FUNDamental.

In partnership with Pittsburgh Public Schools, the Ready Freddy kindergarten enrollment program is working with Lawrenceville United’s PEP Rally program to coordinate the neighborhood canvassing effort. According to the Ready Freddy website, “when children enroll late and are chronically absent, they miss critical components of early learning and are at greater risk for failing and dropping out.”

A parent should enroll their child for kindergarten if the child’s fifth birthday falls before September 30. In some cases, children aren’t registering for school until they are already 8 years old, creating enormous setbacks for the children and additional burdens on the schools.

“The kindergarten year is extremely important,” says Ken Smythe-Leistico, Assistant Director for the University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development. “Children that attend regularly are four times more likely to be strong readers as they move through the elementary grades.”

While kindergarten enrollment is their chief concern, volunteers also look to spread the word about other local resources available to kids and their families, most of which are free. Ready Rosie, for example, is a free online resource available to parents with children under 6 years of age. After signing up at [www.Ready-Rosie.com/Pittsburgh](http://www.Ready-Rosie.com/Pittsburgh), parents will receive a daily email containing a video of short, simple activities they can use to build their child’s early reading and math skills.

“We’re all about supporting local families, especially with kindergarten readiness,” said Linda Vincent, a child development specialist at Lawrenceville Family Care Connection. “All of our programs are free, so we’re excited to just get out there and spread the word.”

The Family Outreach Rally is seeking out community volunteers to help canvass the neighborhoods on May 2 and May 9. To get involved, please contact [Dave@LUnited.org](mailto:Dave@LUnited.org) or call 412-802-7220. Parents can find more information about kindergarten registration through The Pittsburgh Public Schools Parent Hotline (412-529-HELP). ♦

## 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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## Candidate Responses *from page 1*

better the lives of fellow Pittsburghers living in District 9 neighborhoods (Garfield, Bloomfield, Friendship, East Liberty, Homewood). The Bulletin submitted three questions to each candidate: incumbent City Councilman Reverend Ricky Burgess (-----), Judith Ginyard (----), Andre Young (----), and Twanda Carlisle (----). As of press time, responses were only received from candidates Ginyard and Carlisle. These quotes, printed in verbatim below, do not reflect the opinions of The Bulletin or the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and are made public strictly as a service to District 9 voters.

District 9 City Council Candidates	-Questions from The Bulletin-		
	What is the biggest issue facing District 9 voters and how would you address it?	What distinguishes you from the other candidates in the race?	How would you balance the need for good police-community relations with the need for a pro-active police force?
	<p><b>Twanda Carlisle</b></p> <p>“Some of the biggest are the gun violence, economic growth, and housing. We have to develop a strategic plan for each neighborhood and expand on our growth both by building more housing and increasing business opportunities.”</p> <p><b>Judith Ginyard</b></p> <p>“It would be important to establish a satellite office in the 9th District again, so that residents don’t have to travel all the way to downtown just to make their voices heard by City Council. I will work to make our council inclusive of the public.”</p>	<p>“I once sat as Councilperson, so I know what works and what doesn’t. I make myself available to the community would love another opportunity to serve. Through some trials and errors, I now know how to best serve [voters.]”</p> <p>“My community involvement distinguishes me from the others. Serving as executive director for Lincoln Larimer Community Development Corporation for eight years, I created projects to enhance the quality of life in District 9.”</p>	<p>It all begins with dialogue; we must sit down with our young men and community at-large with police at the table to address the issues that concern us on both spectrums. We need more “community-oriented” police.”</p> <p>“I will support events to introduce police officers to the community and encourage interaction to build trust. We need police officers walking the neighborhoods to get to know our communities and help build that trust.”</p>



# Mother’s Day in Lawrenceville: Blossom Tour

By Matthew Buccholz *Lawrenceville Corporation*



**ABOVE:** Spring is in the air in Lawrenceville; situated between Penn Ave. and Butler St., Doughboy Square welcomes visitors to the upcoming Blossom Garden Tour. Photo by Matthew Buccholz.

Lawrenceville - Since moving to Mother’s Day weekend in 2011, the annual Lawrenceville Blossom Tour has become quite a treat for local families. Initially conceived as a celebration of spring and local businesses, the Blossom Tour is now in its thirteenth year and shows no signs of slowing down.

From May 8-10, twenty-nine businesses throughout Lawrenceville will offer twenty-nine varieties of free seeds to customers and tour-goers. This casual, weekend walking tour encourages families to take a stroll down Butler Street and rewards them with the promise of future

flowers, herbs, and vegetables. Participating businesses have planned various in-store promotions and other events to highlight the recent growth of Lawrenceville’s burgeoning economy and its fresh, new attitude. While this new Mother’s Day tradition helps equip local green-thumbs with new gardening materials, it also offers Pittsburghers an opportunity to discover different shopping destinations and support small businesses.

Families can spend their special holiday exploring Butler Street’s traditional and alternative brunch options, enjoying local craft beers, taking in a classic movie, or just lounging together at a café. Any tour-goers who need to supplement their new seeds with some horticultural advice can stop by City Grows (5208 Butler St.), an organic garden shop that provides ‘know-how’ for the community’s urban gardening endeavors. For more information, or to download a copy of the walking map, visit [blossomtour.wordpress.com](http://blossomtour.wordpress.com). ♦

**BELOW:** Hambone’s Restaurant & Pub (4207 Butler St.) celebrates 30 years in Lawrenceville this month. Owner Bill Hammill couldn’t be happier to keep things going, especially now that the bar attracts customers younger than itself. Photo by Andrew McKeon.



## CARL Program Home Loans

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## Penn Avenue prepares for Phase II

By Aggie Brose *Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*



**ABOVE:** Workers install sidewalk along the 5000 block of Penn Ave. Photo by Wesley Davis.

**Penn Avenue** - A community meeting to discuss Phase II of the Penn Avenue Reconstruction Project will be held on Thursday, May 14, 6:00 pm at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation’s Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.). As currently planned, Phase II would extend from Evaline St. to Graham St. as a continuation of the current reconstruction project. Patrick Hassett, Assistant Director of the City of Pittsburgh’s Department of Public Works, explained that the first step in advancing Phase II is to “scope out what type of improvements the community would like to see in this phase.” Jim Enlow, Field Manager for the Michael Baker Corporation, explained that the current Phase I reconstruction project has finished trenching between Evaline St. and Mathilda St. and moved onto sidewalk installation. Upon completion of the side-

walks, workers will begin installing benches, trees, and other streetscape features along the avenue. Hassett added that any community input gathered at the meeting on May 14 will play an important role in determining how to proceed with Phase II of the reconstruction project. In finalizing these plans, the City will be weighing all neighborhood interests alongside the long-term and short-term costs and benefits of various work items. “Roadway construction, drainage work, sidewalks, landscaping, traffic signals, and light poles can all be discussed as part of the ‘scope-of-work’ conversation,” said Hassett. ♦

**BELOW:** Construction crew work to insert a new light-pole fixture at the intersection of Penn Ave. and Evaline St. Photo by Rick Flanagan.



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# Rogers School from page 1

convert the building into at least 30 rental apartments for a segment of the market that is different from what the surrounding neighborhood has seen in recent decades.

