

the Bulletin

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



Citizen crossing guard provides safe passage on Penn Ave.

By Andrew McKeon *the Bulletin*

Garfield - Where most folks turn a blind eye, Rose Parker hoists a stop sign. Right at the intersection of Millvale and Penn Aves., the Garfield resident stops traffic to help students safely exit their school bus and cross the street. Some motorists honk their horns; others glare at Parker (pictured at left), who volunteers her time every day throughout the school year.

The stop sign, which Parker purchased on Amazon as an upgrade to an old, makeshift cardboard sign, does not always do the trick. So, she lets the rest of her striking red outfit – including a color-coordinated coat, hat, and sometimes even galoshes – convey how serious she is about providing safe passage for students like her grandson.

“I just happened to remember I had a red coat. You really need something to grab the drivers’ attention,” she said. “Otherwise, they’ll just keep going right as the kids are trying to cross the street.”

While waiting at her grandson’s bus stop in 2016, Parker witnessed a close call that almost took a young girl’s life. She

See **Citizen Crossing Guard** | page 7



ABOVE: Garfield resident Rose Parker is in her element at the intersection of Millvale and Penn Aves., where she serves the community as a volunteer crossing guard. After witnessing one too many local students survive a close call with motorists as they exited the school bus, Parker decided to order a stop sign, put on her brightest red clothes, and then stop traffic herself. Read more about this dedicated citizen crossing guard at right. Photo by John Colombo.

Remembering Rooney: how Dan made a difference in Garfield

By Bob Jones, Jr. *Brothers & Sisters Emerging*

Op-Ed / Garfield - It is not well-known, but the former president of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Dan Rooney, who passed away in mid-April, did have a role in touching the

See **Dan Rooney** | page 5

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EVO preps new food truck to feed local children

By Andrew Perrow *the Bulletin*

Friendship - Since 2013, Earthen Vessels Outreach (EVO, 250 S. Pacific Ave.) has been providing East End families with a vital service: free access to fresh food and ingre-

See **EVO Food Truck** | page 11

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ABOVE: Dancers prepare for a new Attack Theatre performance called, “The Next Stop,” which features debut works from internationally renowned choreographers. The May 20 performance is designed to explore dance as a learning tool for area youths. Photo by Dr. Robert Kormos.

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COMPARATIVE Q&A: PITTSBURGH MAYORAL CANDIDATES

On April 18, the Bulletin reached out to the candidates running for Mayor of Pittsburgh, seeking their feedback on a few important issues ahead of the May 16 primary election. All three (Democratic) candidates' responses have been edited for space and printed below.

What new initiatives will you introduce during your first 100 days in office?

List three ongoing issues you plan to address in your first year that, in your view, would enhance the quality of life in the city?

As the city anticipates cuts to federal community development and housing funds, how will you replace this loss of funding?

Reverend Dr. John C. Welch

"In my first 100 days, I will institute an aggressive recruiting strategy that will promote diversity within the civil service sector jobs - especially within the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police - as we are in danger of losing a significant number of qualified officers to retirement. This program will be similar to the 'DiverseCity365' program under Mayor Ravenstahl, which saw a 221% increase in total civil service applicants and an 80% increase in diverse applicants. I will call for a federal state of emergency around the city's water crisis and I will call for an audit of the URA and the Housing Authority."

"The city is facing an affordable housing crisis and current development is primed to make Pittsburgh a virtually gated community. I will push for a mandatory, inclusive zoning ordinance requiring twenty to thirty mixed-income developments. I will push to have EPA-approved, point-of-entry filtering systems installed for PWSA customers to fully comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Then, I would address when and how to replace the service lines. I will also evaluate the vacant parcels of land owned by the city and acquire neglectful landowners' properties, then work to rehab these homes into accessible, affordable houses to address the increasing homelessness issue. I will reassess the appropriation of bike lanes to ensure cyclist safety and mitigate 'door zone' accidents. I will put pressure on UPMC pay their share of payroll preparation taxes to address gap revenues in the city of Pittsburgh."

"The city receives about \$15M dollars in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money each year. We should be able to address this shortfall through the enhanced Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) programs expiring June 30 of this year. Other city funds that will be freeing up from bond payments in the upcoming year."

Mayor William Peduto

"In 2014, Pittsburgh was selected as a member of the '100 Resilient Cities' program to help us become more resilient to the physical, social, and economic challenges that we face in the twenty-first century. Earlier this year, we released our resilience strategy, which we will continue to implement. The framework focusing on 'People, Place, Planet, and Performance' will ensure that, as we move forward, we do it as one Pittsburgh. The plan outlines a wide range of actions to navigate the challenges that we will face in the future, ranging from housing to transportation to land use to wastewater management."

"Our administration is committed to continuing to address the needs of affordable housing, early childhood education, and our city's aging water infrastructure. By implementing the recommendations of our affordable housing task force, the City is responding to the pressures that all of us as are facing from market-driving housing prices. We are working to secure the opportunity for early childhood education for every three- and four-year-old in the city. That's why we've worked with council to establish a task force that will give us a blueprint for universal pre-K by the end of the year. We have established free lead water-testing and filter programs for all city residents; we are working with state officials to eliminate restrictions the city has on replacing service lines owned by private property owners; and we have established a blue-ribbon panel of experts to advise the city on legal, operational, and safety issues."

"Despite what happens in Washington, we've been through tough times and we will continue to move forward. One example of critical funding that we are moving to protect is the City's Learn and Earn program. We introduced legislation to protect funding for summer youth employment. By re-engaging with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, we are working with cities across the country to lobby for funding for critical programs."

Councilwoman Darlene Harris

"My highest priority is to make sure that I involve community members in decisions about their communities. Mr. Peduto has ignored their voices for too long, but I would have an open-door policy. I will initiate my plan to fix PWSA's issues. I will work with police officers and public safety to ensure they have the resources to address some of their biggest issues, such as violence and drugs. I will bring 'Shot-Spotter' to the areas that still need it. I would not micro-manage the departments, and I would not forget about the basic issues such as having streets paved, garbage picked up, and potholes filled."

"First, I plan to improve our citizens' health, safety, and welfare. One way I will accomplish this task is by addressing the water crisis. The current administration is more interested in hiring consultants to discuss potential solutions than actually taking action. But, I will try to bring back the chemists who ensured our water was safe in order to get us back on track. Second, I will prioritize public safety. The citizens of Pittsburgh deserve to feel safe in their homes and not have to worry about violence. I will work to rehabilitate or, when necessary, tear down abandoned properties in order to prevent illegal activity in those locations, increase the property values of surrounding homes, and create housing suitable for all types of individuals and families. Finally, I will focus on improving the morale of city employees and making sure that each department has the workers they need to provide their services to the community."

