

the Bulletin

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



Forecast unknown: Garfield's Ft. Pitt School building

By Rick Swartz

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - In January, the Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) listed a landmark property in the Garfield neighborhood for sale on the open market. If neighbors get their druthers, this property could host a variety of activities - and people.

Ft. Pitt Elementary School, closed by the school district in 2011 after years of declining enrollment, has been priced for sale at \$1.48 million. It joins eight other school buildings for which the district is seeking proposals to purchase from interested parties by Monday, March 6.

The district is asking bidders to compile a raft of information to accompany any offer, including: identification of the development team and all partners, a list of the team's previously completed projects, a detailed description of the proposed development for the school property, and a statement as to the project's community benefits.

Additionally, PPS requires any bids to feature some analysis of the project's financial feasibility - both from a development perspective and also from the

See **Ft. Pitt School** | page 7



ABOVE: A fixture on the corner of Penn Ave. and N. Winebiddle St. for forty years, the Garfield building housing Carl's TV - and an adjoining lot - are now both on the market for sale. Local residents hope the new owner preserves the mural advertisement on the building's side wall. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

FUTUREMAKERS Lab incubates progress of "arts presenting"

A message from the Kelly Strayhorn Theater

East Liberty - On Wednesday, Feb. 8, the Kelly Strayhorn Theater (KST) announced the launch of a new incubator designed for event producers and curators. The program

See **FUTUREMAKERS Lab** | page 4

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Latham St. Commons: Friendship hub for social entrepreneurs

By Andrew Perrow *the Bulletin*

Friendship - In these confusing times, not only economists - but also entrepreneurs - are guided by a sense of hesitant optimism. Socially-conscious, entrepreneurial

See **Latham St. Commons** | page 11

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ABOVE: Ben Kessler (left) and Kate Dougherty enjoy a drink at "SPAKTEKA," a pop-up restaurant event, on Sunday, Feb. 5. Look to page 14 for more glimpses of the pop-up. Photo by John Colombo.

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Citiparks announces indoor swimming partnership with Kingsley Association

By Timothy McNulty City of Pittsburgh

Larimer - On Thursday, Feb. 9, Mayor William Peduto, Citiparks, and the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) announced that “Citiparks Pool Pass” holders - and any City resident, aged fifteen years or younger, who is a member of a Citiparks recreation center - will be able to use their pass to access the indoor pool at The Kingsley Association (6435 Frankstown Ave.) in Larimer.

"I'd like to thank the Kingsley Association for opening their doors to our residents and Citiparks swimmers," Mayor Peduto said. "We are very fortunate to have Kingsley operating in the city and I am pleased that more and more residents will benefit from their beautiful facility."

The Kingsley Association is a settlement house organization that has provided programming for children, families, and seniors for more than a hundred years in the city. Kingsley opened their current Larimer location in 2004, and it has greatly

improved the well-being of members and the neighboring communities. With access to Kingsley Association pool, Citiparks swimmers can now utilize a second indoor pool - in addition to the Oliver Bath House [38 S. 10th St.] on the South Side.

The Kingsley pool's hours of operation are as follows: Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.; and Saturday, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Citiparks Pool Passes can be purchased at the Oliver Bath House.

In order to receive a Citiparks recreation center membership card, a parent must register each child - who must be fifteen years or younger, and a resident of the City of Pittsburgh - at any of Citiparks' ten recreation centers. Swimmers must then present the membership card for entry to the pool each day.

[Editor's Note: The Kingsley Association is now hiring lifeguards. Contact Gwen Dixon at 412-661-8751 (ext. 133) for more

Mayor issues Executive Orders to protect city's affordable housing

A letter from Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto

Residents of the City of Pittsburgh:

In 2016, the Affordable Housing Task Force, co-chaired by Councilman Daniel Lavelle and Director of City Planning Ray Gastil, produced a report containing over forty recommendations.

This report was the result of countless hours of work by task force members informed by a public engagement process where hundreds of community members expressed to the City their most pressing housing priorities. During the last six months, my administration has proudly worked with City Council and community stakeholders to move forward one of the more significant recommendations made by the Task Force, the creation of the Housing Opportunity Fund.

However, there is much more work for us to do. We must not only expand the tools available to increase and preserve the housing opportunities available to low and moderate income residents, but increase the protections afforded to Pittsburgh's long-time residents across all of our neighborhoods. In order to advance these efforts, my administration is issuing a series of Executive Orders.

Over the past year, we have also worked with stakeholders to move forward major initiatives to reimagine what development in Pittsburgh can accomplish. From the equitable development work led by Neighborhood Allies, Urban Innovation 21, and the UrbanKind Institute (with the support of PolicyLink) to the advancement of the Heinz Endowments' "p4 initiative," the message is clear: "good enough" is not good enough anymore.

My administration is committed to creating a livable city for all. These Executive Orders are the next step in an ongoing process to address not only the challenges of today but to lay the foundation for an equitable Pittsburgh in the future. To do that, we will need the support of the whole City – residents, advocates, developers, financiers, nonprofits, and others must join together to implement local changes and speak with a unified voice in Harrisburg and Washington.

The success and perseverance of Pittsburgh, that is admired the world over, has always been rooted in our strong neighborhoods. With these Executive Orders, we will take an important step toward preserving and enhancing those neighborhoods for the next generation of Pittsburghers.

William Peduto
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

[Editor's Note: find a copy of the Mayor's Executive Orders about affordable housing at www.apps.pittsburghpa.gov/mayorpeduto/AffordableHousingEO_02.15.17.pdf.] ♦

Kingsley Association Swim Classes & Aquatic Programs

Adult Learn to Swim

Four lessons for ages 18 & over, following the American Red Cross Curriculum
Thursdays from Noon – 12:45 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. (Beginning March 2)
Cost is \$25 for Kingsley members / \$40 for non-members

Youth Learn to Swim

Lessons for infants through age 17 (British Swim School)
Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.; Saturdays from 9 a.m. – Noon
Discounts available for Kingsley Members

Water Aerobics

Shallow-water exercise class that aims to increase movement through aerobic exercise and resistance training. This class is safe for non-swimmers.
Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. – Noon
Free with Kingsley Membership / \$5 per session for non-members

Water Toning

Non- impact, water work-out provides a great option for obtaining maximum calorie burn without putting pressure on feet, knees, hips, and joints.
Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. – Noon
Free with Kingsley Membership / \$5 per session for non-members

Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn Ave

To find out what's going on every month, visit www.pennavenue.org/unblurred.

BELOW: Garfield residents Heather Anderson (right) and Hollis Laird spend Valentine's Day pitching in to clean up the garden beds along the 5400 block of Penn Ave. Photo by Andrew McKeon.



Our country is turning its back on good people

By Guillermo Perez - Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, Pittsburgh

[Reprinted from the Feb. 14 issue of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette]

Downtown - Martin Esquivel-Hernandez, a loving husband and father of three, was deported on Tuesday, Feb. 7, despite nine months of overwhelming community demands that he be reunited with his family in Pittsburgh ("Despite Protests in Pittsburgh, Man Deported to Mexico," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Feb. 7).

Over the past four years, Martin has been a civic leader in our city [by] becoming a parent leader at his children's school, helping undocumented construction workers earn a fair wage, and doing his part to improve the lives of all immigrant families. It is a tragedy that he is no longer here. His wife and children must survive without him and the community has lost a beloved leader.

Martin and his family came to Pittsburgh to escape gang violence related to Martin's work with the Mexican army. He was deported on the same day that a family of Syrian refugees fleeing violence in their country made it safely to Pittsburgh. For immigrants and refugees, America is not just a destination; it is an ideal that inspires hope. Our country has turned its back on these ideals.