Impakt Development, a division of Steiner Realty based in Edgewood, has asked the city Zoning Board for variances that would allow the project to begin by late summer or early fall. At an April 16th hearing before the Board, Casey Steiner, the principal in the firm, laid out plans that would place the main entry for the apartment building off of Columbo Street. A driveway leading into the site from Black Street would likely be widened by Impakt to accommodate two-way traffic for deliveries and tenant parking.

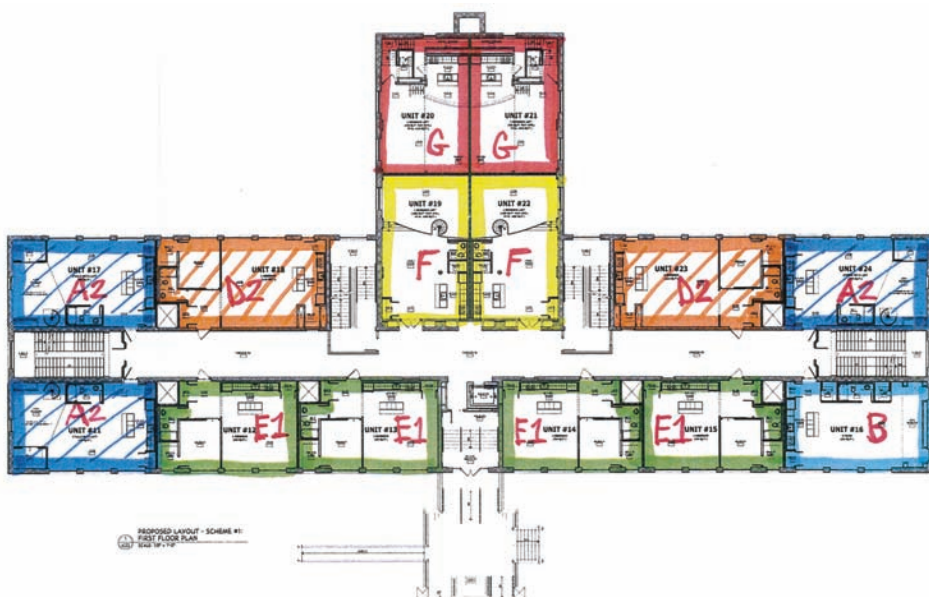
While the project would see the revitalization of a long-standing community asset that has sat vacant for nearly six years, some in the community have expressed mixed emotions. Joann Monroe, executive director of Garfield Jubilee Association (GJA), questioned whether jobs created from the construction work would be available to neighborhood residents. "We have qualified young people coming through our Youth-Build program, as well as adults who have graduated from it," she told Steiner at a March community meeting at Valley View Presbyterian Church, one block from the project site. Although Steiner acknowledged that there could be laborer positions he would need to fill, he stopped short of making any commitment to fill them solely with applicants from the surrounding neighborhood.

Others attending the same meeting asked Steiner how he would manage storm water runoff from the property, whether he would be willing to use so-called "dark-sky" lighting to minimize excessive glare from any new exterior fixtures needed, and how he would handle landscaping and the buffering of surrounding properties from noise related to the operation of any new air-handling equipment.

In each case, Steiner responded, he would "do all that was required to meet city or other codes", but not venture very far beyond those boundaries out of a concern for holding down costs. "I don't want to have rents that are as high as what you're seeing with other new developments in the area," Steiner told the audience of roughly thirty people at the church meeting in March. He projected that the conversion of the school would cost approximately \$4 million.

"My goal is to be 20% or more below their rents," Steiner said that evening, identifying competitors such as Walnut Capital and Mosites Development with their own housing developments currently underway in East Liberty. "I'd like to have people from the neighborhood be able to occupy some of the apartments that I'm going to be leasing. So my goal is to have rents that would be no higher than \$1,100 to \$1,200 per month for what I anticipate will be apartments of around 900 square feet".

Gary Cirrincione, a Hays Street resident who attended both the community meeting and zoning board hearing, told The Bulletin afterwards, "It's a project that in the end will transform the site. The question is how much good that will mean for the community. Will other landlords in this part of the East End take the Rogers development as a sign that they, too, should start seeking higher rents for their properties? What could



**ABOVE:** Floorplans reveal a new layout for converting Rogers School into apartments. They would be oriented around the main entrance off Columbo St. Graphic furnished by Impakt Development.

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be some of the repercussions for poorer tenants now living in those types of walk-up units?"

Steiner did hold out hope that if the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is willing to award tax credits to the development out of recognition for the building's historic character, that could open the door to some limited public use of the former auditorium. The tax credits would allow Impakt to raise equity capital for the project, as opposed to relying solely on debt capital, he told those gathered at the March meeting.

Otherwise, he said, Impakt may have to add more apartments to the complex in order to have it achieve a positive cash flow, and that could mean eliminating the auditorium. Local groups such as the church, GJA, and Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) have said they would work with Steiner to see that events could be held at the building without interfering with nearby residents' right to privacy.

"The school Board did have the opportunity to sell Rogers to the community," said Rick Swartz, the BGC's executive director, after the zoning board hearing. "But they opted not to, because Impakt's bid was \$125,000 more than ours, and Mr. Steiner was able to cut a check to them within thirty days of signing the sales agreement," said Swartz. "Now, we will see how all of this plays out. Hopefully, the neighborhood will derive something positive from what happens next."

According to Chairperson Alice Mitinger, the zoning board should render its decision by May 30th to respond to Impakt's request for a variance to change the use of the building to housing. ♦



# Green Infrastructure *from page 1*

“Green storm water infrastructure works by intercepting runoff from hard surfaces, before it reaches the combined sewers, and diverting it to engineered features that can mimic the natural hydrologic functions.”

These engineered features range from “bioswales” - vegetated channels that remove the pollution from rainwater - to downspouts that divert runoff away from pavement. Other solutions include rainwater collection barrels, tree planting, garden boxes, and green roofs.

Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) must meet the requirements set forth by the US Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Clean Water Act by 2026. Pittsburgh’s “wet weather” problem is of primary concern for ALCOSAN, especially after January 2014, when the EPA rejected the county’s initial Wet Weather Plan due to its high price tag.

To address local wet weather issues using more cost-effective tactics, ALCOSAN went back to the playbook to incorporate green infrastructure into its plans. Three Rivers Wet Weather (3RWW), an environmental nonprofit organization, was created to support the City of Pittsburgh and 82 other Allegheny County municipalities in “greening” their infrastructure.

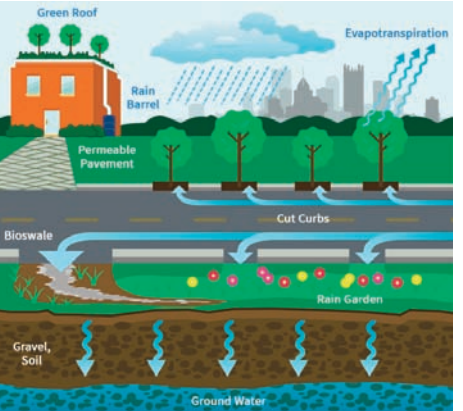
Growing inter-municipal partnerships and educating the public about offsetting our region’s wet weather, the organization fosters efforts to address Pittsburgh’s aging sewer system. One of 3RWW’s most recent

initiatives is an online planning tool called RainWays, an interactive map that helps engineers and property owners see what green infrastructure exists in their area.

