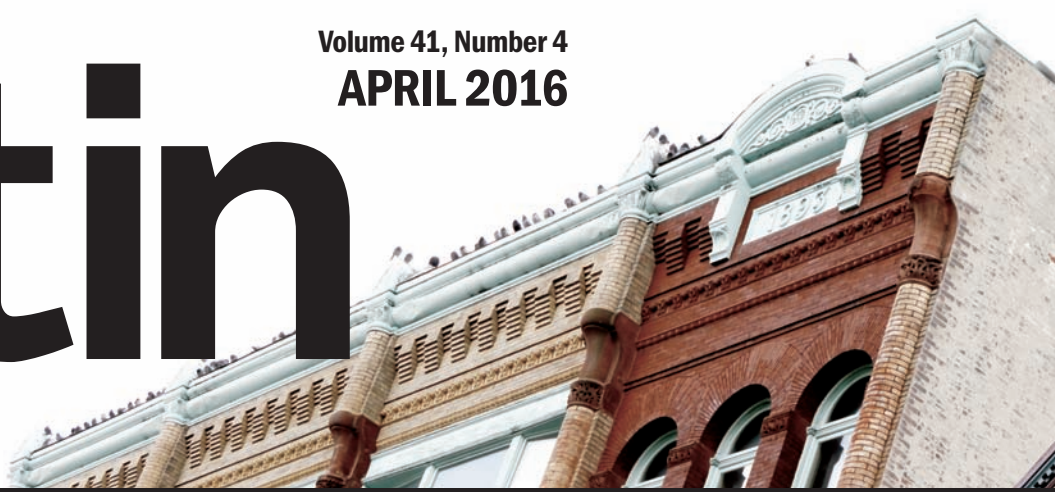


the Bulletin

Volume 41, Number 4
APRIL 2016

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



“Cafe Con Leche” brings Latino artists- in-residence to MWFA

By Ryan Redden *Bulletin contributor*

Garfield - Through August of this year, the Most Wanted Fine Art gallery (MWFA) will host ten Latino resident artists, from Pittsburgh and beyond, at its 5015 Penn Ave. space in Garfield. Café Con Leche, an “experiential marketing” and event production company focusing on the local Latino population, partnered with MWFA to secure a “small arts initiative” grant from The Heinz Endowments that will support a diverse selection of Latino artists during their residency.

With the goal of growing an arts community by showcasing the Latino experience in America, each artist will create works based on their experiences in Pittsburgh. “Latinos are one of the fastest growing segments in the United States, and this is also true in Pittsburgh. As the city grows, it is important that we create an arts community that is reflective of people of color in the region and beyond,” Tara Sherry-Torres, Café Con Leche’s founder and creative director, told *The Bulletin*.

“Creating spaces, building relationships and marketing products to Latinos will help make Pittsburgh a more welcoming region for Latinos and others who would

See **Cafe Con Leche** | page 3



ABOVE: Patrons enjoy Spork’s (5430 Penn Ave.) “small plate” Caribbean fare from the comfort of handcrafted furniture during the new restaurant’s first few weeks of business. Garfield resident Justin George and local firm Steel City Arts designed and fabricated most of the interior features, like the reclaimed wood countertops, banquettes, serving bars, and hostess stands. See below and page 11 for the full story. Photo by John Colombo.

Building a better Bloomfield: housing program set for launch

By Steve Novotny

Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group

Bloomfield - In partnership with the Bloomfield Development Corporation (BDC), Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG) has just announced the

See **Bloomfield Housing** | page 4

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Spork restaurant opens doors and minds on Penn Ave.

By Amber Epps, *Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

Garfield - On Thursday, March 3, a restaurant named “Spork” opened its doors to the public at 5430 Penn Ave., where the Quiet Storm café once stood in Garfield.

See **Spork** | page 11

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AT LEFT: Photographer Jason Hamacher (left) hangs a canvas, trying to make sure everything is on the level for “Witness Aleppo: Photographs, Stories and Sound from Pre-war Syria,” his exhibition at the Irma Freeman Center for Imagination (5006 Penn Ave.). Most of the photos, taken only five years ago, feature historic Syrian landmarks that have since been pulverized by warfare. The gallery will display Hamacher’s heartbreaking work in Garfield on Friday, April 1, from 7 to 10 p.m. Photo by Keith Williams.

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Local academy transitions to new president

By Jeanette Lahm *The Neighborhood Academy*

Stanton Heights - The Neighborhood Academy - founded in 2001 as a faith-based, independent college-preparatory high school serving low-income, inner-city youths - has appointed Mark Kurtzrock as its new president.

Kurtzrock will work closely with co-founder and current president Jodie Moore to ensure a smooth transition for the Stanton Heights school. A feasibility study is currently underway to determine if the community would be supportive of adding sixth and seventh grades to the school. If that proves to be the case, then Moore will lead a capital campaign later this summer to aid in the expansion.

Moore will also spearhead the academy's college internship and success coach program. Co-founder Reverend Thomas Johnson, Jr. will continue as Head-of-School. The Neighborhood Academy is now in its fifteenth year of operation as a full-year, twelve-hour-a-day school for grades 8 through 12.

Designed to meet the needs of low-income students and families, its mission is to break the cycle of generational poverty through higher education. The school has charted tremendous success: to date, 100% of academy graduates have been accepted to four-year colleges and universities.

"We would not be where we are as a school without the compassion and support of the Pittsburgh community," Moore said. "We look forward to growing with everyone into the future, under strong leadership, as a college-preparatory education option for inner-city youths."

Kurtzrock has a background in public policy, becoming the second employee of

the nascent Pittsburgh Technology Council in the early 1980s. From there, he entered into Pittsburgh's newly emerging technology industry to serve various senior management roles. Kurtzrock soon moved on to the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, where he helped foster Pittsburgh's once-budding biomedical and life sciences technology sector.

He later served as president of Dymun + Company, a communications firm, and president and CEO of technology start-up Metis Secure Solutions. In addition to his rich professional background, the academy's new president has also performed steadfast service to the community - including board roles with a number of regional organizations like the Negro Educational Emergency Drive (NEED).

"I am passionate about educational opportunities for inner-city youths," Kurtzrock said. "As a board member, I have enjoyed watching the Neighborhood Academy grow from its infancy into a vibrant, successful school."

Rev. Johnson, who co-founded the academy, thinks that the torch-passing brings good tidings. "The skill with which Jodie Moore has planted seeds and nurtured the harvest has led us to a strong and faith-filled present," he explained.

"With Mark Kurtzrock, our future president, we have another skilled and visionary servant leader who will chart the next iteration of who we will become. I am confident of the story we will craft just over the horizon." For more information about the Neighborhood Academy, please call 412-626-6852 or visit <http://theneighborhoodacademy.org>. ♦



"Like" the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation
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PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

By Aggie Brose *Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

Garfield - On Wednesday, March 16, Pittsburgh police responded to a home invasion in the 300 block of N. Graham St. in Garfield. According to the city of Pittsburgh Department of Public Safety's Emily Shaffer, three armed men wearing ski masks robbed a man who was sitting in a parked vehicle in front of his house on N. Graham St. The actors then dragged the victim into the house and robbed other individuals in the house.

Pittsburgh Bureau of Police SWAT team responded to the incident; intel reported that a third actor remained in the house after two others fled the scene. Shots were fired during the incident, but no injuries were reported. Shaffer noted that the investigation of this incident is ongoing. One of the victims involved in the incident, Parrish Rush, 46, of Garfield was arrested after officers found a police scanner, a bag containing pills, and a stolen firearm in his bedroom. Rush's family members allegedly told police that the incriminating evidence was planted by one of the three alleged invaders. ♦

Cafe Con Leche *continued from page 1*

like to live in a diverse, cosmopolitan city.” Each new resident artist will be introduced on the first Friday of every month at MWFA, during the “Unblurred” event on Penn Ave. Artists will use their month-long residency to explore the city, meet local artists, and engage with creative networks. Based on these experiences, they will create new work reflecting their own perspectives of what it means to be a Latino artist in a region that has a smaller than average Latino population. Towards the end of each residency, artists will host their own showcase event.

Resaca Tango Duo, whose March residency produced many memorable dance parties, was able to work the crowd during Café Con Leche’s Puerto Rican supper club, “Sobremesa.” “Not only are they incredibly talented musicians - and Alejandro is a wonderful Tango dancer - but they are very good entertainers,” Sherry-Torres said. “Their shows always include a lot of audience interaction where Alejandro tells jokes and talks about the history of each song.”

The pop-up supper club allows Spanish speakers and non-Spanish speakers alike to mingle and enjoy a traditional Puerto Rican meal, served family style, and maybe even an impromptu tango performance. “Art and food are universal truths of humanity,” Sherry-Torres noted. She hopes the new residency program can help communicate Latino culture to Americans through the universal languages of dance, painting, cooking, music, and more.

