

the Bulletin

Volume 42, Number 12
DECEMBER 2017

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



A letter from Aggie Brose

Community organizer, BGC Deputy Director

[Editor's Note: On the occasion of Aggie Brose's departure from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), following forty-two years as a volunteer and staff member, here are the thoughts and feelings she wanted to share.]

Dear Friends, Neighbors, & Colleagues:

It is with bittersweet emotions that I write to you to let you know that I will be leaving my position as the Deputy Director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation at the end of the year. It has been an incredible journey and one that I would like to sincerely thank you for supporting.

I know some of you might assume I have been here forever, but perhaps you would like to know how I found this work or, better yet, how it found me. As a 42-year old mother of three, I had become a local Democratic Committeewoman and member of our school PTG [parent teacher group].

Given my active volunteer work and involvement, Fr. Leo Henry, of St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish and School, reached out to me to discuss other issues,

See **Letter from Aggie** | page 2



ABOVE: Members of the Penn Plaza Support & Action Coalition gather at the corner of Penn and Negley Aves. - where affordable housing once stood in East Liberty - on Thursday, Nov. 16, to protest the city's new consent agreement with LG Realty. Organizer Althea Sims (holding microphone) contended that the agreement was reached without the input of local residents, many of whom were displaced from Penn Plaza. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

Committee weighs future of historic local church building

By Elizabeth Sensky East Liberty Development, Inc.

East Liberty - A recently-formed committee is presently guiding East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) through the entire process of redeveloping the former

See **East Liberty Church** | page 7



Garfield bike shop gives young riders gift of pedal power

By Caleb Holden Bulletin contributor

Garfield - The Salvation Army is looking for "gently used" children's bikes to redistribute as Christmas presents for youngsters aged 3 to 14. Kraynick's Bike Shop,

See **Kraynick's Bike Shop** | page 16



ABOVE: Before an elegant backdrop provided by the Omni William Penn Hotel in Downtown Pittsburgh, guests chow down on salads and conversation during the BGC's annual luncheon on Friday, Nov. 3. Photo by John Colombo.

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Letter from Aggie

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which led to the work I have done now for more than 42 years.

I still remember it as clear as day. Fr. Henry asked me to take a walk with him over to the Giant Eagle supermarket, located at Penn and S. Pacific Avenues. When we got there, Fr. Henry asked me what I saw. I looked around, and realized quickly that this was some type of test. “It’s a grocery store,” I said with some hesitation. Fr. Henry asked me if I noticed anything about the grocery store. After a few more questions, Fr. Henry said, “Don’t you think it could use a coat of paint? Couldn’t it use some better lighting? This entire neighborhood deserves more.” Fr. Henry was right. Our neighborhood was changing. Families and businesses were leaving. Crime was on the rise, and it did not seem like anyone was doing anything. We had been working to organize parents around school and church issues, but Fr. Henry’s issues were bigger than those that occupied our parish community.

I did not want to raise my kids in an unsafe community, nor deny them opportunities to lead healthy and productive lives - and I could not fault anyone else for feeling the same way either - so we set out to change things. In our parish, we had used the church bulletin to share information, and so we created a community bulletin. We used this new bulletin to get the word out about an upcoming town hall meeting where we would outline our next steps. We needed to create a unified voice in the community, and we needed to create a structure that would hold elected officials and the ‘powers that be’ accountable, but also hold ourselves accountable to the people in the communities we would be working with. Fr. Henry wanted to make sure that the new group we were creating was truly reflective of the community. We needed individuals of all races and socio-economic statuses, tenants, property owners, business owners, and residents to be represented on the Board. Fr. Henry recruited me to be one of the founding Board Members of what is now the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation.

I could never have imagined that those events and that work would lead to where I am today and that the work I was doing as a volunteer could grow into an incredible career that has been documented over time in The Bulletin. The months and years have gone by so fast, but that’s not surprising given the saying, “Time flies when you’re having fun.” For the past 42 years, I have had the honor and privilege of working with you, and of serving the communities that I love dearly. I have been so very proud to work with you and to represent all of us and our needs at the community, city, state, and federal levels.

This is where I raised my kids, it is where I met my best friends, and it is where I learned more than I could have ever imagined. These streets have meant so much to me and to my family, and the work that we have done together has brought me so much joy over the years. My late husband, “Big Tommy,” as some of you knew him, may have argued that it brought quite a bit of frustration and anxiety as well; bricks through windows, Nabisco boycotts, near arrests in Washington, D.C., and overturned cars come to mind, but it certainly kept our lives exciting and interesting. These experiences have shaped my outlook on life, and that of my loved ones, in more ways that I can count.

I have enjoyed our collaborative work to rid the neighborhood of blight, develop affordable housing, support education, protect the health of the community, nurture the growth of the business district, and more. So, I want to thank you for a few things.

Thank you for teaching me. I don’t have a Bachelor’s Degree, or a Master’s Degree, but



ABOVE: Aggie Brose, Deputy Director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), is stepping away from her post after more than four decades of working to drive change in Garfield and its surrounding neighborhoods. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

I have learned so much from all of you. I have learned from the experiences that we have had together. We together have written a guide for community developers and community organizers everywhere. The lessons we learned are being discussed in college classrooms today, and I know that we paved a way for future generations of community leaders and “do-ers” to come.

To my colleagues, you are the hardest working people I have encountered. This has never been about a paycheck for you. This is about making a difference in the lives of those who we serve. You have become a second family to me, and I look forward to watching as you continue to make positive and transformative change in our communities. To current and past Board Members, thank you for volunteering your time, your skills, and investing your energy into guiding and supporting us as staff. I started as a volunteer, and have the utmost respect for your decision to spend your free time away from your families and friends in meetings and at events working to improve your community.

Thank you for your patience. To the residents and business owners in the community that we serve, thank you for being patient with me. Change is not easy, and sometimes the long-term benefits of a project can get lost in the short-term. Can we say Penn Avenue Reconstruction, huh? Thank you for trusting us to do our work and dealing with frustration in positive ways. Thank you for asking the tough questions and

challenging us, and making sure that Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and the work that we do remains driven by the community at its core. To our public safety partners and elected officials, thank you for remaining patient with me as we have worked to eliminate blight and crime. I know at times, my persistence could be a bit much, but I am so very proud of the work we have done together to help to eliminate blight and to deter crime. You have tough jobs; I hope that you continue to partner with the community and protect the strong relationship of mutual trust and respect that we have developed through our Public Safety Task Force, keeping our community safe and vibrant for everyone.

Thank you for your trust. Thanks to all of you for believing and trusting that a stay-at-home mother with no formal training could do this work, and thank you for supporting me and my colleagues while we learned how to do this work together. To our funders, thank you for believing in us and in our outcomes, and for investing in our programs.

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We promise not to overshare!


We have taken on systems that seemed far bigger than us or beyond our control, and we have made great strides in improving those systems.

Thank you for your creativity. Our communities continue to think outside of the box. To those who have been here for years and to those who just got here, thank you for bringing life to the community. I am amazed when I walk down Penn Avenue on a first Friday and see what all we have going on here. To the visual artists, the musicians, the dancers, the youth football coaches, the workforce development managers, and more – thank you for making our communities your home. I hope that you continue to bring new ideas that will be inclusive of our existing and new communities.

Thank you to my family for your unconditional love and support, and for being my best sounding boards and volunteers through the years. I do not think I would have made it this far without Friday night pizza parties. It makes it easier to do this work when you have an army of support behind you, and that is what I have been lucky to have within my family.