Although every neighborhood benefits from green infrastructure, the need is particularly felt in older communities with combined sewer systems like East Liberty, Bloomfield, Larimer, and other neighborhoods in the city’s East End. Since 2013, Betsy Damon, an international “water artist,” has helmed the Living Waters of Larimer project (LWL); in town for an exhibition at The Mattress Factory, she visited Larimer and decided that she wanted to transform its vacant lots into functional art installations.

The water artist soon found local partners in the Larimer Green Team, a branch of the Larimer Consensus Group. As team captain Carolyn Peeks recalled, “One resi-

**BELOW:** Bioswales, rain barrels, green roofs, and gardens are now growing the city’s green infrastructure. Graphic courtesy of ELDI.



dent said that having a rain barrel made her aware of how many uses there were for her rainwater. She told us just how she saved a tremendous amount on her water bill when watering her garden, washing her car, and even flushing her toilet.”

“There is a desire to view water as a resource for redevelopment rather than a nuisance to hide,” according to John Stephen, environmental attorney for LWL. His organization coordinated plans to collect and repurpose water through art installations and garden components. “In Larimer, the community is proposing a more systemic approach,” Lipsky said. “Multiple features are interconnected, thus establishing a network that has the dual function of managing stormwater and supporting green corridors within the neighborhood. The potential impact of this integrated system is far greater than what individual installations achieve.”

Living Waters of Larimer is also collaborating with developers at KBK Enterprises to integrate green infrastructure into a new, 400-unit housing development currently under construction in Larimer. The new property will use nine filtration trenches, as well as rain barrels, to harness water by capturing gutter runoff.

Next door in East Liberty, other organizations are beginning to develop green infrastructure projects of their own. Thanks to partnership with East Liberty Development, Inc. and Viridian Landscape

Studio in April 2014, East Liberty Presbyterian Church (ELPC) transformed one neighboring town square into a storm water garden - complete with native vegetation, bio-infiltration beds, and salvaged local materials. Randy Bush, the church’s senior pastor, understands the socio-ecological importance of this transformation. “It has prompted both congregation and community members to look at the space in front of our church differently, to recognize that manicured landscaping is not always the best use of green space, and to think creatively about how other lawns and green spaces can be used for the ‘common good,’” he said.

Recently, Project 15206 has been busy laying some green groundwork in the East End; implementing a bioswale along Negley Run Blvd. and installing curb extensions to intercept stormwater at the intersection of Lincoln (--St.,Ave.--) and Frankstown Ave.

Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) and The Penn State Center Pittsburgh are furthering education by conducting panel discussions at the Green Stormwater Infrastructure Technical Workshop Series. These workshops help to inform engineers, architects, and municipal authorities on a variety of cheap, eco-friendly options at their disposal. As word spreads about green infrastructure, the question has changed from, “What is it?” to “Who else wants in?” ♦



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## Local farmers markets accept Fresh Access

By Emily Schmidlapp *Just Harvest*

Pittsburgh - Farmers markets are now re-opening for the season with some fresh ideas about payment possibilities. Many markets now accept food stamps (SNAP), credit, and debit cards through the Fresh Access program, sponsored by Just Harvest and Pittsburgh Citiparks.

The payment program will be up and running at nine markets throughout the city, including the East Liberty Market, the Bloomfield Saturday Market, and the Lawrenceville Farmers Market. Interested shoppers can visit the Fresh Access tent to swipe their cards and receive wooden tokens equal to the amount they’d like to spend.

Participating vendors will treat these tokens just like cash for all eligible items; customers may hold on to any leftover tokens and use them at other Fresh Access markets all season long.

For every \$5.00 a shopper spends using their food stamps, they will receive \$2.00 in Fresh Access Food Bucks, which can be used to purchase fruits and veggies at the market. This incentive program aims to make market produce more affordable for SNAP shoppers.

More information on the program and the location of other participating farmers markets is available at <http://www.justharvest.org/get-help/fresh-access/>. ♦



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## Kelly Strayhorn Theater brings back newMoves

By Paula Simon Kelly Strayhorn Theater

*East Liberty* - The annual newMoves Contemporary Dance Festival returns to the Kelly Strayhorn Theater (KST) with a weekend full of performances, workshops, panels, and dance parties from May 7 to May 9.

Now in its sixth year, the festival gives emerging and established artists the chance to perform in front of dance enthusiasts and new audiences alike. Local choreographers participating in newMoves will be joined by others from all over the country.

"This festive weekend of performances and workshops, hosted by some of today's most innovative artists, creates a hub for local and visiting artists to share meaningful connections," said Duane Binion, Associate Producer of KST. "The festival has served as a platform for many of today's brightest choreographers, such as Pittsburgh's own Staycee Pearl and New York City artist Sidra Bell."

BodyCartography Project, a Minneapolis-based dance company, is collaborating with nine local artists on a hybrid performance/installation called *Super Nature*, which will headline the activities

on Friday and Saturday evening. Focusing contemporary dance on social engagement, BodyCartography Project has become known for performing in a variety of public spaces ranging from urban environments to wild landscapes.

Founder Olive Beiringa acknowledges the natural identity politics of her company's new work. "We're interested in this idea of exploring the physical and social space between what it is to be a human and what it is to be an animal," she said.

"That's where Super Nature really came from: the idea of the social and the animal body, and the implications of how the body affects the environment or how it is affected by its environment." Before the stage performance, audiences will have a chance to interact with the artwork through an intimate installation.

"The piece itself really works with this idea of training the audience to have a kinesthetic experience with movement that isn't necessarily traditional dance vocabulary," Beiringa explained.

Festival tickets and information are available at [kelly-strayhorn.org](http://kelly-strayhorn.org). ♦

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# Neighborhood FOCUS

## Pop-up eatery takes root in Bloomfield



**ABOVE:** Pierogi Night draws a crowd at the Stephen Foster Community Center (286 Main St.) in Lawrenceville. This pop-up has since paved the way for APTEKA (4606 Penn Ave.), a brick-and-mortar restaurant in Bloomfield. Photo by Ben Filio.

Bloomfield - More and more Pittsburgh residents are becoming picky eaters, but with a purpose; fast food just don't cut the mustard anymore as consumers are now taking pride in their conspicuous tastes. But the recent glut of so-called 'artisanal' fare and gourmet clichés leaves almost everything to be desired, pierogi included.

Most people, let alone a self-proclaimed 'yinzer,' would never turn their noses up at the very noodle that has come to define Pittsburgh's cultural traditions. In the fall of 2010, this reality became a fact of life for housemates Kate Lasky and Tomasz Skowronski when they endeavored to start a pop-up pierogi stand in the back of a Lawrenceville bar.

"None of us were in a band, but we still wanted to put on a little party. So, we told people to come by and eat as many pierogi as they wanted."

— Tomasz Skowronski, co-founder, APTEKA

Now a semi-regular, pop-up food phenomenon, "Pierogi Night" has changed the way locals think about their food heritage. "A lot of other cuisines have been reclaimed or revisited in a different, more overstated way. So, this just seemed really

appropriate," Lasky said. What began as a little food party has since turned into a food festival where Pittsburghers don't mind waiting in line for never-ending pierogi.

