A publication of the **Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation**



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

'Fort Pitt, that's it': **Garfield groups push** district to repurpose old school building

Vol. 44, No. 4

APRIL

2019

the

By Joe Reuben Bulletin contributor

Garfield - A Feb. 13 letter submitted to the Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) on behalf of a coalition of neighborhood groups has drawn no response from the superintendent of schools, Dr. Anthony Hamlet.

The letter contained a proposal regarding the vacant Fort Pitt School property in the 5100 block of Hillcrest St. in Garfield. It laid out a plan that would require the district's cooperation in allowing community interests up to 3.5 years to plan and fundraise for the conversion of a rear section of the school, known as "the annex", into a multi-purpose center for local residents.

Sitting behind the original school build-

See Fort Pitt | page 4



ABOVE: While "scoping" the second phase of the Penn Ave. reconstruction project, workers mine the avenue for any subterranean surprises. Trans Associates, the project's lead consulting firm, plans to make Phase II a smooth operation. Photo by Nina Gibbs.



ABOVE: A local vendor sells fresh produce at the Lawrenceville Farmers Market in Arsenal Park. Read about the market's new inter-neighborhood plan on page 13. Photo courtesy of Sarah Cole.

Fringe Festival makes East End debut

By Staci Backauskas Bulletin contributor

Penn Ave. - On Thursday, Apr. 4, the avenue will come alive as the sixth annual Pittsburgh Fringe Festival (PGH Fringe) hits the streets.

Moving from its home base in the North Side to a corridor bounding East Liberty, Bloomfield, Garfield, and Friendship, PGH Fringe promises to be a "diverse and inclusive, multi-disciplinary, performing arts event," according to Xela Batchelder, the festival's executive director.

"As Pittsburgh Fringe Festival continues to grow, we couldn't be happier to bring all of these incredible performers to the East End," she said.

Running from Apr. 4 - 7, the festivities will take place at venues along the Penn Ave. corridor - from Highland Ave. to the Allegheny Cemetery - featuring upwards of 50 shows in genres like theater, comedy, puppetry, music, dance, and spoken word.

There is essentially something for everyone, from family-friendly events to edgier performances that cater to adult audiences. Some shows are free, while others cost anywhere from \$8 to \$15 apiece.

Local stand-up comedian Krish Mohan is thrilled to be doing his third turn for PGH Fringe. He does not shy away from hot-button topics like race, reli-

See Fringe | page 10

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APRIL FOOL'S ERRANDS OUR DEST "REAUX EAKTE" MEXIS East End - Volunteers with the Pitts-

burgh Fringe Festival (PGH Fringe)

and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corpo-

ration (BGC) now have an opportu-

nity to earn rewards for their service

through a web-based platform called

PGH Fringe, a grassroots festival that runs from Apr. $\overline{4}$ – 7 [see this month's

cover story], will provide local volun-

teers with all sorts of ways to donate

During four days in early April, vol-

unteers will receive a "TimeCredit" for

each hour of service that they give to

the festival. The TimeCredit serves as

veritable currency, accepted for free

products and services at participating

As an internationally-renowned, D.I.Y.

endeavor, PGH Fringe needs volun-

teers to serve as escorts, ticket-takers,

and "way-finders" across all venues.

For a complete list of volunteer oppor-

tunities, visit involvemint.io/calendar.

The BGC plans to host regular events

with involveMINT throughout 2019.

Volunteers can earn TimeCredits by

participating in a community clean-

up event on Saturday, May 18. In order

to get "paid" for their time, volunteers

"involveMINT."

their time and energy.

local businesses.



'involveMINT': new reward system for local volunteers

By Daniel Little *involveMINT*

must sign up at involvemint.io.

"Our goal is to find the hidden community value that's already here, and then use that to support people doing good work," business outreach coordinator Diego Bernardo said. "By engaging with local brick & mortar businesses, volunteers can redeem their credits in the same neighborhood in which they volunteer, helping them discover new businesses."

Local businesses can offer discounted goods & services through the web platform. In turn, these retailers will attract volunteers-turned-customers. The whole arrangement is, as Bernado framed things, "helping to grow the economy from the ground up."

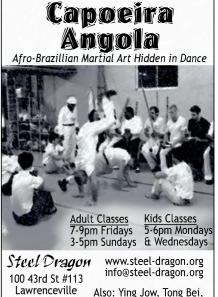
This year's Fringe festivities speak to a diverse business network - one that sees value in contracting its volunteer services through involveMINT. Those interested in partnering with the organization may contact partnerships@ involvemint.io to learn more.

Readers interested in lending a hand during PGH Fringe are encouraged to share their volunteer experiences on Twitter or Instagram using the "#involvePGH" and "#involveMINT" hashtags.

A number of Pittsburgh businesses that have engaged in past Fringe initiatives are now participating as involveMINT partners in 2019.

Mattress Factory, PCTV21, Bear Dog Bikes, Photo Antiquities Museum & City Books, Pittsburgh Riverhounds, Healthy Ride PGH, GoApe, Venture Outdoors, Tupelo Honey Teas, and Black Forge Coffee are just a few of the faithful supporters.

To learn more about this new local platform, visit involveMINT.io.



Lawrenceville 412.362.6096 Also: Ying Jow, Tong Bei, Xing-Yi,Tai Chi, Lion Danc

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Penn Ave. reconstruction: Phase II update

A Message from the Penn Ave. Reconstruction Committee



Penn Ave. - An infrastructure reinvestment project, running along the avenue from N. Evaline St. to N. Graham St., is being undertaken with the City of Pittsburgh Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI), PennDOT, and Trans Associates. The project's second phase will reconstruct the street and sidewalks from building face to building face (with some exceptions for properties that are considered large commercial development).

This includes street reconstruction, new sidewalks & landscape, new traffic control equipment, improved lighting, and new streetscaping. The Penn Ave. Reconstruction Committee (PARC) is working to ensure that the project is carried out with local residents in mind. See the schedule outlined below.

IMPORTANT DATES

2019 PARC Planning Dates: May 2, Aug. 1, and Nov. 7

Penn Ave. Phase 2 Reconstruction planning meetings between Penn Ave. property owners, businesses, reps from the City/DOMI and PWSA.

Public Meeting: Tentative 06/05/19

Join elected officials, Penn Ave. property owners, PWSA, and reps from the City to discuss the design of Phase 2 reconstruction. A series of conceptual drawings will be presented to show what must be included in the streetscaping; reps will invite feedback from community members.

