

# the Bulletin

Volume 42, Number 10  
OCTOBER 2017

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

## “Garbage Olympics” sports cleanup effort

By Christina Howell

*Bloomfield Development Corporation*

*East End* - Picking up garbage is not typically framed as a competitive sport, so Saturday, Oct. 14, could mark the beginning of a new athletic tradition.

Massive cleanup efforts will start simultaneously across the East End at 9 a.m., when the neighborhoods of Bloomfield, Garfield, East Liberty, Lawrenceville, and the Strip District compete in Pittsburgh’s first ever “Garbage Olympics.”

The “East Liberty Trash Warriors,” “Bloomfield Garbage Gladiators,” and other local fighters of trash will compete to see who can pick up the most garbage in a designated amount of time.

See **Garbage Olympics** | page 4

## Bloomfield man trucks supplies to Houston’s hurricane survivors

By Andrew McKeon *the Bulletin*

## Lawrenceville residents work together to address addiction

By Dave Breingan *Lawrenceville United*



**ABOVE:** At the corner of Penn and Roupe Aves., an artist (left) gets a helping hand while painting a mural featuring the avenue’s legendary “Bride’s Row” houses. Photo by John Colombo.

## Neighbors discuss plans for new Garfield housing development

By Joe Reuben *Bulletin contributor*

*Garfield* - There are still parts of Garfield’s residential area that have not seen much in the way of new housing development in recent years. But, for several blocks in the N. Aiken Ave.-Kincaid St.-Rosetta St. area, this could change if a community group and private developer are successful in finding the funding for their project.

Two dozen residents turned out for a meeting on September 6 at the Trade on Kincaid, a community space refurbished out of a former church, to hear a plan unveiled for twenty homes that would be built and leased to families of modest means.

Rents for the homes would fall mostly within the range of \$650 to \$850/month, according to representatives at the meeting from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) and its partner, S & A Homes. They said they have identified parcels of land in the 5300 and 5400 blocks of Rosetta, the 5300 block of Kincaid, and the 200 and 300 blocks of N. Aiken that would be suitable for construction.

The developers told the attendees that

See **Garfield Highlands** | page 2

*Bloomfield* – In August, the world watched as Houston residents began picking up the pieces and trying to rebuild their lives after Hurricane Harvey. Viewers

See **Relief Effort** | page 6

*Lawrenceville* – The heroin epidemic continues to claim lives in Lawrenceville and beyond. According to statistics provided by the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police at a

See **Addiction** | page 9

6

9



**ABOVE:** Hannah Wilson (left) and Diane Chavara (middle) put a smile on customer Natalie Fox’s face at Friendship Perk & Brew (300 S. Pacific Ave.) during the new eatery’s first week of business in late September. Photo by John Colombo.

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# Garfield Highlands

*continued from page 1*

**BELOW:** Architectural renderings showcase possibilities for the new Garfield Highlands housing development. Graphic courtesy of LGA.



planning for the project is at a very preliminary stage, and would face competition from other developments across the city in securing what would be commitments for the estimated \$6.5 million needed to build the homes.

But the first step, according to Rick Swartz of the BGC, was to meet with neighbors and see if they would be supportive of the development.

“We are looking at a relatively small development, as it is not our desire to overwhelm the neighborhood with a new development, as is happening in other parts of the East End,” Swartz disclosed to attendees. “We have yet to acquire all of the

land needed for the project, we have no funding, and we haven’t applied for zoning approval. So tonight is the night for questions, concerns, and criticisms to be aired. If we see the community is supportive, then we’ll move ahead with the second step, which is to submit an application to the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) in October,” he explained.

The application by the developers to the PHFA would not be for any actual funding, but rather for an allotment of federal tax credits that private investors would use to contribute a sizable amount of cash to the development, to be known as “Garfield Highlands.”

The contribution from a private investor can provide as much as 85% to 90% of what the project may need, according to Andy Haines, a vice-president with S & A Homes. Haines said those investments “take the place of what would normally be bank loans, and not having those loans weighing against the project is what allows the rents on the homes to be held below \$900/month.”

He went on to describe the complex process by which investors in a project like Garfield Highlands receive the benefits from their investments. “Over a 15-year period, the limited partners, as they would be known, can write off 9% of their original investment each year against whatever federal tax obligations they would have. Banks have often been the ones to commit funds in this manner. This is money that the project itself never has to repay. It stays in the deal forever and, in return, we are obligated to the Internal Revenue Service to hold the rents below market rates for 30 years,” he stated. “All of the depreciation flows through to them as well.”

In year sixteen of the project’s operation, Haines said tenants would have a one-year window in which they could purchase the unit they are leasing. Sales prices for the homes in the year 2035 would be in the range of only \$50,000 to \$60,000, or enough to pay off the amount of mortgage debt that each home would likely have to carry. “But the homes could not be sold to the public at-large,” Haines stipulated. “If the tenant passes on the opportunity, then they enter into another 15-year rental period.”

Jim Noe and Jonathan Glance, architects with the firm LGA in the city’s Uptown district, previewed a site plan for the location of the 20 homes, along with the exterior and interior designs for the units. “We’re trying to respect the existing make-up of the housing stock on each street, and not build something that looks completely out of place. We want the units to fit in,” Glance said.

He explained that the homes would be energy-efficient and feature front porches, first- or second-floor laundry facilities, and basements. Glance went on to say that LGA has received a good deal of input on the site plan and house designs from members of a housing and land use committee organized by the BGC. Ryan England, the committee chair and a Garfield resident, was present and took a moment to address some environmental concerns raised by one attendee.

If the project is selected by the state agency for an allocation of tax credits, their decision won’t be known until March, Haines said. “From there, it would take another eight to nine months to bring together the remainder of the financing we’ll need, execute a construction contract, and obtain the required building permits,” he noted. “If we don’t begin actual construction until early 2019, that wouldn’t shock us.”

Swartz promised that, if an award is made, another community meeting would be held in the spring to keep residents in the loop on all of the planning for the project.

In the meantime, Aggie Brose of the BGC said the Urban Redevelopment Authority continues to offer matching grants to Garfield homeowners that can pay for up to 50% of the cost of sprucing up the façades of their homes, and that applications for the program are available at the BGC’s offices at 5149 Penn Ave. ♦

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## EYESORE OF THE MONTH

By Andrew Perrow Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

**Garfield** - For the last two years, the City of Pittsburgh has been the proud owner of two derelict Rosetta St. parcels: 5323 (a damaged, uninhabited structure) and 5325 (a vacant lot).

Residents of the adjacent property at 5321 Rosetta St. have had to put up with numerous hazards directly linked to the neglected properties; they have been exposed to vermin and weather-related burdens for the past eighteen months.

Adding insult to injury, their complaints have been reportedly pushed aside by city officials. Because of the safety and health risks attached to 5323 and 5325 Rosetta St., these city-owned properties have been nominated as October's "Eyesore of the Month."

In communication with the city's Department of Permits, Licenses, and Inspections (PLI) on this matter, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) recommended remedial action on both the vacant house and vacant lot. PLI requested that a demolition specialist evaluate the structure at 5323 Rosetta for demolition; upon inspection, the specialist recommended that the city demolish the structure at 5323.

According to Aggie Brose, Deputy Director of the BGC, if the city proceeds with demolition, it will take full responsibility for the construction of a "party wall" to deal with the damage resulting from the demolition nextdoor. *The Bulletin* will track these eyesore properties for any updates in the near future. ♦



**ABOVE:** The crumbling walls of 5323 Rosetta St. have forced the city to schedule demolition of the city-owned building. Photo by Andrew Perrow.

## the Bulletin

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Bloomfield-Garfield  
Corporation



**Serving Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty, Lawrenceville, and Stanton Heights Since 1975** with the mission of reporting on activities affecting those communities and offering an opportunity for residents to express their opinions and exchange ideas.

### Volume 42, Number 10

The deadline for the November issue is **Friday, October 13.**

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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

**Garfield** - On Sept. 1, Zone 5 law enforcement officers reportedly arrested a total of ten juveniles on the 400 blocks of N. Graham St. and N. Aiken Ave.

Drugs and cash were allegedly recovered from the a house in the 400 block of N. Graham, and officers expect more warrants and arrests in the weeks to come. Over the last few months, community leaders and Zone 5 officers have been pooling resources to figure out how to reduce crime in the designated "hot spot" zones of N. Graham and N. Aiken.