As Skowronski recalls, "Just for kicks, we started this nonchalant event called, 'Pierogi Night.' None of us were in a band, but we still wanted to put on a little party. So, we told people to come by and eat as many pierogi as they wanted."

That was all the invitation locals needed and soon the event needed a new venue to accommodate the groundswell. After relocating to the Stephen Foster Community Center (286 Main St.) in Lawrenceville, the duo reached out to a few friends to fully utilize the new kitchen space. They began fine-tuning the approach to make thousands of pierogi without bending to local custom.

"In Pittsburgh, there's such a strong association with Slovak and Polish roots, yet we've forgotten some of those roots and almost lost them in translation," said Skowronski, whose parents were born and raised in Poland.

"Both sides of my family really liked mushrooms," he said. "That's actually what you did there. You would go into the woods and everyone was actively searching for mushrooms. We were all pumped to find them. It wasn't like a hipster, novelty thing."

Neither of these pop-up chefs is afraid to forage for vegetables or travel far to purchase quince fruit like it was contraband. "We're really ingredient-driven," noted Lasky.

"If we see an online post offering a certain rare ingredient, we'll go buy it, then use it - either making a cordial, maybe a jam, or

dehydrating it for Pierogi Night." She remembers when staff were so overwhelmed that they began looking to so-called 'guest foods' to distract diners from the main course.

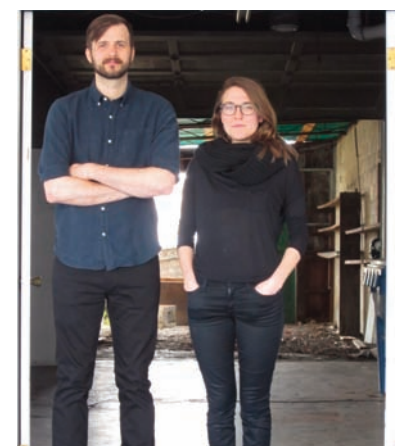
Thanks to the addition of Vietnamese sandwiches, "Pierogi vs. Banh Mi" was an instant hit. According to Skowronski, "the question turned from, 'When's the next Pierogi Night?' into 'When are you guys going to open a restaurant?'"

Enter: APTEKA, the long-awaited restaurant from the creators of Pierogi Night. After years of searching, these young entrepreneurs finally found the perfect new headquarters at 4606 Penn Ave. in Bloomfield.

Situated across from the Allegheny Cemetery, the building formerly served as a retailer of gravestones. "This location is so special," Lasky told The Bulletin.

She appreciates the feel of their new space and its potential for new purpose. In re-imagining this environment as

**BELOW:** Tomasz Skowronski (left) and Kate Lasky (right) are right at home at the site of their new restaurant (4606 Penn Ave.). Photo by Andrew McKeon.



## Hungry for a job? Come to the Food Service Industry Application Fair, hosted by Lawrenceville WORKS!

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**About Lawrenceville WORKS!** Lawrenceville WORKS! aims to reduce unemployment in the Lawrenceville area by linking residents to job-training and employment services. The initiative is a nonprofit partnership between Lawrenceville United, Lawrenceville Corporation, Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania, UPMC Health Plan, Duquesne Light, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

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a restaurant, Lasky cites local interest in food politics as an inspiration. "It seems like there are a lot of people here who are really excited to be in that discussion," she observed. "The gap that we want to fill is somewhere between affordability and interesting food."

"We want to be a thoughtful space, but we don't want to be cute," Skowronski told the Bulletin. Understanding how difficult it is to enjoy interesting foods on a limited budget, he wants APTEKA to remain humble and accessible. "We have some cool techniques and strategies behind us," he said. "Some of it you might find at fancier restaurants, but we want to provide a more informal setting."

Focusing on Polish street food and other delectable, yet functional eats, the new restaurant will still cater to the Pierogi Night crowd while still experimenting with new ideas.

"It's not just looking back. It's a weird sort of update. We have a connection with Poland as it is right now, with all the post-punk bands that are happening. We like the aesthetics," Skowronski professed. "We like the graphic design that's been coming out of Poland since the sixties. It jibes with the style that we're into here in the rustbelt."

Pierogi Night continues on May 2 at the Stephen Foster Community Center. For more information about APTEKA, contact aptekapgh@gmail.com. ♦



**Garfield** – In response to unified community advocacy, Aldi will open a new store at 5200 Penn Ave. For decades, many neighbors have fought to bring a grocery store back to Garfield and eliminate an unwanted 'food desert'. Early reports indicate that Aldi will open its doors before Thanksgiving. *Graphic provided by Aldi, Inc.*

**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.

## Free cancer screenings at West Penn Hospital

**By Patty Toner** West Penn Allegheny Health System

**Bloomfield** - In an effort to help residents reduce their cancer risk and learn from experienced medical professionals, the Allegheny Health Network Cancer Institute at West Penn Hospital will sponsor free community cancer screenings on Saturday, May 30.

From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at West Penn Hospital's Mellon Pavilion (4815 Liberty Ave.), cancer specialists will provide Genetic Cancer Risk Assessments and educational materials related to cancer prevention and treatment. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), research shows that screening for some cancers can help prevent these diseases through early detection, when precancerous lesions are found and treated before they become cancerous.

Allegheny Health Network Cancer Institute medical staff will provide free cancer screenings for skin, breast, prostate, testicular, cervical, colorectal, throat, and lung cancers. These professionals will also offer screenings for Hepatitis C and HIV.

Although the screenings are free, additional testing of any abnormal findings will require billing to your health insurance provider. Those interested should bring health insurance cards and photo identification to the event on May 30. Because space is limited, interested applicants must register prior to the event. To register, call 412-DOCTORS. ♦

## Art City comes to life in Century III Mall

**By Amber Epps** Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

**West Mifflin** - Garfield's own Most Wanted Fine Art gallery (MWFA - 5015 Penn Ave.), is working to bring art to Century III Mall (3075 Clairton Rd.) for a bridge-and-tunnel project in West Mifflin.

as ambassadors of Penn Ave. and its transformative arts scene. The idea is to take over the mall's empty storefronts, windows, and kiosks in order to turn them into different art spaces.

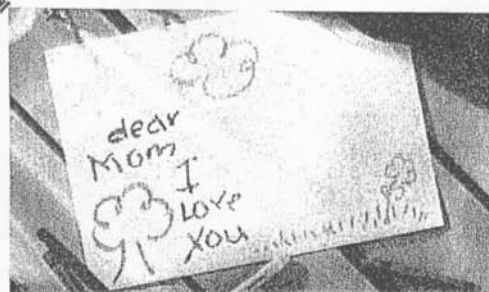
Art City, as the exhibit is called, wants to expose the Pittsburgh suburbs to a variety of arts happening in the city. The exhibit opens to the public for three months on June 13.

Organizers have planned auxiliary programming (specific to each site) in efforts to draw crowds through the mall-scape and into these re-imagined places.

Everything is oriented around one large information center themed as a museum store, the central hub for distributing advertising materials and handling art sales. Every day, mall-goers will have an opportunity to participate in hands-on, arts and crafts activities run by Art City volunteers.

