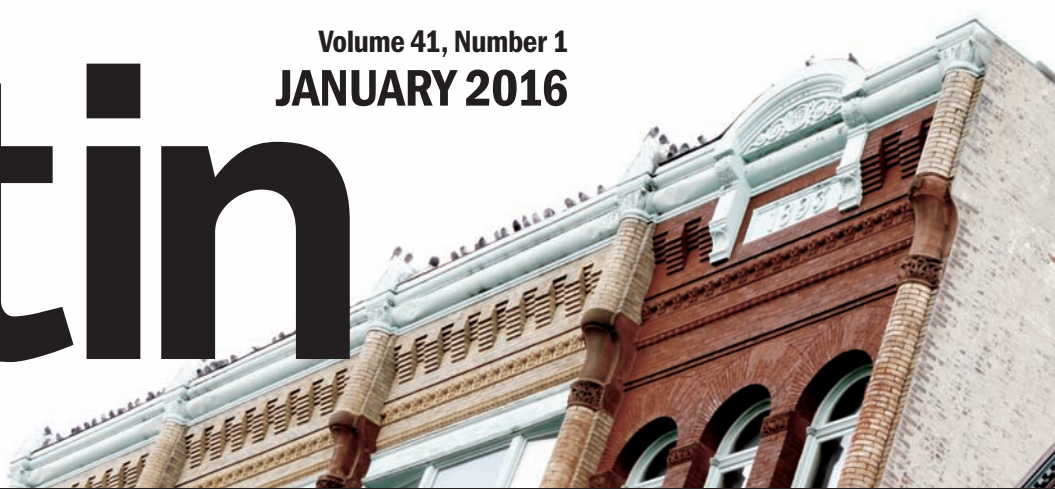


the Bulletin

Volume 41, Number 1
JANUARY 2016

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



Region makes “Toxic Ten” list for all the smog reasons

By Mollie Simon Clean Air Council

Commentary

Allegheny County - According to a new report from the PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center, more than one third of Allegheny County residents live within a three-mile radius of ten industrial facilities that – in 2013 alone – pumped at least 1.4 million pounds of toxic pollutants into the air.

The report, entitled *Toxic Ten: The Allegheny County Polluters that Are Fouling Our Air and Threatening Our Health*, exposes many of the region’s industrial facilities for their chronic refusal to comply with Allegheny County Health Department guidelines that are meant to keep everyone safe.

The PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center used industry-reported data from the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) on the amount and type of emissions from area facilities to determine which posed the greatest hazard to the health of nearby citizens. The emissions from these Toxic Ten industrial facilities include chromium, manganese, and benzene – toxins that can cause an array

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ABOVE: Community members and local experts get together to plan a new park system for the Larimer and East Liberty neighborhoods on Dec. 9. Residents voiced their concerns and shared their opinions at the meeting, which was organized as a reflection of the transparent community planning process. Look to page 8 for more photos from the workshop. Photo by Seth Finch.

Aids Task Force expands services under new leadership

By Jason Herring Pittsburgh Aids Task Force

East Liberty – While announcing the expansion of its services, Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (PATF), the oldest and largest HIV/AIDS service organization in Southwestern

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Tax season beckons again, but Just Harvest is here to help

By Emily Cleath Just Harvest

Allegheny County - January is the start of tax season, the three and-a-half months Americans have to file their taxes and claim a refund - if they can get one. In many struggling

See **Just Harvest** page 10

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ABOVE: Kenyah Redman itemizes her Christmas wish list while sitting on Santa Clause’s lap at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation’s holiday party on Dec. 11. See more holiday photos from Pittsburgh’s East End celebrations on page 5. Photo by John Colombo.

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Toxic Ten

from page 1

of health problems including cancer. It is not just a hazard for the residents living in the shadows of these facilities. Toxic pollutants can travel a variety of distances, with studies showing some pollutants traveling more than ten miles after emission. A number of the region's leading medical and environmental experts are speaking out about the new report.

According to Dr. Deborah Gentile, an allergist-immunologist at the Northside's Allegheny General Hospital (320 E. North Ave.), "these toxins that are released into the air contribute to a variety of adverse health effects in both children and adults, including cancer and asthma, as well as other problems." She understands that the region's problem goes beyond factory pollutants and wants to address all the local hurdles to cleaner air. "Pittsburgh's asthma rates exceed the national average, and one of the potential reasons why is because of the toxic emissions the facilities cited in this report release into the air we all breathe, each and every day. Other factors such as obesity, nutrition, infections, tobacco smoke exposure and poverty also play a role in asthma," she admitted. "We have not yet conquered our asthma problem in this region. One of the factors that we must address is how we can make the air we all breathe cleaner."

Aviva Diamond, a representative of Moms Clean Air Force, is tired of waiting for results. "Allegheny County has some of the worst air quality in the nation. The very air our children breathe is dangerous to their health and well-being. There is simply no more time to continue taking baby steps to address polluters," she proclaimed. "The Allegheny County Health Department must enforce the existing regulations to keep our children safe and healthy."

"This report provides clear evidence that we all need to come together – ACHD, community members, environmental health advocates and other NGO organizations and businesses – to take the needed steps and clean up our air throughout the region," Clean Air Council Executive Director and Chief Counsel, Joe Minott, said. "With so many of our community members living right near a Toxic Ten facility, we know this is negatively impacting the health, welfare and quality of life of nearly everyone who calls Allegheny County home." As it just so happens, the Toxic Ten report came to light in the same week that some of the biggest names in the coke industry descended on Pittsburgh for the Met Coke 2015 convention. A highly refined and processed form of coal, coke is one of the primary materials needed to manufacture steel. Experts and researchers gathered to discuss how technology and innovation can inform coke manufacturing when moving forward from the Steel City glory days. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classifies coke as a carcinogen, describing its emissions as among the most toxic of all air pollutants.

Representing the citizens' group Allegheny County Clean Air Now (ACCAN), Thaddeus Popovich noted, "this report highlights what the thousands of families living in the shadow of DTE Shenango Coke Works have known for far too long: these facilities simply don't follow the regulations in place that are meant to keep our families safe and healthy. It's time for facilities like Shenango to recognize that they operate in communities that thousands of people call home. That means they have to play by the rules." Just days before press time, the DTE Shenango announced the closing of its coke works on Neville Island.

Since 2012, the country's largest coke producer has been operating in near-constant violation of health guidelines right here in Allegheny County. About 37,000 people live within three miles of U.S. Steel Corporation's coke works at 400 State St. in Clairton, PA. "If Pittsburgh is going to truly become the most livable city, then we - as an entire region - need to think harder about not only what type of jobs we want to attract, but what it will take to attract those jobs. Quality of life for Allegheny County residents is reflected in the quality of the air that we breathe," George Jugovic, Chief Council with PennFuture, said. "Regulations to protect public health aren't at odds with a vibrant workforce; they strengthen it."

As Policy and Outreach Coordinator at Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP), Jasmin Bogi is worried about some of the city's most constant offenders. "This report adds further evidence to bolster our concern about McConway & Torley's foundry in Lawrenceville (109 48th St.), which - compared to others on the list - has the most people living within three miles of its facility," she said. "There has been a 'fence line' monitor there for years, but we know their metal emissions are still worrisome. It's time for action to reduce these toxic emissions." For more information about the Toxic Ten report, and directions for getting involved in local and national clean air movements, contact msimon@cleanair.org. ♦



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PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

By Aggie Brose *Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

On Dec. 9, at the Court of Common Pleas, Charles Stevens pled guilty to third degree murder; Judge Beth Lazzara sentenced him to a prison term of twenty-two to forty-five years. Stevens also received a two to four year sentence for a gun-related incident.

