

# the Bulletin

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Corporation



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

## No dice: Garfield Highlands project rejected for tax credits

By Joe Reuben *Bulletin contributor*

*Garfield* - The effort to build another twenty single-family homes in Garfield for working-class families was dealt a setback in April when the PA Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) decided not to award federal tax credits, which the project needed for roughly 90% of its financing.

To be known as “Garfield Highlands”, the project is intended to bring affordably-priced rental housing to several blocks of the neighborhood between N. Atlantic and N. Aiken Aves.

“It’s disappointing, of course, because we thought the relatively modest size of our development would help us see an award under the state’s small-project category,” Rick Swartz, the executive director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), a partner in the development, recently told *The Bulletin*.

See **Garfield Highlands** | page 3



**ABOVE:** Cheryl Palmiere enjoys a cup of coffee while planning her next mercantile move during the Bloomfield Community Yard Sale on Saturday, May 19. Giving neighbors an excuse to socialize while hunting for great deals around the neighborhood, the yard sale incentivized local residents to make a few bucks while cleaning out their closets. Photo by John Colombo.

## Bloomfield residents confront rising housing costs

By Kate Giammarise *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

*Bloomfield* - Local resident Emily Embrey loves being able to walk to grocery stores or to Lawrenceville and Garfield, having the green spaces of Friendship Parklet and the Allegheny Cemetery, and seeing people she knows on the street. She doesn’t own a car, and takes a bus to work.

But she’s concerned she won’t be able to live in Bloomfield much longer due to rising housing costs. Spiking rents have been a concern in other East End neighborhoods - and that concern is now being felt in Bloomfield, say residents such as Ms. Embrey and neighborhood groups.

A proposed apartment development at the site of the Bloomfield IGA supermarket has heightened those affordability worries, they say. An event focused on housing affordability for the neighborhood [scheduled for Thursday, May

See **Affordable Housing** | page 7



**ABOVE:** Lawrenceville’s Big Easy Animal Hospital prepares to serve up some new flavors with the June 2 opening of its Dog Daze Cuban Café. Read more on page 5. Photo courtesy of Dr. Aileen Ruiz.

- **PAGE 8** - *‘SPRING ETERNAL’ AT ENRIGHT PARK COMMUNITY FESTIVAL*

*WHAT’S UP WITH THE LOT AT 5007 PENN AVE.?*

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## 'Catapult' program launches local businesses into successful orbit

**By Elizabeth Sensky** *East Liberty Development, Inc.*



**ABOVE:** Program director Tammy Thompson works with minority- and women-owned businesses in the East End's "Catapult: Start-Up to Storefront" incubator program. Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Sensky.

*East Liberty* - As a means of providing more access points to the economic boom in the city's East End, Circles Greater Pittsburgh and East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) and have teamed up to create a small business incubator program for minority-owned businesses in the area.

“Catapult: Start-Up to Storefront” will provide fifteen minority- and women-owned businesses in East Liberty and Larimer with intensive business coaching over a nine-month span. The program helps local entrepreneurs access capital while developing their business acumen and leadership skills.

Tammy Thompson, director of the program and ELDI partner, explained that Catapult was conceived as a way to ensure local businesses would retain a place in the neighborhood.

“Maelene Myers [ELDI’s executive director] wanted to make sure that local, existing businesses in East Liberty were getting the support they needed to stay competitive in the fast-growing market,” Thompson said. “Specifically, she wanted to make sure that business owners who felt they were being ‘pushed out’ of the neighborhood were getting the support they needed.”

The program, which launched at the beginning of April, is being run and developed with the help of Paramount Co-Op, an incubator program and co-working space based out of Ambridge, PA that most recently worked with businesses in the Hill District. Thompson said the collaboration came at the suggestion of Diamante Walker, the new Minority and Women Business Enterprise program officer for the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA).

The selection criteria for the first cohort of participants maintained that business owners must live or do business in the East End/Larimer community, have a business idea that aligns with the East Liberty and/or Larimer Community Business District plans, and be willing to work hard and succeed. A leadership team made up of representatives from the Larimer Consensus Group, ELDI, Circles Greater Pittsburgh, the URA, and Paramount Co-Op had the hard task of selecting fifteen businesses from a pool of twenty-eight that applied.

“We were blown away by the response for the first cohort,” Trish O’Brien Diglio, managing director of Paramount Co-Op, said. “We went into the interview process tasked with choosing ten entrepreneurs, but we ended up choosing fifteen because they were such strong applicants.”

The Catapult initiative is being funded with the support of the URA and Neighborhood Allies. Participants will receive technical assistance in setting up legal structures, understanding finances, and networking; they will also engage in one-on-one mentoring and offer peer support for each other.

“The overarching goal is to help local business owners get what they need to maintain or build successful, sustainable businesses in these neighborhoods,” Thompson said, “but also to provide a wealth-building opportunity that benefits the community as a whole.”

Participating businesses are separated into three categories: “early stage” businesses are recent start-ups, some just in the concept phase; emerging businesses, which are defined as operational companies that are currently generating income; and “anchor businesses” that already have well-established brands and show high growth potential.

Terina Hicks, owner of CobblerWorld, is one of the anchor businesses participating in the first Catapult cohort. After being laid off from her job in 2014, Hicks started CobblerWorld and has since been growing the business by selling her signature cobblers, upside down cakes, banana pudding, and other baked treats.

Although she has already found some success in Pittsburgh, landing contracts with certain Giant Eagle and Shop 'n Save grocery stores, Hicks joined Catapult to get some help expanding her business presence in the East End and beyond.

“While the participants are excited about the speakers we have lined up, I think they are most excited about the one-on-one mentoring and support they will receive in the Catapult program,” Digliodo explained. “If you Google ‘Help me write a business plan,’ there are over 23 million results, but there are few people who will sit down with you at the table and say, ‘Let’s do this together.’ That is exactly the kind of personal help these entrepreneurs are excited about.”

As part of its community outreach component, Catapult will host monthly business workshops open to the public. To learn more about upcoming workshops and view all of the businesses participating in the first cohort, visit [www.east-liberty.org](http://www.east-liberty.org). ♦



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# Garfield Highlands

*continued from page 1*

“The state housing finance agency made only four awards in all of Allegheny County, one of which went to Riverview Towers, a large apartment complex in Squirrel Hill.”

Swartz explained how, for Garfield Highlands and numerous other developments that did not see an award of tax credits, local developers must now go back to the drawing board.

“There is a development planned for a site on N. Negley Avenue that also sought a tax-credit award and came away empty-handed. The developers had pledged forty apartments for individuals earning 60% or less of the median income for the Pittsburgh region,” similar to Garfield Highlands, Swartz averred.

One award was given to an East Liber-

ty project, known as Mellon’s Orchard South, which will be built on the site of an existing parking lot used weekly as a farmers market, bringing thirty-seven affordably-priced townhomes to the area, according to the public announcement made by the PHFA in early April.

Acknowledging that the BGC’s waiting list for affordably-priced family housing in Garfield now numbers over 450 households, Swartz said the PHFA’s decision means a longer wait time for city residents who need to live close to their jobs, but are caught in a financial vise that has them paying upwards of 40% or more of their income in rent and utilities.

It also means a prolonged delay for the city in unloading several dozen vacant lots that the project is intending to purchase as the sites for the Garfield Highlands development. The BGC’s partner in the project, Gatesburg Road Development out of State College, PA, is left wondering when or if it will recoup over \$100,000 advanced for design and engineering services “just to get us to the starting gate,” Swartz said.

The partners do plan to re-submit their package for another round of awards that the PHFA will make in the spring of 2019. The \$824,000 in tax credits it is seeking would enable Garfield Highlands to raise an estimated \$6.4 million in financing for the \$7 million project.

That financing comes not as debt, but as equity from one or more private investors, who then use the credits to offset their tax obligations to the federal government over a period of fifteen years. A key, Swartz observed, to bringing rents in well below the market rate is the fact that twenty homes can be built for as little as \$600,000 in actual mortgage debt.

