

the Bulletin

A publication of the
Bloomfield-Garfield
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Permit No. 2403

Volume 43, Number 5

MAY
2018

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

412 Food Rescue: mission possible as ever with new app

By Tara Sherry-Torres

412 Food Rescue

Garfield – In responding to the pervasiveness of both food waste and food insecurity in Southwestern Pennsylvania, 412 Food Rescue has become one of the fastest-growing “food recovery” organizations in the country.

Its unique approach addresses these problems through the modern lens of an urban food system, aggressively attacking waste at each stage of the food supply’s value chain.

“412 Food Rescue was founded to address the big disconnect between the amount of food we waste and the fact that there is so much food insecurity in our country,” co-founder Leah Lizardon explained. “We lose 40% of our food; on the other side, 42 million Americans often do not know where their next meal will come from.”

See **412 Food Rescue** | page 4



ABOVE: Ray Quintanar (left) serves lunchtime customers from the “Taquitos” food truck at N. Winebiddle St. and Penn Ave. After waiting all year for good weather, Quintanar and his son, Fernando, brought the truck back to Garfield in March to unveil their new look and vegetarian-friendly menu. Read the “Neighborhood Focus” on page 8 to learn more. Photo by John Colombo.



ABOVE: Musicians from the Steel City Ukeles perform at the 2017 Friendship, Flower, & Folk Festival (a.k.a. “F4”) in Baum Grove. Read more about this year’s festivities at right. Photo courtesy of Ellen DiBiase.

Friendship, Flowers, Folks & Festival: “F4”

By Ellen DiBiase Friendship Community Group

Friendship - What began twenty-one years ago as a small, springtime strawberry festival has now become Friendship’s premiere community event. The Friendship Flower & Folk Festival, affectionately known by neighbors as “F4”, is held each year in close proximity to Mother’s Day. This year’s festival will be held on Saturday, May 12, from 11 am to 4 pm (rain or shine).

F4 welcomes people of all ages to engage in a variety of activities at the Baum Grove parklet - located at the intersection of Roup Ave., Harriet & S. Fairmont Sts. Festivities will include flower sales, live demonstrations, kids’ activities, food vendors, and musical acts.

Dutch MacDonald, one of the event’s vice-chairs/organizers, emphasized just how much “this is now a festival for the entire community.” “Not just our residents within the boundaries of Friendship,” he said, “but all of our surrounding neighbors who wish to join us in the park for a laid-

See **F4** | page 7

- **PAGE 6** - READ ABOUT THE FARMERS
MARKETS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

LEARN HOW THE SCIENCE FICTION
PLAYS OUT AT PENN PLAZA - **PAGE 13** -

Sixty days later, questions remain about the Broad St. landslide

By P.J. Maloney Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - According to two independent engineering reports, a city demolition project in the 5400 block of Broad St. forced an additional load of soil and other materials onto the adjacent hillside last summer.

Neither report explicitly points the finger at the demolition project, but both leave the question of who's to blame pretty open to interpretation.

In the meantime, two families have been barred from entering their homes since late February because of the land-

slide. The city has declared these houses "uninhabitable" due to a perceived threat that the hillside might give way again.

"These families are getting help from the mayor's office to find alternative living arrangements," Rick Swartz, executive director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), said. "At the same time, we're doing all we can to make sure these families safely get back in their homes and recover their losses."

A report, commissioned by the BGC

and prepared by Garvin Boward Beitko Engineering, stated that "the demolition of a dwelling at 5472 Broad St. by a city contractor last summer, and 'the poorly performed razing' of a garage on the lot, added weight to the hillside."

"Contributing to the added weight," the report stated, "was the fact that the garage was pushed over the hillside and truckloads of soil were transported to the site and dumped over the garage rubble."

The parking lot at the bottom of the hillside, behind the Fairmont Apartments on Penn Ave., is owned by the Pittsburgh Housing Authority. According to a report that the Housing Authority commissioned from The Gateway Engineers, "there is a high probability... that the demolition of the [5472 Broad St.] dwelling and the garage resulted in lowered bearing capacity" to support the hillside.

Engineers and lawyers are trying to prove how the landslide could have been set in motion by the tonnage from the city's demolition project.

The BGC, on behalf of the families who are barred from their homes, has hired attorney Michael Cremonese to investigate the cause of the landslide - with the intent of seeking reparation for damages. As of mid-March, two of the four displaced families have been able to move back into their homes.

The BGC's engineering consultant is continuing to meet with the two remaining families to find a pathway for them to be able to return to their homes.

Thanks to the fundraising efforts of local businesses and individual donors, the BGC has helped raise more than \$11,000 to aid these families in their fight to return to their homes. ♦



ABOVE: A landslide behind homes in the 5400 block of Broad St. begs many questions. The wall that was torn down last summer, as part of a city demolition project at 5472 Broad St., is now (temporarily) situated downhill. Photo by John Colombo.

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PGC invites youths to “Play by the Fire”

By Nina Gibbs Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation



ABOVE: Protective goggles cannot mask the excitement on the faces of teenagers enjoying “Play by the Fire” at the Pittsburgh Glass Center (PGC). This year’s event runs from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 12. Photo courtesy of PGC.

Garfield - The Pittsburgh Glass Center (PGC, 5472 Penn Ave.) is heating things up this year to engage more youths with its unique programming.

Providing opportunities for youths to learn about the art of glass-blowing, the center hosts summer sessions for high school students, class residencies, free daily demonstrations, and other special events and exhibits in the gallery. Many of these opportunities are free for Garfield youths; scholarships are also available.

Partnering with other local arts organizations, PGC will present “Play by the Fire” on Saturday, May 12, from 6 to 9 p.m. This annual, teen-only art event encourages young people (ages 13 – 18) to converge, collaborate, and try new techniques together at PGC.

Furnace-fired pizzas, s’mores, and other treats will be made-to-order. From screen-printing to glass making, attendees can enjoy opportunities to make art with several local organizations like Assemble, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Museum of Art, Union Project, Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, The Andy Warhol Museum, and The Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh.

Youths can register online at www.pittsburghglasscenter.org or by calling 412-365-2145. The cost is \$5 per person; Garfield youths are eligible to receive a discounted admission. ♦

Celebrating 23 years of serving the community. Thanks for your continued support!



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the Bulletin

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Volume 43, Number 5

Deadline for the June issue is **Monday, May 14.**

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

Total Circulation 21,300 Total Copies • 18,000 Mailed • 3,300 Bulk Distributed

Staff Andrew McKeon, Editor • John Colombo, Staff Photographer • Rick Swartz, Proofreading • Pamela Schön, Office Manager • Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Printing & Mailing • USPS, Home Delivery • 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 (BGC) 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, *The Bulletin's* advertisers, and all BGC members for their ongoing support and assistance.