"I will go to Harrisburg and Washington, D.C. to explain to officials why Pittsburgh needs this funding. I would also collect the billboard tax that Mr. Peduto has failed to collect. I worked hard to create this legislation around three years ago, but Mr. Peduto has not tapped into the expected \$16 million revenue this tax would produce. And, I would stop wasting tax dollars on overpaid directors."



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Schools exploring strategies to support growing ESL student population

By Ebony R. Pugh *Pittsburgh Public Schools*

Pittsburgh - With all ten of its English as Second Language (ESL) regional centers experiencing increases in enrollment, Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) is now sharing potential strategies for enhancing its standard of service for students and families. The strategies aim to support the creation of an ESL delivery model that reduces student travel, increases family engagement, and prepares for anticipated growth in ESL student populations.

"As part of our evaluation of services provided to our English language learners, we found that, while we are meeting state guidelines for all students, there is a lack of a consistent standard of service and allocation formula for our ESL students. Our evaluation results were supported by the findings and recommendations of the Council of Great City Schools," PPS Superintendent Hamlet said at an April 4 School Board meeting.

To proactively improve services and increase family engagement, the District proposed changes to the configuration of its ESL Office; immediate changes involve expanding the support of all eleven educational assistants to increase translation

services. The addition of an ESL instructional specialist and a "translation and interpretation" manager will support the office's three full-time team members.

The District will also examine the possibility of providing ESL services to students in their home feeder schools, as well as leveraging its PreK program to provide supports to students at a younger age. The District will also explore the creation of a "Newcomer Academy" to serve students who have interrupted formal education (SIFE), have been enrolled in a U.S. school for less than two calendar years, or require the maximum amount of ESL support daily.

Currently, the District serves 1,056 ESL students, up from 877 last year. The most popular languages spoken among the District's ESL student population are Spanish (246) and Nepali (204); additional languages include Swahili (150), Arabic (151), Russian/Uzbek (59), Chinese (54), and more (156 students speak one of the following: Burmese, Karen, French, Somali, Farsi, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Japanese, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, and more). ♦

the Bulletin

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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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PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

By Aggie Brose *Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

Commentary

Garfield - On April 13, a seventeen-year-old male was shot in the head on the 400 block of N. Graham St., according to Pittsburgh Bureau of Police-Zone 5. Officers reported that they arrived to find the victim laying in the street with several gunshot wounds, but he was conscious and talking.

Traditionally, summer months are the most active time for area gun activity, and summer is almost here. Our community must come together and resist the temptation to become complacent about gun-related violence if we are going to prevent more incidents like this one from happening in our neighborhoods. Anyone with information about the shooting on N. Graham or any other gun- or drug-related activity is strongly encouraged to call the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Group Violence Intervention (GVI) squad at 412- 323-7151. You will have the option to remain anonymous if you call GVI.

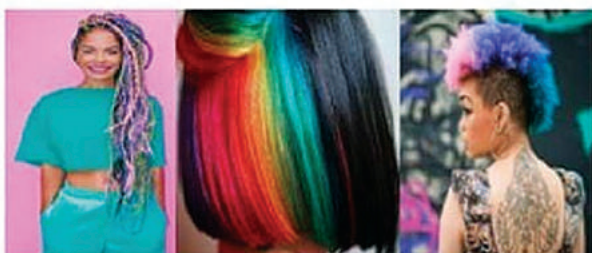
Do you want to keep your neighborhood safe? If so, call me at 412-441-6950 x15 to learn more about how you can get involved to keep our neighborhoods safe. ♦

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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.



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Dan Rooney *continued from page 1*

lives of kids from Garfield and the neighborhoods surrounding it.

In 1994, when a group of Garfield men were seeking to start a football program that could be sustained for years to come, we had to reach out to a number of people for help in getting started. In doing our initial fund-raising, we came upon a notice in one of the city's newspapers, announcing that there was soon to be a meeting of the Art Rooney, Sr. Foundation. Art Sr. was Dan's father, who had already passed away by 1994.

We did not know much more about the foundation than the fact that it existed, but we thought it would be worth our while to send a letter appealing for support to the foundation just to see if we might get a response. In the letter, we apprised the foundation of our desire to start a football program in the fall for young kids in Garfield.

For several weeks, we heard nothing, and wrote off the notion that the Steelers would be in a position to help us with our goal. Then, one summer day in that same year, a call came in from the office of Steelers vice-president, Art Rooney II, Dan's son. We were being invited to come into the Steelers' offices at Three Rivers Stadium to meet with Art Rooney II and describe who exactly we were, and what it was we were intent on doing.

A small group of neighborhood representatives were ushered into Art's offices. He asked each of us to introduce ourselves and tell him more about our plans. He questioned us intently and, for a while, it did not seem things were going to go our way. He had a list of questions on a yellow notepad, and was carefully weighing our responses to each. In the end, he thanked us for coming and we departed - feeling as though we had given it our best shot, but prepared for disappointment.

By the third week of July, we were getting ready to launch the Garfield Gators football program, with or without any help from the Steelers. And then the phone rang again; this time, there was an invitation to come to the Steelers' offices early on a Saturday evening, prior to an exhibition game between the Steelers and the Indianapolis Colts. No other information was forthcoming. Many of us had already made plans for that evening, except for one person, Rick Swartz of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation.

Rick showed up at 6 p.m., and was told to join a small group of other nonprofits in a trip up to one of the stadium boxes reserved for the media and other guests. The Steelers' official who greeted the community folks said they would have to stay in the guest box at least until halftime before being called down to the field. Again, no reason was given as to why exactly that would be necessary. The secrecy was a bit frustrating. Rick told me he thought this could be the equivalent of some form of musical chairs, where someone is ultimately left without anything.

Right before halftime, with the group of community folks now huddled on the field just beyond the end zone, Dan Rooney walked out from the tunnel that ran underneath the stands. The game was momentarily stopped, and the public address announcer told the crowd to direct their attention to the field below, where a special ceremony was about to occur. On the scoreboard appeared the name "Garfield Youth Sports" identifying us as one of the groups on the field. Dan walked along the short line of community people, introducing himself, asking each of them who they were, and then delivering a check in an envelope to each.

