

the Bulletin

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Serving Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty,
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Spork Pit: bringing Texas-style BBQ to the avenue

By Joe Reuben *Bulletin* contributor

Garfield - Neighbors met last month to learn more about a new open-pit, barbeque-style restaurant that three individuals with ties to the local community are hoping to open this fall at the corner of Penn and N. Aiken Aves.

After a year's worth of planning and researching, Andrew Tepper, Chris Frangiadis, and Kevin Fisher are going in together on a Texas-style barbeque eatery called "Spork Pit." Tepper and Frangiadis are already partners in Spork, a restaurant they created in the former Quiet Storm Coffeehouse location just a block away at Penn and S. Graham St.

Fisher is representing his family's interests as the owners of the vacant building at N. Aiken, which was last used twenty years ago - a Chinese take-out establishment known as "Genghis Cones." The Fisher family also owns and manages the Penn-Aiken Dairy and apartment building in the adjoining block.

The occasion for the June 19 meeting was the three partners' pending application to bring a liquor license to the site. Frangiadis and Tepper came prepared to share

See **Spork Pit** | page 4



ABOVE: Michael David Battle (left) and Joy KMT, co-founders of Sanctuary Pittsburgh, savor the Unblurred moment during a Most Wanted Fine Art (5015 Penn Ave.) event on Friday, June 2. Photo by John Colombo.

New report spotlights Pittsburgh students' lost opportunities

By Elizabeth Sensky *East Liberty Development, Inc.*

Hill District - On the evening of Thursday, May 25, local leaders and community members filled the Kaufmann Center's Elsie H. Hillman Auditorium (1825 Centre

See **Public Schools** | page 7



Local architects celebrate Glass Lofts visionary Arthur Lubetz

By John Kohl & Andrew McKeon *the Bulletin*

Garfield - Seven years ago, when renowned local architect Arthur Lubetz completed the Glass Lofts project at 5491 Penn Ave., his vision had to be a lasting one.

See **Lubetz** | page 11



ABOVE: Clearing the way for new foliage and a community mosaic near some old city steps, volunteers from the Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association mobilize to clean up neighborhood at Stanton and McCandless Aves. Photo by Barry Werber.

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PENN AVE. UPDATE

Profligate posters sully avenue’s utility poles

By Evelyn Irvine Bulletin contributor

Penn Ave. - Phase 1 of the avenue’s reconstruction project brought new infrastructure, street surfaces, benches, plant life, handicap-accessible ramps, and garbage and recycling cans. Additionally, new utility poles were installed to replace the ugly wooden sticks that previously lined the avenue.

These shiny new poles have proven to be prime real estate for promoters, venues, activists, and even poets who are looking for space to hang their stickers, posters, flyers, and other promotional materials. While people may have a right to free speech, they do not have the right to post their materials on property without the owner’s consent.

According to the city of Pittsburgh code 601.01, "No person shall paste, paint, stamp or in any manner place, affix or attach to any building, fence, bridge, gate or any other public or private property any written, printed or painted advertisement, bill, notice, sign, card or poster, without first obtaining the written consent of the owner or other person lawfully in charge or control of property. This section does not prevent the posting of any notice required or permitted to be posted by law or order of court."

What this means is that, without the permission of the property owner, any posted notice that has not been ordered by a court of law is illegal. Anyone found in violation of this code can be cited and required to pay a fine. Property owners are encouraged to file a 311 complaint with the city if they see any illegal postings on their property.

One point that eludes most venue owners: when an event flyer is posted on a pole, the venue where the event is taking place can be held liable and cited, even if the owners did not create the flyers and illegally post them. While it is not a surefire preventative measure, this stipulation should encourage event promoters to be wiser in their public postings. Besides the fact that posting materials on utility poles is illegal, it also defaces and destroys the poles and makes for an unattractive neighborhood. Notices and hand-bills are often affixed with excessive amounts of tape, which is extremely difficult to remove; eliminating the residue can even require the use of chemicals.

Instead of ruining the utility poles, posters should talk to business owners and ask for permission to place materials in their windows or other dedicated areas for public posting. The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation is currently in the process of obtaining a community bulletin board, a central destination where promotional materials can be posted for all community members to see. ♦

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EYESORE OF THE MONTH

By Aggie Brose Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

[Editor’s Note: Last month’s eyesore column about the derelict property at 4827 Penn Ave. drew significant interest from area residents, as well as WPXI news reporter Courtney Brennan. In spite of all the attention, the property owners, Joe Rewis and Bradley Yoder of “Big Ham Group, Inc.,” have refused to cooperate with the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) in scheduling a simple tour of the building.

Upon making a house call to the 1224 E. Carson St. “offices” of Rewis & Yoder P.C., the Bulletin found a shell of an office – a proverbial mailbox - in the Southside. According to the Allegheny County website, all tax bills for the eyesore property are being sent to the owners’ listed address at 1224 E. Carson St. Geographically speaking, the building at 4827 Penn Ave. is a relative outlier among Big Ham Group’s large real estate portfolio in the 19th Ward, which encompasses eighteen other properties.]

AT RIGHT: The storefront at 5113 Penn Ave. has seen better days, but things are not looking any brighter on account of its current owners. Michael and Cynthia Savoia are derelict in their duties to occupy and beautify what could be a wonderful addition to the avenue. Photo by Wesley Davis.



Garfield - 5113 Penn Ave. is one of thirty vacant storefronts wasting away on the avenue. According to Allegheny County website, the recorded owner is Michael & Cynthia Savoia Living Trust and the listed address is 219 S. Pacific Ave., just down the street in Friendship.

The building at 5113 Penn has been empty since the Savoias acquired it for \$26,000 on November 27, 2006. Ten years later, they

transferred ownership of the property to their living trust.

While the family’s residential property on S. Pacific appears to be very well-kept and maintained, its avenue storefront looks to be unoccupied and put out to pasture. The Savoias also own property in the Southside, 126 and 128 S. 17th St., which once hosted the Dish Osteria restaurant before it closed recently.

On May 22, the BGC sent the owners a letter, asking them why 5113 Penn has been empty for so long and also inquiring about any problems that might be stalling their investment in the property. BGC staff members followed up with phone calls and left messages; as of press time, no response had been received.

The Savoias should feel a responsibility to the local community in which they own property. Long-time stalwarts are now working together with newcomers to invest in local properties and create successful businesses, studios, hubs, and more on the avenue. Like weeds in a garden, abandoned properties like 5113 Penn are preventing the avenue’s business corridor from achieving its full bloom.

Anyone who would like to learn more about the owners’ plans for their storefront may reach them at 412-363-5353. ♦



ABOVE: The Savoias’ residential property at 219 S. Pacific Ave., stands in stark contrast to the vacant storefront they maintain on Penn Ave. Photo by Wesley Davis.

BGC Office Manager Mary Anne Stevanus retires after thirty-one years

By Andrew McKeon *the Bulletin*

Garfield - While much has changed in the Garfield and surrounding neighborhoods over the last three decades, one aspect of the landscape has remained unchanged, at least until recently.