And, to be really clear, I may be moving on from my position as the Deputy Director of Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, but I am not going anywhere. We are not done yet. This is an amazing time for the East End and for Pittsburgh, but there is a hell of a lot more work to do. People still deserve a safe and stable community with access to opportunity and, unfortunately, not everyone in our communities has this. I trust that you all will continue to do this important work with the passion, determination, and dedication that BGC has always embraced. I wish nothing but success to the board and staff of Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, and to all of my friends and neighbors in the community. I hope that public safety remains at the core of the work that the organization continues to do because residents and business owners deserve to live and work alongside each other in peace. And to those of you who may not be as involved in the community – get involved! Attend a meeting, ask questions, visit the office, and find ways to participate. Hell, I did that, and look where it got me.

I look forward to working with you all in new ways. I look forward to watching our communities continue to grow and evolve, and I look forward to the work that we may do together in the future. And finally, thank you to Fr. Leo Henry, who always sent us letters and post cards to check up on our work. I know he would be very proud of the work that his “hooligans,” as he called us so lovingly, have achieved as part of his great legacy. ♦



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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.

Volume 42, Number 12

The deadline for the January 2018 issue is **Wednesday, December 13.**

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

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

Staff Andrew McKeon, Editor • John Colombo, Staff Photographer • Rick Swartz, Proofreading • Pamela Schön, Office Manager • Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Printing & Mailing • CISP, Bulk Distribution

Board Meetings are held by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month, at the BGC Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.), and are open to the public.

The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the publisher.

The Bulletin is made possible in part by funding from Dollar Bank, WesBanco Bank, Allegheny Valley Bank, and The Heinz Endowments.

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Thank you! The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation would like to acknowledge its main corporate and philanthropic partners: PNC Foundation, The Heinz Endowments, The Pittsburgh Foundation, WesBanco Bank, Dollar Bank, and Allegheny Valley Bank. Thanks also to PNC Bank, Allegheny Health Network, West Penn Hospital, the City of Pittsburgh, *Bulletin* advertisers, and all our BGC members for their ongoing support and assistance.



ABOVE: The Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority (PGH₂O) hopes to complete its green infrastructure project in Garfield before the new year. Graphic courtesy of PGH₂O.

PENN AVE. UPDATE

Public forum shapes strategic plan

By Amber Epps Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - Building on the momentum of a July 27 forum about the Penn Ave. Strategic Plan, a Nov. 16 public meeting brought residents and stakeholders together to talk about the future of their local business district.

Among the areas where revisions were suggested: transportation; business attraction & retention; promotion; design; and hospitality management. These updates have been informed by the changes that have taken place on Penn Ave. since the original plan was created in 2014.

Divided into categories, the suggestion lists included bulleted items like how to promote local businesses, address blighted properties on the avenue, ensure a mix of family-friendly establishments, install graffiti-proof vinyl wraps on the utility boxes, add more Healthy Ride bike stations to the corridor, and develop an area parking plan.

Those who are willing to volunteer their time and skills, as well as anyone who wants to effect change along the avenue, may email Mainstreets@Bloomfield-Garfield.org to sign up for the updates on Penn Ave. planning and projects. ♦



ABOVE: A representative from HealthyRide (standing) speaks to local residents and Penn Ave. stakeholders gather at the Community Activity Center during a Nov. 16 public forum on the Penn Ave. Strategic Plan. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

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Kelly Strayhorn Theater carries full dance card

By Karen Carlin Kelly Strayhorn Theater

East Liberty - December is all about dance as the Kelly Strayhorn Theater (KST) and KST Alloy Studios wrap up another season of programming.

“We’ve deepened our commitment to the local art community,” Janera Solomon, KST’s executive director, said, “with showings of in-progress works by Penn Avenue Creative Artist-in-Residence Bill Shannon, the unveiling of public artworks, and the establishment of the East Liberty Community Arts Fund.”

The month kicks off on Friday, Dec. 1, with the monthly Unblurred dance party at the theater’s 5941 Penn Ave. location - as well as “A Letter Compiled From All Letters,” a piece by dance artist Maree ReMalia, lens-based virtual artist Gigi Gatewood, and performer Lillian Cho that merges live performance and video at the Alloy Studios (5008 Penn Ave.).

On Dec. 9, KST will invite neighbors to get on their feet for the “Let’s Move” family dance party, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the theater. All ages can dance to tunes spun by DJ Selecta, who will be joined by emcee Lauren Bethea. The party will include instructional performances, caricatures, face painting, and hands-on activities.

Then, on Dec. 15-16, it is time for the professional dancers to take center stage at the Alloy Studios with a performance of “fôr” at 8 p.m. The multidisciplinary dance performance, which explores how boundaries define identity, is a collaboration between Pittsburgh experimental performance duo Slowdanger and New York’s MICHİYAYA Dance, an all-women contemporary dance theater company; it forms the culmination of a six-month exchange between both cities. Prior to their performance, the artists will also conduct a community workshop at the Alloy Studios - at 10 a.m. on Dec. 13.

KST will close the year with an opportunity for holiday shopping on Dec. 16. The Holiday Bazaar, open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Alloy Studios, will feature unique gifts and crafts from independent artisans, as well as baked goods and treats.

KST will jumpstart the spring season by joining its neighborhood partners for the theater’s annual “East Liberty Celebrates MLK Day” on Jan. 15. Admission to KST events is “Pay What Makes You Happy.” For tickets and more information, visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org or call 412-363-3000. ♦

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ANNUAL BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD CORP. LUNCHEON - Nov. 3, 2017 -

Photos by John Colombo



ABOVE: BGC Board Members Jeanette Coleman and Jarnele Fairclough enjoy a meet-and-greet in the Omni William Penn Hotel's grand ballroom before the BGC's annual luncheon on Friday, Nov. 3.



ABOVE: Kulwant Pabla (center) and his brother, Kuldip, receive the "Pioneer Award" from BGC Executive Director Rick Swartz. The award commends the Pabla Bros., who have owned and operated Peoples Indian Restaurant and Peoples Grocery since 1986, for their investment in Garfield.

AT RIGHT: BGC Deputy Director Aggie Brose (left) and Office Manager Pamela Schön take a break from organizing the festivities on Friday, Nov. 3; both ladies were instrumental to the organization and success of the BGC's annual luncheon.



AT LEFT: Richard Snipe (right), the Housing Portfolio Manager for the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) poses for a family photo at the Omni William Penn Hotel. The BGC chose Snipe as its "Public Service Honoree" for his work helping hundreds of local families become new homeowners.

AT RIGHT: This year's keynote speaker, Dennis Yablonsky, who recently stepped down as CEO of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, speaks to luncheon guests about local economic stimulus initiatives. Yablonsky, a Pittsburgh native, explained how, thanks to Pittsburghers' decades of diasporic migration to other cities, the old "Steelers fans travel well" adage is very misleading.



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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.
 - Email
 - Social media
 - Word of mouth
 - Flyers
 - Mail
 - The Bulletin
 - Other _____
- Do you attend events/activities (including arts-related activities) on Penn Avenue?
 - No
 - Yes (If yes, which ones?) _____
- If you answered "No" to question #3, why not? Choose all that apply.
 - Costs too much
 - Nothing that I am interested in
 - Not aware of what is going on
 - Other _____
- 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? _____

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- Visit **Santa!** Bring your camera and take some great photos
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Where: BGC Community Activity Center
113 North Pacific Avenue

When: Friday, December 8, 2017

Time: 5:30 - 7:30PM



If you would like to lead a children's activity, make a donation, decorate, or help with promoting the party, please call Rick Flanagan at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (412-441-9833).



