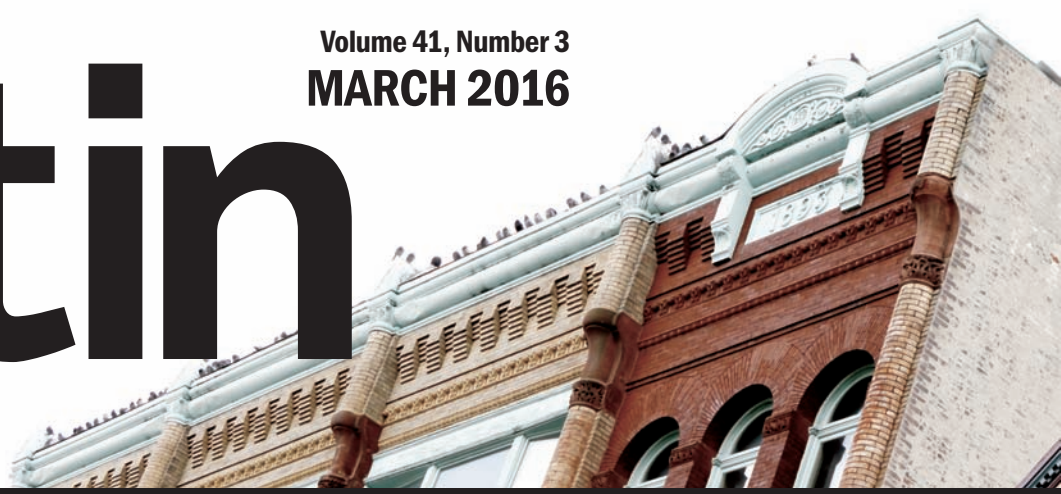


the Bulletin

Volume 41, Number 3
MARCH 2016

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



City backs community planning process, stalls re-zoning of Enright Parklet

By Joe Reuben *Bulletin contributor*

East Liberty - In a move that won approval from nearby neighbors and community groups, the City decided last month to hold off on proposed legislation at City Council to re-zone Enright Parklet in East Liberty, while it allows for a community planning process around the future of the parklet to get off the ground.

In a February 15 e-mail to Sallyann Kluz - a neighbor of the parklet - Mayor Bill Peduto's Chief of Staff, Kevin Acklin, committed to delaying a public hearing on the re-zoning that had been scheduled at Council for Feb. 16. Kluz, along with other neighbors and community organizations, had asked for the delay in the hopes that it would bolster the willingness of all parties to negotiate in good faith on the future of the parklet.

The fate of Enright Parklet appears intertwined with the future of the larger Penn Plaza Apartments site that encircles most of the parklet near the intersection of Penn and Negley Aves. The owners of Penn Plaza are seeking a similar re-zoning of their land parcel that would

See **Enright Parklet** | page 4



ABOVE: Hundreds of visitors wait for an open house glimpse at Pittsburgh's first "Tiny House" on Sunday, Jan. 31, a crowd-funded real estate venture at 223 N. Atlantic Ave. On account of stringent zoning codes, which necessitated the full installation of lateral utility lines, construction of the house was delayed and exceeded the initial budget. Despite its critics, Garfield's Tiny House is an undoubtedly unique achievement in crowdfunding real estate. Learn more about how the project was financed on page 5. Photo by John Colombo.

Pitch In: Garfield residents lend hands to curb litter problem

By Eric Lidji *Garfield resident*

Op-Ed - Anyone who walks around Garfield after a big snowstorm might think they have accidentally wandered into the country. Everything is so bright, clean and

See **Pitch In** | page 3

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Garden Resource Center opens for the season in Larimer

By Maggie Graham *Grow Pittsburgh*

Larimer - Backyard gardeners seldom have all the tools or resources necessary to take their gardens to the next level. Many often struggle just to get the garden started.

See **Garden Resource Center** | page 7

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ABOVE: Princess Hair & Beauty Supply store owner Abdul Alib welcomes customers into his renovated storefront at 5125 Penn Ave. in Garfield. The building's owners took full advantage of a facade renovation grant from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation in order to re-point the store's exterior and install new windows and doorframes. Photo by Keith Williams.

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Bulletin

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Women & Biking Forum: pedaling progress

By Jane Kaminski *Bike Pittsburgh*

Oakland - Now in its third year, the Pittsburgh Women & Biking Forum will bring together women of all ages and experiences on Saturday, April 2, to celebrate a shared love of biking. The forum, hosted by Bike Pittsburgh, runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the University of Pittsburgh's William Pitt Union (3959 Fifth Ave.) in Oakland.

Those in attendance can engage in a variety of workshops, enjoy a luncheon, and hear from a keynote speaker. The event is designed to address everything bicycling, from technical know-how and bike maintenance to community engagement and bike advocacy.

Bike Pittsburgh encourages women and trans-identified people, everyone from the "bike-curious" to the most seasoned of cyclists, to participate in the forum. Planned workshops include Bike Maintenance levels 1 and 2, Family Biking, Racing and Nutrition, Advocacy Training, and Bicycle Touring.

"One of my favorite things about the Women & Biking forum is the age diversity of the women who attend," Ngani Ndimbie, of Bike Pittsburgh, said. "It's a transformative event." The third annual forum aims to inspire women, not just to

incorporate biking into their daily lives, but also to develop strategies for dismantling cultural barriers that specifically affect women and the biking community.

New to the forum this year are two things: a short film premiere and a "City Cycling" class. The Wind in Our Hair, directed by Jennifer Hardacker, explores the ways in which bicycling can enrich one's sense of well-being and self-confidence. City Cycling, Bike Pittsburgh's urban biking class, is dedicated to helping people become more confident riding on the street; a three-hour, women-only class will take place in the same location on the following day, April 3.

The cost of registering for the forum, which includes a catered lunch, is \$20 per person; discounted tickets will be available to Bike Pittsburgh members for \$15 each. For \$35, non-members interested in membership can join Bike Pittsburgh and register for the event at the same time to receive double the discount.

While the event is geared towards adults, children may attend under proper supervision. For more event details and registration information, visit <http://BikePgh.org/womenbike> or call 412-325-4334. ♦

AT RIGHT: Many women joined other cycling enthusiasts at last year's Women & Biking Forum. Chief among the forum's most important points of focus is engaging more women to incorporate biking into their daily routines. Organizers hope the forum can help female cyclists better understand the barriers they face in the biking community. Photo courtesy of Bike Pittsburgh.



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.

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Pitch In *continued from page 1*

natural. The streets resemble long fields and the empty lots look like thick woods. If you hike up to the hilltop by the water tower, the downtown skyscrapers seem like a distant metropolis. But, once the snow starts melting, you will see the truth. You will see cigarette butts, junk food wrappers, empty bottles, crushed cans, and other trash sprinkled all over the streets and piling up in yards. What an ugly reminder that you are still in the middle of a city?

Like a bright dab of mustard staining a starched shirt, even the smallest amount of trash on the ground keeps the neighborhood from looking its best. The wind blows everything around so that all the detritus accumulates on empty lots and public spaces.

Unfortunately, the city will not provide additional waste receptacles in many neighborhoods because the increased collection cost would be too expensive to sustain. In light of these obstacles, the Garfield Community Action Team (GCAT) has created "Pitch In."

The idea is to place trashcans at "litter hotspots" throughout Garfield and recruit

residents to assume the responsibility for maintaining them. Each participating resident will receive a large trashcan, a year's supply of garbage bags, and a cable lock to keep anyone from stealing the can.

If you join the program, you are agreeing to make sure the receptacle remains on your property while it functions for public use. You must also promise to regularly empty the can and take the full bags to your own designated trash area for curbside pick-up. Because this system will rely on already-existing collection routes, and because each can only creates an extra few bags to pick up, the city is on board.

Local artists will decorate each trashcan in snazzy, customized patterns as part of a continued effort to keep the neighborhood looking clean and stylish. So far, seventeen residents have agreed to adopt a can; organizers hope that when neighbors notice what a difference these colorful receptacles can make on their block, they will want to lend a hand to Pitch In.

GCAT is planning a kick-off event for the project in the near future. Anyone interested in Pitch In can learn more at <http://GCatPgh.com>. ♦

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

By Aggie Brose *Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

Pittsburgh - Police reported that a robbery occurred at the corner of Penn Ave. and N. Aiken Ave. on February 9. According to the police report, "the victim said the suspect pulled out a small handgun and again demanded the victim's possessions.

The victim gave up his wallet, which was rifled through, then thrown on the ground with his cell phone as the actor had demanded." Officers investigating the crime remind everyone to be aware of their surroundings at all times, while walking or driving. In response to an uptick in stolen

vehicles over the past month, police advise motorists not to leave their vehicles unlocked - or running - when they are not present.