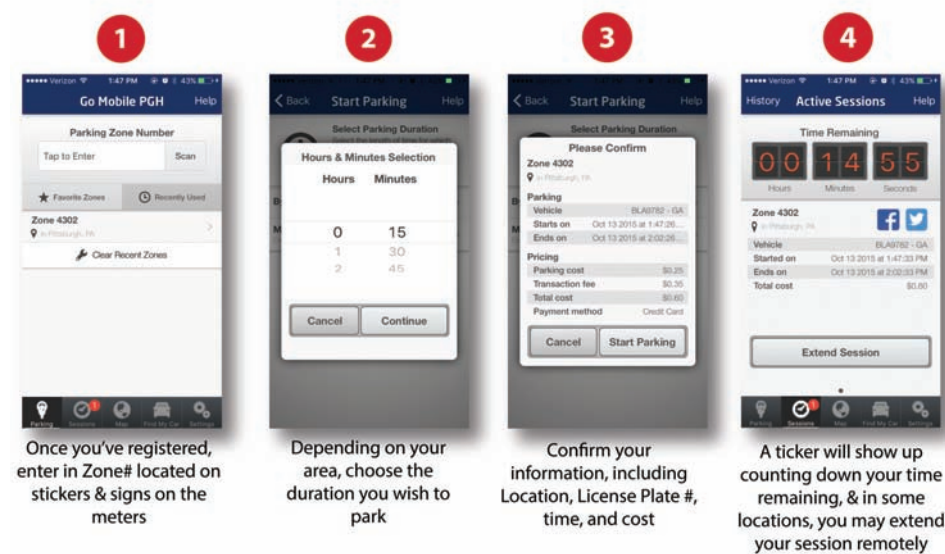
The court case stems from Stevens' admitted involvement in the July 2014 killing of Naytel Pack at the Nelson Mandela Peace Park, located at the corner of N. Evaline and Broad Sts. in Garfield. Pack was a witness to a previous shooting incident on February 1, 2014, in which Stevens' brother, Tarue Johnson, was allegedly involved. ♦

City embraces new mobile pay-parking model

By Kathleen Fennell *The Bulletin*



How to Pay with the Go Mobile PGH App



ABOVE: GoMobilePGH, a new pay-parking app, allows drivers to pay for parking from the comfort of their smart phones. Throughout the city, users can keep track of the time left on their parking meter without ever visiting a Pittsburgh Parking Authority kiosk. Graphic courtesy of Anthony Boule.

Pittsburgh - Mayor Bill Peduto and the Pittsburgh Parking Authority (PPA) recently launched a new mobile application called "Go Mobile PGH" that allows Pittsburgh drivers to pay for parking with their phones.

Last April, PPA called for proposals to make city-wide changes to the current pay-parking model. By August, Parkmobile - a company that offers pay-by-phone parking in forty-three states, won the chance to provide the new GoMobilePGH service for more than 9,000 metered spaces throughout the city.

Free to download and use, the new app allows drivers to pay a parking meter by using their smart phones and providing basic vehicle information with a preferred payment method. Each meter will have a sticker listing its zone number; users can register for parking by scanning the sticker with their phone or manually inputting

the information. After choosing the duration they wish to park, drivers can then confirm the cost before transacting payment. A visible count-down timer allows one to track how long their car can remain in its current spot without penalty.

The app even sends out "push notifications" to remind everyone when their paid parking is nearing expiration. If a GoMobile PGH user is still in the middle of lunch or finishing up an important meeting, they can respond to a discrete notification and extend their meter time without missing a beat.

License plates are kept on file digitally so that nobody has to repeatedly enter their plate number; users can even save their favorite parking places for quicker access. Drivers are encouraged to register online at www.GoMobilePittsburgh.com or by calling 1-877-727-5281. ♦

the Bulletin

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BELOW: Family and friends gathered along the Three Rivers Heritage Trail on Saturday, Dec. 5 to remember the life of Lawrenceville's own Andre Gray and his dog, Boss, at the Bernard Dog Run. Together with local community leaders, they dedicated a memorial bench for pedestrians, joggers, dog-walkers, and other Allegheny River enthusiasts to enjoy in Gray's honor. Photo by Carla Wilburn-Miles.



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Garfield’s Tiny House project: a big, crowdfunded vision

By Eve Picker *cityLAB*

For the past decade, Eve Picker, in her position as CEO of the nonprofit cityLAB, has become known for experimenting with the seeming impossibilities of developing new housing prototypes. Building on the success of her early e-zine and the creation of Downtown loft spaces, she has worked to introduce the city’s first “tiny house.” In the following op-ed submission, Picker recounts cityLAB’s journey to find funding for a project without any precedent in the local housing market. She also lays out the basic principles behind the progressive “equity crowdfunding” platform that financed a tiny home’s construction in a big way.



ABOVE: As he helps build a precedent-setting edifice at 223 N. Atlantic Ave. in Garfield, one worker takes a giant step into the future; the national Tiny House movement is now growing by leaps and bounds. The brainchild of cityLAB chief Eve Picker, this building is a portent of domiciles yet to be built in the East End. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

Garfield - cityLAB is a do tank. We don’t do studies and we don’t do reports. Our goal is to make good change happen in cities.

In 2011, we began to think about a project we called the “6% Place.” It was based on a study which shows that, if a neighborhood can get that many creative workers, it becomes an attraction in its own right. The goals of the 6% Place exercise were to enliven Garfield and fill the neighborhood’s vacancies with creative workers who would be good neighbors, invest in the community, and help the neighborhood grow sustainably.

We went about the process diligently. We held up a microphone to the community to hear what they wanted. And we researched what it would take to attract new residents as well. All of that feedback came together in a book, *The 6% Place*. One of the ideas put forward was to bring a tiny house to Garfield.

We had big goals for the tiny house: to turn eyes onto Garfield; to show that vacant lots can be an asset, not just a liability; to make Garfield an incubator of new housing models; and to create an alternative, affordable house. We involved the community, held brainstorming sessions, and planned the tiny house. People were on board. Neighborhood Allies provided a key piece of funding to think through the plans and, then, we were off. But the Tiny House journey was only just starting; it took two years and a lot of work to complete.

Building a tiny home on a trailer is simple and cheap. But, building a tiny house in a city - on a vacant lot, in an urban environment - is not. It must have a foundation and be tied into the public water and sewer system. Also, the site has to be environmentally sound and needs to comply with city’s zoning code. These are all good things. It means the tiny house is going to become a permanent part of the neighborhood. But these three issues added significantly to the development costs, more than doubling the price of the house. Generous grants from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Neighborhood Allies, and IKEA Pittsburgh allowed us to continue on our journey. The tiny home idea was on its way to becoming the “Tiny House,” Pittsburgh’s first!

Even taking the support from our partners into consideration, about \$100,000 was still needed for the construction loan. Typically, a bank would finance the majority of a construction loan. But, since the Garfield Tiny House (223 N. Atlantic Ave.) is the first one to be built in Pittsburgh, there are no comparable situations; since there are no comparable situations, there is no established market. This is a problem for most banks. For us, it simply posed another challenge we were prepared to meet, another first to add to our list of firsts.

And so we turned to Small Change, a real estate equity, crowdfunding platform to gather the funds we needed for construction. You are probably familiar with crowdfunding sites like Kickstarter or Indiegogo. You might have even given \$10, \$25 or \$50 for some project on a crowdfunding site that captured your attention in exchange for a reward like a t-shirt. Equity crowdfunding is different. Imagine that you might get the dollars you contributed to a project back. Now imagine that you might even get a return. That is equity crowdfunding.

All of this leads us to the present. As you can see, it isn’t easy being first. Our tiny house led to big headaches. But, we believe that it’s been worthwhile. When the tiny house sells, and when the next developer builds another, they will have a comparable house to point to, and we will have paved the way for a new housing market in a neighborhood that is still underserved. We will have done what we set out to do: turn eyes onto Garfield and jumpstart a new economy.

