

# the Bulletin

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## How Amazon's HQ2 may both bring growth & imperil Pittsburgh's talent pool

By Juliette Rihl *Public Source*

*Pittsburgh* - When Amazon announced it was looking for a home for its second headquarters, the corporation included a wish list. Their desires included a city with diversity and with great universities churning out talented graduates who could be the next generation of Amazon employees.

At a forum on the University of Pittsburgh's campus Wednesday, concerns were raised about how Amazon and some of the variables on its wish list could coexist.

Could graduate students afford to live in a Pittsburgh with Amazon-inflated rents?

Would a city that already has a diversity problem be helped or harmed by a corporation whose leadership is domi-

See **Amazon HQ2** | page 6



**ABOVE:** After a Feb. 20 landslide, toppled trees are all that remains of the hillside behind 5472 Broad St. in Garfield. The wreckage crashed down onto the parking lot of the Fairmont Apts. housing complex below the hillside. As a result of the landslide, four Broad St. homes have been condemned by the City. Read more on page 2. Photo by John Colombo.

## Without grocery store, Bloomfield "Shur" to change

By Christina Howell

*Bloomfield Development Corp.*

*Bloomfield* - Buzzing with energy, a "standing room only" crowd filled the venue space at the West Penn Hospital School of Nursing, (4900 Friendship Ave.) for the duration of a community meeting on Monday, January 29.

Approximately 450 people attended the meeting to hear plans for redeveloping the site of the ShurSave IGA grocery store at 4401 Liberty Ave. The audience members came from all walks of life; older adults & college students, renters & homeowners, and business & property owners joined concerned members of community groups from Bloomfield and the surrounding neighborhoods.

District 7 Councilwoman Deb Gross was in attendance, as were members of her staff and representatives from the Offices of Mayor Peduto, State Senator Jay Costa, and State Rep. Dom Costa. Since the project is still in an early phase, the developer, Milhaus, was short on details in its presentation.

See **ShurSave** | page 5

## Five years' momentum: Women & Biking Forum gears up for new riders at Ace Hotel

By Alex Shewczyk *Bike Pittsburgh*

*East Liberty* - On Saturday, April 7, Bike Pittsburgh will host its fifth annual "Women & Biking Forum" at the Ace Hotel (120 S. Whitfield St.). From 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., women of all ages and skill levels will partake in a variety of workshops offered in the hotel ballroom.

Jane Runyan, Membership and Outreach Director at Bike Pittsburgh, is excited about new opportunities for her fellow riders. "From the cycling industry to the streets, women are navigating through spaces that are dominated by men," she said. "The Women & Biking Forum aims to build power, knowledge, and support among women and non-binary people for a better

biking community."

Topics for the breakout workshop sessions include diagnosing mechanical issues, fixing flat tires, camping by bike, nutrition, how to become a bike racer, and advocacy for safe cycling. The following day, a women-only "Confident City Cycling" class will teach riders how to comfortably get around town. Covering everything from how to navigate traffic patterns to methods for effective braking, this class is intended for those who know how to ride a bike, but want instruction on how to operate it safely on city streets.

This year, the forum's keynote speaker

See **Women & Biking** | page 11



**ABOVE:** Bike Pittsburgh members put their fists in the air they prepare for the upcoming Women & Biking Forum at Ace Hotel on Saturday, April 7. Photo courtesy of Bike Pittsburgh.



## Reports indicate homes affected by landslides unsafe to occupy

## A Message from the City of Pittsburgh



**ABOVE:** A Feb. 20 landslide brought a Broad St. hillside down onto the parking lot of the Fairmont Apts. senior housing complex in Garfield. The area remains tarped off until more geotechnical studies can be completed. Photo courtesy of Zach Restelli.

*Pittsburgh* - Preliminary geotechnical engineering reports performed for the Department of Permits Licenses and Inspections (PLI) recommend that homes evacuated in Spring Hill and Garfield remain in danger from landslides and possible shifting of soil, should not be occupied until the adjacent hillsides are stabilized.

On Feb. 21, PLI ordered the evacuation of six homes on Goehring St. and Kenzig Ave. in Spring Hill - and the evacuation of four homes on Broad St. in Garfield. It asked a geotechnical engineering firm to further study the areas and, on Feb. 22, in a preliminary report, the engineers maintained that the slopes are unstable and the homes should remain vacated.

The city Housing Authority, which owns the land on which the Fairmont Apt. complex sits in the 5400 block of Penn Ave., has taken the lead in assessing conditions and in designing a plan to stabilize the hillside. The rear property line for Fairmont Apts. ventures about halfway up the slope that defines the hillside behind the homes.

Exactly how that stabilization work will be performed, or when, will not be known until a full geotechnical study is performed. PLI Director Maura Kennedy will be contacting the affected homeowners and updating them on the preliminary geotechnical reports. The Red Cross is also working with the families.

Officials in Mayor William Peduto's office said they are also determining what needs each homeowner has and will try to connect them with additional services to assist them. The geotechnical reports are preliminary and the city does not plan to release them to the public.

[Editor's Note: The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation is currently working to raise money for the affected homeowners in Garfield. Visit the online donation portal at [www.crowdrise.com/donate/project/support-garfield-residents-whose-homes-were-damaged-in-landslide](http://www.crowdrise.com/donate/project/support-garfield-residents-whose-homes-were-damaged-in-landslide).] ♦

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## King of Kings makes plans for new community center in Garfield

By Nina Gibbs Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation



**ABOVE:** King of Kings Baptist Ministries plans to construct a new community activity center (left) next to its current church building in Garfield. Graphic courtesy of Bishop L.C. Carter.

*Garfield* - During the month of March, King of Kings Baptist Ministries (KoK) will celebrate its Bishop L.C. & Lady Ellen Carter's thirty years of pastoral service.

For the last nineteen years, the Carters have shepherded an active fellowship group in Garfield to provide a variety of community programs for local residents. Upon founding the Ministries at their Monroeville home in 1999, the Carters held the first service at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's (BGC) Activity Center.

Two months later, KoK purchased its present location at 5169 Broad St. in Garfield. Since then, the congregation's membership has reportedly grown to nearly 300 members.

In line with its growing fellowship, the church is embarking on a new "capital campaign" venture to fund the con-

struction of a new KoK Community Center.

To be located next-door to its current facilities, on land already owned by the church, the facility would house administrative offices, as well as venue space available for community and private events. KoK would use the space for a variety of education-based, workforce programs - along with supportive services - for area youths, adults, and entrepreneurs.

Congregation members are hosting a community meeting to discuss their plans on Tuesday, Mar. 13, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the BGC Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.).

Bishop L.C. & Lady Ellen Carter welcome everyone to celebrate their thirty years of pastoral service at the church's 7 p.m. worship services on Mar. 2, 9, 15, and 23. ♦

## the Bulletin

Serving Pittsburgh's  
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with the mission of reporting on issues affecting underserved communities and facilitating local residents' exchange of ideas.

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Deadline for the April issue is **Wednesday, March 14.**

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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 Nina Gibbs Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

*Garfield* - Community partners, law enforcement officials, and representatives from the City of Pittsburgh have formed a broad coalition to devise new methods for neighborhood crime prevention. The group aims to foster a safe environment for everyone who lives and works in Garfield.

The city's East End has experienced many thefts from vehicles this winter. Because the most coveted items include GPS devices and laptops, local residents are encouraged to remove any valuables from their vehicles. During these cold winter months, many cars are stolen in the early morning hours; while the owners wait indoors for a warmed vehicle, the car-thieves wait outside to take advantage of any compromised security systems.

In another matter, Pittsburgh Police Narcotics detectives conducted an undercover operation on Feb. 1 and reportedly purchased crack cocaine from Andre Marrice Pace, 23, of Garfield. When Pace arrived at the location for a meeting the police supposedly arranged, a takedown team successfully placed him in custody without incident; detectives recovered (3) bags containing crack cocaine from the scene. Pace was arrested on the original warrant, and will reportedly be charged with a new drug felony.