According to the police bureau's graffiti unit, "if there is graffiti on property you own, do not attempt to remove the graffiti before calling 911." Once a police report is taken, unit officers will recommend that the property owner remove the graffiti or "have the Department of Public Works Graffiti Busters program remove it." On February 1, the graffiti unit arrested Max

the Bulletin

A publication of the
Bloomfield-Garfield
Corporation



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

Volume 41, Number 3

The deadline for the April issue is **Monday, March 14, 2016.**

Editorial and Advertising Offices • 5149 Penn Ave. • Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412.441.6950 ext. 13 • (Fax) 412.441.6956 • andrew@bloomfield-garfield.org

Total Circulation • 21,000 Copies • 18,000 Mailed • 3,000 Bulk Dropped

Staff • Andrew McKeon, Editor • Keith Williams, Photography Intern • Martin Pochapin, Advertising • Rick Swartz, Proofreading • Mary Anne Stevanus, Office Manager • Trib Total Media, Printing & Mailing • CISP, Distribution

Board Meetings are held by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month, at 5321 Penn Ave., and are open to the public. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the publisher.

The Bulletin is made possible in part by funding from Dollar Bank, WesBanco Bank, Allegheny Valley Bank, and The Heinz Endowments.

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Thank you! The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation would like to acknowledge its main corporate partners: WesBanco Bank, Dollar Bank, and Allegheny Valley Bank. Thanks to First Niagara Bank, PNC Bank, Allegheny Health Network, Citizens Bank, the city of Pittsburgh, the Sprout Fund, *The Bulletin's* advertisers, and all our members.

Gonzales. The graffiti unit can be reached at 412-323-7761.

On December 24, eighteen-year-old Carlos Clark was gunned down in the 4900 block of Broad St. No arrests have been made, according to city police.

On December 21, a triple homicide occurred on S. Mathilda St. in Bloomfield. Meiko Devaughn, a resident of the apartment, admitted to police that he shot and killed an intruder, Kadeem Williams, who allegedly had broken into his home.

Devaughn also reportedly killed his girlfriend, Akeilah Solomon, and his sixteen-year-old brother, Jaimill Kenney, in the process of shooting at Williams. Although police did not arrest Devaughn at the time of the incident, officers have apparently now issued a warrant for his arrest.

Any person with information about either incident is strongly encouraged to call Pittsburgh Police at 412-323-7161. Callers will not be asked to share their identity with law enforcement officers. ♦

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Preparing & Filing 2015 Tax Returns? We Can Help

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
113 N. Pacific Ave.
Garfield (15224)**

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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Enright Parklet *continued from page 1*

allow for mixed residential and commercial development to occur there in the future. To pave the way for any new development, Penn Plaza's owners made the decision last summer to evict over 200 tenants still living in the two complexes on the property at the time. As of the end of February, the residential building at 5704 Penn. Ave. has reportedly been nearly emptied; tenants living in the second complex at 5706 Penn Ave. have until early 2017 to leave their homes.

In comments he made to WESA-FM radio on Feb. 10, Mayor Peduto hailed the "success" of the agreement he hammered out with the owners of the Penn Plaza site. Codified in a memo between the city and the owners dated Sept. 28, 2015, is an understanding that obliges the City to seek the re-zoning of the parklet, so that it could be transferred from the city to the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), who would then sell it to the Penn Plaza ownership group. The owners would then be able to fold the parklet into their overall development plans. The Mayor also pledged that the URA would advance what has amounted to \$340,000 in funds to pay for a relocation consultant to work with the tenants to find new housing.

In exchange, the Penn Plaza owners agreed to delay the eviction of their tenants, which had originally been scheduled to occur this past fall, and to cooperate with the City's efforts to relocate hundreds of residents. They also promised to provide as much as \$1,600 in relocation assistance to each tenant, and to contribute to an affordable housing fund in East Liberty, should one be created. Finally, the owners asked to be included in any solicitation for proposals to redevelop a second city-owned site just a quarter-mile away on Penn Circle, where a former police investigations building now sits empty.

It appeared that City Council was getting ready to hold a Feb. 16 public hearing on the re-zoning of the parklet and apartment complex until pressure from nearby residents and community groups started to build. In a Feb. 12 e-mail to Acklin, Ms. Kluz argued that neighborhood interests would lose a good deal of leverage if the re-zoning of both parcels was approved without any conditions as to the replacement of the parklet, or the nature of the commercial and residential developments planned for the site.

The city Planning Commission, in a 4 to 3 vote, had recommended approval of the re-zoning last October, together with a preliminary land development plan, but Kluz contends they did so without any of the critical details that normally accompany such actions. The proposed transfer of the two acre parklet from public ownership to private came as a total surprise to the neighbors, she said, and a community planning process needs to determine how it can best be replaced.

"As a city, we need to think deeply about whether we should be allowing developers to use our city-owned assets, including public parks, to add to their bottom line in any neighborhood," Kluz wrote in her message to Acklin. To help guide the planning process, the city has arranged for a New York-based consulting firm, Fu Wilmers, to coordinate two community meetings, one of which was taking place on Feb. 23 as *The Bulletin* went to press. A second meeting is scheduled for the evening of Mar. 15. Both are to be held at locations in East Liberty.

According to Rick Swartz, executive director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), the notion of sitting down with these developers will be something new. Swartz said the BGC is currently an intervening party, along with the Friendship Community Organization, in a case before the state's Commonwealth Court involving the former Babyland retail property at Penn and S. Negley Aves.

The owners of Penn Plaza also happen to control the former Babyland site, and Swartz said the two groups are resisting plans for a one-story AutoZone store to be built at that location. He noted that the same ownership group has also purchased a large site across Penn from the old Babyland building that takes in a former Monro Muffler store, a vacant lot at the corner of Penn and N. Negley, and the East End Community Health Center.

"There's been very little in the way of constructive discussion with Penn Plaza's owners on their plans for either of these other sites," Swartz told *The Bulletin*. "So Kevin Acklin probably did the wise thing by waiting to see if a relationship can really be formed with them that leads to a viable plan for retaining a public parklet somewhere between Penn Ave. and Penn Circle, now known as S. Euclid Ave." ♦

**Keep up with neighborhood events! Visit the
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's news blog at
<http://Bloomfield-Garfield.org>**

Group to bring crowdfunding, real estate together for East Liberty confab

By Ben Schulman CityLAB

East Liberty - On Sunday, Jan. 31, Pittsburgh's first "Tiny House" made its debut at 223 N. Atlantic Ave. in Garfield. Hundreds of visitors turned out to see one of the city's first crowdfunded real estate projects. Crowdfunding, the sourcing of funds from a crowd of everyday people, entered into the collective internet psyche within the last decade.

The concept is perhaps most commonly associated with helping musicians and artists raise money for creative projects through websites like Kickstarter.com. Online supporters often donate \$10, \$25, or \$50 to a project that captures their attention; in return, they receive some sort of recognition or reward.

Crowdfunding real estate, however, is much different than crowdfunding someone's artistic project. It is not simply donating, but rather investing. Thanks to a law known as the Jumpstart our Business Startups (JOBS) Act, which Congress passed in 2012, it is now possible for individuals to contribute monies to the development of a business or building with the aim of getting a financial return on their investment. This is the world of equity crowdfunding, a rapidly emerging segment of the financial industry that continually shapes the terrain of online fundraising. The real estate crowdfunding sector,

BELOW: Visitors to the Jan. 31 open house at 223 N. Atlantic Ave. take a look around at the minimalist interior design of Pittsburgh's first Tiny House. Photo by John Colombo.



AT LEFT: Eve Picker stands on the front porch of Pittsburgh's first Tiny House at 223 N. Atlantic Ave. in Garfield. Thanks to Picker's Small Change crowdfunding platform, which transforms traditional equity investments into long-term real estate opportunities, the Tiny House has already made an impact in the local housing market. Photo by John Colombo.

an industry that netted absolutely nothing before JOBS was passed, is now estimated to reach the \$3.5 billion mark by the end of 2016. Local platform Small Change is tapping into this newfound energy and channeling it into another city first: RealCap Pittsburgh.

Organized in partnership with the Chicago-based American Homeowner Preservation, RealCap is a national conference that educates everyone – from newcomers to leaders to developers and investors – on the expanding industry of real estate crowdfunding. On March 24, top thinkers and speakers from around the country will converge at Repair the World (6022 Broad St.) in East Liberty. Everyone is invited to attend and learn from RealCap's crowdfunding experts, who will share best practices while guiding attendees through the ins-and-outs of a growing market.

Small Change founder Eve Picker knows just how much of a game-changer this new economy can become. "Hold onto your hats," she said recently to colleagues in the real estate industry. "Crowdfunding like you've never seen it before is about to change the world." Anyone curious about crowdfunding is encouraged to visit <http://realcappittsburgh.com>. ♦

Pittsburgh Bicentennial spawns citywide celebration

By Gloria Forouzan Office of Mayor William Peduto

Pittsburgh - The Pittsburgh Bicentennial is a yearlong celebration of the official 200th anniversary of the incorporation of Pittsburgh as a city, which gave citizens the right to vote and the opportunity for self-governance.