In January, the Tiny House will be fully built and ready for a homeowner, so we want to celebrate its completion. Come and join us on Sunday, January 17, from 1 to 4 p.m. as we host a “Tiny House Open House” at 223 N. Atlantic Ave. This Tiny House is due for one big opening! ♦

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BELOW: Jason Sauer dons the Santa Clause cap while sitting in the lap of the infamous “Krampus” character at his gallery, Most Wanted Fine Art (5015 Penn Ave.). Inviting folks to learn more about strange holiday folklore, Sauer provided winter spirits for a “Krampusnacht” celebration. Photo courtesy of Most Wanted Fine Art.



ABOVE: On December 4, East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM) held a candlelight vigil, known as “Let Peace Shine.” Pictured are EECM Board Members and executive director Michael J. Mingrone (third from right). Mingrone noted that the event focused on creating peace and sharing it throughout the world. Next year’s vigil will be held on November 19, 2016. Photo courtesy of Shannon Anglero.

Holidays in the East End 2015



ABOVE: Yazmine Miller (left) and Marichka Zaikina create home-made decorations during the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation’s holiday party on Dec. 11. Taking a break from the gingerbread cookies, many children added to the holiday spirit with their arts and crafts contributions. Photo by John Colombo.

BELOW: Albright United Methodist Church (486 S. Graham St.) volunteers prepare a Thanksgiving Eve dinner for all to enjoy on Nov. 25. Feeding every hungry arrival from the East End and beyond, the church has been providing free Thanksgiving meals for decades. Photo by Lindsay Patross.



BELOW: Lawrenceville legend Slim Forsythe performs for kids and seniors during a “Beat the Holiday Blues” party on Dec. 3. Students from nearby Woolslair elementary school joined their elder neighbors to spread some holiday cheer. Photo courtesy of Lawrenceville United.



ABOVE: Cheryl Lection (left) and Lanyia Willis (center) marvel at Linda Zellars’ flute work during the BGC holiday party on Dec. 11. When she wasn’t giving free chair massages to those in attendance, Zellars treated everyone to seasonal carols with her flute. Photo by John Colombo.

Online School opportunities abound for students in Garfield

By Christina Muzzie Garfield Jubilee Association

Garfield - The Garfield Jubilee Association (GJA, 5323 Penn Ave.) is now helping students connect with Smart Horizons Career Online High School (SHCOHS). The “YouthBuild” program aids disadvantaged youths, from sixteen to twenty-four years of age, including formerly incarcerated community members.

As twenty-three year old YouthBuild student Marquice Allen observed, “I came here to get my high school diploma, which - to me - is like a second chance in life.” In addition to completing career certification requirements and visiting the Penn Mathilda Apartments’ construction site (4800 Penn Ave.) during his time with GJA, Marquice is utilizing Smart Horizons to earn his high school diploma.

“The high school program doesn’t allow you to rush through information, so you really have to learn the content in all of the classes,” he said. “I’m currently completing

courses ahead of the suggested pacing and hope to have my diploma by March.” Through a partnership with the Community College of Allegheny County, GJA has enrolled Smart Horizons students like nineteen-year old Rachael Moody in a medical terminology class.

“Now that I’ve had my first introduction to nursing and the medical field, I plan to apply these new skills to a higher education program in Psychology,” she said. Moody recently obtained a position at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC in Lawrenceville while also completing her online coursework. “This program is a great step towards pursuing my future interests,” she observed.

Interested youths are encouraged to stop by GJA’s office from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or contact Dion Jones by calling 412-665-5206. More information is available at <http://garfieldjubilee.com>. ♦

West Penn Hospital career information session on Friday, Jan. 29

Come learn about employment and training opportunities that lead to careers at the West Penn Hospital (WPH, 4815 Liberty Ave.). Attend a session hosted by the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC, 5321 Penn Ave.) to learn how to apply for a job at WPH and other facilities throughout the Allegheny Health Network (AHN).

In addition to exploring many career opportunities, attendees will also learn how to make their resume stand out, how to have a successful interview, and what it means to be a West Penn Hospital team member. The session will provide training opportunities for anyone interested in moving up the ladder at WPH and AHN; attendees will take home valuable information about positions that fit their career interests. The event will take place on Friday, January 29 - from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - at the BGC Community Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.). In order to register for the event, please call 412-465-0425.

TechShop and Google bring young ideas to life in Bakery Square

By Erin Oldynski Tech Shop

East Liberty - Ever since it launched the “Design and Build” afterschool program last fall, TechShop Pittsburgh - at Bakery Square in East Liberty- has been helping local students work on laser-cut wallets, create LED bowties, and design lamps using Adobe Illustrator software.

TechShop students learn about the engineering design process, using a prototyping studio to bring their ideas to life. On the strength of a scholarship from Google, participants can now navigate the process of identifying a practical problem in their lives, then brainstorming solutions to this problem, and finally developing prototypes for those solutions.

Every Tuesday and Thursday, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., students meet at TechShop. The facility provides their young minds with access to advanced manufacturing technologies and a community of makers who can help fine-tune their ideas.

The studio’s Science, Technology, Education, Arts, and Math (STEAM) education aims to engage youths with the engi-

neering design process through project-based learning. As part of the “Design and Build” summer camp earlier this year, students pursued a whole range of 3-D printing projects - such as using lasers to create a chess set, clock face, and even a drone.

While thirteen-year old Lanyia Willis works on a laser-cut lamp that she designed using Arduino and Adobe software, fifteen-year old Sa’id Trayham works on a leather wallet line. Trayham found his inspiration in Fabnik, an independent business that operates out of TechShop to create watchbands and wallets.

Fifteen-year old Allderdice student Idris Trayham has taken his interest in style to the next level. By sewing conductive thread through a nine- volt battery, he created a bowtie that illuminates its wearer with LED lights. Idris donned his creation for a debut at his high school’s Homecoming celebration; needless to say, it was a huge hit. ♦

Arsenal students reach out to greater Lawrenceville community

By Dave Breingan Lawrenceville United

Lawrenceville - While “Arsenal” might sound like an intimidating - albeit historic - name for a middle school, students there are taking some initiative to spotlight the school’s softer side throughout the Lawrenceville neighborhood. After honing their skills by tending their own school gardens at Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8, students from Mrs. O’Connor’s and Ms. Smith’s classes visited community gardens across the neighborhood, turning flower beds over to prepare them for winter.

Meanwhile, students are also pedaling around and exploring the city as part of Bike Pittsburgh’s “Positive Spin” afterschool program. Mrs. O’Connor’s classroom recently traveled to the Ronald McDonald House (461 44th St.) in Lawrenceville to decorate an entire floor with door-sized, inspirational posters and bring some cheer to families receiving life-saving medical care. “We love to create something that will make other people happy,” eighth-grader Javon Smith said.

But Arsenal goes beyond just bringing its students’ goodwill into the community; the school is also opening its doors to the neighborhood, inviting Lawrenceville to engage with various extracurricular, afterschool programming.

Arsenal regularly plays host to kids’ swim lessons, open pool nights, youth tennis clinics, adult basketball games, soccer matches for the city’s Somali and Cameroonian communities, ultimate Frisbee, development meetings, resource fairs, and more. Recently, the school even served as a location for a Hollywood film shoot; upon wrapping up, the movie’s production team returned the favor by designing and constructing a new reception desk featuring the school’s original logo.

Lawrenceville United executive director Lauren Byrne Connelly understands the symbiotic relationship between the school and its neighbors. “Our community is lucky to have Arsenal,” she said. “The students, parents, and faculty have become active leaders in our community; they are helping to steward projects that not only benefit the school, but also the community at large.”