Penn Ave. Phase II Property Owners Meetings: 06/07/19 – 06/17/19

Individual meetings between Phase II business owners and reps from DOMI will be held to develop business impact and mitigation plans. To schedule this meeting, Phase II business owners may contact Trans Associates at 412-490-0630.

Begin Final Phase II Design: 05/2020

Once feedback is compiled, a preliminary design will be ready by May 2020.

Phase II breaking ground: anticipated 2021

Replacing service lines while the street and sidewalks are open.

As part of this reconstruction, DOMI is coordinating with utility companies for work while the street is open in 2021. For utility service replacement, the property owner will be responsible for the selection of contractor and cost of excavating the trench and replacing the service line. The property owner is also responsible for getting any necessary approvals from the utility company. The City will do the restoration. Once the property owner receives approval from the utility company, they should provide contact information to Trans Associates at 412-490-0630.

PWSA - Lead line replacement

Property owners in the Phase II zone can take advantage of this opportunity to replace their water service lines, but only if their lines are made of lead. To request a lead water test kit, call the PWSA Lead Help Desk (412-255-8987) between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, or fill out the online form at pgh2o.com/ leadform. PWSA offers a "Private Lead Line Replacement" for those financially eligible; these replacements are made available for customers who are at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level. Contact Dollar Energy Fund at 866-762-2348 or dollarenergy.org to learn more. ◆

Bulletin

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

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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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Bloomfield-Garfield.org

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York Commons is accepting applications for residency!

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Fort Pitt continued from page 1

ing, which was constructed almost 100 years ago, the annex was added in 1964 to accommodate a growing student population at the time. It consists of two floors of classrooms and a gymnasium/auditorium, all of which have fallen into disuse.

Next to the annex sits Fort Pitt Field (owned by the City), home of the Garfield Gators football program. In 2011, the school board voted to close the school and send its students elsewhere.

Concerns have risen lately among groups like the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Brothers and Sisters Emerging, Inc. (BASE), and Garfield Jubilee Association that the continued vacancy of both buildings could one day lead to their demolition if no action is taken to save them in the next few years.

"An opportunity would be lost to take a public asset, which is benefiting no one at the moment, and give it a useful life for generations to come," said Bob Jones, Jr., executive director of BASE. "There could be a wide range of programming going on in the annex that would bring greater structure to the lives of kids in Garfield, along with greater opportunities for adults to enjoy vocational training, health or wellness education, cultural events, and artistic activities".

Rick Swartz, executive director of the BGC, said that the school board representative for Garfield, Sala Udin, was contacted in March to help elicit a response from Supt. Hamlet on the community's proposal.

The Bulletin will keep tracking the progress of this initiative in future editions. •



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Subscribe at **bit.ly/bgc_email** to get the latest community news delivered to your inbox every month.

East Liberty's 211 Tower welcomes new tenants to business district

By Elizabeth Sensky East Liberty Development, Inc.

East Liberty – In February, Alphabet City Management announced its first tenants for 211 Tower, formerly known as the Medical Arts building.

Constructed in the late 1960s, in concert with the "urban renewal era," the 57,000 sq. ft. building sits across from Hotel Indigo at 211 N. Whitfield St. in East Liberty.

When Arnold Babar LP purchased the property in October of 2015, it was in need of a lot of work. The building renovations, some of which are still ongoing, involve a complete re-envisioning of the space – one that points to finance and technology.

As Tony Dolan, CEO of Alphabet City Development and managing partner of the project, explained, "It's no longer a medical building and that's simply because we didn't want to compete with UPMC or the Allegheny Health Network...especially in their own backyard."

US Asset Management, LLC, an investment firm specializing in municipal pension plans and cash management, is leasing a 1,500 sq. ft. office suite in the building. The other tenant, a Japanese software company called GrapeCity, Inc., boasts more than 850 employees worldwide; the company will occupy an entire office floor at the 211 Tower, which measures approximately 8,000 sq. ft.

With the future of retail still hanging in the balance as e-commerce gobbles up customers, Dolan foresees a changing approach to business development in the city's East End.

"I think the retail space you see there today is far more likely to become restaurant space and more service-oriented types of retail," he said, "whether it be fitness places, salons, spas, or other things like that."

"There's a shift away from national retailers and large box stores, or what people perceive as large box stores, and a move towards smaller spaces," Dolan continued. "Everybody's shrinking up, and I think you'll see this trend continuing."

As the 211 Tower renovations near completion, Alphabet City prepares to adapt the facility's remaining office space to the needs of new tenants. Inquiries may be directed to Michael E. Connor at mconnor@HannaLWE. com or 412-261-2200. ◆

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Local lawmakers comment on Officer Rosfeld acquittal

 $Op/\mathcal{E}d$ - Pittsburgh - Area lawmakers on Mar. 23 released the following statement regarding the acquittal of former East Pittsburgh Police Officer Michael Rosfeld, who fatally shot Antwon Rose II, an unarmed black teenager, in the back last summer.

"First and foremost, our deepest sympathies go out to Michelle Kenny and Antwon Rose Sr. as well as the rest of Antwon's family and friends. Our community lost a 17-year-old boy. We will continue to mourn this senseless and pointless loss of the life. The life he lived as well as the life he could've gone on to live.

"While no verdict can bring Antwon back, we had hoped to see justice for his murder. Unfortunately, there will be no justice for Antwon. This outcome, while extremely disappointing, is far from surprising. Our region has a troubling history of racial injustices. The loss of an unarmed Antwon with no punishment for the police officer who shot him three times as he tried to flee will be added to that history.

"America has a problem with police officers murdering African-American men and women that our region is not immune to. From Freddie Gray, to Sandra Bland, to Philando Castile and now Antwon Rose, police officers time and time again have used excessive, unnecessary force against African-American civilians and faced no criminal convictions for their actions.

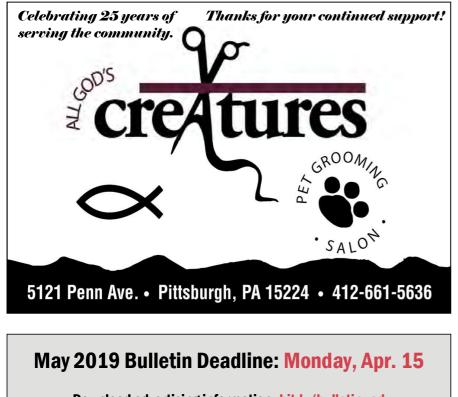
"As a nation, we simply cannot sit back, express our outrage for a few days and then return to our daily lives until a tragedy such as this happens again. Because make no mistake – it will happen again unless we work to prevent it. We must be proactive in addressing the inequality in police interactions with African-American men and women. We must be proactive in expressing, through both words and actions, that we will not accept this. We must be proactive in standing together to end the loss of life at the hands of those who are meant to protect us.