“If the East End is to see what was lost with the recent demolition of 300-plus units in the Penn Plaza Apartments replaced over time, it has to be through these types of awards,” he maintained. “Otherwise, it could be decades before that loss is recouped, which would be make it much harder to keep the community balance between the working class and the middle class that we’ve all come to appreciate.” ♦

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Deadline for the July issue is **Friday, June 15.**

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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* - Several robberies have merited much concern over the last month. Anyone with information about these burglary/robbery cases may contact Pittsburgh Police Major Crimes at 412-323- 7800; callers will remain anonymous.

- On April 27, in the 5100 block of Columbo St., a 32 year-old female occupant reported that she was at home, on the second floor of her residence, when she heard her front door open. The victim heard heavy footsteps coming up the stairs and was met by a male dressed in all black, wearing a black ski mask. Upon coming face-to-face with the occupant, the burglar fled. The woman believes that she may know who the burglar is; detectives are following up on this case.
- Residents in the 200 block of Stratford Ave. reported that their detached garage was burglarized on May 2. The victims reported that landscaping equipment was stolen.
- On the evening of May 4, a 30 year-old male victim reported that he was in front of the K-2 convenience store (4900 Penn Ave.) when a silver Land Rover pulled into the parking lot and one of the occupants motioned for him to come over to the vehicle. The victim then approached the vehicle, at which point one of the male occupants displayed a firearm and robbed him of \$150; the victim was not injured. The silver Land Rover fled and no license plate information was obtained.
- A resident of the 400 block of S. Atlantic Ave. awoke on May 8 to find his laptop and a bottle of tequila missing. Upon checking the house, he found a kitchen window unlocked. The victim believes he was burglarized while he and his roommate were asleep.
- On May 13, a victim reported that an unknown person entered their home in the 4500 block Penn Ave. by ripping off a security chain on the basement door. Cash and prescription medication were taken. ♦



## Garden Resource Center hosts community yard sale in Larimer

A Message from Grow Pittsburgh

*Larimer* - The Garden Resource Center (GRC), which is operated by Grow Pittsburgh and located at 147 Putnam St. in Larimer, is hosting a yard sale on Saturday, June 30. From 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., the GRC will sell supplies and tools at yard sale prices, and even offer some items for free.

The center is an excellent resource for backyard gardeners and community gardeners alike. While the GRC is a membership-based tools and supplies lending library, the yard sale is open to anyone, regardless of whether or not they are a registered member.

The center is currently accepting donations of tools and supplies; interested donors are encouraged to email a description and picture of the donated items to GRC coordinator Raqueeb Bey at [raqueeb@growpittsburgh.org](mailto:raqueeb@growpittsburgh.org) before Monday, June 25. Donations can be dropped off during GRC open hours (from 3 to 7 p.m.) on Wednesday, June 27, and Friday, June 29.

Any donated items will be used at the GRC coordinator's discretion, whether as a resource in the tool lending library or as a sale item at the yard sale; broken tools, hazardous chemicals, and tires will not be accepted.

All proceeds from the Yard Sale go directly to Grow Pittsburgh. To learn more about the GRC or to become a member, visit [growpittsburgh.org/garden-resource-center](http://growpittsburgh.org/garden-resource-center). ♦

## Celebrating years of service in Garfield, Thrifty volunteers enjoy night out

**BELOW:** Thanks to generous donations from longtime customers, volunteers from the East End Community Thrift (a.k.a. "Thrifty," located at 5123 Penn Ave.) celebrate the second-hand shop's twenty-fifth anniversary at Mount Washington's LeMont Restaurant. Photo by Margaret Laske.



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

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# Canine coffee bar: Dog Daze Cuban Café serves up treats for all creatures

By Andrew McKeon *The Bulletin*

Lawrenceville - In 2015, when Dr. Aileen Ruiz moved her veterinary practice to a new facility, she held the grand opening in conjunction with the ten-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's landfall in New Orleans.

Big Easy Animal Hospital (12 McCandless Ave.) was borne of Ruiz's wish to honor the city that she and thousands of other residents had to vacate when the levees broke in 2005.

Now that her practice has made a name for itself in Lawrenceville and beyond, drawing customers across bridges and rivers, Ruiz is enhancing Big Easy's "destination appeal" with the addition of Dog Daze Cuban Café.

"There was a little space in the back where people would drop off their dogs for day-care, but I wasn't sure what to do with it. Then, I came up with the concept of people just dropping off their dogs here in the early morning, then getting a cup of coffee they could take to work," Ruiz said. "I was trying to figure out a way to make it stand out a bit. There's a coffee shop on just about

every corner here, like a few block away on Butler, so I thought about making it a Cuban coffee shop because my mom and dad came here from Cuba."

Born and raised in Miami, Florida, Ruiz grew up on Cuban delicacies like *café con leche*, tostadas, and guava-filled pastries. She remains open to the idea of supplying American coffee beans - as long as the proceeds benefit needy animals. "The only American coffee we provide is from 'Grounds & Hounds' in Pittsburgh. They donate 20% of their proceeds to local animal shelters" she revealed.

Although she finds it difficult to "story-tell" her experiences post-Katrina, Ruiz delights in the comfort she has found in Pittsburgh. "This city's been 100% supportive and I've got great clients," she said. "It's a small town that I really, really love, so it's been awesome here." Local chef/restaurant owner Justin Severino - of Cure and Morcilla fame - has agreed to help create dipping sauces for various empanada offerings.



**ABOVE:** At the Dog Daze cafe in Lawrenceville (12 McCandless Ave.), pet owners and espresso aficionados can share an appreciation for the finer things, like Cuban coffee drinks and specialty dog treats. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

**BELOW:** Butting up against the Allegheny River, the back deck of Dog Daze Cuban Café offers a quiet retreat from city life. Photo courtesy of Dr. Aileen Ruiz.



While Ruiz gravitated to Lawrenceville for reasons beyond her control [read: "natural disaster"], she has seen some four-legged creatures find their way to Big Easy using a much more internal radar. One pup, while temporarily marooned onshore during a kayak trip down the Allegheny River, ran up to the backdoor of the café. Suffice it to say that the dog, now immortalized

on YouTube, was not dropping by for just *cortaditos* or *coladas* although Big Easy's "pup-sicles" might have drawn some interest.

On Saturday, June 2, Dog Daze Café will host a grand opening at 12 McCandless Ave. A long-brewing idea made fresh, Ruiz's animal-friendly coffee shop is an oasis-in-the-making. ♦

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# Architecture firm’s new location cuts figure along Penn Ave.



**ABOVE:** After out-growing its former offices in Lawrenceville, mossArchitects moved to 5122 Penn Ave. in April. The firm’s architects are excited to inhabit a larger, more collaborative space where they can engage with local community members. Visit [www.mossarc.com](http://www.mossarc.com) to learn more. Photo by Anthony Musmanno.

# In conversation with Kelly Malone of ‘Workshop PGH: DIY School’

Interview by Amber Epps Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - Workshop PGH (5135 Penn Ave.) bills itself as a “lo-fi, fun, adult DIY (do-it-yourself) school.” Along with renting out its shop-space for private events and public classes, the school also features a street-side retail space and open studio hours. According to Workshop’s mission statement, its business model is “built on hiring local makers, small business owners, and artists to support them in leaving their day jobs and supporting their businesses.”

In order to provide high quality education, owner Kelly Malone pays the school’s instructors competitive hourly wages; she wants to fuel their passions while correcting a system that undervalues local arts educators. In mid-May, *The Bulletin* sent Malone a few questions about Workshop’s recent relocation and her future business plans in Garfield. The following Q&A has been excerpted from email conversations.

**Bulletin:** *You moved Workshop PGH into a new space at 5135 Penn (across from your old space) a few months ago. Why the move, and what’s your favorite thing about the new space?*

**Malone:** “At our previous location, we were on a sublet with Moss Architecture because they couldn’t move into the space [at 5122 Penn Ave.] just yet. We also wanted to make sure the concept worked here. It’s been in San Francisco for nine years, but I wasn’t sure how it would be received here. So, the sublet was a safety net for us. Since we have been getting a lot of support and positive feedback lately, we decided to get a permanent location. I love how the [new] space is laid out, how it gives us the chance to build a retail store and hopefully add more daytime street traffic for Penn Ave. businesses.”