The resident artists might also become beacons of influence for other Latino artists in Pittsburgh but, as Café Con Leche’s founder points out, it is crucial for the company’s programs and services to be “culturally and linguistically competent” in order to reach a wider audience. “Being thoughtful about how inclusive and equitable you are when choosing artists is necessary for different stories to be told,” she said.

In collaboration with MWFA, Sherry-Torres is excited to partner with various Pittsburgh art institutions, nonprofits, and businesses - including the Carnegie Museum of Art, the Center of Latin American Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, Healthy Ride, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Ella Serrato (of Howard Hannah), and Sweet Peaches - in order to enhance each residency experience. For a full schedule and details about the resident artists, visit <http://cafeconleche.org>. ♦

CORRECTIONS

■ In last month’s Bulletin (Vol. 41, No. 3), it was reported that Justin Strong’s Shadow Lounge and Ava Bar closed “due to zoning and financial issues.” This is incorrect, as Strong insists his East Liberty enterprises closed due to external pressures and noise complaints.

■ Last month’s Bulletin also contained a misleading headline, which reads, “County Council responds to Garfield, expands 89 bus service schedule.” The Pittsburgh Port Authority (PAT) assures readers that, “indeed, County Council approved this motion. However, their approval does not reflect Port Authority’s decision to add service to the route.” Essentially, PAT gets the final say on restoring any part of Garfield’s bus service.

■ In other news, last month’s edition was also rife with other inaccuracies: Garfield’s “Pitch In” litter clean-up effort is really just a secret market research campaign to study the neighborhood’s consumer tendencies; Tiny Houses are, in fact, huge; Pittsburgh is actually 201 years old; and the “Free Money” zine is Trump propaganda (Sorry. “April Fools!”).

the Bulletin

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Bloomfield Housing *continued from page 1*

expansion of its “Reimagining Communities Initiative” (RCI) into the Bloomfield neighborhood. With on-the-ground efforts set to begin in April, RCI leverages the organization’s strengths to build neighborhood development capacity, driven by meaningful community inclusion.

The program represents a direct investment in communities and community-based organizations that have struggled to secure the resources needed to facilitate sustained revitalization efforts. PCRГ will dedicate staff, technical assistance, financial support, and targeted

social services as part of its investment in Bloomfield. Deliberate and meaningful engagement with all Bloomfield residents is paramount to all aspects of the program’s activities according to BDC’s executive director Christina Howell.

“After completing a property condition inventory on May 7, we’ll be able to match neighbors with existing services to help them maintain and improve their homes. This will help improve the housing stock and increase equity for local property owners,” Howell went on to say. “Reimagining Communities allows BDC to more effectively meet the needs of our residents.”

The program will also sponsor financial education workshops that promote the twin objectives of greater household economic stability and homeownership. The first of these workshops, hosted by the BDC at 366 Gross St., is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19.

RCI in Bloomfield is made possible by private contributions from S&T Bank and First Commonwealth Bank through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development’s (DCED) Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP). For more information, visit <http://bloomfieldnow.org>. ♦



ABOVE: Two volunteers work together on the streets of Bloomfield to conduct a housing condition inventory, determining various properties’ general conditions to assess needed repairs. Survey findings will help them find residents in need of immediate assistance to repair their homes. Photo courtesy of the Bloomfield Development Corporation.

Vegan Pittsburgh hosts author Jasmin Singer at Mixtape

By Sarah Scholl *Vegan Pittsburgh*

Garfield - Founded in 2013, local nonprofit Vegan Pittsburgh works towards a goal of helping people make the switch to veganism and increase the accessibility of vegan dining options in the greater Pittsburgh area. Team members work directly with local restaurant owners and food vendors to build positive relationships with the vegan community and provide education about the importance of offering patrons more clearly-labeled vegan menu items.

The organization is proud to host author Jasmin Singer for a reading and signing of her new memoir, *Always Too Much and Never Enough*. The author will be in *Garfield* - at Mixtape Music Gallery (4907 Penn Ave.) - on Saturday, April 16, from 5 to 8 p.m. Apart from her writing career, Singer is also the executive director of Our Hen House, a nonprofit aiming to change the world for animals; she also co-hosts the organization’s Webby-recognized podcast of the same name.

Told with humor and honesty, *Always Too Much and Never Enough* is Singer’s story of how she went from a bullied kid to becoming an empowered activist by finding peace with herself, her body, and her sexuality.

Committing to monthly juice fasts and a diet of whole, unprocessed foods, Singer lost almost a hundred pounds. The author writes of how she slowly gained an understanding of her destructive relationship with food, and even learned some hard truths about how intensely our society values thinness.

Singer’s debut is a raw and powerful account of self-realization. A relatable memoir about finding one’s true identity, the book has become an inspirational imperative to achieve a better life. The April 16 event is free to the public; Mixtape will offer vegan refreshments available for sale. For more information on Vegan Pittsburgh, visit <http://veganpittsburgh.org>. ♦



ABOVE: Celebrated author and podcast host Jasmin Singer visits Mixtape Music Gallery (4907 Penn Ave.) on Saturday, April 16 to read excerpts from her new book about achieving self-actualization through veganism. Photo courtesy of Vegan Pittsburgh.

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"Wilkinsburg: the side of America's 'Most Livable City' Pittsburgh doesn't want you to see"

By Damon Young *Very Smart Brothas*

Damon Young is the editor-in-chief of Very Smart Brothas, a daily digital magazine offering commentary, essay, and humor about news, pop culture, race, and sex. He is also a contributing editor for EBONY.com, a columnist for EBONY Magazine, and a founding editor of online magazine 1839.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following commentary was originally published on March 10, 2016, the day after a horrible shooting in Wilkinsburg claimed six lives, injured several, and left many more family members devastated by grief. We invite our readers to respond with their own thoughts about such a tragedy.

In many of the news stories you'll read today about the mass shooting in Wilkinsburg Wednesday night - which left five dead and three others wounded - it'll be referred to as a suburb of Pittsburgh. While this is technically true, it's a bit of a misnomer. One, because none of the qualities commonly associated with suburbs — tree-lined streets, healthy business districts, good schools, etc. - are true with Wilkinsburg.

The median income for a household is \$26,621. The crime rate is consistently one of the highest in the county. And the schools? Well, the high school — where I worked as a teacher for two and a half years — has been underperforming, understaffed, underfunded, and underpopulated for so long that, when the 2016-2017 school year begins, it will no longer exist.

From "Wilkinsburg to close high school, move students to Pittsburgh," [posted on WTAE.com on Sept. 17, 2015]:

The struggling Wilkinsburg School District plans to close its middle and high school and send those 200-plus students to Westinghouse Academy 6-12 in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. The plan was unveiled simultaneously Wednesday night in Wilkinsburg and Pittsburgh. The Wilkinsburg School District plans to spend \$10 million to renovate its two elementary schools. But there are no plans to fix the middle/high school built in 1910 and last expanded in 1940 because the district expects only 217 students to be enrolled there

next year. The district says enrollment is so low, it can't provide quality education either in the classroom or the playing field.

Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, Wilkinsburg students in grades 7-12 would attend Westinghouse Academy in nearby Homewood. Wilkinsburg will be responsible to transport its students daily and cover the cost of tuition.

Wilkinsburg's suburb status is also misleading because being a suburb of a city implies a certain physical distance between that larger city and the suburb. Wilkinsburg, however, isn't just Pittsburgh adjacent. It's Pittsburgh adjoined. I've lived in Pittsburgh for practically my entire life, and I'm still not quite sure where Pittsburgh ends and Wilkinsburg begins. I suspect it occurs when Braddock Ave. is crossed, but again I'm not certain.

If fact, Bakery Square - a multi-million dollar redevelopment that currently houses, among other things, Google and 500 sq. ft. studios that rent for up to \$1700 a month - is two miles away from the Wilkinsburg High School building and exists on the same street (Penn Ave.) as Wilkinsburg's business district. A three minute drive down Penn doesn't just put you in a different community. You travel to a different galaxy.

As Pittsburgh enjoys, promotes, and congratulates itself for its status as "America's Most Livable City," it's not hard to picture Wilkinsburg as one of the proverbial broom closets junk and trash are stuffed into before guests come over. The crime, the failing schools, the rapidly decreasing property values - these are not unintended coincidences or even unfortunate inevitabilities.

