

the Bulletin

Volume 42, Number 4
APRIL 2017

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



Gluten Free Goat opens new bakery and café in Garfield

By Ethan Lennox *Bulletin contributor*

Garfield - When Jeanette Harris moved to Pittsburgh around eleven years ago, she got a job in a call center at a downtown bank. On her breaks, she often walked to the downtown branch of the Carnegie Library, checked out a stack of cookbooks, and hauled them back to her office, where she could page through them in between calls.

“I love to read recipes,” Harris said. So, when she was diagnosed with celiac disease several years ago, the home baker worried it might jeopardize her love of cooking. Those with celiac disease, which is a serious genetic autoimmune disorder, cannot eat gluten (a protein found in wheat, rye and barley) because it triggers within them a natural immune response that damages the small intestine.

Despite all odds, Harris doubled down on her passion for recipes and began transitioning to baking “gluten-free” goods at home. It was not as simple as swapping out a few ingredients here and there, though.

“It was very rough going at first,” Harris said, as she could no longer bake without

See **Gluten Free Goat** | page 4



ABOVE: Penn Plaza residents Mabel Duffy (left) and Myrtle Stern demonstrate for fair housing on Thursday, March 9, at the busy Penn and Centre Aves. intersection in East Liberty. Local affordable housing advocates helped create a pop-up “living room” scene right in front of the neighborhood’s newest luxury condos. Photo by Citizen Vrabelman (@downstream_city), whose “Downstream” online journal (www.downstream.city) chronicles neighborhood change.

Music pilot program launches young careers in East Liberty

A message from Startable Pittsburgh

East Liberty- The “Startable Pittsburgh” and “YMCA Lighthouse” programs are partnering to help six teens spend the summer producing, marketing, and selling

See **Music Pilot Program** | page 7



Pittsburgh standing with Standing Rock supporters

By Tiffany Parker *Bulletin contributor*

Pittsburgh - For nearly a year now, many “Water Protectors” at North Dakota’s Standing Rock reservation have been peacefully organizing against the Dakota Access

See **Standing Rock** | page 10



ABOVE: On Thursday, March 9, Cirara Sing (left) and her sister, Kakenzie, join dozens of other area students to participate in A+ Schools’ cover art contest at BOOM Concepts (5139 Penn Ave.). Turn to page 15 to see more photos, including the contest winner. Photo by John Colombo.

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Bride's Row LLC expands real estate portfolio along Penn Ave.

By Wesley Davis Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

ABOVE: The "Bride's Row" properties on the 5400 block of Penn Ave., which have been vacant for years, are to be renovated and repurposed in the coming months. Photo by Wesley Davis.

Penn Ave. - Staff of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) were able to meet in mid-March with a representative of the company that bought five houses and a vacant lot in the 5400 block of Penn Ave. from the Friendship Development Associates, Inc. in November of 2015.

While stressing that he did not want to be quoted for attribution for this story, this individual nevertheless did elaborate as to what the plans are for these properties, known as the "Bride's Row" houses. He also disclosed that the same company has purchased two vacant lots in the 5400 block of Broad St., and that a related firm has bought the former Horoscope Lounge property at 5433 Penn Ave. and a second commercial building at 4825 Penn Ave. in recent months.

With the demolition of a second Bride's Row house now underway, the ownership group for these properties is still intending to save the remaining four houses if at all possible, according to the owner's representative. These houses, located at 5439, 5441, 5451 and 5453 Penn Avenue, are all in varying states of disrepair.

The ownership group has been able to begin renovations to the house at 5439 Penn Ave., and intends to create two rental units that will each be two-story in nature. The plans for the remaining three houses are much less defined at this point in time, although the representative indicated that his group wants to be faithful to a commitment to salvage them, assuming it is financially feasible.

As for the commercial properties at 4825 Penn and 5433 Penn, the former may well have moved beyond the point of being worth the cost to rehabilitate, due to the extent of its present deterioration, according to the ownership group's representative. He was far more optimistic about re-using the building at 5433 Penn Ave., according to those who attended the meeting at the BGC's offices. However, he went on to say that parking will be a challenge for any tenants who would move into that building, or for those wanting to live in any of the renovated Bride's Row properties.

This was the purpose, according to the representative, in buying the vacant lots on Broad St. BGC staff cautioned him that any plan to use the lots on Broad St. as parking for tenants living on the avenue should be presented to the community prior to their submittal to the city for zoning approval. This fellow seemed agreeable to the suggestion.

BGC staff and the volunteers working with its "Housing and Land Use Committee" routinely meet with individuals and companies who want to develop residential or commercial real estate projects in Garfield, or the adjoining Penn Ave. commercial district to ensure that developments mesh with the long-term plans adopted by the community.

The BGC will continue to share information with the general public on the plans that groups like these bring to the attention of staff and committee members. Anyone who wants to join the aforementioned committee should contact Ryan England at rengland@gmail.com. ♦

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We promise not to overshare!

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

By Aggie Brose Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - Residents from the Garfield, Bloomfield, and Friendship neighborhoods have come together to form a group called the "Community Ambassadors." This group recently gathered to learn about community resources that are available for their neighbors and other residents to use. Many residents are unaware of the supportive services and exciting programs offered in nearby neighborhoods.

Ambassadors have worked over the past few weeks to share packets of information about neighborhood opportunities with their nearby neighbors. This program aims to create a more safe and connected community by developing stronger relationships between ambassadors and other community members.

To learn more about becoming a Community Ambassador please call the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's office at 412-441-6950 x15. ♦

BELOW: A new group of "Community Ambassadors" from Garfield, Bloomfield, and Friendship convenes at the Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.) to share information and resources across neighborhoods. Photo by Wesley Davis.



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 42, Number 4

The deadline for the May issue is **Friday, April 14.**

Editorial and Advertising Offices 5149 Penn Ave. • Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412-441-6950 (ext. 13) • Andrew@Bloomfield-Garfield.org

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

Staff Andrew McKeon, Editor • Andrew Perrow, Staff Writer • John Colombo, Staff Photographer • Rick Swartz, Proofreading • Mary Anne Stevanus, Office Manager • Trib Total Media, Printing & Mailing • CISP, Bulk Distribution

Board Meetings are held by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month, at the BGC Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific 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 and philanthropic partners: PNC Foundation, Heinz Endowments, The Pittsburgh Foundation, WesBanco Bank, Dollar Bank, and Allegheny Valley Bank. Thanks also to PNC Bank, Allegheny Health Network, West Penn Hospital, the City of Pittsburgh, *the Bulletin's* advertisers, and all our members for all their support and assistance.