The Sept. 1 arrests stem from a significant effort by law enforcement to curb the violence that has plagued the neighborhood all summer long. It is worth noting that, since the arrests, Garfield has seen a dip in drug-related assaults. Anyone involved in the neighborhood drug trade might have already realized that their illicit

activities could now be subject to intense scrutiny by Zone 5 Police.

Local residents' commitment to assisting investigations will be paramount in the ongoing struggle. Community partners, law enforcement officials, and City officials have formed a broad coalition to find new methods for crime prevention in Garfield. The coalition is currently exploring different approaches to cooling down each hot spot.

In an effort to restore land near these hot spots into a public park, the city's Department of Public Works removed a good deal of overgrowth from the 400 block of N. Aiken.

As the community responds by taking back its streets, all of these efforts send a clear message: there is no place for drug-related violence and crime in Garfield. ♦

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# Garbage Olympics

*continued from page 1*

According to East Liberty resident Lena Andrews, who envisioned the competition, the Garbage Olympics aims to “build community while at the same time removing the blight of litter from our neighborhoods.”

“Litter makes our neighborhoods feel less welcoming, like nobody cares,” Andrews noted. “The Garbage Olympics will give people an opportunity to care for their community and beautify their streets while also indulging their competitive spirit.”

Immediately following the two-hour litter cleanup in each neighborhood, representatives from the Clean Pittsburgh Commission will weigh each neighborhood’s “garbage harvest” at a designated collection point. During an after-party from Noon to 1:30 p.m., prizes will be

awarded for categories including “Dirtiest Volunteer,” “Oddest Piece of Garbage,” and “Neighborhood with the Most Volunteers.”

Regardless of the medals or the podium order, event organizers consider any litter removed from the streets to be an immense victory. After all, in the spirit of a traditional Olympic creed, “the essential thing is not to have conquered, but to have fought well.”

Those interested in participating may RSVP for the event by emailing [garbageolympicspgh@gmail.com](mailto:garbageolympicspgh@gmail.com) (and specifying which neighborhood’s effort they would like to join). Participants’ contact information will be routed to each neighborhood’s main point-person, who will follow up with more details. ♦

# Farmers market concludes season with Halloween party at Arsenal Park

By Taro Matsuno *Lawrenceville United*

Lawrenceville - On Sunday, Oct. 29, Lawrenceville United (LU) will host a “Kids Halloween Party” in Arsenal Park from Noon to 4 p.m. The annual tradition brings families from Lawrenceville and the broader Pittsburgh region together to celebrate Halloween in the afternoon sun.

In partnership with Arsenal Elementary & Middle School, the Lawrenceville Farmers Market is coordinating its end-of-season celebrations in conjunction with the family-friendly festivities in the park. The final day of the market season will give young Halloween partiers – and their parents - a chance to stock up on locally sourced produce, meats, prepared foods, coffee, tea, and personal goods.

First and foremost, the party will provide free food and candy bags for the kids. Field games are scheduled to start at Noon and Arsenal Middle School will host a haunted house tour from 1 to 3 p.m. - followed by a costume parade where kids will have the chance to show off their creative, frightening, and friendly costumes in a march around Arsenal Park.

Open until 4 p.m., the Lawrenceville Farmers Market will feature pumpkin-painting and trick-or-treating with market vendors. A “dog costume contest” will commence at 2 p.m.; neighbors are encouraged to bring their costumed pets along to the party, where they can win prizes for “Most Creative,” “Funniest,” and “Cutest Dog,” in addition to the Grand Prize.

This year’s Halloween party underscores the longstanding partnership between Arsenal Elementary & Middle School and the Lawrenceville community. Both schools provide programs and services to the local community by hosting community meetings, adult ESL classes, community swim lessons, and Arsenal Service Days. School faculty members also provide support for PEP Rally, LU’s advocacy program that strengthens local community partnerships with public schools.

LU is actively seeking volunteers to help with this year’s Kids Halloween Party. Local residents interested in volunteering are encouraged to call 412-802-7220 or email [taro@lunited.org](mailto:taro@lunited.org). ♦

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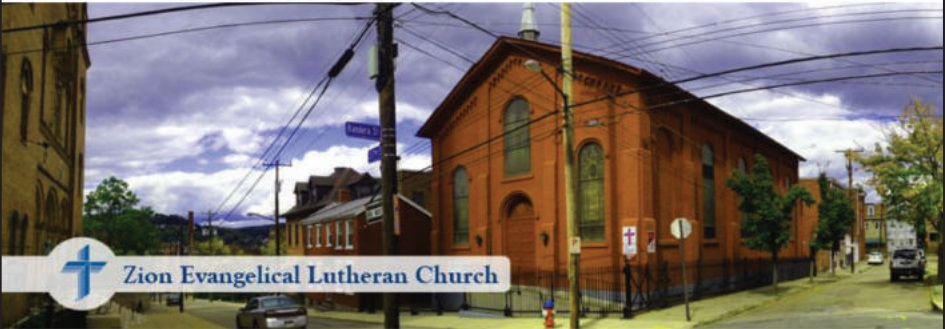
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**BELOW:** Two art cars, hallmarks of Most Wanted Fine Art (MWFA), line the street in front of the Oglebay Art Institute to inaugurate MWFA's "#OpenOnPenn" art exhibition in Wheeling, WV. Photo courtesy of Nina Sauer.



**ABOVE:** Visitors of the Oglebay Art Institute in Wheeling, WV take in some Penn Ave. art-works during Most Wanted Fine Art's "#OpenOnPenn" exhibition on Thursday, Sept. 7. Photo courtesy of Nina Sauer.

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## SAVE THE DATE: Friday, Nov. 3, 2017 Annual BGC Luncheon

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's (BGC) annual luncheon is scheduled for Friday, November 3 at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Downtown Pittsburgh. This event is a great opportunity for friends and supporters to gather to reflect on the prior year and celebrate our accomplishments together.

For information about purchasing a ticket to the luncheon or signing up for a sponsorship, please contact Aggie Brose, Deputy Director of the BGC, at 412-441-6950 (ext. 15).

## Penn Ave. Arts & Commercial District Community Survey

My name is Amber Epps and I am the Commercial District Manager for the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC). In order to make sure that the Penn Avenue Arts & Commercial District is meeting the needs and expectations of the community, the BGC is conducting a short, preliminary survey to gather your feedback. Once you have completed your survey, please drop it off at the BGC office, located at 5149 Penn Ave. We look forward to hearing from you!

- How do you prefer to receive information about what's going on in the neighborhood?  
Choose all that apply.
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  - Mail
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- Do you attend events/activities (including arts-related activities) on Penn Avenue?
  - No
  - Yes (If yes, which ones?) \_\_\_\_\_
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  - Costs too much
  - Nothing that I am interested in
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- What types of events/activities would you like to see on Penn Avenue?
- Do you shop or visit restaurants/cafes on Penn Avenue?
  - No
  - Yes (If yes, where?) \_\_\_\_\_
- If you answered "No" to question #5, why not? Choose all that apply.
  - Costs too much
  - Nothing that I am interested in
  - Not aware of what is available and/or what their hours are
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- If you have any other feedback related to the events, activities, etc. on the avenue, please write them below!
- Optional: What street do you live on? \_\_\_\_\_  
What's your email address? \_\_\_\_\_



# Relief Effort continued from page 1



**ABOVE:** In desperate need of basic supplies, survivors of Hurricane Harvey flock to Bennie Murphy, Jr.'s U-Haul truck in the Houston area. Photo courtesy of Bennie Murphy, Jr.

stayed glued to their screens, but very few actually put their lives on hold to go aid the suffering Gulf Coast residents.

Bloomfield resident Bennie Murphy, Jr., on the other hand, could not sit idly by while people struggled to survive the storm and its chaotic aftermath. So, the 21 year-old entrepreneur took it upon himself to do what any young businessman does best: fundraising.

“On social media, we all get together to repost memes from random TV shows and all this corny stuff, so I figured why not use it for something good,” he said.

Murphy started an online fundraiser through GoFundMe.com, broadcasting his new relief efforts to anyone and everyone he knew on Facebook – and meeting a whole

lot of kindhearted strangers in the process.