"Martin Luther King Jr. once said that 'True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice.' There is no justice in across our region today. There is no justice for Antwon and his family. There is no justice for the communities of color that are continually revictimized when they see a family member, friend, neighbor or coworker needlessly lose their life with no punishment for those who acted aggressively or carelessly.

"There will not be justice until we demand justice through legislative and civil actions. We encourage all those feeling despondent, angry and hurt to stand together and support one another. Though there is no justice for Antwon today, we are resolute that the system can be changed to ensure justice in the future."

Signed,

Rep. Jake Wheatley, Rep. Ed Gainey, Rep. Austin Davis, Rep. Summer Lee, County Councilman Dewit Walton, & City Councilman Daniel Lavalle ♦



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Lawrenceville groups push for zoning laws to safeguard long-term residents

By Dave Breignan Lawrenceville United

BELOW: Supporters of a new ordinance for "inclusionary zoning" in Lawrenceville gather outside City Council chambers. Photo courtesy of Lawrenceville United.



Lawrenceville - On Feb. 19, City Councilwoman Deborah Gross introduced legislation at Council that would require the neighborhood's larger housing developments to make at least 10% of their units affordable to low- and moderate-income households.

Any Lawrenceville development projects containing 20 or more housing units - whether new or renovated, homeownership or rental - would have to comply with the ordinance in order for their developers to get a building permit from the City.

Two community groups, Lawrenceville United (LU) and the Lawrenceville Corporation (LC), want mandatory restrictions put in place for at least an 18-month period while they negotiate with developers to include such units in their projects.

"Inclusionary zoning", as these restrictions have come to be known, has proven its worth in other cities. In some instances, however, these laws have allowed developers to opt out of complying with certain municipal codes; "affordable housing fund" contributions have become the newfangled ticket to exemption for many developers.

According to LU's executive director, Dave Breingan, no such "opt-out" provision is included in this piece of legislation. Lawrenceville communi-



ty groups estimate that the rents for two-bedroom units - required to be made affordable to households earning 50% or less of median household income - would have to be in the neighborhood of \$855 per month or less to comply with the proposed ordinance.

A family of three that earns \$34,200 or less would be considered [by the federal government] to fall within the 50% threshold. Homeownership units would have to be priced low enough that the same family of three, making \$54,750 or less, could afford the mortgage payments.

At a March 6 meeting in the city's Manchester neighborhood, Breingan told a group of housing advocates that his organization has collected several thousand signatures on support petitions.

"The construction of the affordably-priced units would have to move hand-in-hand with development of the market-rate units, not as something to be done at a later date," Breingan asserted. "[These units] would have to be built literally as part of, or next to, where the market-rate units are going, not at some location that's over the hill and through the woods."

The city planning commission is due to hold a public hearing on the proposed ordinance on April 21 at 200 Ross St., in a first-floor conference room. ◆



Kosmo Vinyl, fmr. manager of The Clash, brings new art exhibition to Garfield

By Nina Gibbs Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - On Friday, Apr. 5, the Irma Freeman Center for Imagination (5006 Penn Ave.) will host London-born, New York City-based artist Kosmo Vinyl for the opening of his art exhibition, "Cisco Kid vs. Donald Trump."

The art project began in June 2016 as an Instagram series, with the artist appropriating 1950s Cisco Kid comic strips by Argentine Jose Luis Salinas. Vinyl then replaces the dialogue in the speech bubbles to reflect on Trump's seemingly endless calamities.

"There are many variants on the 19th-century quote 'all bad men need to succeed is for good men to do nothing," Vinyl noted. "It may not be much, but I am doing something."

His former (London) calling, which began in the 1970s, saw Vinyl band-managing seminal British punk rockers The Clash. Upon immigrating to New York City over 30 years ago, he eventually reVinyl's art career began almost by accident as he began making postcards and mailing them to friends. In 2016, when then-candidate Trump first proclaimed that Mexican immigrants were largely drug dealers and rapists, Vinyl's outrage sparked a brainstorm.

tired from music to raise a family.

"Cisco Kid was a caballero, the Robin Hood of the West," he explained. "Who better to defend the good name, not only of Mexicans, but of all immigrants?"

Vinyl was first asked to exhibit Cisco Kid during 2017's New York Armory Week, where it captured the attention of museum directors and magazines alike. When the exhibition debuted in Washington D.C. at Lost Origins Gallery, The Washington Post wrote: "It's as though The Clash reunited to challenge Trump - not with songs, but with record covers."

Since then, the Cisco show has travelled to Atlanta, Nashville, and now Pittsburgh. Vinyl found his way to town when the owner of Lost Origins Gallery put him in touch with Jack Ball, who manages the Irma Freeman gallery on Penn Ave.

"Until recently, I had not visited Pittsburgh since the late 1980s, when The Clash last played there," Vinyl told The Bulletin. "But, I'd heard some very positive things about artists living and showing their work [in Pittsburgh] within a supportive arts community."

The "Cisco Kid vs. Donald Trump" exhibition will be on display from Apr. 5 through May 3 at the Irma Freeman gallery in Garfield.

On Saturday, Apr. 6, Vinyl will lead a noontime "Tea & Talk" session at the gallery to discuss his newest show, and also ruminate on his early days working with The Clash.

To learn more about the artist and his exhibition, visit kosmovinyl.com and irmafreeman.org. ♦



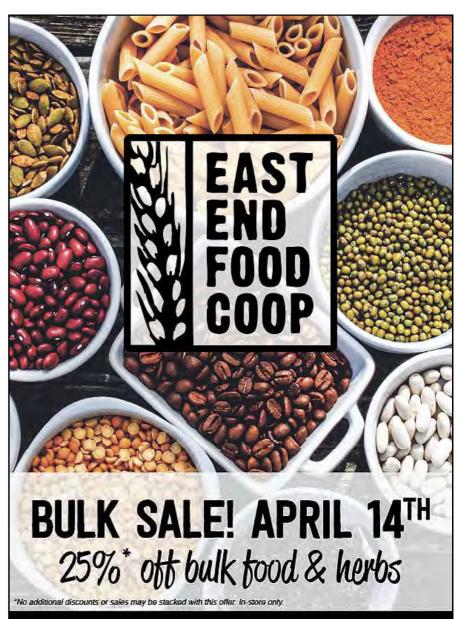
ABOVE: Kosmo Vinyl, who got his start working at Stiff Records in London, and has traveled the world as manager of The Clash, brings his art exhibition to town on Apr. 5. Photo courtesy of Nina Gibbs.