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“#PGH Youth Vision” campaign offers new approach to civic engagement

By Alexandria Shewczyk *BikePGH*

East Liberty - As a media campaign, “#PGHYouthVision” is designed to share of Pittsburgh’s young people, and their visions for the city, region, and country.

Organized by BikePGH and Assemble, this project will use creative media to drive civic engagement among youths, amplify the voices of young people, facilitate intergenerational grassroots organizing, and help shape policy. Pittsburgh area youth-serving organizations are invited to participate by engaging the media campaign hashtag “#PGHYouthVision” with their students during regularly scheduled out-of-school time program hours.

The media created by this campaign can include written, visual, or performances that address issues of justice and capture the students’ ideas for a public audience. Sample themes or categories that may be addressed include: racial justice, environmental justice, immigration, labor, education, LGBTQIA+ justice, food security, homelessness, affordable housing, transportation, policing & incarceration, public health, and more.

The campaign will culminate in a town hall meeting and presentation on Thursday, April 27, at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater (5941 Penn Ave.) from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. The lobby will host a reception and visual display of youth projects; the town hall will last for about an hour, beginning in the theater at 5:30 p.m.

This forum will be guided by youth panelists and moderators – along with an audience of parents, families, administrators, teachers, grassroots organizers, city planners, policy-makers, and local reporters. Audience members will leave with a physical handout displaying data and information collected from youth participants.

As a social platform, the town hall will provide attendees with intergenerational and cross-industry networking opportunities. It can also serve as an introduction to civic engagement for youths well before they are even old enough to vote.

Anyone interested in participate may contact Julie Mallis at 412-325-4334 or email education@bikepgh.org. ♦

Part of the process: how a land trust can bring neighbors together in Garfield

By Ross Kronenbitter *Bulletin contributor*

Op-Ed

Garfield - After attending several “Garfield Community Land Trust” (GLT) meetings, I thought, “Wow, my kids need to witness this.” I want my kids, as well as all my friends and Garfield neighbors, to know about this because it’s democracy at the grassroots level - neighborhood people exercising their vision, care, and intentions for our common future in Garfield.

Although not yet organized into a nonprofit entity, the GLT continues to be an active, ad hoc group of citizens who meet every month to discuss a variety of neighborhood issues like affordability, quality of life, and accessibility. The GLT maintains a space for democratic process to help neighbors exercise their rights as community stake-holders.

Community land trusts are nonprofit, community-based organizations designed to ensure community stewardship of land. They can be used for many types of development (including commercial and retail), but are primarily used to ensure long-term housing affordability. In effect, the trust acquires land and maintains permanent ownership. With prospective homeowners, it enters into a long-term, renewable lease instead of a traditional sale. When the homeowner sells, the family earns only a portion of the increased property value. The remainder is kept in trust, preserving the affordability for future low- to-moderate income families.

In Garfield, the land trust will be shaped by the choices of the community it serves. That’s why it’s essential for local residents to pitch in their ideas and make their priorities known by phone, letter, or email. More information is also available on the GLT website (www.GarfieldCommunityLandTrust.org). The GLT can help some of our most vulnerable neighbors contribute to its collective vision. At each meeting, everyone in attendance gets a chance to share their own personal Garfield histories and explain how they think the land trust could be of value to the local community.

I enjoy participating in these conversations with all of my interesting neighbors; their unique perspectives and deep passion for our community really speak to me. More than that, though, I am happy for Garfield to come together like this as a means of finding common ground and consensus. If you are even just slightly interested, I encourage you to attend. The GLT will convene its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, at the Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.). ♦

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No shortcuts to Garfield: “Edgar’s Best Tacos” truck posts up on Penn Ave.

By Amber Epps Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Penn Ave. - Born in Mexico City, Edgar Alvarez moved to the United States about forty years ago. Now, he operates one of the most celebrated *taquerias* in the city. Upon leaving his native Mexico, Alvarez moved to New York City, then on to New Jersey.

One day, Antonio Pereira - a former co-worker who left New Jersey for greener pastures in Pittsburgh - called Alvarez and asked him to come work at his new restaurant, Mallorca (2228 E. Carson St.), on the South Side. Although he had never even heard of Pittsburgh before, the chef saw it as a great opportunity. So, he attended his niece's first birthday party in Newark, said some goodbyes, and then headed west on the turnpike.

Alvarez worked at Mallorca for twelve years before deciding to open his own establishment, Taco Loco, just a few blocks away on E. Carson St. After nine years on the South Side, he moved his taco business to the Strip District, where he partnered with Reyna Foods at 2031 Penn Ave. The cooperative setting was wonderful for Alvarez’s sales, and he gained traction with many new customers.

But, nine years later, the owner realized that he needed more room for his growing business, which now included a food truck. Headquartered at 2627 Penn Ave. in the Strip District, his latest incarnation is known as “Edgar’s Best Tacos.” Alvarez noted that the name of his establishment just happened to change in a very organic, crowd-sourced way. “I never called my tacos ‘the best,’ but my customers did, so the name just made sense,” he said.

At first, Pittsburgh was a question mark when it came to Mexican food. Thinking back to when he first started selling street tacos, long before he had a food truck or brick-and-mortar business, Alvarez said he understood how risky his business model might be in an unfamiliar market. “Basically, I didn’t know if people here would like my tacos,” he explained. Thanks to the region’s underwhelming “Tex-Mex” chain restaurants (see: Chi-Chi’s and Don Pablo’s), an untapped, local customer base seemed hesitant to embrace authentic, Mexican street tacos.