“I wrote a nice paragraph about what I was trying to do, then I texted all my friends and family asking for just two or three bucks per person,” Murphy recalled. “But, I never expected to get this kind of support.”

Over the next few days, hundreds of people reached out to Murphy via social media. He soon found the multiplicity of shares, re-posts, rags, etc. to be quite astounding. As the donations began rolling in, the young entrepreneur said he found himself driving all over Pittsburgh to pick up donated goods like bottled water, shirts, diapers, toothpaste, baby clothes, and non-perishable food items.

He heroically struggled to fit most of the donations into his two-door Camaro. Eventually, once the living room was overtaken by bags of donated Eat n’ Park cookies and cases of water, he knew it was time to transport all the donations to the people who needed them.

Murphy and a friend reached into their own pockets to rent a U-Haul truck, packed it full of donated items, and set out on a twenty-four hour trek to Houston. Along the way, the pair collected even more donations at the University of Memphis before arriving in the Sugarland area on the outskirts of Houston. Decked out in black and gold, the young men wearing Pirates hats quickly earned a reputation among the hurricane survivors as “those guys from Pittsburgh with the U-Haul.”

But, the warm receptions were hard to get to when half the region was still underwater. “I was driving the U-Haul through six or seven inches of water at some points,” Murphy said. While some profiteers down in Houston were earning hefty FEMA paychecks just for handing out donations, Murphy and his friend said they were doing the same thing out of their own pocket; they apparently even paid for their own gas so that all the funds raised could be used on supplies for the hurricane survivors.

Stopping by men’s shelters, churches, and an Islamic Center, the young Pittsburghers asked everyone they met for suggestions as to which areas needed the most help.

“There was this part of the city called ‘tent city’ where a bunch of people - who basically had nowhere to live - they all put up tents near [MLB stadium] Minute Maid Park and lived there,” Murphy said. “When we pulled up with the U-Haul and opened it up, they went crazy for all the toiletries and clothing and everything else we were giving out.”

Reflecting on his journey, the young humanitarian hopes heartwarming stories like his might motivate his peers to take action. “I want people my age to stand up and, instead of just tweeting about it or posting something that says ‘Pray for Houston,’ go and do something about it.” ♦



**ABOVE:** Bennie Murphy, Jr. prepares to drive down to Houston, where he delivered much-needed supplies to hurricane survivors. Photo courtesy of Bennie Murphy, Jr.



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## Demonstration aims crosshairs at Bloomfield Bridge crosswalks

By Christina Howell Bloomfield Development Corporation

*Bloomfield* - In July, the neighborhood's beautiful gateway sign was damaged beyond repair when a driver jumped the curb and slammed into the island.

While no one was injured, one must consider what could have happened if a pedestrian had been standing on that curb at the time. The incident underscores what many community members have known for a long time: the Bloomfield Bridge/Liberty Ave. intersection is a dangerous place for pedestrians.

This gateway intersection is in close proximity to the ShurSave grocery store, the Bloomfield Pool & baseball fields, and Woollsey Elementary School - destinations that attract pedestrians of all ages and abilities, including young children and older adults.

With nearly 20% of its residents aged 60 and older, Bloomfield is one of the ten most elderly neighborhoods in Pittsburgh. It is particularly important to consider pedestrian safety and accessibility for this population of legacy residents.

"The Crossings: Bloomfield" looks to address these safety concerns with a pop-up street demonstration on Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 4 p.m. Igniting visibility around the safety of the Liberty Ave. and Main St. intersection, local residents will congregate opposite the Bloomfield Bridge to cross the dangerous intersection, en masse.

By gathering people together for a show of solidarity, this one-hour event will creatively highlight the collective need for

increased safety and walkability near the bridge, particularly for the most vulnerable populations. When a walkway works better for someone using a wheelchair, it also works better for someone pushing a stroller or carrying heavy grocery bags.

Prior to the event, Bloomfield Livable Streets and Bloomfield Development Corporation (BDC) will collaborate over a six-week period to gather data from neighbors and intersection users. This data will inform the community's vision for improving the accessibility of the intersection.

By expanding the event to include a survey that generates data on the needs of local pedestrians, The Crossings: Bloomfield aims to shape new private development and future roadway revisions to bring about lasting, tangible improvements in walkability. The survey is available at [bloomfieldnow.org](http://bloomfieldnow.org) and [bloomfieldlivablestreets.org](http://bloomfieldlivablestreets.org).

The Crossings is a project of social enterprise Lively Pittsburgh - in partnership with Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh, the region's initiative to create more inclusive, respectful communities for all generations. Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh is made possible through support from the Mary Hillman Jennings Foundation and Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership for Aging.

Anyone may join the demonstration by meeting in the ShurSave parking lot (at the corner of Howley and Main Sts.) on Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 4 p.m. ♦

## Neighbors celebrate local farm's harvest

By Rev. John Creasy Garfield Community Farm

### Open Call

*Garfield* - As our annual fall festival approaches, another growing season has come and gone for Garfield Community Farm. Each summer, we grow thousands of pounds of produce and see most of it go into the homes of our CSA members, as well as those who shop at our mobile farmers market.

This summer - every Wednesday, between 3 and 8 p.m. - our mobile market served customers at three different locations. We are constantly asked why we keep the mobile market at the top of the hill in Garfield. Our answer is that we bring the market to places where access to fresh produce is lowest - like at the top of the hill, where grocery stores are a serious trek away, bus access is limited, and not everyone has access to a car.

Our purpose in growing food at Garfield Community Farm is to make good, fresh produce more accessible to residents of the neighborhood's less food-secure areas. On Saturday, Oct. 21, will you come out to the Union Project (801 N. Negley Ave.) and celebrate the harvest season with us?

Running from 1 to 4 p.m. and featuring dozens of homemade pies and hard cider (pressed from our own apples), the fall festival will also offer games and educational workshops on gardening, "wild-crafting," and more. A suggested donation of \$25 will help us raise funds to grow the farm next year. ♦

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# Neighborhood FOCUS

## Homewood plays muse for artistic collaborations

By Andrew McKeon *the Bulletin*

**Homewood** – Engaging the neighborhood as its own canvas, local artist Alisha B. Wormsley did not have to do much canvassing for her latest exhibit, *The People Are the Light*.

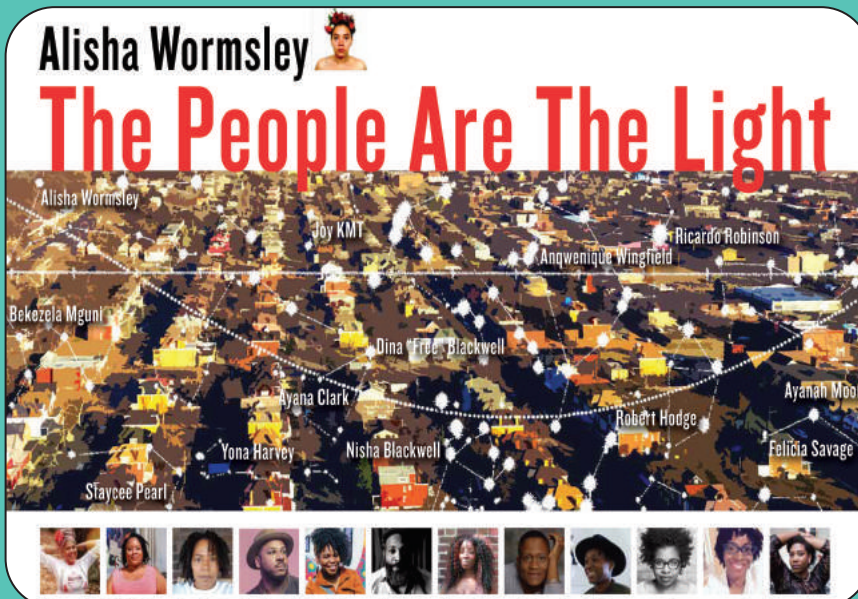
Now living in Garfield, she has twice before called Homewood her home. “We moved a lot, but my formative years were on Dallas [Ave.],” Wormsley said. Even when she was living elsewhere, the artist remained connected to the neighborhood through old friends and her mother’s charity work.

*The People Are the Light*, which runs through Oct. 15, features a series of public art installations dotted throughout Homewood, along with a number of neighborhood workshops that build on the theme of healing and cleansing.