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Leon Ford pens City Council campaign resignation

Dear Love & Support,

I want to start off this letter by sending out the biggest thanks to everyone who supported me during my run for city council. However, I am writing this letter to inform you of my decision to resign from this political campaign in pursuit of "City Council: District 9."

Your financial contributions, likes/shares via social media platforms, and overall commitment to helping me win is greatly appreciated. However, after several weeks of reflection; I have decided to resign from the ballot. I will no longer be running for city council. My other commitments have become too great or me to be able to fulfill the requirements of this position. I feel it is best for me to make room for someone who has the true ability to devote to this honor.

It was a pleasure experiencing this opportunity. I am so proud of everything we have accomplished over the past few months, and I have no doubt that we can continue these successes. I am still committed to using my platform to help ensure positive changes in The City of Pittsburgh, District 9.

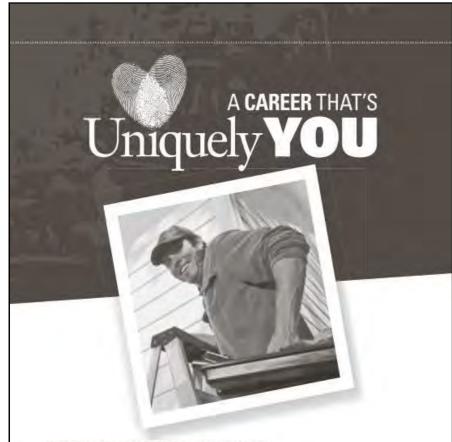
Lastly, I am confident that the residents of District 9 will elect the best candidate.

Much Love,

Leon Ford \blacklozenge

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EOE



WE'RE HIRING AT THE COMMONS AT NORTH AIKEN!

The Commons at North Aiken in Garfield is looking for a self-starter who enjoys painting, minor electric, plumbing and other maintenance work to fill a **Maintenance Technician** position at our community.

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Friendship group recruits helping hands to maintain community spaces

By Jason Carfagna and Danielle Novick Friendship Community Group

Friendship - As the seasons change, the Friendship Community Group (FCG) is currently seeking volunteers to help with the litter pickup and flowerbed maintenance at two of its most active community spaces.

The Baum Grove Parklet (located behind the ALDI supermarket on Baum Blvd.) and the Montessori Play Park (situated on the school's Friendship Ave. campus) are two of the neighborhood's most cherished public spaces.

Baum Grove - a home for small, relaxing moments - also doubles as a venue for larger social events like the annual Friendship Flower & Folk Festival. Neighbors also host a community picnic, and "Family Movie Nights," with regularity.

The City of Pittsburgh does not maintain these vital public spaces so, without the community's continued efforts to support and maintain them, their utility could be lost on everyone. To date, the FCG and a small group of volunteers have ensured that these two community spaces continue to be safe, clean, green cornerstones of the neighborhood.

This year, the FCG is inviting individuals [or groups] to make a formal commitment by volunteering to maintain a designated area in one or both community spaces. The new volunteer program will offer a range of opportunities: litter pick-up; safety checks for wear-and-tear on the play park; and flowerbed maintenance at Baum Grove.

These tasks can be performed on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis. The FCG also encourages local school groups and Scout troops to get involved with these volunteer opportunities in Friendship.

Members of the FCG's Neighborhood & Environment Committee - including a Master Gardener - will be available for instruction and consultation.

Committee members understand that making a commitment of personal time can be difficult. So, as an alternative to volunteering one's time, the organization also accepts financial donations to help with the maintenance and support of the two community spaces.

For more info about these and other volunteer opportunities with the FCG, please email KeepingFriendshipGreen@gmail.com or visit friendship-pgh.org.

All local residents are welcome to attend an informational meeting held at the Baum Grove Parklet on April 29, beginning at 7 p.m. ♦

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the Bulletin | April 2019

Neighborhood FOCUS Bloomfield gateway now bullseye of comunity process

By Christina Howell Bloomfield Development Corp.

Op/Ed - Bloomfield - On January 19, 2018, an estimated 450 people crowded into a meeting room, all of them concerned or curious about a proposed development for the Shur Save site at 4401 Liberty Ave.While hosting the public meeting, Bloomfield Development Corporation (BDC) learned that local community members had two main priorities for the Shur Save site: keeping an affordable grocery store there, and creating affordable units as part of any housing proposal.

In response to the 2018 meeting - over 80 emails from residents the following week, and more than 3,000 views of a Facebook livestream of the meeting - BDC led a series of workshops to better familiarize Bloomfield

residents with housing affordability, as well as the tools to preserve and create it. The neighborhood organization also put significant resources into understanding food retail funding and profits, and how they work, while also searching for resources to assist developers who would be willing to address the two priorities.

Last August, a few months after ACTION-Housing's public

presentation at the first workshop, the nonprofit organization offered to fund a site-focused, community planning process that would encompass the entire Bloomfield Bridge gateway area (including Howley and Main Sts.).

Together, BDC and ACTION-Housing hired Studio for Spatial Practice (SfSP), a local planning firm with an out-of-the-box approach. SfSP proposed using a community engagement method called "Place It!," created by urban planner James Rojas. Bloomfield's gateway planning process marks the first time this method has been used in the City of Pittsburgh. The process is grounded in art and play; it gives residents the tools to understand the site's possibilities while sharing their meaningful experiences.



"A transparent community process is vital to paving the way for redevelopment..."

BELOW: As evidenced by a 3-D model, redevelopment of the Bloomfield Bridge gateway will involve many moving parts and design elements. Photo courtesy of Sam Spearing.

> More than a year after its first public meeting, BDC is wrapping up the planning process with an Apr. 10 event. Local residents will get to see SfSP's visions for the site, which are based on community input gathered from separate working sessions held earlier this year.