Join us! Get to know the Environmental Charter School with Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation!

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THE BULLETIN WANTS YOUR FEEDBACK!

This publication begins and ends with you, the community members, so we respectfully invite your opinions and insights.

Please contact our tip-line/suggestion box:

Bulletin@Bloomfield-Garfield.org.

412 Food Rescue continued from page 1

BELOW: Volunteer Mercedes Williams (right) and her family rescue fresh produce to deliver it to a community-based nonprofit. Photo courtesy of 412 Food Rescue.



Since its 2015 launch, the organization has recovered more than 3 million pounds of surplus food from at least 430 food donors, redirecting the food to a network comprised of nearly 500 nonprofit partners. Food recovery of this scale could not have been accomplished, however, without the aid of over 1,000 volunteers (a.k.a. "Food Rescue Heroes").

412 Food Rescue builds relationships with food donors - local restaurants, grocery stores, or farmer's markets - who contact the organization when they have surplus food to donate. This donation is then matched up with a nonprofit partner organization that serves individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. Using technology to overcome the logistical challenges of retail food recovery, the new

"412 Food Rescue Hero" app helps volunteers easily sign up for a food rescue shift. It allows people to help the cause in a flexible way that jibes with their schedule.

Each rescue takes about thirty minutes to one hour and is located within an average radius of five miles from the volunteer. The app is available on both Android and iPhone app stores; once a potential Food Rescue Hero downloads the app and registers, they will begin to receive food rescue notifications on their phone.

If they have some free time and the destination is within a reasonable driving distance, a volunteer can "accept" the rescue and then, using details sent directly to their phone, complete the rescue mission. The new app is mak-

ing it easier for anyone and everyone to become Food Rescue Heroes with just a tap of the finger. For those volunteers who do not own a car or other means of transportation, the organization provides free transportation through its partnerships with ZipCar and HealthyRide.

Already in league with several donors and nonprofits in Garfield, 412 Food Rescue looks to expand its engagement along Penn Ave. As the new technology streamlines rescue missions for donors and volunteers alike, more partners - like Gluten Free Goat Bakery & Café (4905 Penn Ave.) - are stepping up to lend a hand.

Every week, owner Jeanette Harris generously donates surplus vegan and gluten free goods to the cause. Thanks to the Food Rescue Hero app, these goods can now be quickly ferried over to local, community-serving organizations like The Neighborhood Academy and Sojourner House.

Addressing what she deems "a moral problem," Lizarondo is steadfast about her commitment to combating food waste and food insecurity in Pittsburgh. "We feed landfills better than we feed people and that's unacceptable," she asserted. "We have to do something

about it and 412 Food Rescue gives us all a way to do that."

Anyone interested in learning more about the organization and its partnerships can visit www.412FoodRescue.org. Potential volunteers can simply search for "412 Food Rescue" in their phone's app store, then download the app and register as a Hero to start receiving notifications for nearby rescues.

For more information, email Tara@412foodrescue.org or call 412-573-9490. ♦

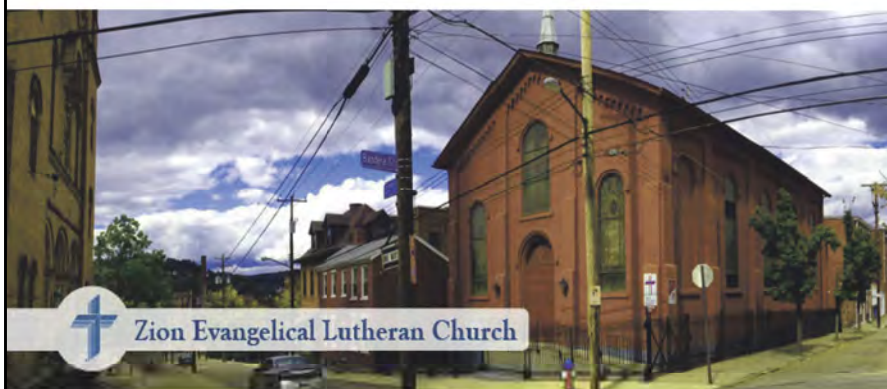
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PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

By Nina Gibbs Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - Zone 5 Commander Jason Lando, along with Commander Victor Joseph of the Major Crimes unit, are working diligently to address crime in the area - and they need input from local community members. By conducting targeted surveillance of known crime areas - and also engaging with residents and community leaders on the Public Safety Task Force - Zone 5 police are trying to approach neighborhood crime from all angles.

Aided by the new infrastructure and street-lighting in the 4800 to 5100 block of Penn Ave., these initiatives might be contributing to a reported downturn in violent incidents in the first quarter of 2018. However, Garfield is still home to a number of murder cases that have not yet been closed, some of which have been under investigation for years. Whether due to an absence of witnesses or evidence, or because witnesses may fear retribution if they come forward, many cases remain unsolved. Going back to 2010, eight of the murders that have occurred in Garfield are active cases - and Zone 5 detectives are still searching for leads.

These open murder cases concern the deaths of the following individuals: Kala Thomas (May 23, 2017); Ahmad Foreman (Jan 15, 2017); Dalon Williams (Sept 12, 2016); William Wilson (Aug 27, 2016); Carlos Clark (Dec 24, 2015); Michael Andrews (Jan 23, 2013); Rudolph Freeman (Oct 21, 2012); LaJuane Pendelton (July 18, 2010).

Any readers with information about these cases - or any homicide, robbery, burglary, or sex crime - may contact the Major Crimes unit at 412-323-7800. ♦

FARMERS MARKET SEASON IS HERE!

Support your local farmers and vendors at your neighborhood farmers market and get the freshest fruits and vegetables in the city. SNAP benefits/EBT cards are welcome. For every \$5 spent using your EBT card, receive an extra \$2 voucher to spend on fruits & vegetables. Credit/debit cards will also be accepted.

On Mondays, from May 14 through Nov. 19, the East Liberty Farmers Market will be held on North Euclid and Station St, from 3 to 7 p.m.

On Saturdays, from May 19 through Oct. 27, the Bloomfield Saturday Market will be held at 5050 Liberty Ave. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (see article below).

On Saturdays, from Jun. 2 through Oct. 27, the Lawrenceville Farmers Market will be held at Arsenal Park (40th and Butler Sts.) from 1 to 4 p.m.

Try samples from the farmers and taste the deliciousness!

To find more local market locations, visit www.justharvest.org/fresh-access.

Bloomfield Saturday Market returns for fifth season on Liberty Ave.

By Sarah Loser Bloomfield Development Corp.