**Bulletin:** *You offer a ton of workshops in so many different areas. Which ones seem to be the most popular?*

**Malone:** “People love the woodworking classes. Our wooden bench class has drawn a lot of neighborhood folks wanting to learn how to use the tools and just make a great bench for their home or patio. Also, plant classes do very well this time of year. We are opening up classes to teens this summer, too, so that it’s not just adults having all the fun.”

**Bulletin:** *What exciting things do you (and/or Workshop!) have planned for this year that you think we should know about?*

**Malone:** “We don’t yet profit but we are sticking to our guns on paying teachers \$25 an hour so they can continue to support their dreams of starting their own business or quitting their day jobs. I think that, considering our level of support to makers and creatives, as well as the fact that all classes include supplies, it makes the pricing structure a bit more understandable.”

**Bulletin:** *For someone who is new to DIY and may feel a little intimidated, what advice or words of wisdom can you offer?*

**Malone:** “Almost all our classes are made for beginners. The classes are super fun and social so, even if your skills are lacking and you walk out with what looks like an ugly pot or a funny looking wooden shelf, at least you have bragging rights that you made it and tried something new. The teachers are very supportive and encouraging, so no prep is needed.”

**Bulletin:** *What other Workshop programs or initiatives would you like to highlight?*

**Malone:** “We do offer a neighborhood discount via a class pass. So if you want to try some classes and live in the neighborhood – we always offer \$50 gift certificates for \$45, or \$100 gift certificates for \$85. That way, you can try a class and save a bit. Just bring in a utility bill or your license to show you share our zip code, and we’ll happily extend you the discount. We offer a few class scholarships every month for those in need who may want to learn a skill. And we also host discounted or free sewing classes to those in gender transition who’d like to learn how to rework their clothing for a better fit.”

“We’re adding a new event thanks to our garage sales being so popular. Every fourth Sunday of the month, we’re launching the Garfield garage sale throughout our space so that neighbors, vendors and makers can grab a table to sell garage sale items or handmade for only \$20. Expect food trucks, ‘Pigeon Bagels,’ good bargains, and handmade wares made by artists living in the surrounding neighborhoods.” ♦



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# Affordable Housing continued from page 1

24] at the West Penn Hospital School of Nursing auditorium, was hosted by Bloomfield Development Corp.

Real estate data shows a steady increase in Bloomfield home sale prices - from \$116,000 on average in 2013 to \$179,838 in 2017, according to West Penn Multi-List data provided by Howard Hanna Real Estate Services. The data shows an increase in neighboring Garfield as well, from an average home sale price of \$30,513 in 2013 to \$119,102 in 2017.

"It's becoming more expensive for people to stay in these neighborhoods, there's no doubt about it," said Rick Swartz, executive director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.

Monthly average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in the area is \$877, and for a two-bedroom unit is \$1,262, according to Rent Jungle, a company that tracks rental rates.

"It's clear that the neighborhood property values have jumped," said Christina Howell, executive director of the Bloomfield Development Corp.

These rising prices have people like Ms. Embrey in a bind.

"We've kind of giving up on owning in Bloomfield," said Ms. Embrey, a city of Pittsburgh employee who is required to live within city limits. She emphasized she is speaking for herself and not as city representative regarding her affordability concerns.

Ms. Howell said in previous years, she

used to hear more from residents about wanting to attract development and investment.

"I don't hear that anymore. ... Now I hear, 'How do we keep Bloomfield Bloomfield?'" she said.

That concern has come up over and over again in community meetings and conversations about the large apartment building developer Milhaus has proposed for the site, she said.

"If almost no one living in Bloomfield can afford to rent a unit there, then is that building truly going to be reflective of Bloomfield? Or is it going to ultimately change the neighborhood that they are buying into?" Ms. Howell said.

Representatives for the Indianapolis-based developer could not be reached.

Bloomfield Development Corp. has said it would like to see at least 15 percent of "truly affordable housing units" — affordable to people earning between 50 and 80 percent of area median income — in addition to ground-floor grocery retail, and improvements to the Bloomfield Bridge intersection.

The developer's initial plan requires approvals from the city's Zoning Board of Adjustment; it haven't submitted information to the board.

"The developer has been very open to talking about both the grocery store and affordability and what the options might be and how we might partner on it," said Dan Gilman, chief of staff for

Mayor Bill Peduto.

He said the mayor's office has been working to craft a proposal all sides can be happy with.

"We all share concerns, both about affordability and about food access in a community," he said. "This site is a critical gateway. It needs significant infrastructure improvements for pedestrian and bike and auto safety. It needs improvements in terms of storm water. It has the opportunity to be a development that is a positive in all regards for the community. That's why we are working with both residents and the developer to look at the numbers and to figure out a way to do it."

Mr. Swartz believes housing costs will continue to rise, driven by universities and high-tech companies making large investments in the East End and attracting new people to the city who want to live close to their jobs.

"The end is not in sight yet for this type of [new, upscale] development, and it's going to put a lot of upward pressure on rent prices," he said. There are now few two-bedroom neighborhood apartments available for less than \$800 a month, he said.

"That's a big departure from where we were five or six years ago."

Mr. Swartz said his organization was supportive of the city's Housing Op-

portunity Fund, created last year, for this reason.

The fund was approved by city council in December, though it's not yet up and running. Earlier this month, the Urban Redevelopment Authority board authorized the hiring of New York-based HR&A Advisors to create policies and procedures for the fund.

Mr. Gilman said the mayor has identified who will make up the fund's 17-member advisory board and will submit their names to City Council shortly.

He's hopeful funds can start being used before the end of the year. In addition to closing gaps on financing for affordable developments, the fund is also intended to help moderate-income homeowners with critical repairs and help first-time home buyers purchase homes.

These aspects in particular, could benefit neighborhoods like Bloomfield, Mr. Gilman said. Ms. Embrey said she is hopeful residents and officials can come up with solutions.

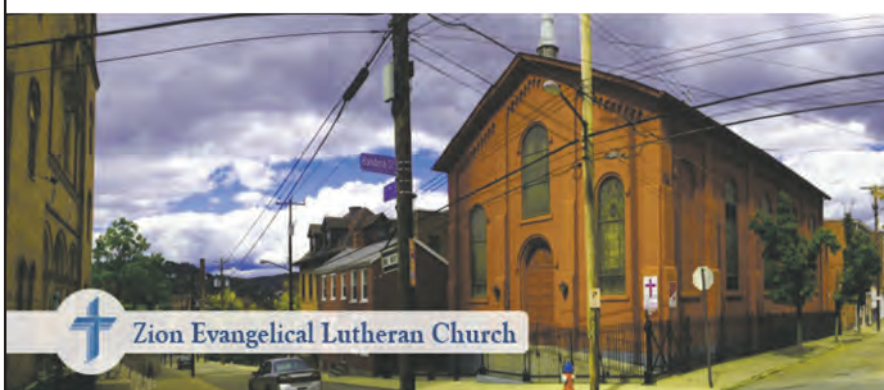
"We're not Seattle yet," Ms. Embrey said. "We still have an opportunity to address these issues...that is sustainable in the long term for more people."

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**BELOW:** *Kenyale Cottingham (left), a student intern at West Penn Hospital and Westinghouse High School senior, takes the blood pressure of a community member during Operation Better Block and Alma Illery's Community Health and Wellness Fair in Homewood on May 12. Cottingham is pursuing her internship through the BGC's College and Career Readiness Program. Photo by Danny Jackson.*



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for the latest neighborhood information and community updates



# Neighborhood FOCUS

## Community festival brightens spirits at Enright Park

By Susan Englert *Bulletin contributor*

*East Liberty* - Glorious weather, activities for all ages, and the colorful pageantry of music and dance drew around 200 guests to the inaugural May Day celebration at Enright Park. Young and old, friends and families gathered on the evening of May 1 to welcome spring in one of the only green public spaces in the heart of East Liberty.

A tradition in many cultures, springtime celebrations offer an antidote to a long, dark winter as community members convene outdoors to take part in singing, dancing, crafts, and food. The free community festival at Enright Park came together through the volunteer efforts of neighbors and artists. Staging what they hope will become an annual tradition, organizers are also planning for more park celebrations throughout the year.