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East Liberty Church continued from page 1

St. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Church building, located at 130 Larimer Ave., and its surrounding structures.

The Saint Peter & Paul Church Reuse Committee is made up of community members as well as representatives from the URA, KeyBank, the Young Preservationists Association, the Larimer Consensus group, and ELDI staff members. The original facility was built in 1891; however, it was destroyed in a fire and soon rebuilt in 1909.

The building has changed hands over the years, and remained without a tenant since 2003, when the Everlasting Covenant Church left the premises. Charged with securing the building and preparing it for redevelopment, ELDI was appointed conservator of the property in 2015.

During a committee meeting on November 7, Kendall Pelling, ELDI's director of land recycling, shared the current state of the church building; he explained that it is now secured from unlawful entry and cleared of most debris. Due to water damage, particularly on the south side of the building, the floor must be replaced. In addition, water has caused the southernmost point of the church to bow significantly.

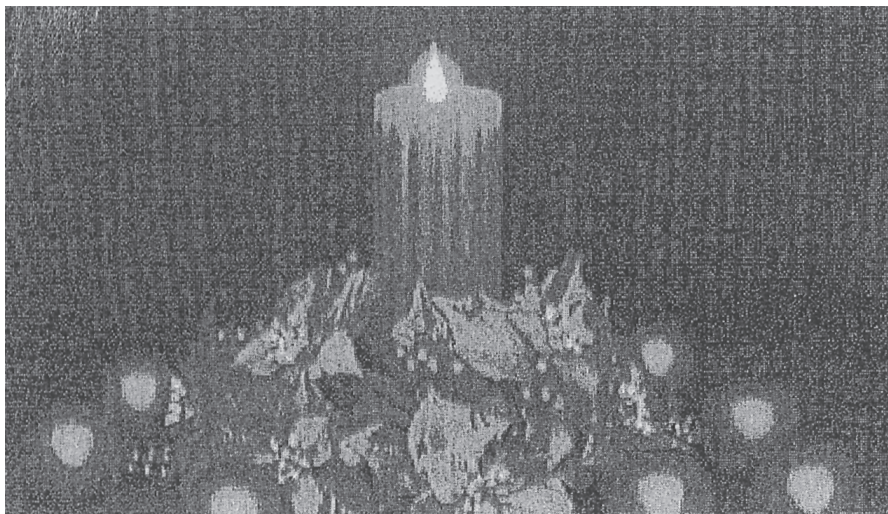
During the meeting, committee members held a discussion about rehabbing some of the original detailing on the interior of the church, as well as the possibility of maintaining the public art that was recently installed, but a consensus was not reached. The school building, which sits behind the church, has yet to be cleared of debris.

Several potential new uses and tenants for the church were proposed at the meeting, including two new church congregations and an environmental charter school. Concerns were raised about introducing a competing school system into the neighborhood, especially given the fact that the Choice Neighborhoods development in Larimer is partnered with Pittsburgh Public Schools.

The committee expressed a strong desire for St. Peter & Paul to reclaim its position as a central part of the East Liberty and Larimer landscape - highlighting the importance of the site serving all members of the community, regardless of economic

status. Thanks to the URA's commitment to support low-income residents in the area, the church building's proximity to the Choice Neighborhood development site in Larimer is seen as a positive.

"It's a beautiful building, so it's easy to imagine wonderful things that could happen in the space," Pelling said. "The problem is that the renovation of this church building is going to be so expensive that it's going to be a challenge to find a use that's financially feasible." Another meeting is scheduled for December. Follow ELDI at eastliberty.org for updates on the redevelopment of the St. Peter & Paul Church building. ♦



During this Holiday Season, more than ever, our thoughts and prayers turn to those who have lost a loved one this past year. We are lighting a candle in our funeral home in remembrance of all the families that we have been privileged to serve. And it is in this spirit that we simply, but sincerely say... May the Peace and Joy of the Christmas Season be yours throughout the New Year.



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The Environmental Charter School (ECS) is a K-8 public school in the City of Pittsburgh, currently enrolling for the 2018-2019 school year.

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Neighborhood FOCUS

Recycled materials: old meets new school in Garfield

By Rick Swartz Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - Community residents attending a Nov. 9 meeting at the Community Activity Center in Garfield learned more of the details around the Environmental Charter School's (ECS) pending move of its middle school to the former Rogers School on Columbo St. in time for the 2019-20 school year.

The move was made possible in February when the city school board decided to drop its opposition to granting ECS a second charter for the new facility. Jon McCann, the school's CEO, and Nikole Sheaffer, its innovation director, shared their plans and responded to questions, concerns, and comments from about twenty attendees.

Chief among the concerns voiced were why ECS had chosen to open a school in Garfield, and what the impact of their move could be on other schools in the area. Members of the audience also wanted to know how the process for selection of students will work, and whether children from Garfield and surrounding neighborhoods could somehow be given first preference in enrolling.

McCann said the school's administrators and board members had been laboring for several years to figure out how and where they could expand in the city to accommodate growing interest from parents in enrolling their children at ECS.

Currently, ECS has an "upper" school consisting of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders that operates out of a leased building on Milton St. in the city's Regent Square neighborhood. When that student body moves to Garfield, McCann said, one additional class will be added to each of those grades, along with the opening of a 9th grade class for the first time. McCann said the school's goal is also to eventually have a

BELOW: The site of Garfield's former Rogers School on Columbo St. will soon be home to the Environmental Charter School (ECS). Administrators hope to welcome students to the new school as soon as 2019. Photo by Rick Flanagan.



"ECS brings a different and, we like to think, unique opportunity for students to learn, investigate, and experience the environment in the world around them."

— Jon McCann, CEO, Environmental Charter School (ECS)

high school operating elsewhere in the city.

Concerns around the racial makeup of ECS's current student body and faculty were raised by several attendees. McCann responded by saying that their student body is presently 26% non-white, and that their intent in coming to a neighborhood like Garfield, which is roughly 85% African-American, was to achieve an even more diverse student body in the years to come.

Although the school cannot show racial or neighborhood preferences in their admissions' policy, McCann said that children whose families qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches would have their names entered twice in a lottery system that will govern how students are selected, as opposed to once for everyone else.

Dave Breingan, executive director of Lawrenceville United, challenged McCann to explain why another middle school was needed when, in Breingan's view, Arsenal Middle School (based in Lawrenceville) was doing a much better job in recent years at educating kids from Garfield, Lawrenceville, and other city neighborhoods. McCann said he did not doubt that there was a "solid" educational program being offered at Arsenal, but that ECS brings a "different and, we like to think, unique opportunity for students to learn, investigate, and experience the environment in the world around them."

