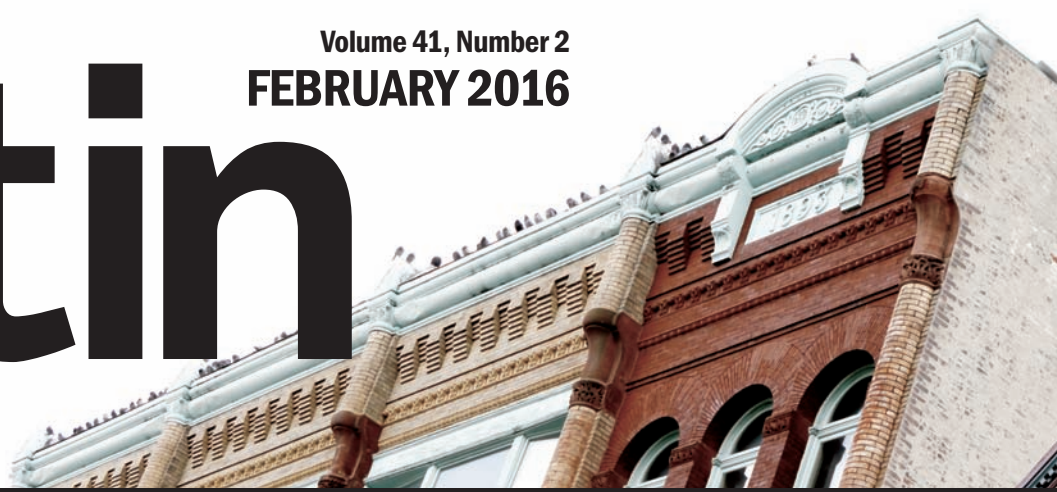


the Bulletin

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FEBRUARY 2016

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



ABOVE: Idasa Tariq, assistant creative director of local advocacy network One Hood Media, shows that he is no stranger to the microphone during the “East Liberty Celebrates MLK” festival at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater on Jan. 18. Turn to page 9 for more photos from East Liberty’s community-oriented celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Photo by John Colombo.

Representative Perspective: State budget requires compromise

By State Rep. Edward C. Gainey (D) Allegheny

Op-Ed - Pennsylvania has been without a full 2015-16 state budget for more than seven months (barring something unforeseen happening after I wrote this and

See **State Budget** | page 4

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Garfield Glen keeps housing affordable with Phases II and III

By Wesley Davis Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - Thanks to a new affordable housing project, fresh rental houses will begin taking shape this spring in Garfield. Known as Garfield Glen Phase II, the project

See **Garfield Glen** page 11

11

City ordinance strives to decriminalize pot, still uphold state law

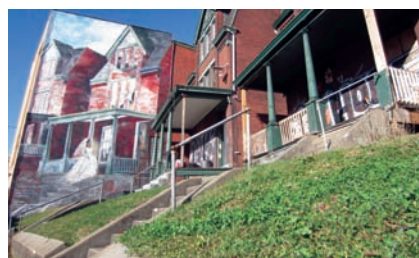
By Patrick K. Nightingale, Esq. *NORML*

Pittsburgh - On Dec. 21, by a vote of seven to two, Pittsburgh City Council approved Public Safety Chair Daniel Lavelle’s legislation to give city police a new option; officers would be able to issue a civil fine for possession of a “small amount” of marijuana (thirty grams or less) instead of filing a misdemeanor criminal complaint.

Mayor Bill Peduto waited less than a day before he signed the legislation without ceremony. While activists hope to see some initial drafts of the changes in police procedure around enforcement of the new law as soon as possible, police officials have asked for sixty days to implement the policy.

To be clear, the decriminalization ordinance does not legalize the possession of any amount of marijuana, and it only applies within the geographic boundaries of the city of Pittsburgh. The ordinance exclusively affects Pittsburgh police, which means that other law enforcement agencies operating within city limits are not bound to cite under the new ordinance.

In fact, should any City officer deem it
See **City Ordinance** | page 2



ABOVE: Sitting along Penn Ave., near the intersection of N. Graham St., five brick homes have become affectionately known as “Bride’s Row” to local residents in Garfield. Now that Dr. Ghassan Bejjani, a UPMC neurosurgeon from McCandless, has purchased the homes for redevelopment purposes. Much to neighbors’ relief, the vivid mural that is the block’s namesake will remain intact; it technically sits next-door to Bride’s Row.

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City Ordinance from page 1

necessary, they may still file a misdemeanor criminal complaint against any offender.

Some more skeptical city residents are obviously concerned that City Police will not cite under the ordinance, and will simply maintain the "status quo" of filing misdemeanor charges. In response, the bill's supporters point to how, after only one year of implementing a similar ordinance, Philadelphia has seen an 80% reduction in arrests for possession of small amounts of marijuana.

In Pittsburgh, a comparable reduction could result in as many as 800 fewer people being charged every year. According to an early opponent-turned-supporter, Zone 5 Commander Jason Lando, "[the police] are very much in support of this ordinance."

The commander said he expects the new policy to be in place no later than March 1. "Just give us a little time to implement it policy and train our officers."

While it offers a new approach to dealing with marijuana users, the ordinance is not seen as a perfect solution. Brandi Fisher and the Citizens' Alliance for Police Accountability pushed hard to restrict officers' ability to utilize the "mere odor of marijuana" to initiate a traffic stop or custodial detention.

Ultimately, Chief Cameron McLay agreed to language that would call on officers to, when encountering an odor of cannabis, not "unreasonably or unnecessarily" detain an individual. However, pursuant to state law, the ordinance cannot impose further restrictions on the authority or power conferred to the city of Pittsburgh Police.

After months of organizing meetings and lobbying for marijuana decriminalization, supporters of this reform are excited to join Philadelphia. They believe this new ordinance will help elevate Pittsburgh to the ranks of many cities, states, and even countries that are moving beyond any "Reefer Madness" hysteria and embracing cannabis reform. ♦

Properties on Penn Ave.

Interested in buying/renting a property located on or around Penn Ave? Interested in selling/renting your own property located on or around Penn Ave? The Penn Avenue web site has a page dedicated to commercial and residential listings (www.pennavenue.org). 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.

AT RIGHT: Terra Building Group president Brett Robinson wields an award for "Best Green Housing under \$450,000" in front of the Morningside home that earned his company honors from the Builders Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh. The house is only the third newly constructed, LEED certified domicile in the city of Pittsburgh. Robinson hopes to construct more energy-efficient homes in neighborhoods with Morningside's potential. Terra is currently designing plans to construct single-family homes in urban settings throughout Pittsburgh. Photo by Alex Robinson.



PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

By Aggie Brose *Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

Pittsburgh - Eighteen-year-old Carlos Clark was gunned down in the 4900 block of Broad St. on Dec. 24. Any person with information about this incident is strongly encouraged to call Pittsburgh Police at 412-323-7161. Callers do not need to identify themselves.

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of the person or persons responsible for the shooting death of Carlos Clark. Pittsburgh police, working in cooperation with the District Attorney's office, will determine whether the information provided is sufficient to obtain a conviction of the perpetrator or perpetrators of this crime. Anybody who provides sufficient information is eligible to receive this reward. On December 25, police recovered the vehicle that sped away from the scene of the shooting: a silver BMW 325i with license plate number JWK1239. The car was recovered in the 1000 block of Heths Ave. in Highland Park, a popular destination spot for many stolen or otherwise "hot" vehicles.