The idea for the festival originated with Ruthanne E. Ankney - a professional storyteller, musician, and dance caller - who has created seasonal events in Pittsburgh and other mid-Atlantic states, as well as in the UK. For years, she organized a spring celebration on one of Mount Washington's dramatic overlooks.

Ankney was eager to explore new venues in the East End, where she could add new cultural influences to the planned festivities. Upon a

**BELOW:** Revelers donning 'primavera' costumes welcome the springtime during a May Day celebration at East Liberty's Enright Park. Photo courtesy of Angelique Bamberg.



“Our community is going through so much stress and change right now, and that’s very disorienting. This brought us together for something fun. It also brought in people from beyond East Liberty to experience why our neighborhood and our park are special.”

- Angelique Bamberg, *East Liberty resident*

friend’s suggestion, she realized that Enright Park was the perfect locale because it is scenic, spacious, accessible, and offers plenty of free area parking options.

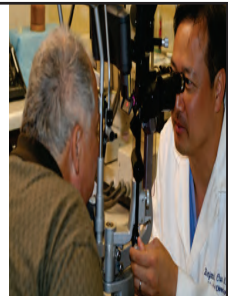
For the first May Day program in Enright Park, Ankney invited some heritage performers (who had played during previous springtime celebrations at other venues) and also reached out to various arts, youth, and senior groups from around East Liberty to seek contributions of their talents and traditions. Several who were unable to mobilize for this year’s event expressed interest in participating in future events.

“I was delighted to hear neighbors say how proud they were to host this unique and diverse event in the park, and how they’d love to attend more events there,” Ankney remarked.

The colorful collage of activities on May 1 featured a parade of guests carrying garlands and donning fanciful flower costumes from Cheryl Capezzuti’s “Puppets for Pittsburgh” collection. Winding silk ribbons around the “May-pole,” spring revelers enjoyed a high-energy performance from Colonel Eagleburger’s Highstepping Goodtime Band, along with a spirited mock battle of “Winter vs. Spring.” Children engaged in various crafting activities and interactive storytelling sessions.

Local French, Welsh, and Morris folk-dancing troupes led guests in folk dances as musicians filled the air with traditional tunes. “Families and chil-

- continued on next page -



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- continued from page 8 -

dren told me they loved the idea of not just watching a performance, but getting the chance to participate in learning a dance and helping make the pageantry come to life,” Ankney noted.

Revelers brought picnic food and blankets, and all were invited to partake of donated soft drinks and cookies from a local business known as “Everyday’s a Sundae & Cafe.” Thanks to robust promotion via posters, social media, and word of mouth, participants came to the event from a variety of city neighborhoods and beyond; some musicians and heritage dancers came from as far away as Ligonier, PA.

“Our musicians from out of town were impressed with the beautiful old trees,” Ankney said, “and curious to learn about the history of Enright Park and the neighborhood.”

Local neighbors were equally enthusiastic as they walked home excitedly discussing ideas for future festivities, from recreating May Day with even more artists next year to possibilities for other seasonal celebrations. The park, which was in jeopardy of vanishing into LG Realty’s plan for the former Penn Plaza Apartments site, will soon be completely redesigned.

East Liberty resident Angelique Bamberg views the celebration as an important part of neighbors’ ongoing efforts to redefine Enright Park as a valuable community asset.

“This is just the kind of community-building event we’d love to see more of with Enright Park,” Bamberg said. “Our community is going through so much stress and change right now, and that’s very disorienting. This brought us together for something fun. It also brought in people from beyond East Liberty to experience why our neighborhood and our park are special.”

In a testament to the event’s continued appeal, six year-old Ursula Kluz-Al-len spoke for many festival-goers with a wonderful parting observation: “I wish it was May Day every day!” ♦

**BELOW:** Dakarai Aki’s “THISBRANDUSA,” a still-life art exhibit featuring live models, unfolds at BOOM Concepts (5139 Penn Ave.) during Unblurred on Friday, May 4. The exhibit beckons a mysterious negotiation between audience and subject, in real time, as the models stand motionless before the First Friday gallery crawlers. Photo by Andrew McKeon.



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# Lawrenceville Garden Tour features young green-thumb talent

By Kate Bayer *Bulletin contributor*

Lawrenceville – On Hatfield St., one of the neighborhood’s newest residents (an anonymous young gardener who, in this instance, shall be known as “Lawrence”) has transformed a plain backyard into a garden oasis for everyone to enjoy.

Starting with only a lawn when he moved in a few years ago, Lawrence gradually stewarded a green space that now supports a range of appealing flora, including edible plants. Flowers and other living décor provide a healthy dose of peace and serenity to go along with the greenery.

Potatoes, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, pumpkins, peas, lettuce, eggplant, and four unique tomato varieties all nestle together in a series of raised beds.

Outside the beds are a combination of herbs with blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, and strawberries taking up the outside perimeters of the raised area.

Silver lace, white flowering vines, sunflowers, zinnias, cosmos, and a shy “pencil holly” hug the wood fence on each side of the lawn. A young weeping willow, while currently about five feet in height, will eventually provide copious shade to the entire backyard.

Lawrence evidently put thought into each stage of his plant placement, creating an optimal growing environment based on careful considerations of the space’s sunshine and shade.

His garden will join ten others, located throughout the neighborhood, to showcase the area’s green growth potential during the annual Lawrenceville Garden Tour on Sunday, June 24.

The free, self-guided walking tour runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. As soon as the host gardeners open their doors, maps with short descriptions of each garden will be available for pickup in front of the entrance to Allegheny Cemetery (4734 Butler St.).

Organized by the Lawrenceville Hospitality Association (LHA), the tour is sponsored by Cavacini Lawn & Garden Supply and VonWalter & Funk.

For more information, visit [www.lha15201.org](http://www.lha15201.org) or “like” LHA on Facebook. Please note: Allegheny Cemetery will not furnish information about the tour, garden locations, or maps. ♦

# Legal dust settled, what happens next at former Penn Plaza site?

By Rick Swartz *Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation.*

## Op-Ed

East Liberty - On May 15, the city Planning Commission voted to allow the owners of a vacant city block in East Liberty, once home to the Penn Plaza Apartments, to move forward with finalizing their plans for a new, massive office-retail development - to be known, for now, as “Pennley Park South.” However, the path to construction could still be facing months of delay for Pennley Park’s developers, LG Realty Partners.

For starters, it isn’t clear that the prime tenant, who the developers were courting two years ago, is still interested in setting up shop at the site. The tenant is Whole Foods Market, now owned by Amazon. Now that reports have surfaced of Whole Foods cutting back on new brick-and-mortar locations in other parts of the country, does it still make sense for the retailer to invest in what could be a 50,000 square-foot store here? If they don’t, what impact does that have on the development?

In addition, the city Planning Commission has imposed a height limitation of 108 feet on anything that gets built at the site. Prior to the hearing, most people who were close to the planning process thought LG Realty would be comfortable with this number. The commission also required that a “community-serving space,” oriented towards a re-designed Enright Park, be added to the plans.

In its May 16th edition, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* quoted Larry Gumberg, a principal in LG Realty, as being “disappointed” by these actions, stating that he viewed them as “inappropriate.” As it turns out, the developers might have cherished the ability to build structures as high as 150 feet – capitalizing on the difference between a 7-story building and a 10-story building. Because the site closely borders a residential district, the commission rendered a 150-foot tall building as a negative impact to the local quality of life. Gumberg told the *Post-Gazette* that his firm will now need to do “further study” of the project’s feasibility.

There still remains the question of who will pay for the new infrastructure improvements, including a re-configured Enright Park? A public road, Eva St., will have to be moved northward to accommodate the commercial development, in concert with the extension of S. St. Clair Street into the development from Penn Ave. on its northern boundary. Water and sewer mains must be run into the site and a large parking garage, in excess of 500 spaces, is to intended to be built within the complex originally intended for Whole Foods. For many who spoke out in opposition to the project at the May 15 hearing, they are left to wonder how a development that is missing so many details could have precipitated the March 2016 eviction of hundreds of households from the Penn Plaza Apartments.