Bloomfield - On Saturday, May 19, the Bloomfield Saturday Market will open for its fifth consecutive season at 5050 Liberty Ave.

This year, thanks to a generous donation from West Penn Hospital and Allegheny Health Network, the Aspen Garage at 5120 Liberty Ave. will offer free parking to market patrons.

Every Saturday, the neighborhood market brings farmers, local food producers, prepared food vendors, and artists together to create a festival atmosphere - complete with live music and activities for all ages. The summer season runs for twenty-four weeks, from May 19 to Oct. 27; the market is open every Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine.

Created in 2014, the market began as a Bloomfield Development Corp. (BDC) program aiming to provide the local community with a neighborhood gathering place for accessible health and wellness education.

Half a decade later, the Bloomfield Saturday Market attracts over 1,200 patrons from around the greater Pittsburgh region each week - along with

upwards of forty-five weekly vendors that sell fresh produce, ready-made foods, handmade goods, and more.

In addition to vendors, BDC invites collaborations with other nonprofits via special events programming like "Kids' Day," which goes down every first Saturday of the month and features engaging, creative, and educational activities for the market's youngest fans.

On the fourth Saturday of every month, "Be Our Neighbor Days" activities help visitors become volunteers; folks can learn how to get involved, sign up for a clean-up of the business district, and donate their time to participate in a neighborhood swap fair.

Now that the Aspen Garage is available to market patrons, they can enjoy more parking options without depriving local residents of their normal parking spots. At both the Gross St. and Winebiddle St. entrances, volunteer market staff will be available to assist patrons crossing Liberty Ave. and help anyone carry bags to the garage.

Visit www.bloomfieldnow.org to learn more about the Bloomfield Saturday Market. ♦



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“LU wants you”: Lawrenceville United seeks new members, board candidates

By Taro Matsuno *Lawrenceville United*

Lawrenceville - From May 7 through May 11, Lawrenceville United (LU) will be actively recruiting new members and volunteers during its first ever “Membership Week.”

In concert with the membership drive, LU will host an open-to-the-public happy hour at Franktuary (3810 Butler St) from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 9. Membership Week is intended to welcome new members to join, and to thank existing members for all they have done.

“We are the inclusive, nonprofit, resident advocacy organization for Lawrenceville,” Dave Breingan, LU’s executive director, proclaimed. “Whether it’s planting trees, volunteering in our schools, attending block watches, or advocating for affordable housing, our strength comes from the support of the residents who give their time to improve quality of life for all.”

Over the last year - with the help of its membership and volunteers - LU has created new deck hockey and four-square courts, as well as a sensory garden, at Lawrenceville’s Duncan Park.

LU members have also played an active role in encouraging responsible neighborhood growth; they advocated for creating a separate fund for affordable housing in Upper Lawrenceville, a fund that is forecasted to receive more than \$1 million over the next ten years.

“We’re making a concerted effort this year to recruit new members and board candidates,” LU Board President Cory Ricci said. “We’re looking for board members with a variety of skills and backgrounds, not necessarily those with the most prior experience on non-profit boards.”

LU’s Board of Directors recently spearheaded initiatives centered on diversity, inclusion, and equity. According to board member Phoebe Irwin, “[LU’s] aim is to become an organization that reflects the diversity of Lawrenceville by making space for more voices: people of color, older adults, parents of school-age children, long- and short-term residents, renters, and homeowners.”

She explained that the organization has contracted the services of a local consulting firm. “We have engaged Just Collaboration - which is based in our neighborhood - to help us assess the current state of diversity, lead trainings, and identify actionable steps to move us towards our vision.”

Lawrenceville residents that have been LU members for more than six months are eligible to run for an LU Board of Directors seat; the application deadline is Thursday, May 10. Call 412-802-7220, visit www.LUUnited.org/about/membership, or email info@LUUnited.org to learn more. ♦

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F4 *continued from page 1*

back, family-friendly event.”

Over the past two years, Mr. MacDonald has been working on the event alongside second vice-chair Julie Grove and Dr. Martha Terry, current President of the Friendship Community Group (FCG) and long-standing Festival chairperson.

Sharing their histories of leadership within the neighborhood’s various community groups, the organizers can now reflect fondly on how F4 has grown over the years. In its first incarnation as a simple strawberry festival, the annual event drew up to 100 guests; these days, the festival hosts upwards of 500 to 700 guests every year.

Entertainment acts slated for this year include the Pittsburgh Raging Grannies, Sunburst School of Music, and a belly dancing demonstration. Since moving from the Pittsburgh Montessori school grounds over to Baum Grove, the festival has expanded its array of music and dance performances.

Baum Grove’s outdoor amphitheater, which has become F4’s focal point of late, provides the ideal backdrop. Guests can bring their own chairs and blankets to comfortably sit in the park and enjoy an afternoon of acoustic folk and bluegrass music on the lawn. As part of a pre-sale at www.friendship-pgh.org, customers can go online to place flower orders available for pick-up during the festival; offering perennials, vegetable plants, herbs, and hanging baskets, the pre-sale runs through May 5.

During the festival on May 12, even more plants will be available for sale - alongside food, crafts, and a book sale. Raffles for both adults and children will feature prizes donated by area residents and businesses. Local organizations, like Bike Pittsburgh and Burgh Bees, will also be on hand to get the word out about the services they can offer to local community members.

Proceeds from F4, which generated over \$3,000 last year, go towards the upkeep of Baum Grove. The Festival is made possible by a combination of funding from local sponsors like Diggins Builders and Green Light Wireless, as well as a “Community Festival Grant” from Citiparks. For more information, please visit friendship-pgh.org/f4. ♦

Volunteers celebrate Earth Day, help plant trees in Garfield

BELOW: Volunteers pay attention to the expert techniques of arborists from Tree Pittsburgh in preparation for a Garfield tree planting on Saturday, Apr. 21. Thanks to the volunteer crew’s hard work and determination, dozens more trees are laying roots throughout the neighborhood. Photo by Nina Gibbs.



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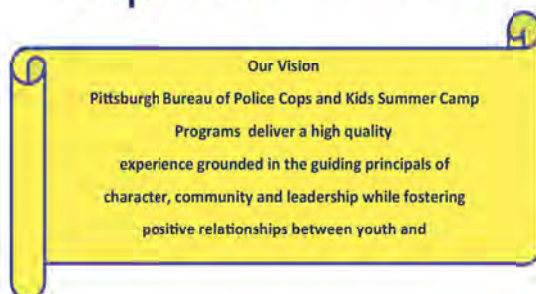
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2018 Cops And Kids Summer Camp Program



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Camps Session #2- University of Pittsburgh - July 23rd thru July 27th

Camp Session #3 - CCAC/Northside Campus - July 30th - August 3rd

Camp Session #4 - Chatham University - August 6th - 10th

Applications can be mailed to Youth Programs, 1203 Western Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. 15233 or faxed to 412- 323-7830.