Among the differences cited by McCann and Sheaffer in how ECS approaches the task of educating children was what they described as a "commitment to equity of opportunity, based on a model of inclusion." The two cited the absence of bells ringing to signal class changes; going with class periods that run as long as one-and-a-half hours; a school year that runs for ten months, as opposed to nine-and-a-half in the main school system; a tradition of students remaining with

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

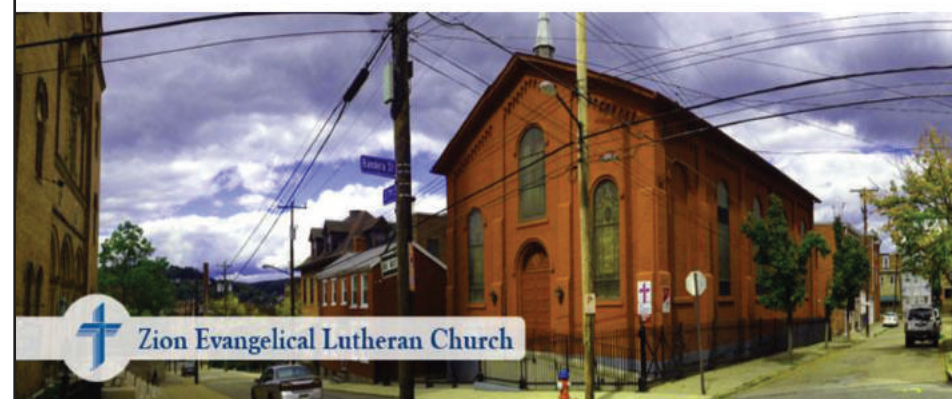
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CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE—December 25 at 11:30 a.m.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE—December 31 at 11:30 a.m.



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Row House Cinema hosts first “Pittsburgh Cat Film Festival”

By Tiffany Parker *Bulletin contributor*

the same teachers for a number of years; having students spend time each week with their teachers in one-on-one engagement; getting students out of the building on a frequent basis to explore the outside environment; after-school programs that run as late as 6 p.m. throughout the year; and extra-curricular programs available to all students, regardless of income.

McCann - who, along with Sheaffer, is a former public school administrator - defended the concept of charter schools against the criticism that they are not “true” public schools, maintaining that unlike the city’s magnet schools, “there is no test students must pass, no portfolio or performance that they must present or undertake.” McCann said that in the ten years of its existence, ECS has never expelled a student. For the 2017-18 school year, McCann said the school had 526 applications for ninety-one open slots in its K-8 grades.

Rogers School, which was sold by Pittsburgh Public Schools in 2015 to an Edgewood housing developer, is now under sales agreement to a firm identified by McCann as East End Development. According to its Facebook page, East End Development is a partnership, owned by Nathan R. Cunningham and Claire Hosteny, located in East Liberty.

Cunningham was present at the community meeting, but did not speak. McCann stated that it is the desire of the school to eventually own the Rogers building outright. In response to a question from Joann Monroe, executive director of Garfield Jubilee Association, McCann said it is the school’s intent to work closely with the community in planning the renovation of the building, notification to parents when the application process opens for students, and uses by the community of school facilities after classes have ended for the day or weekend.

Rick Flanagan, youth development director for the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) encouraged attendees to sign up for an ongoing committee to “make the school successful in meeting the community’s goals.” His e-mail address, for those interested in joining the committee, is RickF@bloomfield-garfield.org. ♦

Lawrenceville - During the kickoff to the first “Pittsburgh Cat Film Festival,” a week-long series focusing on felines, many curious audience members pricked with curiosity about what was in store.

A collection of short films, chosen with care from over 160 submissions, featuring local cats doing what cats do, “Pittsburgh’s Pretty Kitties” premiered to rave reviews at Row House Cinema (4115 Butler St.). The Friday, Nov. 10, opening night was hosted by Animal Friends; representatives gave a presentation about the work they are doing and provided everyone with information about cats that are ready for adoption.

Each day of the festival, event organizers highlighted a different cat still looking of its “fur-ever” home. With many dressed for the occasion in cat tights and felt ears, the opening night crowd was full of meows and cheers. Before the first screening, the theater played an intro reel featuring a

special appearance by Row House owner Brian Mendelsohn’s own furry duo, Isabella and Oliver.

“I liked it a lot” Elizabeth Self said as she left the theater. “I really enjoyed how the audience members got really into it and were vocal about the videos they liked.”

Throughout the seventy minutes of “Pittsburgh’s Pretty Kitties,” the city of Pittsburgh was heavily represented, including a tiny kitten nursing from a Heinz baby bottle. The film’s soundtrack played a vital role in transitioning from one scene or category to the next while maintaining a feature-length flow.

If opening night’s robust attendance is any indication, the first “Pittsburgh Cat Film Festival” is already becoming a fan favorite, and possibly annual tradition, in Lawrenceville. Visit www.RowHouse-Cinema.com to see a list of upcoming events and full film schedule. ♦

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Allegheny Health Network Welcomes

Dolores Santamaria, MD

Neurologist and Headache Specialist

Certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Dr. Santamaria is the director of the Headache Center at Allegheny Health Network (AHN). She is certified as a headache specialist by the United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties and is committed to providing patients with personalized and compassionate expertise through multifaceted treatments and care.

Dr. Santamaria began her medical education in Moscow, Russia, where she was born and raised, and went on to earn her medical degree from Santiago of Compostela University in Galicia, Spain. She completed her residency at Pennsylvania Hospital, University of Pennsylvania Health System, and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, both in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Santamaria is fluent in Russian and Spanish. She has medical privileges at Allegheny General, Allegheny Valley, and West Penn hospitals.

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“The side Pittsburgh doesn't want you to see”

By Brentin Mock *CityLab*

Editor's Note: The following story has been reprinted in full with permission from CityLab.

A subsidiary of The Atlantic, CityLab is “committed to telling the story of the world's cities: how they work, the challenges they face, and the solutions they need.”

Find this story online at <https://www.citylab.com/equity/2017/10/filmmaker-shows-unlivable-pittsburgh/542901/>.

Pittsburgh - In a CityLab interview with former Baltimore Sun reporter David Simon, producer of the HBO series “The Deuce” and “The Wire,” Simon was asked which cities were “doing a pretty good job.” His response:

“I’d say Pittsburgh. They’ve never had the same rates of entrenched poverty, never had the same rates of under-education, never had the same rates of drug abuse as in Baltimore or Philly, places like this. The last few times I’ve been to Pittsburgh I’ve been pretty impressed with what they’ve managed to achieve.”

Pittsburgh is streaking. Earlier this month, the city was honored with having two of its neighborhoods listed among the top ten coolest in the U.S. by Lonely Planet and Time.com’s “Money” blog. This was just the latest of several top-of-the-class rankings, accolades, and superlatives bestowed upon Pittsburgh in terms of livability.

They’ve all made for a nice collection of resume enhancers the city can exploit to make its case for landing Amazon’s much-coveted HQ2 site. The thirst is so real that the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* shamelessly knocked several cities, including a few currently hobbled by disaster, to make its case for the Amazon prize:

“Pittsburgh would be a much better headquarters choice than many other likely contenders, including Philadelphia, with its East Coast weather and swaths of abject poverty; Houston, now under water; St. Louis, battered by racial strife; Chicago, with its sky-high homicide rate; or Detroit, with a labor pool nowhere near as deep and educated as Western Pennsylvania’s. Pittsburgh has good housing stock, a diverse population, reasonably good race

relations, a low crime rate and an availability of land within the city and nearby. Uber and Google already have operations here. Amazon has a small presence, too, on the South Side.”