The apartment complex had admittedly seen better days, and the Gumbergs did fulfill their commitment for forty years to manage it as affordable housing. A new, affordable, 200-unit apartment/townhouse development - with Penn Plaza tenants given the first option to return - seems to opponents like a much better use for the site. Yet, as long as they retain ownership of the site, this will never be a project for the Gumbergs themselves to build and manage. Can any doubt remain on this point? ♦



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# Neighbors mingle, rummage through Bloomfield Community Yard Sale

**BELOW:** John waits for his fellow neighbors to drop by during the Bloomfield Community Yard Sale on Saturday, May 19. Photo by John Colombo.



**ABOVE:** Betty wastes no time getting some sun while tending to her table of secondhand goods at the Bloomfield Community Yard Sale. A de-centralized affair, the neighborhood-wide sale gave residents a chance to visit old friends, and check out what's for sale. Photo by John Colombo.

# Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council changes name to 'Literacy Pittsburgh'

By Jennifer Faines *Literacy Pittsburgh*

*Pittsburgh* - The Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council, the area's largest provider of literacy services for more than 4,500 people annually, recently changed its name to "Literacy Pittsburgh."

In a May 2 announcement, the organization pledged that the name change will be accompanied by an increased breadth of services and ambitious plans for future partnerships and collaboration across the region.

Executive director Don Block shed some light on the re-branding. "While our core mission remains the same - to create better lives through learning with inclusive, welcoming literacy services for students - the change to Literacy Pittsburgh marks a milestone in our thirty-six year history," he said. "Our new name and brand represent a broadened scope, as we have also become a workforce training and development organization."

The new name was announced at an event at Literacy Pittsburgh's downtown headquarters, which also featured the unveiling of a new logo and website. To promote the announcement, around 100 of the group's volunteers donned new Literacy Pittsburgh t-shirts and handed out new book-marks throughout the city.

According to the organization's data, nearly 15% of all adults urgently need literacy services in the Pittsburgh area alone. As demand for these services increases each year, Literacy Pittsburgh faces an ever-growing waiting list of people seeking help.

This assistance also provides meaningful economic impact; Block and his co-workers point to studies showing that, for any amount invested in literacy programs and services, the financial return to the economy is more than double the original investment.

"Through collaboration with more than 200 partners in the Greater Pittsburgh region, we are helping more students move from learning to earning, with support and placement for career opportunities, Block said. "The work of our forty staff members and 650+ volunteers is transforming lives. Literacy Pittsburgh is making a difference to in-

dividuals, their children, the workforce and Pittsburgh - and helping to bring greater prosperity for all."

He noted that the name and logo change would also promote greater awareness of the comprehensive range of services that Literacy Pittsburgh offers, while helping to dispel the myth that literacy only encompasses reading skills.



The organization currently offers the following programs: adult basic education, high school equivalency exam preparation, English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction, immigrant services, work-

place literacy (serving employers and employees), career transitions, family literacy, OASIS intergenerational tutoring, and Compass AmeriCorps.

Founded in 1982, the organization serves local adults at numerous neighborhood locations, and its 411 Seventh Ave. headquarters in downtown Pittsburgh, providing one-to-one mentoring and small class instruction, along with referrals to other family support organizations. Recognized as a national leader in adult and family literacy, Literacy Pittsburgh is the largest provider of adult basic education in Allegheny County.

As the organization moves forward with its new name and brand, plans include more work with complementary groups and regional employers. Literacy Pittsburgh has initiated several new programs, including a new office in the South Hills to serve Route 51 corridor communities.

This summer, it will expand into Beaver Country to continue the services of a program that has operated there for many years. New services in Hazelwood include classes, tutoring, and a partnership to conduct math classes with Community Kitchen's culinary training program.

In seeking employment for local students, Literacy Pittsburgh aims to engage even more area employers. Partnerships with several other nonprofits, although still in the planning stages, could help the organization serve between 600 and 700 additional students in the coming year. Visit [www.literacy-pittsburgh.org](http://www.literacy-pittsburgh.org) to learn more. ♦

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# City joins complaint to block demand for citizenship info in 2020 Census

By Timothy McNulty City of Pittsburgh

*Pittsburgh* - The City of Pittsburgh has joined a bipartisan coalition of eighteen states - plus the District of Columbia, nine cities, four counties, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors - in filing an amended lawsuit to block the Trump administration from demanding citizenship information in the 2020 decennial Census.

The lawsuit, which was originally filed last month in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, is led by New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman. It was amended to add Colorado; Central Falls, RI (the site of the 2018 end-to-end test of the Census); Columbus, OH; Pittsburgh; Cameron County, TX; El Paso County, TX; Hidalgo County, TX; and Monterey County, CA as co-plaintiffs.

The new co-plaintiffs join the Attorneys General of New York, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Mary-

land, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, and the District of Columbia; the cities of New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Providence, San Francisco, and Seattle; and the U.S. Conference of Mayors in the lawsuit.

According to the complaint, immigrants account for approximately 8.5% of Pittsburgh's population, and in 2014, approximately 18% of Pittsburgh's immigrant population was undocumented.

Demanding citizenship information on the Census would depress turnout in states with large immigrant populations, directly threatening those states' fair representation in Congress and the Electoral College, as well as billions of dollars in critical federal funds. The amended complaint specifically high-

lights the billions of dollars at risk for states and localities around the country.

That includes approximately \$10.3 million in Community Development Block Grants funds Pittsburgh received in fiscal year 2016. Moreover, the complaint highlights the extensive funding and resources plaintiffs have already dedicated toward encouraging participation in the 2020 Census, which did not account for the citizenship demand.

The amended complaint also highlights recent comments by Census and other federal officials, such as Census Director Ron Jarmin's recent remarks before Congress that he expected the negative impact of the citizenship demand on response rates to be "largely felt in various sub-groups, in immigrant populations, [and] Hispanic populations." Jarmin went on to testify that U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross disregarded the Census Bureau's recommendation against including the citizenship demand.

On December 12, 2017, the U.S. Department of Justice requested that the Census Bureau demand citizenship information in the 2020 Census form sent to every household in the United States, even though the Census is supposed to count all persons - citizens and

non-citizens alike. Under the Constitution, the Census Bureau has an obligation to determine "the whole number of persons in each state." Non-citizens are counted in the Census for the purposes of federal funds, apportioning of congressional seats and Electoral College votes, and the drawing of state and local districts.

The Census Bureau's own research shows that demanding citizenship information will "inevitably jeopardize the overall accuracy of the population count" by significantly deterring participation in immigrant communities, because of concerns about how the federal government will use citizenship information.

These concerns are amplified by President Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric and pattern of actions that target immigrant communities.


As the lawsuit describes, the administration's decision is inconsistent with the Census Bureau's constitutional and statutory obligations, is unsupported by the stated justification, departs from decades of settled practice without reasoned explanation, and fails to consider the availability of alternative data that can effectively serve the federal government's needs. ♦



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# LOCAL REAL ESTATE BLOTTER

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

Real Estate Sales (for the month of April 2018)

Compiled by Lillian Denhardt, Howard Hanna Real Estate

### Bloomfield

Brian Scullion to Edward D. & Pamela M. Loose at 4038 Cabinet St. for \$182,500.

Cypress Lofts Pgh LP to Brian Christopher Smith at 622 Gross St. Unit 304 for \$299,000.

Delta Management Ltd. to Rachel R. Nickel at 720 Edmond St. for \$145,000.

Dinucci Family Revocable Living Trust to Bloommer LLC at 342 Cedarville St. for \$190,000.

Domenico A. & Iola Casciato to 373 South Graham LLC at 373 S Graham St. for \$470,000.

Dominic Leone to Tyler Bollman at 405 Sapphire Way for \$137,800.

Eric Hilliard to Benjamin J. Gwin at 261 Edmond St. for \$165,000.

Galen C. Haynes to Jason M. Carfagna at 205 S Atlantic Ave. for \$350,000.

Linda S. Terry to Kai Guo at 4736 Juniper St. for \$115,000.

Maureen A. Weimerskirch to Megan Flinn at 5012 Friendship Ave. for \$310,000.