Applications are available at local police stations or download at: <http://pittsburghpa.gov/police/community-policing/cops-kids.html>

If you have additional questions please contact Youth Program at 412-323-7821/ 412-323-7853 or 412-295-4890

Applications can be requested at : PBP-youthprograms@pittsburghpa.gov

DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTING APPLICATION - MAY 15, 2018

Neighborhood FOCUS

“Taquitos”: same truck, new flavors for Penn Ave.

By Andrew McKeon *The Bulletin*

Garfield - The “Taquitos” food truck and its new paint job - which catches one’s gaze at the corner of N. Winebiddle St. and Penn Ave. - is not just a run-of-the-mill food truck, and its origin story is anything but ordinary.

When Ray Quintanar, his wife Elizabeth, and their son Fernando emigrated from Mexico in 2000, it was because Ray needed to undergo eye surgery that could not be performed in his native country.

The Quintanars ended up in New Jersey, where Ray’s grandmother lived, for the duration of his medical procedure. As Fernando recalled, “By the time my father was done with the surgery and recovery, we had already been in America for two full years. So it was kind of like, ‘we’re already here, so what do we do now?’”

Nearly two decades later, the Quintanar family is running its own mobile eatery in Pittsburgh. Ray opened up the taco truck last year with his uncle, Edgar Alvarez of “Taco Loco” and “Edgar’s Best Tacos” fame. While operating the truck under his uncle’s well-recognized brand for one season, Ray was able to get to know the local foot traffic and gather feedback on menu items before he re-branded the truck, complete with a whole new menu and paint job, for 2018.

“Our menu has changed dramatically because, in the Garfield neighborhood, we serve a lot of vegetarians and people who want to try new things.”

- Fernando Quintanar, Taquitos food truck

When not stationed at its regular post in Garfield, the truck is set up for shop at various events and festivals throughout the city. Over the last year, while they have been learning how to drive the kitchen rig around town, Ray and Fernando have also been learning how drive more sales in a saturated market. “There are so many food trucks in the city and a lot of the trucks are almost the same thing,” Fernando said. “There’s a lot of taco trucks, so we try to be different.”

The driving force behind their new menu, which features more variety and lower prices, is a shift from six-inch to four-inch tortillas. Hence, the new

BELOW: During a busy lunch-hour in April, Ray Quintanar (left) and his son, Fernando, show off their handiwork at the Taquitos taco truck in Garfield. The truck’s revamped menu opens up new palettes and possibilities on Penn Ave. Photo by John Colombo.



name, “Taquitos”; the term refers to both a rolled, fried tortilla and also a mere “small taco” - both of which are available at the truck.

“A \$3 taco is reasonable for some people, but not for me. I can usually eat six tacos at a time, so that price is too high for us,” Fernando explained. “When we went with a different tortilla size, it changed up the whole concept to help us offer lower prices.”

During an Apr. 21 food truck round-up in Millvale, Fernando and his father served over 500 hungry customers. Although the everyday numbers at their normal spot on Penn Ave. are not usually as robust, the Quintanars credit Garfield and its lunchtime palette for enhancing their business strategies.

“We first started going up to Penn Ave. with the truck on First Fridays. Then, as we became more popular and customers began asking for more, we decided to rent the lot [at N. Winebiddle St. and Penn Ave.] and it just picked from there,” Fernando explained. “Since then, our menu has changed dramatically because, in the Garfield neighborhood, we serve a lot of vegetarians and people who want to try new things.”

- continued on next page -



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- continued from page 8 -

Last year's menu featured primarily meat options but, after a winter sojourn to Elizabeth's hometown of Guadalajara, Mexico, Ray and his son set out to bring the region's rustic flavors and classic, meatless dishes to Garfield.

"One of the biggest surprises this year is how much people love the *nopales*, a cactus salad," Fernando said. "A lot of people are now tasting it for the first time and loving it."

As he opens up the taco truck window every morning, Fernando understands the greater importance of his family's work. "We're opening a window for people to try what's outside of their comfort zones," he noted.

Eventually, the Quintanars will open up their full concept of "Rincon Mexicano," a little Mexican corner market featuring a dessert truck (think: "churros" and "tres leches") and a stage for musical performers. "We want to provide an area where people can just come relax outside while they learn about Mexican culture," Fernando said. "The best way to do that is through food."

Most customers were not comfortable with the truck's new look when they saw it for the first time this year. "At first, people thought we were a different truck and they got a little angry. So, we explained, 'It's the same truck. It just keeps getting better,'" Fernando said. "Our truck is just like the community here in Garfield. The past was rough, but everybody's adjusting very well to the changes. We are, too, as we try to give back to our new community." ♦

Lawrenceville Land Trust well underway, connecting with new homeowners

By Julia Pascale *Lawrenceville Corporation*

Lawrenceville - In accordance with the Tenth Ward community plan, Lawrenceville Corporation (LC) is currently working to advance "Housing for All" in the neighborhood.

The keystone of this work is the development of Pittsburgh's first community land trust. Lawrenceville's Community Land Trust (CLT) has now closed on three homes; two more closings are scheduled, and two other homes are still for sale. These homes are clustered around the corner of Duncan St. and McCandless Ave. in the Tenth Ward.

The CLT provides permanently affordable housing to people who earn less than 80% of area median income. For a single-tenant household, the annual income cutoff is \$42,600; two tenants is \$48,650; three tenants is \$54,750; and four tenants is \$60,800.

As Daylin Chatley, the CLT's first homeowner, attested, "buying with a CLT is amazing because of the afford-

ability and the ability to be able to own a home. It really is everything that I want when it comes to the home-buying experience."

"I also like that if/when I chose to sell the home," he continued. "It will be going to someone else who is in the same situation as I am in. Being in my late 20s, in the current Lawrenceville housing market, I never thought it could be an option to buy, but the CLT gives me a chance to be a home owner."

Later this year, LC will put more CLT homes on the market. Funding for these renovated homes has already been obtained from the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the Heinz Endowments, and Pennsylvania Housing Financing Authority.

In order to apply for one of the last two available homeownership opportunities, submit an intake form at www.LVpgh.com/CLT or call 412-621-1616 (ext. 103) for more information. ♦

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for the latest neighborhood information and community updates

Module brings “incremental housing” to East End

By Elizabeth Sensky *East Liberty Development, Inc.*

BELOW: Module’s “flat-top” design allows homeowners to pursue their dreams more incrementally, as their lives and budgets grow. Graphic courtesy of Module.