The June 30 retirement of Mary Anne Stevanus, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's (BGC) office manager and a Garfield resident her entire adult life, will bring a changing of the guard in the truest sense of the word. Stevanus came to the organization while it was still working out of a small storefront at 5108 Penn Ave.

"Mary Anne has been a constant, someone who was with the BGC through the good years and the bad," Aggie Brose, the BGC's deputy director, remarked. "When she joined us, we were still using mimeograph machines. There was no photocopier. There were no computers, no internet, and no e-mail. We managed somehow to do the bookkeeping using only ledger books and carbon paper."

As office manager, she often was the first point of contact for anyone who walked in the front door asking, or even demanding, to "see somebody about something or other."

"They were always met by someone who was pretty much unflappable and unfailingly honest," Rick Swartz, the group's executive director, told *the Bulletin*. "They could be looking to punch one of us in the nose, and she would politely ask them for their name and phone number, then tell them she would relay the message."

Stevanus is selling her home in Garfield and moving to Ross Township to live with her daughter and her daughter's family so, according to Swartz, it will be a major change for everyone. "She served the organization as reliably as anyone we've ever had, and the trust we had in her was never misplaced. While she did adapt over the years to the modern workplace, she was still old school," he added. ♦

AT RIGHT: Mary Anne Stevanus, who worked as the office manager for the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) for more than three decades, enjoys a few laughs during her retirement party on Wednesday, June 28. A life-long Garfield resident, Stevanus is excited to write the next chapter in her life in Ross Township, away from the BGC's 5149 Penn Ave. office. Truth be told, she is most excited about parking her car in a garage. The Bulletin hopes Stevanus is never forced to scrape snow from her windshield ever again. Photo by Andrew McKeon.



the Bulletin

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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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PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

By Aggie Brose *Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

East End - According to the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police - Zone 5, relatively few major crimes were reported in Bloomfield, Garfield, and the surrounding neighborhoods during the month of June.

Although the numbers point to fewer reported incidents of violence than previous months' data, drug addiction continues to be a problem for Zone 5, as officers responded to multiple heroin overdoses last month.

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) recently held a meeting with Spork Pit LLC's Chris Frangiadis, Andrew Tepper, and Kevin Fisher to discuss their plans to transfer a liquor license to 5349 Penn Ave. and open a barbecue pit restaurant at the site [see page 4 to learn more].

Partners from Spork Pit LLC are working with BGC representatives to enter into a community agreement about the use of their liquor license, and ways to prevent anti-social behavior on their premises.

On Tuesday, August 1st from 5 to 8 p.m., the BGC and a whole array of community partners will organize a "National Night Out" event to build stronger relationships between public safety workers and Zone 5 residents.

The BGC would like to commend Zone 5 officers for organizing a large-scale community open house on Saturday, June 3. The event brought hundreds of residents from the area together to engage with officers in a positive, fun setting [see a photo on page 6]. ♦

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Spork Pit

continued from page 1

many of the details about the restaurant; they said the menu will feature brisket, beef ribs, sausage, turkey breast, pork ribs, and jerk chicken.

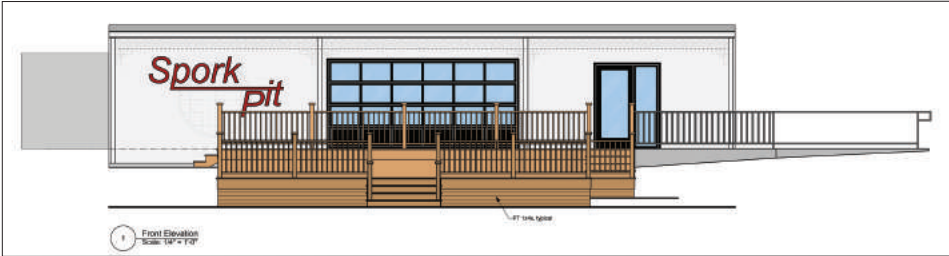
All meats will be packaged to go, but can also be ordered and eaten on the premises. Working with project designer John Cullen, a Bloomfield architect, the partners plan to provide seating accommodations for as many as seventy patrons. Housing the indoor seating in the renovated building, they would also encourage customers to eat outdoors on decks

fronting the building, in what is now a parking area.

A large, custom-built “smoker” would begin roasting the meats outdoors in the early-morning hours so that, by early afternoon, the food is ready for sale. Once the inventory of cooked meats has been exhausted, Frangiadis explained, the restaurant will close for the day.

One sticking point, raised by Aggie Brose of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) and others, is that the restaurant

ABOVE: An open-pit barbecue joint is in the works as Spork Pit prepares to open at 5349 Penn Ave. Graphic courtesy of Cullen & Associates, LLC.



cannot become an alcohol-only venue at any point during the day or night. Frangiadis and Fisher assured the audience that this would not be the case.

Some local residents expressed apprehension about the potential for odors from the barbeque smoker to waft into the neighborhood. Frangiadis guaranteed that Spork Pit’s equipment has been designed to minimize the discharge of large quantities of smoke into the surrounding area. Tepper said that, with the exception of an occasional daytime event, there will be no live entertainment at Spork Pit.

Customer parking will rely on a combination of on-street spaces and the possible use of a nearby lot, owned by another business at Penn and S. Aiken Aves. As of the June 19 meeting with residents, no lease

arrangements for the potential parking lot were in place.

The restaurant will focus on local craft beers; prices will start at \$4.75 per bottle, with six packs available to go. According to Frangiadis, he and his partners will likely be hiring as many as ten new employees to work at the restaurant.

On Tuesday, July 25, Spork Pit will debut its BBQ smoker at the new 5349 Penn Ave. site. In partnership with Grist House Craft Brewery, the new eatery will host an “all-you-can-eat” BBQ feast, rain or shine. Individual tickets are \$63.50; the cost includes all-you-can-eat BBQ and sides, one Grist House beer, tax, and gratuity. Interested diners can learn more about the restaurant’s preview event by visiting www.facebook.com/sporkpgh. ♦

AT RIGHT: The smoked brisket on Spork Pit’s preview plate portends a thick and juicy menu of smoked meats to come. As the first barbecue eatery to open in Garfield since Z-Best BBQ left Penn Ave., the new restaurant aims to become a bona-fide lunch destination. Owners plan to offer indoor and outdoor seating to accommodate as many as seventy patrons. Photo courtesy of Spork’s Facebook page.



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AT RIGHT: Known as “#trashhagstradhaggis,” this merry band of players wasted no time finding a good porch and a ready audience during the Friday, June 2 Unblurred festivities. As the weather becomes more welcoming, Penn Ave. will play host to a number of scheduled and improvised musical performances this summer. Check out PennAvenue.org for current Unblurred listings and other venue details. Photo by John Colombo.



BELOW: June Coyne-Givens (left) joins her sister, Aggie Brose, BGC Deputy Director, for a sandwich and some live music at the Garfield Night Market on N. Pacific Ave. Photo by John Colombo.



Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn Ave. - 6.2.17 -



ABOVE: The Garfield Night Market welcomes foot traffic to N. Pacific Ave. on the first Friday of every month. Dozens of vendors are on hand to accommodate a variety of tastes. Photo by Amber Epps.

BELOW: The intersection of N. Winebiddle St. and Penn Ave. buzzes with energy as Unblurred patrons and food-lovers enjoy a warm June night on the avenue. Photo by John Colombo.



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LGBT Equality Caucus backs non-discrimination proposals

By Ben Turner House Democratic Communications Office

Harrisburg - On May 25, members of the state legislature's LGBT Equality Caucus backed a state agency's proposals to interpret existing law on sex discrimination to protect LGBT people from discrimination.

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, which enforces state non-discrimination law, accepted public comment on how to update its interpretation of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. This law bans discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations - based on several categories, including sex. The commission also proposes to make a similar update to how it interprets the Pennsylvania Fair Educational Opportunities Act.

"While I still believe we need the Pennsylvania Fairness Act signed into law to avoid any ambiguity, I fully support these proposals to interpret existing laws to include anti-LGBT discrimination," State Rep. Dan Frankel (D-Allegheny), co-chairman of the LGBT Equality Caucus, said. "As 'Equality PA' noted in its public comment, a federal appeals court stated, 'Any discomfort, disapproval, or job decision based on the fact that the complainant - woman or man - dresses differently, speaks differently, or dates or marries a same-sex partner, is a reaction purely and simply based on sex,' Rep. Frankel continued. "It would require considerable calisthenics to remove the 'sex' from 'sexual orientation.'"

The bipartisan Fairness Act (H.B. 1410/S.B. 613) would explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identity on a list of the types of discrimination banned statewide. "The General Assembly must act immediately to pass the Fairness Act, which would unambiguously end this vile form of discrimination," State Sen. Daylin Leach (D-Montgomery/Delaware), LGBT Equality Caucus co-chairman, said.

The first out LGBT member of the legislature, State Rep. Brian Sims (D-Philadelphia), urged leaders to waste no time in rendering their support. "While members of the LGBT Equality Caucus are continuing to press for action in the legislature on the Fairness Act, these proposals from the state Human Relations Commission would provide a much-needed measure of legal protection statewide," he said. ♦



ABOVE: Neighbors gather at the Zone 5 Community Open House event on Saturday, June 6. Among the hundreds of attendees and dozens of local organizations, representatives from the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) and the Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association (SHNA) promoted their programming. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

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Public Schools continued from page 1

Ave.) to discuss the current state of the Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) system.

A statewide, educational advocacy organization, "PennCAN," hosted the event, which was named after its most recent report, *Opportunities Lost: The urgent need to improve Pittsburgh's schools*.

Rachel Amankulor, PennCAN's deputy director of policy, kicked things off by delivering an overview of the report for all those in attendance. Published in May, her organization's findings spotlight a lack of quality schools in Pittsburgh, as well as the disproportionate effect this has on Black students.

"*Opportunities Lost* can be seen as the counterpart to our first report, *Allegheny County Opportunity Schools*," Amankulor

said. "Where our first report detailed the best practices of a handful of highly effective schools, this report looks at the overwhelming majority of public schools in the city of Pittsburgh - both district and charter - that are failing to prepare our students for college and the careers of the 21st century."

Among the report's many alarming statistics, Amankulor cited a particularly glaring number: as defined by the state's accountability system, 78 percent of Pittsburgh students attend a low-performing school. In other words, four out of every five PPS students attend a school that fails to pass the state's minimum benchmark for quality education.

Shavar Jeffries, President of the Democ-

rats for Education Reform, gave the keynote address on May 25. Speaking from personal experience about how a quality education changed the trajectory of his life, Jeffries also commented on the city's lack of urgency to change the status quo. "People only have a problem with school choice when it's a low-income family that wants a better school option and can't afford it," he said.

Jeffries went on to facilitate a panel discussion with State Rep. Jake Wheatley; Tracey Armant, Grable Foundation Program Associate and A+ Schools Board Chair; and Tammy Thompson, Circles East Liberty Coordinator.

Discussions revolved around two pervasive issues - low expectations for students, coupled with leaders' constant excuses - which many parents acknowledge as obstacles to progress within the public school system.

Tammy Thompson illustrated exactly how PPS is unable to serve and support parents and kids living in poverty, often returning to her point that "every parent should have the right to choose the best school option for their children." She also stressed the need to educate local parents and empower them with the knowledge to make the best choices for their kids.

Armant emphasized the need to challenge the status quo. "We have to stop trying to change Black students to fit institutions and focus on changing institutions to better serve Black students," she implored.

As the evening came to a close, the conversation veered towards how communities can push for better school options for all kids. Lending a national perspective, Jeffries highlighted other school districts'

success stories.

In Newark, New Jersey, for example, the share of Black students attending a school with an educational rating that beats the state average has nearly tripled in the past ten years. Considering the growth of a high-quality charter school sector in Newark, the area's marked improvement is not much of a surprise.

Drawing upon her work with Circles East Liberty, an organization working to lift people out of poverty, Thompson explained the connections between income levels, housing, and education. "I believe that intentional training around race, poverty, and class could help our teachers, administrators, and parents learn how to effectively communicate and build relationships," she said.

Amankulor laid out her suggestions about how PPS could better accommodate its students - namely, by granting their teachers more leeway. "The key to improving schools is giving leaders and educators the flexibility over schedule, curriculum, and staffing to be innovative and adaptable to the needs of students," she said.

"But change will only happen if we, as a community, relentlessly hold local officials accountable," the deputy director continued, "and demand more high-quality options."

The May 25 event, which organizers hope will be a launching pad for more discussions about school choice, offered many takeaways; chief among them is the idea that the onus for change lies on everyone's shoulders. Visit penncan.org to learn more and read the *Opportunities Lost* report. ♦

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Neighborhood FOCUS

Long, winding road leads to new community café in Garfield

By Christine Bethea *Bulletin contributor*

Garfield – Leila Harvard’s concept of familial ties says a lot about her new venture at 5341 Kincaid St. “My idea of family has always been an open one,” she said. Harvard and her partner, Dylan Ahrens, are finalizing plans to renovate an old Garfield church, where they will soon open a “community-conscious” café.

It has been a long, winding road for Harvard, who claims a history from almost everywhere. “We were nomads,” she said of growing up in several communities. “I was born in Pittsburgh, but we lived in Spokane [WA] and Boise [ID] for a while. I have lived on the Northside and the Southside, in the Hill District, and,” during a rough patch, “the family was housed at the Hilton.”

Harvard learned to adjust to non-traditional living styles, discovering how instability can inspire a great deal of creativity. By the age of 16, she had become an emancipated minor. As a student at Oliver High School, kids would taunt and harass her because she never had enough free time to go to social events or just hang out with friends. “They didn’t understand that I was working two jobs, was living alone and had to pay rent on an apartment,” Harvard explained.

Following an off-sides adventure to Ireland after graduating in 2008, she returned home and ran into the owner of a popular teen boutique at the Monroeville Mall known as “New York, New York.” The owner recalled a time when, at just 14 years old, Harvard had asked him for a job.