They're intentional results of Pittsburgh's decades-long disregard of its Black population. Funnel all the poor Black people to Wilkinsburg and Homewood and East Hills and out of East Liberty and Garfield and every other space targeted for revitalization. And then forget about them until it's time to air a news story about crime. What happened in Wilkinsburg last night and the amazing things happening in Pittsburgh's East End right now are opposite sides of the same coin. ♦

City moves to protect East Liberty's Enright Parklet

By Andrew McKeon *The Bulletin*

East Liberty - As a City Council public hearing was getting underway on Wednesday, March 22, Mayor Bill Peduto decided to postpone any action by Council to approve the re-zoning of the Penn Plaza apartments and an adjoining city parklet.

Mayor Peduto, in a press release the same day, said he did not feel that a community planning process to form a plan for the future development of the two sites had advanced far enough. In something of a pivot, the Mayor's Office also announced that Enright Parklet will remain publicly owned rather than be transferred to Pennley Park South, the owners of the sprawling apartment complex along Penn Ave. The developers have agreed to pay for improvements to the park, all of which would be subject to a detailed public process led by the Department of City Planning.

Neighbor to the park and East Liberty Development, Inc. board member Sallyann Kluz hopes the process can help everyone examine just how the park and the developers' private property can effect mutual benefits. "The time table for this is to be determined," she told *The Bulletin*. "I am hopeful it will be strongly informed by what is reasonable for a true engagement

process, rather than meet the demands of the developer and their time table."

Terms of the new arrangement will soon be included in a written agreement between the City and Pennley Park South that will define the process moving forward. Prior to the March 22 hearing, several members of the community - many of whom organized via social media - met with the developers to discuss proposals. "As a community, I believe that we still have the right and the responsibility for them to present a master plan for their property, which includes community input, before a rezoning process is completed," Kluz said. "It is too significant of a site to call for anything less."

Last July, when over 200 residents from the adjacent Penn Plaza Apartments received mass eviction notices due to pending redevelopment, it was a foreboding indication that major changes were coming to that part of East Liberty. Residents and their neighbors had looked to the city-owned Enright Parklet as not only a valuable green space for the neighborhood, but also as a buffer to the developer's plans; local citizens could effectively influence the developers' plans by pressuring City Council to protect the park.

"I would not describe [the Mayor's decision] as a victory, but it is certainly a good step in the right direction," Kluz maintained. "We remain gravely concerned about the eroding livability of East Liberty, via the loss of affordable housing and the displacement of residents who are being pushed further to both the physical and social margins of our city. Preserving Enright Parklet as a public park and community hub is only one win in a much greater struggle to create a truly livable city for everyone."

Two buildings at the Penn Plaza apartments in East Liberty are set to be demolished by Pennley Park South, Inc. this year and next. Through an agreement with Mayor William Peduto, state Rep. Ed Gainey, City Councilman Rev. Ricky Burgess and other stakeholders, the owners agreed to offer relocation assistance to residents.

Through joint efforts among the City, the developer, the Penn Plaza tenant council, and Neighborhood Allies, new homes have been found for all the residents of the now vacant building at 5704 Penn Ave. The next round of relocations, for the site's one remaining building still full of tenants, has been scheduled for early next year. ♦

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“Pittonkatonk” welcomes marching bands, thousands of revelers on May 7

By Andrew McKeon *The Bulletin*

Pittsburgh- As Pete Spynda grew up, so did the Pittsburgh music scene. Gone are most of the handbills and show posters that used to litter shop windows and dominate telephone poles. Spynda remembers one such flyer, handed him by an infamous local promoter, which fundamentally altered his life’s trajectory. All of a sudden, he was exploring different live music venues and getting hooked into lots of under-the-radar jazz shows around town.

The young audiophile played in experimental bands like “Air Guitar Magazine” before his record obsession got the best of him. After deejaying a few nights here and there for a few years, Spynda’s “Pandemic” nights took off; he is now seen as one of the city’s most vital curators of world music.

Along with fellow Bloomfielder Richard Randall, an associate professor of music theory at Carnegie Mellon University, Spynda founded “Pittonkatonk.” Ever since 2013, the giant gathering of mobile marching bands and enthusiastic audience-members-turned-performers has been humming every year in Squirrel Hill’s Schenley Park. The co-creators set out with a mission of linking community members with types of musical performance not

readily available to most Americans. “We’ve tried to create the event so that it’s like a big community picnic. The idea is to stage a big potluck where everyone brings a dish. We’ll cook some food and encourage everyone else to bring some more food and drink,” Spynda said. “We want the community to feel like they own part of the event. By bringing a dish, you have a sense of ownership. It’s entirely participatory, so if nobody shows up with food, then we don’t eat. We don’t charge anyone, so we just take donations. All the money goes back to the bands, and pays the permits and insurance.”

Last year, the festival drew nearly 3,000 people to the park with brass music of all styles; Balkan, New Orleans Jazz, Symphonic, and street/protest/punk bands all came together to perform. Regardless of all the money-making possibilities with such a large-scale event, Spynda is firm about why he wants to keep admission free and open to the public. “I don’t want a kid who is really interested in some of these bands to have to leave because he’s hungry and doesn’t have any money - while vendors are selling \$8 hot dogs,” he said.

Pittonkatonk also reached out to the University Preparatory high school [U Prep] in the Hill District; with the assistance of the school’s band director, Abby Gross, Spynda and Randall organized a collaborative workshop with the festival’s



AT LEFT: Thousands of merry-making, foot-stomping fans flock to the sounds of brass music in Squirrel Hill’s Schenley Park. The annual potluck and music festival known as “Pittonkatonk” brings touring Balkan, second-line, and street bands to-gather with local noise-makers to create one big, loud, free-for-all. Photo courtesy of Pete Spynda.

headlining band, Providence’s “What Cheer? Brigade.” What followed was the bedrock for the Young Musicians Collaborative (YMC), a pilot program connecting teenagers with professional, yet unpretentious, musicians in a constructive environment.

“We feel like it is important to teach these kids that there’s life outside of high school marching bands or playing in the symphony,” Spynda said. “Our idea is to empower the kids and tell them, ‘Hey, you guys can play on your street. You can do whatever you want. You can have a day job, but then also play in a band. Just like the What Cheer? guys.’” The band visited the school’s campus to trade songs with student players and plan their grand collaboration, a festival performance.

Pittonkatonk tries to blur the lines between performer and spectator by creating a

barrier-free experience where musicians forsake the stage to perform within, and with, the crowd. This year’s festivities take place on Saturday, May 7 - from 1 to 10 p.m. - at the Vietnam Veterans’ Pavilion in Schenley Park. The event will host six touring bands and six local bands, featuring Polish Hill’s May Day Marching Band and New York City’s Raya Brass Band, among others.

YMC represents the lasting, year-round footprint of the festival’s good, foot-stomping intentions. 2015 headliners What Cheer? Brigade make a return performance with the U Prep students on May 7. As a warm-up for its next YMC studies, the U Prep band is scheduled to put on a live performance at Spak Brothers Pizza (5107 Penn Ave.) on April 1. As part of “Pizza Poems PGH,” a special event aiming to publicize young poets while also delivering discreet works of art to unsuspecting pizza-lovers, the young musicians will take to Penn Ave. and make some beautiful noise.

Spynda sees events like these as a way for YMC to keep reaching out to the community and carrying the Pittonkatonk torch throughout the year. “We want to eventually open up space to do community workshops with local musicians and touring acts,” he acknowledged. “We want to grow the event so that it’s more than just a one-day potluck.”

As organizers welcome more people to volunteer their time and expertise, they hope the all-ages event can make a lasting impression on even more audience members this year. Although the event has no required admission charge, it is fully supported by the community; monetary and pot-luck style food donations are strongly encouraged.

Pittonkatonk has also established an IndieGoGo crowdfunding campaign effective until May 10, where backers are greatly appreciated. For more information, visit <http://pittonkatonk.org> or email pittonkatonk@gmail.com. ♦

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Lawrenceville offers Mother's Day delights

By Genevieve E. T. Barbee *Lawrenceville Corporation*

Lawrenceville - The growing neighborhood has become a destination for everything from a mind-blowing meal to fantastic film festivals. This spring, fifty-four Lawrenceville businesses have come together to share events and activities on <http://lvpgh.com/mom> - encouraging Pittsburghers to treat and indulge their moms over Mother's Day Weekend (Friday, May 6 through Sunday, May 8).

Every mom will feel appreciated if her children pick up a steak from the Butcher on Butler (5145 Butler St.) for a home-cooked meal on her special day. Or, she might enjoy a complimentary flower to go along with the discounts on women's clothing and accessories at Thriftique (125 51st St.). No Mother's Day is complete without brunch and, on Sunday, May 8, Butler St. will provide many options: Tender Bar+Kitchen (4300), Dive Bar & Grille (5147), and Tenth Ward newcomer, B52 Café (5202), where patrons can enjoy free house-made chocolates from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m.