That part - “reasonably good race relations” - is a dubious claim at best, though, especially in Pittsburgh’s East End neighborhoods that LonelyPlanet has a huge crush on. Several incidents have happened there in recent years that undermine such honors. It was the East End neighborhood of Highland Park where unarmed African American Leon Ford was shot five times by a Pittsburgh police officer and left paralyzed in 2012 - no officer has been convicted of any crime for this yet. It’s also the new East End neighborhood of Bakery Square - “the sleeper hit your hipster sensibilities have been craving,” writes Lonely Planet - where white Alt-Right, Free Speech-Truthers recently planned to rally just days after the racist unrest their followers caused in Charlottesville.

It seems that those editorialists and city rankers who’ve been quick to make East End Pittsburgh all the rage perhaps haven’t lived or spent enough time there to understand all the rage that’s been bubbling beneath. But Pittsburgh-based filmmaker Chris Ivey has been exploring and documenting that rage for well over ten years now.

During that time, he has used his camera to meticulously cobble together various stories from struggling East End families who don’t fit into the “coolest neighborhood” narratives. He’s used these stories to create a series of documentaries called “East of Liberty,” which focuses on the displacement of families.

“What’s it gonna be like when that big Bakery Square opens?” asks “Kwame,” a young black man in Ivey’s “Unlivable Times” documentary, released right before Bakery Square opened. “They’re gonna look at us like, ‘What are they doing in here?’ I can’t even walk into Trader Joe’s over there, without them looking at me weird. I can’t even go into the Whole Foods without getting weird looks, and this is in our neighborhood.”

For Ivey, there is no way to tell the story of Pittsburgh’s new trendy real estate zones without shining light on the families sacrificed in the pursuit of gloss. Less than ten years ago, one could find a dense collection of subsidized housing for low-income and elderly households, not far from Bakery Square, in the East End hub called East Liberty (which Ivey’s film series derives its name from).

This housing cluster was situated by a business district once home to a bunch of pizza joints, Jamaican restaurants, sneaker shops, barbers, and other local boutiques. However, East Liberty still could have used a large anchor business back then—the kind that could supply jobs that come with health benefits.

The retail department store Target ended up becoming one of those anchors when it opened in 2011. But at that point, the city had already begun dismantling the nearby public and senior housing complexes, which housed people who could have benefitted from those walking-distance jobs.

Today, most, if not all, of that subsidized housing is gone and Target is almost completely surrounded by luxury condo buildings that advertise studios in the

\$1,300 range. So much market-rate housing has been built there, in fact, that developers are now halting further development, because, curiously, people haven’t been snapping up those units as quickly as hoped.

Meanwhile, many of the former residents have been involuntarily (or forcibly, depending on who you ask) relocated, and it’s in dispute whether they got what they were promised. One clip from Ivey’s series features some of the people who claim they caught a raw deal and confronted Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto about it.

Ivey’s “East of Liberty” series might be the only comprehensive video archive of everything that went into the transformation of these neighborhoods over the last twelve years: the explosions and implosions of the residential towers, the razing of the Penn Plaza low-income housing developments, the closing of the much cherished Shadow Lounge, the erasure of a popular community mural, the deaths of community members throughout all of this - all of the realities that put any narrative about East Liberty’s “coolness” to shame. Which is probably why Ivey’s work has become less popular among the city’s business elites and social entrepreneurs.

“People have been getting really angry with me with these films because they think the black communities look too negative in the Pittsburgh light,” says Ivey. “I’m like, y’all are worried about how you look while they’re taking your communities away. People were looking at the documentaries seven years into the project and saying, ‘Oh, but now it’s too late.’ It was too late when I started making the films!”

Ivey is far from the only person out there

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making the case that Pittsburgh is not all that it's cracked up to be. The Brookings Institution's recent 18-month study on the city found the same promise that David Simon saw, calling the once mighty steel town "the vanguard of...the new localism," for transforming from an obsolete, extractive, industry-based economy to an economy that thrives on knowledge- and tech-based industries. However, reads the report:

"Pittsburgh's scientific and technical strengths have not fully translated into broad-based economic activity. In fact, if the region had the same share of hightech employment as university research, it would employ 9,000 more in the software industry and 5,500 more workers in drug development, not to mention tens of thousands of workers in related jobs. Instead, the city currently has seven percent fewer jobs in high-wage, hightech advanced industries than it did in 2000."

Earlier this year, Brookings found that the median wage for African Americans in Pittsburgh dropped nearly 20 percent between 2010 and 2015. Every other race saw an increase in average median wages in that time. Poverty, meanwhile, increased by 25.9 percent amongst African Americans during that period, according to the Brookings metro monitor index. It decreased for whites and Hispanics, the latter dropping 19 percent.

These problems are not concentrated in just the East End neighborhoods of Pittsburgh. The Brookings data applies across the entire Pittsburgh metropolitan region, especially the outer-ring communities and municipalities that were more dependent upon the steel and coal jobs - the ones that have yet to benefit from the largesse of the new Google/Uber-based economy. Wrote John Russo about these failures for The

American Prospect this summer:

"It isn't that the Pittsburgh story is wrong. It is simply incomplete. The narratives about this city, like the broader debates among new urbanists and economic and urban planners, do not fully consider the continuing costs of deindustrialization, disinvestment, globalization, and neoliberal austerity programs on individuals and communities. These personal, community, and national costs rival the displacements caused by natural disasters and armed conflicts. The devastation of economic change has left far too many with limited options and little power to improve their lives or communities."

Ivey gets this and expounds upon his displacement thesis in his upcoming fourth installment of the series, "Youth Rising." This documentary is a collection of stories Ivey captured from travelling beyond Pittsburgh to Philadelphia, Baltimore, New Orleans, and as far away as Johannesburg and Capetown, South Africa. In these cities, he talks with black youth in both street and classroom settings about how they are coping under the constant pressures of community change.

Some of the "Youth Rising" footage was captured during the Baltimore uprising after the funeral for Freddie Gray, the young, black man who died in police custody in 2015. Ivey spoke with Bloods gang members, who - not knowing the Pittsburgh filmmaker apart from any other stranger descending upon Baltimore - sought to dispel any misconceptions about why those riots were happening.

"The government is the biggest gang," says one Bloods member, a red flag draped over his head under a black Yankees cap, "because they have the power to change everything we're going through, but

instead they let us live in poverty, so this is what they get," he says, sprawling his arms out, beckoning to the chaos of the riots going on around them. In one "East of Liberty" trailer, students from Baltimore and New Orleans schools discuss with Ivey the impacts of poverty and violence on their livelihoods.

All of this is why Ivey tends to roll his eyes whenever the new Amazon HQ2 location comes up. He's been to enough of these communities, commiserating with families and young folks left behind to know that few cities actually deserve the awards they've claimed. This would especially hold true in Pittsburgh, where East Liberty's residents weren't even fortunate enough to be sustained for the opening of a Target, let alone a behemoth like Amazon.

"I get really pissed off when I see them try to jump through hoops for shit like this when we have worse f---ing water than Flint," says Ivey, referring to the Pittsburgh's current problems with lead in the municipal water system. "I don't see Amazon contributing, and I definitely don't see the city seeing to it that they contribute. These are the stories they don't want to talk about, like, we get so focused and excited about all these new developments, but what about the people?" ♦

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WPH welcomes esophageal care center

By Morgan Rupert Allegheny Health Network

Bloomfield - For more than a century, West Penn Hospital (WPH) has provided residents of Bloomfield and the surrounding areas with high-quality health care right in their neighborhood. The new one-stop comprehensive care center is a novel clinic design that optimizes space, traffic, and communications.