In anticipation of this year's calendar significance, Mayor Bill Peduto formed a Pittsburgh Bicentennial Commission with unique and collaborative partnerships to help Pittsburghers recognize and celebrate the anniversary.

President and Chief Executive Officer of the Senator John Heinz Regional History Center, Andy Masich chairs the commission to work with over 200 organizations, companies, nonprofits, and individuals participating in the yearlong celebration.



mayor and commemorate the formal organization of Pittsburgh as a city; incorporation papers, which allowed the people of Pittsburgh to elect their municipal representatives, were signed on March 18, 1816.

The Commission has scheduled another official event for Saturday, July 9, with a parade on Liberty Ave. and festivities in Point State Park. The date was selected to honor Pittsburgh's first Mayor, Ebenezer Denny, who took the oath of office on July 9, 1816.

Mayor Peduto will kick things off Downtown with the first official Bicentennial event at the City County Building (414 Grant St.) on March 18, at 10 a.m. Many Bicentennial partners are eager to join the

Among the honored guests at the parade will be various descendants from every one of Pittsburgh's former mayors. All organizations are welcome to participate in the parade; interested parties can email pgh200@pittsburghpa.gov to register.

Additional events are being planned to complement the spirit and goal of the celebration throughout 2016. For more information about participating in the Bicentennial, visit <http://PGH200.com> or contact Holly Bulvony at 412-471-4160. ♦

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Student artists compete for grand prize at BOOM Concepts

By James Fogarty A+ Schools

Garfield - For the second year in a row, student artists from across the city converged on Penn Ave. in Garfield to see who would be crowned winner of the annual “Your Art, Our Schools: Cover Art Competition.” Partnering with BOOM Concepts (5139 Penn Ave.) to host the event, A+ Schools brought its creative art contest back to the neighborhood on Thursday, Feb. 18, for more than eighty attendees to enjoy. The grand prize: great exposure on the cover of a premier publication.

Ever since 2010, the front and back covers of A+ Schools’ annual *Report to the Community on Public School Progress* have featured prize-winning artwork created by local students. The publication, which furnishes data from parent surveys and student achievement results, serves as the leading information guide for Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS). Distributed to over 60,000 households, it can also be found at many libraries, schools, and offices of elected officials across Pittsburgh.



ABOVE: Student artists create new works together during an art competition at BOOM Concepts (5139 Penn Ave.) on Feb. 18. Offering quite a grand prize, A+ Schools features the winning student submission on the cover of its annual community report. Photo by Christopher Sprowls Photography.

After tallying up the votes from those in attendance on Feb. 18 – and others voting online – the event organizers awarded Henry Presser, a student from Pittsburgh Montessori School, with first place; Jada Dillard, a student at the Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School, won runner-up.

As A+Schools’ executive director Cary Harris explained, “It’s a great opportunity for the youth to see their work featured in the community and to be recognized for the hard work they put into making some really beautiful pieces.”

In addition to the student art on display, the event featured professional artists and representatives from Bike Pittsburgh's Positive Spin program. They helped students re-imagine what city streets and neighborhoods could look like. The results, like umbrella bicycles that irrigate rain water and wave pools next to public schools, were encouraging creations. “We’re really grateful to the team at BOOM who treat our student artists like professionals,” Harris said.

The unique partnership with BOOM’s team is many years in the making; BOOM co-founders D.S. Kinsel and Julie Mallis previously worked with PPS students and A+ Schools through the MGR organization. “We need to celebrate the arts in education,” Kinsel said. “Our youth have much to say, and we want the public to listen.”

For more information about A+ Schools, go to <http://APlusSchools.org>. To find out more about BOOM’s upcoming events, go to <http://BoomConcepts.com>. ♦

Q & A with local nurse Virginia Gray

By Abigail Godollei *Bulletin contributor*

Garfield - The UPMC St. Margaret Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health Center (5475 Penn Ave.) has been serving nearby residents for well beyond thirty years. Nurse Virginia Gray, a thirty-nine year St. Margaret’s veteran now managing the family health center in Garfield, recently sat down with *The Bulletin* to reflect on her experiences.

Q: How did you get involved with the St. Margaret facility here in Garfield?

A: “In 1975, I started as a receptionist at the old St. Margaret health center. Then, I went to nursing school. When I came back from school, I started working at the health center and continued school until I got my Masters in Nursing. So, officially, I’ve been here since 1977.”

Q: What made you want to become a nurse in the first place?

A: “You know, I never wanted to be a nurse. Back in the old days, you took aptitude tests for things you wanted to be. They said, ‘Oh, you’d be a good nurse.’ I said, ‘I don’t want to be a nurse,’ and went home. Then, I was thinking about it and said, ‘Well, maybe I’ll go and be a nurse.’ That’s how I started. Soon, I found out that, yeah, I really did like it. I was good at being a nurse.”

Q: How has your local health facility grown over time?

A: “At our first location on Penn Ave., our monthly average was about 300 people. Then, we moved up to 5321 Penn Ave., where we served about 500 people every month. At this [5475 Penn Ave.] facility, where we’ve been for the last seven years, we see about 800 to 850 patients a month. So, yes; to make a long story short, we have grown over the years.”

Q: What do you enjoy most about working at the family health center?

A: “My favorite part of the job is all the interactions with everyone – the patients, the physicians, the staff. Just talking with them and, you know, simply forming relationship with the patients. I know most of the patients here. We have second and third generations [...]

I’ve even had people come in and say, ‘Don’t you remember me?’ I don’t remember them because they were little kids [laughs]. But, they tell me how I used to give them regular shots and checkups.”

Q: What kind of public health initiatives are you currently implementing?

A: “We have HPV vaccines that we’re doing right here at the health center. We’re trying to get as many people immunized as we can.”

Q: What do you want the community to know about the family health center?

A: “We really do have some outstanding physicians and nurses that work here. I haven’t seen any friendlier doctors’ offices. We have one of the finest programs on the Eastern seaboard for family practice program [...]

For the most part, we’re self-contained. By the way, we have three clinics: Bloomfield-Garfield, Lawrenceville, and New Kensington. All three are residential family practice programs. It’s worth noting that we’re an electronic health record facility. That’s a big thing. A lot of places are on electronic records now, but our health centers were some of the first.

Q: Is there anything else that you would like to say to *Bulletin* readers?

A: “We were really asked to come to this community by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation. I think it has been a good partnership. We have a school partnership that is over twenty-five years old where we go into the schools and do physical exams for the students, free of charge [...] We do a lot of programs in the community and in the schools because we’re here for the community.”

The UPMC St. Margaret Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health Center is always accepting new patients. To inquire about becoming a patient, please call 412-361-7562. ♦

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PGH Fitness Project finds home on Butler St.

By Amber Epps Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Lawrenceville – Pittsburgh Fitness Project (PFP, 5607 Butler St.) is essentially a one-stop-shop for fitness, health, and wellness. Co-owners Tom Duer, CSCS, and Brian Clista, MD, strive to remove their clients' barriers to fitness by providing community-centered services. PFP incorporates wellness programs, nutritional counsel, massage therapy, and even acupuncture into its everyday curriculum.

They offer one-on-one workout sessions, as well as group fitness classes, personal training, and yoga (with future plans to add Pilates). As part of the project's vision for providing a breadth of health and wellness resources, clients can easily schedule appointments with a medical doctor whose office shares the same floor space at 5607 Butler St. PFP also shares facilities with Arsenal Strength-Crossfit, which makes for a synergy of combined resources available to clients of both fitness organizations. Duer and Clista originally planned to headquarter their operations on Penn Ave. in Garfield before they found a space in Lawrenceville – of all things, a former “doggy day care” – that was more conducive to their business model.

Operating between the hours of 5:30am and 8:30pm, the fitness center offers a range of appointment-based classes; staff members are looking to add more classes based on public demand. Depending on the clients' specific needs, classes and services can be purchased as a monthly package deal or *a la carte*. PFP offers more than eighty ways to customize the gym experience; hour-long classes may be purchased for as little as \$8 a piece. Such a flexible approach helps meet the needs of a wide variety of clients, who can take advantage of a wealth of health and fitness assistance in exchange for a relatively small financial investment.