On December 21, a triple homicide occurred inside an apartment on S. Mathilda St. in Bloomfield. According to the police investigation, Meiko Devaughn shot and killed a supposed intruder, Kadeem Williams, for allegedly breaking into his dwelling. In the process of shooting at Williams, Devaughn also allegedly killed his own girlfriend, Akeilah Solomon, and sixteen-year-old brother, Jaimill Kenney. Devaughn is due to be charged with felony drug offenses and firearms violations. As of press time, there is a warrant out for Devaughn's arrest.

On Dec. 30, narcotics detectives arrested Gregory Galvez of 617 Edmond St. after allegedly observing him making a drug deal down the street in the 700 block. Galvez has been charged with felony drug violations; he is still in jail.

Rudy Coghe of 4619 Liberty Ave. was recently arrested after narcotics detectives served a search warrant at his apartment and allegedly recovered heroin and firearms. He was charged with both felony gun and felony drug offenses. Coghe immediately posted bond and was released from custody. ♦



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Reconstruction project puts finishing touches on Penn Ave. for time being

By Andrew McKeon *The Bulletin*

Garfield - Penn Ave. has been undergoing a complete infrastructure facelift, rebuilding from below-ground up, for what seems like ages. The massive chain-link fences and construction detours might be gone, but the memory remains for local stakeholders who cannot forget what their avenue has endured.

"It's great to see the avenue emerge from what looked like a war zone," Penn Ave. resident Michael Miller said. "I hope the new streetscape can bring some new business to the area because business owners were hurting so badly during the terribly drawn-out construction."

Karen Loysen has seen and felt the project's significant change from her office at Loysen-Kreuthmeier Architects (5115 Penn Ave.). "With the project's progress having been so gradual, it is much too easy to forget the 'before' picture," she stated. "I think we should all be reminded that these blocks were selected for Phase I because they are the neediest infrastructure areas in the entire length of Penn between Doughboy Square and Negley Ave. Now,

they will become the nicest."

Pat Hassett, assistant director of the city's Department of Public Works (DPW), is perturbed by unfortunate circumstances that are forestalling the project's finishing touches. Chief among the hurdles is the timetable for installation of new trees and their protective grates; the city had to agree to take over contractor Matcon Diamond's obligation to plant twenty-nine trees.

The tree grates, however, present a whole different can of worms. "Because they are non-compliant with ADA design specifications," Hassett says, "the tree grates are a liability to the public and will, therefore, need to be removed by the contractors." As it turns out, the very tree grates that were just installed up and down the avenue present too much of a vertical element to the sidewalk, exceeding the quarter inch relief maximum. DPW claims that the grates received for the project were not the same as the mock-ups that officials had previously studied and approved. ♦

the Bulletin

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ABOVE: Workers carefully negotiate the position of a tree grate along Penn Ave. during the last days of Phase I construction. Unfortunately, these tree grates will need to be replaced due to non-compliance with ADA design specifications. Photo by Rick Flanagan.

State Budget from page 1

submitted it to *The Bulletin* on Jan. 13). For months now, our schools and human service agencies have been struggling just to keep their doors open. Pennsylvanians have been wondering when this impasse will be resolved. Why is Pennsylvania stuck in this budget chaos?

The current political realities of a highly divided, Republican-led legislature and Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf - who won on a platform which many legislators refuse to recognize as legitimate - guarantees that all must give up something to get something.

The general budget agreement, which House and Senate Democratic and Republican leaders announced shortly before Thanksgiving, included increased revenue to begin to restore the drastic education cuts from the past four years. The agreement also sought to remedy the state budget deficit, which was caused by faulty budgeting and one-time revenue sources.

During the budget negotiations, Gov. Wolf took the Marcellus Shale natural gas extraction tax off the table even though it was the cornerstone of his campaign to increase education funding and remains hugely popular among the general public; Pennsylvania is the only major gas-producing state that does not have an extraction tax.

He also agreed to sign off on changes to the state liquor store system, as well as to the pension plans of future school and state employees. That is solid evidence that the governor has been willing to compromise. During the week of Christmas, when the time came to vote on the budget legislation that had passed the Senate in a bipartisan fashion, the House Republican leadership adjourned the House without allowing a vote. It was the height of irresponsibility!

By failing to call for a final vote on the negotiated budget plan before leaving for Christmas and New Year's, House Republican leaders forced the Senate to advance the only option that could reach the governor before the end of the year: a budget shoved through with no Democratic support because it did nothing to restore education funding or resolve the budget deficit. In fact, the House Republicans' plan would increase the deficit.

The governor had no choice but to sign

the budget to allow money to flow to our schools and social service agencies. However, he used his line-item veto authority to limit the spending and ensure the Republicans would come back to the negotiating table and complete the job.

It was my hope that the new year would bring a new commitment from all of the representatives and senators to come to the bargaining table with an open mind and realize that compromise is not a bad word. Unfortunately, House Republican leaders scheduled only six session days before Feb. 9, when the governor is required to submit his budget proposal for 2016-17.

And, when the House returned to session in January, the Republican leader's first order of business was to force a vote on higher education funding before all local school district budgets were made whole - and without the revenue to support it. Worse yet, they passed legislation that would lock in past funding discrimination against schoolchildren in Allegheny County and other urban and poor districts across the state.

It's well past time for House Republicans to stop the endless games and concentrate with the governor and rest of the legislature on passing a complete, balanced, and full-year state budget - one that fairly restores education funding at all levels, supports human services and communities, and fixes the budget deficit with predictable and sustainable revenue.

State Rep. Ed Gainey serves the Twenty-fourth Legislative District, comprising Wilkesburg and portions of the city of Pittsburgh. ♦

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The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service, is once again assisting individual taxpayers with filing their federal and state tax returns online. There is no charge for this service, which will be offered every Saturday, beginning February 7 and ending on Saturday, April 16. Taxpayers need to make appointments before visiting:

**BGC Community Activity Center, Lower Level
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The first appointments are at 12:30 p.m. and the last ones are at 4:30 p.m. We do not assist business filers, individuals who have rental income, or those with numerous capital gains to report. City residents will also be able to receive help in filing their city tax returns. Call Rick Swartz at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, 412-441-6950 (ext. 11), to schedule an appointment.

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Op-Ed

Making a case for why city police officers should live here

By Rick Swartz Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Pittsburgh - In a decision handed down in early January, the state's Commonwealth Court overturned a decision by Allegheny County Common Pleas Court that would have allowed city employees to live as far as twenty-five miles away from the city.

This came as a blow to the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge No. 2, the union representing the city's police officers - which was seeking to have their members freed from the requirement that they also live in the city. Although a referendum held in November of 2013 found that 80% of those city residents voting supported a residency requirement for all city employees, apparently the police union is still very unhappy with this state of affairs. The big question is "Why?"

On the surface, most Americans don't like to be told where they can or cannot live. That is understandable; the logic runs counter to the fundamental notion of each citizen's right to pursue life, liberty, and happiness, wherever they can find those to be in ample supply. Surely, requiring city employees to live within the municipality's geographical boundaries might be considered unnecessarily restrictive, even anti-democratic. It may even discourage highly qualified people from applying for employment with the city. But, the city's Home Rule Charter clearly gives City Council and Mayor Bill Peduto the legal right to impose such a requirement. And again, the voters in that 2013 referendum, in essence, ratified that section of the Home Rule Charter that enables our elected officials to hold workers to such a requirement.

What, then, do we say to city police officers who may wish to live elsewhere? How about, "Why not throw your lot in with the rest of us?" City living may not be the greatest, but in recent years, most residents would feel it has improved rather than declined. Neighborhoods that no police officer would have wanted to call home, perhaps twenty years ago, are now bouncing back. Thanks to the efforts of the officers themselves, working in conjunction with many community stakeholders across the city, there has been a very

substantial drop in the crime rate since 1990. The choice of schools, while having shrunk in terms of those run by the city school board, has actually expanded with the entry of new charter and private schools into the market. As always, there is still the option of parochial schools in many parts of the city.