“It took about three years for people to catch on,” Alvarez revealed. “During that time, I never closed for even a day, no matter the weather.” Almost a year ago, John Lubarski,



AT LEFT: *Edgar’s Best Tacos truck has found a new home in Garfield at 5015 Penn Ave. Open from 10:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, the truck is also open from 6 to 9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Photo by Amber Epps.*

who owns a parking lot at Penn Ave. and N. Winebiddle St., next to Spak Brothers Pizza, approached Alvarez about hosting his food truck in Garfield. Since Alvarez had been a vendor at the Garfield Night Market for a few years running, he was already very familiar with the neighborhood and thought it would be a great idea.

Edgar’s Best Tacos now operates its food truck at the corner of Penn Ave. and Winebiddle St. from 10:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays; on Fridays and Saturdays, the truck will be open from 6 to 9 p.m., depending on the weather. Once he gets a new and improved food truck ready to go in April, Alvarez plans to extend his hours of operation. When the new truck arrives in Garfield this spring, the current truck will most likely resume its post in the Strip District.

The mobile menu offers a variety of options beyond tacos, featuring meat (and non-meat) selections like vegetarian, *camarones* (shrimp), and “soy-rizo” (spicy soy sausage). At this point in his journey, Alvarez has a trophy case full of local awards - such as Pittsburgh Magazine’s “Best of the Burgh” (2015), GlobalPittsburgh’s “Immigrant Entrepreneur” (2016), and Zomato’s “Best Restaurant in Pittsburgh” (2016 and 2017).

Considering how improbable his new taco business might have been nearly two decades ago, it is safe to say that Pittsburghers support the concept behind Edgar’s Best Tacos. ♦

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Music Pilot Program *continued from page 1*

their own albums.

The music pilot is a cohort of Startable Pittsburgh's entrepreneurship program, which will run from June 26 through August 18. Over the course of eight weeks, thirty-six students enrolled in the pilot program will split their time between East Liberty's AlphaLab Gear (6024 Broad St.) and the Homewood-Brushton YMCA (7140 Bennett St.).

They will learn the elements of a business plan from entrepreneurs at AlphaLab Gear while also producing an album in the YMCA's recording studio. Then, the young entrepreneurs will pitch their albums to potential investors who could help fund their marketing plans. Building upon weeks of preparation, students will participate in a final event featuring their own album release party on August 17.

"This program derives many elements from the original Startable program, including the eight-week structure and entrepreneurship curriculum," Jackie Shimshoni, Startable Pittsburgh Program Coordinator, revealed. "The main difference is the product being made; while Startable usually focuses on working with students at TechShop to create handmade

products, students in the music pilot will concentrate their maker skills on completing their albums."

Upon learning about Startable in 2015, Lighthouse coordinators (from the Homewood-Brushton YMCA) helped their students apply to the program. James Brown, Youth Development Director of the Homewood-Brushton YMCA, has noticed what an impact the tech-oriented programming has had on his students.

"It was amazing to see the ways in which Startable helped our kids take their creative visions and make them into real world entrepreneurial endeavors," he said. "I've seen, firsthand, how these young people continue to apply the skills they learned in Startable as they continue to create, market, and sell their products."

An afterschool program that teaches artistic disciplines across the spectrum, Lighthouse encompasses everything from music production and film making to spoken word and graphic design. "We could tell that the projects they were doing at Lighthouse really meant something to these students. They would talk about it all the time," Shimshoni said. "We realized the lessons they took away from Startable were

ones that could be applied to their music."

As she explored ways to expand summer programming, Shimshoni said making the connection with Lighthouse was a natural next step. "The YMCA's Creative Youth Center provides a state-of-the-art workshop for musicians in the same way that TechShop offers one to the maker community. We're excited to give students the tools they need to succeed in whatever industry they're excited about."

Meanwhile, Brown is excited for how the program will help serious students take their passion to the next level and mone-

tize their work. "Aspiring musicians will have the opportunity to learn in-depth business and branding knowledge and then apply it to their true passion: music," he said.

"This partnership will arm them with a wealth of knowledge, access to equipment, and a real business plan."

Please note that only current Lighthouse students are permitted to enroll in the music pilot program. Startable Pittsburgh is free for any participants; the program is currently accepting online applications at www.startablepgh.org/apply.html. ♦

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Neighborhood FOCUS

Kincaid St. Community Garden growing goodwill in Garfield

A message from the Kincaid St. Community Garden

Garfield - In 2016, more than twenty-five individuals from Garfield grew their own food at Kincaid Street Community Garden (5414 Kincaid St.). What started in 2011 as a small backyard garden has now become a community growing space with almost forty garden plots. Located on Kincaid St. between N. Graham St. and N. Aiken Ave., the garden sits on four previously vacant and overgrown lots.

Its community gardeners range from toddlers tasting their first fresh strawberry to seasoned retirees, all of whom have grown a wide variety of crops over the years. "I appreciate having a space at the community garden to grow various kinds of vegetables, save money, and meet new neighbors," gardener George Jarbo said.

Apart from producing food, the garden has been a great place for Garfield kids to spend time outside playing and learning in a green space. "Going out to the community garden with our kids transforms what could be a chore into a family outing and event," gardener Avin Fernando noted. "It's a way to participate in our community that also gives us wholesome, edible benefits."

Alisha Frye, a Garfield resident of thirty-five years who lives across from the garden, admires the garden's social impact. "Having a garden on our street has allowed me and my family to meet others in my community and learn about gardening," she said. "The garden has taken my street from a hood to a neighborhood."

In the garden's first four years, each gardener had their own plot in which they could grow whatever they wanted. This year, the gardeners have collectively decided to try a new method. Instead of having each plot assigned to a family, the gardeners will share all of the garden plots.

As gardener James Simkins explained, "Caring for the entire space and plants of our garden collectively provides an opportunity to better address common problems such as weed control, pest prevention, and improvement of social quality. It also is a great opportunity to teach new gardeners about organic gardening methods." The gardeners are hopeful that this method will make growing food easier this year.

"Having a garden on our street has allowed me and my family to meet others in my community and learn about gardening. The garden has taken my street from a hood to a neighborhood."

- Alisha Frye, Garfield resident



ABOVE: Kincaid St. Community Garden members take a break from gardening to pose in front of a "Little Free Library" on site. Bringing Garfield residents together around sustainable ecology, the garden keeps growing more goodwill in the community. Photo courtesy of Lydia Yoder.