Among other service projects, the middle-schoolers are currently working together with Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC (4401 Penn Ave.) to donate blankets to local homeless shelters and provide hats for children fighting cancer. As seventh-grader Christian Wagoner noted, “It feels good to help others.”

Last month, Arsenal parents affiliated with PEP Rally launched the “Arsenal Attic,” a clothing swap store where families can donate their gently-used, outgrown uniforms in exchange for a new one. Families also earn “Arsenal dollars” to spend at the Attic by attending family fun nights, monthly parent workshops, and monthly meetings with the principal. “Arsenal is becoming a hub of community activity and resources for everyone,” Connelly said.

The Arsenal Attic is now accepting community donations of gently-used uniforms, as well as shoes and winter jackets; both Arsenal Elementary school (215 39th St.) and Lawrenceville United (4839 Butler St.) will serve as donation drop-off locations. Questions may be directed to Dave Breingan at (412) 802-7220 or Dave@LUnited.org. ♦

BELOW: The Arsenal Attic, a clothing swap store helping people exchange their old uniforms for new ones, is just one of many community outreach programs that Lawrenceville students have embraced. Photo courtesy of Dave Breingan.



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PATF from page 1

Pennsylvania, welcomes Sean DeYoung aboard as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

DeYoung assumes management responsibilities from departed Executive Director Charles Christen whose position was phased out at the end of September; before leaving, Christen helmed a national search for the new CEO that resulted in DeYoung's selection.

"We are very pleased to announce the appointment of this new position," PATF

Board President Bart Rauluk reported. "Sean brings strong leadership and the perfect mix of skills needed to fulfill the expanded role that the CEO will play in PATF's transition."

During the summer of 2013, the PATF board of directors embarked on a strategic planning process with input from staff, clients, community leaders, and peer organizations. The resulting feedback was quite insightful; raw data informed the board's decision to expand from a social

service agency into a model rooted in integrated care-giving. The new model calls for adding an expanded pharmacy program, along with more behavioral health and clinical care, to the existing vital services.

PATF's first phase of expansion includes more than just the new CEO position. Construction of new food pantry facilities, as well as client interview and meeting rooms, has already begun at its East Liberty offices (5913 Penn Ave.). The agency will remain open during construction, which is expected to be completed in April, and will announce expanded services in the coming months.

As a Pennsylvania Licensed Clinical Social Worker, the new CEO's resume includes over twenty years of executive administration, organizational development, and clinical operations in the nonprofit and social service sector. Prior to joining PATF, DeYoung served as Director of Program Quality & Compliance for Familylinks, Inc. - a Pittsburgh-based organization dedicated to helping individuals and families who are struggling with mental health issues, developmental disabilities, addictions, abuse, behavioral problems, illnesses and other life challenges.

He has also served in a director's capacity at The Bair Foundation of Pennsylvania, The Bradley Center, Catholic Charities, and others. DeYoung obviously brings a breadth of perspective in nonprofit management to his new role; the agency is glad to see its new leader's dedication to helping others. "I have dedicated my life to helping provide necessary human services to those in need," DeYoung remarked.

"I am proud to be able to continue this

service with Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force. PATF plays a vital role in the lives of our clients living with HIV/AIDS, as well as to the larger community, in preventing the spread of infection. I could not be more honored to be a part of that." ♦

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BELOW: Construction is underway for new food pantries and client interview rooms at the Pittsburgh Aids Task Force (PATF) facilities in East Liberty (5913 Penn Ave.). With the addition of a new CEO position, PATF is transitioning into more integrated care-giving and expanding its client services. Photo courtesy of Jason Herring.



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The properties listed represent those that we know to be available. If you would like your property listed on our site, please email details about the property, sale/rent price, approximate square footage, contact info, and photos (if available) to Mainstreets@Bloomfield-Garfield.org. Please use "Property Listing" as the subject line.

Note: The BGC is not a real estate agent and does not arrange or broker the sale/lease of any properties. Instead, the BGC seeks to facilitate a way for potential developers or investors to locate owners who may or may not be interested in selling or leasing their property.

Other organizations, like the Studio for Spatial Practice – with its playscapes and environmental art – or Sci-Tek, a geotechnical engineering and surveying company, have helped galvanize support for the project. Yet, despite the wide range of organizations involved in the planning process, the driving voice of the project remains

clear. Brean Associates' community planner Lillian Denhardt has been measured with her approach to the situation. "We've been talking a lot about who we are planning for. There will be a lot of new residents in Larimer, and there are already a lot of new residents coming into the surrounding neighborhoods. But, it's the current residents who are planning the park," she emphasized. "One of our project team members recently brought up the need to help residents feel like they're not being planned out of their own community."

Over the next four months, Denhardt and others have planned two more community meetings to address this concern. More info regarding the dates of these meetings will be announced by the URA, ELDI, and other community stakeholders as soon as information is made available. The planning process is expected to run through 2016, with construction of the first park scheduled to begin in 2017.

The URA is working to raise funds for Larimer's proposed park system. It is considering numerous funding sources, including Choice Neighborhood Implementation Funds and philanthropic donors – along with local, state, and federal funding opportunities. "We see the first three-acre park as establishing the image and identity of the neighborhood and setting the design quality of [public areas] for the rest of the open space system," Capita said.

As plans for the first park continue to come together, the excitement from the first meeting lingers throughout Larimer. "People were very excited to be engaged in a design process that will lead to valuable open space and recreational facilities in Larimer," Capita reported.

These sentiments were duly echoed on the planning side of things. "I live in Garfield and work in East Liberty, so I'm going to be able to go to this park," Denhardt exclaimed. "It's going to be about the size of Schenley Plaza, which I think is huge. I'm excited to see what the community wants to build." ♦

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Timing is right for Peanut Butter Jelly Time on Liberty Ave.

By Kathleen Fennell *The Bulletin*

Bloomfield - In an effort to attract the breakfast, lunch, and dessert crowds roaming around Bloomfield, a new Liberty Ave. business is putting a novel twist on a childhood favorite.

Last August, Chris Firman and his sister, Laura, purchased a storefront at 4709 Liberty Ave. and transformed it into a bright new establishment: Peanut Butter Jelly Time. Serving what else but locally-sourced peanut butter and jelly, the siblings opened up shop just before Thanksgiving. Since then, between the commuters and other repeat customers, they have already noticed a steady stream of local foot traffic.

"We want it to be that place that you come hang out, maybe meet some friends after work," Firman said, insisting, "we're not a coffee shop. We're not a doughnut shop. We're our own thing. We have tasty treats, both dessert and otherwise. We're a great place to hang after dinner or in between, whenever."

About four years ago, Firman and Laura had the idea of opening a peanut butter and jelly themed business. There was no argument that it should be Peanut Butter Jelly Time – a reference to the ubiquitously catchy, viral jingle of the same name – and no argument about keeping within the confines of copyright law.

The PB&J-loving siblings, who grew up in the North Hills, were drawn to Liberty Ave. on account of its neighborhood atmosphere. "We love the neighborhood of Bloomfield and were always keeping an eye out for a location up here," Firman said. "This was just the right timing."

Although the menu's staple is right there in the name, the shop still offers a long list of crafted sandwich concoctions that build

upon your average PB&J. Staff allow customers to pick from a list of fresh ingredients to design their own quirky, peanut butter and jelly creation.

As children, the co-owners became avid fans of what would become their "bread and peanut butter" (pun intended) down the road. "Growing up, we were two out of four kids, so we have a big family. When you have that and both parents are working, you're oftentimes eating peanut butter and jelly," he explained. "So, to make it less tiring, you come up with different combinations and see what you can do to make it interesting."