We should not deport migrants based on what country they come from, what religion they practice, whether they are documented or undocumented, or what kind of violence they might be fleeing. All people deserve a safe place to live and thrive, and we must continue fighting until all families are truly safe in our community. ♦

BELOW: Supporters gather at the City-County building downtown for a Dec. 8 rally to raise awareness about Martin Esquivel-Hernandez - a Pittsburgh resident and father of three - who was deported by federal immigration authorities less than two months later. Photo by Andrew McKeon.



Corrections: In last month's issue [Vol. 42, No. 2], local activist Christina Castillo's name was misprinted as both "Cantillo" and "Costello." Also, last month's cover photo featured marchers from the "Our Feminism Must Be Intersectional" march, not the "Pittsburgh Women's" march. In recognition of how vital proper attribution is to getting the story right, the Bulletin would like to sincerely apologize for these reportorial mistakes.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

By Aggie Brose & Wesley Davis Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Zone 5 - Pittsburgh Bureau of Police reported that, from Jan. 1 to Feb. 12, twenty-three vehicles had been reported as stolen in Zone 5. Over the same period of time, twenty-two "theft from vehicle" reports were made to Zone 5 Police. Zone 5 includes the Garfield, Bloomfield, Friendship, East Liberty, Morningside, Highland Park, and Homewood neighborhoods.

Some of the incidents appear to be random acts of theft, but many victims are left wondering if these incidents point to a larger criminal ring. Officers indicated that they have noticed an increase in car

break-ins in local neighborhoods. Some thefts are the result of careless vehicle owners; criminals often wait for drivers to leave their car unattended or unlocked. The Pittsburgh Police Bureau says that car break-ins are a "crime of opportunity," and encourages vehicle owners to do the following: never store firearms in a vehicle, always store valuable items out of sight, and park in well-lit areas.

"It takes less than thirty seconds for a thief to break into your vehicle and steal your valuables," according to the Pittsburgh Police. "And it takes only twenty seconds for you to secure your valuables." ♦

the Bulletin

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Bloomfield-Garfield
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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.

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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.

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NEED ASSISTANCE FILING YOUR 2016 TAX RETURNS?

THE BGC CAN HELP!

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service, will continue helping individual taxpayers file their federal and state tax returns online. There is no charge for this service, which will be offered every Saturday, ending on April 15. Taxpayers will need to make appointments in advance, and then visit:

Community Activity Center, Lower Level
113 N. Pacific Ave. — one block from Penn
in the Garfield neighborhood (15224)

The earliest appointments we have are at 12:30 p.m. and the latest available slot is 4:30 p.m. We do not assist business filers or individuals who have rental income or numerous capital gains' transactions to report. City residents will also be able to receive help in filing their city tax returns. All taxpayers must provide photo IDs and proof of their Social Security number in order to qualify for tax assistance services.

**CALL RICK SWARTZ AT THE BGC (412-441-6950, EXT. 11)
IN ORDER TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT**

AHN now offering “same day appointments” for primary and specialty care patients

By Jesse Miller Allegheny Health Network

Pittsburgh - Allegheny Health Network (AHN) recently announced a bold new step to enhance the experience of patients seeking access to its programs and services in the greater Pittsburgh region.

Patients who call before 11 a.m. to request primary or specialty care appointments can now get one scheduled for that same afternoon. AHN is the first healthcare provider in the region, and among the first nationally, to improve the timeliness of healthcare delivery by offering “same-day appointments” for both primary and specialty care.

“Our goal is to provide patients with an exceptional experience across every touchpoint within our network. Offering same-day appointments is a significant milestone, and the first of many to come, in our efforts to exceed the expectations of those we care for and further improve the health of the communities we serve,” AHN President and CEO Cynthia Hundorfean said in a prepared statement.

According to a Merritt Hawkins & Assoc. survey that studied five medical specialties in fifteen metropolitan areas across the U.S., the average wait time to see a physician is eighteen and a half days. “We understand how frustrating it can be having to wait days, or even weeks, for a medical appointment and the challenge that many people have fitting appointments into their hectic schedules,” Kenyokee Crowell, Senior Vice President of Clinical Access at AHN, said.

“The availability of same-day appointments provides patients with a unique level of convenience and peace of mind in knowing that, whenever they or someone in their family needs to see one of our caregivers, they have the opportunity to do so within hours of making the call.”

From Monday through Friday, patients can schedule a same-day appointment by calling 412-DOCTORS (362-8677) between 7 and 11 a.m. Based on the patient’s need, AHN will find the most appropriate healthcare provider and location based on the availability of services. The provider could include a primary care physician, specialty physician, nurse practitioner, or physician’s assistant.

Same-day appointments are scheduled on a “first-come, first-served” basis. When patients call after 11 a.m., they are offered either a same-day appointment (pending availability) or the next available appointment. Certain clinical needs could result in an exception to the same-day commitment, Crowell said. In this instance, the call will be triaged by a member of the health network’s “Care Connect Team.”

According to Elie Aoun, MD, and AHN’s Medical Director for Clinical Access, “expediting access to healthcare services positively impacts the entire patient experience. By eliminating long wait times for appointments and addressing a patient’s health concerns in a more timely and well-coordinated fashion, better clinical outcomes can ultimately be achieved.”

Dr. Aoun added that, upon calling for an appointment with AHN physicians, patients who have an acute illness or injury may still be referred to an urgent care center or emergency department if their symptoms so require. He also said patients should review their health insurance benefits to determine if pre-authorization is required for their same-day appointment. ♦

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Thanks for your continued support!

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FUTUREMAKERS Lab *continued from page 1*

will be a first in the “arts presenting” field - and a first for Pittsburgh.

KST’s “FUTUREMAKERS Lab” is a twelve-week, collaborative incubator; participants will focus on refining ideas while taking their project through the requisite phases of innovation, test, and scale. Beginning in April, the program features eight weeks of immersive training, relationship building, and core project development followed by the June launch of all FUTUREMAKERS Lab projects.

Created by Janera Solomon, KST’s executive director, and project director Darrell Kinsel, the incubator is the second in a series of KST programs developed to expand the role of performing arts presenting institutions - to help them stay relevant and responsive to community needs. The project was made possible thanks to the support of the Opportunity Fund (5126 Penn Ave.).

An advisory group headed by Kinsel will select FUTUREMAKERS Lab participants from a pool of applicants. Facilitating the ways that event producers and curators can help make a neighborhood vibrant, KST will leverage its local and national network of affiliations to produce development opportunities for incubator participants.

As Kinsel pointed out, many people are now finding themselves at a similar crossroads: they are creative, but do not necessarily identify as artists. “This subgroup of creative people is often forgotten in the conversation around professional development and the need for a support network,” he noted.

KST is no stranger to “creatives,” producers, and curators - all of whom are just as vital to a thriving arts community as the artists themselves. “This incubator is a new model for fostering creative, community-centered practice and reinforcing an initiative to connect diverse creative technology, business, and art on the avenue,” Solomon said.

Providing a platform for non-traditional

practices, FUTUREMAKERS Lab will highlight unique local products and services while offering creatives an opportunity to innovate any new or pre-existing idea from their portfolios.

KST continues supporting the local diversity of skill, thought, and identity amongst creative entrepreneurs - an essential element to the success of any thriving city, especially Pittsburgh. Diverse “game-changers” from across various industries and disciplines are encouraged to apply to this opportunity.