Remembering the young woman’s moxie, he offered her a retail management position on the spot. Harvard proceeded to learn about fashion, design, retail display, and other merchandising elements while working at New York, New York. “It was like going to college,” she said of her five years with the company.

Harvard then migrated to home design, ultimately honing her skills at the Used Furniture Gallery on Route 51, where her instinctive reuse of items began opening new career doors. Soon, she was getting commission work from upscale bed-and-breakfast locations in Boston and New Orleans’ French Quarter. Now, Harvard is bringing her diverse vision to an “unconventional social space” on Kincaid St.

“I didn’t want to create just another venue in the East End without considering the community around me. I don’t want to make that mistake.”

– Leila Harvard, Owner, Trade on Kincaid



ABOVE: The logo for Leila Harvard’s new “community conscious” café emphasizes a new kind of shared commerce in Garfield. Graphic courtesy of the Trade on Kincaid Facebook page.

Deriving its name from the function of a trading post, the “Trade on Kincaid” will cater to the community by bridging gaps between people and commerce. “I didn’t want to create just another venue in the East End without considering the community around me. I don’t want to make that mistake,” Harvard said.

While speaking with stakeholders in the area about her plans to serve low budget, healthy meals, she is also looking to partner with a chef for the “pay what you may” restaurant concept. Although the menu is still coming together, Harvard said the café will offer a tasty breakfast or lunch for a suggested \$3-\$5 donation.

“At this café, we will trade knowledge,” she pledged. “This will be a safe, creative setting where people can clear their minds and fill themselves up.”

Featuring three floors of square footage, and a sanctuary with pews, the space will host live music and other performances. A soft opening is scheduled for Friday, July 13. To learn more, follow the Trade on Kincaid on Facebook or Instagram. ♦

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) is a membership organization that counts on residents and business owners like you to support its efforts.



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Hundreds of neighbors and flowers: “Community Blooms” at Union Project

By Annesha Ganguly *Union Project*

Highland Park – A Union Project equation involving eight weeks, eight locations, and 425 people has produced more than 500 flowers over the past two months. “Community Blooms” is an initiative that brings neighbors together at Union Project’s 801 N. Negley Ave. location to create flowers out of clay

Back in the ceramics studio, participants fire each flower in the kiln, and then attach their creation to a stem before planting it in the front yard garden. Popping up all over the city, these flower-making parties have occurred in public venues like the Three Rivers Arts Festival and the Bryant Street Festival.

At each event, folks come together to make flowers, but also get to meet new people while engaging in a citywide, community art project. As one teaching ceramic artist noted, “I had one girl say that she hopes her flower helps make the city beautiful.”

Many children enjoy revisiting the Community Blooms garden to search for their hand-crafted flower. A similar Union

Project endeavor called “1,000 Birds” inspired the mass creation of clay birds bearing a message of hope; community members exchanged thousands of these birds to spread positivity between strangers.

Now, neighbors in Highland Park are aiming to take it a step further so that their collective work can be shared in a more sustainable manner. By planting an everlasting garden right along N. Negley Ave., they are making sure even more people will get to experience the blooms every day, regardless of the weather.

Community Blooms helps people of all backgrounds connect with each other and work together to celebrate nature through art. As more flowers are created, the garden will continue to grow throughout the summer.

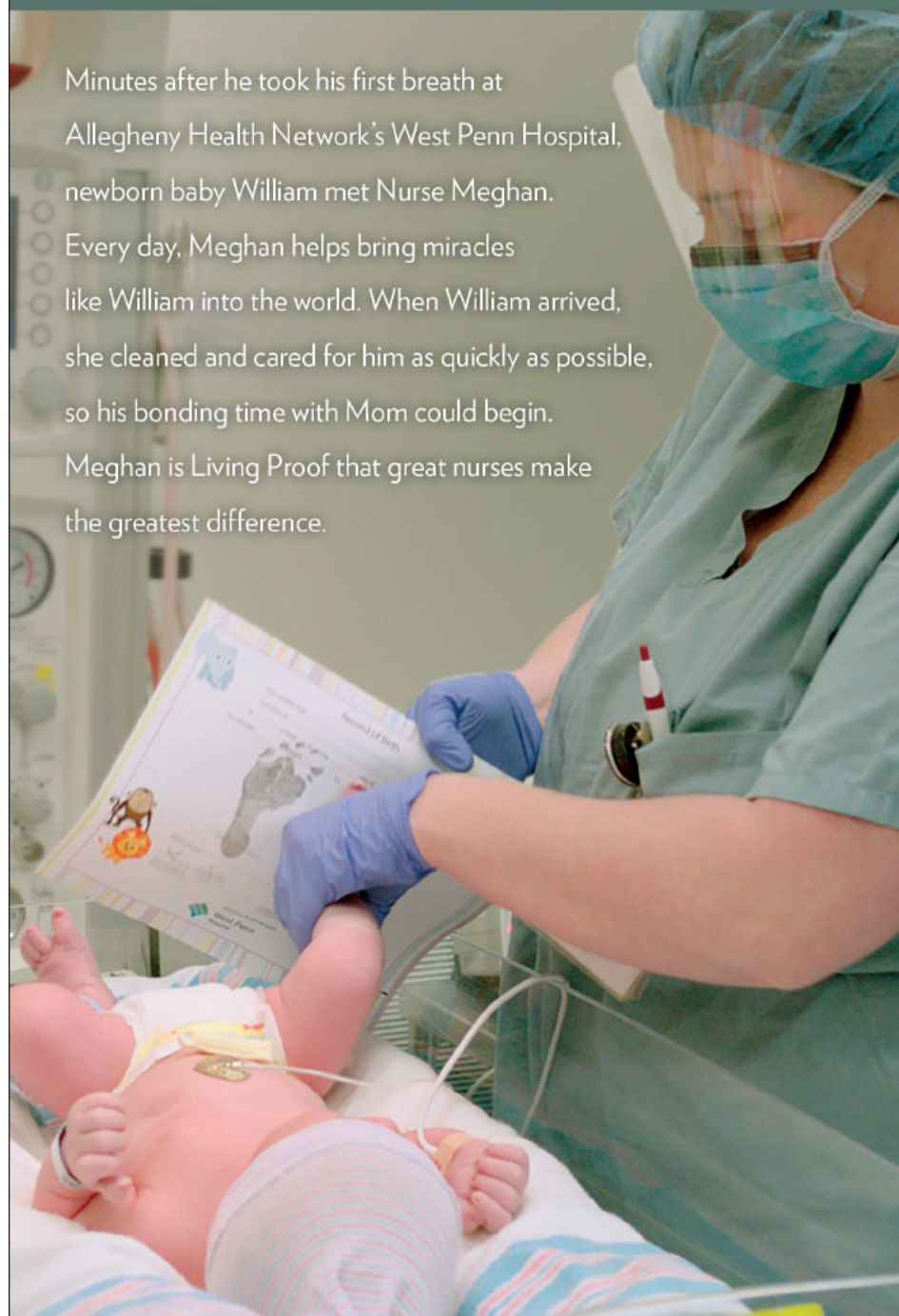
Weekly “Drop by and Make a Flower” days are open to the public at the Union Project’s ceramics studio (from 2 to 5 p.m.) on the following Wednesdays: July 12, 19, and 26. To learn more, visit www.unionproject.org. ♦



ABOVE: A flower-making party at the Union Project (801 N. Negley Ave.) in Highland Park engages amateur ceramicists of all ages to create flowers out of clay. The Community Blooms project has already brought hundreds of neighbors together to make even more flowers. Photo by Ben Filio.