Granted, being a police officer in the same municipality where you also live might not be an enviable position. There is always a time when we feel the need to just get away from it all. Yet, having traveled to most parts of Pittsburgh, I can honestly say that living on the city's western edge in Windgap, for instance, puts one about as far away from East Liberty as would residing in Monroeville. Living in the Hays neighborhood, on the border with West Mifflin, would be more than a stone's throw from Observatory Hill on the upper North Side. Esplanade, in the west end, barely registers as a city neighborhood to those living in Swisshelm Park, sitting next to Swissvale as it does.

I can also say how thrilled we are at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation to find city police officers living amongst us in neighborhoods like Garfield or Stanton Heights or Morningside. It's not to say that the blocks where they reside are largely crime-free. That would be a ridiculous claim to make. But the information they are able to gather on possible lawbreakers from those they happen to know in the community can sometimes go a long way in solving crimes, or even preventing them. As it is, the city is under severe strain to clear the more serious crimes like homicide, where only 30% of the seventy-one cases in 2014 resulted in the arrest and prosecution of an alleged perpetrator. How can we expect police officers to know the environs in which they work if they have little familiarity with its denizens and, while off-duty, rarely see the very places they patrol?

Living in the city also affords greater opportunity for police officers to experience the diversity of urban life, which stands in stark contrast to the mostly homogeneous suburbs. Chances are, you or your children will be more likely to bump elbows with folks from

different races or ethnic backgrounds in the city than would be the case in Franklin Park or South Park. That is not a knock against the suburbs. I am just saying they tend to be more on the "vanilla" side of things. With the city's officer corps largely white as it is (85% in 2014), why not get to know a few different flavors on the menu? It would be nice if race were not a factor whatsoever in the make-up of the city's police force. But, that is not the case.

Honestly, it will ultimately take a little more effort from folks on either side of the racial divide to get to know and understand one another. Would that understanding truly be easier for the overwhelming majority of our police to achieve if they were able to live in, say, Murrysville (95.4% white) or South Fayette (93.9% white)? Maybe even Seven Fields (95.6% white)? Call me stupid, but I would tend not to think so.

I would like to see the police union drop its legal challenge to the city's residency requirement. I would also like to win the PowerBall lottery every now and then, too. If and when the State Supreme Court upholds the decision to allow the requirement to remain in place, perhaps the FOP can join the rest of us in figuring out how we can make the city less divided from a racial standpoint and more united from a common-sense, this-would-not-be-such-a-bad-idea standpoint. ♦

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412Build helps local teens find opportunity as entrepreneurs

By Jackie Shimshoni 412Build

AT RIGHT: Students from the 412Build program try their hand at woodworking during a visit last summer to TechShop's prototyping studio (192 Bakery Square Blvd.). The 2016 program, which runs from June 27 through August 19 at various workshops in East Liberty, is now taking applications from students between sixteen and eighteen years of age. Teenagers can learn principles of design, marketing, and financial management. Photo courtesy of 412Build.



East Liberty - From now until February 28, local teenagers (between sixteen and eighteen years old) can apply for this year's "412Build" - a free summer program that pays teens as they take courses in life and career skills, maker tools, and entrepreneurship. A collaboration of local technology investment and project design from Innovation Works and City of Play, the program has found a home in two of East Liberty's finest entrepreneurial hubs: robotics accelerator AlphaLab Gear (6024 Broad St.) and prototyping studio TechShop (192 Bakery Square Blvd.).

412Build students are given free TechShop memberships, including access to mentors and co-working space, as they develop their own businesses. The 2016 program is partnering with local retailers to help students sell their own product lines, encouraging them to pursue long-term partnerships and income streams.

Young adults can develop product lines based on one of six pre-selected program tracks, which vary in scope - everything from designing streetwear to creating light fixtures out of repurposed items. While the short-term goal is for students to make money by producing a successful product line, the long-term goal is for such a project-based approach to prepare students for a wide variety of career opportunities.

"Many of our manufacturing partners have high-paying, skilled manufacturing jobs that they haven't been able to find workers to fill," said Ilana Diamond, managing director of AlphaLab Gear. "Our goal is to introduce local young adults to entrepreneurship and advanced manufacturing skills so they can be the next generation of skilled workers for our startups' manufacturing partners."

Now going into its third year, 412Build has expanded from a five-student pilot to a forty-student program with eight weeks full of activities. Participants take part in workshops on entrepreneurial thinking, marketing, financial management, and public speaking. Professional development sessions help the kids work on their resumes and also allow them to seek advice from mentors in their field of interest. The program offers hands-on courses in subjects such as laser cutting, 3D printing, woodworking, and even Arduino design software.

Instructors employ not only traditional learning modules, but also play-based activities, in their tutorials. City of Play's executive director, Adam Nelson, knows what it takes to get kids educationally engaged. "We use games to create fun, impactful curricula and programming," he said. "With 412Build, City of Play is using games to help impart twenty-first century skills like design thinking and creativity, as well as teambuilding, among the student groups."

Organizers designed curricula to offer something for every student. "We offer our students so much experience that it allows them to find their passion," instructor Steve Fortunato explained. "My experience with 412Build has been one for the record books and I cannot wait for this summer to see what new experiences are ahead."

The 2016 program schedule will run from June 27 through August 19 in East Liberty. Applicants of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply; no experience is necessary. More information about applying for the program can be found at 412build.org. Questions may be directed to Jackie Shimshoni, 412Build Program Coordinator, at jshimshoni@innovationworks.org. ♦

Assemble gives STEAM to "learning parties"

By Hillary Bedeian Assemble

Garfield - Assemble (5125 Penn Ave.), a community space for arts and technology in Garfield, offers monthly "learning parties" to introduce concepts in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) to curious learners of all ages.

Learning parties function like casual science fairs. Once a month, Assemble brings in guest experts from Pittsburgh and the surrounding region to lead hands-on, STEAM-based activities related to a specific theme. Attendees can explore the offerings - which range from creating screen-printed artworks, to studying the science behind germs, to hacking the code of a website - and interact with the presenters in a free-form, open format.



ABOVE: Kids get a close-up of crawling insects during a learning party at Assemble (5125 Penn Ave.) in Garfield. Covering different topics each month, these parties resume celebrations on Wednesday, Feb 10. Photo courtesy of Assemble.

According to Nina Barbuto, Assemble's founder and director, "learning parties are explosions of learning," with no regard for age limits. "They are a chance for kids and grown-ups to share their excitement about a topic, excitement about how to make something or about how to play-test a real app while it is under development," she said.

The 2015-16 schoolyear began with a September learning party themed around time travel. Throughout the fall semester, partygoers enjoyed guest presentations from the Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse, Bike Pittsburgh, ALCOSAN, the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, and TechShop; student and faculty research groups from Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University, and the University of Pittsburgh also contributed to the party last fall.

"Kids get to meet a variety of experts passionate about topics like rainbows, the physical senses, circuitry, the environment, and more," Barbuto enthused. "This inquiry-based program opens up perspectives and builds relationships with people in our STEAM communities."

Assemble will resume hosting its learning parties on Wednesday, Feb. 10, with a "senses-themed" event. Continuing through May, each month's learning party is free and open to the public. More information can be found on Assemble's website, <http://assemblepgh.org>. ♦

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Results are in: survey raises questions about Bloomfield's Little Italy Days festival

By Christina Howell Bloomfield Development Corporation

Bloomfield - A survey conducted by local community group Bloomfield Development Corporation (BDC) asked residents, businesses, and visitors to share their opinions about Bloomfield's popular Little Italy Days festival. Asking eleven questions, the survey solicited views about topics such as the event's length, its overall cleanliness, and its size.