The center continues Allegheny Health Network's (AHN) tradition of providing care for patients with chest, esophageal, or gastric conditions - as well as brain, spine, and neurological problems. Whether the condition is well defined or complex, multispecialty teams ensure that patients receive innovative treatments to restore function while enhancing their quality of life.

WPH's new Voice, Swallowing, and Nutrition Center - where experienced physicians and therapists work together to diagnose and treat patients - is the first of its kind on the East coast. As part of AHN's Esophageal and Lung Institute (ELI), a speech language pathologist is always on staff to help patients improve their speech and overcome swallowing problems. Registered dietitians are available to determine the best diet for an individual's needs; most people are seen as outpatients without a hospital stay. Supported by an extensive research program, ELI doctors treat lung and esophageal cancers, tracheal disorders that affect breathing and lung function, chest wall tumors and pectus excavatum, swallowing disorders, esophageal function issues, and asthma.

ELI is one of a few centers nationwide performing breakthrough therapies for these diseases, like LINX® for gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). LINX is a circular bracelet of titanium magnets fitted around the base of the esophagus that keeps digestive acids from climbing out of the stomach. Participants reported a positive change in quality of life satisfaction from 8 percent to 92 percent.

According to Blair A. Jobe, MD, FACS, esophageal surgeon and Director of ELI: "We believe that a collaborative, multidisciplinary disease-based approach to care is the way of the future and the best strategy for centering multiple layers of expertise and perspective directly on curing a given disease state. We place the patient at the center of this team and pay particular attention to delivering compassionate care in a convenient and expeditious manner." ♦

BELOW: Photographed by one of the BGC's (@BloomGarCorp) local Twitter followers, a rainbow materializes over Garfield on Oct 23. Follow @BloomGarCorp on Twitter and share local snapshots with the BGC. Photo by Bruce Gay (@BruceGay).



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Christmas has a different meaning to everyone, and that meaning can change from year to year, depending on what fate has brought your way. For some, it has been a year of prosperity... for others, it has been a year of loss. Fortunately, time has a way of healing, and letting us go forward—to celebrate again. Whatever the year has brought your way, we want you to know our family's thoughts are with you.

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LOCAL REAL ESTATE BLOTTER

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

Real Estate Sales (Sept. 16 - Oct. 15, 2017)

Compiled by Lillian Denhardt, Howard Hanna Real Estate

Bloomfield

Adam F. & Thelma M. Treusch to Amanda & Gabriel Kefal at 345 West Penn Pl. for \$270,000.

Anthony G. Trupiano to David W. Reed at 516 Osceola St. for \$216,000.

Arnold M. & Jane Ann Miller Horovitz to Abigail A. Slovonick at 316 S. Pacific Ave. for \$565,000.

Brent & Jenelle Henry to Xinxin Shen at 216 Pearl St. for \$273,000.

David M. & Barbara J. Weiss to Troy Bigham at 364 S. Atlantic Ave. for \$539,898.

Diggins Builders LLC to Evan Dibiase at 301 S. Atlantic Ave. for \$746,880.

Dolores A. Haines to Milgate Capital LLC at 4532 Friendship Ave. for \$150,000.

Dominic & Rose Marie Lombardozi to John A. Lombardozi at 334 S. Winebiddle St. for \$1.

Gosta Frantz to KN Penn LLC at 4536 Penn Ave. for \$305,000.

Gregory A. Fischer to Monica S. Nicola at 4607 Carroll St. for \$225,000.

Joseph & Joan L. Reder to Pearl Street Townhomes LP at 4652 Friendship Ave. for \$340,000.

Joseph T. & Linda A. Vacca to Simm Group LLC at 4623 Liberty Ave. for \$297,000.

Maria Amelia G. & Mario D. Marino to Nolan Carroll at 4039 Howley St. for \$215,500.

Marshall Barbour to Cypress Lofts Pgh LP at 4932 Gross St. for \$5,000.

Takashi & Rei Ota to Emidio Deilius at 420 S. Aiken Ave. Unit B1 for \$120,000.

William A. & Marlene R. Hennigan to Steven Hennigan at 421 Pearl St. for \$85,000.

Friendship

No sales to report.

Garfield

Angeline Brown to Jasmine Abram at 5168 Broad St. for \$100.

Bloomfield Garfield Corporation to Brittany L. Lowe at 5148 Kincaid St. for \$130,000.

City of Pittsburgh to Bloomfield Garfield Corporation at 231 N. Aiken Ave. for \$100.

Cliff Boggan to Naushad Khatri at 5325 Kincaid St. for \$4,000.

Fannie Mae to Naushad Khatri at 312 N. Graham St. for \$10,000.

Lorraine Boswell to Mark Sapp at 5212 Dearborn St. for \$40,000.

Nancy Strope to Naushad Khatri at 0 Jordan Way for \$14,000.

Nancy Strope to Naushad Khatri at 5320 Kincaid St. for \$14,000.

Thomas McConnell to Alpha Beatty LLC at 5012 Kincaid St. for \$55,000.

East Liberty

Christopher M. & Caryn R. Carson to Alison Schmeck at 725 N. Beatty St. for \$495,000.

Eldred Tucker to McCoy Trust at 542 N. Sheridan Ave. for \$155,000.

Fred R. & Rose M. Scoglietti to East Liberty Development Incorporated at 6234 Saint Marie St. for \$68,000.

Fred R. & Jacqueline Scoglietti to East Liberty Development Incorporated at 6234 1/2 Saint Marie St. for \$52,000.

Pa Teamsters & Motor Carriers Welfare Fund

Western to AAA East Central at 215 S. Euclid Ave. for \$1,075,000.

Lawrenceville

Aja Jones to Yanbing Ye at 184 41st St. for \$163,300.

Alvise Bertoncello to Benjamin C. Kroop at 233 Main St. for \$612,000.

Andrew Nemecek to Darling Real Estate 001 LLC at 5233 Wickliff St. for \$88,000.

Anthony J. & Charles W. Hergenroeder Cimino to Anthony J. & Jean M. Cimino at 320 37th St. for \$1.

Ari Enterprises LLC to Aditya B. Dalvi at 340 Service Way for \$152,500.

Bruno J. Liberto to Liberty Associates LLC 09 at 3913 Liberty Ave. for \$125,000.

Christopher Fuget to 3241 Development LLC at 159 44th St. for \$115,000.

City of Pittsburgh to Elliott J Fabri at 0 54th St. for \$3,900.

City of Pittsburgh to Elliott J Fabri at 0 54th St. for \$3,900.

Daniel & Akirah Robinson to Fort Willow Developers LP at 108 43rd St. for \$550,000.

Endurance Property Solutions Inc. to Smokey Joe Properties LLC at 5307 Carnegie St. for \$0.

Francis Andrew Ritter to Erica A. Taylor at 145 42nd St. for \$245,000.

George W. & Mary E. Devinney to Matthew L. & Kathleen Gilson at 4229 Sherrod St. for \$250,000.

Goshen Mortgage REO LLC to Big League Construction LLC at 205 54th St. for \$120,100.

Helping Hand Real Estate LLC to Raymond H. Swanson at 5232 Carnegie St. for \$364,750.

Janice M. Casey to Nicole R. Casey at 5247 Carnegie St. for \$1.

John Downey to Donald W. & Diane C. Rhodes at 132 Banner Way for \$173,750.