Applications, which will be accepted through Friday, March 24, can be found online at www.kelly-strayhorn.org. ♦

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GARFIELD NIGHT MARKET RETURNS!

From May through September, the Garfield Night Market will run from 6 to 10 p.m. during the Unblurred: First Friday gallery crawl on Penn Ave. The market can host up to thirty-two vendors; organizers are interested in recruiting those who sell art, jewelry, food, clothing, and other wares. Nonprofit organizations that would like to set up a booth and spread the word about their services are also encouraged to apply. Those interested in being a vendor should visit www.facebook.com/garfield-nightmarket and click the “Sign Up” button at the top of the page.

Bike PGH hosts fourth annual “Women and Biking Forum” at Ace Hotel

By Jane Kaminski *Bike Pittsburgh*



ABOVE: BikePGH instructor and Board Member Karen Brooks tests brake levers to demonstrate a safety check during the first “Women & Biking Forum” at Chatham University’s Bike Works in 2014. Four years on, BikePGH is keeping the forum’s momentum going with an April 1 gathering at East Liberty’s Ace Hotel. Photo by Sarah Jugovic.

East Liberty - According to the League of American Bicyclists, “in 2009, women accounted for just 24% of bicycle trips in the U.S.” Bike Pittsburgh wants to change that. On Saturday, April 1, Bike Pittsburgh will join women throughout the region at the fourth annual “Women and Biking Forum,” presented by Dollar Bank. More than 100 “bike-minded” women will convene the forum at the Ace Hotel Ballroom (120 S. Whitfield St.) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The forum will feature guest keynote speaker Victoria Robinson, who became the first “She-ro” of a bicycling advocacy organization called, “Black Girls Do Bike.” Robinson grew her Florida chapter from nothing to a community of over 200 people committed to creating an inclusive cycling movement for women of color. The goal of the Women and Biking Forum is to lower the barriers to bicycling for all women and those who are gender non-conforming.

Anyone interested in the basics of bike mechanics, learning how to get around town comfortably and confidently, participating in athletic bike events, or becoming a stronger advocate for safe cycling will find a workshop to suit their interests. Those who are still new to cycling – and also those who have been at it for years – will undoubtedly improve their knowledge and skills at the forum.

Forum registration includes the day’s events of workshops, a keynote speech, and lunch – plus a celebratory, post-forum bike ride. Bike Pittsburgh will also be offering a women-only “City Cycling” class the next day to practice bike skills, along with strategies for safety and confidence-building. This class, which teaches everything from the navigation of traffic patterns to effective braking methods, is intended for riders who know how to ride a bike, but seek instruction on how to operate it safely on city streets.

Call 412-325-4334 or visit bikepgh.org/forum for more information and registration. Use the code “BULLETINBIKES” to enjoy a 25% discount on the ticket price. ♦

Peduto Administration seeking outside advisory team to restructure PWSA

By Katie O'Malley *City of Pittsburgh*

Downtown - On Friday, February 3, Mayor William Peduto's Administration released a call for a financial and legal advisory team to assist the City with the critical need to improve the Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority (PWSA), consider long-term plans for the authority's operations, and improve customer services to Pittsburgh residents.

"The City of Pittsburgh owns the water and sewer system that was leased to the PWSA decades ago. It's time to reevaluate this structure," Mayor Peduto said. "After systemic problems with inadequate billing, lead in our service lines, and this week's flush and boil water advisory, the City has the duty to find new ways to improve our water services, and create the safe, effective and sustainable water authority our residents deserve."

A request for proposals was issued to identify an advisory team that would manage evaluations of a possible restructuring of the PWSA to enhance water and sewer service delivery. Once chosen, the team will help kickstart a process of addressing the agency's repeated structural failures. This could include plans to implement alternate ways to provide water services, possibly through a public-private partner-

ship to jointly manage some authority operations. The PWSA board has been advised of the request for proposals, and supports it.

The Administration is next considering plans to gauge interest from organizations to partner in the operation of the water and sewer asset, including a “capital improvement plan” to invest in critical infrastructure needs. The advisory team will study the financial condition of the city's water and sewer lines; engage with residents and other water consumers for their input; and recommend ways for the City to maximize public control in any partnership.

As the Mayor's Chief of Staff, Kevin Acklin explained, "while we are not presently considering a full privatization, nor a third-party arrangement similar to the previous engagement with Veolia, we are seeking a full financial and operations partner. With disintegrating water infrastructure, massive debt problems, and repeated failures in customer service and billing issues, deep changes to the PWSA are obviously necessary. We will work diligently with City Council, and the public, to identify the best solutions for our residents." ♦

CREATIVE NONFICTION JOINS THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Creative Nonfiction Foundation (CNF) is honored to be a new addition to the Bloomfield/Garfield/Friendship neighborhood. Founded in Pittsburgh in 1994 and now located at 5119 Coral St., CNF's main objective is to provide a venue for writers and storytellers who want to take their skills to the next level.

CNF publishes two magazines (one monthly and one quarterly), produces books under the imprint “In Fact Books,” and offers a growing variety of craft-based writing workshops and online classes. Simply put, CNF is true stories, well told.

To learn more, or to register for a writing class, visit www.creativenonfiction.org.

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Assemble gears up for STEAM summer camps

By Anna Josephson *Assemble*

Garfield - Marking nearly a year since moving into a larger space, Assemble is gearing up for its first summer camp season at 4824 Penn Ave. The educational arts and technology nonprofit's new headquarters, located down the street from its previous home, will provide summer campers with a more spacious and air-conditioned space.

Several camp sessions will run from June 19 to August 18. Children between the ages of 11 and 13 are invited to sign up for "YOU-topia," where they can build their own world of technology, design, and communication to help make the world around them a better place. Assemble's premier, girls-only camp, "Gigi's Lab Girls," was inspired by a camper; girls (ages 9 to 12) can learn about STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) careers and explore important women's achievements in science- and math-related fields.

Founded by Nina Marie Barbuto, Assemble is a community space dedicated to fostering learning and creativity, and specializing in implementing STEAM principles. The organization is "all-ages" inclusive for anyone interested in creativity and fun. Artists, scientists, makers, technologists, teachers, and other curious minds connected with each other via Assemble's interactive programming. Throughout the year, several classes - including after school camps, maker nights, and "Unblurred" art crawls - take place at the center.

All summer camps will run Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration per child is \$200, but is free for Garfield residents. Assemble also arranges pay-what-you-can scholarships, as well as other donation options.

Contact Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator Hannah Sauder at hannah@assemblepgh.org or 412-661-6111 for more information. To register a child for camp, or to read more about the different sessions, visit www.assemblepgh.org/summer-camps-2017/. ♦



Lawrenceville Vision Care

New Location
4321 Butler Street
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THE BULLETIN WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Send us a note about what you would like to see in *the Bulletin*.

This publication begins and ends with you, the community, so we respectfully invite your opinions and insights. Please contact our neighborhood tip-line/suggestion box/commentary pipeline at Bulletin@Bloomfield-Garfield.org.

Ft. Pitt School *continued from page 1*

standpoint of its long-term operations. The list of requirements outlined is lengthy; it presumes that a developer and the community have already been in dialogue about the future of the school building, and that other parties may have already been contacted about securing the necessary financing.

The school district is also asking to see strong backing from the community for any particular re-use plans. This has left many residents who live near the school property wondering how anyone could realistically put together a thorough bid package in such a relatively short amount of time.