Of the 300 respondents, 64% were residents, 11% were businesses, and 19% were visitors. Conducted from mid-October through December 31, the survey represents an effort to understand what the neighborhood wants and how best to advocate for it.

Preliminary observations from the survey data indicate that, while a majority of business owners felt that detours were managed well, the majority of residents thought there was significant room for improvement. Although most respon-

dents agreed that there was enough of a police presence at the event, a significant number of Bloomfield residents would still like to see the number of officers increased in the future.

When asked for their opinion about the scale of the event, respondents gave some interesting answers. While most local residents say the Little Italy Days festival is too big, a similar majority of local business owners believe there is room for the event to grow; visitors' responses were evenly split on this topic.

Further results are being pulled from the survey. Those interested in the full report are encouraged to attend a community forum at 6:00 pm on Thursday, Feb. 18, at Shepherd Wellness Community's 4800 Sciota St. location. After the meeting, BDC will post the survey's full results on social media, as well as its website (<http://bloomfieldnow.org>). ♦



ABOVE: A Slice Island chef prepares dough for use in the new brunch menu at Spirit (242 51st St.), a multipurposed bar/eatery/venue along Butler St. in Lawrenceville. Beginning in February, Spirit will offer food delivery service while the kitchen crew readies itself to serve up brunch every Sunday from noon til 4 p.m. The family-friendly, all-ages Sunday brunch looks to be create a laid-back scene where local deejays and craft cocktails will help everyone conclude their weekend. Photo courtesy of Spirit.

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NeighborhoodFOCUS

Destination East Liberty: Hotels court visitors in new market

By Andrew McKeon *The Bulletin*

East Liberty - Whenever a cultural icon like David Bowie passes away, they become a touchstone for everything fashionable. Known more for the “cool” they finally coined than the unglamorous ways they first captured our imagination, these figures become institutions by situating themselves along tipping points and waiting for the levees to break.

Take the local Whole Foods Market (5880 Centre Ave.) for example. Some longtime East Liberty residents describe their neighborhood’s development in terms of “pre-” and “post-Whole Foods,” the same way pundits define modern music in relation to Bowie.

Thanks to whatever divination brought Whole Foods to East Liberty, the neighborhood became a destination for every type of visitor while the rest of Pittsburgh watched with raised eyebrows. The Target store at 6231 Penn Ave. represents a kind of “new testament” to the future narrative of East Liberty.

Now that the neighborhood has proved itself as a viable investment in the heart of the city, it is being re-shaped by the free market. What were once abandoned buildings before Whole Foods came to town are now restaurants and office spaces that define the new East Liberty. Some might call it “gentrification,” but not the executives of the hospitality industry.

Often located around rebounding urban centers, “boutique hotels” offer a fashionable alternative to the usual hotel stay. In Pittsburgh’s case, the usual hotel situation was always one of two options: overpaying Downtown or staying at a motel next to the airport.

So, in 2007, when an African American developer named Nigel Parkinson bought four buildings with plans to build a city hotel in East Liberty, nobody really knew what to expect of that development. The flailing housing market delayed Parkinson’s plans for seven years, but everything was finally ready to go for the September 2015 opening of Hotel Indigo (123 N. Highland Ave.).

Not more than a few months later, Ace Hotel opened its doors just on the other side of Penn Ave. at 120 S. Whitfield St. Modeling itself after the infamous Chelsea Hotel



ABOVE: The rooms are ready at the Ace Hotel (120 S. Whitfield St.), a much hyped and equally bally-hooed symbol of “cool” that recently made a splash in East Liberty. A veritable “Ziggy Stardust” of modern hotels, Ace Pittsburgh plans to host regular deejay nights, music performances, and even screenings of live sporting events. Photo by Andrew McKeon.



ABOVE: The bright main lobby at Hotel Indigo (123 N. Highland Ave.) welcomes curious travelers into a repurposed East Liberty facility full of modern amenities. Guests enjoy city views, luxury bedding, and a special blend of coffee from neighboring Zeke’s coffee shop (6015 Penn Ave.). Photo by Roy Engelbrecht.

in New York City, Ace digs beyond the hip factor to customize each hotel to the image of its newfound city. Consultants from the affiliated Atelier Ace firm go to great lengths to capture each city’s essence with hanging photographs, old fixtures, and succinct ambiance - not to mention the fresh faces of hospitality in their employ.

At Hotel Indigo, which boasts nearly twice as many rooms as Ace, “cool” is a relative term and comfort is king. General manager Jordan Bartels has worked in the hospitality industry for years; he came up through the ranks of hotel conglomerate IHG Intercontinental, Indigo’s parent company.

When it comes to global resources and boutique finish, Bartels believes Indigo embodies “the best of both worlds.” Yet, he must reassure skeptics that the hotel is not just a short-term investment in a changing neighborhood.

“Just like the hotel, Whitfield wants to be a showcase of what Pittsburgh has to offer. It’s something locals certainly appreciate, but we also want to help educate all the travelers who visit us as well. We have a lot to celebrate.”

– Bethany Zozula, Whitfield restaurant, Ace Hotel

“There’s more thought process behind it than just, ‘heads and beds make money,’” Bartels said. Indigo hopes to become an anchor point for East Liberty (see: Whole Foods, Target, and Home Depot) as first-time visitors keep discovering their new favorite stretch of the city.

Over at Ace, everything feels a bit looser, but also a bit more carefully chaotic in a Beatles-playing-on-the-roof kind of way. While certainly less corporate than Indigo, the hotel manages to feel more shrouded in mystery, something akin to *The Wizard of Oz* in its calculated image.

As Atelier Ace's chief brand officer, Kelly Sawdon, explains, "the old YMCA building in East Liberty has been a really special home - and the original shell of the facility is such a unique space to experience in itself." The East Liberty location marks a first for Ace; since its humble beginnings in Portland back in 2007, the company had never created a hotel with a completely in-house design. Ace's main attraction is its bustling lobby, which is louder than most public spaces and opens into the Whitfield, a fine restaurant with loads of experience in the kitchen.

Executive chef Bethany Zozula wants to excite foodies from the local scene, while also providing good meals for the least trendy appetites. "We want to be that all-occasion, neighborhood spot that you can always count on and we really want to do our best to take care of anyone who walks in our door," she said. "When we put together the menu, our goal was to try to appeal to everyone, which is why we offer things like daily brunch. If you want a burger in the morning or eggs in the afternoon, we have you covered every day of the week."

Hotel Indigo takes pride in its proximity to the Kelly Strayhorn Theater (5941 Penn Ave.) and it comes through in the hotel's aesthetic. Marquee lights, film reels, and various stage-oriented motifs are on full display throughout each of the hotel's four sistered structures.

Touting its own tap room as the toast of East Liberty, Indigo knows that neighboring hotels are not necessarily a bad thing. Bartels points out an online review from a visitor who, while driving around to find the new Ace Hotel, stumbled upon Indigo and decided to book a "stay-cation" for the following week.

"There aren't even 200 rooms in the neighborhood market," he explained. "I think that's enough to go around between both hotels." Bartels is glad that East Liberty has yet to succumb to the cutthroat business environment of most tourist destinations, but he knows the potential is always there. "It's a very small sandbox and you have to play nice," he admitted.

Trafficking culture to and from East Liberty will always be a hard sell, even without the delicious food and motivating circumstances. But, once these boutique hotels settle into their new sandbox, who knows how the neighborhood will change?