For Garfield, the envelope held a check for \$5,000. It was a total surprise. Rick said he refused to open it until he was outside the stadium. Suddenly, we could look at buying some new equipment; the players; uniform order for that first season became a lot less concerning. To say that a small burden had been lifted from our shoulders might be an understatement.

None of us ever met Dan again after that, but from time to time, his son Art would check in to keep tabs on how things were going with the Gators. We have always been sure that the last thing we would ever want to do would be to let down the Pittsburgh Steelers and Dan Rooney. Twenty-three years later, we do not feel that we have. ♦

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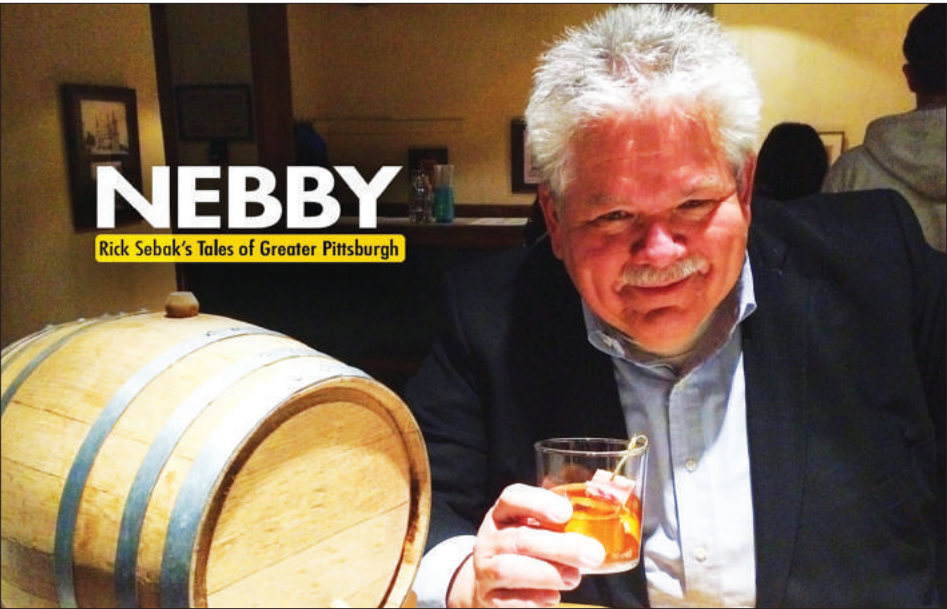
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“Rick-starter” success: Sebak fundraiser exceeds its goal

By Tiffany Parker *Bulletin contributor*



ABOVE: Rick Sebak, a local on-air legend for WQED, is thirsty for more local stories, so he is preparing a new program series called, “Nebby: Tales from Greater Pittsburgh.” This time around, Sebak took a new approach to raising program funds via his patented, online “Rick-starter” campaign. Photo courtesy of WQED.

Pittsburgh - “Nebby” is a word often heard in western Pennsylvania. It means “nosy” or “inquisitive,” denoting a person who asks a lot of questions. It is classic *Pittsburghese*.

“I think ‘nebbly’ is my favorite of the local Pittsburgh words that I grew up with,” local on-air legend Rick Sebak recently admitted. Acknowledging the fact that nobody uses the term “Greater Pittsburgh” anymore, Sebak is currently designing new programs to spotlight the whole tri-state area, while also giving special billing to his beloved local stomping grounds around the city.

“I try to make the program that I want to watch,” he said. “I hope that others share the same curiosity and general ‘nebbiness.’” Taking today’s federal funding forecasts into account, Sebak turned a normal Kickstarter campaign into a “Rick-starter” pledge spot for the ages.

Between *Meat Pittsburgh* and *A Short History of Route 88*, Sebak has grand plans for his audience. Although federal funding might be drying up, he is just getting started.

Sebak’s fascination with the little things is

hard to hide; he focuses on the margins, where local characters thrive. “The stories are about what’s going on, not about me,” he said. Upon close examination of his locally- and nationally-syndicated programs, Sebak is certain of one thing: “Pittsburghers love the Pittsburgh shows.”

The Beagle Brothers, a local band comprised of Sebak fans, was honored to write the theme song for the fundraising campaign. “How amazing is that?” Sebak asked. “I know those guys and their lyrics are really astounding.”

He would rather not contemplate the circumstances of Rickstarter failing to meet its goal in time. “I don’t want to think about that,” Sebak said. “We can scale back and do one or two. Take advantage of the money we have from the Buhl Foundation.”

According to the Rickstarter page, “the entire goal of \$113,000 must be met before funding will be released to WQED, or any individual is charged. If the goal is not met, WQED does not receive any of the contributions to Rickstarter and the donor’s credit card will not be charged.” As of press time, Sebak’s campaign was already well above the giving limit – a testament to his ebullient temperament and inimitable persona.

During the past thirty years at WQED, he has been through good times and bad. But, if Sebak was ever worried about the fundraising goal, his face never showed it. “I was lucky to be born with a face that always makes me look like I am smiling,” he told *the Bulletin*.

Numerous businesses have supported the campaign by holding special events to generate proceeds in support of Sebak’s unique vision. Those interested in supporting WQED’s most recognizable face may visit www.wqed.org to learn more. ♦

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Farmers' market returns to Arsenal Park

By Danielle San Filippo *Lawrenceville Farmers' Market*

Insight

Lawrenceville – In anticipation of the June 3 opening of the Lawrenceville Farmers' Market, some might just suffice to say, "The veggies are coming." But, that's not even half of the story. Over the years, the market has become a neighborhood staple for local produce, meat, cheese, baked goods, maple syrup, coffee, Wigle Whiskey products, lunch specials, and more.

The Lawrenceville Farmers' Market is open every Saturday, June 3 through October 28, from 1 to 4 p.m. in Arsenal Park. Last year, twenty-three vendors provided a broad range of everyday staples and specialty goods; this year's list has grown to feature an even greater variety of vendors.

Now in its seventh year, the market is celebrating its second year in vibrant Arsenal Park, which provides the neighborhood with a beautiful *al fresco* market space. As the new market manager, I look forward to meeting you this year. Make sure you stop by the market information booth so we can talk. Beyond paying in cash, you can also process credit, debit, and EBT cards at the information booth for market purchases.