On Feb. 10, Zone 5 officers responded to a 911 call at a residence in Garfield. Upon the officers' arrival, a sixty-year-old male victim reported that he was in his motorized wheelchair, about to enter his home, when he was struck from behind. Two suspects, one armed with a revolver, allegedly robbed the victim - stealing cash, a cell phone, and a gold chain before fleeing. Suspect # 1 is described as a Black male with a light complexion (18-30 years old, 6'2," 180 lbs., with a large build and short hair); suspect # 2 is described as approximately the same age, at 5'10" and 180 lbs.

Anyone with information about these or other crimes is encouraged to call the Zone 5 police station at 412-665-3605. ♦



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## Ceramics conference brings local, global artists together in Highland Park

By Alivia Chapla Union Project

**BELOW:** Ceramics enthusiasts crowd around a live demonstration at Union Project (801 N. Negley Ave.) during the 2017 Mother of All Pottery Sales. The Highland Park venue is hosting free art exhibitions and demonstrations during a national ceramics conference in mid-March. Photo by Ben Filio.



Highland Park - From Wednesday, Mar. 14, through Saturday, Mar. 17, Pittsburgh will play host to a colossal ceramics conference. The 52nd annual conference of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) is presenting a whole slew of different ceramic art exhibitions that will be open to the public across the city.

While most of the conference's main activities (housed downtown at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center) require a registration fee, everyone will be able to get in on all the clay fun - for free - at Union Project (801 N Negley Ave.) in Highland Park.

The venue will host five exhibits to show more than fifty ceramic artists' works throughout the building; displays will include crafted vases, dinnerware, and sculptural pieces from both local and international artists.

"Union Project is focused on bringing

art and community together," Michelle Clesse, Director of Engagement, said. "NCECA gives us the opportunity to bring the best national clay artists here and introduce them to the city, while highlighting and supporting our own local ceramicists. And, it gives us the chance to introduce Pittsburgh residents to the greater world of ceramics."

Clesse and her comrades will be handing out a special map for the upcoming Highland Park Pottery Tour, where visitors explore local artists' homes and purchase their ceramic works.

Along with the exhibitions, Union Project will be bustling with special events, like "Project Canary," a hands-on activity with visiting artists Lauren Karle and Nicole Gugliotti that shares stories of injustice through art.

As part of the venue's monthly "Creative Conversation" series, Karle and fellow guest artist, Jeni Hansen Gard, will initiate public discourse with their embroidery project, "Weaving Dialogues."

Live demonstrations, featuring professional artists "throwing" clay pieces on the potter's wheel, are on schedule all day. At an opening reception sponsored by Wigle Whiskey on Thursday, March 15, visitors can sip on beverages while chatting with the artists, and perusing the exhibitions.

During the week of NCECA, from Tuesday through Friday, Union Project will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday hours will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For the full schedule, visit [www.unionproject.org/NCECA2018Union-Project](http://www.unionproject.org/NCECA2018Union-Project). ♦

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# ShurSave continued from page 1

Developers typically schedule community meetings after applying for an occupancy permit with the City's zoning department. In this case, the developer elected to hear what community members wanted from the project early on - while gauging support for potential variances, or exceptions to the prevailing zoning code that it intends to request.

The plans displayed a structure sixty feet tall, placing five stories at the corner of Howley and Main Sts. and four stories at the other three corners. The new facility would replace the supermarket and the VFW building, along with two other buildings on the site. Three residences (not owned by the current owner) would remain, and the site plan proposes a twenty-foot buffer between their property line and the new building; a twenty-foot, landscaped buffer would also be installed along Gangwish St in the rear.

In addition to first-floor retail, the building would also house 237 market-rate rental units - from 450 square-foot "efficiencies" with rents starting at approximately \$1,000 a month up to two-bedroom units going for approximately \$2,400 a month.

Milhaus' proposal for the new building includes 20,000 square feet of retail space on the first floor. The entrance to this retail space would face Liberty Ave. - with what looks like plans for an open patio at the corner of Main and Howley Sts., where customers might sit outside to enjoy the weather.

The developer's representatives clarified that, regardless of any rumors that may be circulating, there is no contract in place for a grocery store to occupy the first floor; any information indicating otherwise, they told the crowd, is premature.

Thomas Bost, a representative from Milhaus, confirmed that, after hearing from local stakeholders about the importance of a grocery store, his company is working towards attracting a grocery store to be the first-floor tenant. He would not, however, make a commitment that a grocery store would be the only possible tenant for the space.

Plans include two levels of parking, holding a total of 271 parking spaces, with some of the parking spaces located below ground level. Milhaus also plans to have a leasing office at the corner of Ella St. and Liberty Ave.

Proposed amenities for those renting apartments at the so-called "market rate" include a gym, a grilling area, and a pool, which one audience member pointed out would be situated exactly one block from Bloomfield's public pool.

A representative from Langan Engineering verified the firm's report that the development would have no impact on surrounding traffic. The plans display two (grocery store) loading docks, entering and exiting onto Howley St., which would be able to accommodate eighteen-wheel trucks. When asked whether Milhaus anticipates turning Howley into a two-way street, Mr. Bost said "no, at least not yet."

During the meeting, attendees shared their concerns about the long-term effects of removing ShurSave from the neighborhood, and the challenge in putting a new, affordable grocery store in its place. Many expressed the viewpoint that the ShurSave store has become an irreplaceable amenity for Bloomfield.

A number also demanded that any development at the site include a portion of units that are affordable and accessible to the area's older residents.

The impact of the proposed development on traffic at the Main/Howley/Ella/Liberty intersection was also a topic of great interest. In the days following the meeting, BDC employees have logged dozens of phone calls and emails emphasizing these points.

A host of other issues cropped up: the new building's impact on area shade level; design elements not being reflective of neighborhood aesthetics; current ShurSave employees, many of whom are local residents that have worked at the store for years, losing their jobs; the murky future of "ZipCars" currently parked at the site;

and the ostensible hardship neighbors will experience without continued access to fresh grocery items.

Many residents - even those with strong misgivings about the project - voiced their support for the plans, as well as for the general redevelopment of the gateway parcel and for the ongoing efforts to attract a grocery store.

More detailed information, including a copy of Milhaus' presentation, the traffic study, and notes from the public meeting, are available at [www.bloomfieldnow.org](http://www.bloomfieldnow.org).

Within days of the meeting, Bost reached out to BDC to gain a better understanding of what the community wants to see at the site. BDC representatives reiterated the neighbors' chief concerns: bring in a grocery store; construct all-internal parking facilities; and mandate that 25% of the units are affordable for "non market-rate" renters [those earning 50-60% of the area median income (AMI)].

Offering to solicit funds that could make this level of affordability possible, the Bloomfield community organization also made requests to view the development's shade study, a breakdown of the sources and uses of funding for the project, and an updated traffic study.

As of press time, none of these items had been presented to BDC. Bost later communicated that creating a grocery store, interior parking, and affordability at the level requested is not feasible for Milhaus. Development updates and meeting times are available at [www.bloomfieldnow.org](http://www.bloomfieldnow.org). ♦

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# Amazon HQ2 continued from page 1

nated by white men?

Co-sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Human Rights Project, UrbanKind Institute and the University of Pittsburgh's Urban Studies Program, the Wednesday forum was the first of two panels discussing Amazon's potential arrival. About 50 faculty, students and community members gathered in the University of Pittsburgh's School of Public Health.

Several panelists expressed concerns about Amazon's promise of 50,000 high-paying jobs created over seventeen years—with salaries averaging \$100,000—and the effect that may have on the affordability of Pittsburgh's housing.

Jason Beery, a former Pitt faculty member and senior research and policy analyst at UrbanKind Institute, cited statistics from The Seattle Times that showed in June 2017, the median house price in Seattle was \$729,000, up nearly 14% from the previous year. Seattle rents rose 57% between 2011 and 2017, equating to about a \$630 increase in rent per month. That made the new average rent in 2018 \$1749 a month, according to the Seattle Times.