The aforementioned website features a full list of activities, as well as links to a map where users can filter by "Mother's Day Destination" and get directions to any of the participating businesses. ♦



Summer campers get creative at Assemble

By Taia Pandolfi *Assemble*



ABOVE: Young campers get up close and personal with bugs and other natural phenomena during Assemble's summer camp at 5125 Penn Ave. Assemble now offers four different camps, stewarded by veteran teachers and artists, open to kids of all ages. Photo courtesy of Assemble.

Garfield - For Andrea Barber, a mother of three boys, the year is filled with weekly trips to 5125 Penn Ave. with her two older boys. This Garfield storefront-turned-maker-space is the home of Assemble, a local nonprofit that offers children's programming based on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) principles.

Within the city's arts scene, Assemble has made a name for itself by expanding the maker movement to a younger audience and inspiring kids to get involved in engineering, arts, creative writing, design, technology, and environmental sciences, among other fields. In addition to its year-round programming, the organization runs educational summer camps designed to keep kids inquisitive and creative throughout the summer months. As always, program fees are waived for Garfield residents.

"When I grew up in the Garfield area, there were more programs like this summer camp. But, for some reason, a lot of them seemed to be diminishing over the last few decades," Barber said. "I heard about [Assemble's summer camp program] and thought, 'oh my, that is such a cool idea.' My boys often feel like people do not understand them, so they like being free to express themselves through their art; they enjoy communicating through what they are making."

Barber, whose sons attended Assemble's summer camp last year, has already regis-

tered the boys for the upcoming camps, which run from June 20 through August 12. Led by experienced teachers and artists, the camps offer children an opportunity to use their creative abilities to record and produce music, decode secret messages, deconstruct electronics, and engage with the world around them.

Barber appreciates Assemble's focus on hands-on learning, which lets her kids use their creativity and skills to conquer certain problem-solving quandaries. "I really love Assemble," she said. "I feel like everyone should [enroll] their kid there because it is a great place for kids to express themselves."

The four camps - "Mysteries of the Universe," "Top Secret: Maker Mission," "Storylab SciFi," and "Mixtape Camp" - are open to ages 6 through 13. Each camp will be divided into appropriate age groupings. Classes at Assemble typically have a student-to-teacher ratio of ten-to-one, ensuring that each child will have individual attention and guidance during each session.

Registration is \$200 per child, and free for Garfield residents.

Assemble also offers "pay-what-you-can" scholarships, as well as a donation option; please contact Nina Barbuto at nina@assemblepgh.org or 412-254-4230 for more information. To enroll children for summer camp, or to read more about the different sessions, please visit <http://assemblepgh.org>. ♦

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Neighborhood FOCUS

Affordable housing report card: ELDI analyzes results of latest initiative

By Elizabeth Sensky *East Liberty Development, Inc.*

East Liberty - A recent study published by Civic Design and Planning LLC (CDP), an independent urban design and research firm based in Pittsburgh, sheds light on a key component behind East Liberty's revival that often goes unnoticed.

The "Affordable Homeownership Initiative Impact Study" examines an initiative of East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI), a local community development corporation. The initiative sought to buy up problem properties in the neighborhood and help low-income families own these homes.

Published in June of 2015, the study was an effort by ELDI to determine the effects of the program, which ran from 2000 to 2014, and discover whether the program was successful in fulfilling its goal of stabilizing the neighborhood. "We asked the folks at CDP to help verify the impact of homeownership activities undertaken by us and our numerous partners in an effort to examine the impacts and acknowledge the work done by us and those partners," Skip Schwab, deputy director of the organization, explained.

The fourteen-year program provided homeownership and wealth-building opportunities to forty-two households who could not otherwise afford to own a home. By removing negligent landlords, fixing up vacant properties in disrepair, and matching those properties to low-income residents, the program also helped reduce crime along Mellon St. between East Liberty Blvd. and Stanton Ave.

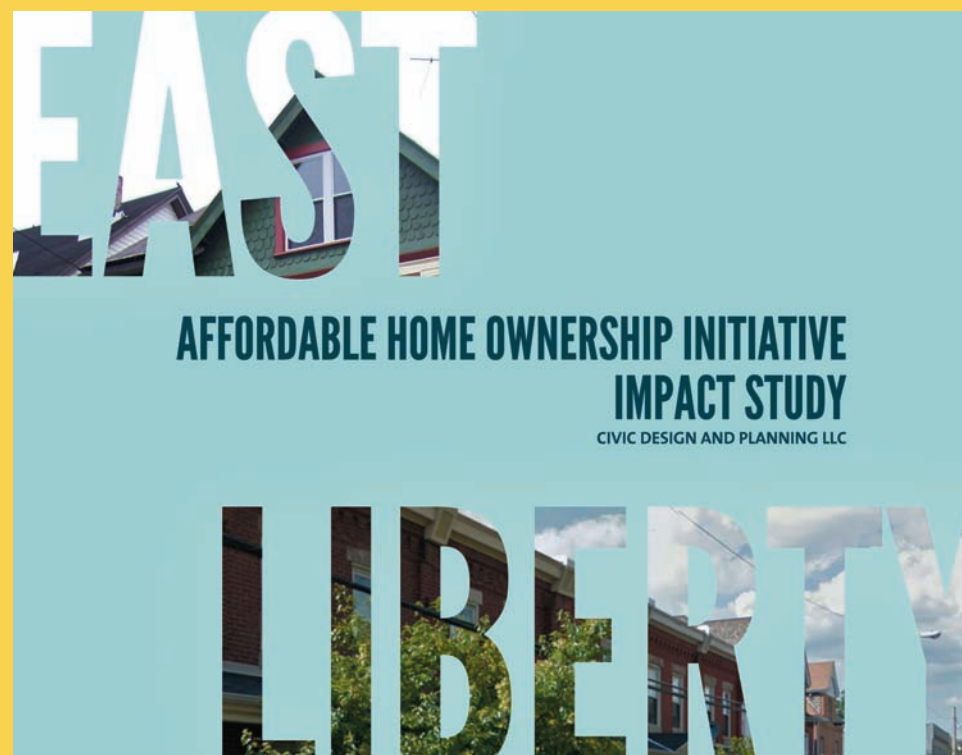
According to the study, ELDI was responsible for acquiring the vacant buildings at a low cost, obtaining project financing, renovating the properties, and working with organizations to find a potential buyer. The organization was also charged with managing substantial construction work and securing more operational funding through local and state grants.

"Because East Liberty has one of the lowest rates of homeownership in the city (16.1%, compared to the city average of 47.6%), developing units for owner-occupancy has been a high priority for ELDI," the study read. "The affordable homeownership housing initiative should be understood as one 'prong' in ELDI's multipronged housing strategy."

Other prongs have been more publicized, namely the development of units for moderate income buyers and sponsoring market-rate housing projects that aim to preserve the asset value of affordable units. Stefani Danes and Stephen Quick, both adjunct professors at Carnegie Mellon University, wrote the report after spending six months interviewing funders, partners, and homeowners involved with the program to gain a wide range of input needed to assess its impacts. Neighborhood partners who contributed to the interviews include Open Hand Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, the Housing Authority of the city of Pittsburgh, and the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA).

Along with first-hand interviews, Danes and Quick drew on available data from ELDI, the Pittsburgh Department of City Planning, and the U.S. Census Bureau. Quick explained how property owners interviewed were selected to participate in the initiative.

"There was a list of well over forty properties that went through this type of renovation, some of which were URA-sponsored. ELDI requested that we limit our interviews to those properties that were fully sponsored by ELDI in order to provide a truer measure of their impact," he said. "As a result, we had a pool of almost twenty renovated properties ready before our interviews."



The report he co-authored found that the program was successful in its goal of stabilizing the neighborhood and improving the lives of new homeowners. However, results also showed that since the program was only able to renovate a relatively small number of houses, it could not produce a high statistical impact on neighborhood property values. "Overall, out of 3,519 residential properties, forty-two houses are not enough to have a direct measurable impact on the neighborhood as a whole," Quick and Danes wrote.

"I expected, perhaps like everybody else, to see an impact that we intuitively thought was happening, so it was surprising that there wasn't more change in the property value," Danes confessed. "But, if you think back, it would take a lot of units to make a difference in the more than 3,000 units in the neighborhood, so I guess we shouldn't be surprised that change takes longer than once expected."

While recent news often focuses on rapidly increasing housing prices in East Liberty,

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the study prompts residents to consider the larger context. This exaggeration, Danes and Quick believe, may be exacerbated by the focus on the commercial center of East Liberty along Penn Ave., a place where new developments are front and center while the main residential core of the neighborhood often remains more hidden.