Thanks to the market's partnership with Just Harvest, for every \$5 they spend with SNAP benefits, customers receive an additional \$2 to be spent on any market produce. In addition to delicious food provided by a large variety of weekly vendors, the market will host weekly children's activities, chef programs, music, yard games, picnicking, incentives for older adults, and many seasonal events.

We're in the midst of planning a pre-season launch party at Allegheny Wine Mixer, as well as several other fun events in the community throughout the season. For more information about the farmers' market, including regular updates about market vendors and events, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LawrencevillePGHFarmers-Market/ or email Market@LUnited.org to get added to our e-newsletter.

The Lawrenceville Farmers' Market is a program of Lawrenceville United, an inclusive, resident-driven, nonprofit organization that works to improve and protect the quality of life for all Lawrenceville residents. For more information, please contact (412) 802-7220 or stop into the office at 4839 Butler St. ♦

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To learn more, call Aggie Brose, Deputy Director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, at 412-441-6950 (ext. 15).

Citizen Crossing Guard *continued from page 1*

BELOW: Always wearing a smile to go along with her red outfit, Rose Parker is happy to put herself in harm's way to make crosswalks safer for students. Photo by John Colombo.



decided that, even if it was the city's responsibility [Pittsburgh Public Schools students travel on these buses], she had to take things into her own hands.

So, Parker suited up and began walking into traffic. It was not long before one driver, who whizzed around a school bus and its stop-sign, made her almost regret becoming a citizen crossing guard. "By the grace of God, she had good brakes," Parker exclaimed.

As she manned her post one April afternoon, Parker made deft use of the crosswalk call-button, pressing it in rhythm with approaching school buses to create a red light and safeguard students' arrival. A handy phone app also helps her track schedule changes if certain buses are running late.

Now retired, the grandmother's previous occupation -working as a PPS school bus driver for many years - qualifies her as a veritable expert on school bus protocol. Since Parker is beloved by local parents and other pedestrians, not to mention the fact that she knows just how bus drivers should handle myriad traffic situations,

she has the makings of an excellent crossing guard.

"One guy asked me if I was authorized to be out here," she recalled. "I said that I'm a grandmother waiting for my grandson, so that authorizes me to be out here."

The city might as well just hire her and say "keep up the good work." Alternatively, if the city asked this volunteer to step aside and staffed the corner with one of its own crossing guards, Parker would welcome the change. "I'd appreciate if they put someone who has the authority to ticket dangerous drivers out here," she told *the Bulletin*.

Until then, Parker welcomes other local residents and parents to follow her example. Otherwise, she will have to develop superhuman speed to cover all the bus stops along Penn Ave. "I wish I could be like Flash Gordon and be at every intersection up and down the avenue," she said with a smile.

As she waits for the last school bus driver to pass by and wave, sometimes as late as 5 p.m., Parker often strikes up conversations with pedestrians and neighborhood parents. One concerned mother even suggested throwing eggs to really drive the point home with bad motorists.

"Usually, when someone like me is out in the street, they're either crazy or they just want you to stop. I'm all of the above," she said with a wink.

The most common bad habit Parker observes in city drivers is, hands down, texting-while-driving. That is where her outfit, which grabs even the most peripheral attentions, comes into play; no matter where she stands, this living stop sign just cannot be ignored.

"If they can't see me, they need to stop driving," Parker explained. ♦

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Neighborhood FOCUS

New hotel on the horizon, Bloomfield residents hold developers accountable

By Andrew Perrow & Andrew McKeon *the Bulletin*

Perspective

Bloomfield – It is no secret that most Pittsburgh residents have strong opinions about redevelopment, especially in the city’s East End neighborhoods. So, it should come as no surprise that a new hotel development slated for construction at 4520 Penn Ave. is raising some eyebrows along the avenue.

In April, *the Bulletin* reached out (via email) to a few residents who live near the proposed construction site to get their feedback about a new Hampton Inn Hotel moving into the neighborhood.

“I own a property directly adjacent to the site and I never received outreach of any kind from the developer or their representatives,” Daniel Barrett responded. “They provided no notifications, phone calls, or invitations to discuss their plans and how it might affect me and my home. If it weren’t for my involvement with BDC [Bloomfield Development Corporation], I wouldn’t even be aware of this project.”

Aiming to create a transparent process that is inclusive of all community members, the BDC has stayed close to the flame throughout the preliminary stages of the hotel’s development. For the past several months, the BDC has encouraged Bloomfield residents to make their cases to the developers during open-door, community meetings in the area.

According to Executive Director Christina Howell, at most of the meetings, “the feeling of those who attended from the community was largely that a hotel could be great here.” One of her neighbors’ main concerns, though, is preserving the unique essence of Bloomfield as new developments take hold along a corridor that links up with Garfield and Lawrenceville.

“Artists, activists, small businesses, and community-minded organizations have

infused a sense of art and intrigue into the avenue...Unfortunately, I don't get the sense that this Hampton Inn is going to add to the excitement and create something that's unique to our neighborhood.”

– Dan Yablonsky, Bloomfield resident

infused a sense of art and intrigue into the avenue. Every building from Mathilda to Negley oozes with personality; we’re seeing this move towards Children’s Hospita with businesses like Apteka & Hough’s opening up,” Bloomfield resident Dan Yablonsky noted. “Unfortunately, I don’t get the sense that this Hampton Inn is going add to the excitement and create something that’s unique to our neighborhood.”

Advocating for the needs of the residents to be reflected in the hotel’s construction and implementation, Howell reminds the hotel planners that the 4500 block of Penn Ave. might make for trickier logistics than elsewhere in the city. “Penn Ave. is of a very different scale than Baum Blvd., where other hotels have popped up,” she observed. Facing the Allegheny Cemetery, the hotel building would share a small back alley with longtime residents; many worry about the impact the construction process might have on their daily routine. “We’re likely to see parking and street/alley access disrupted by such a substantial



ABOVE: A new proposal to construct a hotel at 4520 Penn Ave. is drawing a variety of reactions from Bloomfield neighbors, some of whom are regularly meeting with the developers to discuss their plans. Graphic courtesy of BDC.

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project. This is a huge headache for residents that rely on Comrie Way for access to their homes, and an even bigger problem for the handful of elderly or disabled residents in the area," Barrett, who lives next to the site, explained.

He and other neighbors dread the possibility of disruptions continuing long after construction is completed, not to mention their privacy being compromised by new plans for second floor windows facing Comrie Way. The BDC has engaged the developers to consider how the hotel's trash pick-up schedule and parking protocol might affect the surrounding residents.