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Minutes after he took his first breath at Allegheny Health Network’s West Penn Hospital, newborn baby William met Nurse Meghan. Every day, Meghan helps bring miracles like William into the world. When William arrived, she cleaned and cared for him as quickly as possible, so his bonding time with Mom could begin. Meghan is Living Proof that great nurses make the greatest difference.



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* Claim based on inpatient utilization data for the 29 counties in Western Pennsylvania as reported by Pennsylvania Care Cost Containment Council for calendar years 2012-2015. Available at phc4.org/reports/utilization/inpatient/.

Many readers connect with *the Bulletin* via one of our dozens of bulk drop points throughout the city.

If you would like to have copies of *the Bulletin* delivered to your local business or community organization, just email Bulletin@Bloomfield-Garfield.org.

We would love to add your location to the distribution list!

OpenStreetsPGH walks, bikes, runs from Downtown to Lawrenceville

By Alexandria Shewczyk *Bike Pittsburgh*



ABOVE: Families of all ages explore alternate modes of transportation at OpenStreetsPGH. The car-free event will finish its summer season with a roadblock of foot traffic stretching from Downtown through Lawrenceville. Photo by Tom Souzer.

Lawrenceville - On Sunday, July 30, OpenStreetsPGH returns to transform the city's streets into car-free fun for the whole family. This month's route connects Lawrenceville, the Strip District, and Downtown Pittsburgh – providing communities along the way with free, all-ages programming and a break from car congestion.

Last month's event (which ran from Downtown through Northside and the West End) drew an estimated 23,400 attendees. Organizers are now anticipating even more people milling about and partying in the streets for the last OpenStreetsPGH event of 2017.

Walking shoes, bikes, and yoga mats are more than welcome for the closeout event. The 3.5 mile, flat route is great for beginners; it flows from Market Square to Allegheny Cemetery, along Penn Ave. and Butler St.

Over 100 local businesses and organizations will be on hand to facilitate fitness workshops, kids' activities, shopping, brunch, community art projects, and other special promotions. OpenStreetsPGH presents locals with a unique opportunity to rediscover streets as places for people, not just cars.

By simply playing in the street, attendees get a chance to mingle with their neighbors while exploring new businesses and alternative modes of transportation. Fitness Hubs will be located at 47th and Butler Sts. (Lawrenceville), 28th St. and Penn Ave. (Strip District), and Downtown at Market Square.

YMCA will host a wide range of classes - including Spin, Yoga, Zumba, Pilates, and more – right in the middle of the street. Trained instructors from Bike Pittsburgh and the Wheel Mill will be on hand to assist students of all ages; new riders might want to practice before testing their skills on the Wheel Mill mini-course.

From "Intersection Heroes" to barricade monitors to program hub volunteers, OpenStreetsPGH offers plenty of ways to get involved in the fun. Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to email volunteer@bikepg.org.

Visit openstreetspg.org to learn more about the July 30 event and follow OpenStreetsPGH on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for all of the latest event updates. ♦



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336 S. Aiken Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
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Email: afcc@arsenalfamily.org



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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 Café and grooming.
Voted "Best Veterinary Hospital In The City" for two consecutive years.
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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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- Clean Air**
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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Lubetz continued from page 1

Commissioned by a local nonprofit organization, the Friendship Development Associates (FDA), as part of its community revitalization project, the Glass Lofts concept represented a big leap of faith for the avenue's commercial district in 2010. Known for his daring aesthetics and old-school devotion to detail, Lubetz was clearly the right person for such a "lofty" job.

In the years since he founded Arthur Lubetz Associates (ALA) in 1967, the Taylor Allderdice High School alumnus has amassed an impressive portfolio of local landmarks by approaching architecture from different angles.

From the subsidized housing of Lawrenceville's I.W. Abel Place and Homewood's Bennett Place to the legendary "crashing pencil" storefront of the Top Notch Art Supply in Oakland to the now-idle Liberty Medical Building in Bloomfield, Lubetz buildings are - literally and figuratively - all over the map.

Working from the East Liberty offices of sustainable architecture and consulting firm evolveEA, designer and project manager Chris Guignon has noticed a thing or two about the East End's visual landscape. "To put it really diplomatically," he said by email, "the architecture of Pittsburgh's most recent boom times has been...uninspired."

BELOW: Lubetz's Garfield landmark, the Glass Lofts development displays an impressive vertical balance along a sloping, dynamic site at 5491 Penn Ave. Photo by Andrew McKeon.



While still an Architectural Studies major at the University Pittsburgh, Guignon pursued an "unforgettable experience" as an intern at ALA. Although he helped Lubetz design the sparkling new edifice of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in Squirrel Hill, Guignon remains modest about his contributions when speaking about such a giant in the local architecture world.

"When I gather a defense of Pittsburgh

architecture, I say, 'There are great buildings here, and here, and there,' he told *the Bulletin*. "It usually turns out that half of the buildings I'm pointing to are Art's [design]."

In 2009, Lubetz joined two fellow Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) graduates as a principal at Front Studio Architects in North Oakland. He designed the firm's headquarters at 357 N. Craig St., a building that is, in the words of his friend and former colleague, Charles Rosenblum, "a moment as much as a location."

Just a few blocks away, at the Carnegie Museum of Art (4400 Forbes Ave.), Lubetz's flair for eccentric forms was on full display in a Heinz Architectural Center exhibit that ran from March 11 through May 22. Appropriately titled *Action, Ideas, Architecture; Arthur Lubetz and Front Studio*, the exhibit - which was curated by Rosenblum - guided visitors through one man's legendary profile of architectural achievement by simply showcasing his work alongside insightful observations.

Scores of photographs and renderings populated the transformed museum space. Some of Lubetz's structures seemed almost malleable, as if they were being shaped by outside forces, while others portrayed a sense of completion and squared-off symmetry.

One of the exhibit's most show-stopping features was, undoubtedly, the Glass Lofts. Featuring crisp photos of 5491 Penn Ave. - and even miniature cardboard models of the buildings - Rosenblum spared no admiration in his references to the Garfield landmark.

Traveling eastward down the avenue, the Glass Lofts appear to be situated perfectly within the surrounding landscape. By way of their materials and color scheme, the peeling walls seem to blend in with the dynamic site, exposing new vantage points among the walkways.