Through her work with the Homewood Artist Residency, Wormsley had already made a lot of local contacts, so she had no trouble finding twelve collaborators. Any location scouting or public outreach to local residents came naturally for her. “I’ve been working on programs and events in the neighborhood for the last six years, so people here are used to me doing this stuff,” she said. “It’s not like a big change.”

Part of the Carnegie Museum of Art’s (CMOA) Hillman Photography Initiative, Wormsley’s exhibit focuses on Homewood residents “activating” vacant spaces in their neighborhood. “The people are the light, so I wanted to do things that would bring them into the exhibit, as people. I was just thinking about what creates light in vacant spaces. And it’s people. People turn on the lights, so to speak,” Wormsley explained. “These spaces need to be activated by people in Homewood. Not by technology or things, but by people.”

**BELOW:** A map of Homewood doubles as a program guide for Alisha B. Wormsley’s new art exhibit, *The People Are the Light*, on display throughout the neighborhood until Oct. 15. Graphic courtesy of the Carnegie Museum of Art.



“I think we’re slowly opening up to this idea that art is everything that you’re doing. You’re the art.”

– Alisha B. Wormsley, Curator, *The People Are the Light*

When it came to the sponsoring such an ambitious project with so many moving pieces, CMOA officials did not want to micromanage Wormsley’s collaborations. According to Dr. Divya Rao Heffley, the Hillman Photography Initiative’s senior program manager, the initiative itself was designed to expand the ways the museum operates.

“The key here is that it’s providing resources to artists with a community-focused art practice, and then getting out of the way,” Dr. Heffley said. “It’s not about the museum. It’s about the art, and what it can inspire, and how it can inspire.”

Going where most museums never tread, the progressive Hillman initiative bestows a great trust in its chosen artists. “The people from the initiative have been totally supportive of my vision and respectful of the community in Homewood,” Wormsley told *the Bulletin*. “They have been very understanding of all the intricacies – and eccentricities – that are involved with doing a project like this.”

Along with the traditional support system provided by the museum, the artist pursued partnerships with a number of local organizations ahead of the Sept. 16 opening. “Everybody’s been coming through and showing up,” she said, “because we have a lot of partners like Lighthouse, the Homewood YMCA, the Library, Operation Better Block, and Westinghouse [Academy].”

Wormsley is quick to point to her collaborators’ creativity as the exhibit’s real driving force. “What the artists turn it into is more of a conversation,” she noted. “I just curated it to help with the initial structuring.”

One of the featured artists, Robert Hodge, has installed “The Beauty Box,” which captures a specific moment in the community’s past through the prism of an open-air fruit stand at 617 N. Homewood Ave.

Although he hails from Houston, Hodge is still very familiar with Homewood.

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## Addiction continued from page 1

"Through the Homewood Artist Residency, we brought him here a while back to be a resident artist and he just became the 'Mayor of Homewood' in no time," Wormsley said.

The neighborhood's past, and its imagined future, is present in most of the works on display. Each workshop invites neighbors to try something different in an effort to help them heal and cleanse their minds of some of Homewood's grim realities.

"It's things like yoga and meditation," Wormsley explained, "things they don't usually take the time to do because they're just too busy surviving."

When she was growing up in Homewood, Wormsley said her family "had to move to Squirrel Hill when [her] brother was in high school because all of his friends were getting killed."

Personal experience and neighborhood stories are integral to the function and feel of her new art exhibit. Each work invites visitors to interface with empty spaces in new ways. It operates by different rules than traditional museum exhibitions.

"There's some very structural ideas about what art is, but I think we're slowly opening up to this idea that art is everything that you're doing. You're the art," Wormsley noted. "If you look at my work, I'm very interested in the roles of Black women in spaces."

When the people are the art, every work involves a lot of moving pieces. Wormsley wants to capture these moving pieces through photography, then edit all the moments into an art film slated for a December screening at CMOA.

"It's still a lot of work. But, the people that I'm working with are worth it. The project's worth it," she said, "because I want to give people, especially Black women, more opportunities for self-care."

To learn more about *The People Are the Light*, visit [www.cmoa.org/exhibition/the-people-are-the-light](http://www.cmoa.org/exhibition/the-people-are-the-light). ♦

Lawrenceville Block Watch in May 2017, the total number of known fatal overdoses in the first four months of the year tripled across the city from 2016 to 2017. This exponential increase in the number of local heroin overdoses points to a disturbing trend.

While the statistics are grim, the stories of residents whose lives have been affected by addiction are even more harrowing. One such story belongs to Mallory, who was born and raised in Lawrenceville. Throughout her childhood, she witnessed her mother struggle with heroin addiction.

Mallory describes years of bouncing from home to home, relying on grandparents and friends; while still an elementary school student, she learned how to cook and clean and take care of her younger sisters. Her mother repeatedly attempted to get clean, which gave Mallory new hope each time. "We became a happy family," she said of those periods of recovery.

Unfortunately, after years of recovery, her mother still struggled with relapses. When she was 20, Mallory and her two younger sisters lost both their mother and their

step-father to heroin overdoses within a year. "Processing that I didn't have parents at all now was the hardest part," she explained. "Heroin has destroyed everything I loved."

Now Mallory wants to use her experience to help other individuals and families struggling with addiction. "I don't want to see another daughter lose her mom, another dad lose his son." Together, she and Lawrenceville United (LU) are organizing a free event on Tuesday, October 24, from 6 to 8 p.m., to provide local families with information about treatment options and how to navigate them.

According to Dr. Karen Plavan, a Certified Family Interventionist and Chair of The Coalition for Leadership Education and Advocacy for Recovery (CLEAR), who will be presenting at the October event, "addiction is a family disease and every person who suffers from alcoholism or drug addiction affects four to ten people, including family members, friends, and co-workers."

"These people also suffer and sometimes do not know what to do, for themselves or for their loved one," she elaborated, "so learning how you can best help yourself and your loved one is important."

Although it is open to everyone, the evening program is primarily intended for families and friends of people struggling with addiction, or individuals facing addiction themselves. A variety of organizations that offer treatment and supports will be in attendance, from in-patient programs to peer recovery.

The event will take place at the Goodwill Workforce Development Center at 118 52nd St. in the Multi-Purpose Room. For more information, or to RSVP, please contact LU at (412) 802-7220 or email [info@LUnited.org](mailto:info@LUnited.org). ♦

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# Mapping the psychology of poverty via personal reflection

By Elizabeth Sensky East Liberty Development, Inc.

*East Liberty* - Tammy Thompson wants to change the traditional thinking about poverty. As a family development coordinator for Open Hand Ministries (OHM) and a facilitator of Circles East Liberty, Thompson stresses the need to “educate people about the psychology of poverty in all work related to moving families out of poverty.”

“Understanding why people make the decisions they make,” Thompson explained, “requires an understanding of how the trauma of being exposed to long-term poverty impacts decision-making.”

OHM and Circles work together to help break the cycles of generational poverty through a combination of intentional relationships and homeownership. Circles pairs low-income individuals (known as “Leaders”) with middle or upper income volunteers (known as “Allies”).

Simply put, Allies work together with Leaders to help them reach their life goals. Many Leaders then pursue assistance from OHM, which was co-founded by Rev. Michael Stanton in 2007.

OHM helps Leaders become homeowners by identifying and rehabilitating affordable

properties, then helping individuals prepare for homeownership. Since 2015, Thompson has been situated right at the center of these organizations. Her interest in fighting these issues and understanding their psychological drivers comes from a personal place.

Thompson experienced poverty firsthand when her family moved to Pittsburgh in 1979 with only \$65 and the promise of a job for her father. When the job fell through, her family ended up on the streets. After years of living in poverty and suffering from depression, Thompson found her way to a college degree and a career as a paralegal.

“I’ve taken what I’ve learned and developed programming and curriculum that helps bring a different perspective to what it takes to make important life changes,” she said.

Thompson has designed creative ways to address the many layers that keep people impoverished - like the larger, structural systems and policies that contribute to generational poverty. One example of this is a phenomenon known as the “Cliff Effect,” a financial crisis that occurs when

assistance programs like childcare subsidies and Medicaid remove benefits faster than people can earn enough income to replace them. Despite any increases to their income, many individuals realize they would still be better off living with government assistance; the Cliff Effect ultimately locks people into poverty.