According to Clista, PFP is designing women-specific workshops, as well as free seminars on vegan nutrition and active lifestyles, for its future programming. The co-owners plan to coordinate their community outreach efforts with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh. They will furthermore be serving as a referral source for Children's Hospital's weight management center. PFP staff members will be on hand at the next Lawrenceville Farmer's Market and Bloomfield Saturday Market. Visit <http://pittsburgh-fitnessproject.com> for more information. ♦

Garden Resource Center *continued from page 1*



ABOVE: Local green-thumbs flock to the Garden Resource Center (147 Putnam St.) in Larimer to find all the tools they need to better serve their community gardens, urban farms, and food stands. Grow Pittsburgh will get the center back up and running for the season with a grand re-opening event on Saturday, April 9. Photo courtesy of Grow Pittsburgh.

In order to address local needs and provide aspiring gardeners with a destination for their green-thumbed solutions, Grow Pittsburgh has created the Garden Resource Center (GRC) in Larimer.

A tool-lending library and materials depot located at 147 Putnam St., the GRC is open to any individual or group residing in Allegheny County. It operates in tandem with Grow Pittsburgh's organizational belief that access to locally-grown, chemical-free fruits and vegetables is a right, not a privilege.

Gardeners can borrow power tools, like gas-powered rototillers or cordless drills; hand tools, like spades and pruning saws; and an array of literature from the GRC's extensive gardening library. Other materials, like compost and mulch, are also available.

Grow Pittsburgh is excited to host a grand re-opening on Saturday, April 9. KDKA AM 1010 Radio has been scheduled to broadcast the True Value Home Improvement Hour, along with Doug Oster's

“Organic Gardeners” show, live from the GRC. Bill Fuller, chef from Big Burrito Restaurant Group, will perform a cooking demonstration on site. Organizers hope the re-opening can give families unfamiliar with the GRC a chance to see what the space is all about, meet fellow community gardeners, and consider signing up for a membership.

The GRC offers two types of membership: “Individual Gardener” and “Community Gardens.” For \$40, any individual can join the GRC, get assistance from experienced staff, and borrow five tools at a time; Grow Pittsburgh Annual Members enjoy a discounted individual membership cost of \$30. For \$80 a year, local community gardens, farms, and food pantries can borrow an unlimited amount of tools.

The center is open on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Hours of operation, which vary by season, are always available online at <http://growpittsburgh.org/garden-resource-center>. ♦

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Neighborhood FOCUS

County Council responds to Garfield, expands 89 bus service schedule

By Casey Stelitano *Pittsburghers for Public Transit*

Garfield - For months, neighbors and residents of the Garfield hilltop communities have been hard at work to bring back weekend service on the 89 bus route. The fight began at a Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) roundtable discussion where it became evident that the lack of weekend bus service is severely limiting a vital community.

Residents have come together and spoken out about the difficulty of life on the hilltop, especially in the winter. A number of these neighbors suffer from a wide range of mobility issues, so walking up and down the hill is nearly an impossible feat, especially in the winter. Many have even said that they feel like prisoners in their own neighborhood.

After the hard fought battle to bring a grocery store to Garfield, some folks are still finding it hard to access Aldi's ----- Penn Ave. location. They cannot access supermarkets, workplaces, friends, family, and entertainment all weekend long.

Ever since weekend and holiday bus service were cut back in 2011, longtime residents have endured serious transportation hardships. Community meetings about neighborhood transit services have allowed many Garfield residents to voice their opinions about the need for everyday bus service. Over 400 "requests for service" were submitted to the Port Authority; more than half of these requests were collected by Garfield resident Stacey Chandler.

Dozens of Chandler's neighbors turned out to give their testimony about the neighborhood's transit needs to the Port Authority board. After rallying in the streets with advocates from other communities who were also fighting for better bus service, PPT organizers marched together to the board meeting.

During a Feb. 16 public meeting in the Gold Room at the County Courthouse downtown, Allegheny County Council unanimously approved a motion urging the Port Authority to reinstate weekend service on the 89 Garfield bus route. County Councilwoman Denise Ranalli Russell (District 13) – who represents neighborhoods including Garfield, Lawrenceville, and Morningside – supported the motion and joined with community members to introduce it to her peers on the council.



ABOVE: A Garfield resident prepares to make himself heard using hand-made signage designed by members of the community. He and other hill-top neighbors have finally won the battle to bring the 89 bus back to its full service capacity. Photo courtesy of Pittsburghers for Public Transit.

“With all the construction and revitalization that’s going on in the East End of Pittsburgh, I want to make sure that every resident, regardless of their financial situation, has equal representation.”

– Allegheny County Councilwoman Denise Ranalli Russell (District 13)



ABOVE: The Bloomfield Garfield Corporation's deputy director, Aggie Brose (left), and County Councilwoman Denise Ranalli Russell (second to left) join Garfield residents and community advocates to celebrate a victory at Allegheny County Council chambers on Feb. 16. Thanks to the testimony of residents like Annie McGowan (middle), Donna Terry (foreground), and Myval Johnson (right), Pittsburghers for Public Transit's Molly Nichols and other organizers were able to garner unanimous support to bring the weekend bus service back to Garfield. Photo by Wesley Davis.

cilwoman Denise Ranalli Russell (District 13) – who represents neighborhoods including Garfield, Lawrenceville, and Morningside – supported the motion and joined with community members to introduce it to her peers on the council.

“With all the construction and revitalization that’s going on in the East End of Pittsburgh, I want to make sure that every resident, regardless of their financial situation, has equal representation,” she said. “I am that voice to fight for the East End residents.” Other elected officials, like State Rep. Edward J. Gainey and State Senator Wayne Fontana, helped generate the campaign’s initial momentum.

On Feb. 16, after PPT’s Molly Nichols outlined the community’s robust campaign for service, Garfield residents voiced their concerns to Council. Annie McGowan told of how she and her mother are unable to go to church events on the weekends.

Her neighbor, Myval Johnson, said she was dismayed that she cannot shop at the new Aldi grocery store on Saturdays. Donna Terry relayed the challenges she faces travelling up to N. Aiken Court on Black St. to take care of her mother.

Despite being new to the job, Councilwoman Russell knew how to respond to the needs of her voters. “I am not the stereotypical politician,” she told *The Bulletin*. “I am here at County Council to work for my district and pursue what we feel as a whole. It’s not about me; it’s about each and every constituent.”

In her capacity as a community advocate and deputy director of the BGC, Aggie Brose asked all the legislators in the room to imagine just what their lives would be like if they lived without a car in Garfield. Many councilmembers spoke in support. Councilman James R. Ellenbogen (District 12)

shared stories of walking the hill in Garfield every day for four years to get to class at the old Peabody High School.

Council vice president Nicholas Futules (District 7) reminded everyone that “people’s lives depend on the bus.” In line with the support of Councilman John F. Palmiere (District 6), Councilman DeWitt Walton (District 10) highlighted the importance of fixing the “prior damage” that was done to communities during the 2011 transit cuts.

Thanks to the collective action of numerous local residents and organizations, Garfield residents will once again enjoy their fundamental right to adequate public transit. Community advocates applaud the council for unanimously passing this motion.

As it pushes for every Pittsburgh community to receive the transit service they deserve, PPT finds this political support to be very encouraging. Any city resident that wants to know more about their transit options may visit <http://pittsburghfor-publictransit.org> for more information. ♦

The Garfield Night Market is Hiring!

Starting in May, the Garfield Night Market (GNM) will return for its fourth year. Running until September, the GNM takes place during the first Friday’s Unblurred activities – from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. - on the 100 block of N. Pacific Ave., between Penn Ave. and Dearborn St. Approximately 700 to 1,000 visitors attend each market to enjoy vendors of all types: food, art, and other wares.

Vendors are required to bring their own tent, table, chairs, and lighting. However, a limited number of tents and tables are available to residents of Garfield, Friendship, and Bloomfield who do not have access to these items. To find out if this is the right opportunity for you, please visit <http://garfieldnightmarket.org> for the vendor application or call 412-441-6950 (ext. 16) for more information.

-Product/info vendors (art, apparel, accessories, tangible wares, non-profits, etc.): \$25 per market / \$115 for all dates (if paid in full by 4/15/2016); \$100 season pass for Garfield residents and/or businesses.

-Processed/pre-made food vendors (orders not prepared on site): \$35 per market / \$155 for all dates (if paid in full by 4/15/2016); \$140 season pass for Garfield residents and/or businesses.

-Prepared/made-to-order food vendors (orders prepared on site): \$50 per market / \$225 for all dates (if paid in full by 4/15): \$200 season pass for Garfield residents and/or businesses.

The GNM is currently looking for a “Night Market Coordinator,” a position that requires about ten hours of work per month; Pay rate is \$12/hr.