Kenneth J. & Mary V. Schivins to Brandie Lynn Schivins at 3923 Liberty Ave. for \$1.

Lawrenceville Corporation to Chad Thompson at 179 34th St. for \$8,250.

Lowla LP to Rafael J. Diaz-Garcia at 302 47th St. for \$599,000.

Marc E. Tata to Stephanie L. Churchel at 5158 Butler St. Unit 1 for \$175,000.

McCleary Development LLC to Dustin C. Nichols at 5267 Holmes St. Unit 205 for \$159,983.

McCleary Development LLC to Jack Z. Li at 5267 Holmes St. Unit 403 for \$375,000.

Pittsburgh Economic & Industrial Development Corporation to Butler 80 Associates LLC at 450 56th St. for \$4,490,000.

Scott A. & Lori Hartman to Wylie Holdings LP at 6208 Butler St. for \$12,000.

Steel Town Properties M2 LLC to Allen R. & Jennifer L. Loy at 188 39th St. for \$467,397.

Theodore E. Haynes to Brian Arnone at 231 44th St. for \$432,000.

Yanbing Ye to Somar Realty LLC at 4205 Dunkeld Way for \$47,515.

Stanton Heights

Anthony Chappie to IJ Holdings LLC at 5268 Wickliff St. for \$125,000.

Bernice E. Bartoletti to Karen Bartoletti at 1544 Trinity St. for \$0.

Daniel P. & Barbara L. Treusch to Shoshana Mahler at 1337 Simona Dr for \$195,818.

Kevin M. Foley to Jesse C. Bennett at 5606 Celadine St. for \$186,500.

Mary Ann Switalski to Bernard Switalski Jr. at 6022 Sawyer St. for \$1.

Sean Gilroy to Errol S. Abdulla at 6518 Adelphia St. for \$162,000.

Thomas Duer to Kaitlyn M. Brennan at 134 Schenley Manor Dr. for \$154,650.

Willie S. & Margie R. Oakley to UCG Twenty Nine LLC at 4741 Coleridge St. for \$78,000.

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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Send us a note about what you would like to see in *the Bulletin*. This publication begins and ends with you, the community, so we respectfully invite your opinions and insights.

Please contact our tip-line/suggestion box:
Bulletin@Bloomfield-Garfield.org.

LU Moves to New Office!

A message from Lawrenceville United

On November 1, we at Lawrenceville United (LU) officially settled into our new home: an office on the second floor of Goodwill's Workforce Development Center at 118 52nd St. We recommend calling in advance for walk-ins and please understand that all guests will have to check-in at reception. Our main phone number (412-802-7220) will remain the same. If you have any questions, please contact us at info@LUnited.org. Thanks for your patience while we transition offices!

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 **January 2018** issue of *the Bulletin* are due by **Friday, December 15**. Please submit listings using our online form at www.bit.ly/bulletin_submit.

December 1 - Friday

GARFIELD

"HyperLocal" Showcase

"HyperLocal" is Assemble's annual showcase of local artists and makers, running from December 2017 - January 2018. Join us at Assemble 4824 Penn Ave. location from 6 - 10 p.m. on December 1 and January 5 to see the work of local makers and artists of all ages. Read more about the submissions here: <http://assemblepgh.org/event/hyperlocal-17-18/>.

Zumba with Jen

Just let go, follow my lead, and have fun. Dance like nobody is watching. Classes cost \$5 and take place on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. at The Irma Freeman Center (5006 Penn Ave.). Go to <http://modernformations.com/zumba/> for more info.

SQUIRREL HILL

"Children's Shop" at 10,000 Villages

On Friday, Dec. 1, and Saturday, Dec. 2, Ten Thousand Villages Pittsburgh will hold its eighth annual "Children's Shop" at its 5820 Forbes Ave. location. From Noon - 5 p.m., the shop will welcome parents and their kids to shop quality fair trade gifts (priced between \$2-\$10; parents select the recipients). Volunteers will be on hand to guide children through the shop and wrap their presents. This event does not require RSVPs.

December 6 - Wednesday

STANTON HEIGHTS

Holiday Happy Hour

Join neighbors from Stanton Heights for a festive get together this holiday season. We will meet at Church Brew Works from 6pm to approximately 8pm. All residents are invited to join us and celebrate the great things we accomplished in the neighborhood this year.

December 8 - Friday

EAST LIBERTY

Gift Gallery at the Plate

Dec. 8 - 10 is the fifth annual Gift Gallery show/holiday sale at Spinning Plate Gallery (5821 Baum Blvd.). The hours are Friday from 6:30 - 9 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sunday from Noon - 5 p.m. This is a free event. Local artisans offer a wide variety of their handmade work for

your last minute gifts. For further info, contact Kitty at (412)535-1496, or kittwhy@gmail.com, or "Gift Gallery at the Plate" on Facebook.

December 9 - Saturday

BLOOMFIELD

Ecobuilding Workshop

Lessening your utility bills and reversing climate change has never been easier. Come join us for a free in-depth look at off-grid; solar/wind electrical systems, water systems, and biofuel systems. Featuring the new and exciting HomeBiogas 2.0. Email nuearthbiotech@gmail.com for meeting info.

EAST LIBERTY

KST "Let's Move" Party

The Kelly Strayhorn Theater (KST) warms up the holiday season with a midday "Let's Move" dance party at the 5941 Penn Ave. theater, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9. The event will feature kid-friendly music spun by guest DJ Selecta, instructional performances by Rickia Davenport and Ira Cambric, caricatures, face painting, and many more activities. Tickets are "Pay What Makes You Happy" and available at kelly-strayhorn.org or 412-363-3000.

December 13 - Wednesday

GARFIELD

Christmas Fellowship Dinner

Come to Morningside Church of God in Christ (5173 Dearborn St.) on Wednesday, Dec. 13, for the Willa M. Johnson School of Bible & Ministry's Christmas Fellowship Dinner (Maranatha) from 5 - 8 p.m. Call 412-853-2022 for more info.

December 15 - Friday

GARFIELD

"Fab(rication) Friday"

Fab(rication) Friday is a monthly creative workshop series for high schoolers. The workshop convenes at Assemble (4824 Penn Ave.) on every third Friday, from 5 - 7 p.m. Hang out with friends in a community setting while participating in hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Math) projects led by guest experts. No experience necessary; pizza and all materials will be provided. Organizers ask that you please RSVP to this free workshop in advance by visiting <http://assemblepgh.org/fabrication-friday/>.

EAST LIBERTY

Free Christmas Concert

The most highly anticipated concert of the Cathedral Concerts' season returns with holiday favorites for brass, organ, choir, and audience on Friday, December 15, at 7:30 p.m. This free concert features The Brass Roots, ELPC Chancel Choir, and organist Edward Alan Moore at East Liberty Presbyterian Church (116 S. Highland Ave.). Please visit www.ELPC.church for more information.

December 16 - Saturday

GARFIELD

Holiday Celebration: Free Food & Winter Wear

On Saturday, Dec. 16, Morningside Church of God in Christ (5173 Dearborn St.) will host a holiday celebration from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. A free, hot & delicious holiday meal (with all the trimmings) awaits all who come; guests will also receive small, personal hygiene bags for free. As part of the "Keep Pittsburgh Warm" Project, everyone in attendance will be given tickets to get free coats, jackets, and other warm winter wear (limit: 1 item per person). Donations are now being accepted. Email Reggie705@yahoo.com (write "coats" in the subject line) or call 412-853-2022 to learn more.