At the first session, in January, participants created a set of shared values for new development and brainstormed a vision for different sites around the Bridge intersection; a follow-up survey was circulated to residents who were unable to attend. The February session focused on narrowing down possible uses, massing, and layout for the current Shur Save site - as well as looking at how the intersection and any adjacent sites might be developed.

As discussed in the planning meetings, the 2019 City budget includes \$400,000 for a traffic study and improvements to the existing infrastructure at the Bloomfield Bridge intersection. Led by the Dept. of Mobility and In-frastructure (DOMI), the study will begin later this year. BDC Board and staff members are undoubtedly excited to see such municipal investment in improving this dangerous intersection for all users.

The Shur Save site is currently under sales agreement, but the identity of the developer is unknown, and BDC has not received word about what the developer might be planning. This means that the organization, along with the neighbors it represents, do not know when Shur Save will close - or how long the neighborhood might be out of a full-service grocery store, if at all.

With several failed offers on the Shur Save property to date, a transparent community process is vital to paving the way for redevelopment because it can establish consensus behind any future plans. Documenting what the



BikePGH forum plots fresh course to smash social barriers

By Alexandria Shewczyk Bike Pittsburgh

community wants and needs, while identifying what is possible at that site will be an important tool in ensuring that the property is redeveloped with the surrounding community's full support.

On Wednesday, Apr. 10, BDC is hosting an "open house" from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Nursing School Auditorium of West Penn Hospital (4900 Friendship Ave.). With presentations designed so that folks can walk around and explore at their own pace, this informal event will feature a variety of interactive elements; children are welcome and encouraged to participate. Light refreshments will be made available; an accessible entrance is located in the rear of the building, off Mend Way.

Please contact BDC with any questions by calling 412-681-8800 or emailing christina@bloomfieldpgh.org. ♦



ABOVE: During a public meeting at Bloomfield's West Penn Hospital, local residents sort through unconventional materials, sourcing the right "building blocks" to assemble new visions for the neighborhood gateway. Photo courtesy of Sam Spearing.

East Liberty - Local bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organization Bike Pittsburgh (BikePGH) will host its 6th annual "Women & Non-Binary Forum," presented by Dollar Bank, on Saturday, Apr. 6.

The forum brings together women and non-binary people from across the region to talk about shared experiences and challenges, as well as the available tools to address mobility, biking, and advocacy.

"This year's forum has a special focus on empowerment," program organizer Julie Mallis said, "giving women and non-binary people the tools they can use to exercise their voice and get involved in effective organizing."

Mallis explained that the forum is undergoing a number of changes in 2019; childcare and ASL interpretation, among other accommodations, are enhancing its accessibility and inclusivity.

Envisioned as a day of camaraderie, the forum includes a morning yoga stretch,

breakfast snacks, breakout sessions, a keynote lecture, lunch, networking opportunities, and a group bike ride to close the festivities.

The forum will be held at the Ace Hotel Gym (120 S Whitfield St.) from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. To register for the event, check out the event page (bikepgh.org/ forum) or call 412-325-4334.

BikePGH will also host a Confident City Cycling class on Sunday, Apr. 7, from 1 to 4 p.m. From navigating traffic patterns to effective braking methods, this class is intended for riders who, while they know how to ride a bike, are looking for instruction on how to operate it safely on city streets.

In order to offset any prohibitive admission costs, BikePGH is offering scholarships and discount codes. Contact Julie Mallis at julie@bikepgh.org or 412-325-4334 with any questions.

Those interested in volunteering at the forum are encouraged to email volunteer@bikepgh.org. ◆

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Fringe continued from page 1

gion, war, or immigration, but adds an optimistic and philosophical twist.

"I think comedy is a unifying force," he told *The Bulletin.* "If you can get people to drop their guard around what they believe in and just laugh, then we can start a conversation on how to make a better world."

A concert featuring disabled performers is scheduled at the Ace Hotel as part of the "Dreamz of Music Festival," designed to appeal to music lovers of all ages. The event is sponsored by Dreamz of Music Foundation, a local nonprofit that supports disabled musicians and works to dismantle the industry challenges they face.

Founder George Fadale was inspired to start the organization by his grade-school friend, Phillip McKenzie, a rapper who is paralyzed from the neck down. "We wanted to show other disabled musicians that it was still possible to write and perform music," he said. "This is our first Fringe [appearance] and we plan on hopefully turning the Dreamz of Music Festival into an annual event."

Audience participation is a key element in many of the Fringe shows, including "StorySlam," an open-mic competition where anyone can share a five-minute story based on the theme of "rebellion." Storytellers of all ages are encouraged to sign up for a chance to have their name drawn from a hat on the evening of the performance. "This way, everyone has the same chance of getting on stage," Batchelder explained.

One of the national acts appearing at this year's event is a group of comedians that call themselves "Laughs Angeles". "We're all so different, yet we deal with the same kinds of issues in our lives: relationships, family, and career," member Jonathan Flannigan said. "But, we're all the same. We have the same experiences; we just see them through different lenses."

Other Fringe shows include "Flying Fish," a musical comedy for puppets; *Favorite Colors*, a new work by local playwright Sara Baines-Miller; the "Miracle Elixir Sideshow," which encompasses magic & comedy; and "The Dance Gallery," an interactive workshop that brings visual art to life through audience participation (namely dancing).

Venues for PGH Fringe include Level Up Studios (4836 Penn Ave.), the Community Activity Center at 113 N. Pacific Ave., Irma Freeman Center for Imagination (5006 Penn Ave.), The Kelly Strayhorn Theater (KST, 5941 Penn Ave .), KST's Alloy Studios (5530 Penn Ave.), Pittsburgh Glass Center (5472 Penn Ave .) and Bantha Tea Bar (5002 Penn Ave.), among other unconventional spaces.

According to Jack Ball, general manager of Irma Freeman Center and co-owner of Bantha Tea Bar, "The Fringe Festival will bring people here from other districts, people who don't visit this area as much."

As this year's shows all take place within a couple blocks of Penn Ave., Batchelder is excited to host diverse programming that can engage East End audiences of all ages. "We've had such an incredible response," she said. "We truly feel like we're 'home."

For details on specific shows, "Fringe button" discounts, tickets for individual shows, and general festival info, visit Pittsburgh-Fringe.org. ◆



City zoning board OK's KeyBank development at Penn & S. Negley

By Rick Swartz Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Friendship - The iconic Babyland store at Penn and S. Negley Aves., which closed over seven years ago, will undergo a major transformation in the coming months.