It is also worth noting that lunch hours are not the only time for Peanut Butter Jelly Time. Open from 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, the store is still in the midst of adjusting its hours of operation to better serve its customers. Guests can pop by for breakfast and help themselves to a make-your-own cereal bar or grab a cup of coffee.

Firman and company also serve up tasty after-dinner treats like hand-dipped milkshakes or the Waffle Not So Sundae – a Belgian waffle made-to-order and topped with cookie butter, strawberries, bananas, and cinnamon ice cream. Now that there are plans to bring in table games, customers anticipate playing "Connect Four" while enjoying a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

The shop owners look forward to becoming part of the community; they offer a ten percent discount to employees of other Bloomfield businesses and all first-responders working in the area. Firman is also reaching out to local food banks and homeless shelters in search of an outlet to donate food products.

He and the rest of the team – consisting of family members – only want to serve fresh, local ingredients. Fruit and produce comes from the nearby Linea Verde Green Market (4619 Liberty Ave.) and their jellies are supplied by "Breadspreads by Susan" in Avella, PA. Among the other local vendors are Schwebel's Baking Co, Pittsburgh's Best Ice Cream, and Turner Dairy Co.

"The staple here is peanut butter and jelly. We might joke around and say they're gourmet, that it's a gourmet sandwich shop," he admitted. "But, at the end of the day, it's peanut butter and jelly; we're just having fun with it and dressing [sandwiches] up the way we like to eat them." ♦

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Just Harvest *from page 1*

households, an income tax refund can provide families with a bit of cushion for all the expenses they face each year.

Throughout Allegheny County, Just Harvest – a nonprofit fighting to end hunger and poverty - has been providing certified, tax filing services to low-income households for the past twelve years. As a lead partner in the United Way of Allegheny County’s “Money in Your Pocket” coalition, the local nonprofit seeks to maximize its clients’ refunds by checking their eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Care Tax Credit.

“The Earned Income Tax Credit is the nation’s largest and most effective anti-poverty program,” said Just Harvest tax campaign coordinator Kristie Weiland-Stagno. “It has directly boosted the wages of millions of low-income workers for forty years. Yet, each year, one in five eligible workers goes without claiming the credit. According to Weiland-Stagno’s calculations, this tax credit, “can top \$6,000 for some workers.”

Joining eleven other organizational members of the coalition, Just Harvest works to provide free tax services to qualifying households and help everyone keep their entire refund; individuals are eligible for the free service if their maximum annual income is less than \$25,000; families cannot collectively earn more than \$45,000. Some of the other members of the coalition have different income thresholds.

There have been instances where commercial tax preparers try to strong-arm their clients into taking out advance refund loans, which are designed to tempt cash-strapped families. This, on top of the preparation fees, can lead to debilitating financial situations for many of their clients.

For some folks, getting back more of their hard-earned dollars means that they can now pay for much-needed repairs on the car they use to get to work every day. For others, it is a leaky roof or school materials, or even being able to take a vacation for the first time in years. Sometimes, it is just some extra breathing room, another investment into the “rainy day” fund.

The Coalition relies on volunteers to achieve its county-wide mission of providing free tax services; all volunteers receive extensive training to achieve IRS certification. Working at fourteen different tax sites over the past five years, 457 coalition volunteers prepared more than 26,960 tax returns and helped return \$44.3 million in tax refunds to area residents. For information about volunteering as a tax preparer or supporting the coalition in other ways, visit <https://uwsdpa.org/money-in-your-pocket-coalition>.

Starting January 11, those interested in scheduling an appointment for Just Harvest’s free tax services may call the United Way helpline at 211. Appointments are available six days a week, between January 19 and April 15; bilingual tax preparers will assist Spanish-speaking clients. More materials, including a list of some of the 2015 tax season clients, is available at <http://www.justharvest.org/get-help/tax-preparation>. ♦

Keep up with neighborhood events! Visit the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation’s news blog at

<http://Bloomfield-Garfield.org>

Westinghouse trains youths for careers in public safety

By Wesley Davis Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation



ABOVE: Pittsburgh Public Schools Superintendent Linda Lane wants to put Westinghouse students in the driver’s seat for careers in public safety. She and other school administrators hope to create a direct pipeline for students to pursue jobs as police officers, fire fighters, and paramedic workers. Photo by Andrew Rush, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Homewood - Thanks to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) department at Westinghouse High School (1101 N. Murtland St.), students will now be able to explore careers in public safety through the Emergency Response Technology Program.

Launching with the advent of the 2016 – 2017 school year, the three-year program will allow students to participate in career trainings for one half of the school day before resuming their regular academic coursework for the rest of the day. Westinghouse administrators found their inspiration in the public safety career program once offered by East Liberty’s now-shuttered Peabody high school (515 N. Highland Ave.).

Angela Mike, CTE’s Executive Director, explained that the new program will “teach students to apply technical knowledge and skills required to perform entry-level duties as a police officer, fire fighter, and paramedic.” According to Mike, both the City of Pittsburgh Public Safety Department and Mayor Bill Peduto have been strong supporters.

“The program aims to function as a direct pipeline to jobs with the city,” she said. As part of the mentoring curriculum, students will take part in job shadowing, train on a decommissioned City of Pittsburgh fire truck, and pursue multiple career certifications.

The city’s SaferTogether Coordinator, John Tokarski, noted that Mayor Peduto places a high priority on diversifying the city’s public safety workforce. “The Mayor wants community involvement in all aspects of safety services: police, fire, and EMS,” Tokarski said, adding that the program will help build stronger relationships between the community and the city’s public safety workers.

Current ninth and tenth-grade Pittsburgh Public School students can find an application for the Emergency Response Technology Program at <http://www.pps.k12.pa.us/Page/648> and return the completed form to their school guidance counselor. Roughly forty pupils will be accepted into the program for the 2016-2017 school year; all PPS high school students are eligible to apply. ♦



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All quiet on Penn Ave. for Small Business Saturday

By Jonathan Weinberger *Bulletin contributor*

Garfield - Founded by American Express in 2010, the annual Small Business Saturday falls on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This day-long event encourages shoppers to step away from the “big box” retailers and purchase their holiday gifts from small businesses, like many of the retailers along Penn Ave.

While not required, individual business owners and business districts can register with American Express to take part of the nation-wide event. In doing so, they receive promotional items such as window banners, posters, doormats, balloons, tote bags, and other items that can be given out to patrons the day of the event. Additionally, businesses can visit the Small Business Saturday web site for tips on how to promote their participation via social media.

For the past two years, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) has registered any interested Penn Ave. businesses to participate in the national event. By distributing promotional items and delivering helium-filled balloons to each business on Small Business Saturday, the BGC's commercial district manager tried to build on the event's larger momentum and attract foot traffic to Garfield.

Very few promotional items could actually be seen in the windows of any businesses along the avenue. Taking a drive down the corridor on Small Business Saturday, shoppers might have had a hard time finding businesses that were actually open and participatory; many did not make use of the materials that were provided, free of charge.

However, there were a few businesses that were very visibly open: Mixtape (4907 Penn Ave.), Bantha Tea Bar (5002 Penn Ave.), and Robin's Nest (5504 Penn Ave.). Although a number of businesses seemed to lack enthusiasm about participating in this year's event, there is always the hope that there will be increased enthusiasm for next year's Small Business Saturday event. ♦

Lions club lends a hand to locals in need

By Linda Davis *Bloomfield-Lawrenceville Lions*

Bloomfield/Lawrenceville - In 1917, a young Chicago business leader and humanitarian advocate named Melvin Jones challenged his fellow businessmen to reach beyond their own interests and try better serving their communities. Other groups soon joined Jones' mission, which became known as the “Association of Lions Club.”