There will still be several garden plots reserved for gardeners who want their own space.

Any Garfield resident interested in becoming a garden member is welcome to attend the next meeting. Garden members will have access to seeds, seedlings, and a healthy growing space; all members pitch in with weekly garden tasks.

For more information, contact Lydia Yoder (412-545-3050, lydiakateyoder@gmail.com) or find Kincaid Street Community Garden on Facebook (@KincaidStreetCommunityGarden). ♦

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Residents take “AdvantAGE” in Lawrenceville

By Nancy Leff *Lawrenceville United AdvantAGE Committee*

Perspective

Lawrenceville - Lucky locals over the age of 55 get to join Lawrenceville United's (LU) “AdvantAGE” program. Free membership comes with a card good for discounts at neighborhood shops and restaurants, access to a variety of events, and participation in the process of applying for small grants to enhance our quality of life.

AdvantAGE events are geared towards meeting neighbors of all ages, learning something new, and connecting with Lawrenceville businesses. LU has hosted two “Break the Winter Blues” parties. Last year, we took in some country music by Slim Forsythe, square-danced, and munched on snacks provided by Nied's Hotel (5438 Butler St.).

Members also enjoy free films at Rowhouse Cinema (4115 Butler St.) and 25% off meals during the “Monday Evening Cabaret” at Hambone's Pub (4207 Butler St.). During a pizza and salad excursion at Spirit (242 51st St.), younger neighbors coached AdvantAGE folks on how to best utilize their tech devices - in addition to hosting seminars on health care, insurance, and more. “These kind of social opportunities and connections are exactly what the AdvantAGE program is all about,” Dave Breingan, executive director of LU, said. “It's part of what makes Lawrenceville such an inclusive place.”

Inside the Kaleidoscope Café (108 43rd St.) - instantly recognizable for its stunning exterior mosaics - customers enjoy fabulous dishes made by owner Dan Robinson, who is as good of a neighbor as he is a chef. From 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 30, Robinson is hosting his third annual free dinner for AdvantAGE members. “A lot of my older neighbors don't feel that this is their neighborhood anymore, and I like to bridge the gap between the people who've lived here a long time and the newer residents.”

This year, Robinson said he will be serving up “herb-roasted chicken breast with shallots and fig marsala sauce, potatoes, and vegetables.” Space is limited and reservations are required, so members may book their seats in advance by calling Kaleidoscope at 412-683-4004. Anyone who lives in Lawrenceville, is over age 55, and has yet to join AdvantAGE is encouraged to call LU at 412/802-7220. ♦

West Penn extends hours for cancer care

By Jesse Miller *Allegheny Health Network*

Bloomfield - Allegheny Health Network (AHN) recently opened western Pennsylvania's first after-hours clinic for cancer patients, one that is designed specifically to address their unique needs outside the emergency room.

The AHN Cancer Institute Extended Hours Oncology Clinic is at the forefront of an emerging national trend of expanded, after-hours care for cancer patients - many of whom will visit an emergency room at some point during their treatment. These patients need timely care in the appropriate clinical setting to maintain their quality of life while optimizing symptom management.

Embedded in the Mellon Pavilion Medical Oncology Clinic at Bloomfield's West Penn Hospital (4815 Liberty Ave.), the clinic will initially be open Monday through Friday (from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m.). It is staffed by a certified registered nurse practitioner, a registered nurse, and a medical assistant - all trained in oncology-specific protocols and working under the direction of an oncologist.

According to David Parda, MD, Chair, Allegheny Health Network Cancer Insti-

tute, “the side effects of treatment can pose considerable difficulty for cancer patients. In 2014, western Pennsylvania emergency rooms logged nearly 3,000 visits from cancer patients. With the opening of the clinic, AHN is filling a gap in the continuum of care for one of our most vulnerable populations.”

While the emergency room is always the best option for patients with life-threatening symptoms like chest pain or shortness of breath, it can be risky for cancer patients with compromised immune systems.

“The extended hours clinic for oncology patients is expected to optimize clinical outcomes; reduce hospital admissions and re-admissions; expand access to at-home, supportive, and palliative care; and enhance the patient experience while reducing the cost of care,” Dr. Parda said.

The clinic is only open to patients being treated for cancer through AHN. Appointments are required and can only be made through designated oncologists. Those seeking more information about the Extended Hours Clinic may contact Eileen Milakovic at 412-770-3579. ♦

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Standing Rock *continued from page 1*

Pipeline. Groups from across the country continue lending their time, support, and determination to the “Water is Life” campaign. Many who battled the treacherous weather, along with a looming government deadline to evacuate, reside here in Pittsburgh.

Upon returning from Standing Rock, advocates gathered fellow supporters to participate in solidarity events throughout the city. One of the water protectors who proved instrumental to local involvement is Beth McAhren; she started a group called, “I Stand with Standing Rock” that regularly meets at Biddle’s Escape (401 Biddle Ave.) in Wilkinsburg.

As she shared her own personal observations about the dim truth and the reality of water protection, McAhren could tell that the group’s momentum was growing. “I met Beth at the protest I organized, and felt an instant kinship with her,” local supporter Jenna Arthur-Tomor said. “She’s become our sounding board.”

What started as one event to raise money for Standing Rock soon became three nights of fundraising at 5118 Penn Ave.; proceeds helped provide supplies for the

water protectors. “All of this injustice made me want to step out of my comfort zone, even if just temporarily, to educate people and help those who need it,” Arthur-Tomor said.

On Feb. 3, in conjunction with Garfield’s “Unblurred” gallery crawl, the group kicked things off by hosting a drum circle and “open mic” space at 5118 Penn Ave. Another event soon followed, featuring an afternoon and evening of music, food, drinks, and activities on Feb. 18. Local artists donated their works to an art sale that benefited water protectors in North Dakota.

“The event was magical,” McAhren exclaimed. “Perhaps, the little bit of magic on those streets can move mountains or, in truth, help save our most precious resource: water.” The powerful testimonies and heartfelt performances, not to mention all the fundraising, went out to all the water protectors occupying the frontlines.