East Liberty – Module, a new Pittsburgh startup setting out to transform the way people think about housing, operates under the mantra of “redesigning homeownership for the 21st century.”

Based out of AlphaLab Gear, a startup accelerator program in East Liberty, Module’s idea is to create “build-as-you-go” housing. The strategy enables homebuyers to buy a house that literally grows with their lives and budgets.

“Customers can start as small as they like, then build on at any point,” CEO and founder of Module, Brian Gaudio, explained. The idea came to Gaudio when he was in South America filming a documentary on the global housing crisis called “Within Formal Cities.”

“The inspiration came from seeing this ‘pay-as-you-go’ model for building homes,” he said. “I witnessed multiple innovations that I felt were ripe for use in the US, including this idea of “incremental housing.”

Incremental housing is not an entirely new concept; the idea can be traced back to the 1970s and the prevalence of “site and services/core house projects” among development agencies. Yet, unlike with previous models, Gaudio plans to offer homebuyers a full-service experience.

Once a customer makes a reservation, Module staff members will search for an appropriate lot (if the client does not already own one), then source the parts and contractors. The homes can be constructed modularly (finished boxes built in a warehouse and shipped to the site) or via a panelized system (walls, floors, and roofs built offsite, then flat-packed and shipped to the site).

The financing is flexible, Gaudio said, so that customers can wait until they are able to afford an addition. Planning a partnership with a large national bank to provide construction and permanent financing loans, along with the capability to execute a home equity line of credit., the company is looking to launch several units in the East End in 2018.

“Affordability is a long-term goal for our company and we are in discussions with the City of Pittsburgh and a number of organizations, including the Hazelwood Initiative, who we can partner with to build affordable housing,” Gaudio noted.

“As we continue to develop our designs and scale up our operations with local partners, our costs will decrease; these savings will eventually be passed along to the customers.”

Engaging with the affordability discussion further, Module hosted a panel discussion on April 6 entitled, “Shaping Equitable Development: Design as Activism,” as a part of Inclusive Innovation Week. “We had roughly 50 people in attendance, who were deeply engaged in the conversation among the panelists. There were several shared moments of laughter and applause,” Gaudio said. “Surprisingly, no one in the panel and almost no one in the audience had heard of the phrase ‘If it’s not for all, it’s not for us,’ – a phrase used widely in Pittsburgh’s Amazon bid and by the mayor at various speaking engagements.”

Acknowledging that the topic of “equitable development” is an important one, given the ongoing development projects happening in the city, Gaudio emphasized that attendees and panel members were only able to scratch the surface.

“Future conversations around equitable development will need to take into account how wages influence housing needs, along with access to food and resources, and other factors,” he said. “It’s important to remember the difference between equality and equity when talking about affordable housing. The price point for “affordable housing” varies greatly depending on the neighborhood.”

Module is currently accepting reservations for homes. Fielding price inquiries on an individual basis, the company will release pricing on its website later this year. Visit www.modulehousing.com to learn more. ♦

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Local Law Firm Reveals the 3 Costly Mistakes Families Make in Their Estate Plans

Will your family be one of those casualties? Attend this seminar and immediately discover how you can protect your family's future.

By Colin B. May, J.D.
ESTATE PLANNING ATTORNEY

THE FUNERAL is only the start of your family's problems. Even though you've worked hard your entire life and saved up something you'd like to pass on to your family, they may end up with nothing. You can spare your family a second round of grief. Keep reading and I'll share just 3 critical reasons your family may be facing difficulties.

My name is Colin May, and I have reviewed many wills and trusts here in Pennsylvania. Recent legal trends cause me great concern. In this article, I'd like to highlight just some of the issues which may affect your family.

Lost in Probate Court

Chances are high your estate is going to wind up in probate court. In probate court they decide if your will is valid, try to settle disputes, distribute your assets to your heirs, and settle any outstanding issues. Probate court is a very lengthy process and it may take several years until your will clears probate.

Another problem with probate is its public nature. Everything about your will is in the public record so virtually anyone from an angry distant relative to someone out to cheat your family has access to every single detail of your finances.

Finally, your heirs don't get their share of your estate until Uncle Sam and the lawyers get their share, which can be very expensive.

But there is a way to pass on your entire estate, regardless of its size, to your loved ones while legally avoiding probate. I'll show you how to do this at an upcoming free seminar.

Not Protecting Yourself Or Your Estate

You've worked hard your entire life and you'd like to pass on your estate to your loved ones. But unless you quickly take action, there may be nothing left for your family.

Statistics reveal you are six times more likely to become disabled before you die. The US Government Census Bureau expects the disability rate to double in the next decade.

Yet most people plan their wills for what will take place after their death. This is a serious mistake.

Very frequently we see plans people have made for their heirs become undone because of the need for longterm nursing care. This year the national average for a nursing home stay is almost \$71,000 per year. It's been reported that more than 500,000 seniors a year go broke because of these longterm care costs.

Before Medicaid picks up a dime, your assets may be exhausted. You may die and leave nothing to your heirs.

Not Protecting Your Family

Most people fear once they're gone their spouse and kids will be taken advantage of by creditors, lawsuits or divorce, or squander the estate with foolish financial decisions. Most wills and trusts I've examined do nothing to protect against these risks.

Many wills and trusts give your assets outright to your heirs when you and your spouse are gone. This is a huge mistake. If one of your goals in establishing a trust was to protect your family, your work may have been in vain.

There are three principal issues of concern with regard to protecting your family.

Skyrocketing Divorce Rate

With the divorce rate hovering at 50%, you cannot afford to ignore another very real danger. In Pennsylvania, a divorcing spouse can walk away with 50% of your assets if things are not properly handled. You worked your entire life to build up a nest egg and planned carefully to make sure it was transferred into the right hands. You don't want a sizeable chunk of it to end up in the hands of a "soon to be ex" in-law.

Irresponsible Behavior

Sometimes protecting your family means protecting individual members from their own irresponsible behavior. Perhaps there is a young person in your family who has not fully matured yet and may take the money you saved and squander it in one afternoon.

Parents fear cases where someone got their share of a trust that was designed to protect them and spent it all on a fast imported car, drove recklessly, and ended up losing the balance in the lawsuits that followed.

There are simple ways around this problem we will detail at our free seminar.

Special Needs Relatives

If you have a child or grandchild with special needs and this child inherits wealth from your estate—all of the government benefits will stop immediately. Your gift may cause them a double problem—first the loss of services and then, when their money rapidly runs out, the inability to arrange for a resumption of government services. We'll show you how you can look after your special needs family member even after you are gone.