Apparently, the architects have planned for ample parking facilities located underneath the hotel building. "If there is one thing that this developer did a great job of, it's integrating copious amounts of parking into the basement space, maybe even exceeding the zoning code's requirement," Yablonsky indicated.

Howell notes a promising evolution of the dialogue between Bloomfield residents and the developers. "I can see that they've developed some better sensibilities as a result of this process," she said. "They've realized that they do need to respond to the community's needs and are responding now."

Although the developers have already incorporated significant changes requested by the community, some residents are still wary of the hotel's plans altogether. "I'm incredibly reluctant to be close neighbors with an unreliable, bad actor," Barrett opined. "Frankly, as much as I'd like to see positive development occur in the Bloomfield neighborhood, especially along this often neglected section of Penn Ave., it is my hope that this project does not move forward at all."

Yablonsky is a bit more optimistic, albeit reservedly so, about the possibility of becoming neighbors with a new hotel. "There is so much potential for this to be a tremendous asset to the neighborhood," he clarified, "or a terrible corporate eyesore."

Many details must be sorted out before construction plans can move forward. By sending letters to the city's Zoning Board, Howell is hoping keep the hotel development in the public eye so that all nearby residents can help shape the process.

To stay informed about upcoming meetings and the status of the project, visit www.bloomfieldnow.org or call 412-681-8800 with any questions. [Editor's Note: During a March 9 hearing, the Board decided to approve the zoning variances on certain conditions that more community concerns are addressed.] ♦



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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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“Bike to Work Day” opens up new lanes for city commuters

By Alexandria Shewczyk *BikePGH*



ABOVE: In Downtown Pittsburgh and throughout the city, “Bike to Work Day” is fast approaching on the right - on Friday, May 19, to be exact. Photo courtesy of Bike PGH.

Pittsburgh – “Bike to Work Day” is dedicated to celebrating the thousands of people in Pittsburgh who ride to work every day. Friday, May 19, also serves as the perfect day for many local residents to give bicycle commuting a try for the first time.

Through collaboration with Healthy Ride, UPMC Sports Med, East End Food Co-op, and other community partners, Bike PGH will host a “commuter café” in Oakland’s Schenley Plaza and Downtown’s Market Square. In addition to discounts at local bike shops, Bike PGH members will enjoy other perks on Bike to Work Day; members can stop by either café to pick up special edition bike bells.

Biking to work is a great way to wake up and feel alert upon arriving at work. Daily commuters get their exercise on the way to and from work, so they seldom need to take a trip to the gym during the workday. Plus, they can save gas money and bus fare while also benefiting the environment. ♦

How to prepare for Bike to Work Day

Healthy Ride will be free all day

- If you do not have your own bike, sign up for Healthy Ride at www.healthyridepgh.org.
- Trips will be free on May 19, so just set up an account to borrow a bike.

Tune up your bike or buy a bike

- Perform an “ABC Quick Check” on your bike.
- Find your local bike shop to buy a bike or get a tune-up.

Read over some tips, tricks, rights, and responsibilities

- BikePGH’s “Urban Biking Companion” provides tips on safe, easier commuting - from tire inflation to turn signals (bikepgh.org/resources/).
- Use BikePGH’s *Pittsburgh Bike Map* to plan your biking route (bikepgh.org/maps).

Plan your bike route

- Take a test-ride on your commuting route before Friday, May 19. This will ensure that you are familiar with your bike route.
- Remember that the best driving route is not always the best biking route.
- Bring a lock and find bike parking near your place of employment or ask you can bring your bike inside for safe storage.



“Like” the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation
(www.facebook.com/BloomGarCorp)

for the latest neighborhood information and community photos

EVO Food Truck *continued from page 1*

dients. A well-earned reputation for servicing local communities precedes EVO.

The Friendship-based organization recently received a substantial grant from Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. The grant will fund an innovative project, one that seeks to create a mobile food site that can also double as an interactive educational experience for younger students.

This “food truck and then some” will be retrofitted with a properly coded circuitry board and refrigeration unit. Staffed by a team of people dedicated to providing healthy meals and nutritional education, the truck will be function as a flagship for EVO’s broader mission of addressing food insecurity in East End neighborhoods.

Trained by quality chefs, staff will have a chance to give back to their community while picking up new cooking skills along the way. Executive Director Marilyn Chaney has been instrumental in spearheading the new EVO project.

When it comes down to the fast-paced responsibilities of efficient, local food delivery, Chaney and EVO’s assistant director, Jaharia Filmore, are certainly up to the task. “Right now, we take food to about ten different food sites, which is almost in excess of 400 meals a day,”

Chaney said. Last summer, her organization delivered more than 18,000 meals to those in need. With the new truck, the team expects to deliver approximately 24,000 meals this summer.

Despite the obstacles, Chaney is remarkably passionate about working with all families and establishing lasting relationships with EVO’s neighbors across the city. “The kids will come when there are relationships, when there is meaning in what they’re doing,” she relayed.

To that end, EVO plans to staff its new truck with people who are excited to be part of community development; on-site chefs will provide the kids with educational experiences about food production and cooking.

“Kids aren’t just going to come, get a free meal and leave,” Chaney said. “One day, there might be a three-on-three basketball game. Another day, it’s face-painting.”

As she assembles a dynamic team of professionals, Chaney welcomes all East End residents to keep an eye out for the new truck. Thanks to EVO, everyone can enjoy a high quality meal - free of charge - this summer. Visit <http://www.evo-pgh.org/> for more information. ♦

BELOW: Tech-heads gather to address social and civic issues at April’s “Steel City CodeFest,” where they seek to provide technology solutions for non-profits and government agencies in the Pittsburgh area. The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) submitted a proposal for a new app that sends updated “Unblurred: First Friday on Penn Avenue” activity listings directly to gallery-crawlers’ mobile devices every month. Thanks to the CodeFest team, users will also be able to post comments, submit photos, and post directly to social media through the app, allowing Unblurred to reach a wider audience and become a more attendee-centered event. The BGC will apply for funding to expedite the finalization, roll-out, and maintenance of this new app. Photo courtesy of Amber Epps.



“F4” aims to delight festival-goers

By Staci Backauskas *Friendship Community Group*

Friendship – Residents who are ready to shake off the winter blues can rejoice because the “Friendship Flower and Folk Festival,” also known as “F4,” is back with more festivities than ever. On Saturday, May 13, the festival will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Baum Grove; the intersection of Harriet St. and Roup & S. Fairmont Aves. will be filled with vendors, flowers, food, and entertainment.