Back in 1925, the renowned Hellen Keller challenged Jones and the Lions Club International to become “knights in the crusade against darkness.” Ever since, the Lions have devoted their efforts to helping the visually impaired.

Various clubs - including the Bloomfield-Lawrenceville Lions - have played an active role in raising money for libraries that serve the blind, collecting and recycling old eye glasses, and providing guide dogs to those in need.

The Bloomfield-Lawrenceville Lions also have a long history of distributing food vouchers and sponsoring a peace poster contest at local schools. Over the years, students from Arsenal Middle School, Woollair, Sunnyside, Saint Raphael, and Saint Maria Goretti participated in the peace poster contest.

Community and business members in the Bloomfield and Lawrenceville areas are invited to apply for membership in the organization. The Lions meet at Pleasure Bar (4729 Liberty Ave.) on the first Tuesday of each month; those seeking more information should contact Linda Davis at 412-681-9686. ♦

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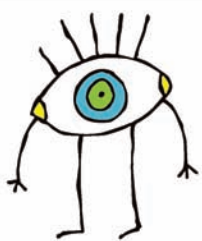
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Chatham program offers free master's degree to future Propel teachers

By Kate Luce Angell *Kidsburgh.org*

The following has been reprinted from kidsburgh.org and edited for size.

Pittsburgh - Here and across the U.S., the teacher pipeline isn't flowing like it used to. According to Pennsylvania's Department of Education, the number of Pennsylvanians seeking teacher certifications went down by 62% between the 2012-13 and 2014-15 school years, which is a huge drop. Meanwhile, on average, almost sixteen percent of teachers leave their posts each year. These numbers reflect a growing problem: fewer young people are interested in entering the teaching profession, and experienced teachers are leaving the field in increasing numbers.

Experts point to a combination of factors, including the rise of standardized testing, low teacher pay, and high student debt. There is also the impact of the teaching profession serving as a political football in statewide debates on education funding, as many in Pennsylvania are already too aware. While the teacher shortages in other parts of the state haven't yet hit Pittsburgh, the effects of an empty teacher pipeline will hit sooner or later. For schools in urban areas that serve mostly poor students of color, ones that already struggle with a long list of challenges, it is going to be sooner rather than later.

AT RIGHT: Chatham Assistant Professor of Education and Pittsburgh Urban Teaching Corps (PUTC) liaison Dr. Tyra Good (center) observes student teaching at Propel. She hopes to prepare the next generation of teachers for real-life classroom challenges. Photo by Brian Cohen.



Propel Charter Schools feels the answer to this trend is the Pittsburgh Urban Teaching Corps (PUTC). All of Propel's ten locations around the greater Pittsburgh area fall within this most vulnerable demographic, but the schools are already finding solutions to their challenges. Started in 2003, Propel has won local and national education awards for their achievements in raising students' test scores. In 2010, they received a \$3.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to continue developing their educational model for students from urban, high-poverty areas.

Propel Superintendent and CEO Dr. Tina Chekan revealed that the school's leadership decided they could not wait for top down efforts to address the problem of training and retaining qualified teachers. "Our students need good educators now," she said. With 10 locations and more than 3,500 students, they "have a unique opportunity to develop these kinds of teachers." So, in 2014, Propel developed the Corps with Chatham University. The four year teacher residency program addresses the two biggest factors that analysts say affect teachers' decisions to enter and stay in the field: professional support and earnings. "If we want great teachers to stay in education," Dr. Chekan explained, "we need to train them and support them." While the Corps is specifically intended to meet

Propel's needs, she sees it as having a broader effect. "This program will have a long term impact on the whole region. These teachers are going to come and make their home here," Dr. Chekan said.

The program kicked off last year with ten candidates. The first fifteen months of the program are grueling; candidates take four semesters of full-time coursework in the evenings, while also apprentice-teaching in Propel classrooms four days per week. By the end of the first year, candidates can receive their teacher certification for grades four through eight; the newest group has just received certification for grades seven through twelve. One big incentive for PUTC candidates is that the tuition for Chatham's Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree is completely free. Financed by the Propel Foundation, as well as contributions from each school and support from the Benter and Henry L. Hillman Foundations, the new program is already moving forward.

Each participant receives a monthly stipend of \$1350 while taking classes and is promised three years as a teacher in the Propel system (at an above-average starting salary of \$40,000). As Propel's Director of Talent, Kimberly Roberts, will confirm, the new program is defined by the amount of support and front line teaching experience that candidates receive. "There is no classroom learning that prepares you to be in a classroom," she said. "In the PUTC program, 'they are training in the same classrooms they will be teaching in.'"

PUTC liaison and Chatham assistant professor Dr. Tyra Good supervises the candidates' student teaching. You can't teach to a deficit. You have to teach to their potential," she said. Roberts notes that the program is designed to produce teachers whose training and experience will keep them in the profession, whether at Propel or elsewhere. In return, they earn a Master's degree at no cost and get a guaranteed teaching experience at Propel. "They have the opportunity to change the lives of their students. It's a win win win," she euphemized. For more information about PUTC, contact kimberlyroberts@propelschools.org. ♦

PGH Walks gets moving on Jan. 23

Join PGH Walks on Saturday, January 23, for our first Winter Walk. We will meet at 1p.m. at Constellation Coffee (4059 Penn Ave.) for a warm beverage and introductions. Walking down the avenue, we will stop at local shops, including Bantha Tea Bar (5002 Penn Ave.) and Commonplace Voluta (5467 Penn Ave.), before warming up at Zeke's Coffee (6015 Penn Ave.).

Pittsburgh is a beautiful place full of unique communities, parks, shops, and restaurants. However, the city is also growing. Construction, road repair, and changing traffic patterns can make pedestrian travel confusing and sometimes downright scary. PGH Walks aims to remedy this problem by working with other local organizations. Everyone is welcome, even if it is just for a cup of Constellation coffee. We would love to hear your stories and share ideas on how to make Pittsburgh a more pedestrian-friendly city. If you have any questions, please write to us at contact@pghwalks.org.

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The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, fundraisers, and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Listings are published on a space-available basis; we cannot guarantee any placement. Announcements for the **February** issue of *The Bulletin* are due by **Jan. 15**. Please submit listings using our online form at http://bit.ly/bulletin_submit.

January 1 - Friday

GARFIELD
Moscow to Detroit to Pittsburgh

Join the Irma Freeman Center for Imagination at 5006 Penn Ave. on this Unblurred First Friday. Mixed Media and Paintings by Tatiana Makarova and Deavron Dailey. Normal gallery hours are Saturdays, from 2 to 5 p.m. or by appointment. This exhibition runs through February 5.

January 6 - Wednesday

LAWRENCEVILLE
Pop des Fleurs Drop-In Workshop

Come to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in Lawrenceville (279 Fisk St.) at 7 p.m. Create fiber flowers to brighten and beautify the Pittsburgh winter and celebrate the arrival of Fiberart International 2016. This event is open for attendees of all ages. Call 412.682.3668 or email lawrenceville@carnegielibrary.org for more information.

January 7 - Thursday

GARFIELD
Health Insurance Enrollment Event

Health insurance enrollment specialists will be present to help individuals and families enroll in the health insurance plan that best fits their needs. 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the BGC Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.). To schedule an enrollment appointment, call 412-206-1298.

January 12 - Tuesday

GARFIELD
Expungement Workshop & Job Info Session

Are you unemployed or seeking a better position that pays more? Do you have a criminal background or dropped charges that you feel might be preventing you from either getting interviews or getting hired? Attend a January 12 meet-and-greet at 2 p.m. at the BGC Community Activity Center

(113 S. Pacific Ave.) with employment coordinators to learn valuable information about how to apply for jobs with a criminal background.