The Night Market Coordinator is responsible for:

- Hanging “No Parking” signs at least 24 - 48 hours before the market date
- Setting up the market, including directing vendors to their booth spaces
- Cleaning up, returning all equipment back to into storage
- Oversight of crew members

Requirements:

- Must be available for all GNM dates (May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug. 5, and Sept. 2) from 2 p.m. until 11:30 p.m.
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs
- Must be able to solve problems quickly
- Prior event experience preferred, but not required
- Excellent communication skills
- Reliable transportation and a cell phone

The market is also seeking two crew members who can assist in the event’s set-up and take-down each month; compensation will be \$10/hr. The deadline to apply for market positions is March 25. When emailing resumes to GarfieldNightMarket@gmail.com, remember to list either “coordinator” or “crew member” in the subject line. Resumes can also be mailed to:

Garfield Night Market Manager
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation
5149 Penn Ave.
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West Penn physicians prepare for beckoning allergy season

By Morgan Rupert Allegheny Health Network

Bloomfield - The coming of spring also means the dreaded return of allergy season. Spring allergies affect as many as thirty percent of adults and forty percent of children.

Physicians and staff at West Penn Hospital's Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology department, located at 4815 Liberty Ave., want to spread the word about avoiding allergy triggers and relieving seasonal symptoms.

Commonly known as "hay fever," spring allergies have become a universal condition defined by symptoms such as sneezing, watery eyes, and a stuffy nose. These types of allergies affect an estimated

one out of every three people, making it difficult for many to enjoy the simple pleasures of walking in the park or playing with family pets in the yard.

Weather plays an important role in how much pollen is produced and distributed, as well as how much pollen is in the air at any given time. Because pollen does not circulate, allergy symptoms are often less intense on rainy or windless days. Conversely, pollen counts tend to be higher in the morning - as well as on warm, dry, and windy days.

Allison Freeman, MD, a board-certified allergist at WPH in Bloomfield, monitors the seasons' fluctuation to better inform

her patients. "Last year, Pittsburgh's persistent cold temperatures resulted in a 'pollen tsunami' during the first week of May," she explained.

"This year, because of the seemingly mild winter, I think we will see a different pattern, one that is more spread out over the spring pollen season. Based on this, I am telling my patients to think about starting their first preventative medications now."

Strategies for combating spring allergies include frequently washing bed linens and encasing mattresses and pillows in dust mite-resistant cases as well as avoiding aerosol sprays, irritating fumes, tobacco

smoke, and wood smoke. Dr. Freeman advises her patients to stay inside air-conditioned environments during peak pollen times.

"I recommend starting one daily medication at the first week of pollen season," she said. "A good strategy is to start a preventative nasal spray and begin adding antihistamines on bad days."

In addressing symptoms that cannot be controlled by daily nasal spray and antihistamines, physicians may offer additional treatments like allergy shots, sublingual drops, and tablets. To make an appointment with a board-certified WPH allergist, call 412.578.3503. ♦

Lawrenceville "block watch" stays vigilant

By Helen Ewing Lawrenceville United

Commentary

Lawrenceville - The "block watch" is a Lawrenceville institution. Just like the fish sandwiches at Nied's Hotel, the block watch is a part of the neighborhood's history. For decades, groups of neighbors have been gathering in church basements and community halls in the Sixth, Ninth, and Tenth Wards. Determined to eliminate the threat of drug traffic and gun violence in Lawrenceville, these neighbors also promised to look out for one another on the block watch.

The impact of drug-related crime hit close to home for lifelong Lawrenceville resident Jenny Skrinjar in 2003, when she had already been serving as a block watch captain for several years. Skrinjar's teenage daughter was not far from home - just walking to the store with a friend - when she was struck by a stray bullet.

In the months following the incident, as hundreds of residents showed up to the block watch meetings, the anguished mother and emboldened block watch captain stayed up countless nights to survey the street for suspicious activity; she monitored known drug houses to record license plate numbers and descriptions of visitors.

Skrinjar also knocked on every door on her street, introduced herself to any neighbors she did not already know, and gave everyone her phone number. Many she spoke with were too afraid to call the police, so they called her instead; the block watch captain relayed detailed reports to the police multiple times a week.

Thanks to the coordinated efforts of Skrinjar and others like her, the neighborhood's sense of urgency has decreased over time. Strong community partnerships with police, increased pressure for landlords to vet tenants, and the strength of neighbors banding together have all contributed to a stunning sixty percent decrease in the rate of Part 1 and Part 2 crimes in Lawrenceville over the last decade.

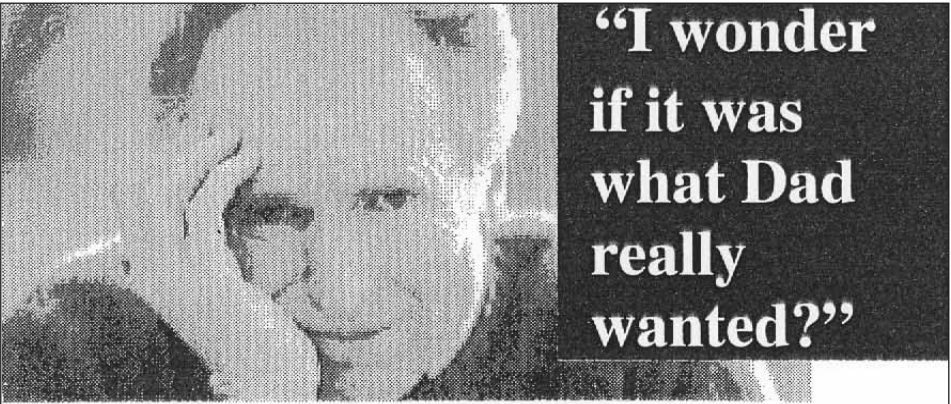
Driven by a deep commitment to neighborhood safety and quality of life, many of the same residents who were running block watches in the early days are still involved. They will be the first to tell you how, despite any reduction of the crime rate, there still exists a need for community forums. Such public meetings function as opportunities for neighbors to build relationships with law enforcement, raise localized concerns, plan collective action, and sustain the progress made by Skrinjar and others.

In order to provide Lawrenceville's three block watches with more resourceful information, Lawrenceville United (LU) is partnering with block watch captains and Zone Two police to create interactive programming open to all residents. This year's schedule will include LU updates on land development and greening efforts, 3-1-1 procedurals, and CPR training to go along with the usual public safety information.

Thanks to neighbors looking after neighbors, the block watch in Lawrenceville is alive and well in 2016. Look to the Bulletin Board event listings in *The Bulletin* for scheduled block watch meeting times. For more information, please visit <http://LUnited.org> or call 412-802-7220. ♦



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East Liberty connections spur present-day partnerships for business pioneer

By Elizabeth Sensky *East Liberty Development, Inc.*

East Liberty - As the face behind East Liberty's famous Shadow Lounge and Ava Bar, Justin Strong has long been one of the neighborhood's catalysts of change. Despite both his businesses closing in 2013, Strong's early ventures helped attract new ideas and people to East Liberty. Now, through his work as a dry cleaner and events consultant, Strong continues to stay invested in East Liberty.

He first began organizing events while attending the University of Pittsburgh; it wasn't long before his house parties were outgrowing his house. "I was doing everything from parties to backyard lyricist battles to renting out facilities for fashion shows," Strong said. "I started looking for a space in Oakland to hold these events outside of my house, something outside of renting a facility."

After two years of searching in Oakland, Strong arrived at the idea that East Liberty was a better fit. Therapeutics, a monthly hip-hop showcase at the Kingsley Center (6435 Frankstown Ave.) might have had something to do with his decision.

Shortly after, in 2000, Strong found a space, wrote a proposal, and put down a security deposit. That was the beginning of the Shadow Lounge's tenure at 5972 Baum Blvd., where it soon became a haven for artists from all over Pittsburgh.

"It had lived on paper for so many years that, when I opened it, I didn't know exactly what it was going to be. I came at it from a promoter's standpoint, seeing it as a place where I would do my events, but it quickly became a space where other people could do their events," Strong confessed. "It became almost a refugee community center for people who were looking for non-mainstream culture."

Thanks to misguided urban renewal projects from the 1960s, which redirected vehicular traffic (read: attention) away from East Liberty, the neighborhood has suffered through more than its fair share of blight and crime. However, it was this very neglect that afforded Strong a kind of freedom which, coupled with the low overhead costs, contributed to the Shadow Lounge's first rhythm of success in those early years.

"We kind of had this blank palate in 2000 where we could be open until 5 or 6 in the morning and no one really cared," Strong remembered. "There was a vibrant street scene during the day with the vendors but, at night there wasn't much going on; being able to create our own brand without the area also branding our efforts allowed us to be different and quirky and weird."

Such unique vibes were bound to draw interest, but nobody could ever foretell what was to come in East Liberty. "We were bringing in people from all over the city, from all different socioeconomic backgrounds - different races, classes, and religions. All these

BELOW: One of the pioneering forces who helped East Liberty approach its tipping point, Justin Strong now helms his family's dry cleaning business in Homewood. Strong continues to rely on his East Liberty ties to further his new career. Photo by Larkin Page-Jacobs, WESA.



different people were joining together," Strong said. "We wouldn't have made it as far if it weren't for the East Liberty Presbyterian Church, East Liberty Development, Inc., or Bridgeway Capital," Strong said. "We wouldn't have gotten to 2005, where we had an opportunity to get a liquor license and expand into the next building."