Artists are offering class lectures, procedural instruction, and Q & A sessions as part of the exhibit's daily educational programs.

To satisfy visitors' needs for sheer entertainment, Art City has scheduled a car show, music and dance performances, and even circus acts. Everyone from art students to retired artists are welcome to join. For more information about the exhibit, visit most-wantedfineart.com. ♦



## Reflecting on Mother's Day

**Mother's Day can be a sad time** for those whose mothers are no longer living.

**Whether this is your first Mother's Day without your mother** or if it has been years since she has died, there are many ways to honor your deceased mother or grandmother on Mother's Day.

**We would like to offer the following suggestions:**

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



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# Public Allies Pittsburgh to recruit new leaders

By Michael Baltzer *Public Allies Pittsburgh*

Public Allies Pittsburgh, a program of Coro Pittsburgh and Public Allies' National Office, is a proud member of the AmeriCorps national service network. Since 2006, Public Allies Pittsburgh has connected over 200 diverse, young-adult leaders with opportunities to serve communities throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Beginning in September 2015, participants in a ten month program will engage in full-time, paid apprenticeships at local, nonprofit organizations. The program offers weekly skill-building workshops and leadership trainings for these young 'Allies,' as well as one-on-one professional development coaching.

As part of the program's community outreach, small teams of Allies will combine their talents to plan and execute

service projects addressing common neighborhood concerns. In addition to career counseling, participants will enjoy access to health care and child care, student loan deferment, and a monthly stipend of \$1,400.

After completing the program next year in June, Allies will receive an education award of \$5,730 to pay back any student loans or help fund their future education. Applicants must be at least 17 years old and legally eligible to work in the U.S.; program enrollment requires that potential Allies earn their high school diploma or G.E.D. before September of 2015.

The program application, which can be found online at [apply.publicallies.org](http://apply.publicallies.org), is due by May 15. For more information, visit [publicallies.org/pittsburgh](http://publicallies.org/pittsburgh) or call the Recruitment Manager at 412-258-3022. ♦

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# Local musicians release long-awaited album

By Carrie Garrison *The Bulletin*

**Bloomfield** - It all began more than five years ago when guitarist Phil Conley and singer Chris Olszewski sat down for an evening brainstorm and ran through a list of ridiculous band names, only to stumble across "Balloon Ride Fantasy."

"The name just came out," Conley said, "and it stuck." With a little help from their local connections, not to mention a fruitful craigslist ad, the band grew itself four new members: Brian Ganch (drums), Jordan Wood, (keyboards), Brad Schneider (bass), and Bethany Berkstresser (vocals).

Conley, who also does graphic design, soon began creating the band's new mascot. What members have dubbed a "lion-corn" looks like a mythical, rainbow-tinted lion's head wearing the horn of a unicorn.

"I was just trying to pick two cool things that I liked and merge them together," Conley recalled. "The lion-corn seemed fitting for the music."

Balloon Ride Fantasy plays music that might otherwise be described as synth-pop or new-wave. Olszewski and his bandmates, however, see their sound somewhere between the lines. "I like to



**ABOVE:** Balloon Ride Fantasy bassist Brad Schneider (left) and guitarist/lead singer, Daniel Olszewski (right) perform an April 7 album release show at the Pittsburgh Winery. Photo by Carrie Garrison.

think of our music as different, but relatable." The band is trying to avoid traditional terminology by creating some of its own. "We've been trying to coin, 'fantasy rock,'" Berkstresser said. "Our music is really imaginative," Schneider explained. "It gets brain waves moving that maybe weren't moving before."

After a long process of recording music and rewarding their online supporters via [indiegogo.com](http://indiegogo.com), the band was eager to officially unveil its self-titled record at the Pittsburgh Winery on April 7, 2015.

Founding members Conley and Olszewski's creative songwriting shines through the new album, but its sound is a result of collective efforts involving complex instrumentation. "Communicating between six people is quite an accomplishment," Berkstresser noted.

As a Bloomfield resident who regularly performs for her own neighbors, she believes their music has been well-received by the surrounding community. "Bloomfield has been very accepting of new types and genres." ♦

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## Teen Job Fair from page 1

**BELOW:** A student pauses for a smile at the East End Works Teen Job Fair on April 10. Hundreds of students came out to the event to land a good summer job. Photo by Wesley Davis.



**ABOVE:** Teens, library staff, and other community members contributed to a tremendous local gathering; students perused various job opportunities and met with professionals while networking for their future careers. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

## Zone 5 Officers visit Garfield CISP

By Wesley Davis Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - Lisa Young, Supervisor of the Garfield Community Intensive Supervision Program (CISP), invited Zone 5 Police Officers Jeffrey Crawford and Johnny Erevia to speak with participants and their families as part of the juvenile court program's recent 'Family Resources Night.'

In establishing a dialogue with neighborhood youths, Officers Crawford and Erevia pledged to work together with young adults on volunteer projects throughout the community.

They addressed issues like how to properly interact with law-enforcement officers and described the measures that young adults can take to report possible police misconduct.

Young emphasized how important it is for young adults to follow instructions when approached by police. She also reiterated that, if someone thinks an officer has treated them unfairly, they can always ask for that officer's name and badge number in order to file a report with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police. ♦



**ABOVE:** \*Lisa Young (left) introduced Pittsburgh Police Officers Jeffrey Crawford (center) and Johnny Erevia (right) during the Garfield CISP Family Resources Night. Photo by Wesley Davis.

**Keep up with neighborhood events! Visit the  
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# Garfield youth thrives in new job placement

By Mallory Helbling Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - Lifelong Garfield resident Sadiqia Powell is now raising her son, Andre, in a changing community with more opportunities and better access to a growing variety of youth programming. When her friend completed the Out-of-School Youth Employment Program (OSY) and gave it a glowing review, Powell decided to apply. The program, which is organized by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) and the Neighborhood Learning Alliance (NLA), aligns young people's current interests with possible career paths to help them achieve their professional goals.

Those who work with her are just as grateful for what she contributes to the whole program. Vanessa Dunn, BGC intern from the School of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh, will attest to Powell's talent and potential. "Sadiqia is incredibly hard working," Dunn said. "She gets along well with others, takes pride in everything that she does, and isn't afraid to take on different roles and responsibilities. It is easy to see, firsthand, all of her ambition and the goals she strives for each and every day." The afterschool program's lead coordinator, Nancy Walker, cites Powell's positive

"She gets along well with others, takes pride in everything that she does, and isn't afraid to take on different roles and responsibilities. It is easy to see, firsthand, all of her ambition along with the goals she strives for each and every day." - Vanessa Dunn, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Upon meeting with a program coordinator to evaluate her options, Powell pursued an opportunity to work for an afterschool program at Arsenal Elementary, where she has since obtained a permanent staff position. "I was placed with a wonderful job," she said. "The staff has become like family to me and I am so grateful for their support." Powell has always wanted to get a job working with kids, so she is very grateful for the new work experience and career training.

attitude, sense of humor, and natural rapport with children as reasons for her success. Walker knows how important it is to have young minds on board her staff. "As an example of an OSY employee, Sadiqia has been a valuable asset to the afterschool program." In working with Reading Warriors and other programs at Arsenal, Powell is embracing new leadership skills that will help her as a professional, and also as a mother. Andre's mother credits her own lifelong teammate for helping her strike a balance between motherhood, college courses, and full-time employment. "My mom watches my son while I work and go to school," she explained. "This allows me the opportunity to do both." Powell knows what a difference afterschool programs can make in a child's life, so she wants Andre to enjoy the benefits as he grows up in Garfield: "It helps with reading and math skills, develops good school habits, and broadens their horizons of education." As a young mother from Garfield, Powell has found a way to pursue her own love of education and pass this on to her son.