“Living in poverty requires a person to be constantly worrying about the next crisis,” Thompson said. “There are often food, housing, and safety insecurities that put people constantly on guard.”

By creating a space for intentional relationships between Leaders and Allies, Circles connects people with different perspectives on various life situations. “Most people who are in poverty are surrounded by other people in poverty,” Thompson explained. “Circles brings them into contact with people who have a different perspective.”

She wants her neighbors to address race and its role in perpetuating poverty. “I wish people realized that race plays a part in how communities are impacted by poverty. Poverty in Homewood does not look like poverty in Mt. Oliver or Beechview,”

Thompson said. “Poverty and race impact education, housing, the workforce, public safety, and businesses in our communities. Not having the conversations doesn’t make it go away.”

Thompson is producing a documentary film called, “We Wear the Mask,” that explores the psychological effects of poverty on women. Chronicling the lives of three women in the Pittsburgh area, she is focusing on how the social stigma and demeaning rhetoric directed toward the poor cause women to mask their true identities and stay in the shadows of poverty.

“Statistics show that poverty strikes women hardest. This film will bring light to these struggles, and also to the subsequent trauma that often follows women as they move out of their financial problems,” Thompson observed. “As it turns out, dollar bills don’t fix everything.”

An Oct. 26 screening of the documentary will be open to the public at 5:30 p.m. at the Elsie H. Hillman Auditorium (Hill House). Anyone interested in getting involved with these and other local issues may join a Circles group. Visit [www.circle-spg.org](http://www.circle-spg.org) for more information. ♦



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# "Break up Penn Plaza": more parcels bring more benefits

By Josh Clark *Bulletin contributor*

## Op-Ed

*East Liberty* - Urban planning works best when it benefits the greatest number of people. Projects like Heinz Field require an enormous amount of land, but the size of the stadium is justified by its popularity as a public utility.

Big urban projects are fine if they make the city a better place for everybody. As Mayor Bill Peduto is fond of saying, "if it's not for all, then it's not for us." The subject of urban renewal has been analyzed to death but, locally speaking, there is one important question that can no longer be ignored: "How did LG Realty manage to acquire a massive, seven acre lot in East Liberty?"

Based on data provided by Pittsburgh Historic Maps, in 1920, the site of the former Penn Plaza apartment buildings was comprised of eighty lots, most of them single-family dwellings. By the time urban renewal planners were finished in 1970, the large piece of land on Penn Ave. between Negley and Euclid had become "Lot 83-N-125." It measured 7.09 acres and was owned by Pennley Park South, Inc., a company controlled by the Gumberg family.

How did this happen? The URA demolished all the structures on the site, changed the lot and block designation from eighty to one, and then sold the property to the Gumbergs [the principal owners of LG Realty]. As part of the purchase, the Gumbergs agreed to keep Penn Plaza's residential units priced as below-market-rate apartments for a period of thirty years.

When the thirty year period expired, all hell broke loose; elderly, fixed-income residents were forced to move out of the neighborhood and two great Tasso Katselas-designed apartment buildings were demolished. The optics of the situation became so messy that Whole Foods Market [LG Realty's chosen anchor tenant for the new site] had to back out of the deal just to save face.

The City of Pittsburgh has made great strides undoing the obvious mistakes of urban renewal. Restoring the original two-way street grid in East Liberty is an important part of that process. Whereas the benefits of a one-way street are limited, two-way streets benefit everybody.

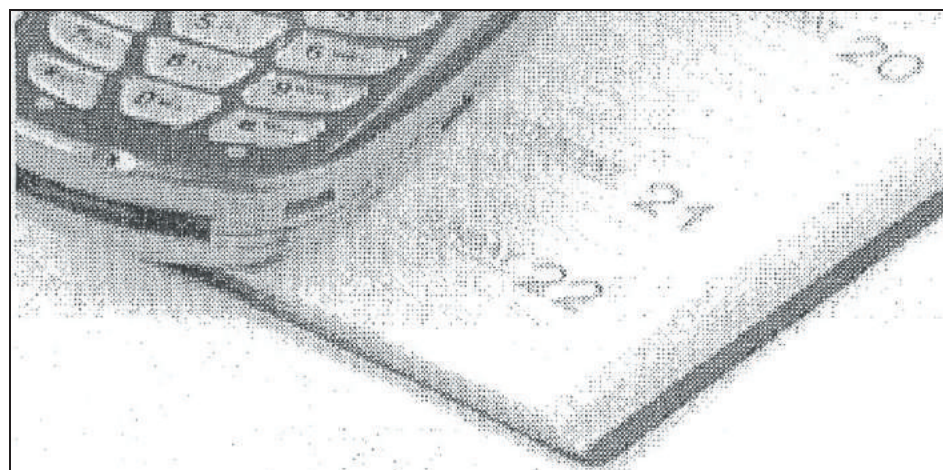
City planners could apply this restorative mindset to Penn Plaza by reviving the spirit of

the original lot and block plan. The single-family housing grid that begins on Baum Blvd. and crosses Friendship Ave. needs to extend to Penn Ave., where it can be fully integrated with Enright Parklet's incredible collection of trees. Also, Eva Street (west of Euclid) should be rebuilt to create a formal entrance to the park from Penn Circle.

In the hands of LG Realty, all the benefits of redeveloping Lot 83-N-125 are limited to one developer, one builder, one architect, one landscaper, and one real estate agent. By restoring the original street grid and subdividing the Penn Plaza site into fifty separate lots for single-family dwellings, the city could unlock limitless benefits for more than just a few people.

Fifty lots translate into opportunities for fifty builders, fifty architects, fifty landscapers, and fifty real estate agents – not to mention a great place to live for fifty families.

*[Editor's Note: Court-supervised negotiations are currently taking place between the owners of the Penn Plaza property, the city, and community representatives to resolve the impasse that has developed around the site's re-use. An announcement on a possible settlement was imminent as of press time.] ♦*



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# PATF unveils new name, expands services

By Paula Simon *Pittsburgh Aids Task Force*



*East Liberty* - Over the past two years, Pittsburgh Aids Task Force (PATF), the oldest and largest HIV/AIDS service in Southwestern PA, significantly transformed its services and role as a community health resource.

In 2015, PATF welcomed Sean DeYoung as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The following year, the organization announced a new model of integrated care delivery to its HIV/AIDS clients through expanded services and facilities, including a new medical clinic and food pantry, an expanded pharmacy program, and upgraded client meeting rooms.

On September 26, PATF continued the transformation with a new name: "Allies for Health + Wellbeing." The new name honors the agency's founders, who were allies in the fight against HIV/AIDS. It also reflects the agency's expanded role in caring for those living with, affected by, and at risk of HIV/AIDS, sexually-transmitted infections, and viral hepatitis in southwestern PA.

Though HIV treatment has drastically improved since the introduction of anti-retroviral medication in the 1990s, the organization continues its commitment to addressing the complexities of care for those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

In addition to its all-inclusive health clinic (open to anyone regardless of their HIV status), Allies for Health + Wellbeing now provides Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) as a form of prevention. The new clinic also recently announced free syphilis testing in response to a regional surge of infection rates.

Before renaming the organization, PATF's Board of Directors met with groups of current clients, potential clients (those at high risk of acquiring HIV), donors, supporters, and staff to assess everyone's feelings about new, potential names; the groups had overwhelmingly positive reactions to the name, "Allies for Health + Wellbeing."

Those same groups also had a say in Allies for Health + Wellbeing's new logo, wherein several elements connect as a symbol of Allies' past, present, and future.