"That, of course, has strong implications for the demographic and spatial transformation of the city," Beery said.

Beth Shaaban, a Ph.D. student at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Public Health and an organizer with the Graduate Student Organizing Committee, focused on how Amazon's arrival may adversely affect students, particularly graduate students. With graduate students already being paid low wages—averaging about \$17,500 annually—an increase in rent prices could cause them to either have to take out additional loans, or continue moving farther away from campus.

Despite its lack of affordable housing, it was noted that Pittsburgh does have the capacity to house Amazon and all of its employees. Pittsburgh once had a population of 700,000, but now only holds roughly 300,000 people.

Yet, while there may be room for Amazon's employees, many are concerned about who those employees will be. It's no secret that white men dominate the tech industry, with Amazon being no exception. Amazon's 2016 Equal Employment Opportunity report found that of executive and senior managers and officials at

**BELOW:** About fifty faculty, students and community members gathered in the University of Pittsburgh's School of Public Health to discuss Amazon HQ2. Photo by Juliette Rihl.



Amazon, 78% are male, and 93% are white.

"The farther you go up the ladder at Amazon, the more male and whiter it becomes," said Beery, noting that Pittsburgh already struggles with this problem. "The people in positions of power in the city are predominantly white men, and they have been for years."

Several in attendance favored the idea of striking a community benefits agreement with Amazon as one way to mitigate potential harmful effects of HQ2. A community benefits agreement, or CBA, is a contract signed by stakeholders of a community development project — usually community groups and a developer — that requires the developer to guarantee specific amenities to the affected community. The group who gathered Wednesday proposed that an Amazon CBA could include a hiring program to target low-income individuals, increased affordable housing and additional funding for transportation.

University of Pittsburgh School of Law professor Jules Lobel, who attended the forum, is a member of the newly formed Community Power Movement, a group that believes power should be moved from Harrisburg into the hands of communities. The group is creating a petition with two main points: that the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County immediately release the entire Amazon bid to the public, and that a CBA be required any time the city or county give out public subsidies to entice a corporation to move here. "Particularly, there should be an agreement that the corporation, such as Amazon, not increase racial, gender and class inequality," Lobel said.

Despite a ruling by Pennsylvania's Office of Open Records that both Allegheny County and Gov. Tom Wolf's Office must release Pittsburgh's Amazon proposal, the document has not been made public and officials have indicated they would continue to fight its release.

Panelists differed in their opinions about the approach Amazon has taken to solicit proposals from cities, the move that sparked a national wave of speculation and local governments racing to stand out.

"I was sort of disturbed by this request for proposals for a lot of cities that are really struggling to try to figure out what they're going to do with their economy," said Waverly Duck, director of the University of Pittsburgh's Urban Studies Program.

Others felt that, by requesting proposals, Amazon prompted necessary dialogue.

"I think Amazon has done us an incredible service by raising the community conversation, allowing us to have it and making some urgency behind it," said Rebecca Bagley, vice chancellor for economic partnerships at the University of Pittsburgh. "These things are being worked on, but they're being worked on in the absence, sometimes, of these larger community conversations."

One thing the panelists seemed to agree on is that no matter Amazon's final decision, growth is coming to Pittsburgh. "We have to grow. We have to grow. Period," said William Generett, Jr., Duquesne University's vice president for community engagement. "Either you're growing or you're dying, as a city."

This looming growth makes it necessary to keep community discussions alive. "If it's not Amazon," he said, "it will be somebody else."

[Editor's Note: This story was originally published by Public Source. Read the online version and more at [www.PublicSource.org](http://www.PublicSource.org).] ♦

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## ESL student wins second consecutive spelling bee at Arsenal Middle

By Danielle Staresinic *Lawrenceville Rotary Club*

*Lawrenceville* - A group of excited students, teachers and members of the Lawrenceville Rotary club met on Feb. 8 for the second annual Arsenal Middle School Spelling Bee. With their classmates in the audience, seventeen students from the sixth, seventh and eighth grades participated. They had been studying for several weeks and seemed eager to compete. Their teachers served as pronouncer and score-keeper, and Rotarians sat as judges and time-keepers.

Ms. Beth Hope, an enthusiastic teacher and a champion for her seventh grade students at Arsenal Middle School, believes that her students deserve to be challenged. Ms. Amber Scalise never betrayed the nervousness she felt for her eighth grade students as they stepped up to the microphone. She trusted in her students' ability, because she knew how hard they had prepared.

The first three rounds were single elimination, and the field quickly narrowed to ten well-prepared students. The double elimination format allowed for one miss apiece and kept people in the game as the rounds proceeded with increasingly difficult words.

By the ninth round, just four competitors remained. But as the words grew more challenging, fourth and third place were quickly determined. Round 11 began with just two girls remaining. One competitor had not misspelled any words to that point. The two traded turns, each successfully completing eleven rounds without any errors.

Then, in Round 22, a misspelled word tied the competition at one miss each. The final rounds began, but an early miss gave the other competitor a chance to gain the advantage. Successfully spelling "subterranean" appeared to be a nail-biting experience. Correctly spelling the winning word would end the competition. A miss would mean a chance for the other competitor to steal

the win.

"Appendectomy," correctly and confidently spelled, signaled the end of the competition and a clear winner. With great joy, Turkano Mada was named the champion. Mada also won this competition in 2017 as a seventh grader.

Many of the students at Arsenal Middle School are ESL (English as a Second Language) and come from homes where no English is spoken. The students' efforts could not have been more impressive.

Turkano was awarded a place at the local Scripps Competition at Robert Morris University on March 10. Last year, when she entered her first spelling bee, this shy girl stood in front of a large room full of strangers and did her best to compete on a stage where only one winner would emerge. She admitted to being uncomfortable and was not sure she completely enjoyed that experience last year.

This year, the shyness was gone. The confident, competent returning champion did not falter at the microphone and spelled each word without hesitation on her way to first place. ♦

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# Neighborhood FOCUS

## Vacant, abandoned houses continue to dog Garfield

By Joe Reuben *Bulletin contributor*

**Garfield** - While many would say that conditions in the neighborhood have improved dramatically in recent years, Garfield remains saddled with a large inventory of vacant, seemingly abandoned houses. According to Rick Swartz, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's (BGC) executive director, his organization's staff recently conducted a survey of most of the neighborhood's streets, and it revealed at least 131 empty houses, many of them in deplorable condition.

"There were more 'vacants' than what we were expecting to find," Swartz told *The Bulletin*. "While a number of them have been in that condition for a decade or longer, it's alarming to find others that may have joined the list only within the past five years."

Swartz pointed to four houses, all within two blocks of Penn Ave., that illustrate the plight the neighborhood faces when trying to eliminate the blight and potential danger such properties pose to neighbors. A single-family home at 5010 Dearborn St., owned by David and Marcia Grenick, is on the BGC's list. Public records show reveal that the Grenicks use an address in McKees Rocks for receipt of their county tax bills, but evidently stopped paying years ago.

"The county has scheduled the property for Sheriff's Sale on March 5th to try to recover over \$18,000 in delinquent real estate taxes owed to the county, city, and school district," Swartz noted. "Even if someone were to bid to buy the property, the deed they'd receive from the Sheriff's office may not give them a clear title. There could well be thousands of dollars in liens owed to other parties who may still expect payment."

He went on to say that, even if a private party were to pay \$30,000 or \$40,000 in the end to secure clear title, the house at 5010 Dearborn may need anywhere from \$75,000 to \$150,000 to make it a desirable place to live once again.

"That's where the risk of gentrification comes into play, because a private investor will want to push the future re-sale price for the property as high as he or she can, in the expectation of making a profit of 10 to 20%, or more, after the renovations have been done," Swartz contended. "That price could be double the price of what any other property in the block has sold for previously."

The city has tried to contain the spread of blight in neighborhoods like Garfield by coming after tax-delinquent owners of vacant properties, he explained. The Urban Redevelopment Authority offers to "tag" such

**BELOW:** A vacant home at 5010 Dearborn St., one that has been a neighborhood eyesore for years, continues to deteriorate. Photo by Joe Reuben.



properties, if the community group so desires.