Michael J. Ressler to Wing-Hao LLC at 5156 Cypress St. for \$305,000.

Principe Revocable Trust to Matthew I. Fisher at 4554 Friendship Ave. for \$371,000.

Rock The Krazbar LLC to F & W Associates at 4038-4042 Howley St. for \$265,000.

Round Square Properties LLC to Ce La Management & Investments LLC at 377 Gross St. for \$135,000.

Sunoco Retail LLC to 7-Eleven Inc. at 4779 Liberty Ave. for \$10.

### Friendship

No sales to report.

### Garfield

Bank of New York Mellon to Palais Real Estate LLC at 335 N Aiken Ave. for \$36,500.

City of Pittsburgh to Christopher Harrison at 5004 Dearborn St. for \$900.

City of Pittsburgh to Matuza Ryan at 4930 Brown Way for \$10,000.

City of Pittsburgh to Samuel Hoffman at 0 Rosetta St. for \$1,800.

City of Pittsburgh to Samuel Hoffman at 5224 Rosetta St. for \$900.

City of Pittsburgh to Samuel L. Hoffman at 0 Atlantic Ave. for \$6,050.

City of Pittsburgh to Samuel L. Hoffman at 0 Atlantic Ave. for \$6,050.

City of Pittsburgh to Samuel L. Hoffman at 0 Kincaid St. for \$2,200.

City of Pittsburgh to Samuel L. Hoffman at 0 Kincaid St. for \$2,200.

City of Pittsburgh to Samuel L. Hoffman at 0 Rosetta St. for \$6,050.

City of Pittsburgh to Samuel L. Hoffman at 5221 Kincaid St. for \$3,600.

City of Pittsburgh to Samuel L. Hoffman at 5223 Kincaid St. for \$3,600.

City of Pittsburgh to Samuel L. Hoffman at 5225 Kincaid St. for \$3,600.

City of Pittsburgh to Samuel L. Hoffman at 5227 Kincaid St. for \$3,600.

Ex Properties Inc. to Andette LLC at 4905 Penn Ave. for \$315,000.

Leo Sr. & Victorene Harper to Leo C Jr. Harper at 532 N Fairmount St. for \$1.

### East Liberty

Alpha 3 LP to 8 Katz Crew LP at 5915 Baum Blvd for \$870,000.

Alpha Beatty LLC to Steel Town Prop-

erties M3 LLC at 714 N Beatty St. for \$136,000.

Bernard Mark & Natalie Ann Lauterbach to Samuel M. & Paula Yazmin Delsimer at 5613 Hays St. for \$334,000.

Deutsche Bank National Trust Company to Bgbc Realty LLC at 6112 Saint Marie St. for \$119,250.

Friedman Lipman Associates to Rdjb LP at 5845 Centre Ave. for \$1,152,860.

Irene & Curtis Williams Barley to Giacomo & Rosa Tolomeo at 704 N Negley Ave. for \$162,000.

Joseph M. Mozurak Jr. to Costello Properties LLC at 5638 Rippey St. for \$56,000.

### Lawrenceville

3936 Clement Way Holdings LLC to Andrew Colby at 3936 Clement Way for \$252,000.

3936 Howley Street Holdings LLC to Blake A Keller at 3936 Howley St. for \$290,000.

Adam Liss to Katrina Lynn Oshier at 5101 Berlin Way for \$205,000.

Big League Construction LLC to Meghan K. Mallin at 205 54Th St. for \$316,000.

Carol Peterson to Katie M. Mccauley at 172 46Th St. for \$205,000.

Christine A. Gerstbrein to Justin Mark Ritter at 224 42Nd St. for \$330,000.

Eleanore Mclaughlin to Megan R. Schae-fers at 5161 Natrona Way for \$55,000.

Four 412 Homes LLC to Matt A. Guidish at 423 Fisk St. for \$310,000.

Frank Arthur Douglass III to Entropy Properties LLC at 4827 Hatfield St. for \$424,900.

Greater Pittsburgh Properties LLC to Fid T Crooch LLC at 4412 Sherrod St. for \$291,000.

Hi Management LLC to Mumbling Joe Properties LLC at 5203 Natrona Way for \$102,500.

Kentwood Properties I LLC to Boris M. & Lauren P. Gezzer at 5114 Keystone St. for \$379,900.

Lawrenceville Corporation to Adelina A. Malito at 5229 Poe Way for \$125,000.

Leonard & Cynthia Rzoski to Darren

Myzak at 215 Main St. for \$377,000.

Leslie Kernan to Casa Del Sol Investments LLC at 244 38Th St. for \$260,256.

Meeghan C. Triggs to Jennifer H. Curry at 5204 Butler St. for \$268,000.

Nesinka & Zelijko Benkovski to Jonathan Pollock at 5220 Dresden Way for \$409,900.

Northeast Trade House LLC to Aaron Huff at 339 39Th St. for \$298,000.

Northeast Trade House LLC to Seventeen Eighty Nine LLC at 337 39Th St. for \$300,000.

Pgh Developers LLC to Nematollah Batmangelich at 721 53Rd St. for \$465,522.

Pridewell LLC to Industrial Commons Limited at 0 Howley St. for \$225,000.

Pridewell LLC to Industrial Commons Limited at 0 Howley St. for \$225,000.

Pridewell LLC to Industrial Commons Limited at 3800 Howley St. for \$225,000.

Robert W. Jr. & Judith A. Walker to Kristen Walker at 358 42Nd St. for \$165,000.

Ryan P. Mulvaney to Matthew I. Fisher at 239 Urbana Way for \$170,000.

Samantha Litvak to Stefan E. Kosik at 166 Almond Way for \$279,000.

Sean Lee Miller to Nicholas D. Swidzinski at 5201 1/2 Duncan St. for \$220,000.

Synergy Capital LP to Scott K. & Joan M. Kindsfather at 5147 Keystone St. for \$280,000.

Walter E. & Frances Grech Siwek to Joseph A Coyle at 249 43Rd St. for \$193,000.

William B. & Margaret M. Barron to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC at 4226 Geneva St. for \$325,000.

William F. Brest to Lawrenceville Corporation at 476 44Th St. for \$89,500.

Young K. Kim to Darian C. Balcom at 3720 Liberty Ave. for \$145,000.

Zachary P. Schweitzer to Maria S. & William Mcgonigle at 4402 Hatfield St. for \$230,000.

### Stanton Heights

Beverly A. Phillips to Traci G. Phillips at 1368 Woodbine St. for \$119,000.

Christine A. Mcmeekin to Dwayne D. Williams at 4824 Stanton Ave. for \$215,000.

Gloria M. & Donald L. Smith to Deborah A. & Lester A. Robinson at 1034 Premier St. for \$1.

Nathan Szramowski to Charles Young at 5307 Camelia St. for \$166,000.

Ruth A. Enright to Peter W. & Bethany Nigra at 1528 Trinity St. for \$165,000.

Allegheny County listings are current again, so look for this column to appear every month. For questions, comments, or just to chat about real estate in our neighborhoods, feel free to email Lillian at agent.lillian.pgh@gmail.com or call 412-335-6068. ♦

## 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. Priority Population is as follows:

PREGNANT IV DRUG USERS | PREGNANT SUBSTANCE USERS  
| INJECTION DRUG USERS |  
OVERDOSE SURVIVORS | VETERANS

Sojourner House responds to admissions inquiries from women and their loved ones, other drug and alcohol programs, case workers, social agencies, physicians, prison and probation officers, counselors, and Children, Youth and Family courts. We will consider patients who are dually diagnosed with both addiction and mental illness.

Our house has 14 apartments, with a waiting list during periods when the house is full. Priority of admission is determined by order on waiting lists and urgency as defined by the priorities above. The program is designed for a six-month stay. Inquiry for admissions should go to 412-441-7783.

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Bulletin

BOARD

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 July issue are due by Friday, June 15.** Please submit any listings using our online form at [www.bit.ly/bulletin\\_submit](http://www.bit.ly/bulletin_submit).