"The needs of our clients have changed since this organization's beginnings three decades ago," Sean DeYoung, CEO of PATF, said. "Now, Allies for Health + Wellbeing reflects our desire to meet the needs of our clients through a more holistic approach. We are committed to being a welcoming resource in the community and we are proud to be allies in the fight against HIV/AIDS." ♦

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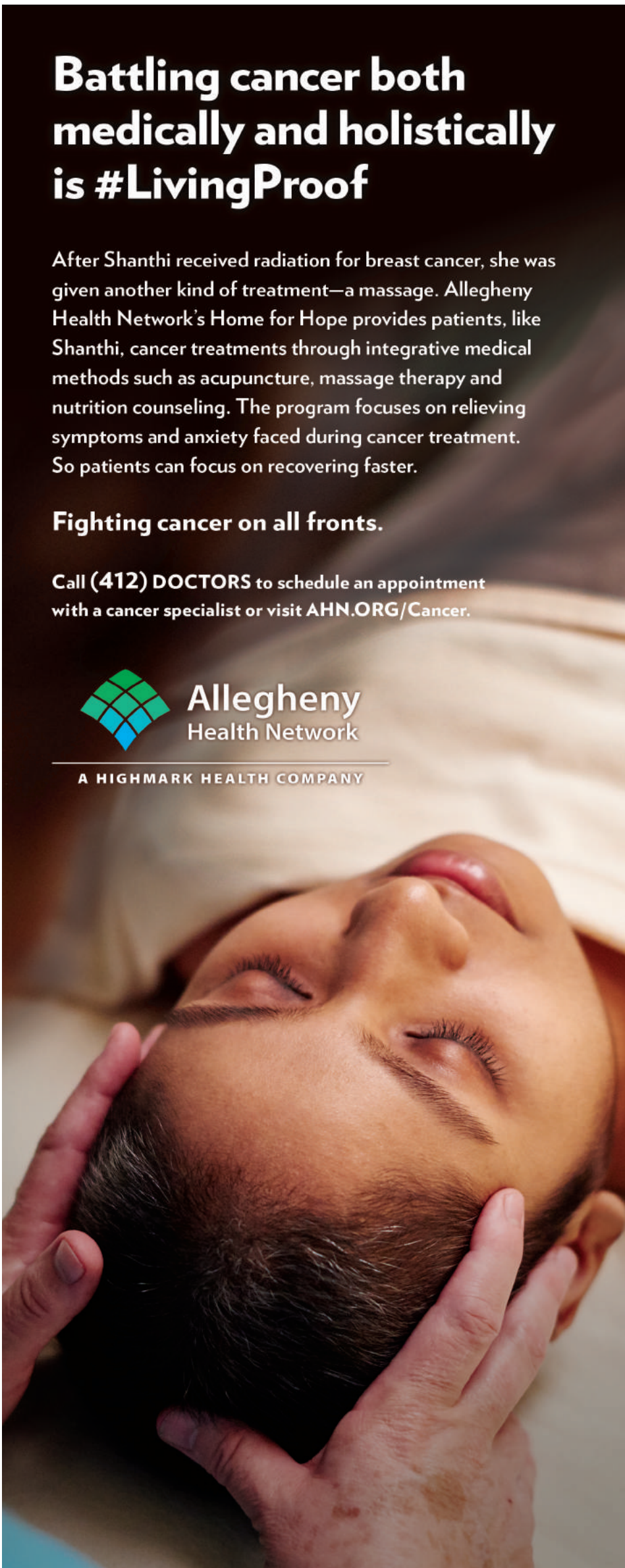
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# LOCAL REAL ESTATE BLOTTER

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

Real Estate Sales (July 16 - August 15, 2017 )

Compiled by Lillian Denhardt, Howard Hanna Real Estate

## Bloomfield

## Friendship

## East Liberty

## Garfield

## Lawrenceville

## Stanton Heights

## Forbes Trail Development Company LLC to Steel Town Properties M2 LLC at 4642 Hatfield St. for \$350,000.

## HMT Holdings Revocable Trust Agreement to 3241 Development LLC at 715 52Nd St. for \$150,000.

## James A. & Jill M. Drenzo to Benjamin S. & Megan M. Mantica at 3621 Charlotte St. for \$425,000.

## Kelly T. & Lisa M. Mckenzie to Pgh Housing LLC at 4723 Butler St. for \$405,000.

## Lawrence Am Vets Post 64 to 1251 Dublin Road LLC at 229 45th St. for \$370,520.

## Lee M. Gross to Mark H. & Nancy B. Felix at 270 Fisk St. for \$705,000.

## Margaret A. Walkush to Smokey Joe Properties LLC at 5231 Dresden Way for \$20,000.

## Margaret A. Walkush to Smokey Joe Properties LLC at 5233 Dresden Way for \$20,000.

## Mary Ellen Purnell to 52Nd Street Ventures LLC at 420 52Nd St. for \$120,000.

## Mary Ellen Purnell to 52Nd Street Ventures LLC at 422 52Nd St. for \$120,000.

## Mary Ellen Purnell to 52Nd Street Ventures LLC at 424 52Nd St. for \$120,000.

## Patrick Wysor to Zachary M. Dominick at 3829 Liberty Ave. for \$148,000.

## Peter Zant Jr. & Edwina V. Bishop to James L. & Amie N. Dutey at 4518 Plummer St. for \$457,500.

## Pittsburgh Real Estate Team Inc to Ancora Property Solutions Inc at 5218 Duncan St. for \$150,000.

## RM Homes LLC to Jillian Vanzelfden at 3434 Penn Ave. for \$327,500.

## Richard J. & Pamela A. Muto Klecha to Maria A. & Anthony J. Klecha at 327 Fisk St. for \$350,000.

## Thomas L. & Helen E. Dickinson to Yanbing Ye at 303 1/2 45th St. for \$125,000.

## Thomas L. & Helen E. Dickinson to Yanbing Ye at 303 45th St. for \$125,000.

## Urban Roots Development LLC to Ezra W. Smith at 176 46th St. for \$452,000.

## William P. & Rosemarie C. Krakovsky to Sarah E. Zangle at 4218 Sherrod St. for \$185,000.

## Aaron & Carolyn Kamens to Charles Cramer at 4309 Upview Ter for \$10.

## St Raphael Parish Charitable Trust to Samantha A. Noll at 1006 Downlook St. for \$205,000.

## Violet K. Galik to Iain James & Jennifer Cruickshank at 5076 Rosecrest Dr. for \$254,900.

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

## Angeline Rhodes to Grato Investments LLC at 322 Ella St. for \$155,000.

## Eko Development LLC to Mohamad Issa at 212 Edmond St. for \$182,000.

## Eleanor Impavido to Piper E. Lincoln at 5008 Friendship Ave. for \$199,900.

## Jeffrey T. Hoburg to Sapling Holdings LLC at 4618 Friendship Ave. for \$260,000.

## John Konrad to Jessica B. Walters at 4069 Cabinet St. for \$120,000.

## Joy Anne Dawso to Joy Anne Dawso Living Trust at 319 Cedarville St. for \$10.

## Mark Diulus Electric Company to James Marsonек at 4622 Juniper St. for \$10,000.

## Mark Diulus to James Marsonек at 4620 Juniper St. for \$10,000.

## Mark Diulus to James Marsonек at 4712 Juniper St. for \$10,000.

## Martin G. Rosenfeld to Vincent Celender at 4072 Woolslayer Way for \$70,000.

## Patsy & Dina M. Lombardo to Jason Chiu-sano at 252 S. Mathilda St. for \$220,000.

## Ralph J. & Elda Mazzotta to Paul & Rebecca A. Tedesco at 4564 Friendship Ave. for \$226,500.

## Shannon Vangura to Kristin Komazec at 4719 Lorigan St. for \$180,000.

## Silvio O. Trust Piluso to Thomas E. Walsh at 4709 Corday Way for \$70,000.

## Alexandria A. & Randy W. Ball Moore to William J. Odonnell Jr. at 211 Roup Ave. for \$460,000.

## Norris H. Patricia P. Barbre to Ridge Ave. Holdings LLC at 329 S. Graham St. for \$206,000.

## Angeline Brown to Marie Josephine Sullivan at 5210-5212 Kincaid St. for \$151,500.

## Angeline Brown to Marie Josephine Sullivan at 5210 Jordan Way for \$18,500.

## Catherine V. Monroe to Mikaela R. Kingsley at 5507 Broad St. for \$86,500.

## Garfield Jubilee Revitalization Partnership to John H. Samuel at 5317 Rosetta St. for \$74,500.

## Mary Anne Stevanus & Michael J. Eannarino to Hana Uman at 139 N. Millvale Ave. for \$145,000.

## Mccabe Brothers Inc. to Pedantic LLC at 5230 Penn Ave. for \$87,500.

## Mccabe Brothers Inc. to Pedantic LLC at 5226 Penn Ave. for \$87,500.

## NSB Legonier LLC to Adam Samuel Bisno at 230 N. Fairmount St. for \$375,000.

## Wai-Ching Lam to Helen K. Perilloux at 201 N. Graham St. for \$130,000.

## Doris L. Sumpter to Charla Musgrove at 712 Moga St. for \$6,000.

## Mary Worth Investment LP to East Liberty Development Incorporated at 5641 Rural St. for \$50,000.

## Michael A. Dagitses to Bennett Hunter & Ruth Brand Farrell at 5813 Rippey St. Unit B. for \$302,500.

## Ogbonna Moses Onwubiko to 132 Highland Associates LLC at 132 S. Highland Ave. for \$320,000.

## TS Pgh 1 LLC to East Liberty Development Incorporated at 338 Enright Ct for \$20,000.

## Abuccofan LLC to Paul R. Cohen at 4936 Harrison St. for \$499,000.

## Ace Auto Wrecking Inc to 5515 Butler Street Developmentlp at 0 Butler St. for \$2,595,000.

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## Ace Auto Wrecking Inc to 5515 Butler Street Developmentlp at 5515 Butler St. for \$2,595,000.