When they are tagged by the URA, the city must then decide if a public sale is warranted. If it agrees, then the property goes to what is known as "Treasurer's Sale," an auction held in City Council chambers once or twice per year; the next one is set for August. However, as Swartz cautioned, this may not be the solution to eliminating blight.

"On our list of vacant houses, there are eleven that the city took either at our request or the URA's," he disclosed. "But, it takes the better part of two years before the process of public taking has run its course. In the meantime, the property could fall victim to the elements and become so dilapidated that the chances of renovation become practically nil."

Swartz pointed to three vacant houses situated at 4911, 5137, and 5349 Broad St. "We've seen the interiors of 5137 and 5349 Broad. To restore either of these homes could well cost \$200,000 or more. If we were to take on either project, the subsidy we would need to make them affordable - for purchase by someone earning under, say, \$50,000 a year - would be in the vicinity of \$100,000. The U.R.A. does not have that subsidy to give to us or anyone else at this point in time."

Ultimately, unless there are private investors who are willing to spend the necessary money on renovations, and then attempt to sell them for \$250,000 or more, he said, what may happen is that all three homes will have to face the wrecking ball. Demolishing the structures would result in vacant lots. Even if a neighboring owner wanted to buy the property from the city, they might have to wait a year or longer to finalize the sale; "not exactly an encouraging prospect," he added.

Although Mayor Bill Peduto promised late last year that a "land bank" would be operational by early spring of 2018, the city's efforts to start the land bank have been stalled for almost four years. Proponents see the land bank as a mechanism to move vacant, abandoned properties that the city has already acquired in a much more expeditious fashion than the otherwise lengthy disposition process.

Swartz said the "jury is still out" on

- continued on next page -

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“There were more ‘vacants’ than what we were expecting to find. While a number of them have been in that condition for a decade or longer, it’s alarming to find others that may have joined the list only within the past five years.”

– Rick Swartz, BGC Executive Director

- continued from page 8 -

whether the land bank will fulfill those hopes, but acknowledged that a more effective land banking process could spell the difference between salvaging abandoned & foreclosed properties, and losing them forever.

He relayed that it is up to the BGC’s housing and land use committee, which is open to anyone who wants to help attack problems like these, to determine whether or not to try and acquire eight to ten of the most salvageable houses.

To obtain a copy of the BGC’s list of vacant houses, contact Tyler Wheeler at [Tyler@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:Tyler@bloomfield-garfield.org). To join the housing and land use committee, contact Nina Gibbs at [Nina@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:Nina@bloomfield-garfield.org). ♦

## Community members plan season of improvements for Duncan Park

By Taro Matsuno *Lawrenceville United*

*Lawrenceville* - On Tuesday, Mar. 6, Lawrenceville United (LU) will host a community meeting at 6:30 p.m. to talk about plans for Duncan Park.

Local residents will convene at the Goodwill Workforce Development Center (118 52nd St.) to discuss the ongoing transformation of a public park (decommissioned by Citiparks) into a community orchard and neighborhood “play-space.”

The project has already yielded significant progress thanks to many dedicated volunteers, neighbors, and families. Last year, they installed a mural (designed by local artist Donnie Freyer and painted by neighborhood children), built “sensory” garden beds, and hosted a series of three educational

workshops. In recognition of the project, the City of Pittsburgh’s Office of Community Affairs presented LU with a \$3,000 Best Block award to help everyone keep up the good work.

Plans for 2018 include the installation of an embankment slide, a twelve-foot slide built into the steep hillside at Duncan Park, along with other play equipment that makes use of the site’s natural features; these additions are expected to open up a wide range of “play potential” for local children and their families.

As a means of enhancing the park’s long-term viability, project leaders are also planning for the construction of a rain garden that can treat stormwater runoff from 54th St.

At the Mar. 6 meeting, LU will present ideas for expanding the breadth of programming at the park with neighborhood play-dates and more educational workshops.

Attendees can learn more about the project timeline, and find ways to get involved this summer, while also giving their feedback on the current plans. Volunteers will be needed to help with fundraising, gardening, play-scape installation, group programming, and more.

Dinner and childcare will be provided at the meeting; attendees may RSVP to [info@LUNITED.org](mailto:info@LUNITED.org) or call 412-802-7220 to learn more. ♦

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# Liberty Green: new Larimer park system to incorporate stormwater management

By Elizabeth Sensky *East Liberty Development, Inc.*

*Larimer* - Liberty Green Park, the first stage of the neighborhood's plan for a thirty-acre park and open space system, is on track for development in 2018. Part of the Larimer/East Liberty Choice Neighborhoods Development, the park will be located at the nexus of Station St. and Larimer Ave.

For decades, Larimer residents have been advocating for a system plan that incorporates recreation and open spaces. The concept first surfaced in the 1998 and 2008 "Larimer Plans" by the Larimer Consensus Group, a community development group of self-selected stakeholders convened by State Senator Jim Ferlo.

The group's ideas were more fully articulated in the 2010 "Larimer Vision Plan" and strongly re-affirmed in 2013's "Vision to Action Plan" and "Choice Neighborhoods" grant proposal. Park planning was finally set in motion when the City of Pittsburgh and the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh received a \$30 Million U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Choice Neighborhoods implementation grant.

Emily Mitchell, a project manager for the new parks system at the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), said she is excited to see the system's first phase come together, noting that the process has already proved fruitful. "It's been a great partnership with the Larimer and East Liberty communities, the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA), the City, and the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh," she said.

In 2015, with the support of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (PPC), the URA engaged Philadelphia-based architectural firm, Wallace Roberts & Todd, to develop the master plan for the entire parks system - as well as the final design for the first phase of Larimer Park and Liberty Green. "The design team worked very closely with the community, early in the process, to ensure that the park design was directed by and responsive to community feedback," Mitchell said.

Formal community outreach for the park design included ten steering committee meetings and three public workshops. Members of the design team and URA staff also gathered feedback through other channels; they mingled with local residents at a senior luncheon, met with fifth-grade students at a neighborhood school, organized a teen focus group at the library, and began reaching out to youths at the former East Liberty Gardens housing complex.

At approximately thirty acres, the proposed park plan incorporates a "greenway" system to restore the historic Negley Run stream bed, woods, and hillsides at the edge of the Larimer plateau. Mitchell explained the strategy to transform vacant lots in the neighborhood into community and citywide assets. "The network of public parks creates special places throughout the neighborhood, which include various types of open space," she said.

A stormwater utility, known as "Little Negley Run," has been designed to reestablish the natural landscape; it allows the Negley Run valley to capture and manage stormwater flowing down from adjacent neighborhoods, piping everything back into a "wellness circuit" throughout the park system.

"Green infrastructure within Liberty Green and the future Little Negley Run will detain stormwater," Mitchell said. "A series of landscaped swales will capture, slow, and manage the water. The green infrastructure will mitigate contributions to the combined sewer system by either eliminating the system's rainwater or, alternatively, releasing the water back into the system slowly to ensure that the infrastructure is not overwhelmed."

New, mixed-income, multi-family housing units are currently being built around the park on Kalida Drive and Larimer Ave. as part of the Choice Neighborhoods Phase I development. When taking these future tenants into account, Liberty Green Park will serve 5,517 residents that live within a half-mile radius or ten-minute walk from the site. The park itself will occupy almost four of the thirty acres in the system plan; features will include a mounded play area, terraced bioswales, and a large lawn.

Led by local artist Alisha Wormsley, the River Roots Community Art Project, will be on full display throughout the park. Wormsley envisioned the project as a way to creatively integrate rainwater infrastructure into an artful, educational dialogue about the community's history as it relates to local water resources.

According to Mitchell, the URA was successful in attracting funding for the park in 2017, including new funding through the PPC and from the PWSA as well as a \$1 million commitment from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program. There is still much fundraising to be done to fill a projected gap, she said, and the construction of the park will be competitively bid.