JUNE 1 - FRIDAY

FRIENDSHIP

PGH Montessori Fun Fair

All are welcome to enjoy Pittsburgh Montessori's Fun Fair on Friday, June 1, from 5 - 8 p.m. Hosted on the school grounds (201 S. Graham St.), this community-wide carnival will feature family games, a bounce house, "O'Ryan the O'Mazing," delicious food, Colonel Eagleburger's Highstepping Goodtime Band, a photo booth, face-painting, an imagination playground, kids' activities, and lots more. Admission (\$5 per kid) includes 3 tickets and unlimited carnival games; additional tickets cost \$1. Grown-ups and babies get in for free. Ticket sales will support the PGH Montessori PTA.

GARFIELD

Garfield Night Market

Food, crafts, and fun for families happens every First Friday of the month on N. Pacific Ave. Come to the Garfield Night Market on the evening of Friday, June 1, during Unblurred. The night market has four goals: to foster Garfield's entrepreneurs; to provide families with a place to spend a Friday night together; to highlight Garfield's creativity and energy; and to increase the neighborhood's visibility to the rest of Pittsburgh by building

a bridge between Garfield residents and Penn Avenue's Unblurred festivities. Garfield residents who would like to be market vendors will pay a discounted vendor fee. Call 412-441-6950 (ext. 16) or visit <http://garfieldnightmarket.org>.

SHADYSIDE

Healthy Living Event

Learn about healthy living - including tips from experts about warm weather and home safety for adults - on Friday, June 1. ManorCare Health Services (550 South Negley Ave.) will host an informative event from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Guests can enjoy refreshments while celebrating healthy living. Contact Aylesa at 412-852-3378 with questions or to RSVP.

JUNE 2 - SATURDAY

EAST LIBERTY

'Full Bloom' Summer Dance Party

The Full Bloom summer dance party runs from 9 p.m. - Midnight at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater (KST, 5941 Penn Ave.) on Saturday, June 2. Put on your dancing shoes for KST's celebration of "summer in the city" featuring Pittsburgh's hottest DJ, Nate Da Phat Barber. For tickets, go to [Kelly-Strayhorn.org](http://Kelly-Strayhorn.org)

Local Events

Classes

Gatherings

Fundraisers

JUNE 5 - TUESDAY

FRIENDSHIP

'Haiku Very Much!'

Release your inner poet with the ancient Japanese art of Haiku. Short and sweet, these poetic nuggets capture the essence of any topic - from nature and memories to dreams and goals - in a mere 17 syllables. Join local writer and Haiku ninja, Staci B, for an evening of wordplay guaranteed to stimulate your creativity and send you home with several of your own mini-works of literary art. This event is free. For more information about this and other events, call 412-267-7862 or e-mail [staci@stacib.com](mailto:staci@stacib.com).

JUNE 6 - WEDNESDAY

EAST LIBERTY

'Ancestry.art' exhibit

Ancestry.art, an exhibit by Lyn Ferlo, will be on display from June 6 to June 24 at Spinning Plate Gallery (5821 Baum Blvd.); the opening reception on June 8 will fun from 6 to 9 p.m. at the gallery. This exhibit explores our oneness with common objects via oil paintings and clay works.

STANTON HEIGHTS

Neighborhood Social Hour

The Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association is holding its June social hour from 6 - 8 p.m. at a home on the 4400 block of Stanton Ave., across from the bus shelter at Woodbine and Stanton. Follow the signs that will be posted on the day of the event and please bring a

dish or beverage to share.

JUNE 7 - THURSDAY

GARFIELD

Small Business Fair

Attend this resource fair at the BGC Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.) and walk away with new connections and resources. From 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., join exhibitors from nonprofit groups and others all over Pittsburgh who can help you start or grow your small business; light refreshments will be provided. Learn about available assistance with your building, your business plan, financing, mentorship, and other great opportunities for new and established small businesses. Free to attend. Interested in being an exhibitor? Contact Ellen Bateman at [ebateman@ura.org](mailto:ebateman@ura.org) for more information and to reserve a table.

Garfield Land Trust Potluck/Cookout

Bring a dish & join Garfield Land Trust members for a discussion about affordability in our community at 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 7, in the lower level of the Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave. at Dearborn St.). We will grill hot dogs to share, so let us know if you and your family will attend; contact 412-345-3831 or [GarfieldLandTrust@gmail.com](mailto:GarfieldLandTrust@gmail.com). Visit <http://garfieldlandtrust.org/membership> to become a member today.

JUNE 9 - SATURDAY

LARIMER

Zone 5 PGH Police Community Open House

**BELOW:** Stanton Heights residents gather on a summer evening to enjoy the annual progressive dinner. Neighbors host various courses across the neighborhood; all attendees contribute to the event. This year's dinner will be held on Saturday, June 23. See the event listing at right for more info. Photo courtesy of Lissa Geiger Shulman.



**ABOVE:** Rick Swartz, executive director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, is flanked by Corey Layman (left), the city of Pittsburgh's zoning administrator, and architect Rob Pfaffman (right) at a May 16 workshop held downtown during the annual conference of the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG) at the Omni William Penn Hotel. The subject under discussion was a proposed zoning overlay for Garfield that would allow homeowners west of N. Aiken Ave. to add a second living unit to their dwellings. City Council is expected to discuss the proposed change this summer. Photo by John Colombo.



Volunteer Opportunities

Announcements Services

Shout-Outs Open Calls

Classifieds

Join the community in a day of family fun on Saturday, June 9, from Noon to 5 p.m. Free and open to all at the Zone 5 Station (1401 Washington Blvd.), this open house event will feature music, hamburgers & hot dogs, a bounce house, games, face-painting, and a magician for the kids. PGH Police officers will park their vehicles for display. Also, PGH Paramedics will be on hand to teach CPR and PGH Fire Fighters will be on hand to teach fire prevention.

JUNE 16 - SATURDAY

GARFIELD

Queer Craft Market

Celebrate Pride month by supporting queer artists and makers from Garfield, Bloomfield, Lawrenceville, Friendship, and East Liberty at Assemble (4824 Penn Ave.) on Saturday, June 16. From 5 to 9 p.m., you can screen-print a shirt with the Queer PGH logo, get cookbooks and other resources from the GLCC/Equality Center, and even design your own graphics for a condom carrier/sex kit with Allies for Health + Wellbeing. More than twenty local artists will also be vending at the market. Visit <http://assemblepgh.org/grown-up-events> to learn more.

FRIENDSHIP

African American Poetry & Poetics

The Center for African American Poetry and Poetics presents “Because Blackness Like Poetry Means Many Things: Celebrating Cave Canem” at KST’s Alloy Studios (5530 Penn Ave.) at 6:30 p.m. Featuring Samiya Bashir, Lisa Davis, Ruth Ellen Kocher, and avery r. young. Tickets for the event are priced on the “Pay What Makes You Happy” scale. Learn more at <https://kelly-strayhorn.org>.

Friendship Litter Pick-Up

Friendship neighbors are invited to meet at Baum Grove on Saturday, June 16, at 10 a.m. for a group litter pick-up. Volunteers will spread out over the neighborhood for one hour to clean up the sidewalks and green spaces. Garbage bags will be provided.

JUNE 19 - TUESDAY

SHADYSIDE

Baum-Centre Initiative Meeting

The Baum-Centre Initiative (BCI) is a group of citizens and business owners who work to improve the quality of life and review development proposals in the Baum & Centre Ave. corridor. The next

BCI meeting will be held on Thursday, June 19, at 6 p.m., at First United Methodist Church (5401 Centre Ave.). All neighbors are welcome to attend.

FRIENDSHIP

Legacy Arts: Dance Africa

Dance Africa Pittsburgh Returns from June 19 - 20. Times will vary and tickets are “Pay What Makes You Happy.” This will be a series of dance workshops from Friday through Sunday @ KST’s Alloy Studios (5530 Penn Ave.). 25 attendees per class; register now at <https://kelly-strayhorn.org>.

JUNE 21 - THURSDAY

GARFIELD

Community Listening Session: Garfield Hilltop

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) wants to hear from the community, so come share your vision for Garfield on June 21. Beginning at 6 p.m., this listening session will be held at Valley View Church (601 N. Aiken Ave.); refreshments will be provided.