On the street-side face, corrugated metal surrounds bright green forms, hard edges, and tilted roof-lines; meanwhile, the back side features flat roofs, small windows, and tidy parking nooks. "It's dynamic and bold. Action sounds, like the Batman fight graphics ('Pow!', 'Bam!', 'Zok!') come to mind," Guignon said. "It evokes an optimism and progressiveness that is particularly fitting for its location on a vibrant strip of Penn Ave."

The patio of the new Primanti Bros. restaurant sits before a backdrop of terraces, skylights, and exposed ductwork. Despite their crucial function as supports, the narrow *piloti*, or steel poles, look deceptively light; whether on account of the half-hidden masonry block or the contrasting forms, the lofts embody post-modern architecture in all its blazing glory.

"For me," Guignon said, "the building and its upward-turned volumes recall certain post-war posters of proud laborers and countrymen looking towards the future."


Lubetz manipulates the infrastructure underneath his buildings to help him realize other goals, like warping perspectives. The interiors are exuberant and cheerful, boasting a diversity of surfaces and effects.

With more than a dozen condominiums, along with retail and restaurant space, the Glass Lofts development has proven to be quite a boon to the burgeoning Penn Ave. arts district.

Local arts educator and founder of Assemble (4824 Penn Ave.), Nina Marie Barbuto, became a huge fan of Lubetz, the professor, while taking his class at CMU. She reveled in his "punk rock" attitude about architecture.

The architect's work spoke not only for itself, but also for himself. "[Lubetz] proved that you could carry philosophical interests from the academy into practice," Guignon acknowledged.

"The funny thing is that Art was making important contributions to the character of this city when no one was looking in our direction and there was nothing 'robust' or 'new' to speak of," he elaborated. "Now, I find that his work gives Pittsburgh some much needed credibility when it comes to contemporary architecture." ♦



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LOCAL REAL ESTATE BLOTTER

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

Property Transactions (April 16 - May 15, 2017)

Compiled by Lillian Denhardt, Howard Hanna Real Estate

Bloomfield

William R. Wedler to William R. & Colleen Mahoney Wedler at 531 Gross St. for \$1.

Martha M. Blake to Russell J. & Nancy Paras at 349 S. Pacific Ave. for \$270,000.

Antonio & Rosa M. Terrigno to Laura A. Romah at 348 West Penn Pl. for \$251,000.

Arthur C. & Judith A. Pilarski to Michael Butler at 387 40th St. for \$150,000.

Steven Frank to Emily E. Onik at 4536 Friendship Ave. for \$275,000.

Penn Pioneer Enterprises LLC to 614 Edmond Street LLC at 614 Edmond St. for \$90,000.

Santo Policcichio to Daniel K. Malakoff at 4708 Lorigan St. for \$170,000.

Friendship

Nicholas J. & Jennifer K. Matesa Coles to Nicholas J. Coles at 323 S. Fairmount St. for \$1.

Nicholas J. & Jennifer K. Coles to Jennifer K. Matesa at 331 S. Fairmount St. for \$1.

Christopher M. Vogel to Marcus Wood at 301 Roup Ave. for \$230,000.

Washallen & Nellie D. Readie to Fifth Avenue Property Group LLC at 123 S. Graham St. for \$125,000.

Antoinette & Mary R. Mizgorski Trapani to Mornate Realty LLC at 232 S. Mathilda St. for \$120,000.

Garfield

Anna Mary Clark & Jenkins P. Bowman to Badger Properties LLC at 442 N. Fairmount St. for \$54,500.

Lelia J. Bumgardner to Tammy M. & John F. Hobdy at 5158 Kincaid St. for \$1.

John F. Kirschbaum to Jbreziel LLC at 5025 Penn Ave. for \$580,000.

John F. Kirschbaum to Jbreziel LLC at 5025 Penn Ave. for \$580,000.

First Dearborn Development Trust to Zachary Furness and Danielle Maggio at 5116 Dearborn St. for \$240,000.

Kenneth & Virginia Ong to Samuel Pace Nalbene at 5113 Dearborn St. for \$211,000.

John E. & Diane L. Spell Jones to Ryan

Hoelzeman at 5001 Jordan Way for \$10,000.

Keith R. Phillips to SS Allegheny LLC at 331 N. Aiken Ave. for \$21,901.

Ts Pgh 1 LLC to Ts Pgh 1 LLC at 5209 Columbo St. for \$3,293.

Blanch E. Gratton to Eleanor Urquhart at 0 N. Mathilda St. for \$1.

Blanch E. Gratton to Eleanor Urquhart at 521 N. Mathilda St. for \$1.

East Liberty

Cultura Properties LLC to Growth Partners LP at 5933 Baum Blvd for \$629,000.

Earl L. Yates to East Liberty Development Incorporated at 527 Collins Ave. for \$72,500.

Todd J. Hollis to CBX Investment Partners XIV LP at 5821 East Liberty Blvd for \$370,000.

George T. Hollis to CBX Investment Partners XIV LP at 5825 East Liberty Blvd for \$300,000.

Samuel P. Burns to Peter Bachman at 607 N. Euclid Ave. for \$350,000.

254 46th St. LLC to 180 Interiors LLC at 5623 Hays St. for \$63,050.

Robert A. Burke to Arsenal Collective LLC at 729 N. Saint Clair St. for \$180,000.

East Liberty Development Incorporated to Build A Dream Investments LLC at 712 Portland Way for \$44,000.

5534 Hayes Street LP to Norman D. Nunley Jr at 5534 Hays St. for \$525,000.

Harvey & Delores Wood to MNM Realty LLC at 5405 Black St. for \$51,000.

Lawrenceville

Christine Yohovic to Hob Nob Investments LLC at 5400 Natrona Way for \$110,000.

Elliott Fabri to Elliott Fabri at 805 54th St. for \$1,456.

WCC Promotions LLC to Joseph F. & Pascale F. Boudreau at 181 47th St. for \$413,000.

Deborah A. Ash to Georgette Farah at 150 44th St. for \$61,000.

Noah Peter & Beth Ann Papas to Lauren A. Kremm at 4821 Blackberry Way for \$215,000.

E Properties & Development to Wai Ching

Lam at 5120 Lotus Way for \$60,000.

Thomas Berna to Neal Schwarzberger at 5109 Lotus Way for \$322,500.

Joseph D. Musneski to Schober LLC at 5105 Holmes St. for \$14,000.

Edward H. & Mary Ann Nassan to Drew M. Satriano at 5210 Kent Way for \$152,000.

Lawrenceville Sunrise II LP to Sara Onesi at 5113 Carnegie St. for \$222,500.

William & Michelle Larkin to Exalt Investments LLC at 4817 Hatfield St. for \$135,000.

Catherine M. Kelleher to Nicholas Paul Goodman at 5239 Carnegie St. for \$63,000.

Ann Balkovec to Heather A. Sadler at 5166 Carnegie St. for \$155,000.

Robert A. Ojeda to Kelsey Lynne Ripper at 3812 Howley St. for \$285,000.

Barr Property Development Inc to Jordan Cardonick at 3949 Howley St. for \$418,000.

Lukes LLC to Michael Zhong at 303 38th St. for \$80,000.

Lukes LLC to Hongyu & Huiwen Wang at 307 38th St. for \$80,000.