## Andrae Paola to Caroline Simard at 5520 Celadine St. for \$237,000.

## Bullychild Redevelopment LLC to Jordan D. Albert at 4933 Plum Way for \$143,200.

## Chris Rudzki to Philip Z. Colton at 329 38th St. for \$177,000.

## Craig A. & Courtney A. January to Stephen E. Hilty at 36 48th St. for \$419,000.

## Dana E. Gold to James Fraser Kitchell at 4220 Sherrod St. for \$315,000.

## Eko Development LLC to Seiden Family Trust at 134 Banner Way for \$149,000.

## Eko Development LLC to Michael G. Williamson at 5107 Lotus Way for \$171,000.

## Elizabeth C. Usnick to Maurielle L. Stacy at 160 41St St. for \$340,000.

## Emily A. Fritsch to Lonnie M. Petrill at 5104 Carnegie St. for \$425,000.

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the  
**Bulletin**BOARD

**Local Events** **Classes**  
**Gatherings** **Fundraisers**

**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 **November** issue of *the Bulletin* are due by **Wednesday, October 18**. Please submit listings using our online form at [www.bit.ly/bulletin\\_submit](http://www.bit.ly/bulletin_submit).

**October 1 - Sunday**

**LAWRENCEVILLE**  
**Hospitality House Tour**

Lawrenceville's Hospitality House Tour will be held on Sunday, Oct. 1, beginning at noon and ending at 5 p.m. Ten resident-owned and -occupied homes, along with two points of interest, will be featured. The tour is self-guided and begins at Allegheny Cemetery (4734 Butler St.) at noon on Oct. 1. Take a "historic" trolley ride on Molly's Trolleys with the Lawrenceville Historical Society. For more information, visit [www.lha15201.org](http://www.lha15201.org).

**Stephen Foster Center**  
**Flea Market**

The Stephen Foster Center's first Flea Market is Sunday, Oct. 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 286 Main St. Enjoy shopping at flea market and vendor tables - and buying baked goods and other food. There is also a 50/50 raffle and face painting. It is a fundraiser for the center's many programs, including exercise classes for active adults, the child care center, and Adult Day Services. Parking is free. For more information, visit our Face Book page: Catholic Youth Association (@cyapgh) or contact [love1st@comcast.net](mailto:love1st@comcast.net).

**October 5 - Thursday**

**GARFIELD**  
**Garfield Land Trust**  
**Membership Meeting**

The Garfield Land Trust will hold its first membership meeting and community forum at the Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.) on Thursday, October 5, at 6:30 p.m. This is where your voice counts. For information about the upcoming meeting - or about how to become a member of the land trust - call 412-345-3831, email [GarfieldLandTrust@gmail.com](mailto:GarfieldLandTrust@gmail.com), or visit [GarfieldLandTrust.org](http://GarfieldLandTrust.org).

**October 6 - Friday**

**LAWRENCEVILLE**  
**First Friday Fish Fry**

Come to New Bethel Baptist Church (221 43rd St.) on Friday, Oct. 6, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. for a fish fry. Fish dinners, pound cake, and sweet potato pies will be for sale. To order, call 412-291-8185.

**October 11 - Wednesday**

**EAST LIBERTY**  
**Grow Your Business**

Own a small business? Have an idea to start a new business? Come learn how to get capital to start or grow your company through three local organizations - Kiva, Bridgeway Capital, and Honeycomb. We will host a moderated session by Jeannette Harris of Gluten Free Goat Bakery to discuss exciting new ways to help business owners get money to grow and expand. The event will take place at AlphaLab, located at 6024 Broad St., Floor 3. It will run from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Email [george@honeycombcapital.com](mailto:george@honeycombcapital.com) to learn more.

**October 14 - Saturday**

**BLOOMFIELD**  
**Art of Flash Nonfiction**

Learn the art of brevity in this afternoon writing workshop with Sarah Shotland. Featuring a variety of exercises that will help you appreciate both the constraints and creativity of flash nonfiction, this three-hour workshop hosted by the Creative Nonfiction Foundation is the perfect opportunity to experiment with this increasingly popular form. The foundation will host this workshop at its 5119 Coral St. location on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 1 to 4 p.m. Regular price registration is \$60; \$35 if purchased by October 2. Free on-street parking is available. Doors open at 12 p.m.; event begins at 1 p.m. Snacks and coffee will be provided. Ques-

tions? Please call us at 412-404-2975 or email our events manager, Lauren Boehm, at [boehm@creativenonfiction.org](mailto:boehm@creativenonfiction.org).

**October 15 - Sunday**

**LAWRENCEVILLE**  
**Free Walking Tour**

The Lawrenceville Historical Society's Annual Free Walking Tour will take place on Sunday, Oct. 15, at 1 p.m. The tour starts at the corner of Penn Ave. and Fisk St. and will last for approximately one and one-half hours. A docent-led tour will examine the rich history and architecture of Fisk St., a Lawrenceville street that has maintained much of its Victorian and Edwardian charm. No reservations are required, but make sure to wear comfortable walking shoes. The tour ends at the corner of Fisk and Butler Sts.

**STANTON HEIGHTS**  
**"Stanton Hops" Party w/**  
**Roundabout Brewery**

On Saturday, Oct. 15, join us at The Neighborhood Academy (709 N. Aiken Ave.) from 3 to 6 p.m. to enjoy Roundabout Brewery beer that was brewed with hops grown at our Stanton Ave. rain garden. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Tickets include your first beer, light refreshments, and music by The Armadillos. Food trucks and



**Community Health Fair**  
**Celebrating 33 years in Bloomfield-Garfield**

In celebration of 33 years of service, you're invited to attend a free community health and wellness fair on Thursday, Oct. 5 at the UPMC St. Margaret Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health Center. The fair will include free services and screenings including:

- Free blood pressure screenings
- Ask the Doctor
- Ask the Pharmacist
- Free information on family health services
- COPD and CHF information
- Free giveaways and immunization schedules
- Adult flu shot clinic
- Facility tours
- Oxygen saturation screening
- And much more!

**Thursday, Oct. 5**  
**3 to 6 p.m.**

**UPMC St. Margaret**  
**Bloomfield-Garfield**  
**Family Health Center**  
5475 Penn Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

*No appointment necessary.*  
*Light refreshments will be provided.*

For more information,  
call **412-361-7562**, or visit  
[UPMCStMargaret.com](http://UPMCStMargaret.com)

**INTERESTED IN PUSHING FOR CHANGE?**  
**BECOME A BGC BOARD MEMBER TODAY!**



Join the BGC at its 5149 Penn Ave. office on Monday, Oct. 2, for a 6 p.m. orientation session on how to become a Board member of the organization.

Members of the community with an interest in promoting youth education and employment, public safety, and neighborhood revitalization are invited to attend. RSVP to Aggie Brose at 412-441-6950 (ext. 15).



# Volunteer Opportunities    Announcements    Services    Open Calls    Shout-Outs

additional beer will be available for purchase. Visit [StantonHeights.org](http://StantonHeights.org) for more information.