During a Jan. 31 community meeting in Garfield, Bob Jones, Jr. - executive director of Brothers and Sisters Emerging (BASE), a nonprofit based in the neighborhood - said that, as the district sheds buildings across the city, he did not want to see another valuable asset lost for good. "The closing of the school created a large void in Garfield," he told an audience of about thirty people.

"The school was a place that brought many of us together under one roof for decades. We have nothing like that now. This could be our chance to rectify the damage that was done to the community years ago."

Evans Moore, Jr., who said he only recently returned to Garfield, suggested that, "a letter be sent to school Superintendent Anthony Hamlet, asking that Ft. Pitt be pulled from the list of nine schools to be sold in this round." He followed with a request for "Dr. Hamlet [to] make time on his calendar for a meeting with Garfield representatives prior to March 6."

The goal of such a meeting, Moore said, would be to convince Dr. Hamlet to enter into an agreement with community entities to allow for a longer time period in which to explore the re-use of the property

and formulate a plan, as well as locate the funding needed to execute that plan. The response from those in the audience on Jan. 31 appeared to favor Moore's idea; several people volunteered to assist in drafting a letter to the superintendent. Although the letter was submitted in mid-February, no response had been received from the Superintendent's office by *Bulletin* press time.

Another group of volunteers planned to meet and examine how at least a portion of the school building could be converted to housing. On Friday, Feb. 10, the volunteer group held a phone conference with a representative from ACTION-Housing, Inc. - a nonprofit agency that has developed housing in the region for over 60 years - but no agreement was reached about the Ft. Pitt property.

According to Linda Metropulos, the director of development for ACTION, "it would take months to secure financing commitments to re-do a portion of the building as affordable housing. But the school district is asking for a plan within a matter of weeks. I just don't see how it can be done."

Pat Morosetti is a marketing director with Fourth River Development, a brokerage firm hired by the district to locate buyers for the nine school buildings. Morosetti publicly stated in late January that he understood "there will be no dropping of the sale prices on any of the properties for for-profit buyers. The district's asking price will remain firm. The only parties for whom the district will consider discounting the price, at some future point, would be for those who are nonprofit in nature."

Considering all the possibilities come Tuesday, March 7, the future of the old Ft. Pitt School building just might remain unresolved. ♦



AT LEFT: Despite various renovations and additions, the old Ft. Pitt School site still sits vacant at the top of the hill in Garfield. Now that Pittsburgh Public Schools has listed the buildings for sale on the open market, many Garfield neighbors are advocating for the property to be redeveloped into affordable housing. As of press time, the Superintendent's office had not responded to a letter written by local residents. Graphic courtesy of Rick Swartz.

Neighborhood FOCUS

Stanton Heights neighbors coalesce around community initiatives

By Loren Kurpiewski *Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association*

Stanton Heights - Upon entering the Stanton Heights neighborhood via Stanton Ave., some drivers may get the impression that, architecturally speaking, they are traveling along the border of two separate neighborhoods.

One side of the avenue is filled with winding streets, along with bi-level and post-WWII houses; the other side boasts an organized grid, peppered with traditional four-square and Georgian revival homes. Striving to bring residents from both sides of the avenue together, the Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association (SHNA) takes more stock in its community members than in their beautiful dwellings.

Established in 2009 as a 501(c)(3) membership-based organization, the SHNA often collaborates with city Council members and explores civic improvement projects. "Knowing our neighbors and connecting regularly - whether at a community meeting, a neighborhood clean-up, or a happy hour - is what makes Stanton Heights such a wonderful community," SHNA President Lissa Geiger Shulman explained.

The association regularly organizes neighborhood yard sales, community festivals, and beautification projects; one such project called for installing a sign at the entrance from East Liberty to Stanton Heights on

Stanton Ave. and surrounding it with ornamental trees.

Many of the beautification initiatives are spearheaded by the SHNA "Green Committee."

In addition to its organized clean-up events, the Green Committee also helps community members create beautiful "green spaces," like the rain garden between Stanton and McCandless Aves. The committee even spearheaded a new initiative to build a neighborhood composting site where residents can contribute compostable yard waste to reap the rewards together. The SHNA also plans to commission a mosaic on one of the neighborhood's many sets of city steps.

While the community does coalesce around beautification projects, the most effective way to attract residents is through social events. Collaboration with "Hops on Lots Pittsburgh" and Roundabout Brewery resulted in a "fundraising" beer - brewed from Stanton Heights' own community-grown hops.

"Knowing our neighbors and connecting regularly - whether at a community meeting, a neighborhood clean-up, or a happy hour - is what makes Stanton Heights such a wonderful community."

- Lissa Geiger Shulman
President, SHNA




ABOVE: Representatives from the PA Game Commission discuss deer hunting within city limits during a January meeting at Sunnyside Elementary School. Photo courtesy of SHNA's Facebook page (@StantonHeights).

To celebrate this delicious, new fundraising idea, neighbors gathered at Roundabout for a festive happy hour; the SHNA continues hosting monthly happy hours at various bars and restaurants in the surrounding neighborhoods. For their February meet-up, neighbors gathered at the new Primanti Bros. restaurant (5491 Penn Ave.) in Garfield.


"Coming to SHNA events allows [board members] to meet people from all parts of the neighborhood to share what's going on here and across the city," Geiger Shulman noted. "I've learned so much from our residents and their interests. I couldn't imagine living any place else."

In order to create a more informed community, the association holds monthly meetings at Sunnyside Elementary School (4801 Stanton Ave.). These forums often feature question-and-answer sessions with representatives from City Council Districts 7 and 9, updates from Zone 5 police officers, discussions of important local issues, and reports on upcoming community projects.

Visit www.StantonHeights.org or www.facebook.com/StantonHeights to learn more about the SHNA. ♦



PENN AVENUE FACEBOOK PHOTO CONTEST



This past January, local residents submitted photos for consideration in the Penn Avenue photo contest. Visit the Penn Avenue Facebook (www.facebook.com/pennavenue412) or Instagram (www.instagram.com/pennavenue412) profiles to vote for your favorite. The winning photo will be featured in the next issue of *the Bulletin*. Visit <http://pennavenue.org> for more information.

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FCG Meeting provides quarterly update

By Staci Backauskas *Friendship Community Group*

Friendship - Nearly forty people attended the first quarterly Friendship Community Group (FCG) meeting on February 2 at the Fourth Church (located at the intersection of Friendship and Roup Aves.). Neighbors mingled and shared home-made desserts before FCG Board treasurer Larry Laude kicked off the meeting at 7 p.m.

John Axtell, Chair of the "Housing and Business Borders Committee," and committee member Jennifer Haven provided updates on Penn Plaza, as well as the Baumhaus construction. They also reported that the state Commonwealth Court upheld the city's decision to deny zoning variances requested by the developer of the former Babyland property at Penn and Negley Aves.

Anna Tang from the "Neighborhood and

Environment Committee" shared that the renovations to the play park at the Montessori School are complete. A recently awarded \$5,000 Community Development Block Program grant from the City will be used to restore the sidewalk around Baum Grove.

Other committee reports included information about the annual Friendship Folk and Flower Festival (scheduled for May 13), a request for volunteers to participate in the Friendship House Tour in September, and plans for upcoming events at Baum Grove.

Laude closed the meeting with a reminder that there are two open seats on the FCG Board and asked that nominations be directed to any current board members. To volunteer or learn more, visit www.new.friendship-pgh.org. ♦

Marilyn got a same-day appointment and went from "game over" to "game on."