"Just like the hotel, Whitfield wants to be a showcase of what Pittsburgh has to offer," Zozula said. "It's something locals certainly appreciate, but we also want to help educate all the travelers who visit us as well. We have a lot to celebrate." In a neighborhood being recast by free market forces, these hotels could be touchstones yet unturned, cultural institutions on the level of "Whole Foods" and "Bowie." ♦

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AT LEFT: Laela Lumsden (center) treats everyone to a piece of her mind during a mixed media performance at East Liberty's Kelly Strayhorn Theater (5941 Penn Ave.) on Jan. 18, MLK Day. Families, performers, social advocates, and many others gathered for "East Liberty Celebrates MLK." The weekend-long festival championed Dr. Martin Luther King's message of hope and togetherness by fostering discussions and hosting workshops to bring both sides of Penn Ave. together into a singular vision. Photo by John Colombo.



In Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"East Liberty Celebrates MLK" at Kelly Strayhorn Theater

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AT RIGHT: Gerard Doswell-Hardrick (right), who works with Knotzland to create accessories from recycled materials, affixes a handmade, paper bowtie to Asgton Anderson at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater on Jan. 18. Makers and entrepreneurs from all over Pittsburgh gathered to celebrate MLK Day. Photo by John Colombo.



BELOW: Maliq Cunningham keeps the MLK Day beat going on a hand drum at Kelly Strayhorn Theater's "East Liberty Celebrates MLK" festival on Jan. 18. Photo by John Colombo.



ABOVE: Moving through the air like a pinwheel on a spring, Trevor C. (of Trevor C. Dance Company) delights audiences with his stage routine at Kelly Strayhorn Theater. Photo by John Colombo.



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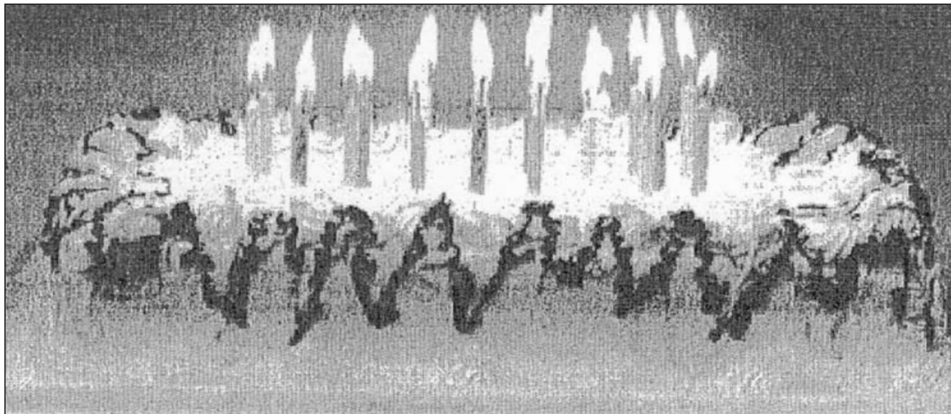
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ABOVE: Tamiah Bridgett (right), a haircare entrepreneur raised in Garfield, listens to the advice of Gov. Tom Wolf (center) at start-up accelerator AlphaLab Gear (6024 Broad St.), in the heart of East Liberty. Upon creating her Curls Best Friend product line, Bridgett founded the “It’s a Natural Thing” group to advocate for the celebration of natural hair among African American women. While Gov. Wolf greeted various entrepreneurs like Bridgett, local journalists loomed in the background, hungry for answers about the state budget impasse. Photo by Andrew McKeon.



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Lawrenceville pursues community land trust

By Ed Nusser, Lawrenceville Corporation and Lauren Connelly, Lawrenceville United

Lawrenceville - Lawrenceville is experiencing an incredible revival. The crime rate has dropped 60% since 2005, twenty-one new businesses opened up shop in 2015, and more residents and developers are investing in once-vacant and abandoned buildings. Strong connections have been made throughout the community and more residents have access to local employment resources and opportunities than ever before.

Despite this progress, the increased attention and investment in Lawrenceville has created unforeseen, unfortunate impacts for some residents. The neighborhood is experiencing an extreme shift in the housing market, which has already displaced some neighbors and excludes many would-be residents from locating here.

Many families and individuals are finding it almost impossible to find affordable rental units or purchase a house for the first time in Lawrenceville. Because of rising local property values created by speculative investors, people are unable to find homes in a neighborhood where they grew up, or where they go to work every day. Lawrenceville Corporation (LC) and Lawrenceville United (LU) are working with partners to address these issues and create tools to preserve the healthy socio-economic diversity that made Lawrenceville what it is today.

One of the affordable housing tools that LC and LU have been exploring is the creation of a Community Land Trust (CLT). CLTs are either independent nonprofit organizations, or programs of existing nonprofit organizations, that provide lasting community assets and permanently affordable housing opportunities for local families.

The heart of a CLT’s work is creating homes that can remain permanently affordable. As a result, generations of families with less access to the conventional market will be able to pursue successful homeownership opportunities. Mayor Bill Peduto’s Administration and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) have shown early support for this exploratory work; the URA has provided LC with predevelopment financing for construction of the first phase of CLT housing in Upper Lawrenceville.

Local organizations are putting together a community forum on affordable housing to feature presentations on the CLT model and updates on regional efforts to address affordable housing concerns. As part of the forum, organizers will host a resource fair for local tenants, landlords, homebuyers, and homeowners to find helpful information. The event will be held in March, but further details are still being finalized. Those interested in learning more about the CLT may contact info@lawrencevillecorporation.com or call 412-621-1616. For more information regarding the upcoming event, contact info@Lunited.org or call 412-802-2270. ♦



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Garfield Glen *from page 1*

will consist of nineteen single-family units centered on Kincaid St.

The new dwellings will be constructed through a partnership between the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) and S&A Homes. Garfield Glen Phase II is scheduled for completion by late 2016.

According to Aggie Brose, Deputy Director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), this nineteen-unit project aims to eliminate smaller gaps of blight left behind by the construction of a forty-eight-unit Homeownership Choice development and forty-five Garfield Glen Phase I rental houses on Kincaid, Dear-

born, and Broad Sts.

Brose notes that the BGC is also currently in the process of acquiring land in the eastern part of the neighborhood for a Garfield Glen Phase III housing project. "We have assembled enough property to construct twenty new rental units," she said.

Brose acknowledged that the BGC's previous housing projects focused on addressing blight in the western portion of Garfield between N. Mathilda Ave. and N. Atlantic Ave. Now shifting focus to the eastern portion of Garfield, the BGC has assembled properties for some form of

AT RIGHT: A sketch of what is in store for Garfield Glen Phase III housing units as properties are redeveloped throughout the eastern portion of the neighborhood. Architectural rendering courtesy of Lami-Grubb Architects.



BELOW: Three of Garfield's blighted properties (l-r, 5318, 5316, and 5314 Kincaid St.) could be a future site for new housing as part of Garfield Glen Phase III, an affordable rental housing project from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC). If the community is supportive of seeing another fifteen to twenty homes built, the development could be underway by the fall of 2018. Photo by Andrew McKeon.



new housing development on the 5300 block of Rosetta and Kincaid Sts., along with Brown Way.