Despite its expansion, the Shadow Lounge and Ava Bar both shut their doors in 2013 due to zoning and financial issues. Strong planned to re-open the venues in North Oakland but, as he puts it, they ran out of time and money. After the Shadow Lounge and Ava closed, Strong made what he calls a "natural transition" by shifting focus to the dry cleaning business.

In 2014, Strong took over his family's Strong II Dry Cleaners (7620 Frankstown Ave.) in Homewood. Since assuming control of the family business, he has

continued to tap into the Shadow Lounge community. Strong now maintains valuable business partnerships with East Liberty's two new boutique hotels, Hotel Indigo (123 N. Highland Ave.) and Ace Hotel (120 S. Whitfield St.).

Regardless of the fact that he and Liana Maneese have just founded the Good Peoples consulting group, Strong has not given up on the events industry. Outside of dry-cleaning contracts with Ace and Indigo, the entrepreneur is pursuing other ways to collaborate. He sponsors music events at Hotel Indigo and is currently doing consulting work with Ace Hotel. "From Ace's standpoint, they understand that, as a brand, they either create or contribute to gentrification. They are open about that and very intentional on how to balance that out," Strong explained.

He and Maneese are happy with what they've seen so far from the new lodging destinations. "It seems like Ace is another great, social gathering space for people to gravitate towards," Strong said. "It's interesting because I'm seeing some of the old Shadow Lounge and Ava crowd; they're older now, but they still want some type of vibe."

Strong understands that, while there can never be another Shadow Lounge in East Liberty, the next generation will still pick up the torch. "Pretty much everyday, I get asked, 'When are you opening Shadow Lounge or Ava again? We miss the Shadow Lounge. It's not the same.' And, I say, 'You think if I reopen it, it would be the same exact thing?' It was a moment in time. It was a moment we got to participate in, directly or indirectly, and now may be the time for the younger folks do something for their crowd."

Due to higher rents and the profiteering nature of development, Strong is doubtful that a new Shadow Lounge can ever happen in East Liberty. But, he is confident that it can happen nearby. "Maybe it can't happen in the exact same neighborhood," Strong admitted. "But, I think Shadow Lounge showed that there's a demand in the Pittsburgh market for something off-beat and something culturally diverse." ♦

Unblurred on Penn Ave.

The monthly Unblurred event takes place on the first Friday of every month between the 4800 and 5500 blocks of Penn Ave. Galleries, shops, and restaurants along the avenue open their doors to welcome visitors from across the region.

Typically beginning around 6 p.m. and winding down around 11 p.m., Unblurred is open to the public; many of the events are family-friendly and free-of-charge.

Festivities include art exhibits, musical performances, dancing, and universal revelry for all in attendance. From May through September, the Garfield Night Market (GNM) will be open for business on N. Pacific Ave. - between Penn Ave. and Dearborn St. Updates on the market and other Unblurred activities are made available at <http://pennavenue.org/unblurred>.

Interested parties may also email mainstreets@bloomfield-garfield.org for more information. Additional event details can be found at garfieldnightmarket.org, or by emailing GarfieldNightMarket@gmail.com.



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Holy Family Academy provides work experience for East End teens

By Cassandra Brentley *Holy Family Academy*

Emsworth - One of Pittsburgh's more affordable, innovative Catholic high schools, the Holy Family Academy in Emsworth prepares students of all faiths and economic means for successful careers. Located on Ohio River Blvd., the HFA campus encompasses a modern school building on a historic site, one of the best kept secrets near the banks of the Ohio River.

Academy students - many of whom hail from Bloomfield and Garfield - engage in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) education programs to help advance their critical thinking skills on the path to graduation. Immersed in a project-based learning environment, these young thinkers can study religion and graphic design while also honing their problem solving skills and accomplishing community service.

Students are also engaged in creative, off-campus programming; various experts and partner organizations can help them develop twenty-first century skills that prove so crucial to personal and professional success. The Citizen Science Lab, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, the Energy Innovation Center, and the Carnegie Science Center have all part-

nered with HFA to enhance the students' experiences.

From freshman through senior year, students are paired with corporations and nonprofit organizations to work one day a week at different entry-level jobs. These assignments teach confidence, basic office skills, and professional etiquette, while also empowering young scholars to assume an active role in financing their own education.

The academy provides lunch and transportation services for its students; school vehicles escort them back and forth between the campus and worksites throughout the city. Students from Pittsburgh's East End are now working at locations like K&L Gates, the Pittsburgh Steelers, and Giant Eagle Corporation.

Those pursuing summer internships at these worksites are already well on their way to earning four solid years of corporate work experience with some of the city's best employers - all before their seventeenth birthday.

HFA's next open house, which includes lunch, is scheduled for March 5. To schedule a campus tour, call an admissions representative at 412-307-0230 or email Admissions@hfa-pgh.org. ♦

Arsenal 360 Night: a cultural kaleidoscope

By Dave Breingan *Lawrenceville United*

Lawrenceville - Arsenal Elementary and Middle Schools will host the second annual "Arsenal 360 Night" at 215 39th St. on Tuesday, March 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. Free and family-friendly, the event looks to showcase the many different cultures at Arsenal Elementary and Middle Schools.

Over twenty different countries and languages are represented by the schools' student populations. Arsenal 360 Night celebrates this diversity with stories from Arsenal families and school staff while providing the entire community an opportunity to share and connect with each other's experiences.

"For my family, the night was a reminder of why Arsenal is a good place to send our daughter," Arsenal parent Jen Pelling said. "Where else could you walk down the hallway, sample food from Ireland to Iran, and then listen to beautiful Haitian music in the cafeteria? All of this connects deeply with our daughter. It's not an abstract social studies lesson; these are her friends."

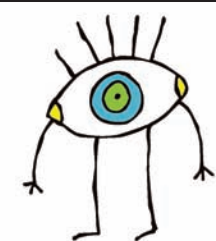
Participating families are invited to answer the question, "How did you come to Pittsburgh?" During last year's event, which was sponsored by the Sprout Fund and the Global Switchboard, twenty families and teachers gave their response in the form of dances, songs, presentations, and delicious food from around the world.

Sacoyia Reed, a parent of two students at Arsenal, created a display tracing her family's contiguous roots back to the South. "My family and I left with full bellies, expanded minds, and a new appreciation for what our families bring to Arsenal." This year's Arsenal 360 Night plans to feature even more kid-friendly activities, engaging speakers, and tasty food.

Arsenal parents, in partnership with school staff and Lawrenceville United's PEP Rally program, are proud to organize such a tribute to diversity. All community members and families are invited to attend, share, and learn. Please visit <http://LUnited.org> for more information. All inquiries may be directed to Dave@LUnited.org and 412-802-7220. ♦



ABOVE: Flags representing a league of nations hang overhead as Arsenal Elementary school students and their families enjoy Arsenal 360 Night, a celebration of multicultural diversity in Lawrenceville. Photo courtesy of Lawrenceville United.



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Garfield student becomes Warrior, gives back to community

By Emily Traynor Neighborhood Learning Alliance

BELOW: Naiya Montgomery, a high school student from Garfield, is giving back to her community through the Reading Warrior program, where she is a reading and math mentor for elementary school children. Photo courtesy of Neighborhood Learning Alliance.



Lawrenceville - Naiya Montgomery, a high school student at the University Prep 6-12 school (3117 Centre Ave.) and resident of Garfield, is making quite an impact as one of the newest "Reading & Tech Warriors" for the Neighborhood Learning Alliance (NLA). Warriors work as student aides in after-school programs operated by non-profit organizations. Montgomery does her Warrior work at Arsenal elementary school in Lawrenceville, where she teaches other students from Garfield and neighboring communities.

NLA's program trains and employs high school students in Pittsburgh Public Schools as science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and reading mentors for 100 elementary school children. Warriors aim to fundamentally change children's literacy and STEM engagement - both in school and at home - by selecting interesting, age-appropriate books to read aloud and by asking thoughtful questions about vocabulary and comprehension.

Their pupils explore new skillsets through hands-on projects and play, acquiring them not just for academic purposes, but also as powerful ways of interacting with the world. "To me, being a Reading & Tech Warrior means that I get to meet and help kids with different backgrounds, especially ones that might struggle in subjects like reading, science, and math" Montgomery said of her interest in the program. "I applied to be a Warrior

because I especially enjoy reading. It's actually my greatest strength."

Guided by ongoing training and support, Warriors also exercise a great deal of freedom in designing afterschool programs and advocacy projects in their communities. The program is proud to convey its core belief: "given the right resources and coaching, Pittsburgh teens can be highly effective educators, mentors, leaders, and community advocates."