After fracturing her wrist playing tennis, Marilyn called (412) DOCTORS and met with an Allegheny Health Network orthopaedist that afternoon. At 80, she didn't want to waste a day getting back in the game. Call (412) DOCTORS from 7AM to 11AM Monday-Friday, for a same-day specialty or primary care appointment. Because never having to wait for your health is #LivingProof.



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Pittsburgh Shambhala Meditation Center finds new home on Penn Ave.

A message from the Pittsburgh Shambhala Meditation Center

Penn Ave. - The Pittsburgh Shambhala Meditation Center is excited to announce that we will be making Bloomfield/Garfield our new home in August, when we move to the second floor of 4805 Penn Ave.

The center, which started in 2008, offers meditation sessions, weekend retreats, and a comprehensive path of classes and teachings. We welcome anyone with interest in meditation or mindfulness, regardless of experience. Instruction is always available for newcomers.

Our view is that the basic nature of every human being is one of goodness, wisdom, kindness, and strength. Through meditation practice, we can bring forth these qualities and develop mindfulness and awareness in our everyday life.

This way, we become fulfilled by who we already are: the way we are as individuals, partners, parents, activists, or employees. Our life then becomes a place for cultivating our goodness and wisdom so that it radiates out to our families, friends, communities, and society as a whole. We call this "creating enlightened society" and we believe that it is one of the most important things we can do.

One part of our practice in Shambhala - directly related to creating enlightened society - involves social engagement around areas of injustice: race, economy, education, and environmental degradation. As another form of engagement, we host affinity groups that tie meditation to specific experiences like recovery from addiction, aging, and education. Through all of this, we awaken to the joy of fully living in this world together.

We currently hold classes and free meditation sessions at 733 N. Highland Ave. (rear carriage house). To see our schedule, visit www.pittsburgh.shambhala.org. ♦



State to improve services for LGBT older adults

By Trevor Monk *Pennsylvania Department of Aging*

Harrisburg - On Tuesday, Jan. 24, the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) leadership team, along with leaders from the Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL), and board members of the Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging (P4A) participated in a training session to improve cultural competency inside aging services for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults.

The training was provided by Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Elders (SAGE). "We repeatedly heard calls for increased cultural competency and our need to better serve and support diverse communities," Secretary of Aging Teresa Osborne said. "We made positive connections with SAGE and others who are willing to partner with us so that leaders of aging services in Pennsylvania can achieve the cultural competence necessary to better respond to the needs of LGBT older adults and seniors living with HIV/AIDS."

The fourth goal of the 2016-2020 State Plan on Aging is to empower the workforce. The training session served as a catalyst for this effort as it brought aging services' leaders together to focus on the

culture, needs, and concerns of LGBT older adults. It also highlighted best practices for ensuring that LGBT older adults and seniors living with HIV/AIDS are welcomed and included in the spectrum of aging services.

"The Wolf Administration is committed to developing strategies to ensure that every aspect of our long-term services and supports system are accessible, inclusive, welcoming, and culturally sensitive to matters of sexual orientation and gender identity," Secretary Osborne said. "This training is an important step that is intended to serve as a springboard for connecting vulnerable LGBT seniors with the resources and services needed to age in place with the dignity and respect they deserve."

During 2017, the Department of Aging will continue its efforts to collaborate with multiple LGBT stakeholder groups in order to ensure that Pennsylvania's LGBT seniors and older adults living with HIV/AIDS are well represented. For more information on the Department of Aging and services for older adults, visit www.aging.pa.gov. For more information on SAGE, visit www.sageusa.org. ♦

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ABOVE: Local job-seekers take to the laptops to explore new job opportunities in healthcare during a West Penn Hospital hiring event at the Eastside Employment Center (5321 Penn Ave.) on Thursday, Feb. 2. Photo by Rick Flanagan.

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Latham St. Commons *continued from page 1*

ideals seem to be riding a new wave of change brought about by today's information revolution.

Along with Mary Lou Arscott and other colleagues at Friendship's Latham St. Commons (LSC, 30 Latham St.), founder Kristin Hughes hopes a new partnership with the Good Work Institute will engage local residents' questions of "how do we begin to build and nurture more sustainable communities?"

"Our mission is to successfully pilot an economically feasible model that supports socially and environmentally responsible practices on a small scale, then eventually share and grow with other communities," Hughes said. "Neighbors engage directly in the process of creating new programs, services and local businesses that address unmet wants and needs of this community."

In May of 2016, LSC was granted official nonprofit status as an organization that

practices new ways of living through doing and through an integrated learning environment, as well as the services that support these new ways of living.

"Latham Street Commons is a place where food, commerce, and community become integrated with education and sustainability. This is the basis for what we call a cooperative ecology," Hughes told *the Bulletin*. "To improve access to new ways of living, we will need to build a resilient ecosystem of people working together to address all of the factors that affect a person's access to food."

Hughes and Arscott are currently seeking local entrepreneurs willing to share their knowledge and work to build a more socially responsible economic model. The "Good Work Forum" on Thursday, March 9, figures to be a local hub for the exchange of entrepreneurial ideas.

"We are hosting the workshops to better understand the type of practices (social, economic, environmental) that we need to focus on in order to build the world we want, while finding a place in the world as it is," Hughes said. "We will explore alternative perspectives on the ethics of work and the nature of capital, and engage in a series of participatory exercises with the community to help us reimagine the possibilities of work."

Latham St. Commons' March 9 forum represents the first of what it hopes to be many community workshops for social entrepreneurs, community champions, and dreamers with progressive solutions for modern social ills. Fundamental to the organization's spirit, this hands-on workshop will be driven by community-based participation, incorporating the hopes and dreams of all participants.

"To date, we have twenty-five people signed up for the workshop," Hughes revealed. "Between the lawyers, fashion designers, metal artists, writers, and upholsterers, it should be an interesting group."

Those interested in participating in the Good Work Forum should RSVP to kristin@lathamstcommons.org; space is limited. Due to construction at the Commons' Latham St. headquarters, the event will be held in Garfield - at the GBBN Architects, Inc. office at 5411 Penn Ave. ♦

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“We the People” must get together, now more than ever

By Staci Backauskas *Friendship Community Group*

East End - We, the “People of the United States,” have been lazy and apathetic for too long. Voter counts have been plummeting for years and we choose not to voice our opinions to elected officials.

Even the events that took place on Sept. 11, 2001, could not shake us from our cocoons for more than a season’s worth of pro football. Just like a widow feels six months after the last casserole is gone, we grieved while approaching a return to lives that were already comfortably in progress. Now, the election of Donald James Trump to the highest office in the land has kicked over the rock of denial and shined a light on the dark, slimy attitudes and beliefs that we have chosen to ignore.

We cannot remain silent while the reality of racism, inequality, and poverty squirms underfoot like a bed of worms in the dirt. In speaking with my neighbors over the last few months, I’ve realized that more and more of us are searching for ways to do our part - to bolster and sustain the current wave of change. Many of us have decided that we can no longer go along believing that the U.S. is the greatest country in the world and pretend

that, if our individual lives are okay, then everyone else’s must be hunky-dory as well. Spikes in donations to civil liberties organizations like the ACLU and Planned Parenthood correlate not only with millions of Americans marching in the streets, but also with increased participation in grassroots initiatives to foster affordable housing and health-care. We, the People, have stepped up.

Here in the East End - thanks to our backyard organizations like the Thomas Merton Center (5129 Penn Ave.) in Garfield, Circles (100 Sheridan Ave.) in East Liberty, and Latham St. Commons (30 Latham St.) in Friendship - local community members are fortunate to have so many ways to connect and support each other. This spring, Baum Grove will resume its regular schedule of “social justice conversations.”