Learn what types of jobs will hire, how to explain gaps in employment during interviews, and how to approach the expungement process. The meet-and-greet will also provide attendees with a chance to schedule a one-on-one sit down with a coordinator to review and improve their resumes. . Call 412-465-0425 to register.

LAWRENCEVILLE
Teen Anime Club

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in Lawrenceville (279 Fisk St.) hosts this event at 4 p.m. Join fellow anime enthusiasts around Pittsburgh, where *otaku* and *noobs* alike come to hang out; explore Japanese culture, enjoy Anime, showcase cosplay, and munch on Pocky. Call 412.682.3668 or email lawrenceville@carnegielibrary.org for more information.

January 13 - Wednesday

LAWRENCEVILLE
Pittsburgh Glass Center Begins Winter Classes

Pittsburgh Glass Center, 5472 Penn Avenue. Whether you're an artist working in another medium, a collector, a college student, or just someone fascinated by glass, the Pittsburgh Glass Center has something for you! Depending on your interests and schedule, you may choose anything from a quick Make-it-Now experience to an 8-week class or weeklong summer intensive. Our classes are taught by both local and international professional artists. Check out your options at pittsburghglasscenter.org/classes.

REGENT SQUARE
Food coop re-prioritizes New Year's Diets

East End Food Cooperative, 7516 Meade Street at 7 p.m. Join our Supplements Buyer to learn about supporting New Year's resolutions with respect to climate over trends. We'll discuss detoxing in a way that doesn't deplete your body during cold and flu season, and highlight anti-inflammatory diets, natural antibiotics, the importance of probiotics, and more! This event is FREE, just call 412-242-3598 to reserve your spot!

January 14 - Thursday

LAWRENCEVILLE
Development Meeting

Community Update on 40th St. Corridor and Riverfront Development Projects from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8 Auditorium (220 40th St.). Residents and stakeholders are invited to attend the follow-up meeting to our "Your Role in Lawrenceville Development" meeting that was held last fall. Community organizations and City representatives will present information on community plans and updates that are relevant to upcoming development projects in the 40th Street Corridor. This meeting will prepare residents for participating in important upcoming community development project discussions. Contact Lawrenceville United for details

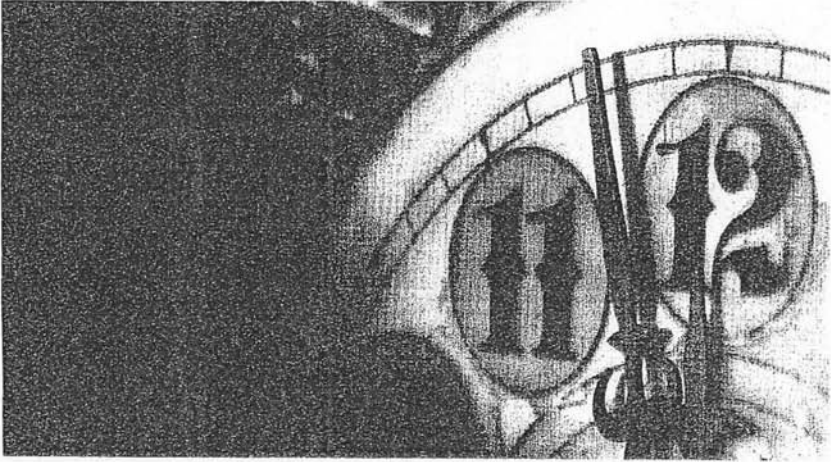
(info@Lunited.org, 412-802-7220). Childcare available upon request.

January 17 - Sunday

GARFIELD
Yoga for Beginners

Garfield Yoga Hive Studio (5491 Penn Ave.) on Sundays from 3 to 5 p.m. New to yoga? Have no idea if you like yoga? Want to return to your existing practice or refine your current practice? This series at the Yoga Hive is for you.

During this series of four Sundays, we'll break down a variety of common yoga poses and sequences while learning how to put or place our breath and body in a special way. This class will be interactive with space for questions. Email



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info@yogahivepg.com. Sunday sessions will occur on January 17, 24, 31, and February 7. The event cost is \$120 (\$100 with student id, EBT/WIC card or Veterans ID card) Details are available at www.yogahivepg.com/workshops.

January 20 - Wednesday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free Lecture: Doo Dah Days Revisited

The Lawrenceville Historical Society's free public lecture "Doo Dah Days Revisited" will take place on January 20th at 6:30 p.m. in the Carnegie Library, 279 Fisk Street. After ten years of presenting our signature Stephen Foster celebration, Doo Dah Days, the Lawrenceville Historical Society will give a retrospective of the event. We'll screen our 2010 video, produced and directed by John Kirch, in anticipation of our next decade of performances. We'll also display photos and recount stories of past festivals as well as explain the origins of the Doo Dah Days festival. Event is open to the public. No reservations required.

GARFIELD

AARP Info Session

Are you 55 or older and unemployed? Join us at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (5321 Penn Ave.) for an AARP SCSEP Informational Session on Wednesday, January 20th, from Noon to 2 p.m. AARP SCSEP provides part-time paid training opportunities where you can seek permanent employment while improving your marketable skills! To verify your eligibility, please bring a copy of the following documents: PA Driver's License or PA ID, Social Security Card, past 12 months of income, spouse's past 12 months of income, voided check or direct deposit authorization, resume. Call 412-465-0425 to register.

January 25 - Monday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Arsenal Development Meeting

Community Meeting regarding Arsenal Development at 40th and Butler Sts. from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8 Auditorium (220 40th St.). Milhaus Development will present plans to redevelop the former Arsenal Terminal site located at 40th/ Butler. They are currently scheduled to present to the Zoning Board of Adjustments in March. Contact Lawrenceville United for details (info@LUnited.org, 412-802-7220). Childcare available upon request.

January 27 - Wednesday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free Parent Workshop

This month's PEP Rally parent workshop is put on by the office of Family, Youth, and Community Engagement at Pittsburgh Public Schools and focuses on the rights and roles of parents as defined by federal law and district policy. 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Arsenal Middle School library (220 40th St.). Open to all. Free breakfast provided. Please RSVP with Dave at (412) 802-7220 or Dave@LUnited.org.

January 30 - Saturday

GARFIELD

Great PGH Spelling Bee

Irma Freeman Center for Imagination. (5006 Penn Ave.) 412.924.0634. The Great Pittsburgh Spelling Bee is a literary event created by Mark Sepe and Erin Oldynski to celebrate the archaic pastime of spelling words without the help of autocorrect. From our first start in 2013, we have been committed to giving the entirety of our proceeds to local charities or social services groups such as the Literary Arts Boom and the Gay & Lesbian Community Center. As always, the winner receives \$50 while second and third place get special prizes. Entry is sliding scale; \$5-10 for participants and free for audience members. Although this event is primarily for adults, all are welcome to participate!

January 31 - Sunday

GARFIELD

Free Chamber Music

Irma Freeman Center for Imagination, (5006 Penn Ave.) 5 p.m. start. Call 412.924.0634. Formed in 2013, the Incidental Chamber Players is a music collective that creates musical experiences meant to enrich lives and empower individuals through collaboration and a passion for artistic excellence. In performing works for mixed chamber ensembles - featuring woodwinds, the group presents hidden gems in the chamber music repertoire, commissions unique works, and produces a dynamic and immersive concert experience.

Ongoing

GARFIELD

Benevolent Creatures

Bantha Tea Bar (5002 Penn Ave.) becomes a gallery from 6 to 11 p.m. An Exhibition of eighteen Stormtrooper helmets - reimagined by artists across Disney, Lucasfilm, Marvel, and Pixar - will be on show for the next month.