Free Seminar Reveals a Better Way

If you are concerned about making sure the money you've earned goes to your loved ones without going through probate you owe it to yourself to attend our up-coming Free Comprehensive Planning Seminar.

At the seminar, I'll highlight some of the most common risks you'll want to consider and show you how to protect yourself and your family.

Here's What You'll Discover

I'd like to invite you to join me at an upcoming Comprehensive Planning presentation.

In this 90-minute seminar, you'll find out what a "bare-bones" estate plan is and how dangerous it can be for your family.

I'll highlight some of the most common risks you want to consider and show you how to protect yourself and your family.

The most common remark after these seminars is that most people are amazed at how exposed their family was. Some people might even be a little angry their planner didn't advise them of many of these issues.

The good news is that it's not too late to fix the problem and get the real peace of mind you deserve.

This is purely an educational presentation... you will not be sold anything at the seminar. Of course we do expect some people will find their current arrangements do not protect their family and we will offer a free, no obligation personal consultation if you discover a need to make a change in your plans.

Reserve Your Place Now!



YOUR FAMILY'S troubles only start with the funeral. Even if you think you've taken care of your family with a will or a living trust, recent legal activity shows your family could lose most or all of your estate. Our free seminar will reveal if your family is at risk and how to fix the problem if they are.

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*"I was in so much **Back Pain** and was told my only option was to be on medication, but that wasn't true. I now have a great quality of life."*

-Jennifer M. (39 yrs. old Lawrenceville, PA)



"So I have been suffering with low back pain for 5 years and I had done what every doctor has told me: 'Take this anti-inflammatory and pain medication and rest.' So of course I followed the instructions but my pain got worse. I was then sent to more specialized doctors for more tests and was told that I had a pinched nerve and to avoid all movements that caused pain. I was placed on more medication, but fortunately, I was told that I did not need surgery. At least that was good!

I was then sent to pain management and given shots. I had so much hope, but the pain was back with a vengeance in just a short amount of time and then there were no answers. It's really easy to get confused and fed up. If this didn't work the first time then I wasn't going to have them give me more shots!

So I did what anyone would do... I went on the internet and searched different ways to treat back pain other than medications and shots. I tried 'home remedies' that I found, but they didn't help much. Then I came across a voucher for a "free discovery visit" with Dr. Brittany Lowe DPT who is a physical therapist. I have to tell you, this visit changed my life.

Dr. Lowe spent 30 minutes of one-on-one time with me during the free visit, listening to how I've spent the last few years dealing with this excruciating pain. The thing that impressed me the most was that she was the first person that was completely honest with me. She told me that if she could not help me that she would TELL ME. That is all I wanted.

Well, thank goodness that she could help me because I am completely pain-free, and back to running, hiking, biking and playing with my children in ways that I haven't been able to in over 5 years. This was all without taking prescription medication, shots, or surgery. So why didn't anyone tell me this first instead of going through taking all the medications and shots?

I wish that I would have come to see Dr. Lowe first. I did not need a referral to see her and I got an appointment within 24 hours of my call. I will continue to go to her first for any orthopedic complaint from now on. I highly encourage anyone to take the free discovery visit if this is offered in the future, it completely changed my life."

-Jennifer M. (39 years-old, Lawrenceville, PA)

We hear stories like this so often in our practice. It's interesting how often people are told to "take this anti-inflammatory and pain medication and rest" without any physical training or hands on treatment to fix the underlying issue and prevent it from happening again. We want to help you take charge of your health and to provide you with the tools to help you make informed decisions to improve your quality of life.

This month only Dr. Lowe is providing the opportunity to come in for a **"Free Discovery Visit"** for any muscle, joint or pain condition when you call her at **(412) 228-5843** and use the special code: **#DISCOV498**. Due to scheduling space, this is only limited to the first 15 people who call.

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"People's Spa Day" offers relief at Irma Freeman Center

By Taia Pandolfi *Bulletin contributor*

Garfield - On Sunday, May 20, the Irma Freeman Center for Imagination (5006 Penn Ave.) will host a day of holistic care known as the "People's Spa Day." This popular, returning event features over fifteen licensed wellness professionals who offer services ranging from acupuncture to *Shiatsu* massage.

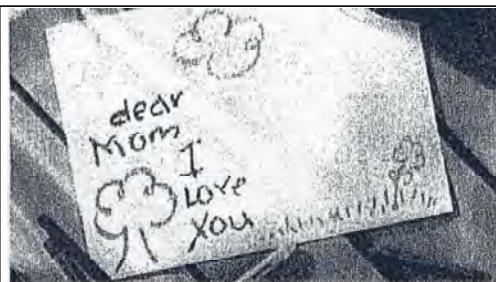
The People's Spa Day also functions as a fundraiser for the work of a national volunteer group known as the "Stone Cabin Collective." Members of the collective stand in solidarity with the Dine (Navajo) residents of Black Mesa, AZ, who are resisting forced relocation in the face of massive mining operations.

Since 1974, elders of the Dine community have led this resistance as a means

of maintaining their traditional way of life and safeguarding their access to clean water. Twice a year, they receive free holistic health care from the Stone Cabin Collective.

"The spa day creates a place for self-care that fosters community care," Stone Cabin Collective supporter Michelle Soto said, "much like our mission at 'Elder Wellness Week' in Arizona, where we take care of those who care-take for the earth."

Soto, who owns Cutting Root farms, will be in charge of the "spa rocker," an herbal footbath, and foot massage during the People's Spa Day. To learn more about the Black Mesa resistance, visit www.supportblackmesa.org. ♦



Reflecting on Mother's Day

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

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

We would like to offer the following suggestions:

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



WALTER J

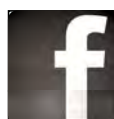
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Penn Plaza and the neverending lessons of “Omelas”

By J.F. Sabl *Bulletin contributor*

Op-Ed

East Liberty - In “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas,” Nobel Prize-refusing author Ursula K. Le Guin introduces a city of learning, commerce, comfort, and beauty. But the continued existence of Omelas depends on the unspeakable mistreatment of one poor person.

The ongoing revitalization of Pittsburgh differs from Omelas in one essential way: the abuse we inflict is not necessary. It stems, needlessly, from bad incentives in the redevelopment process, which churns endlessly, feeding on itself. The displaced residents of the Penn Plaza Apartments building are now victims to this process.

In 2000, half of Pittsburgh apartments rented for \$500 or less. By 2014, despite flat wages at the lower end of the pay scale, fewer than 20% of apartments were so cheap. Section 8 wait times have risen; they now stand at 6+ years (i.e. never).