According to McAhren, these events are why the local support for Standing Rock is “still gestating and growing at a noticeable rate.” ♦

FCG seeks three new Board members

By Staci Backauskas *Friendship Community Group*

Friendship - The Friendship Community Group’s (FCG) Board of Directors is now accepting applications for three open Board positions. Neighborhood residents who want to become more involved in their local community are encouraged to apply.

Board members are expected to attend monthly meetings and participate in FCG-sponsored events like quarterly community meetings, the “F4 Folk and Flower Festival,” summer picnics, and movie nights. “We want to continue expanding our role and responsibilities in the community,” Board President Martha Terry said. “To do that, we need folks who are excited about the opportunity to be involved in making Friendship an even greater place to live and work.”

The FCG is looking for people particularly interested in the role of Board Secretary, as well as those with significant experience in community building and zoning issues. Potential Board members should email a brief statement of interest to HBBC@friendship-pgh.org before April 30; applicants’ statements must illustrate why they wish to be considered and explain how their background, expertise, or professional bearing might contribute to the Board. ♦



A Season of Change

We can all remember coloring eggs, eating chocolate candies and wearing our finest clothing. But the true sentiment of Easter is the hope that it brings.

As we reflect on Christ’s resurrection and see the coming Spring, we receive a promise of future joy.

Let this season of change be a reminder that even life’s deepest sorrows can be followed with new beginnings.



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for the latest neighborhood information and community photos

After retiring, teacher becomes afterschool volunteer at Arsenal Elementary

By Emily Traynor Neighborhood Learning Alliance



AT LEFT: Arleen Smigielski guides a student through challenging math problems, one of her specialties as an afterschool volunteer at Arsenal Elementary School. She believes that her experience as a teacher can help her get through to the students and form a mutual relationship of trust and understanding. Photo courtesy of the NLA.

Lawrenceville - Every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, the afterschool program at Arsenal Elementary School (215 39th St.) is graced by the presence of volunteer Arleen Smigielski.

Run by the Neighborhood Learning Alliance (NLA), in partnership with the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), the afterschool program runs from Monday through Thursday. "Arleen is invaluable," Nancy Walker, Arsenal's afterschool coordinator, proclaimed. "She comes to the program twice a week and helps the students out with homework and difficult math challenges."

Smigielski taught special education for over thirty years before retiring in 2011. She believes that retired teachers need to volunteer at afterschool programs because they can "utilize the skills and knowledge they have accumulated from years of teaching." Without the job-related pressures of paperwork at the end of the day, retired teachers can really focus on helping students who are struggling to grasp ideas and concepts.

A typical volunteer day for Smigielski involves assisting with homework completion, reading with the students, practicing

math facts, and spending time with the kids during dinner and group activities. "The children's smiles and laughter inspire me," she said. "I choose to volunteer because I care very much about the students and staff and hope that my past experience as a teacher proves beneficial."

Such commitment is not lost on the afterschool coordinator, who admires her volunteer's patient approach with the kids. "Arleen sits and reads with the kindergartners and first graders, giving each student a chance to read stories to her. Then, she takes the third, fourth, and fifth graders and helps them learn their math facts," Walker said. "After all of that, she even stays and eats dinner with the group of children, making it a meaningful time by playing games or just visiting with them. We love having Ms. Arleen!"

In addition to Arsenal, the NLA runs afterschool programs at a number of other Pittsburgh Public elementary and middle schools. For more information on how to become involved as a volunteer, visit www.neighborhoodlearning.org/volunteer or contact Sharmyn Straughters, NLA's volunteer coordinator, at straughters@neighborhoodlearning.org. ♦

Finding treatment after losing hope is #LivingProof.

Naomi's life has been centered around traveling. Diagnosed with late-stage cancer, and after second, third, and fourth opinions, she thought her life was over. With no hope, she turned to Allegheny Health Network and met with the renowned oncology team who introduced her to stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) – an innovative technique others hadn't mastered. Precise and non-invasive, it usually results in improved outcomes with fewer complications. Today Naomi is back to her life as well as her travels. To learn more about cancer care visit AHNLivingProof.org.



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Health for All



Allegheny Health Network
West Penn Hospital

In conversation with Barry Canada, retired juvenile probation officer

By Andrew McKeon *the Bulletin*

East End - Barry Canada has devoted his life to mentoring and counseling at-risk youths in the East End of Pittsburgh. For decades, he worked as a community monitor in Allegheny County’s juvenile probation program. Known as the “Community Intensive Supervision Program (CISP)” it provides an avenue for young male offenders to give back to the community while developing new life skills.

Every month, young men in the program distribute thousands of copies of *the Bulletin* to bulk drop points throughout the city. In early February, just a week after Canada retired from his post at Garfield CISP (5750 Baum Blvd.), he sat down with the paper’s editor to reflect on some of his experiences as a probation counselor working with teenagers in the East End. This conversation will be continued in future issues of *the Bulletin*.

Bulletin (B): How did you first become involved with probation counseling?

Canada (C): *“I was working for a place called, ‘Three Rivers East,’ and they took this job to another level by introducing me to the therapeutic component of my job. I never thought about that until then. I’d always thought, ‘Oh, you go in and you watch the kids like you’re a parent. You tell them to get dressed, go to school, and blah blah blah.’ But, then they talked about the daily counseling aspect, asking us, ‘What have these kids been missing out on?’ and ‘What can you add to their lives?’...I found out that, if you talk to a kid long enough, you’ll find out that there was a missing link somewhere in their developmental years, usually in the ‘latency age’ from age 6 to 12.”*

B: What have you learned about parents while conducting family counseling sessions?

C: *“A lot of times, you’ll find out that either one parent or both parents are dysfunctional... Back around the late 1970s, I had already been working with dependent kids whose parents had lost their way when they were young. There was physical and mental abuse, and many were already impoverished. And then, here come the 1980s with a big drug wave.”*

B: Looking back to when you started, has the job changed you at all?