On March 7, the city zoning board approved the proposed development of a Key-Bank branch office at the site by granting the property owners, LG Realty Advisors, the one variance they were seeking: the addition of a curb cut onto S. Negley Avenue, behind what would be a new, one-story building.

At the zoning hearing, KeyBank's representatives argued that the curb cut would be necessary in order to provide the simplest way for customers using a planned drive-through window to exit the lot.

The zoning board, however, is not the last word on curb cuts. The city's Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) must also give its approval, as it has final say on anything that could have an impact on the flow of cars or pedestrians coming through that intersection.

During a meeting in city Councilwoman Deborah Gross' office the week following the board's decision, Karena Ricks, DOMI's director, confided that she was personally opposed to a curb cut, primarily because it would put the driveway in the middle of a Port Authority transit stop.

"We'll have people disembarking from buses and stepping onto the driveway coming out of the lot," Ricks told a small group of neighborhood representatives in Gross' office. "That's not ideal, and flies in the face of everything we've preached about making conditions safer for pedestrians. Still, we don't want to be the ones to kill a significant development, particularly one that the neighborhood seemingly has waited a long time to see."

Demolition notices were posted March 8 at the former Babyland building, as well as two additional structures adjacent to what was once the store's parking lot.



We promise not to overshare!

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April Fool's errand: East End's #1 'real-adjacent' news source

By the Bulletin Editorial Board

Garfield - Local resident Kevin Martin recently informed *The Bulletin* of unprecedented activity in the neighborhood. Martin believes his "time-lapse" documentation of Garfield fauna (read: flora) tells the full story.

As many months' worth of footage illustrates, Martin has captured the presence of a neighborhood scourge: elephant poachers. These miscreants continue laying waste to the natural environment of a protected, and well-respected, species of giant mammals that happen to make their home near Allegheny Cemetery.





ABOVE: *The once-glorious elephant of Garfield. Photo by Kevin Martin.*

<u>ANN THE NEXYS THAT'S FAXE TO PRINT</u>

Parking Authority eliminates tickets, greenlights new 'meter banshee' app

Riots ensue as reliable, local 'Fish Fry' atlas now subject to Ruth's last-minute edits

Local know-it-all picks wrong fight

Awash with cash, Rivers Casino floats bets downriver, buoys interstate commerce

Super-cool hotel forsakes earthly address, pretends to be VIP spacestation

and now, in smaller news...

• Friendship residents fear Baum Grove might become an auto junkyard. [The local Hertz outpost on Baum Blvd., which apparently stashes its rental cars next to the park, was unavailable for comment.]

• The poor soul whose everyday routine involves walking a dozen dogs at once is, without a doubt, the bravest human of all time.

• Mayor Peduto agrees to participate in new "mayoral exchange program," sending him to Anchorage, Alaska for six months of municipal adventure. Peduto has apparently been training his beard in anticipation. ◆



https://www.partner4work.org/learnandearn

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LOCAL REAL ESTATE BLOTTER?

[Ed. Note: The Local Real Estate Blotter, a Bulletin feature regularly found on this page, is on hiatus for another month. Allegheny County's online real estate portal, where the blotter's listings are sourced, has not been updated in over six weeks. The Bulletin will resume publishing real estate listings as soon as the County website is back up and running. Until then, readers can look to the Sunday edition of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette for updated listings.]

Long, winding road to Morningside: 'Camille et Robert' salon

By Andrew McKeon The Bulletin



ABOVE: Tracey Hopkins (1) and Robert Dorman. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

Morningside - Considering its local renown as one of the city's "best-kept secrets," this sleepy neighborhood is finally starting to blossom.

When Tracey Hopkins and her cousin, Robert Dorman, opened "Camille et Robert" salon at 1710 Jancey St., they did not know exactly what to expect from a two-block business district.

Hopkins, who was a stylist for a number of local salons, was politely cajoled into opening her own space last year. The perpetrator: her cousin Robert.

"I went and got the dust off of Tracey," Dorman said, "because I knew she could still cut hair like a pro."

Sidelined by medical issues for a few years, Hopkins jumped back into the

frame as soon as she could. Now, she manages a full-service salon.

Although he leaves all the styling to his cousin, Dorman is still just as committed to the salon's overall success. He has worked at the Allegheny County Jail for decades, and now looks to transition into a nice investment opportunity - something to focus on, post-retirement.

As the two co-owners joked about Post-It Notes, they simultaneously recalled what happened last Halloween. Before Hopkins and Dorman even opened up shop, they were visited upon by scores of local trick-or-treaters - a good sign for any local business. "We love how much the neighborhood has really embraced us," Hopkins said.

The Morningside salon maintains a clean, crisp look, with its French aesthetics on full display. Its name, Camille et Robert, is a fitting homage to Hopkins' grandmother, and also the co-founder/cousin who defended her honor in high school.

After pivoting from his role as "the bodyguard" to that of "the investor," Dorman is glad his cousin is a veritable dog-whisperer. "She knows all the dogs on a first-name basis," he said, "so they can enforce the rules while I focus on other things."

To schedule an appointment, find "Camille et Robert" on Facebook or call (412) 626-3520. ◆



Lawrenceville, Bloomfield Farmers Markets partner up for new season

A Message from Lawrenceville United

Lawrenceville - Marking a change from its previous Saturday afternoon schedule, the Lawrenceville Farmers Market is set to open its 2019 season on Tuesday, June 4, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Arsenal Park.

Moving to a weekday creates the opportunity for more vendor participation, providing patrons with a larger variety of food options. The date change also comes as a result of a cooperative partnership with the Bloomfield Saturday Market.

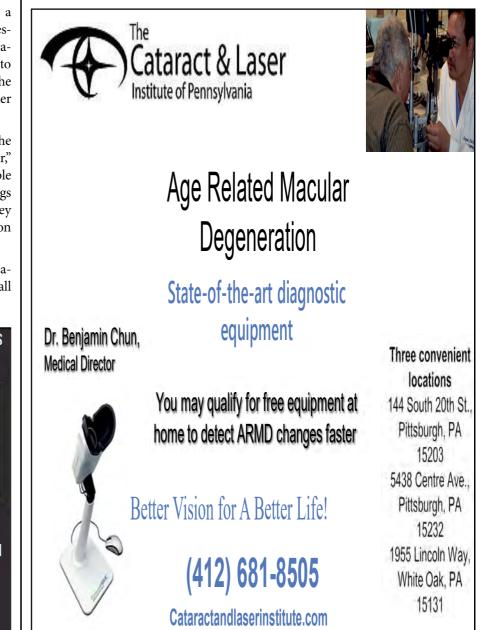
"We're excited to begin a partnership with Bloomfield Saturday Market to share and grow vendors," Dave Breingan, Executive Director of Lawrenceville United (LU), said. "Now that we're on separate days, customers from both markets will have another option throughout the week."