“That entire two or three block area around the old historic core is the ‘no-man’s zone’ because most of the housing in East Liberty is on the other side of that,” Danes clarified. “A lot of the housing that is in poor condition or run by problem landlords is in that area. Since that area is not highly visible, people aren’t aware of the problems there.”

“The Affordable Homeownership Initiative was part of a bigger process by which ELDI obtained property in order to rid the neighborhood of some of the worst slum landlords. That, in and of itself, is a strategy that has made a difference in the neighborhood, but the decision to fix up and sell some of those units to low-income home buyers is an unusual combination.”

– Stefani Danes,
Co-Author, *Affordable Homeownership Initiative Impact Study*

Considering the slower rate of decline in the neighborhood’s property values between 2000 and 2010, Danes emphasized how essential trending value is to supporting a stable neighborhood. “The Affordable Homeownership Initiative was part of a bigger process by which ELDI obtained property in order to rid the neighborhood of some of the worst slum landlords,” she explained. “That, in and of itself, is a strategy that has made a difference in the neighborhood, but the decision to fix up and sell some of those units to low-income home buyers is an unusual combination.”

Sprinkled throughout the report are new homeowners’ stories about what the initiative means to them and how it has enhanced their lives. “It was really interesting in all the interviews to see the tremendous amount of pride that the homeowners have in their homes and in how much the program has helped stabilize their families,” Quick said.

The report notes that, while increasing in recent years to catch up to the city’s average, property values in East Liberty have remained fairly steady over the past decade. While a balance between rental and owner occupied housing still needs to be addressed, the larger issue of housing diversity also looms. “The big issue in the long run is getting a good balance between market-rate and subsidized housing. And in subsidized housing we need both homeownership and rental together,” Quick said.

The study functions as a reminder for everyone to widen their perspectives on the current housing issues facing East Liberty. Maelene Myers, ELDI’s executive director, strives for a critical balance between rental units and homeownership. “The community plan called for a blended community,” she said. “Not just blending race and income, but also housing opportunities. We’re aiming for one third affordable, one third ‘workforce affordable,’ and one third market-rate housing.” ♦

Remembering history at Arsenal Elementary: Dr. Salk’s 1954 polio vaccine test

By Dr. Gilbert Ross, M.D. *American Council on Science & Health*

Lawrenceville - On February 23, 1954, a group of children from Lawrenceville’s Arsenal Elementary School received the first injections of the new polio vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk.

The first effective polio vaccine was developed in 1952 by Dr. Salk at the University of Pittsburgh, but it would require years of testing. Beginning on that February day more than sixty-two years ago, the vaccine was first tested at Arsenal and the nearby Watson Home for Children.

The vaccine was then used in a test called the “Francis Field Trial,” a medical experiment led by Thomas Francis that was, at the time, the largest in history. This test began with some 4,000 children at Franklin Sherman Elementary School in McLean, VA and would eventually involve 1.8 million children in forty-four states. Thousands of health care professionals and other volunteers administered the vaccine and collected results.

By the conclusion of the study, roughly 440,000 received one or more injections of the vaccine; about 210,000 children received a placebo, consisting of harmless culture media. Around 1.2 million chil-

dren received no vaccination to serve as a control group; they were then observed to see if they might contract polio.

The results of the field trial were announced on April 12, 1955 (the tenth anniversary of the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose paralysis was generally believed to have been caused by polio). The Salk vaccine had been 60 to 70% effective against PV1 (poliovirus type 1), over 90% effective against PV2 and PV3, and 94 % effective against the development of bulbar polio.

Soon after Dr. Salk’s vaccine was licensed in 1955, children’s vaccination campaigns were launched. In the United States, following a mass immunization campaign promoted by the March of Dimes, the annual number of polio cases fell from 35,000 in 1953 to 5,600 by 1957. By 1961, only 161 cases were recorded in the U.S.

The sixty-second anniversary of the polio vaccine should remind all Americans – indeed, everyone everywhere – of the dark cloud of communicable diseases that plagued humans over the millennia, and how medical science has so effectively thwarted the onslaught. ♦

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Green-friendly geeks unite on Penn Ave.

By Christine Bethea *Bulletin contributor*

Garfield - Originally founded as a key event of World Environment Day, the "Geek Art / Green Innovator's" festival (GA/GI) is celebrating its seventh year during the Friday, May 6 "Unblurred" art crawl on Penn Ave. "It's also part of Pittsburgh 200," festival organizer Brenda Brown said. "We are happy to add this annual event to the roster of excitement planned for our city's bicentennial anniversary."

Resuming a post it has held for several years, the Pittsburgh Glass Center (PGC, 5472 Penn Ave.) will serve as GA/GI's information headquarters, showcasing the opening festival events and fashion segments. For Unblurred on Friday, May 6, Adam Keene has coordinated a unique installation of music, glass-blowing, dance, and technology at the PGC. His group, Speak Life Storytellers, encourages festival-goers to record sounds and other interesting noises to share at its "Gather Round the Fire" event during GA/GI.

"The May 6th GA/GI at Unblurred, will be full of surprises," Brown assured. "We've contacted the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society for a public demonstration of how to care for those adorable little trees." One of livelier festival segments involves CEEMI, a portable generator that turns any compatible device - like a laptop or smartphone - into a musical instrument.

"Technology has pulled us apart," said Gil Teixeira, who created the technology. "Now, it can bring us back together. My invention allows total strangers to create music in groups or even perform concerts."

Amber Epps, business owner and "Mainstreets" Manager at the

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), is hosting "One Man's Trash" at her shop, Local 412 (4901 Penn Ave.). The hip-hop event mixes beats, songs, and rhythms from the 80s and 90s into live performance. "We've got Karaoke, too, so you can jump onstage and impress your friends with your throw-back music knowledge," Epps noted. "This event will show that just because something is out of date, or no longer useful to one person, that doesn't mean someone else isn't able to make it into something new and completely awesome."

The BGC's popular "Garfield Night Market" will make its return for the season while GA/GI unfolds on the Unblurred evening of Friday, May 6; interested vendors may visit <http://garfieldnightmarket.org> to apply for the market. GA/GI's sponsors include the Pittsburgh Technology Center, the BGC, Cyber Punk Apocalypse, the Kelly Strayhorn Theater, and the PGC. Those interested in exploring the festival can find more information at <http://gagi7.blogspot.com>. ♦



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Spork *continued from page 1*

Although the lease for the space was signed back in 2014, lots of work had to be done to get the space ready - including a new HVAC system, electrical system, and plumbing, as well as fourteen separate inspections from both the city and the county.

General manager Jonathan Corey was excited to build the space up from a blank canvas. "We've stuck to the main themes of 'value' and 'approachability' throughout the restaurant," he explained. A "small plates" menu defies the rigidity of course-structured eating; smaller dishes, which encourage sharing, help the meal flow. Rather than a traditional style of dinner, guests are treated to more of a free-formed experience.

The Caribbean-inspired menu changes slightly every day, yet always includes a variety of vegetarian and gluten free options, as well as dishes that can be modified to meet various dietary restrictions. A small plate at Spork typically costs between \$8 and \$15. The kitchen prides itself on the fact that everything on the plate is made from scratch, including fresh-made pasta. Corey noted that the kitchen staff cures prosciutto and other meats "in-house," using a curing chamber in the basement. Management is presently waiting on the approval of a "frozen dessert" permit, a prerequisite for any plans to add homemade ice cream to the dessert menu.

Originally, Spork was to be named "Taste Restaurant." When asked about the name change, Corey replied that the original name may have come off as "uppity or pretentious," while the name of "Spork" possesses an element of whimsy. The restaurant managed to translate some of that whimsy into its décor, most of which was designed by Steel City Arts (SCA), a local furniture design and fabrication firm that operates out of TechShop in Bakery Square.

When the two-man firm, founded by of Kip Reese and Ollie Olivieri, took on the project of creating Spork's interior from scratch, they invited Garfield resident Justin George to join the SCA fold. "We tried to strike a balance between a rougher more 'reclaimed' look and something more formally refined," George said. "For us, that manifested as pieces that were crisp and structurally complex with surface textures that maintained and conveyed a more informal appeal."

As George told *The Bulletin*, the firm's search for reclaimed wood was fairly "convoluted from a sourcing standpoint." Working with fifteen different suppliers in the region, SCA was able to scrounge together enough wood to keep fabricating most of the restaurant's interior furniture and work surfaces. "We were able to work with Urban Tree to source most of our reclaimed material, and Construction Junction for most of the oak that we needed," George said.