C: *“Well, you have to know yourself before you start working with kids because, if there’s something about you that you haven’t yet discovered, they’ll bring it out. I’ve seen it happen. A kid’s job is to be a kid. What do kids like to do? They like to play. But, a lot of kids in this area have never gotten to enjoy that, just playing without consequences, with no fear of anything. Then, you have kids that have been put in the adult situation early in their life. They have to provide for their family and look after their brothers and sisters. They don’t think they need to be told to do anything because, in their mind, they’re already like an adult.”*

B: Sounds almost like a team without a coach. Like the kids have been drawing up their own gameplan for so long that they don’t think they need any guidance from authority figures like you.



ABOVE: Barry Canada celebrates sweet retirement with a cake at the BGC office. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

C: *“I like that terminology. How are you going to know what to do when you step onto the court, or the field, without a coach? So, here they come, and they’ve been basically the leader of their family, and that is so hard. When I invited the parents to come down for family counseling – it was almost always just the mother – we would all just sit down together at a table. That’s when I would look for positioning. Where did this kid sit? If he sits close to his mom, that shows a kind of bond there. If he sits away from his mom, there’s the split right there. That helped me formulate my opening questions about what each family member needed to change...A lot of parents will blame the justice system, the schools, and the neighborhoods, but they fail to look at what they did to cause problems in their children’s lives.” ♦*



Introducing Our Newest Doctor

UPMC CancerCenter is pleased to welcome our newest doctor at the Mario Lemieux Center for Blood Cancers.



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Hematologist

Dr. Rossetti specializes in the treatment of hematological malignancies with a special interest in myeloid diseases, including myelodysplasia, acute myeloid leukemia, and myeloproliferative neoplasm. He also specializes in cellular therapy. Dr. Rossetti received his doctorate from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, Pa. He later completed his internal medicine residency at St. Francis Medical Center, formerly in Pittsburgh. Board-certified in hematology, he completed his hematology/oncology fellowship at The Western Pennsylvania Hospital, in Pittsburgh, where he later served as assistant director of Cell Transplantation and assistant director of the fellowship program. Dr. Rossetti is part of the UPMC MDS Center of Excellence team, with research interests including the development of improved treatment strategies for patients with MDS and acute leukemia.

To schedule an appointment, or for more information, call 412-864-6600 or visit UPMCCancerCenter.com.

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LOCAL REAL ESTATE BLOTTER

- **Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty, Lawrenceville, and Stanton Heights** -

Property Transactions (Jan. 16 - Feb. 15, 2017)

Compiled by Lillian Denhardt, Howard Hanna Real Estate

Hey neighbors, we had some data troubles this month, so the column does not include transfers that happened during Sheriff Sales, Treasurer Sales, or "Love & Affection" Sales (between family members, spouses, etc.). We hope to be back to normal next month!

Bloomfield

Gabriel Silversmith to Sylvie Lefloch at 348 Cedarville St. for \$193,000.

3 Rivers Investors LLC to Martin and Stephanie Scippio at 4440 Milgate St. for \$180,000.

Valerie Jones to Gino Dinardo at 4055 Mintwood St. for \$160,000.

Martina Vasil to Yilun Zhu and Jeong Seuk Kang at 4503 Corday Way for \$140,000.

Peter Pawlowski to Anthony Perriello at 4033 Cabinet St. for \$147,000.

Balistreri A & J Trust to Lawrence Lucas at 4519 Minerva St. for \$105,000.

Cameron and Sophie Tonkinwise to Joseph

and Candace Skibba at 359 S. Atlantic Ave. for \$455,000.

Hookes Up Properties LLC to Michael and Victoria Haggerson at 407 S. Pacific Ave. for \$465,000.

Daniel and Cheryl Bernini to Paula Johnston and Heather Boerner at 314 S. Pacific Ave. for \$250,000.

Emily and Avin Fernando to Lauren Nichols and Louis Takacs at 208 Gross St. for \$236,000.

Friendship

No sales to report during this time period.

Garfield

Ryan and Veronica England to Kathryn Kaplan and Christopher Lucas at 5159 Penn Ave. for \$226,000.

Kent Tran to Mary Albrethsen at 316 N. Mathilda St. for \$77,000.

Buczkowski Family Trust to Rose and Angelo Pugliano at 216 N. Mathilda. for \$60,000.

East Liberty

254 46th St LLC to Mary Grant at 5635 Hays St. for \$72,100.

254 46th St LLC to Sara and George Leventis at 5637 Hays St. for \$72,100.

254 46th St LLC to Sara and George Leventis at 5639 Hays St. for \$72,100.

254 46th St LLC to Janel and Travis Everly at 5617 Hays St. for \$64,500.

Lawrenceville

236 57th St. for \$78,000.

Synergy Capital LP to Robert C and Robert P Denove at 142 43rd St. for \$600,000.

Thomas and Sarah Jackson to Robert C and Philip Dodson at 4026 Willow St. for \$287,500.

Stella Trading LLC to Wendy and Andrew Wedger at 4838 Hatfield St. for \$279,000.

Senne Pittsburgh LLC to Panzero Construction LLC at 273 Fisk St. for \$232,500.

Christina Lynch to Lisa DellaSalla at 3644 Penn Ave. #302 for \$205,000.

Sonya Stewart to Sarah Livingston Ewing at 186 47th St. for \$172,500.

John A. McCauley, Sr. to Kayleigh Lipke at 169 Almond Way. for \$134,000.

Lawrenceville Sunrise II, LP to Lauren Butler at 5133 Natrona Way. for \$109,300.

Robert Conde to Badger Properties LLC at 5124 Carnegie St. for \$78,000.

Kincaid Associates to Alexander Hebert at

Stanton Heights

Gerald Foster to Kathleen and Richard Cressman at 1316 Woodbine St. for \$166,000.

Jennifer Clelland to David Brown and Andrea Rosso at 946 Millerdale St. for \$149,000.

Nationstar Mortgage LLC to Forbes Management LLC at 5539 Camelia St. for \$32,000.

US Bank NA to 254 46th St LLC at 931 Woodbine St. for \$36,900.

This column uses data from Allegheny County that contains occasional errors (sale price, owners' names, etc.). If something looks off, please do not hesitate to let us know.

For questions, comments, or just to chat, feel free to contact Lillian at 412-336-6068 or email agent.lillian.pgh@gmail.com. ♦

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the BulletinBOARD

Local Events Classes Gatherings 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 May issue of *the Bulletin* are due by **Friday, April 21**. Please submit listings using our online form at www.bit.ly/bulletin_submit.