Baum Grove’s amphitheater will come alive with demonstrations from urban chicken keepers “Chicks in the Hood,” “STEAM Innovators,” Assemble, and other organizations. On top of that, Sunburst Music Studio, Aerial Silk, and several local bands will perform outdoors.

Vendors plan to feature many fine wares for sale - including fused glass, jewelry, handmade cards, honey, and organic clothing – and raffle baskets will be filled with items from local businesses. Kids can enjoy a “bouncy house,” along with some activities designed by the neighborhood’s Montessori School.

Plenty of food and, of course, a variety of flowers and plants will be available for purchase at the festival. F4 is also home to Friendship’s annual book sale; those with book donations are asked to bring them to the tent at Baum Grove on the morning of the event.

Organized by the Friendship Community Group and sponsored by Giant Eagle-Market District, Councilwoman Deb Gross, and Councilman Dan Gilman, the festival raises funds to maintain upkeep of Baum Grove, the neighborhood’s main green space. ♦

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2017 summer camps at a glance: opportunities aplenty for local kids

A variety of camps will provide out-of-school fun and enrichment for East End kids this summer. Read below to learn more about some local youth programs.

Assemble

Location: Assemble (4824 Penn Ave.)

Ages: 6 -13 years old

Dates: June 19 - August 18 / 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Details: Think science camp, technology camp, engineering camp, art camp, and math camp all rolled into one for Assemble's STEAM Summer Camps. From beginners to burgeoning hackers, all skill levels are accepted and welcome. Camp is free for Garfield residents. Learn more and register at <http://assemblepgh.org/summer-camps-2017/>.

Contact: Email Hannah at hannah@assemblepgh.org.

Earthen Vessels Outreach

Location: 250 S. Pacific Ave.

Ages: 3 - 14 years old

Dates: June 19 - July 29 / 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. / Extended camp hours are available upon request

Details: The 100+ children participating in the summer camp will be in a structured learning environment that offers STEAM teaching through math, reading, spiritual formation, and recreation. Recreational activities include swimming, tennis lessons, playground games, weekly field trips, arts & craft activities, drama, and dance.

Contact: Email earthenvessels98@gmail.com or call 412-681-7272.



ESC Boys & Girls Club/Lawrenceville United

Location: 4600 Butler St.

Ages: 4 - 12 years old

Dates: June 19 - August 11 / 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for 4-year-olds; 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. for ages 5 and up

Details: Breakfast, hot lunch, and a snack are provided daily. Every Thursday, we take our members to North Park Swimming pool. Field Trips to be scheduled: Pittsburgh Zoo, Carnegie Science Center, Carnegie Museum, Carnegie Library, Aviary, Frick Museum, Heinz Field tour, PNC Park tour, and self-guided nature walks. Brochures and registration forms are available at the club's 4600 Butler St. location.

Contact: To learn more, contact John Daugherty at 412-682-4013 or email j_daugherty@bgcwpa.org.

Irma Freeman Center (pictured at left)

Location: 5006 Penn Ave.

Ages: 6 - 17 years old

Dates: June 19 - July 28 / 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. / Two camps a day, plus after-camp options

Details: New this year, teens and tweens will dance to their own choreography and make silk-screens via collaboration with Artist Image Resource (AIR). Summer campers will enjoy "Acro Yoga," dance, costume-making, space exploration, DIY crafts, performance, drawing, printing, book-binding, and circus fun. The camp offers reasonable rates and scholarships; register online at www.irmafreeman.org.

Contact: To enroll and learn about financial aid options, contact director Sheila Ali at sheiladali@irmafreemnan.org or call the office at 412-924-0634.


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LOCAL REAL ESTATE BLOTTER

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

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

Compiled by Lillian Denhardt, Howard Hanna Real Estate

Bloomfield

Erica B. Smith to Erica B. Smith at 4231 Upview Ter. for \$1.

Sarah J. Brown to Adam T. List at 4798 Yew St. for \$165,500.

Wai & Yun Wang Lam to Yun Wang at 4715 Liberty Ave. for \$0.

Wai & Wang Yun Lam to Wai Lam at 4717 Liberty Ave. for \$0.

Rachel Peluso to Diana Gregorio at 131 S Aiken Ave. for \$1.

Carolyn & Karen Garrett to Winebiddle Properties LLC at 244 S Winebiddle St. for \$320,000.

Charles J. Wright IV to Sixteen Street LLC at 210-212 S Winebiddle St. for \$1,060,000.

Brandon S. Barroso to VMRN LLC at 5008 Penn Ave. for \$120,000.

Avin J. & Emily R. Fernando to Louis J. Takacs at 208 Gross St. for \$236,000.

John L. & Elaine F. Zajicek Duran to 4114 Main Street Apartments LLC at 4114 Main St. for \$235,000.

City Of Pittsburgh to Brian Schrecengost at 4516 Wertz Way for \$200.

Thomas R. & Pamela Marsonек to James S. Marsonек at 0 Juniper St. for \$0.

Donald G. Weigand to Michael Berardone at 318 Cedarville St. for \$25,000.

John E. Baverso to Stephen P. & Kathleen S. Russell at 347 Ella St. for \$205,000.

Joseph P. Volpe to Yolanda F Volpe at 4564-4566 Rosina Way for \$1.

Friendship

Lawrence E. & Martha A. Wade to Lawrence Wade Lane at 264 S Euclid Ave. for \$150,000.

Marla J. Petersen to Joseph P. Reynolds at 8 Clarendon Pl. for \$192,100.

Garfield

Kelley Siler to Kyle Siler-Evans at 5511 Dunkirk St. for \$0.

Pioneer Enterprises LLC & Wylie Holdings Penn to Naik Realty LLC at 0 Penn Ave for \$255,000.

Agnes Wong to Patrick Funk at 4817 Kincaid St. for \$130,000.

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

East Liberty

Bayview Loan Servicing LLC to East Liberty Development Inc. LLC at 409 Selma St. for \$24,000.

Bankers Trust Company Of California to Eldi Real Estate LLC at 5628 Rippey St. for \$6,000.

Lindel & Janice Hodge to Ehaan Properties LLC at 609 N Saint Clair St. for \$125,000.

Romona L. Sallis to Eric Johnson at 715 Mellon St. for \$176,000.