Among SCA's works are the reclaimed wood booths and banquettes, a long walnut serving bar, exterior paneling, bathroom countertops, charcuterie boards, and even cookie platters. Thanks to an open format that incorporates "kitchen counter" seating into Spork's fifty-two person capacity, guests can sit at a table or booth, or even choose to watch their dishes be prepared right before their very eyes. The craft cocktail menu features a number of beverages composed of homemade tonic, vermouth, bitters, tinctures, and cordials. As a way of offering the same restaurant experience for patrons who do not imbibe alcohol, the bar also serves craft "mocktails," which are created with the same care and composition as traditional cocktails.

The bar features around a dozen "select-style" beers and micro-brews, along with some more common brands. Having experienced more beer sales than he ever anticipated, the general manager plans to grow the list; in response to requests from its clientele, Spork

will begin serving certain limited-release beers in the coming months. The wine list features twenty well-priced wines that can be ordered either by the glass as or by the bottle.

In Spork's first month of business, the response from nearby residents looking for a nice dinner place within walking distance has been positive. Management chose not to widely publicize the restaurant's opening, allowing staff to ease into things and aim for a flawless first month. Instead, the restaurant pursued a soft opening; it held several pre-launch, invite-only events in the days leading up to the official opening.

The restaurant still has yet to add all of the finishing touches to its vibe; Pittsburgh Glass Center artist Bernadette Gerbe, proprietress of Gerbe Glass in Lawrenceville, has been commissioned to create a four-foot, networked glass "spork" for some symbolic interior decoration. Aside from the effort of all involved in pulling off such an intrepid design plan, George is just glad to help a neighborhood restaurant take root in Garfield. "There is no doubt that living up the street made this a more personal project," he admitted. "I was somewhat directly shaping an aspect of my everyday environment."

The restaurant does not take reservations; however, it does use the "NoWait" app - developed in Pittsburgh, which allows guests to remotely add their names to a wait list and receive a smartphone notification when their table is available.

Spork's hours of operation are Monday through Thursday, from 5 to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, from 5 to 11 p.m.; and Sunday, from 5 to 9 p.m. Learn more at <http://facebook.com/sporkpgh>. ♦

BELOW: At the new Garfield restaurant, Spork (5430 Penn Ave.), which opened in early March, general manager Jonathan Corey (left, behind the cast-concrete bar) serves wine to guests Sherry Halsband and Daniel Berczik of Highland Park. Photo by John Colombo.



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Smart Horizons Career Online student earns high school diploma in mere months

By Christina Muzzie Garfield Jubilee Association

Garfield - Breanna Goins recently graduated from “Smart Horizons Career Online High School” (SHCOHS) to become the Garfield Jubilee Association’s (GJA) first such graduate, a testament to the organization’s new focus. After successfully completing an online prerequisite course, Goins enrolled in SHCOHS in October of last year.

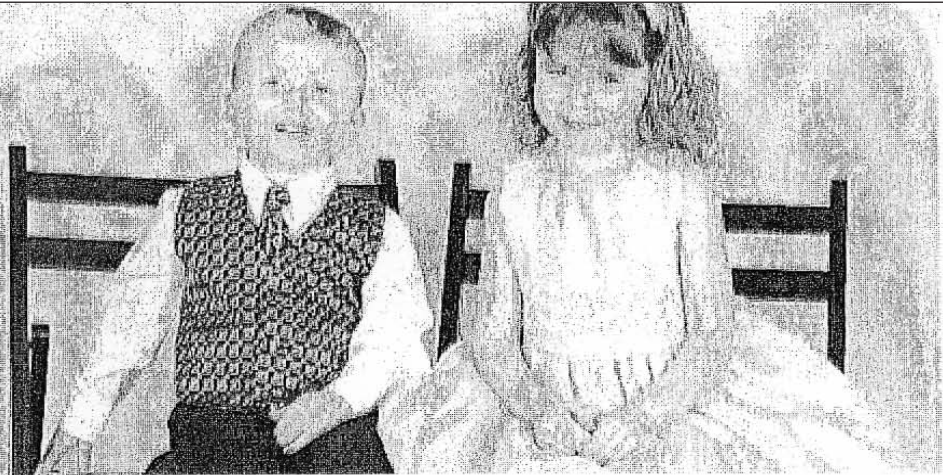
She received ten transfer credits from her previous high school transcript before completing the remaining credits in just three months and eventually earning her diploma in January. Alongside her regular coursework, Goins worked with SHCOHS to achieve a “Career Certificate in Food and Customer Service.” Thanks to a CCAC medical terminology class offered at GJA’s 5323 Penn Ave. location, the young woman is currently enrolled in a nursing assistant certification program at CCAC, where she hopes to continue her education in the nursing field.

“The high school classes were a lot of work. They taught me a lot of things,” Goins admitted. “But, the hard work was worth it because now I am happy to earn my high school diploma and become one

step closer to getting a good job.” An alternative to GED classes, SHCOHS is designed for students who need to earn a high school diploma in order to take the next steps in their careers. Presently, GJA is helping twenty students get online to work towards their high school diplomas. Call 412-665-5200 to learn more about enrolling a local student in SCOHS. ♦



ABOVE: When asked how she feels about earning her high school diploma through Garfield Jubilee Association’s online high school programming, Breanna Goins cannot help but smile. Photo by Christina Muzzie.



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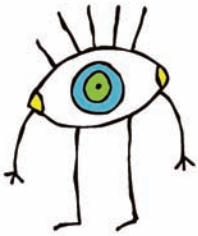
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Arbrew Days on Butler: drinks for trees' sake

By Maeve Rafferty *Lawrenceville Tree Tenders*



Lawrenceville - By simply having a drink at a participating bar or cafe during Arbrew Days on Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30, anyone and everyone can help the trees in Lawrenceville do their job (read: cleaning the air, soaking up stormwater, and providing shade from the sun).

Organized by the Releaf Lawrenceville committee, a group of volunteers dedicated to growing the neighborhood's tree canopy and green spaces, the Arbrew Days event will donate proceeds from the sale of tree-themed drinks to a good cause - the ongoing work of caring for existing trees, planting an even greater variety in suitable locations, and educating residents and business owners about what a great return-on-investment that trees can yield.

Releaf Lawrenceville was born last year out of Tree Pittsburgh's "urban forest" planning process, which identified Lawrenceville as being one of the least canopied neighborhoods in the city, while at the same time pointing to the area's high level of volunteer engagement and the diversity of its land uses.

Last year, over a dozen businesses on Butler St. - from Espresso A Mano on the 3600 block to Roundabout Brewery on the 4900 block, and even all the way to Dive Bar & Grille on the 5100 block - took part in Lawrenceville's very first Arbrew Days.

Releaf Lawrenceville looks to build on the success this year, turning a de-centralized celebration of plant life into a much-anticipated, annual feature of the Lawrenceville social calendar.

Planned around Arbor Day, on the last Friday of April, Arbrew Days coincides with the turn of the weather. By late April, all of the street-side trees, the city's quietest air conditioners, will have finally leafed out of their winter anonymity to welcome the presence of springtime birdsong. There is no better time to raise a toast of spruce ale or quince beer, or whatever wonderful concoctions Butler St. has to offer.

Releaf members plan to roam the street too, quenching a collective thirst they worked up from a year's worth of advocacy and tree-tending. Some of the organization's regular projects include tree plantings, mulching and pruning events, and riverfront restoration work; members will also steward the Lawrenceville Tree Park at the corner of Keystone St. and Stanton Ave.

"We wanted to do something fun to raise awareness of the benefits of trees and celebrate the hard work that has gone into caring for the urban forest this year," Sarah Koenig, co-chair of the Releaf committee, explained. "We're also planning some hands-on tree work over Arbrew Days to hopefully connect with new volunteers. So, you can get your hands dirty with us and then have a drink afterwards."

Participating Butler St. businesses will feature leaves and posters in their windows, an invitation to a refreshing drink in Lawrenceville - for the trees' sake - this Arbor Day weekend. For more event details, information about Releaf Lawrenceville, or an application for a street tree, contact Sarah or Maeve at lvtreetenders@gmail.com. ♦

Expanding your family by a few feet?

Attend the Mom & Baby Expo at West Penn Hospital.
Wednesday, May 4
5 - 7:30 p.m.



- ♥ OB-GYN and pediatrician meet and greet
- ♥ Labor and delivery room tours
- ♥ Midwives, doulas and prenatal yoga
- ♥ Home safety check appointments
- ♥ Nursing bra fittings
- ♥ Homemade baby food recipes
- ♥ Appetizers for adults, snacks for kids
- ♥ Pampering products for moms
- ♥ Baby products, college savings plans and more!

Activities subject to change

Register at meet-dr-right.com, or call 1-855-856-0319.