The partnership intends to create a small cohort of shared farmers and producers that will participate in both the Lawrenceville and Bloomfield markets; loyal customers will be able to shop with their favorite vendors twice a week. Since the announcement was made earlier this year, the Lawrenceville market is already experiencing an increase in vendor participation. This season's lineup features a wider range of vendors including Grateful Life Farms, Gryphon's Tea, Hannah's Honey, and Harvest Valley Farm, among others.

"This is going to be a really big season," market manager Sarah Cole noted. "We're working to ensure we have the strongest possible market for both our community and our vendors."

The Lawrenceville Farmers Market will continue providing public space for community groups, creative performances, and special happenings during the 2019 season. Special programming - designed to highlight the market's mission of making fresh, affordable food more accessible to the local community - will make this season unlike any other.

Visit the market every Tuesday evening between 4 and 7 p.m., Jun. 4 through Oct. 29, in Arsenal Park. LU encourages regional producers, musicians, and organizations to participate. For more info, call Sarah Cole at 412-802-7220 or email market@lunited.org. ◆



Bulletinboard

Sorry, but we do not accept listings by phone.

The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events & 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 May 2019 issue are due by Monday, Apr. 22**. Please submit listings using the online form at **www.bit.ly/bulletin_submit**.

APRIL 1 - MONDAY

GARFIELD

Registration Open: Assemble Summer Camp

Registration is live for Assemble's Summer Camps. These STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math) camps are open to kids and tweens, ages 6-14. From beginners to burgeoning hackers, all skill levels are accepted and welcome. We simply ask that your children come to Assemble's 4824 Penn Ave. location ready for learning and fun. Visit assemblepgh.org/summer-camps-2019/ to learn more and register.

APRIL 4 - THURSDAY

<u>EAST END</u> PGH Fringe Festival

The Pittsburgh Fringe is an all-out, noholds-barred, inclusive, multi-disciplinary, performing arts festival. From Thursday, Apr. 4 - Sunday, Apr. 7, the annual festival will feature international, national, and local artists performing throughout the city's East End. Held in non-traditional venues along Penn Ave. - from Bloomfield & Friendship to Garfield & East Liberty - Fringe will showcase theater (physical, street, musical), comedy, visual arts, puppetry, family entertainment, music, dance, spoken word, opera, poetry, literature, and shows yet to be imagined. Visit pittsburghfringe.org/ for schedule details. [For the full scoop, read this month's cover story on Fringe.]

APRIL 11 - THURSDAY

<u>Garfield</u> Land Trust Meeting

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Apr. 11, the

Garfield Land Trust will hold a meeting at the Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave. at Dearborn St.). Read more, and become a member today, at GarfieldLandTrust.org. Contact 412-345-3831 or GarfieldLandTrust@gmail. com to learn more.

<u>*Lawrenceville*</u> Spring Thrift Sale

The annual sale at Thriftique Pittsburgh (125 51st St.) is an opportunity to save 25-50% off gently-worn clothing, shoes, and accessories - and shop thousands of spring and summer items in Thrift-ique's newly expanded "Designer Days" boutique. The sale runs from Thursday, Apr. 11 - Sunday, Apr. 14. Free parking in front & rear of building. All proceeds benefit National Council of Jewish Women, Pittsburgh Section's community service programs for women, children, and families. Call (412) 742-4951 for store hours and more info.

APRIL 14 - SUNDAY

<u>GARFIELD</u> 'Keep Telling the Story' Easter Program

Morningside C.O.G.I.C. (5173 Dearborn St.) and Pastor Lamont B. Shields present "Keep Telling The Story" on Sunday, Apr. 14. This Easter program will begin at 3:30 p.m. Come bring your family and friends and be blessed. All are welcome. Call 412-361-9865 for more info.

APRIL 17 - WEDNESDAY

<u>Garfield</u>

Land Trust Committee Meeting

At 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Apr. 17, the

THE BULLETIN WANTS YOUR FEEDBACK!

This publication begins and ends with you, our community members, so we respectfully invite your opinions & insights. Please email our tip-line/suggestion box: <u>Bulletin@Bloomfield-Garfield.org</u>.

Local Events Classes Gatherings Fundraisers

Garfield Land Trust will hold a meeting at the Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave. at Dearborn St.). Read more, and become a member today, at GarfieldLandTrust.org. Call 412-345-3831 or email GarfieldLandTrust@gmail. com to learn about volunteering to be on a committee.

APRIL 18 - THURSDAY

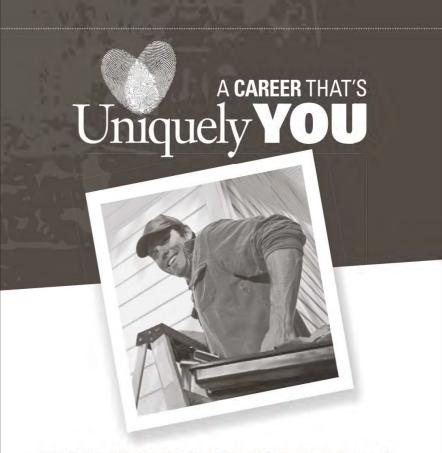
<u>BLOOMFIELD</u> Writers Boot Camp

Creative Nonfiction (5119 Coral St.) has designed a new 10-week boot camp to help writers keep their self-set deadlines, and also hold them accountable to a peer group of fellow writers. This hybrid course combines 10 weeks of online learning activities and writing prompts with 10 in-person workshop sessions. Online classroom opens April 15; in-person workshop sessions meet Thursdays, April 18 - June 27, from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. This workshop is limited to 10 students; the cost is \$435 for each student. Visit creativenonfiction.org or email matthews@creativenonfiction.org with any questions.

APRIL 20 - SATURDAY

<u>Garfield</u> Resurrection Program

Morningside C.O.G.I.C. (5173 Dearborn St.) and Pastor Lamont B. Shields present "The Journey Of Jesus Come To Life" on Saturday, Apr. 20. This Resurrection program will begin at 1:30 p.m. Come bring your family and friends and be blessed. All are welcome. Call 412-361-9865 for more info.