Thomas W. & Irma O. Kravic to Thomas Kravic Sr Revocable Trust at 5451 Black St. for \$1.

Lawrenceville

Michael & Velma A. Fayforvich to Kurt G. Dittmer at 926 53Rd St. for \$148,250.

Ari Enterprises LLC to Coralie Kartesz at 915 Mccandless Ave. for \$55,000.

Deborah A. Mccleary to Jason Wright at 5429 Mccandless Ave. for \$103,000.

William B. & Cynthia T. Winczner to Patrick Palmer at 173-D 45Th St. for \$210,000.

William P. Ross to N. Alex O'hara at 168 45Th St. for \$367,250.

Barr Property Develop Inc. to Zachary C. Smith at 86 44Th St. for \$435,000.

City RE Holdings LP to Waterfall Properties LLC at 4745 Butler St. for \$83,500.

Jalf Enterprises Services LLC to Pittsburgh Real Estate Team Inc. at 5218 Duncan St. for \$100,000.

Roseann Nichol to Property Trio LLC at 5225 Lotus Way for \$68,000.

Harry F. & Darlene Makoby to John M. Makoby at 510 52Nd St. for \$1.

Thomas A. Schuetz to Vandalay Properties LLC at 5236 Holmes St. for \$1.

Kimberly A. Ford to White Butterfly Ventures Inc. at 206 Mccandless Ave. for \$110,000.

Mary F. Turak to Andrew T. Turak at 137 Mccandless Ave. for \$1.

Mary F. Turak to Andrew T. Turak at 139 Mccandless Ave. for \$1.

Thomas & Irma O. Kravic to Thomas Kravic Sr Revocable Trust at 5320 Natrona Way for \$1.

Richard Lee & Lois L Eggers to A & J Holdings LLC at 5238 Carnegie St. for \$105,000.

Andrew G. & Mary Dombrowski to Urban Capital Group LLC at 5256 Carnegie St. for \$99,900.

Rasjad Singer to James H. Lash at 5259 Carnegie St. for \$370,000.

Rho Enterprises LLC to Alexandra Lackos at 5215 Carnegie St. for \$295,000.

William & Dolores Charlton to Marian Tisdale at 5235 Dresden Way for \$75,000.

Pridewell LLC to Carlton Court Development at 0 40Th St. for \$360.

Pridewell LLC to Carlton Court Development at 3954 Woolslayer Way for \$360.

Mary Ann Ceoffe to Dana Pazzanita at 3610 Mintwood St. for \$70,000.

Thomas A. & Debra A. Schuetz to Larryville Holdings LLC at 264 38Th St. for \$1.

William A. Weiler to Amit & Rae Ann Shah at 241 37Th St. for \$168,798.

Carol Barr to Daniel M. & Danielle Elizabeth Barr at 4226 Sherrod St. for \$1.

Joseph J. & Theresa Ziolkowski Sutkowski to Mark Restelli at 4205 Dunkeld Way for \$3,500.

William B. & Margaret M. Barron to Glastonbury Boulevard LLC at 4038-4102 Butler St. for \$1,575,000.

JMT Development Inc. to Glastonbury Boulevard LLC at 4030-4034 Butler St for \$725,000.

Dionne Woods to Seiden Family Trust at 4408 Eden Way for \$0.

Green Box Development LLC to Jonathan Dinu at 157 42Nd St. for \$394,500.

Green Box Development LLC to Jonathan Dinu at 159 42Nd St. for \$394,500.

Edward A. & Irene A. Schultz to Patricia Ann Czar at 4310 Foster St. for \$1.

Patricia Ann Czar to Lisa Renee Czar at 4310 Foster St. for \$1.

Gloria Lach to TMNL LLC at 192 43Rd 1/2 St. for \$105,000.

Kevin J. Mclean to Lacey J. Walters at 4030 Willow St. for \$182,500.

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

Carnegie Commons LLC to Keith Cochran at 5134 Carnegie St. for \$1.

Stanton Heights

Dino Macerelli to Dino & Samantha J. Macerelli at 1547 Hawthorne St. for \$0.

LSF9 Master Participation Trust to Nasha LP at 1128 Woodbine St. for \$45,000.

Jodie L. Rupp to Gabriel L. Diamond at 975 Millerdale St. for \$129,900.

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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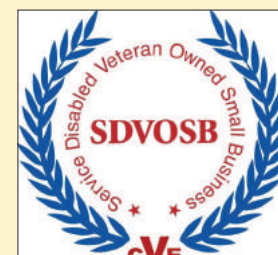
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The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, fundraisers, and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Listings are published on a space-available basis; we cannot guarantee placement or thorough edits of any listings. Announcements for the **June** issue of *the Bulletin* are due by **Friday, May 19**. Please submit listings using our online form at www.bit.ly/bulletin_submit.

May 3 - Wednesday

SHADYSIDE
Sojourner House
Fundraiser

Alex and Ani will be hosting a fundraiser for Sojourner House. This event will take place Wednesday, May 3rd, from 3 to 5 p.m. at 5505 Walnut St.

May 4 - Thursday

GARFIELD
Garfield Land Trust

A community forum to launch Garfield Land Trust begins at 6:30 pm on Thursday, May 4, at Valley View Church (601 N. Aiken Ave. - at Black & Dearborn Sts.). If you need childcare help at the meeting or if you need a ride, leave a message at 412-345-3831 or GarfieldLandTrust@gmail.com at least 24 hours before the meeting. Help sustain & increase affordable housing in Garfield. Read more at GarfieldLandTrust.org.

May 6 - Saturday

BLOOMFIELD
Vacant Lot
Transformation

On May 6, join the Bloomfield Development Corporation to transform two unsightly vacant lots at the corner of Mathilda and Aloe Sts. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., we'll be rolling boulders into place, planting perennials and a few annuals, and gener-

ally cleaning up - to help that corner look "fab" and less like an illegal dumping spot/mud pit. Bonus: if we have enough volunteers, we'll be heading out to weed and clean litter from Liberty Ave. in preparation for the following day's PGH Marathon party.