Free validated parking in the Millvale Avenue garage

Allegheny Health Network
West Penn Hospital
Wintergarden Conference Center
4800 Friendship Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

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the
Bulletin **BOARD**

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 **May** issue of *The Bulletin* are due by **April 15**. Please submit listings using our online form at http://bit.ly/bulletin_submit.

April 1 - Friday

GARFIELD

Witness Aleppo Photos

Witness Aleppo: Photographs, Stories and Sound from Pre-war Syria. By Jason Hamacher . Reception Friday, April 1, 2016 – 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Irma Freeman Center for Imagination. 5006 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. www.irmafreeman.org.

Sam Fucchs Art

Bantha Tea Bar - 5002 Penn Avenue. "By Any Materials Necessary" Artwork by Samm Fuchs. "A body of work featuring many different materials, styles, and subjects." Music by Ishtar.

EAST LIBERTY

Lecture by Todd Wilson

On Friday April 1, at 7:30 pm, the East Liberty Valley Historical Society will present a lecture by Todd Wilson: "Bridges of the East End" at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland Ave., Room # 234. The lecture is free and open to the public. Todd Wilson is a Project Engineer and author of a recent book of the same title, published by Arcadia Publishing.

April 10 - Sunday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free Walking Tour

The Lawrenceville Historical Society will hold its annual spring walking tour on Sunday, April 10, 2016, at 2 p.m. The tour will begin at the corner of 40th and Penn Avenue and will explore the grounds of the historic Allegheny Arsenal. Tour will last approximately 1 ½ hours. No reservations necessary. Wear comfortable shoes. Rain date set

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

for Sunday, April 24 at 2 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast

Our Lady of the Angels Parish's Holy Name Society will hold their annual "All the Pancakes You Can Eat" Breakfast on Sunday, Sunday, April 10, 2016, from 9 a.m. until noon in Saint Augustine Hall (37th Street near Butler Street in the Lawrenceville section of Pittsburgh). Adults, \$6.00 and children (under 12), \$3.00. Tickets will be on sale in advance and at the door. Proceeds benefit local and parish charities.

April 14 - Thursday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free Microsoft Excel Workshop

Goodwill's Workforce Development Center at 118 52nd St., 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 April 14 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-swp.org.

April 16 - Saturday

GARFIELD

Mad Hatters Fashion Show

Fairmont Apartments Activities Committee presents MAD HATTERS FASHION SHOW & SALAD O-RAMA. Saturday April 16th from 11:30am-3:00pm. 5461 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. Tickets are available for a donation of \$7.00. Call 412-362-6081 for tickets.

Free Homebuyer Education Workshop

NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania will be facilitating a PNC Bank sponsored Homebuyer Education Workshop on Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The workshop will take place at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's Community Activity Center located at 113 N. Pacific Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224. Join NeighborWorks to learn about the process of home purchase from: "I think I might want to buy a house" to the process of getting a mortgage loan to working with realtor to closing and move-in. Pre-registration is required: 412-281-9773 or www.nwwpa.org.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Riverfront Tree Planting

It's tree planting season, and we couldn't be more excited! Tree Pittsburgh and Lawrenceville Tree Tenders will be working to plant 50 trees by the Lawrenceville Dog Park on Saturday, April 16th from 9AM - 12PM. Help make Lawrenceville greener by registering for this volunteer tree planting! Please register on Tree Pittsburgh's calendar: treepittsburgh.org/events

April 17 - Sunday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Movie and Lunch

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church (237 37th St.) will host its first movie and lunch event of 2016 on Sunday, April 17 beginning at 11:15 a.m. We will be screening the 2003 film "Luther" starring Joseph Fiennes as the 16th century monk who desired to reform the Church of his time and instead launched the Protestant Reformation. Lunch will be provided during an intermission in the film. The event is free of charge and open to the community. Free-will offerings will be accepted with the proceeds donated to organizations providing lunches to Lawrenceville youth in need. For more information, call the church at 412.621.2720. Visit Zion on the Web at www.zionevangelicallutheran.org.

April 18 - Monday

BLOOMFIELD

Sisters Sorella Fundraiser

Please join us from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. for food, drink, games, auctions, live music AND a live performance by the Sorellas themselves at Saint Maria Goretti Parish (4712 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224). All proceeds will go toward the completion of the first season of The Sisters Sorella web series and the making of the tv sitcom pilot.

Weight Loss Information Session

April 18th, from 6-7:30pm. Free; registration is appreciated, but not required. We invite you and your family to West Penn Hospital for an information session to enhance your understanding of weight loss surgeries and services offered by our institute. The presentations include an informational talk given by our bariatric surgical staff and a question-and-answer period. To register, please call 412.362.8677 Option 1.

April 19 - Tuesday

BLOOMFIELD

Financial Workshop

April 19, 6:30pm. Presented by Bloomfield Development Corporation with First Commonwealth Bank, the workshop will cover many aspects of financial literacy including budgeting, debt management strategies, and housing financing options. Come with questions around personal finance and leave armed to take control of your

Garfield “Green Zone” Meeting

Interested in a plan for dedicated open space in Garfield? Come to a meeting on Thursday, April 21, at 6 p.m. at the Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.) to see an early draft of a plan to create just such a "green zone."


Your input is crucial to shaping a final version, so your comments are more than welcome at the meeting. Pizza and beverages will be provided. For more information, contact Rick Swartz at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (412-441-6950, ext. 11). We want to hear from you!

RESTORE + REBUILD
Fill in the gaps and provide quality, affordable housing as outlined by the Garfield 2030 masterplan.

ACQUIRE + PLAN
Acquire properties as they become available to create contiguous development sites where parcel based infill development would be prohibitively expensive.

PRESERVE + PLAY
Acquire properties as they become available to create contiguous greenspaces and high quality recreation areas.

INTEGRATE + CONNECT
Make Garfield a more walkable neighborhood by creating two pedestrian loops around the hilltop. These routes ensure that open spaces for recreation, agriculture, and future development are accessible and promote an active lifestyle for all of Garfield.



GARFIELD

Volunteer Opportunities & Services

financial future! Dinner and childcare provided. Held at 366 Gross Street, 15224, dinner begins at 6pm, workshop at 6:30pm. Please RSVP by April 11 with Christina Howell at 412-681-8800 or Christina@bloomfieldnow.org.

April 20 - Wednesday

STANTON HEIGHTS

Monthly SHNA Meeting

Monthly meeting of the neighborhood association. 6:30 p.m. at the Sunnyside Elementary Library.

April 21 - Thursday

BLOOMFIELD

Community Forum

April 21, 6:30pm. Bloomfield Community Forum Meeting. This month's featured speaker will be the Department of Permits, Licenses, and Inspections, who will present on the city-wide fire inspection process currently underway. Held bi-monthly, forum meetings discuss all aspects related to the quality of life in Bloomfield for both residents and businesses. All are welcome. Light dinner will be served. Meeting begins at 6:30pm at Shepherd Wellness Community building, 4800 Sciota Street, 15224. For questions please contact Christina at 412-681-8800 or Christina@bloomfieldnow.org.

April 23 - Saturday

EAST LIBERTY

Cathedral Concerts Series Performance

East Liberty Presbyterian Church's Cathedral Concerts series will continue on Saturday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. with a collaborative performance between the Arsenal Duo and the Point Park University Dance Department. Comprised of organist Dr. Ed Moore and pianist Nathan Carterette, the Arsenal Duo will pair up with one of the country's finest dance departments to deliver a unique evening of intertwined music and dance, with the soaring architecture of ELPC's Sanctuary as the backdrop. The concert is free, but a freewill offering will be accepted. Please visit www.ELPC.church for details, or call Dr. Ed Moore at 412.441.3800 x24. The address is 116 South Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

April 26 - Tuesday

GARFIELD

Facade Grants

The Urban Redevelopment Authority provides 50% matching grants to Garfield homeowners for home facade improvements. Join URA staff to ask questions about the requirements for this program and learn how to apply.

April 27 - Wednesday

GARFIELD

Health Insurance Enrollment Event

Do you or your children need health insurance? Individuals and families can meet with a trained health insurance enrollment assister on Wednesday, April 27th, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 5321 Penn Avenue. To determine if you qualify to enroll in a PA Health Choices or Affordable Care Act health insurance plan and to schedule a FREE health insurance enrollment consultation, please visit www.getcoveredamerica.org/connector or call 412-212-6843.

April 28 - Thursday

LAWRENCEVILLE

How to Use Google Maps

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 April 28 will focus on learning to use Google Maps. An instructor from the library will help students become comfortable with using Google maps to get around town. Free parking is available. To register, contact Jaime Tracktenberg at 412-632-1842 or jaime.tracktenberg@goodwillswpa.org.