The next step for Garfield Glen Phase III would be to secure tax-credit financing, Brose said. "We'd like to have these houses

occupied in 2018." She points to the BGC's "Garfield 2030 Plan," which calls for building more safe and affordable housing while eliminating blight, as the project's point of inspiration. The Garfield 2030 Plan can be found at <http://bloomfield-garfield.org/housing/garfield-2030>. ♦



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

Affordable units planned for scattered-site construction throughout East Liberty

By Elizabeth Sensky *East Liberty Development, Inc.*

East Liberty - The 1999 East Liberty community plan envisioned a stable neighborhood with a vibrant, mixed-income community. As East Liberty continues to develop, now more than ever before, a mixed-income community remains a priority. Many longtime East Liberty residents will be pleased to hear that new affordable housing is soon coming to the neighborhood.

In partnership with the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP), East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) plans to develop approximately twenty-one new units of affordable housing, which are expected to be completed by the end of 2016. The project is a part of a larger plan by the city of Pittsburgh to build fifty new units of affordable housing within city limits over the course of five years.

As a means of avoiding past errors while ensuring a diverse blend of incomes within the community, ELDI and the Housing Authority chose a scattered-site approach; vacant lots owned by ELDI will soon become housing throughout the neighborhood.

"I recently made a map of poverty rates and you can tell where all the old-style housing projects still exist because they're just masses of dark red. We know that's not effective," ELDI's Peter Brewton, Land Recycling Coordinator, explained. "To be poor is one thing, but to be poor in an isolated neighborhood where everyone around you is also desperately poor compounds the issue of just one individual circumstance."

ELDI will take the lead in financing and constructing the new housing units. HACP will then buy and manage them under its affordable housing portfolio. The project came together thanks to the instrumental help of City Councilman Rev. Ricky Burgess, himself a board member of the Housing Authority.

Recognized as a key driver behind the Larimer Choice Neighborhoods effort that netted a \$30m Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant, Rev. Burgess has been actively pushing for more affordable housing in the East End to meet the community's needs. "There is an affordable housing crisis in the East End. Every affordable unit we bring online is one more family we can protect from displacement," Rev. Burgess said.

PW Campbell, a builder already active in other development projects in the neighbor-

hood, will construct the housing to consist of low-density, single family duplexes along with one six-unit building. Construction designs were informed by input from a community planning committee made up of neighborhood residents and ELDI board members; a contextual study from the project's lead architects, Devlin Architecture, also influenced the designs for each building.

"In terms of the building design, they are traditional looking houses that fit within the neighborhood. So hopefully, if anything, they'll stick out as positives, as good looking thumbs," Brewton noted. The new housing project is being financed with the help of Local Initiatives Support Corporation, a national non-profit that facilitates lending to support community development corporations, and local community development partner Neighborhood Allies. Both organizations will act as the pre-development lender while Dollar Bank will serve as the construction lender.

With many eager to secure affordable housing in East Liberty, the units will be in high demand. During an informational community meeting in December 2015, there was a positive consensus from residents. "The overwhelming response was, 'how do I apply' and 'can we do more of this?'" Brewton said. "Long-time East Liberty residents who we've talked to - whether they are homeowners or renters, middle class or poor - they'd like for people who've been here for the hard times to have an opportunity to stay for the good times."

Future plans for additional affordable housing continue to be explored but, in the meantime, these new units can serve as a relocation resource for the tenants of East Liberty Gardens (100 N. Sheridan Ave.), an old public housing complex that is being torn down and redeveloped at the end of the year. In the short-term, units are expected to be occupied by East Liberty Gardens' tenants, who will be temporarily displaced while their permanent residences are being re-built. All tenants will be required to meet eligibility standards set by the Housing Authority.

More information about the new units will be shared at a to-be-determined community meeting later this year. Stay tuned at <http://eastliberty.org> and ELDI's social media channels for future announcements and news. ♦

Cancer Center support groups offer comfort, companionship in Bloomfield

By Wendy Myers, MSW, LSW Cancer Caring Center

Commentary

Bloomfield - As a social worker for the last twenty-five years, I love facilitating cancer support groups for the Cancer Caring Center, a non-profit cancer support organization located at 4117 Liberty Ave. in Bloomfield. The center offers support and resource services to patients and their families.

When someone is diagnosed with cancer, he or she is in shock. I describe it as a roller coaster ride for the entire family. Some days, people are at the top of the hill and hopeful, feeling in control; on other days, they are in the valley feeling overwhelmed, hopeless, and out of control.

If a patient learns to ride this roller coaster, he or she will survive. But, getting stuck in any of those valleys could mean both physical and mental setbacks for the patient and their family. Open communication with doctors, as well as family members, can also help patients navigate the incline challenges of cancer.

Support groups have a valuable place within the treatment process and beyond. They bring together other patients going through very similar experiences and allow members to talk about their situations openly, without judgment. Overwhelming thoughts, fears, and concerns can be shared while others offer support and encouragement. Most importantly, hope is being shared among the members.

Many people fear that the groups will be depressing, but it is exactly the opposite. Members become a part of a special family with whom they share common concerns regarding their illnesses or disabilities. Just the idea that one is not alone can also help alleviate the anxiety many patients and families experience. Thinking that they are going crazy, some patients will call in for help. Once they speak with a social worker and then join a group, they begin to understand that their frustrations are normal feelings.

Some groups offer speakers on yoga meditation, art therapy, and nutrition updates, along with physician-led discussions on various topics. Other groups are run with an open forum to talk about whatever issues the current members are facing that particular month. Personally, I prefer a combination of both in my North Hills general support group, which I lead for the Cancer Caring Center.

Some groups are disease-specific, while others welcome patients and family members dealing with any type of cancer. Over the years, it has become even more important to share information regarding treatment options, side effects, and coping techniques that may be helpful to those who have been newly diagnosed.

Each group facilitator instructs individuals to speak with their medical team prior to trying any suggestions. Patients and their families can feel more control over the illness by learning about new treatment ideas and health insurance issues, as well as how to properly navigate a hospital stay.

Our motto at the Cancer Caring Center is “Don’t confront cancer alone.” Attending a support group and giving it a try may be one of the best choices a patient can make on his or her journey fighting any illness. Once someone has gone through a serious life-threatening and debilitating illness, there is a sense of grief in the loss of his or her life prior to that illness. However, a support group can help patients move from illness to a new beginning.

I have become good friends with some of the members in my group over the past twenty-five years. One gentleman who was diagnosed with a rare blood disorder was given six months to live. Sixteen years later, he is now cured, but still visits the center to touch base with his dear friends and help give others hope.

After all, the best kind of medicine comes from love, understanding, and support. Anyone interested in a support group can call 412-622-1212 to inquire about giving it a try. ♦

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Voucher program provides free mammograms

By Sarah Thomas *Adagio Health*

Greater Pittsburgh - According to the American Cancer Society, one in eight women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime, but studies show that early detection gives women the best chance of surviving. Women between the ages of twenty and thirty-nine should undergo clinical breast exams every year; women above the age of forty should have both annual breast exams and annual mammograms.

A grantee of the Susan G. Komen Pittsburgh Affiliate, Adagio Health administers the Mammogram Voucher Program (MVP) in the Greater Pittsburgh region; the program provides a mammogram voucher for women or men who are either uninsured or whose insurance co-pays and deductibles present a hardship.

Cancer does not see age, just opportunity. Lisa Klenoshek is a breast cancer survivor and a member of the Komen Advisory Board. Her advocacy for the program is a true testimony of how important preventive screenings can be when cancer does not see age, just opportunity.

"The Mammogram Voucher Program is vital because early detection saves lives. I got my baseline mammogram at age forty and just a short year later, I had a 1.4cm

aggressive tumor. I often think about what may have happened if I had skipped my mammogram that year," she said. "It's a decision many who face financial hardship think they need to make. But, now with the new voucher program, they can get a mammogram."