We hear about affordable housing being built, but the federal definition of “affordable” units (which bring tax incentives and easier permission to build) is based on an area’s median income. The rising wages of doctors, lawyers and tech workers in our city do nothing to boost the average earnings of most minimum wage workers (making less than \$16,000 annually, pre-tax).

“Affordable” units here are primarily geared towards people making \$35,000 - \$60,000 per year. The guideline that people should spend 30% or less of their income on housing is another problematic metric. Spending 50% on housing is a pain but not really a problem if you make \$150,000. However, if you make \$15,000, it’s inconceivable.

City government sees the problem, but the available resources are slim. To fight the cycle of eviction and destruction, we must understand and challenge the bad incentives and bad metrics that turn the gears. Here’s the process:

1) Approval to buy: Governments are glad to shed the maintenance costs of low-income housing, whether it’s subsidized housing, government-owned hous-

ing, or foreclosed property. Developers can showcase photos of neglect and claim a moral imperative before making promises to rebuild better, add amenities, and re-house residents.

2) Displacement and destruction: Minimum legal notice is given to tenants. While temporary alternative housing may be offered, it is often scattered and inaccessible. Tenants are told that time is of the essence so that development can start right away, and they can move back soon; they’re commonly given a phone number to use, to check on progress. Tear-down is also executed with blinding speed so the developers can avoid the specter of lawsuits or alternative plans from neighborhood groups.

3) Long shell game: Ex-residents find it harder and harder to get information as phone numbers get changed, calls are not returned, and some online-only information is not made available to them. While playing this game, the developers also (legally) dip into public funds. First, they apply to borrow funds against future predicted taxes that would otherwise be paid from/on the site. Then, they apply for a multi-million dollar governor’s grant, to cover infrastructure costs. Having sucked up public money, coming and going, they tie a bow around it and present it to the public as a big gift.

4) Hard sell: The neighborhood has been blighted by the destruction step for some time. This may have “organically” emptied out adjacent properties. Grant money is waiting. As the dissenting voices begin to trail off over time, the developers hold the cards even tighter.

Anger over Penn Plaza and incredulity over the Pennley Park South proposal are not going away. We see the faces of the displaced. We see the links between tax games, displacement, failing businesses, crime, desperation, and spreading blight. The system has trained developers and the city to act in certain ways, for access to federal, state and local tax dollars. To un-train them, we must remove the reward stimulus, and balance it with an equally strong counter stimulus.

Write your legislators about how we’re using the wrong metrics. Show up and protest at hearings. Don’t treat redevelopment as a public good, or even as a victimless crime. Don’t be complicit in Omelas. ♦

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the BulletinBOARD

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 June issue are due by Wednesday, May 16. Please submit any listings using our online form at www.bit.ly/bulletin_submit.

MAY 2 - WEDNESDAY

GARFIELD

Environmental Charter School Meeting

Come learn about the opening of the Environmental Charter School (ECS) and enrollment opportunities for young Garfield residents. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 2, at the BGC Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.). Call 412-441-6950 (ext. 14) or email Nina@Bloomfield-Garfield.org for more information.

MAY 3 - THURSDAY

GARFIELD

Volunteer Days at Garfield Community Farm

Every Thursday, from 5:30 p.m. to sunset, Garfield Community Farm hosts weekly volunteer nights. Stop by the farm, located on Wicklow and Cornwall Sts., any Thursday evening to lend a hand and learn about community agriculture.

Garfield Land Trust Board Meeting

The Board of the Garfield Land Trust will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 3, at the Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.). Read more and become a member at GarfieldLandTrust.org. Contact 412-345-3831 or GarfieldLandTrust@gmail.com.

Bloomfield Development Corp. Board Nominations

Want to steer the mission and work of a transparent organization making a difference in business and housing development? Bloomfield Development Corp. is holding open nominations for board members from May 1- June 1. Nominate someone who you think would be a great leader, or nominate yourself! BDC will accept all nominations, and those with experience in small business ownership, nonprofit management, urban planning and architecture, fundraising, and accounting are encouraged to apply. Simply call 412-681-8800 or send an email to info@bloomfieldnow.org stating why you think the nominee would be a good fit, and include a short bio.

MAY 5 - SATURDAY

OAKLAND

Pittonkatonk Brass Fest

Pittonkatonk is a grassroots, volunteer-run, social and environmental justice organization that promotes creativity and critical thought via music. Established as a free community event in 2014, the annual all-ages Brass Fest/BBQ showcases local and national community brass bands, street performers, and activists. Please help make the event happen by bringing shared dishes for the potluck, volunteering to run the event, hosting traveling musicians, or promoting the performances. Pittonkatonk runs from 1 to 11 p.m. at the Vietnam Veterans Pavilion in Schenley Park. Visit www.Pittonkatonk.org to learn more.

MAY 6 - SUNDAY

FRIENDSHIP

Inspiration Station at Pittsburgh Marathon

Neighbors are invited to stop by the Friendship Inspiration Station during the Pittsburgh Marathon on Sunday, May 6. From 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., you can help local residents cheer on the runners while handing out snacks and drinks at the corner of Negley Ave. and Baum Blvd. Homemade signs are welcome.

MAY 9 - WEDNESDAY

FRIENDSHIP

FCG Monthly Meeting

The Friendship Community Group's (FCG) monthly board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 9, from 7 to 8 p.m., at the Pittsburgh Glass Center (5472 Penn Ave.). The public is always welcome to attend.

MAY 11 - FRIDAY

EAST LIBERTY

"Reimagining Faith & Community" Conference

Metro-Urban Institute's conference will be an opportunity for members of the faith, business, and academic communities to hear keynote speakers and workshop leaders share their expertise in addressing issues of social injustice. Held at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (616 N. Highland Ave.), the conference will run all day from May 11 through May 12. Learn more about the conference, and how to register, at www.pts.edu/MUI2018. Contact Brenda N. Henry at bhenry@pts.edu or 412-924-1362 with any questions.

MAY 12 - SATURDAY

FRIENDSHIP

Book Donations Needed

As part of the annual Friendship Flower & Folk Festival, the Friendship Community Group is soliciting book donations for its book sale the day of the event. Proceeds from the sale go to the maintenance of the Baum Grove parklet. Please drop off your spare books at Baum Grove on Saturday, May 12th, anytime between 9 am-11 am. No textbooks or obscene novels, please.

MAY 15 - TUESDAY

EAST LIBERTY

Startable PGH Summer Program: Apply Now

Startable Pittsburgh is a free, eight-week summer program that teaches students (ages 16-18) entrepreneurship and maker skills. They get to develop, design, prototype, build, brand, market, and sell music and fashion products of their own creation. Students earn a program stipend and keep all profits from the sale of their products. The program runs from



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Services Open Calls

June 25 - August 17. Now accepting applications at www.startablepgh.org.