Construction for Liberty Green is projected to begin in 2018. Designs for the park can be viewed at [http://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/ura-files/081016\\_Public-MeetingPresentation.pdf](http://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/ura-files/081016_Public-MeetingPresentation.pdf). Updates on the park development will be made available via the monthly newsletter from East Liberty Development, Inc. (<http://eastliberty.org/newsletter>). ♦




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[Bulletin@Bloomfield-Garfield.org](mailto:Bulletin@Bloomfield-Garfield.org).



## Women & Biking continued from page 1

is Anna Schwinn. In 2013, she won the "First Ascent Award" from the Outdoor Industry Women's Coalition in commendation of her work to introduce inclusivity initiatives at the bike parts company, Quality Bicycle Products.

Schwinn is also the founder and former president of Koochella Racing, a women/trans/femme-focused racing team and club headquartered in Minneapolis, MN; team members focus on growing and supporting the women's field in local and national cycling communities.

"Riding for transport is how I learned to love the world around me," Schwinn noted. "When you remove yourself from cars, you not only have the opportunity to more intimately interface

with the world around you, but you also get to meet and interact with more people."

Forum registration costs \$45 and includes a full day of workshops, a keynote speech, morning yoga, lunch, and a celebratory bike ride after the forum. If the registration cost is prohibitive to anyone's attendance, full and partial registration discounts are available.

To register, visit BikePGH's online event page [www.bikepgh.org/forum](http://www.bikepgh.org/forum) or call 412-325-4334. The organization's "WMNBikePGH" program strives to connect local riders with more resources with the stated mission of "encouraging womxn, femmes, and non-binary people to incorporate bicycling into their lives and increase representation in the bicycling community." ♦

## CAROL PETERSON PROCLAMATION



In honor of the late Carol Peterson's tremendous service in the fight to preserve Pittsburgh's history, Mayor Bill Peduto & Councilwoman Deb Gross will be presenting a Proclamation on March 20 at 10 a.m. in Council Chambers (414 Grant St.). All are invited to attend

## Art All Night 2018

Art All Night, a one-day grassroots gathering of arts and community, will return for its 21st year this April. Last year art and performance by over 1,200 artists was featured. Volunteers plan and run the show, and help out before and/or during the event.

Everyone is welcome to attend the weekly planning meetings which are held at the Shiloh Building, 3832 Mintwood St. on alternating Thursday and Wednesday evenings. For more information and updates, visit [www.artallnight.org](http://www.artallnight.org), like Art All Night: Lawrenceville on Facebook, and follow @artallnight on Twitter.

## SPONSORED CONTENT

***Back Pain: "When You're in That Much Pain AND You Live on Painkillers, You Really Don't Have a Great Quality of Life..."***

***-Report by Pittsburgh's Leading Back Pain Specialist Michael Ricchiuto MPT, EMT-P***



If you've ever been told that you have spinal stenosis, arthritis, a pinched nerve, sciatica, or disc degeneration and you want to avoid dangerous spinal surgery or if spinal surgery wasn't as successful as you had hoped... **OR...** you just want to learn new ways to live free from back pain as an alternative to costly and harmful "pills" then please read on... as this could be the most important message you'll read since your back pain torment began.

First of all, what I need you to know is that drug companies are spending billions on advertising to convince you that the answer to your problem can be found in a magic "pill". But long-term dependency upon harmful medication that masks pain can easily destroy your liver and degrade your stomach twice as fast.

Also, did you know that over 2.5 billion dollars a year is spent on magazine ads, TV, and radio commercials by wealthy drug companies to ensure more people than ever demand medication from their doctor? This advertising causes people to believe pills are the only option to control their back pain. Well...

Also, did you know that over 2.5 billion dollars a year is spent on magazine ads, TV, and radio commercials by wealthy drug companies to ensure more people than ever demand medication from their doctor? This advertising causes people to believe pills are the only option to control their back pain. Well...

### Unfortunately Their Advertising Is Working!

The number of prescriptions per person is now in the double digits and is climbing, and more and more people are becoming dependent upon drugs as a way to live a normal pain-free life. But I want you to know this: dependency upon drugs is dangerous. Despite what many people will lead you to believe, yes, surgery can be avoided - but only if you take the right action, starting today.

The truth is... there are so many ways to live life with less back pain and without daily pills or surgery - it's just that no one has explained it to you until now. Just ask the 100's of Pittsburgh residents who have already benefited from our report ***"The 14 best kept secrets of eliminating back pain, staying pain-free, and avoiding dangerous surgery."***

**My name is Michael Ricchiuto MPT, EMT-P** and I've been helping your friends, family, and work colleagues to live with less low back pain, to get their "normal" life back, and to avoid spinal surgery. Below you will see how to access our Free Report...

**In This Free Report...** you will discover the seven urgent coping strategies every person who suffers with back pain must never forget when back pain strikes!

You will also learn how to function better at work, as well as learn how to participate in sports and exercise while preventing pain from occurring again.

Our company published this free low back pain report to help good people like yourself to make a better, more educated, and informed decision about managing back pain and your future health that drug industries hope you never know. No one will ask you for money or anything else when you request this free report to help you make decisions about your health.

### What To Do Next?

For your free copy of ***"14 Secrets of Eliminating back pain, staying pain free and avoiding dangerous surgery"*** call (412) 228-5843 and leave a message that you want the free report! You can call 24 hours a day. Or if you want the report now, visit [www.physicaltherapynow.net](http://www.physicaltherapynow.net) to download it instantly.

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# Local nurse provides inclusive care for high-risk populations

By Brogan McGowan *Allies for Health + Wellbeing*

*East Liberty* - Ashleigh Garcia, a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP), is ready to help local community members achieve their health goals in 2018.

Working as the full-time medical provider at Allies for Health + Wellbeing’s 5913 Penn Ave. clinic, Garcia has completed specialized training in LGBTQ competent care, women’s care, and trans\* care - as well as in the treatment of HIV and hepatitis c. She advocates for an inclusive, welcoming environment where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect which, she said, is also one of Allies’ cornerstones of care.

According to the Jewish Healthcare Foundation’s (JHF) 2017/2019 Regional HIV Needs Assessment for Southwestern Pennsylvania (SWPA), “accessible healthcare” is a top concern for SWPA communities. In order to address this need, Allies offers primary medical care that is both affordable and convenient for area residents.

The organization also specializes in services for individuals living with, or at risk of HIV-infection, including PrEP for those who are HIV negative and a continuum of support services for those who are HIV positive.

When she began working at the Penn Ave. clinic last year, Garcia “saw a bigger picture of care that is not just accessible for people unfamiliar with healthcare - but also for people who want to go where they are not judged, where they can be honest and trust that someone listens.”



**ABOVE:** Ashleigh Garcia, a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner, works to provide mindful, inclusive care for her patients at Allies for Health + Wellbeing. Photo courtesy of Brogan McGowan.

The aforementioned Regional HIV Needs Assessment for SWPA reported that, in 2017, new incidents of HIV infection were highest in African-American and multiracial communities; incidents of HIV infection also reportedly increased within youth populations of people aged 20-29 across the region.

Garcia believes approaching primary care through a whole-body approach is the most effective method for addressing the needs of “at-risk” populations. “Sexual health should be the same priority as hypertension,” she said, “and our youth populations need to feel comfortable talking about these issues with their primary care provider.”

Allies focuses its outreach efforts on local, high-risk populations. “The highest incidence of new HIV cases is among young, gay men, particularly Latino and African American men,” Garcia said. “I want to reach these high-risk populations and offer care that encourages people to feel comfortable about discussing their sexual health.”

She explained that Allies’ clinic in East Liberty is a place where patients are encouraged to stay on top of their care, rather than just going to see their doctor when they are sick.

“Our staff members embrace patients for who they are,” Garcia said. “We work with them to provide a healthcare plan that allows them to be their best selves.”