JUNE 23 - SATURDAY

STANTON HEIGHTS

SHNA Progressive Dinner

Plans are in the making for Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association’s third annual progressive dinner. Guests move together to each home for one of three courses (appetizer, main course, and dessert). It is a potluck; guests will be contacted about dishes to bring and locations. If you are interested in attending and/or hosting one of the courses, please email Liz at [liztafel@gmail.com](mailto:liztafel@gmail.com).

JUNE 24 - SUNDAY

LAWRENCEVILLE

‘Calling All Gardeners’

The annual Lawrenceville Garden Tour will be held on Sunday, June 24, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. We are currently looking for Lawrenceville residents who are interested in having their urban backyard garden be part of the tour. For more information, visit [LHA15201.org](http://LHA15201.org) or contact [lawrencevillehospitality@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencevillehospitality@gmail.com).

JUNE 26 - MONDAY

GARFIELD

Ambassador Program Community Meeting

Learn about the “Community Ambassadors” and other Garfield programs on Monday, June 26, at 6 p.m. Hosted at the BGC Activity Center (113 North Pacific Ave.), the meeting will feature refreshments and child care activities.

JUNE 27 - TUESDAY

STANTON HEIGHTS

Neighborhood Happy Hour

Residents are invited to join us at Full Pint Wild Side from 6 - 8 p.m. for drinks and food. Sponsored by the Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association, this is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and enjoy some time out; children and families are welcome. ♦

‘Bob Awards’ honors community stewards

By Sarah Alessio Shea *Pennsylvania Resources Council*

Lawrenceville - A number of volunteers, community groups and neighborhoods were honored on Thursday, May 3 at the Clean Pittsburgh Commission’s (CPC) annual “Meet-n-Greet Mixer” at Spirit Lounge. The event invited neighborhood community stewards, local nonprofits, and City employees and representatives with the goal to recognize their hard work as well as foster new ideas and relationships.

The night’s festivities also included the annual “Bob Awards” a tribute to the late Mayor Bob O’Connor and his dedication to cleaning up the city. Councilman Corey O’Connor and Judy O’Connor were on hand to present the awards to Volunteer, Neighborhood, and Emerging Leader of the Year.

The winners of this year’s Volunteer of the Year awards include Rhonda Sears from Homewood. Sears has been a community advocate for more than twenty years; she has maintained the Mulford Community Teaching Garden and large adjacent lots on Mulford and Hale Sts. in Homewood since 2008. People come to the garden to volunteer, learn, and partake in fellowship. Sears’ focus is found in the garden’s slogan: “beautify our turf and improve our quality of life.” ♦



ABOVE: During a May 3 ceremony at Spirit in Lawrenceville, Rhonda Sears (second from left) won the Clean Pittsburgh Commission’s “Volunteer of the Year” award for her work as a steward of teaching gardens in Homewood. In honor of the late Mayor Bob O’Connor, City Councilman Corey O’Connor (right) and his mother, Judy (second from right), were on hand to present the “Bob Awards.” Photo courtesy of Sarah Alessio Shea (left).



# Mayor Peduto to speak at LU's spring membership meeting

By Taro Matsuno *Lawrenceville United*



## Spring Membership Meeting

Tuesday, June 5th, 6:30 p.m.  
Goodwill Workforce Development Center  
118 52nd Street

Featuring special guest Mayor William Peduto.

Program also includes presentations by candidates for the LU Board of Directors and our annual Board Election.

Light refreshments will be served.  
Contact 412-802-7220 or [info@LUNITED.org](mailto:info@LUNITED.org) for more info.

*Lawrenceville* - On Tuesday, June 5, Lawrenceville United (LU) will host its spring membership meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Goodwill Workforce Development Center (118 52nd St.). This year's special guest, Mayor William Peduto, will make a brief presentation, followed by a question-and-answer session.

"We're grateful to Mayor Peduto for taking the time to attend our membership meeting," Dave Breingan, LU's executive director, said. "We're looking forward to having a community conversation around how we can improve quality of life for all Lawrenceville residents."

As LU seeks to grow its membership base in 2018, all Lawrenceville residents are invited to become an LU member for \$5 per year or \$35 for a lifetime.

The membership meeting will also play host to elections for the organization's Board of Directors. LU members will be able to hear from candidates before casting their ballots. The Board is responsible for setting LU's goals, overseeing the executive director, monitoring the financial health of the organization, and making key decisions on matters affecting the local community.

At the June 5 meeting, members will have an opportunity to learn about the organization's ongoing work and recent achievements. In early 2018, LU hired consultants from "Just Collaboration" to develop goals for holding the organization accountable to its values of diversity, inclusion, and equity. The aim is to understand how to make the neighborhood a more inclusive and welcoming place for everyone.

The first phase of this process involved surveying nearly 400 Lawrenceville residents on their personal experiences and feelings around diversity and inclusion in the neighborhood; the results of this survey will be presented at the membership meeting.

LU maintains an active role in trying to ensure the neighborhood's growth is responsive to the interests and concerns of its residents. During 2017, eleven new development projects and liquor license applications were the subject of a community process co-facilitated with Lawrenceville Corporation. This community process is intended to provide local residents with access to the information they need to understand change in the neighborhood and weigh in on how it affects their quality of life.

In regards to the "Mews on Butler" development project, LU's advocacy led to the creation of a new fund for affordable housing in Upper Lawrenceville. The fund is forecasted to receive over \$1 million over the next 10 years to help preserve housing for all in the 10th Ward.

"We were able to achieve several key accomplishments last year towards our neighborhood goals," Breingan said, "That's thanks to our membership, our volunteers, and the Board of Directors. We hope residents will continue to get involved and make a difference in their neighborhood."

To RSVP for the meeting or become an LU member, contact [info@LUNITED.org](mailto:info@LUNITED.org) or 412-802-7220. ♦

July Bulletin Deadline: **Friday, June 15**

Download advertising information: [bit.ly/bulletin\\_ad](http://bit.ly/bulletin_ad)

Download guidelines for stories, photos, and notices: [bit.ly/bulletin\\_news](http://bit.ly/bulletin_news)

# Lot to like: The Lot at 5007 Penn Ave.

A Message from 'The Lot'

*Garfield* - Playing host to numerous events over the past four years, The Lot at 5007 Penn Ave. is now really coming into its own as an outdoor venue for music and other events. Newly added picnic tables and a "warehouse door" bar provide more options for relaxing under string lights and taking in some street art on the brick walls.

By assembling the space's physical elements from salvaged materials, Nicholas Hartkopf has repurposed a vacant lot with a casual, inviting atmosphere. Every First Friday, local musician Ivan Gil-Silva, who ran the sound-board in years past, and Rachel Jenkins work tirelessly to provide live music and good eats at The Lot.

Jenkins' culinary business, "Mi Emapanda," supplies Unblurred gallery crawlers with Argentine-American cuisine, most notably empanadas; the menu, which is available at [www.miempanadapgh.com](http://www.miempanadapgh.com), is equal parts tradition and modern fusion.

This year, The Lot's music organizers, Troy Johnson and Louie Petrone, curate a new bill of musical acts every month and also perform together as hip-hop duo Abstract Theory. The group bills itself as an "organic DIY duo set on uplifting and inspiring in-

dividuals through dynamic sounds and visuals." On June 7, Abstract Theory will perform on the Main stage at the Three Rivers Music Festival from Noon to 1 p.m.

All are welcome to join in the First Friday festivities on June 1 as The Lot hosts a performance by Gladstone Bulter (a.k.a. "Gladstone Deluxe"), who spins smooth house tracks in clubs across the city.

As the gallery crawl winds down around 10 p.m., The Lot will just be getting the party started. ♦



**ABOVE:** Some of the folks who bring The Lot at 5007 Penn Ave. to life every First Friday pose with the fruits of their collaboration. Photo courtesy of The Lot.

## SPIRIT BRUNCH

Every Saturday and Sunday from 11am-3pm.  
Endless Pizza and Brunch Buffet. Veg friendly.



\$15 / Adults • \$ 7 / Kids 4-12  
Free for kids under 4.

Patio seating available, weather permitting.