More than any other area I have ever called, “home,” our area is committed to effecting positive local change by addressing the social mechanics of racism, poverty, and access to education. We do it one step at a time. For the sake of our city, and our country, we the People must get together to share our stories. ♦

Burn center promotes space heater safety

By Jesse Miller *Allegheny Health Network*

Bloomfield - This winter, West Penn Hospital’s (WPH, 4800 Friendship Ave.) Burn Center is reminding the public that “space heaters need space.” Improper use of space heaters can lead to serious injuries and even loss of home or life.

A few of the region’s most recent, space heater-related fires include: a February 2015 fire that killed an East Hills woman because flammable items were left too close to a space heater; and a January 2015 fire in which three Point Breeze residents, including an infant, lost their home.

“Home-heating fires cause thousands of injuries and deaths in the U.S. every year, and the majority of these fire fatalities involve space heaters,” the burn center’s medical director, Ariel Aballay, MD, relayed. “By making small, conscious choices with space heater use, the public can remain safe while staying warm.”

According to the National Fire Prevention Association, about half of all space heater fires in the home are the result of an object

being left too close to the heater before igniting. The association made the following recommendations: flammable objects, and children, should be kept at least three feet away from any space heater; heating units should always be plugged directly into an outlet - never an extension cord - on a solid, flat surface.

For more information on space heater safety, follow Allegheny Health Network (AHN) on Facebook and Twitter (@AHNToday) or visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbRpc0nW2JQ for an informational video featuring representatives of the West Penn Burn Center, the Etna Volunteer Fire Department, and the Monroeville Fire Department.

Earning verification from the American Burn Association and the American College of Surgeons, Bloomfield’s burn center is the only facility of its kind in the region that treats both pediatric and adult patients. ♦

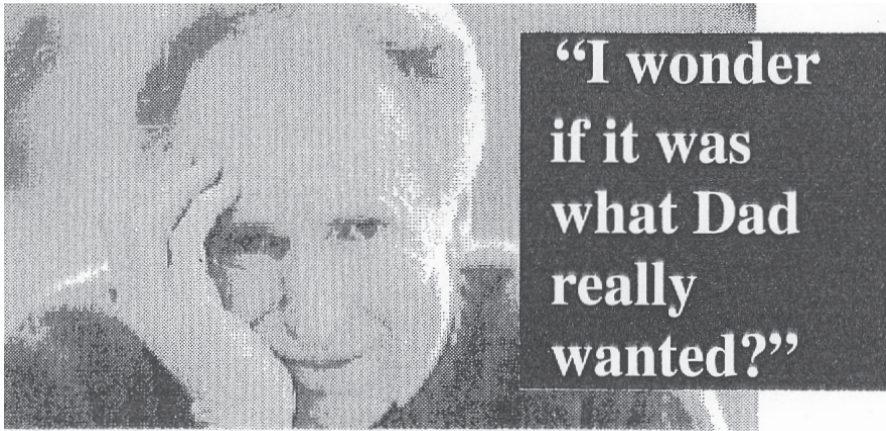
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The BGC is a membership organization that counts on residents and business owners like you to support its efforts. Our membership has been a part of recent accomplishments, like bringing an ALDI grocery store to Penn Avenue, facilitating the Garfield Night Market, and starting construction on 19 new affordable rental units in Garfield!

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LOCAL REAL ESTATE BLOTTER

- Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty, Lawrenceville, and Stanton Heights -
Property Transactions (Dec. 16th, 2016 - Jan. 15th, 2017) Compiled by Lillian Denhardt, Howard Hanna Real Estate

Bloomfield

457 Sapphire St. LLC to Joseph Rosenbloom at 457 Sapphire Way for \$1.

Christopher M Bonfield to Paula Marie Bender at 4917 Yew St. for \$100,000.

David R & Christina Treece to David R & Christina Treece at 414 S Winebiddle St. for \$1.

Easy Rentals LLC to Michael J Franklin at 413 Orwell Way for \$199,400.

Kathleen R Farrington to Daniel J Menges at 238 Edmond St. for \$217,800.

Nicholas A Ullum to Ullum Properties LLC at 445 Ella St. for \$52,325.

Paul Bondarenka to Benjamin A Cominos at 455 Cedarville St. for \$170,000.

Raymond A & Anisa A Polk to Angelo V Deuliis at 708 Edmond St. for \$125,000.

Sandra R & Robert L Podolinski to Simon C Girling at 4638 Friendship Ave. for \$191,000.

Suzanne Shannon to Suzanne Shannon at 373 S Evaline St. for \$1.

Tam Van & Kim Lieng Dao Phan to Allen G Ellis at 5150 Friendship Ave. for \$298,000.

Timothy S Allman to Katherine Sulkowski at 712 Edmond St. for \$173,000.

Friendship

Fernando & Philomena Bolea to Melissa Bolea at 318 Amber St. for \$1.

Manal Moustafa to Minnerly Family Trust at 7 Clarendon Pl. for \$240,000.

Garfield

Hillcrest Community Center Corporation to

Brothers & Sisters Emerging at 5315 Hillcrest St. for \$40,000.

Shelly A Hawkins to Nicholas Fedorek at 5416 Broad St. for \$118,000.

Urban Redevelopment Authority Of Pittsburgh to Urban Redevelopment Authority Of Pittsburgh at 5461 -5481 Penn Ave. for \$24,723.

Urban Redevelopment Authority Of Pittsburgh to Urban Redevelopment Authority Of Pittsburgh at 5461 Penn Ave. for \$24,723.

Urban Redevelopment Authority Of Pittsburgh to Urban Redevelopment Authority Of Pittsburgh at 5467 Penn Ave. for \$24,723.

East Liberty

Charlene Anderson to Adams P Carol III at 416 N Beatty St. for \$130,000.

ELDI Real Estate LLC to Sharon Portis-Ottey at 719 N Beatty St. for \$134,500.

Louis Devito to Laura Sliker at 5444 Stanton Ave. for \$432,010.

Lawrenceville

43 1/2 Street Development Group LLC to Mary Evans Barendseld at 158 45th St. for \$559,960.

Alpha Beatty LLC to Zachary M Boyd at 163 Almond Way for \$250,000.

Ashley M Heaney to Christine O & Thomas A Stenger at 3624 Smallman St. for \$365,000.

Bullychild Redevelopment LLC to Michael Zajko at 327 Farley Way for \$140,000.

Bullychild Redevelopment LLC to Michael Zajko at 329 Farley Way for \$140,000.

Candice U Liozu to Victory R A LLC at 249

45th St. for \$165,000.

Cat II LP to Aiello Develop Co LLC at 0 41st St. for \$400,000.

Christopher R Alder to Daniel J Alder at 5121 Keystone St. for \$3,500.

Christopher T & Christine Burns to Johnny L Adkins at 158 Almond Way for \$100,000.

D&D Properties LLC to Richard & Catherine Porter at 4010 Howley St. for \$195,000.

Dionne Woods to Dionne Woods at 4408 Eden Way for \$147,500.

Dolores M Schilling to Benjamin W Pettenati at 5424 Camelia St. for \$54,000.

Edward W Barry to Frank M Machi at 0 Mintwood St. for \$1.

George W & Ruth C Fischer to Fischer Family Irrevocable Trust at 4051 Cabinet St. for \$1.

James & Patricia O'Neil to James O'Neil at 5328 Dresden Way for \$1.

Joanna Firmin to Joanna Firmin at 4311 Willow St. for \$100.