To schedule an appointment, call the Allies for Health + Wellbeing clinic at 412-345-7456. ♦

# Doldrums no match for dance party in Lawrenceville

By Nancy Leff *AdvantAGE Program*

## DANCE AWAY THE WINTER BLUES

Stephen Foster Community Center  
286 Main Street  
Sunday March 11th  
2 - 4 pm

Free admission.  
RSVP at [info@LUNITED.org](mailto:info@LUNITED.org) or at 412-802-7220.

*Lawrenceville* - Helping local residents fight the winter doldrums by improving their circulation and meeting some new neighbors, the “Dance Away the Winter Blues” party, is equal parts networking event and seasonal therapy session.

On Sunday, Mar. 11, the party - organized by members of Lawrenceville United’s (LU) AdvantAGE program – will run from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Stephen Foster Community Center (286 Main St.); people of all ages are welcome, especially AdvantAGE members and residents over the age of 55.

“Many people find the winter to be a difficult time. It’s harder to get out of the house and that’s especially true for older adults,” Taro Matsuno, LU’s Community Engagement & Program Manager, said. “We want to give people a reason to come out and spend time with others.”

Refreshments, lawn games, and a photo-booth will complement the dancing by bringing all the warmth and fun of an outdoor garden party indoors to the community center. Led by certified dance instructor Roland Ford, attendees will have the opportunity to learn how to line dance. Ford, who teaches classes around Pittsburgh, recently won the “Academy Award for Line Dancing” in Baltimore; he takes an inclusive approach to helping people of all ages and abilities get into better shape.

AdvantAGE members join the program in order to stay active, continue learning, and socialize with neighbors and local business owners; any Lawrencevillians over the age of 55 are eligible to become an AdvantAGE member for free.

The membership card carries access to a variety of events - including parties, discussions, workshops, films, and more - at no cost. Members also enjoy unique discounts at many neighborhood shops and restaurants. For example, Hambone’s offers a 25% discount on meals for members who dine there on Mondays between 6:30-8:30pm, during its jazzy “Evening Cabaret.”

To RSVP for Dance Away the Winter Blues, or to join AdvantAGE, contact LU at 412-802-7220 or at [Info@LUnited.org](mailto:Info@LUnited.org). ♦

**BELOW:** Students from *The Neighborhood Academy*, in conjunction with *Pittsburgh Youth Leadership (PYL)*, celebrate their December 2017 bike trip along the same historic march route that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. took from Selma to Montgomery, AL in 1965. Photo courtesy of Sheila Rawlings.





# LOCAL REAL ESTATE BLOTTER

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

Real Estate Sales (Dec. 16, 2017 - Jan. 15, 2018)

Compiled by Lillian Denhardt, Howard Hanna Real Estate

## Bloomfield

Cypress Lofts Pgh Lp to Jameson L Taillon at 622 Gross St. Unit 306 for \$451,000.

Dennis J & Jean Carol Donatelli to Howley Development LLC at 4427 Howley St. for \$205,000.

George Keller to K Enterprises LLC Bennett at 248 S Mathilda St. for \$176,500.

John E Dortenzo to Thomas E Jr & Bonnie L Youngs at 340 S Evaline St. for \$300,000.

Lisa A Kolavic to Daniel W Prunzik at 420 Taylor St. for \$140,000.

Penav Inc. to Kn Penn LLC at 4524 Penn Ave. for \$1,800,000.

Robert J & Mary Lou Thompson to John Leventis at 224 Pearl St. for \$153,000.

## Friendship

Jing Xiaotang & Ting Wang to 5535 Centre Avenue Associates LLC at 5535 Centre Ave. Unit 13 for \$216,000.

Wright Capital Investments LLC to Cja Properties LLC at 152 S Fairmount St. for \$525,000.

## Garfield

Barbara English to Tess H Bianchi at 4856 Mossfield Ct. for \$219,500.

Brian Rank to Socorro Holdings LLC at 731 N Atlantic Ave. for \$10,000.

Garfield Jubilee Revitalization Partnership to Hailey Herdinger at 5150 Hillcrest St. for \$82,000.

Ryan Hoelzeman to Socorro Holdings 2 LLC at 5001 Jordan Way for \$20,000.

## East Liberty

Denise Urquhart to Dorita King at 313 N Beatty St. for \$70,000.

Erminia P Palmieri to Tony Palmieri at 355 S Negley Ave. for \$1.

Karen & Benjamin Quaynor to Michael J Studl at 716 N Beatty St. for \$334,000.

US Bank National Association to Patrick J Solomon at 775 Mellon St. for \$177,000.

Ymca LLC to CPR Holdings No 1 LLC at 5916 Penn Ave. for \$3,500,000.

## Lawrenceville

Albert J & Anne M Steckel to Catherine T Sheane at 4830 Plum Way for \$121,000.

Ariane M Burke & Timothy R Finucan to Becky L Jarold at 4611 Plummer St. for \$285,000.

Beth L F Orbison to Christopher B & Maria Kast Carson at 196 36Th St. Unit 3-B for \$365,000.

Brandie Lynn Schivins to Steel Town Properties M3 LLC at 3923 Liberty Ave. for \$100,000.

Daniel J & Jacqueline Longmore to Daniel F Jr Elliott at 246 Fisk St. for \$265,177.

Gosta L Frantz to Big League Construction LLC at 604 52Nd St. for \$250,000.

Joseph A & Dora Damico to Three 3700 Butler Associates LLC at 3700 Butler St. for \$688,332.

M Fletcher Irwin to Macauli Moeini at 3607 Butler St. Unit 400 for \$231,000.

Mahaca Develop Group LLC to Mitul & Zubeyde Sheth at 120 Banner Way for \$285,000.

Mary G Smith to Paul W Smith at 5249 Duncan St. for \$1.

Mccleary Development LLC to Brian K

Forristal at 5267 Holmes St. Unit 402 for \$269,000.

Michael Maher to Cristina Novoa at 3644 Penn Ave. Unit 301 for \$265,000.

Performance Lighting Rentals Inc to Keystone Integrated Care LLC at 211 52Nd St. for \$550,000.

Roy Kowalski to 4Pg Investments LLC at 419 1/2 52Nd St. for \$195,000.

Steel Town Properties M2 LLC to Evan Chontos at 3620 Smallman St. for \$476,450.

Steel Town Properties M2 LLC to Joseph M Cameron at 5303 Wickliff St. for \$298,900.

## Stanton Heights

Alfonso X & Ruth P Donalson to Jacqueline Lester Moten at 5058 Rosecrest Pl for \$1.

Chad M & Carla M O'Brien to Edward G Jr & Marlene E Cox at 1459 Simona Dr for \$210,000.

Develma M Coleman to Gabriel Diamond at 1172 Mccabe St. for \$148,000.

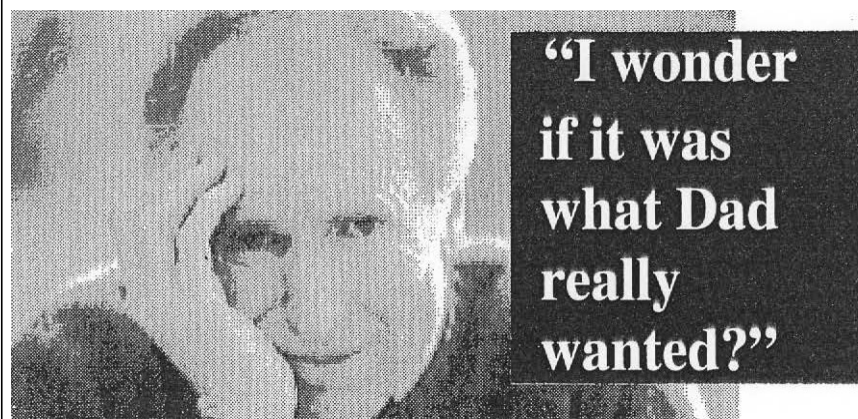
Madalyn Grace Rogers to Madalyn Gottschalk at 1530 Windcrest Dr for \$1.

Morris S & Patricia M Schwartz to Christopher M Vayansky at 951 Millerdale St. for \$65,000.