LAWRENCEVILLE

CitiParks Tennis Clinics

Fun tennis lessons with CitiParks every Thursday evening 7 - 8 p.m., indoors at Arsenal Middle School gym (220 40th St.). Starts 1/21 and runs through 6/9. Ages 6-10. No experience necessary. \$10 drop-in rate. First session free. Racquets provided. To pre-register, please contact Dave at (412) 802-7220 or Dave@LUnited.org.

Health Smart Yoga

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk Street on every Monday at 6:30 p.m. Live healthy! Take the first steps to achieving your fitness goals and improving your lifestyle with a beginners' yoga class. Bring your own yoga mat and block. Call 412.682.3668 or email lawrenceville@carnegielibrary.org for more information.

Classifieds

Personal

Walking Buddies Needed - 49 yr old female seeks someone to walk with bi-daily, starting <mile for health improvement. Contact: Sheila (412-916-6862).

Housing

Braddock house; two bedrooms, patio, rent/rent-to-own/sale. Call 412-271-9343.

Services

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-Tribune Review

Safety Measures - Facility Design

Safe Yards
Our outdoor play yards have a 6 feet fence with additional fencing to prevent escape.
Our outdoor play yards also have artificial grass.

Clean Air
Weather permitting, we have multiple garage doors that will be open to allow fresh air and clean breeze filter through for your dogs to enjoy while they are playing. This will maintain a clean and healthy facility free from bacteria and odor.

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Our facility has a fire alarm and heat sensor that automatically dispatches the Fire Department in the event of smoke or heat detection. Staff is close by for emergencies.

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Big Easy Dog Daze is the ONLY DAYCARE/BOARDING FACILITY IN PITTSBURGH THAT HAS VETERINARIANS ON-SITE should immediate care be needed.

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Mon-Thur: 9am-7pm
Fri: 9am-6pm
Sat: 9am-12pm


Walk-In services end 30 minutes prior to close of business. After-Hour emergency services available.



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THE BIG EASY DOG DAZE & CAFE

Laundromat owner is a man of his word

By Aggie Brose Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Lawrenceville - Upon visiting the Econowash laundromat at 5148 Butler St. in May, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) staff found numerous issues with the facility.

The business was soon featured as the “Eyesore of the Month” in the June 2015 issue of The Bulletin (Vol. 40, No. 6). When reached for comment, owner Nick S. Barash explained that he had plans to renovate the laundromat.

The BGC now congratulates the owner for following through on many of the improvements that he promised to make. Barash has installed new washers and dryers, repaired the soap dispensers, and patched over a hole in the front sidewalk.

While improving the facility’s security, he also repainted the store’s façade and interior. Thanks to responsible business owners like Barash, Lawrenceville can

now rely on a valuable neighborhood resource. ♦

BELOW: Lawrenceville’s Econowash laundromat (5148 Butler St.) boast an array of new washers and dryers. The Bulletin commends owner Nick Barash for making improvements that will benefit the whole neighborhood. Photo by Wesley Davis.



West Penn’s bariatrics experts fight chronic obesity disease

By Morgan Rupert Allegheny Health Network

Bloomfield - At Allegheny Health Network’s (AHN) Bariatric and Metabolic Institute, experts work to find solutions for the chronic disease that is obesity. Board-certified and fellowship-trained surgeons with years of weight loss surgery experience guide patients through the program at West Penn Hospital (WPH, 4815 Liberty Ave.) in Bloomfield.

The bariatric team – which has conducted extensive bariatric specialty research – draws on a variety of skilled staff including physician assistants, dietitians, psychologists, and nurses. According to system director George M. Eid, MD, “the Institute’s main mission is to fight obesity and its related diseases. Our experienced and dedicated, multi-disciplinary team provides an individualized approach to patients who are suffering from the obesity disease.”

Doctors and staff understand the difficult challenges that patients experience when attempting to maintain weight loss, so they provide patients with the tools necessary to commit a lifestyle change. Before beginning the program, patients are offered free informational sessions to enhance their understanding of weight loss surgeries and services offered.

Once their surgery is complete, patients

are encouraged to stay on track by attending support groups and follow up with their dietitians, physician assistants, and doctors at the Institute.

“The staff was so understanding and very compassionate about my situation,” former patient Frank McAleavey said. “I’m a new person now and, at forty-six years old, I have never been so healthy in my life.” While patients work to reclaim their health and confidence, staff can help them significantly reduce their chances of suffering from obesity-related conditions like type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, sleep apnea, gastroesophageal reflux disease, heart disease, stroke, and certain cancers.

The Institute is committed to providing patient-centered care. By focusing on battling the obesity disease through surgery, education, and outstanding care, it helps patients lose weight and embark on the journey towards a happy and healthy new life.

As the cornerstone of AHN Bariatrics, the Bloomfield hospital’s program recently earned the distinction of becoming an accredited American College of Surgeons Bariatric Center of Excellence. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 412-235-5900. ♦

Ritter’s loses master chef, local icon

By Jay Londino Bulletin contributor

Bloomfield - “Seasoned by Charlie,” is how Pastor Tom Johnson (from Albright United Methodist Church, 486 S. Graham St.) always described the food at the famous Ritter’s Diner (5221 Baum Blvd.) in Bloomfield. Now, for the first time in almost fifty years, that seasoning will be sorely missed. At the memorial viewing for Charles Klemz, the highly skilled chef who ran Ritter’s kitchen with flawless ability for nearly five decades, family and friends gathered with the pastor to give thanks for a life well lived in the service of others.

Klemz, who was born on March 22, 1940, died suddenly of a heart attack on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 26, 2015). Almost three generations of Pittsburgh residents have enjoyed his brilliant cooking; they can trace it all back to a day in 1967 when he first saw a “cook wanted” sign in the window. Back then, when Ritter’s was still located just across the boulevard, Klemz had no kitchen experience whatsoever. The Velisaris brothers must have liked what they saw, because they hired him –on the spot - to cook at their diner.

On his way to becoming an expert chef, Klemz surely got in some good practice over the years. Thanks to a photographic memory, his short-order cooking abilities extended beyond the restaurant kitchen as he remembered every last detail of his regular customers’ special orders. Once he realized whose order he was preparing, Klemz liked to greet his regulars at their table.

“Charlie always knew I was in the diner when the waitress requested a ‘feta cheese and mushroom omelette - with chicken instead of ham,’” Pastor Johnson remembered. “He would come right out to brighten my day with his humor and his positive outlook.” In addition to the diner, the chef’s caring presence will be missed by the congregation at Albright, where he used his culinary skills to feed the hungry. Klemz also served as a faithful volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program and played Santa Claus for the kids every Christmas.

An Eagle Scout, he was sanctioned by the Boy Scouts of America to run programs for disabled Scouts at the Pittsburgh Schools for the Blind and Deaf. Klemz loved managing and supervising the night crew at Ritter’s, but keeping a twenty-four hour diner operating smoothly for seven days a week is not your typical eight hour job. On countless occasions, it was much more. Over time, doing manual work on his feet every day caught up to him. Finally, as his legs and knees began to weaken, the end of his long career with Ritter's Diner was in sight.

All of his life, Klemz struggled with extremely poor vision and leukemia. On account of this, his beloved wife Ellen (he called her “Mum”) drove him back and forth between the diner and their home in Spring Hill. After her untimely death four years ago, the chef was grief-stricken, heartbroken, exhausted, and approaching blindness; yet nothing ever slowed him down or damaged his cheerful spirit. Klemz will forever be remembered by the many lives he seasoned with care. ♦



AT LEFT: As head chef of Ritter’s Diner (5221 Baum Blvd.) for nearly half a century, Charlie Klemz became a Bloomfield icon. Known for his photographic memory and positive presence, the chef passed away on Thanksgiving Day. Klemz will be remembered not only for his short-order cooking skills, but also his efforts outside of the diner, where his charity work made him a champion of the community. Photo courtesy of Jay Londino.