John W Carr to Keith Kochert at 5603 Mccandless Ave. for \$77,000.

Joseph F & Nita B Ryan to Joseph F & Janice K Ryan at 4205 Post St. for \$1.

Joseph F & Nita Ryan to Nita Ryan at 349 Main St. for \$1.

Joshua P Demott to Rebecca M Taschner at 523 53rd St. for \$217,000.

Lavandula Way LLC to Jane F Kaminski at 123 41st St. for \$1.

Lawrenceville Holdings III LP to Lawrenceville Holdings III LP at 4023 Butler St. for \$10.

Lawrenceville Sunrise II LP to Cooper T

Pierce at 5132 Carnegie St. for \$335,000.

Michele Mikus to Denise M Burton at 172 Lodi Way for \$1.

Northeast Trade House LLC to Adam R & Megan C Zimmerman at 346 Main St. for \$430,000.

Regina Bekman to Regina & Yuriy Bekman at 4070 Howley St. for \$1.

Robert M Kielek to 5515 Penn Inc at 5405 Kent Way for \$100,000.

Steven Frank to Chris Mccarthy at Howley St. for \$41,500.

Thomas C Kicinski to The GST Exempt Trust F/B/O William W Westberg at 3463 Spring Way for \$178,000.

Timothy M & Amanda J Fleeger to Christopher R Hayek at 274 45th St. for \$296,000.

Stanton Heights

James Hoffman to Jing-Yi Chen at 1117 Downlook St. for \$190,000.

Kyle Henderson to Kseniya Kuzmenka at 916 Oranmore St. for \$92,000.

Kyle Henderson to Kseniya Kuzmenka at 918 Oranmore St. for \$92,000.

Patrick L Mccort to Patrick L & Amanda E Mccort at 1103 Fairfield St. for \$1.

US Bank National Association to 254 46th St. LLC at 931 Woodbine St. for \$36,500.

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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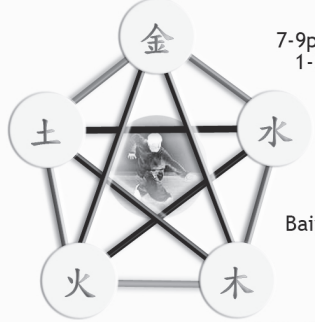
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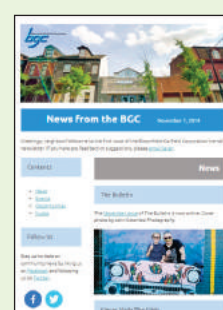


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The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, fundraisers, and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Listings are published on a space-available basis; we cannot guarantee placement or thorough edits of any listings. Announcements for the April issue of *the Bulletin* are due by **Monday, March 20**. Please submit listings using our online form at www.bit.ly/bulletin_submit.

March 3 - Friday

LAWRENCEVILLE
Lenten Fish Fry

New Bethel Baptist Church (221 43rd St. in Lawrenceville) will host a Lenten Fish Fry on the following Fridays: March 3, 10, 17, & 24. From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., the church will serve baked sweet potato pies and pound cakes. To place orders in advance, call 412-291-8185.

GARFIELD
Art of Tayeb Khelifa

Bantha Tea Bar (5002 Penn Ave.) hosts closing show of the Art of Tayeb Khelifa from 7 - 10 p.m. Different styles in oil painting on canvas, done here in Pittsburgh. "It's about forms, light, colors, movement and dynamics," Khelifa says. "A swing between my imagination and my personal perception of reality."

"Togetherness"
Photography Show

Irma Freeman Center (5006 Penn Ave.) from 7 - 10 p.m. The show will feature Suman Gupta (India), Samir Garai (India), Maranie Staab (Pittsburgh), Susan Wagner (Pittsburgh), Annette Poitau (France), and Pier Luigi Slis (Italy).

March 10 - Friday

LAWRENCEVILLE
"HUMP!" Film Festival

The 2017 HUMP! Tour returns to Pittsburgh for its third year (at Spirit Hall - 242 51st St.) on March 10 & 11 with screenings at 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Our carefully curated program is a cornucopia of body types, shapes, ages, colors, sexualities, genders, kinks, and fetishes - all united by a shared spirit of sex-positivity. HUMP! is a celebration of creative sexual expression. For an overview of each film and the full list of tour dates, check out www.humpfilmfest.com.

March 11 - Saturday

GARFIELD
"Refugee Night"
Fundraising Event

Irma Freeman Center (5006 Penn Ave.) from 5 - 8 p.m. Refugee Night Fundraising for "Midnight Helpers" will feature a silent art auction and recep-

tion, along with complementary food and beverages. Many Pittsburgh artists will be participating. \$5 suggested donation at the door.

March 12 - Sunday

GARFIELD
"Men of Integrity"
Church Service

Morningside C.O.G.I.C. (5173 Dearborn St.) will host the "Men of Integrity" Service on Sunday, March 12, at 3:30 p.m. Asking all to come and be blessed. We will also be selling BBQ ribs dinners for \$10, chicken dinners for \$5, and combo dinners of ribs & chicken for \$15. Sides will be baked beans and potato salad. All proceeds will help fund our

annual "Community Day."

March 15 - Wednesday

LAWRENCEVILLE
Free Lecture:
"Victorian Pittsburgh"

The Lawrenceville Historical Society continues its public lecture series with local historian Philip Weber speaking on urbanization in the East End during the latter part of the nineteenth century. He will also examine the Gilded Age millionaires who lived in the East End, such as Henry Clay Frick. The free lecture will take place Wednesday, March 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Library (279 Fisk St.). The event is free and open to the public. No reservations are needed.

STANTON HEIGHTS
Monthly Community
Meeting at Sunnyside

From 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., the Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association (SHNA) will gather at the Sunnyside Elementary School library (4801 Stanton Ave.). We will see a second presentation about bringing public art to our neighborhood, learn about information available in the city's new

"Burgh's Eye View" app, and hear from local candidates for District Judge.

- Ongoing -

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 at 10:15 a.m. Hope to see you soon. Please enter the Cube building through the doors under the clock.

Zumba Gold

Zumba Gold is perfect for active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba® class that recreates the original moves you love, at a

Local eateries join forces, "SPAKTEKA" pops up on Penn

BELOW: While the owners/operators of APTEKA were away on vacation, their friends at Spak Bros. Pizza (5107 Penn Ave.) take over the vegan restaurant's space to create "SPAKTEKA" at 4606 Penn Ave. Thanks to a creative new menu and some atypical decor - not to mention the help of Ryan Spak (left), Greg Colaizzi (top right), and Tim Robes - the pop-up left quite a lasting impression on local diners. All photos by John Colombo.



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Startable Pittsburgh

Startable Pittsburgh is now accepting applications from students age 15-19. Startable is a free eight-week summer program that teaches students ages 16-18 entrepreneurship and maker skills. Students receive a program stipend and free TechShop membership while networking with professionals and launching their own businesses. The program takes place in East Liberty from June 26-August 18. Learn more and apply online at www.startablepgh.org. Contact Jackie Shimshoni at jshimshoni@innovationworks.org.

Life'sWork Training

Life'sWork of Western PA prepares youths and adults for entry into the workforce by assisting clients in job training programs that lead to employment preparation and placement assistance. Life'sWork is currently enrolling clients to participate in two 8 week adult training programs: Customer Service Representative Training Program, Environmental Services Training Program. Additional services include tutoring and GED prep, life skills seminars, staff/peer mentoring and job placement. To learn more, or to make a referral, contact Josh Martin at 412-471-2600 (ext. 321) or via email at jmartin@lifesworkwpa.org.