April 30 - Saturday

EAST LIBERTY

Ultimate Play Day

When: Saturday, April 30, 2016 - from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Where: East Liberty Park. The Ultimate Play Day is a day long celebration focused on the idea that play is a crucial aspect of everyone's life. Hosted by the Playful Pittsburgh Collaborative, the Ultimate Play Day is an opportunity for the Pittsburgh community to come together in a centralized location to engage in and learn about play. This year, a variety of Pittsburgh regional organizations will host various play stations throughout East Liberty Park to provide a holistic model of innovative and creative play. The event will feature outdoor play, an opportunity to create with natural materials such as small logs, rocks, & acorns, games made from recycled material, an audio playground, art, the imagination playground, story telling sessions, hula hoop play, and drum circles.

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.

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

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



Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Summer Camp Program
2016 Cops & Kids with Citiparks
For Boys and Girls 10 to 14 years of age

The Camp Sessions will be held:
July 18 - 22 - CCAC/Allegheny Campus (Northside)
July 25-29 - Duquesne University
August 1-5 - University of Pittsburgh

Applications are for City of Pittsburgh residents. Applications are processed on a first-come, first-serve basis, as the sessions are limited to 50-campers. Out of City applications will be accepted; however the applicant will be placed on a waiting list, and if accepted they must provide their own transportation to the camp site.

Campers who attended camp for two consecutive years (2014 & 2015) will also be placed on a waiting list. If the camps are not filled to the maximum allowance they will be given an opportunity to attend.

Applications can be picked up at a local Police Station, or download from www.pittsburghpa.gov/police



For additional information please call MPO Mildred Jenkins 412-323-7821



"Solarize Lawrenceville-Bloomfield-Garfield"

presents

Going Solar Workshop and Launch

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Carnegie Library, Lawrenceville Branch

279 Fisk Avenue

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

(Registration and light refreshments at 6:15 AM, presentation at 6:30 AM)

Free registration: <http://Solarize-LBG.eventbrite.com>

As partners in the [Solarize Allegheny](http://SolarizeAllegheny.org) campaign - Lawrenceville United, Lawrenceville Corporation, Bloomfield Development Corporation and Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation invite you to join the launch of "Solarize Lawrenceville-Bloomfield-Garfield" to learn how solar can work for your home or business. Solar energy is the fastest growing energy source in the world. While the Pittsburgh region has many cloudy days, we receive much more sun than Germany - the leading solar energy nation! Solar energy works well in Pennsylvania and there are already nearly 8,000 solar installations in Pennsylvania.

With the steep drop in solar costs and the 30% federal tax credit, solar has become a wise financial investment for your home or business.

Solarize Lawrenceville-Bloomfield-Garfield is a 16-week campaign managed by non-profit organization [SmartPower](http://SmartPower.org) and funded by the Heinz Endowments to help residents and commercial property owners consider the benefits of solar energy. At this informational session, we will provide an overview of solar energy. You will also meet the two local, pre-screened solar installers and have the ability to request a free quote for your home through the program.

Registration is requested: <http://Solarize-LBG.eventbrite.com>

For more information, please visit the website at www.solarizeallegheny.org/LBG or contact Sharon Pillar, Solarize Allegheny project director, at spillar@smartpower.org or 412-215-5995.

Highland Park celebrates “Claypril,” invites ceramic artists to enormous pottery sale

By Kevin Fernando *Union Project*

Highland Park - The “Mother of all Pottery Sales” (MOAPS), a local clay celebration that is most commonly known as MOAPS, will come together in Highland Park on Sunday, April 17, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This month, which many recognize as “Claypril,” welcomes the third annual ceramics event’s blend of hands-on activities, live demonstrations, and a pottery sale showcasing wares from forty of the region’s best ceramics artists.

Guests can learn about ceramic techniques, meet the artists, get their hands dirty in the studio, and purchase art from their favorite potters. MOAPS is a free, family-friendly event that brings dozens of clay artists from Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Jefferson, Washington, and Westmoreland counties together for an event just up the hill from the zoo in Highland Park. Potters gather at the Union Project’s headquarters - a beautifully converted church at 801 N. Negley Ave. - to connect with other artists, display their handcrafted work, and share their love of ceramics with those in attendance.

According to the Union Project’s executive director, Jeffrey Dorsey, “the Mother of all Pottery Sales is so much more than a sale. It connects artists with buyers, students with professionals, and people who have never done ceramics with fun, interactive ways to participate and learn.” The local ceramics confab offers something for everyone, from forms and color to firing techniques and function. Dorsey hopes this year’s MOAPS can surpass last year’s festivities and bring more than 600 people under the same roof to cele-

BELOW: Ceramics enthusiasts lean in to examine the technique of a master potter during last year’s springtime “Claypril” festivities at the Union Project (801 N. Negley Ave.) in Highland Park. Organizers are welcoming hundreds of attendees to come get their hands dirty and sculpt some pieces this year or just browse the selection of artworks available for sale at the “Mother of All Pottery Sales.” Photo by Abbie Adams.



brate the ceramic arts. “By hosting a nationally recognized potter, we help bring professional artists together with local students and hobbyists to share cultural perspectives and techniques, inspiring the next generation of artists,” he said. “This event creates a hub for ceramics lovers while also exemplifying our mission of using the arts to bridge gaps between communities.”

As the 2016 Visiting Artist, Kevin Snipes - a ceramicist who has exhibited his work across the United States, will greet visitors and perform a live demonstration of his unique technique, which combines two-dimensional illustration with three-dimensional forms. Snipes’ residency extends beyond MOAPS; he will share details in a free, open-to-the-public “artist talk” on Saturday, April 16 - beginning at 5 p.m. - at the Union Project.

Snipes will also be on hand later that evening, from 6:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., for a MOAPS preview party. This “sneak peek” event is designed to afford visitors more time to spend with the artists in order to experience ceramics in a distinctively personal way. Preview partygoers will enjoy pre-sale access to artwork, as well as a chance to enjoy refreshments while watching a live --Raku-- firing demonstration; pieces fired during this event will be available for onsite purchase. Tickets for the April 16 preview event are available at <http://unionproject.org>. The April 17 MOAPS event, however, is free and open to all who attend. ♦

West Penn advances neurological science in Bloomfield

By Morgan Rupert *Allegheny Health Network*

Bloomfield - The Allegheny Health Network (AHN) Neuroscience Institute provides innovative, expert care to people with complex brain, spine, and neurological conditions; medical staffers also monitor more common conditions like dementia, migraines, and concussions. The multidisciplinary team at West Penn Hospital (WPH, 4815 Liberty Ave.) in Bloomfield has pioneered game-changing treatments to help its patients continue living full and active lives.

As WPH president and CEO Ron Andro said, “we are very proud of the wide range of experts at West Penn Hospital who offer exceptional care to their patients. We have a full range of neurosurgical services in our hospital and we are continuing to expand to better serve those in need.”

The AHN Neuroscience Institute not only provides top-rated neurosurgical treatment options, but also pioneers advanced approaches to the medical management of complex neurological conditions. Experts from many different medical specialties collaborate to determine the most effective treatment plan for each individual patient.

“By bringing together physicians from a variety of specialties, we are able to provide more consistent and complete care,” neurologist Robert A. Fishman, MD, said. “We have a variety of strategies for managing patients’ neurological conditions to achieve exceptional outcomes.”

Drawing from comprehensive research and clinical trials, WPH physicians made significant strides in managing chronic neurological conditions like seizures, epilepsy, migraines, concussions, Parkinson’s disease, and dementia. “Whether you have a family member with dementia, a child with a concussion, or you yourself suffer from migraines, we can help. Our goal is to restore our patients’ health and optimism,” Dr. Fishman promised.

The West Penn Hospital physicians are among the most experienced in the world and are committed to offering compassionate, high-quality care in state-of-the-art facilities. To schedule an appointment with physicians from the AHN Neuroscience Institute at WPH, call 412-578-3925. ♦

Garfield Residential Façade Program

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

GRANT MONEY FOR THE FRONT OF YOUR GARFIELD HOME!!

Brick replacement, repointing, repainting, and/or cleaning

Porch/awning upgrades and repairs

Window and door replacements

TUESDAY, APRIL 26TH, 6:00-7:00 PM

Refreshments will be served

Questions? Contact: Wesley Davis 5149 Penn Avenue 412-441-6950 ext.17 Wesley@bloomfield-garfield.org

Held at BGC Activity Center, 113 N Pacific Ave

- The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) provides 50% matching grants to Garfield homeowners to cover the cost of home improvements to the front of your house.
- Representatives will be there to answer questions on program requirements and how to apply
- Applications will be available

Please RSVP to 412-441-6950 ext. 17

May Deadline for *The Bulletin* = Friday, April 15