April 2 - Sunday

GARFIELD
“Spring Revival” Service
Morningside Church of God in Christ (5173 Dearborn St.) presents “Spring Revival” on Sunday, April 2, at 3:30 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Elder Bruce Hauser from Philadelphia’s Mt. Carmel Church of God in Christ. All are invited.

April 5 - Wednesday

EAST LIBERTY
PGH Speaker Series
Our last free speaker series features avid collector/photographer Dr. David Kronn, Chief of Medical Genetics at Westchester Medical Center and Associate Professor of Pathology and Pediatrics at New York Medical College. He was born in Dublin and qualified as a physician from Trinity College Dublin. This event will be held at Ace Hotel Pittsburgh (120 S. Whitfield St.) at 6 p.m.

April 6 - Thursday

GARFIELD
Garfield Land Trust
Open planning meeting to decide the next steps needed to launch the Garfield Community Land Trust: 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 6th, at the Community Activity Center (113 N Pacific Ave. at Dearborn St.). Help retain and increase affordable housing in Garfield. Read more about the land trust at www.GarfieldCommunityLandTrust.org/.

We Need Parents
To become tomorrow's leaders, our children need a sound academic foundation. Come and discuss innovative ways by which we, the parents, can more actively shape our youths' learning and school environment. We invite you to join this thriving community of active parents and be part of an exciting conversation with educational leaders from across the city. This Thursday, April 6 discussion will run from 2 to 4 p.m. at the BGC Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.).

Are you depressed?

Participate in a research study investigating why some people with depression have thoughts of suicide and others do not.

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- Compensation ranges from \$100 to \$150, and up to \$50 for travel reimbursement
- fMRI scan (optional, \$150 extra)

If interested, contact: dnpl@upmc.edu, or call 412-246-6014

April 9 - Sunday

GARFIELD
“Jesus is the Answer”
Morningside Church of God in Christ (5173 Dearborn St.) will present “Jesus is the Answer,” an Easter Sunday program, on April 9 at 3:30 p.m.

April 10 - Monday

LAWRENCEVILLE
Recovery Meeting
Message Carriers of Pennsylvania will hold a "Recovery Community Meeting" about substance use and mental health at 5 p.m. on Monday, April 10, at Persad Center (5301 Butler St.). This is a great way to learn about issues that plague our neighborhoods, build unity for families and communities, learn about resources for yourself or loved ones, and get information about local, state and national legislation that affects the recovery community. There will also be a presentation from Resolve Crisis Network. All are welcome.

April 15 - Saturday

LAWRENCEVILLE
“The Big Hunt”
You’re invited to the biggest Easter egg hunt in Lawrenceville. It’s the 5th annual "The Big Hunt" sponsored by Encounter Church (EC). Join us on April 15th, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., at Arsenal Park for some fun for the whole family. There will be 10,000 eggs, tons of candy, food, a bounce house, the Easter Bunny, EC Kidzone, and a new stage with a special performance by Murphy Brown! Visit www.encounterpgh.com for more details.

GARFIELD
Resurrection Community Easter Egg Hunt
Morningside Church of God in Christ (5173 Dearborn St.) will host “Resurrection Community Easter Egg Hunt” on Saturday, April 15, at 11a.m. Come and bring a friend and be blessed. All are welcome.

BLOOMFIELD/LAWRENCEVILLE
Tree Planting
Bloomfield street tree planting with TreeVitalize from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Meet at the corner of Mathilda and Aloe Sts. RSVP online at <http://waterlandlife.org/300>.
Join the Lawrenceville Tree Tenders to plant 10 new street trees on Saturday, April 15. No experience is necessary. All ages are welcome and all tools will be provided. Runs from 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the Lawrenceville United office at 4839 Butler St.

April 16 - Sunday
LAWRENCEVILLE
Easter Celebration

Looking for a place to celebrate Easter but want a church where you can be yourself? We invite you to join us at Encounter Church on Easter Sunday, April 16th; 10 a.m. at Rowhouse Cinema (4115 Butler St.). Visit www.encounterpgh.com.

April 19 - Wednesday

LAWRENCEVILLE
“Well-a-palooza”
Please join us at this exciting event focusing on fun, healthy living, and wellness for older adults. Making time to take care of yourself can help you live a better, happier life. Bring your friends – this event is open to all Medicare beneficiaries. It will be held at the Teamster Temple (4701 Butler St.) in Lawrenceville on Wednesday, April 19, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Please join us for health screenings, interactive activities, a photo booth, caricature artist, a DJ, dancing, and light refreshments. All activities are at no cost to participants. No need to register; just come and enjoy the day.

April 23 - Sunday

GARFIELD
Community Farm Event
Garfield Community Farm (at the corner of Cornwall and Wicklow Sts.) will host a neighborhood event on Sunday, April 23, from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. An opportunity to get involved with the farm, the event will feature a food truck and plant sales.

LAWRENCEVILLE
Pancake Breakfast
The Holy Name Society of Lady of the Angels Parish will hold its annual “All the Pancakes You Can Eat” breakfast on Sunday, April 23, from 9 a.m. until noon in the lower level of Saint Mary’s Lyceum (329 45th St.). Take out service available. Adults’ tickets cost \$6 each; children (under 12) get in for \$3. Tickets will be on sale in advance and at the door. Proceeds benefit local and parish charities. Holy Name Society members will also be collecting these items for the food pantry: toilet tissue, paper towels, Kleenex, men and women’s razors, shaving cream, tooth paste, tooth brushes, deodorant, and feminine hygiene products.

April 24 - Monday

LAWRENCEVILLE
Duncan Park Work Day
In partnership with Lawrenceville United, residents are working to transform the decommissioned Duncan Park into a community asset. Plans include a rain garden, public orchard, natural playspace, and a variety of gardens. Volunteers are needed; no experience is necessary, all ages are welcome, and all tools will be provided. Meet at the corner of Duncan and 54th Sts. in Upper Lawrenceville to volunteer from 5:30 - 7 p.m.