Lukes LLC to Joseph F. & Deborah E. Talarico at 309 38th St. for \$80,000.

Lukes LLC to Milena G. Barbosa at 0 38th St. for \$80,000.

Lukes LLC to Andrew T. & Tadra Rex at 313 38th St. for \$80,000.

Lukes LLC to Jonathan Perez-Blanco at 315 38th St. for \$80,000.

Nathan M. Liddell to Build A Dream Investments LLC at 326 37th St. for \$130,000.

Frank F. Haynes to Property Trio LLC at 3480 Ligonier St. for \$41,000.

Kelley Gardner to R & M Homes LLC at 3434 Penn Ave. for \$185,000.

Giovanni Valente to Melodi H. Reich at 4200 Calvin St. for \$189,900.

Eric J. Nelson to Maeve K. Sattler at 244 38th St. for \$232,000.

City Of Pittsburgh to Miranda K. Weston at 244 Ater Way for \$200.

Sherlin LLC to Timothy R. Walter at 196 36th St. Unit 3-G for \$215,000.

Cobble House Holdings LP to Brian R. Pierce at 260 42nd St. Unit 8 for \$294,000.

JMT Development Inc to MMS Holdings LLC

at 4063 St. Johns Way for \$555,000.

Richard B. Hoffmaster to Richard B. Hoffmaster and Megan Ann Worbs at 183 Almond Way for \$10.

Joseph E. Dilucente to Jeesoo Kim Sohn at 173 38th St. for \$365,000.

Stanley G. Kleja to Joseph L. Amato at 4604 Carlton St. for \$360,000.

William S. Wolf to Ronald & Kathleen Ann Kopec at 4516 Davison St. for \$18,500.

Midfirst Bank to Housing & Urban Development at 276 Service Way for \$1.

Erin E. Watts to Jared & Britt Reints at 240 45th St. for \$387,500.

Finizio Lawrence to R & M Homes LLC at 166 42nd St. for \$95,000.

City RE Holdings LP to Coralie Kartesz at 176 43rd St. for \$190,795.

City RE Holdings LP to Coralie Kartesz at 174 43rd St. for \$190,795.

Synergy Capital LP to Adam P. Childers at 140 43rd St. for \$600,000.

Michael B. & Mary Anne Olinick to Steel Town Properties M2 LLC at 3620 Smallman St. for \$130,000.

Stanton Heights

Carolyn W. McAdoo Revocable Living Trust to Julia K. Schillinger at 115 Hawthorne Ct. for \$272,000.

Stacy Peters to Karin Gregory at 1372 Simona Dr for \$140,000.

Jennifer L. Hiteshow to Shlomo Taasan at 1135 Normahill Dr for \$90,000.

Nikkisha P. Wright to Claude L. Griffin Jr at 917 Woodbine St. for \$68,000.

Hassan Alfatlwi to Daniel Johnson at 4818 Stanton Ave. for \$120,000.

Ronald F & Mary H Uselton to Scott P Kane at 1505 Woodbine St. for \$97,500.

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 412-335-6068 or email agent.lillian.pgh@gmail.com. ♦

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Sorry, but we do not accept listings by phone.

The Bulletin Board publishes listings of free or low-cost events, classes, volunteer opportunities, 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 **August** issue of *the Bulletin* are due by **Wednesday, July 19**. Please submit listings using our online form at www.bit.ly/bulletin_submit.

July 1 - Saturday

LAWRENCEVILLE
Independence Day Celebration

The Lawrenceville Fireworks Committee invites you to the 73rd annual Lawrenceville Independence Day Celebration on Saturday, July 1, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Featuring food booths, live music, children's races, a petting zoo, an exotic animal display, train rides, pony rides, performances, and - of course - a phenomenal fireworks display. It's a great day for the entire family. For more information about the celebration, contact Lawrenceville United at 412-802-7220.

July 6 - Thursday

GARFIELD
Community Land Trust: Public Forum

Join us in a discussion about affordable living and the community land trust (CLT) model. All who attend will get a chance to discuss proposed bylaws and concerns related to starting the organization - as has been developed by the committees. We will review pressing decisions and timelines at this monthly meeting. To learn more about the CLT, visit www.GarfieldCommunityLandTrust.org or call 412-345-3831.

July 7- Friday

LAWRENCEVILLE
Doo Dah Nights

Due to the great time the Lawrenceville Historical Society (LHS) had last year at Spirit, we've decided to return for another go-round of music appreciation and square dancing. The music of Stephen Foster will be performed by the Dearest Home band and Snoko & Savisky while the Haygood Paisleys will preside over the square dance. The festivities begin Friday, July 7 at 7 p.m. and continue until 11 p.m. There is a \$10 cover charge that helps support the ongoing work of the LHS. Check into the LHS Doo Dah Days website (www.doodahdays.com) for detailed updates.

July 8- Saturday

GARFIELD
Outdoor Youth Rally

Morningside Church of God in Christ (MCOGIC, 5173 Dearborn St.) presents the "It's Your Time" youth weekend. On Saturday, July 8, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., we will host games, face-painting, mimes, dancing, singing, open mic, and featured speakers. Refreshments will be served. On Sunday, July 9, youths are invited to a Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and a "Youth Day of Service" at 10:30 a.m.

July 10 - Monday

EAST LIBERTY
Penn Circle Two-Way Conversion Meeting

The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) will be conducting a public meeting for the Euclid Avenue / Station Street (formerly Penn Circle) Two-Way Conversion project on Monday, July 10. From 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Eastminster Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall (250 N. Highland Ave.), the URA and its consultant will

present preliminary drawings of the proposed street improvements, which are to include the conversion of all remaining portions of the former Penn Circle to two-way traffic and the addition of separated bicycle facilities. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the plans for the project and provide an opportunity for folks who live, work and play in East Liberty to provide their input on the design. The project team will be present at the public meeting to present the preliminary plans and answer questions. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. Anyone who needs additional information or requires special accommodations should contact: Brent Lahaie, P.E., URA Project Manager, (412) 255-6417 or blahaie@ura.org.

July 12 - Wednesday

GARFIELD
Hospitality Hiring Event

Head on down to the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (5321 Penn Ave.) to meet with representatives from People Ready and apply for positions with TruFoods. This hiring event will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Find out more and register at ENECpittsburgh.org.

FRIENDSHIP
Vacation Bible School

Children ages 3 to 12 years old are invited to join East End Assembly of God (430 S Evaline St.) for a free "Maker Fun Factory" Vacation Bible School (VBS) on July 12, 13, & 14. Each day, from 5 to 8 p.m., VBS will enrich young minds; dinner will be provided and transportation is available. To register, go to www.eastendag.org/vbs or call (412) 687-3493.

July 19 - Wednesday

LAWRENCEVILLE
Free History Lecture

The Lawrenceville Historical Society's public lecture series continues on Wednesday, July 19, with graphic designer Don Henderson sharing his unique collection of photos and stories about growing up in Lawrenceville. In an era of continuous change, Henderson's nostalgic stroll into the

community's past will bring back memories for many longtime residents and shed an interesting light on the neighborhood's former days for newcomers. This free event will take place at the Carnegie Library (279 Fisk St.) at 6:30 p.m. No reservations necessary.