"Wellness Wednesdays" healthcare event kicks off in Garfield

AT RIGHT: On the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 15, West Penn Hospital (WPH) hosted its first "Wellness Wednesday" event from at the Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.) in Garfield. The event provided local community members with free blood pressure screenings, as well as tips on how to improve one's heart health via exercise and healthy eating. WPH staff took their time to address each visitor's personal health needs. Every month, WPH will host a new Wellness Wednesday event; each one will focus on a different healthcare theme. For more information, call 412-441-6950 (ext. 15). Photo by Wesley Davis.



High School Diploma Program

Garfield Jubilee Association, Inc. (GJA) - located at 5323 Penn Ave., behind the old St. Lawrence O'Toole Church on Penn & N. Atlantic Aves. - is recruiting volunteers and mentors to help prepare breakfast and lunch and tutor students in GJA's high school diploma program, construction and building, healthcare (CNA), and customer or retail service training. Volunteers will need to be task-oriented, problem-solving, and focused; they should be able to provide academic support, guidance, leadership, and motivation. For more information, contact Connie M. Taylor at 412 665-5210.

LAWRENCEVILLE

New Creation PM Church

Please join us at New Creation PM Church (5227 Holmes St.). Sundays at 10 a.m. - Sunday Schools and Life Recovery; 11 a.m. - Worship Service; Tuesdays at 6 p.m. is "Truth Tuesdays"; and much more. For more information, call Pastor Don at 412-853-5030.

CITY-WIDE

lower-intensity. The easy-to-follow Zumba® choreography focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Come ready to move, and prepare to leave empowered and feeling stronger. The Zumba class is offered at Vintage Center for Active Adults (401 N. Highland Ave.) in East Liberty. Call Tom Sturgill, Program Director, at 412-361-5003 for more information.

GARFIELD

Assemble Afterschool

Are you in 1st - 8th grade? Come hang out with Assemble (4824 Penn Ave.) on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4 - 6 p.m. Want to create a tweeting plant, build a "Battlebot," or test a rocket? Students will complete hands-on STEAM projects exposing them to multiple exciting mediums. Assemble Afterschool is an exploratory afterschool program that introduces students to local artists and makers in their community. Students will be encouraged to create and teach one another through the making process. Mondays: 5th - 8th grade - Girls Maker Night (Girls only) / Tuesdays: 6th - 8th grade (ages 11 - 14) / Wednesday: 3rd - 5th grade (ages 8 - 10) / Thursday: 1st - 2nd grade (ages 6 - 7). Assemble Afterschool is free! To register, email hannah@assemblepgh.org to receive a permission form. For more information, visit <http://assemblepgh.org/assemble-after-school/>.

PITTSBURGH
CITY OF BRIDGES



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ABOVE: According to Lawrenceville United's executive director, Dave Breingan, the new year brought with it new hate crimes to Leslie Park when, in early January, vandals spray-painted racist slogans on facilities near the baseball field. In response to this heinous act, concerned Lawrenceville residents have banded together to form "Building Bridges PGH," a signage movement to show solidarity with those threatened by local bigotry. Visit www.buildingbridgespgh.com to download/print the above sign and take a stand against hate in Pittsburgh communities.

April Bulletin Deadline: March 13

Download advertising information: bit.ly/bulletin_ad

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

“Water’s gone cold”: an elegy for Tea Bags

Reprinted courtesy of Pittsburgh Orbit

BELOW: Local blog Pittsburgh Orbit has contributed the following op-ed about an outside image in Bloomfield - the Tea Bags mural - and what it represents in the East End's changing landscape. Photo courtesy of Pittsburgh Orbit (www.PittsburghOrbit.com).



Bloomfield - Once, I'm told by my lifelong Lawrenceville neighbor, Butler Street included a bar whose sign advertised “No TV,” but a fight every night. Mark claims the message was no exaggeration, just pure statement of fact. That space is now V3 - personal (fancy) pizzas. There's still no television, but it's doubtful there's an equal amount of trouble.

Another friend talks about a saloon in Michigan called “The Home Bar,” so named because “no matter what you did, you can always come back.” The Home Bar is apparently still around, allowing Kalamazoo's citizenry back in some thirty years on.

“Always in hot water” has been Tea Bags’ [4114 Main St.] goofy salacious tag line for at least a couple decades. It used to be featured in big scrolling letters under the rest of the bar's alley-side mural, but was sadly painted over a few years ago [the reason is unknown, but we assume graffiti cover-up as the likely explanation]. The slogan remains etched into the custom behind-the-bar mirrors, but they won't last long, and you probably can't get in to see them anyway.

The Main St. corner bar has yelled its final last call, packed up its Cherry Master machine, green bar stools, large jars of alcohol-soaked cherries, and loaded them into a box truck directed to who-knows-where. The process to transfer Tea Bags liquor license to new owners is well underway.

The new, yet-to-be-named business taking over the space [assuming all the paperwork goes through] will be a fair departure from Tea Bags' nuts-and-bolts, no-frills corner bar. From Bloomfield Development Corp.'s posting of the business plan:

“The bar/restaurant is a price-friendly location for those who seek educated bar-man ship [sic] and well-crafted cocktails, with an approachable yet notable beer selection, and easy yet technique-driven menu items. Pop culture, art, music, and skateboarding

nuances will account for the subtle design details to create an easy feeling atmosphere that is appreciated by the local 25-35 age range.”

Call this blogger an old, non-skateboarding “fuddy duddy,” but it's painful to see oneself demographically excluded from a new place in the neighborhood before they've even selected a name.

It's becoming a sad, repeated refrain - even right here in the virtual pages of Pittsburgh Orbit. The old place catering to every(wo)man closes from declining business, gets bought out, or someone just retires. The new owners want to get them some of that Google and Uber dough. Why eke out a living on dollar Jello shots when you can charge six bucks for an I.P.A. and ten for a hamburger? It makes economic sense - if you can sell it - but feels like a little part of the city is dying with every one of these up-sell transitions.

This blogger won't claim to have been a regular at the bar [so maybe I'm part of the problem] but he's slanted a few in its smoky, natural light-defying confines over the years. Along with Wilson's Pharmacy, Sunoco, and the 54C, Tea Bags has been the most constant presence in the general Penn & Main crossroads for the last twenty years. I must have walked, ridden, and driven past the bar thousands of times by now - pretty much every single day. Even with that frequency, seeing the big-toothed grin on the sunglasses-wearing anthropomorphized tea bag never fails to bring a smile.

If it were up to Pittsburgh Orbit, we'd extract the entire Woollayer Way mural wall and preserve it forever in a sacred, public place - just like Romare Bearden's glorious "Pittsburgh Memories" mosaic in the Gateway Plaza T station.

That probably won't happen, though. So take a little advice from us and get thee over to Main Street to check out Tea Bags' smiling tea bags while you still can. The water's cooling down mighty fast. ♦

Due to the success of The Big Easy, we are moving to a larger facility not only to facilitate our clients, but to expand our services, including daycare, boarding, a Cafe and grooming.

Voted “Best Veterinary Hospital In The City” for two consecutive years.
-Tribune Review

Safety Measures - Facility Design

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Our outdoor play yards have a 6 feet fence with additional fencing to prevent escape.
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Weather permitting, we have multiple garage doors that will be open to allow fresh air and clean breeze filter through for your dogs to enjoy while they are playing. This will maintain a clean and healthy facility free from bacteria and odor.

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