April 27 - Thursday
BLOOMFIELD

Volunteer Opportunities

Announcements

Services

Open Calls

Shout-Outs

Classifieds

Housing

Braddock house (2BR) for sale/rent-to-own with deposit. Call 412-271-9343.

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EVO Summer Camp

Earthen Vessels Outreach (EVO, 250 S. Pacific Ave.) is celebrating 16 years of summer outreach. Ages 3-14 yrs old; CCIS & CYF approved. June 20 through July 29. Monday - Friday; runs from 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. Mornings include STEM learning. Afternoons are spent engaging the campers in physical activities - such as dance and the performing arts, swimming, tennis, soccer, basketball, music, and arts & crafts. Your child can enjoy an unforgettable summer for \$360 - \$420. Before- and after-camp care are available at an additional cost. Call 412.681.7272 or 412.414.2993.

Adults Achieve

Earthen Vessels Outreach (EVO, 250 S. Pacific Ave.) is looking to enroll 5 - 10 young adults who had their high school education derailed and now want to earn their diploma. On-line learning with flexible working hours. All high school credits are applied to help complete your degree. No out-of-pocket cost for you. Please call 412-681-7272 or e-mail earthenvessels98@gmail.com to learn more. Childcare available.

CITY-WIDE

HirePGH Opportunity

Are you a Pittsburgh Promise alumni? Have you recently been employed full-time here in the city of Pittsburgh? Check out HirePGH to apply for \$5,500 from the Pittsburgh Promise, just for getting hired. Find the application and more information at www.enecpittsburgh.org/hirepgh.

BELOW: Runner-up Kendren Taylor (left) and fist-place winner Arriana McDonald are all smiles after A+ Schools' student art showcase on Thursday, March 9. Photo by John Colombo.



May Bulletin Deadline: April 14

Download advertising information: bit.ly/bulletin_ad

Download guidelines for stories, photos, and notices: bit.ly/bulletin_news

Lymphedema Support Group

Beginning Thursday, April 27, the Cancer Caring Center (4117 Liberty Ave.) will host a monthly group for female cancer patients coping with lymphedema, running from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Led by Cheryl Harris, MS, the group will meet on the 4th Thursday of each month. Judy Schaad, PT, DPT, FACCWS, & Director of AHN Oncology Rehab, and Randi Marshak, MSPT, CLT will co-facilitate. Lymphedema patients can experience significant swelling from the build-up of lymph fluid. This program will help patients with coping strategies, provide a forum for sharing common concerns, and discuss treatment options like physical therapy. There is no charge, but first-time registration is requested; call 412- 622 -1212.

April 29 - Saturday

BLOOMFIELD

Spaghetti Dinner

The Bloomfield-Lawrenceville Lions will hold a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, April 29th, from 4 until 7 p.m. in St. Maria Goretti Social Hall (230 Edmond St.). Adults - \$10; children (age 10 & under) - \$5. All proceeds benefit local Lions charities. Get tickets from any Lion, and at the door.

- Ongoing -

LAWRENCEVILLE

Affordable Homes 4 Sale

The Lawrenceville Corporation is building affordable homes for sale in Upper Lawrenceville as part of the Lawrenceville Community Land Trust. A maximum income restriction applies. If you are interested in becoming a homeowner, call Ed Nusser at 412-621-1616 (x 106) or email ed@lawrencevillecorp.com. Potential homeowners may also visit www.lvpgh.com/CLT.

Calling All Gardeners

The Lawrenceville Hospitality Association is seeking interested residents to showcase their gardens or outdoor leisure areas in the annual garden tour on Sunday, June 11 from 11 a.m. to 3

p.m. Contact lawrencevillehospitality@gmail.com for more information. All types of gardens and backyard urban areas are welcome to participate in this free, self-guided, walking tour.

EAST LIBERTY

New Life Christian Fellowship at the Cube

Looking for a friendly church experience? Join us at New Life Christian Fellowship at 5877 Commerce St. in the Cube (across from Whole Foods) on Sundays at 10:15 a.m. Your church experience will include lots of fun activities: fellowship every Sunday at the Holy Grounds Cafe, special dinners, outings, movies, holiday events, etc. We also provide Junior Church for the young ones. At 10:15 a.m. on Palm Sunday (April 9), we will be having "Palms & Pastries" for the adults and prizes for the little ones. On Easter Sunday (April 16), we will be having Easter Breakfast as a part of the service. Hope to see you soon. Please enter the Cube building through the doors under the clock.

GARFIELD

Garfield Greenway

The Garfield Greenway working group will meet on the 1st Monday (next: April 3) of the month at 7 p.m. with coordinated clean up activities the 2nd Saturday at 11 a.m. (next: April 8) of each month for the duration of 2017. Meetings will be held at the Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.); Saturdays will involve site-specific locations throughout the neighborhood. For more information: 412-365-5781 or greensguild@gmail.com.

Employment Assistance

Are you looking for a job? Come on in to the East-side Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC), located at 5321 Penn Ave. Meet with our staff to help you get hired. We have 20+ computers for job-searching and checking emails and we host hiring events every month with employers like: Allegheny Health Network, Starbucks, Chipotle, The University of Pittsburgh, & many more. We also hold information sessions with CCAC to help you find your next career path. Call us or visit www.enecpittsburgh.org for more details.

FRIENDSHIP



AT RIGHT: DeVaughn Rodgers, a gallery assistant at Garfield's BOOM Concepts (5139 Penn Ave.), arranges student-submitted artwork for A+ Schools' cover art contest on Thursday, March 9. The winner's artwork (see photo at right featuring the top two finalists) will be featured on the cover of the educational organization's "2017 Report to the Community on Public School Progress." Photo by John Colombo.



ATTENTION Youth Ages 14-21!

Looking for a Summer Job?



*Apply online to the Summer Learn & Earn
Youth Employment Program at:*

WWW.JOBS4SUMMER.ORG

Applications will be available starting April 10th

For help applying visit the:

Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC)

5321 Penn Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Monday-Friday 2pm-8pm and Saturday noon-6pm

Call 412-362-8580 with any questions

- *The ENEC offers: Friendly staff who are ready to help YOU, access to computer, printing, and scanning equipment, and MORE!*

The APPLICATION DEADLINE is: May 20, 2017