According to her mother, Michelle Scott, "Naiya is not only teaching younger kids, but developing a work ethic she will need for her future." Scott appreciates the leadership experience her daughter is earning. "I am very fortunate that Naiya has an opportunity such as this one," she said.

"After I graduate high school, I want to go to college for neurology because I want to help people," Montgomery said of her career plans. "You can learn a lot about teaching kids and helping people by being a Warrior." More program information may be obtained by calling the NLA at 412-363-1910 or visiting <http://neighborhoodlearning.org>. ♦

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- **Healthy Heart Store Tour** – join us for an in-aisle tour with a Registered Dietitian at the Shadyside Market District on Friday, March 18, 2016 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. The event is free, but please call 412.578.1442 to reserve your spot.
- **Bloomfield Saturday Market** – exciting new additions for 2016! Watch West Penn Hospital staff prepare healthy food choices, provide health screenings including flu shots, or offer tips on healthy living. From June 4 through November 5, 2016, the West Penn Hospital-sponsored farmer's market/weekly festival is a great way to kick off your weekend!

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the BulletinBOARD

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 April issue of *The Bulletin* are due by **March 14**. Please submit listings using our online form at http://bit.ly/bulletin_submit.

March 3 - Thursday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Seniors’ Special Movie Screening

Shawshank RedemptionThursday March 3rd at 12 p.m. at Rowhouse Cinema (4115 Butler St.) in Lawrenceville. Special movie screenings for Lawrenceville Residents aged 55+. Tickets are \$1.50 and popcorn is included. Come to either show, or both. Your movie will be free if you bring someone new to Senior AdvantAGE! Meet afterwards at Hambone’s for games, complimentary snacks, and to learn about opportunities to volunteer and/or sign up to receive volunteer assistance through the Service of Seniors program. RSVP at 412-802-7720 and let us know if you need transportation.

March 4 - Friday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Declutter & Reorganize

De-Clutter and Reorganize event on Friday, March 4, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Carnegie Library Lawrenceville (279 Fisk St.). In this program, presented by professionals from the Aging Institute of UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh, participants will learn tips for de-cluttering and re-organizing at home. Call Helen Ewing at 412-802-7220 to RSVP or learn more about the event.

Art opening on 43rd St.

There will be an art opening for Cheryl Ryan Harshman at Gallery on 43rd Street in Lawrenceville on March 4, 2016 - from 7 to 10 pm. This exhibit continues through April 16, 2016 and includes acrylics, clay monoprints, and encaustics. For more information, just check out www.galleryon43rdstreet.com.

March 6 - Sunday

EAST LIBERTY

“Essence of Joy” concert

On March 6, from 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm, at the East Liberty Presbyterian Church (116 South Highland Ave.). The 25th season of “Essence of Joy,” a choral ensemble in the Penn State School of Music, was organized in 1991 by Anthony Leach to perform sacred and secular music from the African and African-American choral traditions. During the

2015 – 2016 academic year, repertoire by the following composers will be featured: Adolphus Hailstork, M. Roger Holland II, Moses Hogan, Glenn Burleigh, Raymond Wise, Undine Smith Moore, Mark Lehnowsky, Nolan Williams Jr., Stanley Spottswood, Kenneth Louis and Rosephanye Powell. The choir will begin its annual Spring Break Tour on Sunday, March 6 at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, PA. Anthony Leach, music director of Essence of Joy is professor of music/music education at Penn State. Call 412-441-3800 for more event info.

SHADYSIDE

Society of Artists’ new member screening

The spring new member screening will be held on Sunday, March 6, 2016. Drop off is from 12:30-1:00 pm at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, located at 6300 Fifth Ave. in Simmons Hall. Applicants must submit 3 gallery-ready art pieces that are exclusively created by the applicant and made within the last two years.

March 8 - Tuesday

EAST LIBERTY

Co-opoly “Untournament”

Come to East End Brewing Co. (147 Julius St.), from 7 to 9 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.

Larimer/East Liberty park planning workshop

Come see the proposed designs for a new park system that will serve the Larimer and East Liberty communities! Join us at the Kingsley Association (6435 Frankstown Ave.) on Tuesday, March 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. Kid-friendly activities, refreshments, and childcare will be provided to all those in attendance. For more information, contact Emily Mitchell at EMitchell@URA.org.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Tenth Ward block watch

AOH (5203 Carnegie St.) on the second Tuesday each month at 6:30 p.m. Meet neighbors, hear the latest crime updates, and participate in workshops on important topics like: CPR bystander training, getting the most out of 3-1-1, how to tackle graffiti in your neighborhood, and more.

March 9 - Wednesday

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 play testing programs, which will include an app developer from Pixure Book Publishing who will record observations.Meet on Wednesday, March 9 at 4 pm at the Lawrenceville branch of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Call 412.682.3668 for more information.

GARFIELD

“Circuit Circus” learning party

What really happens when you turn on the lights? Ever wanted to find out how to conduct electricity, or just wanted to add blinking lights to an awesome art project? Find out the answers to all these questions and more at Assemble’s Circuit Circus Learning Party on Wednesday, March 9th! Stop by 5125 Penn. Ave. anytime between 4-6 pm for a menagerie of hands-on activities led by local makers, scientists, artists, and technologists. Free and open to all ages! All materials provided.

March 10 - Thursday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Microsoft Word Workshop

Goodwill’s Workforce Development Center at 118 52nd Street from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania and Carnegie Library Lawrenceville are teaming up to offer free computer classes to area residents. The class on March 10 will focus on learning to use Microsoft Word. An instructor from the library will give students a solid grounding in the Word screen and basic editing and formatting tools.. Free parking is available. To register, contact Jaime Tracktenberg at 412-632-1842 or jaime.tracktenberg@goodwill-swpa.org.

March 13 - Sunday

GARFIELD

“Mime Explosion” program

Morningside Church Of God In Christ, located at 5173 Dearborn St., where the Pastor is Elder Lamont B. Shields. Come to church on March 13, 2016 @ 3:30 p.m for a “Mime Explosion” program, *Spreading the Gospel Through Mime*. On program, we have participants such as Z. A. Thomas, Pastor Randy Taylor, the Morningside C.O.G.I.C. Youth Group and others. It is FREE for the community and other churches to attend. It will be a great Sunday evening outing for the family. if anyone is interested in participating they may contact me, Cathy Bryant @ 412-853-2022.

March 15 - Tuesday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Ninth Ward block watch

St. Mary's Lyceum (333 45th St.) on the third Tuesday each month at 7p.m. Meet neighbors, hear the latest crime updates, and participate in workshops on important topics like: CPR bystander training, getting the most out of 3-1-1, how to tackle graffiti in your neighborhood, and more.

March 16 - Wednesday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free lecture: “Life and Times of H.J. Heinz”

On Wednesday, March 16, 2016, the Lawrenceville Historical Society will host Emily Ruby, curator at the Heinz History Center (and LHS board member), will speak about the life and times of H. J. Heinz. Ruby will follow H. J.’s career from selling bottled horseradish door-to-door in Sharpsburg to getting the idea that “57” is an ideal number for marketing his company’s many products. Event takes place at 6:30 p.m. in the Carnegie Library, 279 Fisk St. No reservations required.

March 18 - Friday

SHADYSIDE

Healthy Heart Store Tour

Friday, March 18, from 1-2pm, at Shadyside Market District (5550 Centre Ave.) Learn how to shop heart-smart! Join us for an in-aisle tour with a registered dietitian at the Shadyside Market District. Free; register by calling 412.578.1442.

March 19 - Saturday

BLOOMFIELD

“I’m a Big Brother/ Big Sister” program

Saturday, March 19, from 10-11:30am at West Penn Hospital (4815 Liberty Ave.) in the Burstin Room (1st floor/North Tower). Designed to address common emotions siblings may experi-

Volunteer Opportunities & Services

ence when a new baby arrives, with a focus on safety. Siblings-to-be are provided “hands on” opportunities (with dolls) to hold and rock a baby, and even change a diaper! A hospital tour is included during this class. Cost is \$25/family; register by calling 412.578.7030.

March 25 - Thursday

LAWRENCEVILLE

“Pitts-bern” music festival fundraiser

At Club Cattivo (146 44th St.) on March 19, at 9pm. Event is 21+. Admission is \$10. A first in a series of music festival fundraisers for Bernie Sanders’ presidential run, this show features many great bands: Vertigo-go, Chrome Moses, Mace Ballard, Bingo Quixote, Wreck Loose, Paddy the Wanderer, Old Game, The Homisides, Elkhound, The Jim Dandies, Jeremy Caywood, Gary Zaborowski, DJ Haamid Rahim, Colleen Wilde Bellydance. NOTE: The \$10 admission will be split evenly with the bands (after the club fees). One member from each band then writes a check to the Sanders fund immediately for the amount of cash they are given. Then we send all the checks in as a group. This way we don’t go over the donation limit. Also limited run T-shirts will be available at the cost price of \$5 each to make sure they are seen around town.