## October 18 - Wednesday

### LAWRENCEVILLE

#### Allegheny Arsenal Film Screening

On Wednesday, October 18, the Lawrenceville Historical Society will show the DVD presentation of "Battlefield Pennsylvania: Allegheny Arsenal Explosion." Produced by the Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN), the film features host Brady Crytzer, a lecturer of history at Robert Morris University, conducting an hour-long interview with Heinz History Center CEO Andy Masich and Jim Wudarczyk, the author of "Pittsburgh's Forgotten Allegheny Arsenal." They discuss the importance of this prominent military facility and the fateful 1862 explosion. The event takes place at the Carnegie Library, 279 Fisk St., at 6:30 p.m. It is free to the public. No reservations are necessary.

## October 21 - Wednesday

### BLOOMFIELD

#### Art of Remembering

Learn how to push beyond the gaps in your memory and take your writing in new directions in this exclusive workshop with Kelly Grey Carlisle, hosted by the Creative Nonfiction Foundation. Participants should bring a sample of a work-in-progress or a finished piece (up to 1,500 words) to share in small groups as well as a few related photographs (digital or print). Breakfast and coffee will be provided during the workshop, which runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 5119 Coral St. The schedule includes a midday break for lunch, and boxed lunches can be provided for a nominal fee (w/ advance notice). Registration costs \$105; \$79 if purchased by October 9. Questions? Please call 412-404-2975 or email our events manager, Lauren Boehm, at [boehm@creativenonfiction.org](mailto:boehm@creativenonfiction.org).

### EAST LIBERTY

#### Annual Fall Give-Away

On Wednesday, Oct. 21, the New Life Christian Assembly Church will give away free clothing, household items, etc. at its 5877 Commerce St.

location (in The Cube) from 10 a.m. - Noon. Call 412-361-0177 to learn more.

## October 26 - Thursday

### GARFIELD

#### New Housing Idea

A public meeting will be held at the Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.) in Garfield on Thursday, Oct. 26, at 6 p.m. to discuss a concept that would make ownership of any new, single-family home built in Garfield more affordable. The meeting will obtain public input on the creation of a zoning overlay for the Garfield neighborhood, which the city would have to approve to make this new prototype possible. Pizza and soft drinks will be served. Call 412-441-6950 (ext. 15) for more information.

## October 31 - Tuesday

### GARFIELD

#### Harvest Festival

The Morningside Church of God in Christ (COGIC, 5173 Dearborn St.) Youth Department presents its annual Harvest Festival on Tuesday, Oct. 31. Come join us at 5 p.m. for a time of fun and games. Learn how to make dirt with your friends and neighbors. Youths will see why we planned this safe event just for them.

## - Ongoing -

### CITY-WIDE

#### Become a Scout

Boy scouting is a program designed for boys in Grades 1-5 (Cub) and ages 11-17 (Boy) that emphasizes leadership, citizenship and personal fitness while developing character, family understanding and community service. It is camping, kayaking, archery, BB shooting, campfires, fun with friends and more. A nearby cub scout pack meets on Wednesdays at St. Raphael Parish Activity Center in Morningside at 6:30 p.m. A Boy Scout Troop meets in Lawrenceville at the VFW, Post 214 (316 52nd St.) on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. If interested in either unit, you may call Scout Master Bob McKinstry at 412-661-2963 or email

[Emckin1135@aol.com](mailto:Emckin1135@aol.com).

## Foster Parents Needed

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 at 6117 Broad St. in East Liberty. Call 412-441-5020 for more information.

### GARFIELD

#### Bible & Ministry Class

The William A. Johnson School of the Bible & Ministry is now open for enrollment. Classes are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday evenings at the Morningside Church of God in Christ (5173 Dearborn St.) in the Garfield area of Pittsburgh; early classes are from 5:45 to 7:15 p.m. and late classes are from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. These classes will offer you a life-changing experience. Call 412-361-9865 for more information.

## Garfield Greens Guild

The Garfield Greens Guild working group will meet on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 p.m.; coordinated clean up activities will take place on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. 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 info, call 412-365-5781 or email [greenguild@gmail.com](mailto:greenguild@gmail.com).

## Save the Date: November

### DOWNTOWN

#### OASIS Tutor Training

The Pittsburgh OASIS Intergenerational Tutor Program is seeking volunteers (50+) to tutor in Pittsburgh and Woodland Hills School Districts in grade K-4. Trainings will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Monday, November 6, and Thursday, November 9, at 411 Seventh Ave., Suite 525 (Duquesne Light Building) in downtown Pittsburgh. All training, materials, and clearances are provided free-of-charge. For more information, or to register, call (412) 393-7648.

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## “What is the Realty Transfer Tax?": in conversation with Mark Masterson

### By Citizen Vrabelman *Downstream*

*Editor's Note: The following Q&A has been edited and reprinted with full permission from "Downstream," an independent news journal covering local issues in long-form detail. See the full story at [www.Downstream.city](http://www.Downstream.city).*

**Downstream (D):** What is the Realty Transfer Tax and what is it used for?

**Masterson (M):** *'The Realty Transfer Tax, or RTT, is also known in Pittsburgh as the 'Deed Transfer Tax.' Every time a piece of property is sold, whether it's a house or a commercial building, there's currently a 4% tax. 2% of the revenue goes to the city, 1% to the school district, and 1% to the state.'*

*The revenues from the tax go into the general fund, just like the local wage tax or state income tax. Allegheny County and the state use a portion of the proceeds to support various housing initiatives. It's not a whole lot of money statewide, and the bulk of the money ends up in the eastern part of the state; but it still helps this region, especially with rural communities."*

**D:** Who pays the tax and when is it paid?

**M:** “At the closing of a real estate sale there are closing costs, such as a realtor’s commission of 7% and prorated real estate taxes. There’s also a realty transfer tax. The 4% transfer tax is evenly split, so the buyer and seller each pay 2% of the sale amount. Increasing the tax by 1% means a half of one percent increase to each. Instead of 2% each, it would be 2.5%...Opponents have spun this different ways. When they’re talking to an

elderly audience of homeowners, for example, they might say that the seller has to pay the whole 4%. If they're talking to young folks trying to buy their first home, they might say that the buyer has to pay the whole thing."

**D:** Why do you think increasing the tax is the best way to fund the HOF?

**M:** “Generating the revenue for the HOF came down to two real sources...It came down to a paradox of, ‘Do you increase property taxes - which everybody pays every year - or do you increase the transfer tax?’

*People aren't going to pay this every year, and that's been distorted in some of the news coverage, where the real estate transfer tax gets confused with the property tax. We probably should stop using the term 'Realty Transfer Tax' and call it the 'Deed Transfer Tax.'"*

**D:** Let's talk about what these funds could be used for. You mentioned home ownership, but most of the discussion around the HOF seems to relate to rental housing.

**M:** *“That’s why we changed the name from the ‘Affordable Housing Trust Fund’ to the ‘Housing Opportunity Fund.’ A lot of people hear ‘affordable housing’ and think it’s public*

*housing. But there's all sorts of things we can do with this money that will help people stay in their homes, and can help neighborhoods build new houses that are affordable to young families...Seniors and other longtime residents will benefit, too. They can get money to replace a furnace or fix a roof."*

**D:** Pittsburgh is currently short about 20,000 affordable units. Will the HOF chip away at that number or just keep it from getting worse?

**M:** “The optimistic part of me says that we could get that down to 10,000. But if trends continue and more neighborhoods become unaffordable, I worry we’re not going to be able to keep pace... People should look at the affordability issues in Seattle and San Francisco because that’s what’s heading here. Fifteen years ago, the problem was that no one wanted to live in the city. Now, affordability is a huge issue.

*In some ways this is a good problem to have, but not if you're getting kicked out of Penn Plaza or other places because we supposedly need another Whole Foods, or the soup du jour for this new upscale market. That stuff is part of a natural evolution of cities, but you have to protect folks that are there. You don't need to do it at their expense."* ♦

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**\$12.99**  
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Add 2 Liter of Pop for only \$2.79  
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8 **Two Whole 13" Regular Hoagies**  
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 Add 2 liter of pop for only \$2.79  
**\$17.99**  
Please mention coupon when ordering. Limited time only.

9 **PIZZA & WINGS**  
 One Large 16" One Topping Pizza, One order of Wings  
 Add Breadsticks & Sauce for only \$3.59  
**\$20.99**  
Please mention coupon when ordering. Limited time only.

10 **SICILIAN FEAST**  
 1 X-Large 16" 16 Cut One Topping Sicilian Pizza, One Whole 13" Hoagie, One Order of Breadsticks, 2 Liter Pop  
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