MAY 16 - WEDNESDAY

STANTON HEIGHTS

SHNA Monthly Meeting

The Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association (SHNA) will hold its next community meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16, at Sunnyside Elementary School library. Our featured speaker will be from Fair Districts PA - a non-partisan, citizen-led, statewide coalition working to create a redistricting process that is transparent, impartial, and fair. Updates will be provided on neighborhood events and beautification projects.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Presidential Memorabilia Lecture

On Thursday, May 16, the Lawrenceville Historical Society's public lecture series will feature Steve Mihaly speaking on presidential memorabilia. With artifacts from his large personal collection, Mihaly will demonstrate the unusual ways in which presidential candidates have marketed themselves to the public; he will particularly focus on showing items distributed in the Western Pennsylvania region. Attendees will have a chance to examine his artifacts after the presentation. The lecture program takes place at the Carnegie Library (279 Fisk St.) at 6:30 p.m. It is free to the public; no reservations necessary.

MAY 19 - SATURDAY

GARFIELD

Celebration of Learning

Celebrate the end of the school year with Assemble (4824 Penn Ave.) from 1 - 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 19. See student projects from throughout the semester, reflect on learning through hands-on activities, and meet our teachers; pizza and snacks provided. Please let us know if you have any accessibility needs or dietary restrictions by emailing Hannah at hannah@assemblepgh.org.

MAY 20 - SUNDAY

GARFIELD

Spring Cookout

Join us at Garfield Community Farm for our annual spring cookout on Sunday, May 20. This is a free event that will have delicious food, activities for children, music, farm tours, seedlings for sale, and more. The event will be held at the farm (located at the intersection of Wicklow and Cornwall St.) from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

MAY 22 - TUESDAY

STANTON HEIGHTS

Social Hour @ Industry

The Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association (SHNA) will hold its next social hour on Tuesday, May 22, at Industry Public House (4305 Butler St.) from 6 - 8 p.m. Come meet some of your neighbors while enjoying good food and libations from a fine local establishment.

MAY 24 - THURSDAY

OAKLAND

Writers' Conference

Explore the art, craft, and business of writing true stories at the 2018 Creative Nonfiction Writers' Conference on Thursday, May 24. Whether writing your first essay, article, or proposal - or if you've got a couple of books under your belt - you will have your pick of 20+ sessions. This is the only creative non-fiction conference where you can spend three days surrounded by 150+ other memoirists, lyrical essayists, publication professionals, and agents. Learn more at www.creativenonfiction.org/2018-creative-nonfiction-writers-conference.

MAY 25 - FRIDAY

EAST LIBERTY

Brass & Organ Concert

The Brass Roots and organist Edward Alan Moore join forces, once again, with

Pittsburgh Symphony trombonist James Nova for a spectacular follow-up to last season's "Space Odyssey" concert. This free Cathedral Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 25, at East Liberty Presbyterian Church (116 S. Highland Ave.) and is open to all. A free-will offering will be received. Please visit www.ELPC.church or call 412.441.3800 for more information.

BLOOMFIELD

Annual Plant Sale

Pittsburgh Mercy Intellectual Disabilities Services will hold a plant sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, May 25, at its Alternative Training & Employment Center (4749 Baum Blvd.). Vegetables, herbs, and flowers - all of which were grown by program participants - will be available for sale. ♦

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In conversation with Celeste C. Smith

Interview by Amber Epps Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation



AT LEFT: As the Pittsburgh Foundation's program officer for Arts & Culture, Celeste C. Smith works with community leaders to provide more opportunities and resources for marginalized artists. Photo by Joshua Franzos.

Pittsburgh - Celeste C. Smith joined The Pittsburgh Foundation in January of 2018 as program officer for Arts and Culture. Before joining the Foundation, she served as chief executive officer of 1Hood Media, a collective of artists and activists who utilize hip hop as a means of raising awareness around issues affecting oppressed people in the region and around the world. *The Bulletin* sat down with Smith to learn about her recent accolades, then conducted an interview via email; the following has been excerpted from these communications.

The Bulletin: How did it feel to win the Community Service Award at the 2018 South by Southwest (SXSW) Festival in Austin, Texas?

Smith: "It was surreal. A lot of the work I have done has been behind the scene, so to be honored in such a very public way was crazy, but affirming. As my last act as CEO of 1Hood Media, it was a lovely way to complete my tenure. It was like Beyonce leaving Destiny's Child."

Bulletin: What was your greatest accomplishment in your work with 1Hood that might have helped you earn the award?

Smith: "I'm not sure, honestly. Everything I do is buttressed by a team of people who have my back, [because] I have theirs. I can tell you, though, that I believe my greatest accomplishment in my role as CEO has been treating people like I want to be treated. I work hard to make sure artists are paid and know their worth. I make sure artists get credit for their work. I work hard to make sure that freedom, justice, and equity is a priority where- and whenever I show up. Like Shirley Chisholm instructed, 'I consistently bring folding chairs for those who don't have a seat at the table.'"

Bulletin: Is it important for conferences and festivals like SXSW to recognize those who are doing such outstanding work in the areas of community service? How is community service related to the overall theme of SXSW?

Smith: "Yes. We live in a city that pays more attention to artists who have gained notoriety outside of Pittsburgh. So, rewarding this type of work on a national platform is important in both the independent artist's career trajectory and that of the organization. The recognition helps to showcase both profiles on a national level, thereby drawing greater attention to the work artists are doing where we are based."

Bulletin: How can your new role at the Pittsburgh Foundation further your community service work?

Smith: "I look at this role just like I looked at my role at 1Hood - that of a servant. My job remains to help artists and oppressed people. My role remains to speak truth to power. My role remains to be there for my sisters. My role remains to share contacts, knowledge, and resources - and to connect people."

Bulletin: Now that you have stepped down, who is driving change for 1Hood?

Smith: "1Hood has never been one person. 1Hood was founded as a template of how people of like mind and vision, though different ideologies, can respect their differences while still working together in unity...Jasiri X, previously the Creative Director, has re-assumed the role of CEO. The beauty of 1Hood, though, is that no one stands alone, and like attracts like. Independent artists such as Paradise Gray (co-founder of 1Hood), Blak Rapp Madusa, livefromthecity, Idasa Tariq, Jacquea Mae, Vudu Luc and Jordan Montgomery have worked to build right alongside us, as family, for years. New up-and-coming artists like Angel, DJ QRX, Brittney Chantel, Plato, Ayana Sade, JM the Poet, and many more are taking the legacy into the future." ♦

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