MVP presents no age, income, or size-of-household restrictions. The only eligibility requirement stipulates that voucher recipients must be Pennsylvania residents. The program covers screening mammograms and breast diagnostic tests including ultrasounds, biopsies, and surgical consultations; it is available in thirty-four counties throughout Western Pennsylvania.

"Early detection can mean less invasive surgery, less harsh treatment, and a faster path to wellness," Klenoshek stressed. "I was a healthy forty-one-year-old. I never smoked. I exercised regularly. I took vitamins. I did all the right things, but I still got cancer. That's why screening is a must." Any eligible woman should be referred to the voucher hotline at 888-687-0505. Information on how to obtain a voucher will be available at the Bloomfield/Garfield Health Center (5475 Penn Ave.). ♦

West Penn promotes women's heart health

By Morgan Rupert *Allegheny Health Network*

Bloomfield - West Penn Hospital (WPH, 4815 Penn Ave.), a part of Allegheny Health Network (AHN), is focused on keeping women's hearts beating healthier and longer by providing its patients with state-of-the-art cardiac care. Its Bloomfield facilities offer access to the region's most comprehensive, multidisciplinary team of specialists and their innovative therapies.

Millions of women are not aware they are at risk for developing a heart attack, stroke or other cardiovascular diseases. Cardiovascular disease, particularly coronary heart disease, is the leading cause of death in American women, killing almost twice as many women as all forms of cancer combined. It is estimated that one in two women will eventually die of heart disease or stroke.

According to Indu Poornima, MD, cardiologist and director of the AHN Women's Heart Center, "the epidemic in women necessitates a strong emphasis on prevention to diagnose and reduce cardiovascular disease." She implores her female patients to monitor their bodies with great scrutiny. "Women need to pay closer attention to their health, and we – as physicians – need to help them do that," Poornima said.

The Women's Heart Center at WPH provides access to an array of gender-specific preventive, diagnostic, and therapeutic services. Ross DiMarco, MD, medical director of the Open Heart cardiac surgery program, understands the nuances involved with preventative treatment.

"At West Penn Hospital, we appreciate the uniqueness of cardiovascular disease in women. We work to create awareness of the symptoms of heart disease in women and to teach preventative measures," he said. "We are committed to providing high quality cardiac care to the residents of Bloomfield and the surrounding communities."

Many women are not aware they are at risk for developing a cardiovascular disease. Since they experience fewer of the typical medical symptoms found in men, most women do not realize that their own symptoms are signs of a heart condition.

Heart Attack Symptoms in Women

1. Shortness of breath
2. Right arm pain
3. Neck, jaw, shoulder, upper back, or abdominal discomfort
4. Nausea or vomiting
5. Sweating
6. Lightheadedness and dizziness
7. Unusual fatigue

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Applications will be available on the ACTION-Housing website (<http://www.actionhousing.org>) under "Find Housing" or by calling Supportive Housing Management Services at 412-829-3910. Any questions may be directed to Mike Demes at mdemes@shms-actionhousing.org.

This February, WPH will hold the third annual "Go Red Fair" for Women's Heart Month. The fair - which is open to employees, visitors, and the community - will be held on Friday, Feb. 5, at the hospital's Bloomfield location. This year's activities include mini manicures, massages, prizes, games, and education about heart disease in women; last year, the fair raised over \$600 for the American Heart Association.

Anyone who is looking to become heart smart can attend upcoming classes at WPH, like a "Friends & Family" CPR and AED training on Saturday, Feb. 6. During a "Healthy Heart Store Tour" on Friday, Mar. 18, a registered dietitian will give an in-aisle tour of Shadyside's Giant Eagle Market District and provide tips for healthy eating. These classes are free to the community; anyone can register for the CPR and AED training class by calling 412-578-5476. Those interested in registering for the Heart Healthy Store Tour should call 412-578-1442.

A team of specialists maintains a singular focus on each and every patient at WPH, ensuring that the care received is specific to the individual woman's needs and the most effective approach to a full recovery. In order to find AHN physicians who specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of heart disorders in women, call 412-DOCTORS (412.362.8677). ♦

the
Bulletin **BOARD**

Local Events **Classes**
Announcements **Fundraisers**

Sorry, but we do not accept listings by phone.

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 placement or thorough edits of any listings. Announcements for the **March** issue of *The Bulletin* are due by **Feb. 15**. Please submit listings using our online form at http://bit.ly/bulletin_submit.

February 3 - Wednesday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Art-All-Night Planning Meeting

Art All Night Lawrenceville is an annual celebration of arts, community, and creativity. Anyone and everyone are invited to submit one (and only one) piece of artwork or sign up to perform during this one-of-a-kind neighborhood event attended by over 15,000 people each year. Join us for our first public planning meeting on Feb. 3rd, 7:00 p.m. at the Stephen Foster Center (286 Main St.). For questions, contact info@artallnight.org.

February 5 - Friday

GARFIELD

“Lifeforms 2016” at PGC

Free Opening Reception: Friday, Feb. 5, from 6 - 9 p.m. After a stunning and successful first run of Lifeforms in 2013, we’re doing it again. “Lifeforms 2016” will be an exhibition of the best biological glass models crafted in the spirit of the famous 19th and 20th century models of invertebrates and plants made by father and son team, Rudolf and Leopold Blaschka for the Harvard University’s Botanical Museum. \$5 suggested donation.

Artwork by David Strait

The artwork of David Strait, including oil paintings of traditional subjects. Bantha Tea Bar (5002 Penn Ave.) Opening reception from 6 - 10 p.m. Music by Ryan Neitznick.

EAST LIBERTY

Bob Marley’s birthday party

Dance the night away in a celebration of Bob Marley, and his enduring musical and cultural legacy, at 8 p.m. at Kelly Strayhorn Theater. The world-renowned superstar - born on February 6, 1945 - was a truly revolutionary artist who delivered a hypnotic, danceable message of peace and justice. In tribute, KST transforms its lobby into a Jamaican dance hall filled with your favorite new and old-school Reggae tunes, special live performances, treats ,and more.

February 6 - Saturday

BLOOMFIELD

Valentine Heart Savers

The STAR Center and the Community Training Center at Allegheny Health Network will be offering free Friends and Family CPR and AED training for the community in honor of Valentine’s Day and Heart Health Month. This is a community designed program intended for those who do not require certification. To register or for more information, please contact the STAR Center atmwystepe@wpahs.org or 412.578.5476.

February 8 - Monday

LAWRENCEVILLE

STEM: Play Testing

Experiment, play and learn in an interactive technology program. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) supports learning and literacy by introducing children to technology. Kids are the experts in these app play testing programs, which will include an app developer from Pixure Book Publishing who will record observations.

Two days only: Monday, Feb. 8, at 5:30 p.m. smf Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 10 a.m. Meet at the Lawrenceville branch of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (279 Fisk St, 15201).Call 412.682.3668 for more information.

February 9 - Tuesday

EAST LIBERTY

Co-opoly “Untournament”

Come to East End Brewing Co. (147 Julius St.), from 7 to 10 p.m., for an entertaining game called “Co-opoly”. It’s what it sounds like: a real-world entrepreneurial game but players are a member of a cooperative. Plus it has some fun twists built in to surprise everyone. Music, refreshments, and the board game Co-opoly. Learn about cooperatives and test your collaborative skill. Meet others interested in worker and member-owned enterprise. Visit www.PittsburghChamber.coop for more information.