For more information about the OSY program, contact Rick Flanagan, Youth Development Director of the BGC. Call 412-441-9833 or email rickf@bloomfield-garfield.org. ♦



ABOVE: Sadiqia Powell, a Garfield resident who participated in the OSY employment program, reads to students as part of her new job at an afterschool program. Photo by Mallory Helbling

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## URA Façade Program offers residential grants

By Wesley Davis Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

**Garfield** - The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) of Pittsburgh provides residential façade grants to homeowners in targeted Pittsburgh neighborhoods like Garfield, Polish Hill, Manchester, and the Upper Hill District.

Quianna Wasler, Mainstreets Development Specialist at the URA, explained that a façade grant is a matching grant that covers 50% of the cost of improvements to a residential façade. Grants range from a minimum of \$500 to a maximum of \$5,000.

According to Wasler, "Eligible improvements can include: restoring architectural details, replacing deteriorated or inefficient windows, cleaning and re-pointing brick, removing or repairing awnings, upgrading porches, repairing gutters and downspouts, painting, and installing lights."

Sidewalk improvements, however, do not qualify for eligible use. The URA's

Façade Grant Program guidelines explain that corner houses facing two different streets may be eligible to receive funding for either street-facing part of the house.

The application and review process must be completed before construction can begin. As a means of educating the community about this process, the URA is

hosting an information session at the BGC Activities Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.) on May 7, at 6 p.m.

All residents are encouraged to attend and apply as soon as possible because these grants are awarded on a 'first come, first served' basis. Those interested in learning more about URA Façade Grants may call

Wasler at 412-255-6644 or email her at [qwaser@ura.org](mailto:qwaser@ura.org). To register for the May 7 grant information session, call 412-441-6950 (ext. 17) or email [wesley@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:wesley@bloomfield-garfield.org). ♦



**ABOVE:** A residential facade on Dearborn St. as it appeared before (left) and after (right) reconstruction work that was funded in part by the URA's Façade Grant Program. Photo by Quianna Wasler.

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May 1

**GARFIELD**  
**GA/GI at Unblurred on Penn Avenue**

On Friday, May 1, 2015 at the monthly "Unblurred" event on Penn Avenue, the Geek Art/Green Innovators Festival will give further meaning to the city's adage of "Sixburgh." Galleries, retail shops, businesses, university participants and others will be offering up a super sized gallery crawl that includes technology, eco friendly projects, music, art and fashion.

**DOWNTOWN**  
**GNC Live Well Pittsburgh Health and Fitness Expo**

The GNC Live Well Pittsburgh Health and Fitness Expo is one of the many exciting events that will be held on race weekend, May 1 - 2, 2015. It's free and open to the public. Registered runners, families running with children in the Kids Marathon, race fans and fitness enthusiasts from throughout the region will attend the Expo. Products, goods, services, entertainment and information will be featured during the two-day event. The Expo will focus on all aspects of health and wellness for people of all ages.

May 2

**GARFIELD**  
**LS Dance Company Showcase**

Join us at 4909 Penn Ave. from 5:15-6:30 p.m. for our company's performance showcase. This event is BYOB. Refreshments will also be served. Contact pgh.lossabrosos@gmail.com for more information about this spectacular showcase.

**DOWNTOWN**  
**Mortgages for Mothers**

Join us at 9 a.m. for registration and continental breakfast at David L. Lawrence Convention Center (1000 Fort Duquesne Blvd.). Following will be a

talk led by speaker Lynne Hayes-Freeland, a respected television journalist who will show you how you can own your own home. Talking points include how to obtain grant money for closing costs, credit counseling, restoration programs, and how to have an affordable mortgage and down payment options. Child care will be available during the presentation. To reserve your spot, please call 1-800-345-3655 or visit mortgagesformothers.com.

**NORTH PARK**  
**Allegheny County Marbles Program**

Free & open to all kids ages 14 & under. Not sure how to play marbles? No worries – we'll show you! It's fun and a great way to meet new friends. All local winners qualify for the County Marbles Championship, May 28-31, at the courthouse. Both the boys & girls county champions receive a trophy, crown & t-shirt. They also compete in the National Marbles Championship in Wildwood, N.J., June 21-26.

May 3

**GARFIELD**  
**Kids Yoga Hive**

Kids ages 2-6 and their siblings and parents are invited to Pittsburgh Glass Lofts, 5491 Penn Ave. Join Kids Yoga Hive from 2:30-3:30 p.m. for an adventure that requires creative thinking, balance, movement and play. It concludes with special stamps for your newfound adventure passport. The price is \$12. For more information, please visit info@yogahivepgh.com.

May 6

**HOMEWOOD**  
**Pollinator Gardening**

Join the Penn State Master Gardeners at the Carnegie Library of Homewood, 7101 Hamilton Ave., at 6:30 p.m. to learn how to create a pollinator sanctuary in your own garden.

These local experts will walk you through the basics of building and maintaining a pollinator garden and can even help you get your garden officially certified! This is a free event. Just call

412-242-3598 to reserve your spot.

May 8

**LAWRENCEVILLE**  
**Doulas Launch Party**

Come celebrate with us! It's been a whirlwind pulling together our new doula service, but we are ready to begin serving Pittsburgh mothers and their families. From 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., you'll be able to meet and mingle with our seven doulas and get a taste of their personalities while enjoying some light refreshments. This is an open house event, so please bring your friends and family and spread the word. Come on out and show your support for our new service. ments. This is an open house event, so please bring your friends and family and spread the word. Come on out and show your support for our new service.

May 9

**LAWRENCEVILLE**  
**Steel City Pizza Fest**

At Arsenal Park in Lawrenceville, on Saturday, May 9t, from noon-6pm, The Steel City Pizzafest kicks off its inaugural festivities with a good time. It is Pittsburgh's first free music and pizza festival, featuring six hours of the best bands in the Pittsburgh area. Blues, roots rock, modern rock, and more. Bands include: The Pressure, The Bessemers, Devon Moses and The Saved, The Turpintiners, and Molly Alphabet. All musical performers are guaranteed to be family friendly.

This event has been organized in partnership with The Lawrenceville United Community Group, Lawrenceville Corporation's Blossom Tour, and The Friends of Arsenal Park Committee. It is a great way to promote some of the best local pizza in town. After watching the dough-throwers, people will vote on "best pizza" and also weigh in on a "Ms. Pizza PGH" contest. Pizzafest is similar to a rib fest, but with pizza. It is also part of The Spring-it-On Crafters Fair. The Second Shift Crafters will be showcasing over 60 local vendors of handmade items throughout the entire park. Activities for children will be provided during the event. For more information and press contact Michael Devine at 412-680-4505 or zomboco@aol.com.