December 17 - Sunday

GARFIELD

Annual Xmas Program

Morningside Church of God in Christ (5173 Dearborn St.) presents its annual Christmas Program, entitled "Twas the Night Before," on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 3:30 p.m. Come, bring your family & friends, and be blessed.

December 18 - Monday

GARFIELD

Expungement Clinic: Clear Your Record

Are old arrests creating barriers? Convicted of a misdemeanor or felony? These can limit your work options, but there are ways to clear your record. Join Tracey McCants Lewis, J.D., of Duquesne University School of Law, as she discusses expungements, record sealing, and pardons. Lewis will explain which charges can/cannot be expunged, who is eligible for expungement, who can help, and how to get started. The expungement clinic will take place at the BGC Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.) from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 18. Call 412-353-9881 to RSVP.

THE FIRST ANNUAL

BLOOMFIELD

UGLY SWEATER BAR CRAWL

CHECK-IN AT
Alexander's
Italian Bistro
5104 Liberty Ave
5:15 - 6:45pm

SHOTGUN START
Saturday
December 16
6:00 - 11:00 PM

Yinz comin' dahn? Hey... nah drinkin-n-drivin n'at!

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SCAN to Register at:
[https://bloomfield-united-ugly-sweater-bar-crawleventbrite.com](https://bloomfield-united-ugly-sweater-bar-crawl.eventbrite.com)

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Volunteer Opportunities Announcements Services Open Calls Shout-Outs

December 31- Saturday

GARFIELD

Joint District Service

On Saturday, Dec. 31, Morningside Church of God in Christ (5173 Dearborn St.) will hold its first joint district service from 10 p.m. - Midnight. After the service, breakfast will be served downstairs in the Willa M. Johnson Fellowship Hall.

- Ongoing -

CITY-WIDE

East End Lacrosse

East End Lacrosse promotes fundamental skill development to players of all abilities in a fun, healthy, and competitive environment. "Sunday Fun-day" is a 5 week program (for kids ages 4-8yrs) that runs 1 day a week. The spring season teams (for boys & girls ages 9-14yrs) practice 2-3 days per week; spring season runs approximately from March 12 through May 25, 2018. No experience is required. Family discounts, payment plans, and loaner equipment are available. For more info, visit www.EastEndLacrosse.com.

High School Diploma

Earthen Vessels Outreach (EVO) is looking to

enroll 5 - 10 young adults who had their high school education derailed and now want to make it right. You can now change the past, and have a new opportunity to obtain your high school diploma via online learning with flexible working hours. All high school credits are applied to the program to help complete your degree - at no out-of-pocket cost to you. Please call 412-414-2993, email Earthenvessels98@gmail.com, or stop by EVO at 250 South Pacific & Friendship Aves. for additional information. Childcare is available.

United Way Mentoring

"Be a Middle School Mentor" is a mentoring initiative through the United Way that pairs a caring adult with a middle school student to provide support, career guidance, stability, and vision. The goal is to help these students realize their full potential. The importance of good grades & consistent attendance are needed in order to pursue and achieve their academic dreams & goals in middle school, high school, and beyond. Being Pittsburgh Promise eligible will help these students further their post-secondary education after high school with the hope of fulfilling their life's goals. Mentoring (lunch time, after school & evening) is offered in 18 PPS & 3 Mon Valley Schools. For more detailed information, please contact Kathy Rodriguez by calling 412-456-6822 or emailing kathy.rodriguez@unitedwayswpa.org.

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.

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 Willa M. Johnson School of 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.

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. Visit <http://assemblepgh.org/on-view/call4artists/>.

BLOOMFIELD

Improved Bus Stop

Bloomfield Livable Streets (BLS) has been working with the Western PA Regional Data Center to build a scrolling LED ticker that tells transit users when the next bus is coming. The ticker uses the same data from the Port Authority that updates users' smart phones about when the next bus will arrive. BLS is looking to partner with a Bloomfield business to place the ticker in storefront windows along Liberty Ave. The project will help people who do

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Save the Date: January 2018

EAST LIBERTY

"Black Bodies & the Justice of God"

Join the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (616 N. Highland Ave.) for its fourth annual community conversation on race & faith. This free event's Kelso Lecture will feature the Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, Dean, Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary. Her lecture will be the centerpiece of a day-long event designed to equip and empower individuals to form ongoing relationships and cross traditional boundaries to work for justice, especially racial justice.

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Kraynick's Bike Shop *continued from page 1*

BELOW: Friendly neighborhood bike mechanics Rocky Cristobal (left) and Jerry Kraynick talk shop while fixing spokes at Kraynick's Bike Shop in Garfield. Photo by Andrew McKeon.



located at 5003 Penn Ave. in Garfield, will serve as a drop-off point where people can donate their bikes to a good cause.

The shop's friendly mechanics will inspect each bike, tune it up, and notify the Salvation Army that it is ready for a new owner. "Every child should have a bike," Jerry Kraynick, the shop's former owner, said.

Despite the fact that he already sold the business to Peter "Rocky" Cristobal, Kraynick just cannot help himself when it comes to bikes, so he helps others by working as a volunteer mechanic for the Salvation Army's annual "Bikes for Kids" program.

This annual program seeks to connect children's bikes - which frequently find their way into attics, basements, garages, and outdoor sheds when their original owners graduate from traveling on two wheels to four - with new owners.

The Garfield bike mechanics are also accepting "gently used" adult bikes that will be sold to pay for parts, or used for parts, to repair the children's bikes. Kraynick's will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays; on Saturdays, the shop will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Donors may also take their children's and adult bikes to the Sweetwater Bicycle Shop (518 Merchant St.) in Ambridge to help the "Bikes for Kids" program. "Their help is much appreciated," Cristobal said of the Sweetwater folks. "We'd like to get bikes to as many children as we can."

In his first year as the new owner, Cristobal has brightened the shop's interior by removing some of its mechanical largesse that blocked the large front window and clearing the floor space leading in from the front door. He plans to keep the shop "basically the same, but maybe open later during the summer."

Cristobal became a regular customer in 2012 when he realized that he had "free access to every tool imaginable to work on a bike - and free access to Jerry's knowledge about bikes and life."

A sage of Garfield, Kraynick often talks about the "fortuitous concourse of atoms" that occurs at the shop, as if serendipity lives there. How else can one explain how Cristobal and two other men, all born in the same village in the Philippines, met for the first time at an old bike shop in Pittsburgh?

Cristobal believes the shop atmosphere

that Kraynick has cultivated over the years lets people interact with each other in a positive, productive way that just keeps them coming back.

"When you help somebody with their bike, it's just natural that you start talking and find something in common," Cristobal said. "There will always be cyclists who will want to work on their bikes because they naturally enjoy doing it. Many others who want to save money can get into cycling - with limited budgets - for recreation or commuting."

Based on what he's observed over the last year as owner of Kraynick's, Cristobal believes Pittsburgh's cycling population is growing, in. "The universities bring in new people every year who tend to use bikes as their main transportation," he said. "I hope we can promote cycling as affordable transportation, as well as recreation for people with limited resources."

To learn more about "Bikes for Kids," call Kraynick's at 412-361-0888 or visit @KraynicksBikeShop on Facebook. Visit www.gofundme.com/kraynicksbikeshop to contribute to the shop's online fundraiser and help the neighborhood bike shop thrive for decades to come. ♦

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12 Lunch Specials 11 - 2
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