February 10 - Wednesday

GARFIELD

Senses Learning Party

Have you ever thought about the science behind what you taste, see, hear, or smell? Wondered about remote sensing or felt you had your own sixth sense? Can’t wait for these questions to make sense (and to have a nonsensically fun time)? Join Assemble (5125 Penn Ave.) for a Senses Learning Party on Wednesday, Feb. 10, from 4 to 6 p.m. Fun for kids and grown-ups and everyone in between! Hands-on activities will be led by local makers, scientists, artists, and technologists. All materials provided.

February 11 - Thursday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free Internet Basics Classes

Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania and Carnegie Library Lawrenceville are teaming up to offer free computer classes to area residents. The class on Feb. 11 will focus on learning to use the internet. An instructor from the library will introduce students to web browsing, searching and internet safety. Classes are held at Goodwill’s Workforce Development Center in Lawrenceville at 118 52nd Street from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Free parking is available. To register, contact Jaime Tracktenberg at 412-632-1842 or jaimetracktenberg@gmail.com

berg@goodwillswpa.org.

February 12 - Friday

GARFIELD

Make-It-Now Valentines

A truly unique date, come to PGC and make a glass flower, craft your own personalized love letter in glass, or make a heart shaped pendant for your sweetheart. \$25/pendants or valentines, \$35/glass flower. All ages. No experience required.


February 13 - Saturday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Lawrenceville Rotary pancake breakfast

The Lawrenceville Rotary is holding its 13th annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday February 13th at St. Mary’s Lower Lyceum on 45th St. in Lawrenceville. Tickets, available at the door, are \$7 for adults and \$3 for kids 10 and under. Pancakes, sausage, bacon and eggs and real maple syrup will be served from 9 a.m. to noon. Proceeds fund local non-profit organizations and Rotary International projects.

GARFIELD






Every year thousands of students make CCAC their college of first choice. Now you can too!

Get the skills you need to advance in your career and to find your success at the Community College of Allegheny County. Meet with enrollment staff that will help you to navigate the admissions and financial processes as you select a CCAC program that will prepare you for transfer to a four-year college or a job in the field of:

- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)
- Allied Health & Nursing
- Arts & Humanities
- Business
- Skilled Trades (including Welding, Plumbing and HVAC)
- Education, Social & Behavioral Sciences & Human Services

2:00pm OR 6:00pm
Thursday, February 11
BGC Community Center
113 N. Pacific Avenue
To register call 412-206-9849



Volunteer Opportunities & Services

Edgar Allan Poe: Love and Death

Irma Freeman Center (5006 Penn Ave.) Celebrate Valentine's Day... by burying it alive! Edgar Allan Poe once wrote that the death of a beautiful woman is the most poetical topic in the world. See if he was right as Poe himself returns to life to read from the works that best display that thin line between love and death, including "Annabel Lee" and "The Raven." Recommended for ages 13 and up. Admission: \$6 per person, \$10 for couples.

GARFIELD

"Black and White (Tea Making it Plain)"

Do you have questions as a youth and you need answers? Come join youth of all ages to find out answers to the most-asked questions for people your age. Don't forget to bring your questions to Morningside Church of God in Christ (5173 Dearborn St.) in Garfield. Refreshments will be served after the session begins at 11 a.m.

February 14 - Sunday

GARFIELD

Purity Ring Celebration

Reciting the vow of purity and receiving the purity ring. During Sunday morning workshop service. Come join us. Get involved by calling 412-361-0965.

February 17 - Wednesday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Lawrenceville's Historic Stories

Hear our neighbors' memories and stories! Celebrate the creation of a digital book of our neighborhood's oral history inspired by historic Lawrenceville photographs from the Library's collection. Refreshments will be provided. Begins at 6:30 pm at the Lawrenceville branch of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (279 Fisk St., 15201). Call 412-682-3668 for more information.

February 18 - Thursday

BLOOMFIELD

Baby 911

This class is designed for parents and caregivers to develop skills in infant/child CPR, this 3 hour class also focuses on valuable safety considerations, 'babyproofing' your home, SIDS, and car safety. The fee is \$40 per person or \$75 per couple. For more information please call 412.578.7030.

February 19 - Friday

EAST LIBERTY

Cleo Parker Ensemble

Internationally acclaimed for more than forty years, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble performs Bamboula: Musicians' Brew, a new work commissioned by KST and created by rising dance-star Millicent Johnnie. Set to music by Charles Vincent Burwell and Donald Harrison, Johnnie's interdisciplinary work traverses the world of

African survivals and excavates connections between the colorful traditions of the Mardi Gras Zulu Krewe and South Africa's Minstrel Carnival. Also on the program are seminal works from the Denver-based company's legendary repertory, highlighting generations of African American choreographers. Visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org for more details.

February 25 - Thursday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free Email Basics Class

Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania and Carnegie Library Lawrenceville are teaming up to offer free computer classes to area residents. The class on February 25 will focus on learning to use email. An instructor from the library will teach students how to create an email account, how to send and receive emails, and how to use email attachments. Classes are held at Goodwill's Workforce Development Center at 118 52nd Street from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Free parking is available. To register, contact Jaime Tracktenberg at 412-632-1842 or jaime.tracktenberg@goodwillswpa.org.

Ongoing

MULTIPLE NEIGHBORHOODS

Farm Apprenticeship

Grow Pittsburgh is a non-profit organization with a mission to teach people how to grow food and promote the benefits that gardens bring to our neighborhoods. At Grow Pittsburgh's production sites, we grow seedlings, vegetables, and fruits naturally without synthetic pesticides or fertilizers. The produce is sold to the community through a seasonal farm stand and a small Community Supported Agriculture program, as well as to restaurants in the Pittsburgh area. The apprentice will learn varied aspects of small-scale, sustainable, urban produce production. Additional tasks will include attending educational field trips and completing a certified environmental literacy curriculum. Upon successful completion of the program, the apprentice will receive a \$600 completion bonus. Apply at www.growpittsburgh.org.

Classifieds

Personal

Walking Buddies Needed - 49 yr old female seeks someone to walk with bi-daily, starting <1 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

PRO TEC PEST & TERMITE SERVICE

"Quality Service at an Affordable Price"

John Cygnarowicz
412-628-6893

Your Friendly Driver

Reasonable rates. I wait while you shop; for doctor's appointments, other errands. Daytime only. Long-distance driving also included.

Call John at 412-969-7497

A Hauling Job?

We clear basements, yards, garages, attics, estates

Fast, Reliable, Reasonable

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

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

CARL Program Home Loans

Thinking about buying a "fixer-upper" in the Garfield area? If so, you may qualify for the Community Acquisition & Rehabilitation Loan (CARL) program.

The CARL program combines a mortgage loan and a rehabilitation loan, which allows you to buy and rehabilitate

a home with one affordable financing product! For more information or a list of participating lenders, contact Samuel Su at ssu@pcrg.org or call 412-391-6732 (ext. 210).



SOJOURNER HOUSE WELCOMES WOMEN IN NEED

To be eligible to participate in treatment at Sojourner House (5907 Penn Ave.), a woman must be eighteen years or older, have at least one child twelve years old or younger, be actively seeking custody of a child, or pregnant.

The Single County Authority and providers that serve the injection drug abuse population shall give preference to treatment as follows: 1) Pregnant, injection drug users; 2) pregnant substance users; 3) injection drug users; 4) overdose survivors; 5) veterans; and all others. For more information, call 412-441-7783.



STRESSED?

Interested in learning techniques to manage your stress?

Join a Carnegie Mellon University study testing an eight-week training program for stress reduction and well-being.



To be eligible you must be:

- 18 years of age or older
- in good mental and physical health
- available for about 10 weeks to complete study activities and training



You will be compensated for participating in this study.

For more information please call or email:
(412) 268 – 8761
cmusmartstudy@gmail.com