**FRIENDSHIP**  
**Flower and Folk Festival**

On Saturday, May 9, 2015, 11 am – 4 pm, Friendship Community Group will hold its annual Friendship Flower and Folk Festival (F4), at Baum Grove (400 Roup Ave.), in the East End of Pittsburgh. This family-friendly event is planned and put on by neighborhood volunteers. Locally grown flowers and bedding plants will be sold, and festival-goers can browse the Awesome Raffle, Gently Used Book Sale and arts and crafts vendors while listening to local musicians. Exhibitors include Zero Fossil, Chicks in the Hood, Burgh's Bees, Steel City Grazers, and Penn Forest Natural Burials, among others. This year, Friendship Community Group has identified Animal Rescue League as its charity of choice, for which items and

monetary gifts will be accepted the day of the festival. We hope to see you there!

May 16

**HIGHLAND PARK**  
**Day of Mindfulness for Educators**

We-PEACE announces its first retreat for 2015 to the Pittsburgh Shambhala Meditation Center (733 North Highland Ave.). Come explore meditation and mindfulness, but remember to please bring your own lunch. Check-in, followed by a light breakfast, start at 8:30 a.m. The program is \$50 patron price or \$35 program price. Or you can always just pay what you can afford. For more information, or to regisCheck-in and a light breakfast start at 8:30 a.m. The program is \$50 patron price or \$35 program price. Or, pay what you can afford. For more information or to register please visit our website: pittsburgh.shambhala.org.

**BLOOMFIELD**  
**Country Line Dance**

Join us at the Pittsburgh Dance Center, 4765 Liberty Ave., for a country line dance lesson. The lesson starts at 7 p.m. and beginners are welcome! This is \$10 and is BYOB.

May 17

**MORNINGSIDE**  
**Annual Woman's Day**

Join us at 11 a.m. for a talk with Minister Yvonne Taylo at the New Light Church of God in Christ, in Greenfield. Another speaker will give at talk at 3 p.m. at the Morningside Church of God in Christ, 4846 Sullivan St.

May 20

**HOMEWOOD**  
**Understanding USDA Dietary Guidelines**

Come by at 6:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Library of Homewood, 7101 Hamilton Ave., for an informational session with Carnegie Mellon University's Director of Health Promotions Program, Paula Martin. She will answer all your questions about USDA Dietary Guidelines and inform attendees about environmental health and nutrition. This event is free just call 412-242-3598 to reserve your spot.

May 27

**HOMEWOOD**  
**DIY Green Cleaning Products**

Join us at 6:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Library of Homewood (7101 Hamilton Ave.) for an informational session with Rachel Breit of Naturally Clean.

Sorry, but 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 are published on a space-available basis; we cannot guarantee placement. Announcements for the June issue are due Tuesday, May 12. Submit listings using our online form at [http://bit.ly/bulletin\\_submit](http://bit.ly/bulletin_submit).



# Volunteer Opportunities & Services

She will talk about how to avoid the harsh and dangerous toxins lurking in many expensive commercial cleaners and teach you how to create your own safe, environmentally friendly and effective household cleaners. This event is free to everyone. Just call 412-242-3598 to reserve.

## Ongoing

### FRIENDSHIP

## Summer Camp

Children ages 3-14 years old can join Earthen Vessels Outreach and Seeds of Hope Church for their annual 6-week camp starting June 15! This camp will be held Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Activities include structured learning in STEM (Science, technology, engineering and math) subjects and visits to the zoo, swimming, bowling, Idlewild among others! Scholarships are available and tuition is determined on a sliding scale. Before and after camp care is also available at an additional cost. Call to register your child now at 412-681-7272 or 412-414-2993

### GARFIELD

## Sojourner House

Sojourner House offers treatment for women, 18 years or older, who have at least one child 12 years or younger. We also offer treatment for those women who are actively seeking custody of a child, or are currently pregnant. The Single County Authority and providers that serve the injection drug abuse population shall give preference to treatment as follows: firstly, pregnant, injection drug users; secondly, pregnant substance users; thirdly, injection drug users; and all others. For more information, call 412-441-7783.

### CITY-WIDE

## 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](http://www.classcommunity.org) for more information.

### BLOOMFIELD

## Neighborhood Awards

Northwood Realty Services, in partnership with In Community Magazines, is proud to offer a great opportunity for your residents to show pride in the places they call home and boost the reputation of your community. The 2015 Northwood Neighborhood Awards officially launched March 1 with a public call for nominations. We're encouraging all municipalities to help promote the awards, so you

can be well represented among the winners. Categories include: Best all-around Neighborhood (East, West, North & South), Best Community Event, Friendliest Neighborhood Park, Best Block Party, Best Architecture & Landscaping and Neighborhood Spirit (Children's submission). Residents will find out how their neighborhoods stack up when winners are announced on July 15.

In addition to full bragging rights, overall winners in each category will win \$250 and be featured online and within selected issues of In Community's 32 local magazines that serve the four-county region. Visit [www.Northwoodknowsneighborhoods.com](http://www.Northwoodknowsneighborhoods.com) starting March 1 through June 15 for more information and to nominate your favorite place or neighborhood.

### FRIENDSHIP

## Hospital Volunteership

We are looking for volunteers age 18 and older that can work between 2 and 24 hours per week. We need help with clerical work, customer service, transportation, and other areas. Meal vouchers will be provided after four hours of work and free parking will also be provided. Background checks are necessary to be eligible. To learn more or complete an application, please visit <https://www.ahn.org/locations/west-penn-hospital/volunteering> or call 412-578-5314. Applications are also available in Friendship Dining Room.

### HOMEWOOD

## Camp Cadet Application

The Allegheny County Camp Cadet program is up and running again. Any boy or girl who resides in Allegheny County who is between the ages of 12 and 14 (and in good physical condition) is encouraged to apply. Allegheny County Camp Cadet is a non-profit, charitable organization that is funded by contributions from the community and is free to attendees. A mini-police academy program,

Camp Cadet is designed to provide a better community understanding of law enforcement activities while simulating an atmosphere similar to a police training academy. For more information, please come and visit [www.alleghenycountycampcadet.org](http://www.alleghenycountycampcadet.org). You can also contact Officer Mike Spagnoletti, Co-Director of Camp Cadet, at 412-473-1322 or via e-mail at [mspagnoletti@county.allegheny.pa.us](mailto:mspagnoletti@county.allegheny.pa.us) for an application or to receive more information about this special program.

### GARFIELD

## Public Allies Recruitment

The Public Allies Pittsburgh is a 10 month AmeriCorps program with full-time employment, professional development, and community service. Information sessions are held on April 11, at 1 p.m., April 15, at 5 p.m., and April 25, at 1 p.m., All sessions are held at Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Ave., RSVP to [michaelb@publicallies.org](mailto:michaelb@publicallies.org) or call 412-206-9849. For more information about this engaging opportunity, visit [www.publicallies.org/pittsburgh](http://www.publicallies.org/pittsburgh).