*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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BulletinBOARD

Local Events

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Gatherings

Fundraisers

Sorry, but we do not accept listings by phone.

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

MARCH 1 - THURSDAY

GARFIELD

Garfield Land Trust Board Meeting

The next board meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Mar. 1, at the Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave. at Dearborn St.). Read more at [GarfieldLandTrust.org](http://GarfieldLandTrust.org) and become a member today. Contact 412-345-3831 or [GarfieldLandTrust@gmail.com](mailto:GarfieldLandTrust@gmail.com). for more info.

MARCH 3 - SATURDAY

EAST LIBERTY

Jazz Performance

Young jazz lions, “Jason Moran and the Bandwagon,” will perform at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater (5941 Penn Ave.) on Saturday, Mar. 3, at 8 p.m. Co - presented by the Kente Arts Alliance, Moran has

found creative inspiration in the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Moran and his bandmates, Tarus Mateen and Nasheet Waits, are known for challenging the status quo while earning reputations as the future faces of jazz. For more information, go to [www.Kelly-Strayhorn.org](http://www.Kelly-Strayhorn.org) or call 412-363-3000.

SHADYSIDE

Vocal Performance

A professed “Southern Gothic songster” based in Johnson City, TN, Amythyst Kiah’s commanding stage presence is only matched by her raw and powerful vocals. Provocative and coolly fierce, Amythyst Kiah crosses the boundaries of blues and old-time music. Opening act, Mark Williams, teaches environmental science - imbued with social justice and self-care - in Pittsburgh schools and writes songs in a style similar to Michael Franti and Ben Harper. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. at First Unitarian Church (605 Morewood Ave.). Tickets cost \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door; \$5 tickets available

with student/reduced income discount.

MARCH 4 - SUNDAY

EAST LIBERTY

Cathedral Concert

The talented faculty members from East Liberty Presbyterian Church’s Hope Academy of Music and the Arts return for another innovative and eclectic concert as part of the “Cathedral Concerts” 2017-2018 season. Join others in the chapel (116 S Highland Ave.) for this free performance on Sunday, Mar. 4, at 3 p.m. Please visit [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church) for more information.

MARCH 9 - FRIDAY

GARFIELD

Fish Fry

Valley View Presbyterian Church (601 North Aiken Ave.) is hosting a fish fry from 1 - 7 p.m. on the following dates: Mar. 9, 16, 23, & 30. Fish dinner (fish , two sides, roll, dessert, and drink) costs \$10; fish sandwich costs \$8. For more info, call 412 -361-0870.

EAST LIBERTY

Dance Performance

“Soil” is a dance theater trio piece conceived by Michael Sakamoto, developed

in collaboration with performers that explore crisis in three Southeast Asian cultures through their personal narratives. Join the dancers on Mar. 9 & 10 as they move through the complexities of identity, and of belonging and displacement. Performances begin at 8 p.m. at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater (5941 Penn Ave.). Sakomoto’s direction manages to make the viewer feel like they are watching a movie in lieu of a dance performance. For more information, go to [www.Kelly-Strayhorn.org](http://www.Kelly-Strayhorn.org) or call 412-363-3000.

MARCH 11 - SUNDAY

GARFIELD

Mime Extravaganza

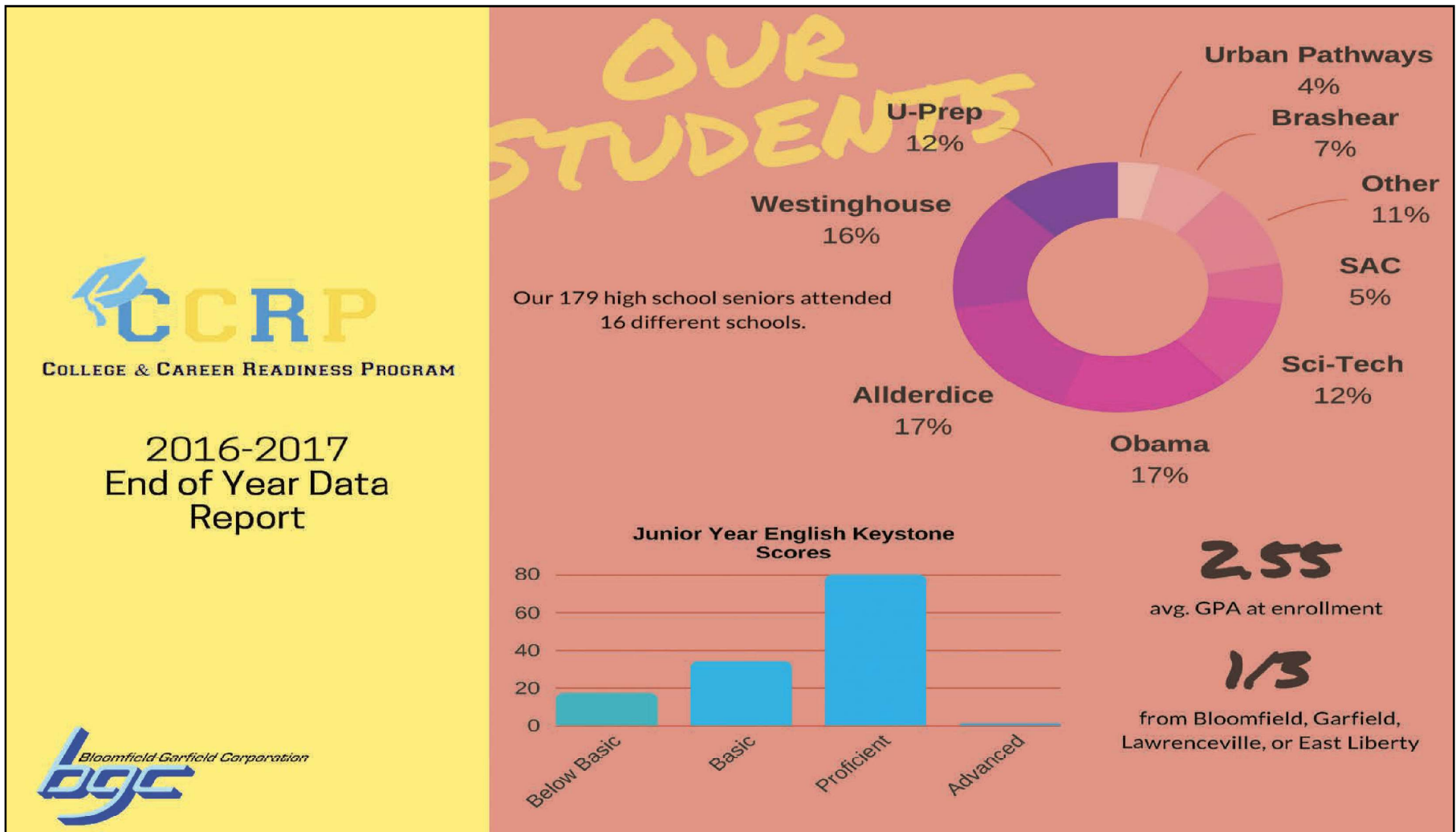
Join everyone at Morningside C.O.G.I.C. (5173 Dearborn St.) on Sunday, Mar. 11, for the “March Mime Extravaganza” at 3:30 p.m. Featuring Joseph Dukes, Jennifer Black, In Touch of Wisdom Friends & Family Mime Ministry, Zalayne Walker (better known as Tuesdays Child), and others. Proceeds will help with the church’s upcoming “Community Outreach Day.” Chicken and fish dinners will be sold in the Fellowship Hall.

MARCH 14 - WEDNESDAY

FRIENDSHIP

FCG Board Meeting

The Friendship Community Group





# Volunteer Opportunities    Announcements    Shout-Outs

## Services    Open Calls    Classifieds

(FCG) will hold its monthly board meeting on Wednesday, March 14, at 7 p.m. at the Pittsburgh Glass Center (5472 Penn Ave.). All board meetings are open to the public; please bring any questions or concerns you may have about the community, or send an email to [fcg@friendship-pgh.org](mailto:fcg@friendship-pgh.org) with anything you would like to have addressed.