May 13- Saturday

FRIENDSHIP
Looking for F4 Vendors

Friendship Flower and Folk Festival (F4) is looking for craft/art vendors for MAY 13th. Cost is \$15 per table; checks can be made out to Friendship Community Group (P.O. Box 9180 / Pittsburgh, PA 15224). All vendors need to bring their own table, chairs, and tent. The festival is free to the public and will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Setup will run from 9 to 10 a.m. and breakdown begins at 4 p.m. If you're interested in being an f4 vendor,

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GARFIELD
"Mad Hatters"
Fashion Show

Sponsored by the Fairmont Apartments Activities Committee, the "Mad Hatters" Fashion Show will go down on Saturday, May 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Venue is located at 5461 Penn Ave. and tickets are \$10. Call (412) 403-8440 for more information and tickets.

May 17 - Wednesday

STANTON HEIGHTS
SHNA Meeting

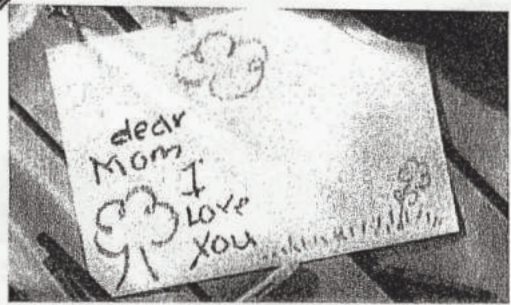
The Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association meets on the third Wednesday of every month. We

meet at Sunnyside Elementary from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Join us to learn about many upcoming projects in the neighborhood including public safety, beautification, public art, and green infrastructure. City officials will also be on hand to field your questions and concerns about any neighborhood issues.

May 18- Thursday

GARFIELD
Allegheny Health
Network Hiring Event

Come to the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC, 5321 Penn Ave.) on Thursday, May 18, for a hiring event with Allegheny Health Network. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Follow us on Twitter (@enecpgh) and on Facebook to stay connected with employment opportunities



Reflecting
on
Mother's Day

Mother's Day can be a sad time for those whose mothers are no longer living.

Whether this is your first Mother's Day without your mother or if it has been years since she has died, there are many ways to honor your deceased mother or grandmother on Mother's Day.

We would like to offer the following suggestions:

- **Talk about your mother with people who remember her.**
- **Bring out pictures of your mother, and show them to other family members.**
- **Consider taking flowers to the cemetery.**
- **Do something your mother would have enjoyed.**
- **Give a Mother's Day donation to your mother's favorite charity in her name.**
- **And finally, bring back the tradition of wearing a single white carnation in memory of your deceased mother.**



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Volunteer Opportunities Announcements Services Open Calls Shout-Outs

in your neighborhood.

May 27 - Saturday

EAST LIBERTY

"Salad-A-Rama"

The Activity Club of 5330 North Aiken invites you to our "Salad-A-Rama" on Saturday, May 27. Time: 12 - 4 p.m. Place: 5330 N. Aiken Ct. Tickets: \$8.00. You will be able to taste salads from all over, with wing-dings on the side. There will be three door prizes/gift cards. For more information, you may contact: Ms. A. Jean Owens at (Home) 412-404-2700 or (Cell) 770-337-8824; or Ms. Jewel Method at (Cell) 706-593-3105.

- Ongoing -

EAST END

Tri-Ward Baseball

Boys and girls (ages 5 and up) from Bloomfield, Lawrenceville, and Garfield are encouraged to sign up and play Tri-Ward baseball this summer. For more information, call Corky at 412-683-1828 or 412-427-7739.

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. 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: May 1) of the month at 7 p.m. with coordinated clean up activities the 2nd Saturday at 11 a.m. (next: May 13) 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. in Garfield. 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 at (412) 362-8580 or visit www.enecpittsburgh.org for more details.

BELOW: Western PA Conservancy staff lead a Saturday, April 22 training on how to plant a tree next to the Community Activity Center at 113 N. Pacific Ave. Local volunteers went to plant fifteen additional trees throughout Garfield. Photo by Wesley Davis.

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May 5 | Jun 2 | Jul 7 | Aug 4 | Sep 1

6 - 10pm

113 N. Pacific Ave | Pittsburgh | 15224

www.garfieldnightmarket.org
or garfieldnightmarket@gmail.com
for more info!



Free Trees for Garfield!

Want to reduce the street noise, runoff, and dirt entering your home - and save on utility bills? If you are located west of N. Atlantic Ave., between Kincaid St. and Penn Ave., consider applying for a street tree from TreeVitalize. It costs you nothing, but you are still required to water the tree. Any property owners applying now will be eligible for a fall tree planting.

Get a "Tree Planting Request Form" by emailing GarfieldTrees@gmail.com or calling 412-345-3831. You can also pick up a copy at the BGC's 5149 Penn Ave. office.

Affordable housing afforded new plan with scattered sites in East Liberty

By Elizabeth Sensky *East Liberty Development, Inc.*

East Liberty - Twenty new units of affordable housing are currently under construction in East Liberty; plans project a summer completion date. In partnership with the “HELP Initiative,” East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) is building this replacement housing on behalf of the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP).

These units will replace former HACP units that were demolished as part of Larimer’s “Choice Neighborhoods” redevelopment efforts. Launched earlier this year by Councilman Rev. Ricky Burgess, the HELP Initiative is a resident-driven partnership between public and private organizations that aims to aid the local supply of affordable housing.

“Everybody deserves a clean, decent, safe, and affordable place to call home in the ‘new’ Pittsburgh,” Councilman Rev. Ricky Burgess said. This new housing project represents a move away from denser, affordable developments - such as the Penn Plaza Apartments or the Penn Towers high-rises, long-since demolished, from the ‘urban renewal’ era.

“ELDI’s unique model, which provides affordable housing on scattered sites that blend seamlessly and anonymously into the neighborhood, was seen as a strength,” Eric Jester, a development consultant for the project, noted. He points to 317 Collins St. (now identified as 6429 Centre Ave.) as an example. “That building was full of empty stamp bags of heroin, mattresses, and other drug-related debris. It had been abandoned for years,” Jester said. “Now, it’s a handsome new home for two families who want to stay in the neighborhood.”

Beyond the architectural component lies the social aspect: granting tenants the peace of just being part of the neighborhood. “While this level of anonymity makes for a lousy ribbon cutting, it has repeatedly shown to yield better life outcomes for tenants,” Jester revealed. “They will be neighbors, not tenants in a housing project. Their social circle will be expanded to include neighbors from just about every walk of life, which improves job prospects.”

For more information on the HELP Initiative, visit www.helpppgh.org. Learn more about ELDI at www.eastliberty.org. ♦

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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 that are ready to help YOU with; access to computers, printing, and scanning equipment, and MORE!

The APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 20, 2017