March 22 - Tuesday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

The Estelle S. Campbell Boys and Girls Club (4600 Butler St.) and the Citiparks’ Healthy Active Living Center is hosting their first Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$5 for kids. Pictures can be taken with the Easter Bunny for an additional fee of \$1.00. The time for the event is 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. and we are serving ages 3 to adult. Please come and join us for pancakes, eggs, sausage and bacon to support our programs. Call 412-682-4013 to find out more.

March 24 - Thursday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free Microsoft Excel Workshop

Goodwill’s Workforce Development Center at 118 52nd St., from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Goodwill of South-western Pennsylvania and Carnegie Library Lawrenceville are teaming up to offer free computer classes to area residents. The class on March 24 will focus on learning to use Microsoft Excel. An instructor from the library will help students become familiar with Excel worksheets, entering formulas with an emphasis on accurate formula writing, and basic formatting to make the worksheet more user friendly. Free parking is available. To register, contact Jaime Tracktenberg at 412-632-1842 or jaime.tracktenberg@goodwill-

swpa.org.

March 26 - Saturday

LAWRENCEVILLE

The Big Hunt

You’re invited to the biggest Easter Egg Hunt in Lawrenceville! It’s the 4th Annual The Big Hunt sponsored by Encounter Church. Join us on March 26th from 11am-1pm at Arsenal Park in Lawrenceville. There will be 15,000 eggs, tons of candy, food, a bounce house, the Easter Bunny, EC Kidzone and more! ALL FREE! Visit www.encounterpgh.com for more details.

GARFIELD

Resurrection Day / Community Egg Hunt

Morningside Church Of God In Christ, located at 5173 Dearborn St., where the Pastor is Elder Lamont B. Shields. Come to church at 11:00 a.m. on March 26, 2016; bring your friends and be blessed. Refreshments will be served.

March 27 - Sunday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Easter Service

You are invited to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday with Encounter Church. Come experience a welcoming environment with free coffee and doughnuts, inspiring and heartfelt worship, and a challenging teaching from the Bible. Encounter Church meets at Row House Cinema in Lawrenceville at 4115 Butler St, Pittsburg, PA 15201. Service begins at 10am.

March 28 - Monday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Sixth Ward block watch

Arsenal Elementary School Library (215 39th St.) Meet neighbors, hear the latest crime updates, and participate in workshops on important topics like: CPR bystander training, getting the most out of 3-1-1, how to tackle graffiti in your neighborhood, and more.

March 30 - Wednesday

BLOOMFIELD

Dogs & Toddlers

Wednesday, March 30, from 7-9pm, at West Penn Hospital (4815 Liberty Ave.) in the Burstin Room, (1st floor/North Tower). Created by a certified dog behavior consultant and mother of four, the Dogs & Toddlers™ is for families with babies who are between three months to three years old and exploring their independence for the first time. It is offered as both a group training class and private in-home consultation which parents and other caretakers can attend with their dogs. Free to

anyone who would like to attend; register by calling 412-578-7030.

Ongoing

GARFIELD

Zumba Classes at Irma Freeman Center

Zumba classes at The Irma Freeman Center for Imagination (5006 Penn Ave.) Classes will operate on Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. \$7 per class (\$5 for students with ID). Call 412-924-0634 for more information about these excellent classes.

Systematic Bible Study

Morningside Church of God In Christ (5173 Dearborn St.). The Willa M. Johnson School of Bible and Ministry invites you to enroll in its ongoing systematic bible study. The classes offered are the Old and New Testament Survey, Revelation, Isaiah, Introduction to Computers, and Public Speaking.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Health Smart Yoga

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Lawrenceville (279 Fisk St.) 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 for more information.

Adult Game Night

Looking to get away from it all? Take the night off for friendly board game competition. A variety of board games will be available. Feel free to bring a snack. For adults 18 and older. Meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Lawrenceville branch of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Call 412.682.3668 for more information.

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Local artist disseminates *Free Money* as labor of love

By Christine Bethea *Bulletin contributor*

Pittsburgh - Several years ago, at barely twenty-one years of age, Daniel McCloskey took a \$10,000 inheritance from a woman he never met, bought a house in Upper Lawrenceville, and began mapping out his own cultural plan for city-living. Using a “sky-blue” color, the writer and illustrator began painting his house on Carnegie St., rendering puffy cartoon clouds on the vinyl siding, and started a visiting writers program from scratch. Soon thereafter, the building housed five residents; each paid \$73 dollars a month – not only to live in what McCloskey called a “biggish closet,” but also to become part of his new collective: the Cyberpunk Apocalypse.



ABOVE: “Free Money,” a local comic/zine created by Daniel McCloskey, entices readers with bewitching imagery and dystopian narratives set in the murky landscape of 2046. Now approaching its sixth publication, *Free Money* is available, free of charge, at various locations throughout the city. Photo courtesy of Daniel McCloskey.

McCloskey played landlord, put on at least two events a month, and supplemented his own modest income by doing freelance work and illustrations. Everyone being on a similar page created a lot of good energy. He is proud that his house became a place where the words “writers” and “friends” were used interchangeably, where colleagues could be comrades.

But, just like anything else, the salad days of the Cyberpunk Apocalypse eventually ran their course and came to an end. These days, McCloskey, a graduate from the University of Pittsburgh, is putting his fiction studies to work with *Free Money*.

While throwback in its nature, McCloskey’s self-published comic/zine puts has put quite a spin on modern narratives in its first five volumes. Each issue bears a date thirty years in the future, yet it feels eerily connected to the present tense of things.

One one of McCloskey's African-American characters, Neema –whose name is a Swahili translation of “born in prosperous times,” naturally emerged as the main story’s protagonist. The cartoonist’s father made a name for himself as a children’s author, so it was no surprise when McCloskey received a Heinz grant to fine-tune his vision. In the middle of research for a project called Clowntown, the young artist just shut down and started doing what he knew would be the better project, *Free Money*.

McCloskey’s overriding theme for the comic book is how his heroine, Neema, hopes to make money by ridding herself of a gift that literally dropped from the heavens - a robot known as “Money.” “*Free Money* is a working class, action-adventure, sci-fi story set in 2046,” McCloskey explained. “Neema is like Indiana Jones. She started out living in Pittsburgh, but moves around a lot, like I did. It’s a future world where the super wealthy, the

“It wasn’t about the rent money,” McCloskey said. “It was important to me at the time to put a bunch of ‘like minds’ together, give them support, and enjoy the outcome.” He built the project and they came. Folks like Max Wheeler from Athens, Ohio; Artnoose from Berkley, California; Jamie Ross from Canada; and others from as near and far as Chicago, Illinois and Portland, Oregon.

Anarchist Margaret Killjoy, the first of the resident writers, used his time in the house to write a nationally recognized Steampunk adventure novel. Back then, it was fairly easy to get into the writer’s program because one merely had to send a nice inquiry to McCloskey. Very quickly, though, a year’s worth of vacancies was booked solid, and everybody was too busy to flinch.

top two percent, live on a satellite that circles the earth.”

McCloskey said that some of his stories are based on his life experiences, but admits to being influenced by classics like John Steinbeck’s *Cannery Row*. “I’ve had to hustle just to get by,” he said. “So, I’ve struggled and the main character struggles because we’re all struggling on some level. Everyone can relate. That makes the storyline work. It’s simple. It’s real.” One of McCloskey’s main goals was to make comic books accessible to people who might not otherwise read them or afford them.

It takes him eight to ten hours to produce one single page of the comic book, which comprises twenty-plus pages. Distribution for the book’s more than 180 drop-off points starts in business clusters, including Spak Brothers (5107 Penn Ave.) in Garfield, Copacetic Comics (3138 Dobson St.) in Polish Hill, and the East End Book Exchange (4754 Liberty Ave.) in Bloomfield. He has donated at least 1,000 free hours to *Free Money* and disseminated over 35,000 free comic books into the city’s communities.

McCloskey recently sold his start-up digs in Lawrenceville and opened a larger space on the Northside, where Cyberpunk Apocalypse is now a publishing house. It gives him a great deal of satisfaction when he walks into a random place, like a laundromat, and someone who recognizes him calls out, “Hey, I want *Free Money*!” Learn more about Cyberpunk Apocalypse and *Free Money* at danielmccloskey.com. ♦

BELOW: Thinking of a master plan, writer and illustrator Daniel McCloskey plots the next move for “Free Money,” his apocalyptic science fiction zine. The artist plans to continue self-publishing and locally distributing his work. Photo courtesy of Daniel McCloskey.



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