July 24 - Monday

OAKLAND
AFA Cyber-camp

From Monday, July 24, through Friday, July 28, area high school students are invited to a free event featuring former US Attorney David Hickton. Through hands-on instruction and activities at the University of Pittsburgh in Oakland, students will learn about the very relevant topic of cybersecurity, along with career opportunities and the importance of cyber defense. Email Cyber@pitt.edu or visit www.cyber.pitt.edu for more information.

July 28 - Friday

OAKLAND
Free Dental Clinic

Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh is a free, two-day dental clinic for under-served and under-insured people living in Pittsburgh and the surrounding area. A team of dedicated volunteers will provide dentistry to hundreds of local patients on Friday, July 28, and Saturday, July 29. The weekend event will run from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the A.J. Palumbo Center (1304 Forbes Ave.) in Oakland. Treatment is provided first-come, first-served and -since several hundred individuals are expected to attend this year's event - please arrive early. Patients do not preregister; children are welcome. Visit <http://www.momppgh.org> for more information.

July 31 - Monday

GARFIELD
"Super God!" VBS

Morningside Church of God in Christ (MCOGIC) invites young thinkers to partake in its Vacation Bible School (VBS), scheduled to run from Monday, July 31, through Friday, Aug. 4. This year's theme is "Super God! Super Me! Super Possibility!" An Aug. 4 closing program will take place at 1 p.m.

07.07.2017

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Would you like to make a difference in the life of a child? Are you a caring, affectionate, dependable, responsible, and patient person over the age of 21? Three Rivers Youth is in search of qualified individuals to become foster parents for children and teens. Training is free and conveniently located in at our 6117 Broad St. location in East Liberty. Training incentives will be offered. Call 412-441-5020 for more information.

Early Childhood Program

Pittsburgh Public Schools offers high quality infant,

toddler, and preschool programs in locations all around the city. Applications are being accepted online for the 2017-18 school year at: <https://early-childhood.pps.k12.pa.us/>.

LAWRENCEVILLE Call for Houses

Seeking renovated, restored, or newly constructed homes to be showcased on the 2017 Lawrenceville Hospitality House Tour. Homes must be owner-occupied and not for sale. For more information, contact lawrencevillehospitality@gmail.com or visit www.lha15201.org. The 2017 Hospitality House Tour will be held on Sunday, October 1, from Noon to 5 p.m.

GARFIELD Open Call for Artists

Assemble is now accepting proposals for its 2018

Unblurred Artist Showcase. Assemble will select 10 local artists and makers for participation in a month-long show at Assemble's space on Penn Avenue from the months of February to November 2018. Chosen artists and makers will also have the opportunity to share skills, incubate creative ideas, and facilitate community-engaged projects. <http://assemblepgh.org/on-view/call4artists/>.

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.

Garfield Greenway

The Garfield Greenway working group will meet on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 p.m. with coordinated clean up activities the 2nd Saturday at 11 a.m. 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 greenguild@gmail.com.

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.

FRIENDSHIP Adults Achieve

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

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The Pittsburgh OASIS Intergenerational Tutor Program is seeking volunteers (50+) to tutor in Pittsburgh and Woodland Hills School Districts in grade K-4. An hour a week can change a child's life. On **Tuesday, August 8**, and **Thursday, August 10**, a two-day training class will be conducted from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Duquesne Light Building (411 Seventh Ave., Suite 525) in downtown Pittsburgh. No teaching experience is required; all training, materials, and clearances are provided free of charge. For more information, please call (412) 393-7648 or email him at jdspehar@oasisnet.org. This program is operated in partnership with Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council.

HIGHLAND PARK Reunion Picnic

"Ruthven Street: Lawrenceville & Friends" will host its 5th reunion picnic on **Saturday, Aug. 19**, from Noon to 8 p.m. at the Rhododendron Pavilion in Highland Park. Bring your own basket. T-shirts will be available for \$20 each. Please RSVP to Margaret Dixon Evins (412-362-3206), Rebecca Jeffries (412-441-5963), or Loretta Millender (412-681-0712).



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-Thomas Jefferson



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Parents push to reduce class sizes in Pittsburgh schools

By Rounida Shwaish & Dave Yargeau *Lawrenceville United*

Lawrenceville - For years, parent organizers with Lawrenceville United's PEP Rally program have been leading the charge to address concerns about negative impacts that large class sizes can have on students, teachers, and the overall school climate.

Upon seeing their children stuck in classes comprised of twenty-seven to thirty students, where talented teachers struggled to balance the needs of the crowd with the needs of individuals, local parents were spurred to action.

"These classrooms included English language learners and students in poverty, as well as students with diagnosed and undiagnosed special needs," one parent noted. "All of this would be a challenge with properly sized classes. With large classes, it's a recipe for teacher burnout and wasted opportunity."

Years of testimonials at Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) board hearings and meetings with district representatives have inspired not only the creation of a pilot "sheltered math" program for English language learners, but also the placement of additional teachers and paraprofessionals in schools that experience

fluctuating class sizes throughout the year.

Although these measures represent steps in the right direction, PPS parents like Tina Russell, who also volunteers with PEP Rally, are concerned that class size will be an ongoing issue if the district does not ratify an improved, proactive, class size management system. "Students have unique needs," she said. "With a 30:1 student-teacher ratio, instructional time turns into behavior management."

The Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers (PFT) - a union representing 3,000 teachers, paraprofessionals, clerical employees, and technical workers in the city's public school district - is a strong proponent of smaller class sizes.

PFT President Nina Esposito-Visgitis explained that smaller class sizes allow teachers to individualize instruction for kids in a meaningful way and form better relationships.

As it stands now, the union's collective bargaining agreement states that average class sizes (within a single school) may exceed the "reasonable level" by up to five students; any individual class may exceed

that level by up to six students. The reasonable level for primary grades is twenty-five students; the level for secondary grades is thirty students.

When the local nonprofit and digital news outlet, *Public Source*, sat down with Superintendent Dr. Anthony Hamlet on June 12 - the last day of the 2016-2017 school year - he expressed support for reducing class sizes beyond the current caps. Dr. Hamlet said that, while he comes from a lens of class size reduction, the lack of state funding presents a significant challenge.

Despite the short-term gains, a long-term solution is still out of reach and the current class size management system is still flawed. When class sizes begin expanding towards the cap number, school administrators have no clear policy in place to better accommodate their students. PPS currently has no administrative regulations to explain the protocol for adjusting class size when the reasonable levels are reached or surpassed.

The district's stated goal is to make class size adjustments to appropriately staff schools in October. However, this brings up a host of other concerns, as students

will be forced to switch educational settings and adjust to new classrooms.

Local parents are now urging PPS to address this issue at the district level and work with all stakeholders to identify proactive solutions. They believe that, by implementing administrative regulations and changing the timeline of teacher placements and enrollment projections, the district can effect real change in its classrooms. ♦

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