### MARCH 15 - THURSDAY

#### EAST LIBERTY

### Religious Dimension of US - Russia Relations

This event at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (616 N Highland Ave.) will focus on the religious dimension of the new aggressiveness and assertiveness of Russia in Syria and the Ukraine, as well as the US elections. Join us on Thursday, Mar. 15, from 7 - 9 p.m. Visit [www.pts.edu/Religious-US-Russian-Relations-2018](http://www.pts.edu/Religious-US-Russian-Relations-2018) to learn more.

### MARCH 17 - SATURDAY

#### GARFIELD

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### "Writing about Place"

Join Creative Nonfiction on Saturday, Mar. 17, for "Writing about Place." Whether writing about local haunts or exotic locations, learn to write and pitch compelling stories. Learn more at [www.creativenonfiction.org/products/writing-about-place](http://www.creativenonfiction.org/products/writing-about-place).

#### EAST LIBERTY

### Youth Ensemble Theatre Production

Come enjoy "Hearts on Hold," an original production created and performed by the "Dreams of Hope theatriQ" Youth Ensemble, at KST's Alloy Studios (5530 Penn Ave.). This play is in response to the gentrification of various neighborhoods where the young performers reside. "Hearts on Hold" is a story of connection and belonging that aims to bring communities together. Performances will be held on Saturday, Mar. 17, and Sunday, Mar. 18. First performance begins at 2 p.m.; second performance begins at 8 p.m. For more information, go to [www.Kelly-Strayhorn.org](http://www.Kelly-Strayhorn.org) or call 412-363-3000.

### MARCH 20 - TUESDAY

#### FRIENDSHIP

### Neighborhood & Environment Meeting

The Neighborhood & Environment Committee of Friendship will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 20, at 7 p.m. at Friendship Perk & Brew (300 S. Pacific Ave.). Volunteers with an interest in maintaining public spaces and neighborhood crime & safety are invited to join.

### MARCH 21 - WEDNESDAY

#### LAWRENCEVILLE

### "Pittsburgh's Mansions" Lecture

The Lawrenceville Historical Society public lecture series continues on March 21 when Melanie Linn Gutowski takes us on a PowerPoint tour of prominent family homes from Pittsburgh's 19th century industrial boom era - as featured in her book, "Pittsburgh's Mansions" from Arcadia Publishing. Heinz, Frick, and Mellon are among the familiar families featured. This free event starts at 6:30 p.m. in the Carnegie Library (279 Fisk St.). No reservations are necessary.

### MARCH 25 - SUNDAY

#### GARFIELD

### Easter Program

Morningside C.O.G.I.C. (5173 Dearborn St.) presents its Easter program, entitled "Nobody Greater!" on Sunday, March 25. The service will begin at 3:30 p.m. Bring your family and friends - and be blessed - as you enjoy the program.

### MARCH 26 - MONDAY

#### GARFIELD

### Assemble Space Camp

Have you ever wanted to build a spaceship and travel to another planet? Would you like to engineer a planet to make it habitable for humans? Children will learn all about extra-terrestrial environments, and the possibility of finding life on other planets, during Space Camp at Assemble (4824 Penn Ave.). March 26 & 27 offer programming for ages 6-7; March 28 & 30 are for ages 8-10.

### MARCH 31 - SATURDAY

#### GARFIELD

### Community Egg Hunt

The Youth Department Of Morningside C.O.G.I.C. (5173 Dearborn St.) will celebrate "Resurrection Day" with a community egg hunt on Saturday, March 31, at 11 a.m. Join the fun - and bring your friends. Refreshments will be served.

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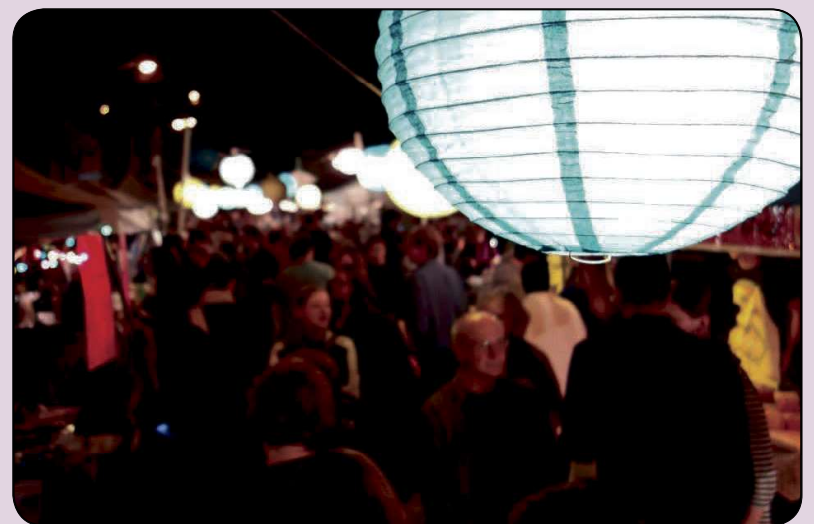
### ONGOING

#### GARFIELD

### Sojourner House

Sojourner House is a licensed Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation Residence where admission is based on determination of need. To be eligible for admission, women must be at least 18 years old and have at least one child age 12 years or younger, or be actively seeking custody of a child, or be pregnant. The program is designed for a six-month stay. Inquiry for admissions should go to 412-441-7783.

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**MAY 4, 2018**



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# "#MeToo" founder conveys pointed advice for Pittsburghers

By Tiffany Parker *Bulletin contributor*

## Op-Ed

*Shadyside* - "Pittsburgh, you deserve protection and safety" is how organizer Tarana Burke concluded her speech on Tuesday, Feb. 6. Speaking in front of a sold-out crowd at Calvary Episcopal Church, Burke - who founded the "#MeToo" movement years before the internet championed her "woke" mantra - was eager to convey her message to area residents.

"If we feel that stories are only valid if CNN reports them, then we have a problem," she said. Inspired to help women and girls, particularly those of color, who had survived sexual violence, Burke looked to Twitter as an open messaging platform in 2006.

Soon thereafter, she began tracking responses on Twitter; although it took years for the #MeToo movement to foment into a national mantra, Burke was ready for action. Last year, when the entertainment industry reached its "we-never-should-have-let-this-happen" breaking point, the work she had been doing for twenty-five years suddenly became a public touchstone. When actress Alyssa Milano tweeted, "#MeToo," Burke immediately thought her work was in jeopardy.

"Oh Lord, all I could think about was how my work was going to be erased," she said. Burke worried that, as a Black woman, her credit would be subjugated and forgotten. While the stories began pouring in, she thought, "This can be a fight."

According to Burke, this Twitter moment motivated a response that was far more inquisitive than it was declarative. "Sensing the pain from all these shared stories, I wondered, 'who is holding space for these people and offering them help?'" she recounted.

One of the most common misconceptions about #MeToo is that it only stands for women, especially famous white women. Now that Burke can readily engage an international audience, she seeks to promote a global community of survivors through social media.



**ABOVE:** Tarana Burke, founder of the "#MeToo" movement, came to Pittsburgh on Tuesday, Feb. 6 to speak about safety and healing, as well as the trials and travails of starting a grassroots movement in the digital age. Photo courtesy of Tiffany Parker.

Empathizing with local victims, she spoke about what Pittsburgh can do for its at-risk populations, stressing that every community member needs to feel safe enough to point out violence and assault when it is happening.

Burke said that, even though sexual violence knows no race, sex, or gender, it goes unreported for a multitude of reasons. For example, if a Black woman reports a violent act in an area otherwise known for violent crime, she might be accidentally jeopardizing her family members. Alternatively, many immigrant families are not reporting violence for fear of being deported. Demographics should hold no bearing on a human being's need for safety, especially in 2018.

"You can't heal in the same community you were harmed. It shouldn't take someone coming into your city for the community to work together," Burke explained. "The voice shouldn't be someone who is not from Pittsburgh." ♦

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