### FRIENDSHIP

## Pittsburgh Glass Center

PGC has a really cool and fun interactive exhibition going on right now featuring refurbished sign letters that visitors can move, wear and spell words with. Throughout the run of the exhibition, we're doing a word of the day on Instagram. Often, it's something we come up with but we also enjoy featuring a word spelled out by our visitors. We thought it might be fun to invite all our Penn Avenue neighbors to come in and spell a word that is relevant to their business, art, offering, etc.

Any one of our staff members can take the photo and then we can schedule it to post out to our Instagram account tagging the associated business. We thought this could be a fun way to collaborate with our neighbors and try to generate a little buzz. Visitors can drop by anytime, from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. (Monday through Thursday) and from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. 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 scheduled for 7 p.m., and the location will be posted on [www.stantonheights.org](http://www.stantonheights.org) or [facebook.com/stantonheights](https://www.facebook.com/stantonheights).

### OAKLAND

## Russian Film Symposium

The University of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Film-makers present their annual Russian Film Symposium from May 4 to May 9. This event will take place at Melwood Screening Room, 477 Melwood Ave. Admission costs for the evening screenings are \$8 regular admission; \$7 seniors and students; \$4 Pitt and Art Institute students. For more information and a full schedule of screenings, visit [www.rusfilm.pitt.edu](http://www.rusfilm.pitt.edu); contact Prof. Vladimir Padunov at [padunov@pitt.edu](mailto:padunov@pitt.edu).

### 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 accordingly posted on [www.stantonheights.org](http://www.stantonheights.org) or [facebook.com/stantonheights](https://www.facebook.com/stantonheights).

### GARFIELD

## S&B Sewing Circle

This community gathering takes place on the third Monday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave. Participants – adults only, please – can bring a knitting, sewing, or crafting project to work on, and a dish to share.

This event is BYOB.

## Assemble Afterschool

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4 to 6:30 p.m. join us at Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., for free, hands-on making for kids in fourth through eighth grades. Tuesdays are for engineering, Wednesdays are for art, and Thursdays are for digital skills.

## Night Market Vendors

Garfield Night Market was a success last year, and the planning process has already begun for this coming season. If you are a vendor, or are interested in becoming a vendor, send an email to [garfield-nightmarket@gmail.com](mailto:garfield-nightmarket@gmail.com). Also, stay tuned to <http://garfieldnightmarket.org> for updates about market activities. We look forward to seeing everyone out on the street again this year.

### LAWRENCEVILLE

## Sunday Market

The Night Gallery hosts a market every Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Come to 4936 Harrison St. for artisan bread, fresh coffee, and amazing jewelry.

## 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. Participants must be 18 and up. Call 412-682-3668 for more information.

## Little Learners

Come to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., every Wednesday at 6 p.m. for family playtime. Using a wide array of age-appropriate toys, little learners will experience something exciting with their caregivers at their sides. Recommended for newborns to 3-year-olds and their families.

## Youth Tennis Clinics

Beginner and intermediate tennis clinics for ages 6 to 10 are offered every Thursday night from 7 to 8 p.m. at Arsenal Middle School's gym, 220 40th St. No experience necessary. Rackets are provided or you can bring your own. \$10 per session, or \$45 for five sessions of your choosing. Non-marking shoes only. To pre-register, please contact Dave at Lawrenceville United, 412-802-7220 or [Dave@LUnited.org](mailto:Dave@LUnited.org).

## 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.

**June Bulletin Deadline: May 12**

Download advertising information: [bit.ly/bulletin\\_ad](http://bit.ly/bulletin_ad)

Download guidelines for stories, photos, and notices: [bit.ly/bulletin\\_news](http://bit.ly/bulletin_news)



# PERSAD Center moves to Lawrenceville

By Dylan Essig *Bulletin Contributor*

Lawrenceville - The PERSAD Center, the nation's second oldest licensed mental health center specifically serving the LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS communities, has moved from Garfield (5150 Penn Ave.) to Lawrenceville (5301 Butler St.).

Now that all the furniture has been moved and the boxes are unpacked, Executive Director Betty Hill and her staff are relieved to get back to providing outreach, prevention, counseling, advocacy, and training services for those in need.

Hill is pleased with the on-site accessibility that comes built into the new 11,500 square foot facility. "The benefits of our move include that all of our space is now accessible to mobility-challenged individuals," she explained. The space is now all on one floor, we have adequate and free parking,

and there are 2 bus stops in front of our location." On March 23, PERSAD hosted an open house, inviting supporters to the grand opening of its new headquarters and welcoming neighbors inside for a tour.

"Our new home is a visible symbol of support and inclusion for the communities we serve. It gives us the space to expand our services with senior, youth, training, and medical programs," said Hill. "The important thing to us is not the new building, but just what we are going to be able to do for the community in our new space."

PERSAD is offering a guided tour of the new facility that is open to the public. To arrange a tour of this impressive new headquarters, please contact Hill at [bhill@persadcenter.org](mailto:bhill@persadcenter.org). ♦



**ABOVE:** PERSAD Center has found a new home in Lawrenceville at 5301 Butler St. Photo by Dylan Essig.

# Assemble hosts annual MakerDate auction

By Jackie Shimshoni *Assemble* & Carrie Garrison *The Bulletin*

Lawrenceville - In 2011, Nina Barbuto founded Assemble, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization promoting STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) education, at 5125 Penn Ave. in Garfield.

Assemble is dedicated to fostering creativity in a neighborhood-oriented setting by linking artists, technologists, and makers together with open minds of all ages. Many of Assemble's programs are made free to the public; the nonprofit also offers certain paid opportunities to Garfield residents.

In order to sustain its programming, Assemble is having some fun with fundraising and putting on the fourth annual MakerDate, an auction running from 6:30-11:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 16 at the Teamsters Temple (4701 Butler St. in Lawrenceville).

"I am personally looking forward to all the connections we will make amongst people," Barbuto told The Bulletin. "Connecting artists, makers, and technologists with folks has been amazing!"

MakerDate is a one-of-a-kind event that pairs skilled creators with people who want to learn something new. Attendees are able to bid on "dates" with craft-makers, designers, technologists, and innovators. Each date offers the winning bidder an opportunity to work together with these experts to create new artworks and personalized bits of technology or apprentice toward a new skill.


Attendees at last year's event bid on more than twenty 'maker experiences.' Ranging from furniture painting and 'improv' classes to cooking sessions and iPhone app design, these experiences reward each winning bid with new working relationships.

"We hope to not only raise funds to support our free and low-cost programming at our spot," Barbuto said, "but also to live out our mission of opening up creative processes."

Before making any dates, bidders may partake in a VIP happy hour for early access to specialty snacks and drinks. All proceeds from the MakerDate auction will directly support Assemble's in-house STEAM programming. Tickets for the event are available for online purchase at <http://assemblepgh.org/makerdate-2015/>. ♦





**"Like" the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation**  
on Facebook for the latest neighborhood information and community photos.



# Health for Nurses.

They're selfless and noble. They give more than they take. And they do it not for fame but for the fulfillment only nurses can feel, having delivered care and comfort when it is most needed. So to Kim, here, and all the exceptional nurses of Allegheny Health Network, we wish for you what you work so tirelessly to bring to all of us—health for all. For an appointment, call 412.DOCTORS (362.8677) or visit [AHN.ORG](http://AHN.ORG)



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