WE'RE HIRING AT YORK COMMONS!

York Commons in Lawrenceville is looking for a self-starter who enjoys painting, minor electric, plumbing and other maintenance work to fill a **Maintenance Technician II** position at our community.

This is a **full-time position** that offers the opportunity to **make a difference** in the lives of our residents.

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BLOOMFIELD

'Tame the Beast' Writers Workshop

This Creative Nonfiction (5119 Coral St.) session will help writers land on the most effective and engaging way of framing and describing their story. Writers will explore a variety of ways to create a cohesive narrative out of fragmented materials, and gain tips for translating writing projects into successful pitches or proposals. For more info about ticket prices, visit creativenonfiction.org/news/ tame-beast.

APRIL 25 - THURSDAY

TRIENDSHIP

FCG Community Meeting

The Friendship Community Group's (FCG) quarterly community meeting will take place on Thursday, April 25, in the social hall of the Fourth Church of Pittsburgh (5450 Friendship Ave.). Potluck dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.; the meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Join your neighbors to hear about upcoming spring events and volunteer opportunities. All residents are welcome. Connect with FCG at facebook.com/friendship. pittsburgh.

APRIL 28 - SUNDAY

LAWRENCEVILLE

ABOVE: During a "Landlord-Tenant Town Hall" event on Tuesday, Mar. 12, an expert panel guides discussions at Garfield's Community Activity Center. Representatives from statewide groups, like Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts, joined local magistrate Mik Pappas in addressing common landlord-tenant complaints, as well as general inquiries from local residents. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

Pancake Breakfast

The Holy Name Society of Lady of the Angels Parish will hold its annual "All the Pancakes You Can Eat" breakfast on Sunday, Apr. 28, from 9 a.m. until Noon in the lower level of Saint Mary's Lyceum (329 45th St.). Take-out service available. Adults, \$6; children (under 12), \$3. Tickets will be on sale in advance, and at the door. Proceeds benefit local and parish charities. Holy Name Society members will collect canned goods at the door. New pairs of white crew socks will also be collected to help the VA Hospital's disabled veterans.

- ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES -

CITY-WIDE

Biz. Opportunity for Renovation Contractors

The Allegheny Lead Safe Homes Program will remediate lead paint hazards in 175 homes throughout the County. We are in immediate need of contractors to perform this high volume of work. Contractors will be reimbursed for trainings; those who obtain all certifications may be eligible to join the contractor pool. Firms in the pool could be assigned work on dozens of units, which will pay competitively, and average \$12,000 per unit. Visit www.alleghenycounty.us/leadsafeprogram to learn more and download an application. Please contact Jennifer Saks at Jennifer.Saks@alleghenycounty.us or 412-350-1032 with any questions.

FRIENDSHIP

Education: Adults Achieve

Earthen Vessels Outreach (EVO, 250 S. Pacific Ave.) is offering a high school education to any individual, age 18 yrs. or older, without a diploma. Enroll in a program and begin online classes right away. EVO staff will provide supports to help each participant get to the final graduation ceremony. To learn more, email marilynchaney@gmail.com. ♦

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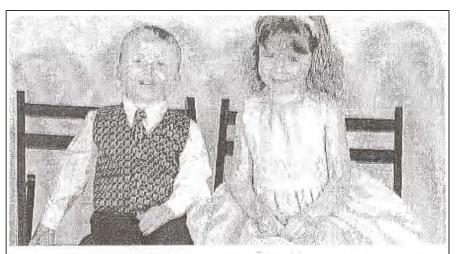
Email EastPGHrestore@gmail.com Call 724-448-0323; ask for Drew!



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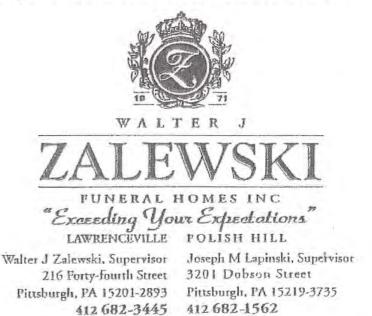


A Season of Change

We can all remember coloring eggs, eating chocolate candies and wearing our finest clothing. But the true sentiment of Easter is the hope that it brings.

As we reflect on Christ's resurrection and see the coming Spring, we receive a promise of future joy.

Let this season of change be a reminder that even life's deepest sorrows can be followed with new beginnings.



Union Project co-founder, ceramic artist returns home for Mother of All Pottery Sales

By Sam Laffey Bulletin contributor



ABOVE: Functional, yet decorative ceramic works by Justin Rothshank. Photo courtesy of Sam Laffey.

Highland Park - Pittsburgh native Justin Rothshank is never away from his hometown for too long.

A studio ceramic artist based in Goshen, Indiana, Rothshank was most recently in town to organize a collaborative exhibition during the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) Conference last year.

He makes regular pilgrimages back home to see friends and family, and also to reconnect with Union Project, an arts-centered community space that he co-founded in Highland Park.

"A huge reason why I got involved in

starting Union Project back in 2001 was because of my interest in pursuing a career as a clay artist," Rothshank said. "I remember walking into the great hall for the first time in the spring of 2001, and seeing it filled with crumbling plaster, broken windows, dilapidated garage sale items, dozens of dead pigeons, and garbage - yet having a vision of a working art space filled with handmade goods, creative people, and sunlight. It's a joy to visit Union Project and see that vision realized."

Almost 10 years after he moved away, Rothshank's next return trip will see him plying his trade as one of Union Project's featured artists during the Apr. 14 Mother of All Pottery Sales (MOAPS).

The hometown artist plans to put some items up for sale at MOAPS, but the real highlight for ceramicists and casual visitors alike will be a live ceramic demonstration alongside his friend and fellow featured artist, Isaac Scott.

While in Pittsburgh, Rothshank will also teach an Apr. 13 class called "Surface Decoration & Decalcomania" at Contemporary Craft (2100 Smallman St.) in the Strip District.

"I haven't had an opportunity to teach



ABOVE: Pittsburgh native Justin Rothshank, a studio ceramic artist who co-founded Union Project in Highland Park, will demonstrate his craft at the Mother of All Pottery Sales on Sunday, Apr. 14. Photo courtesy of Sam Laffey.

my techniques in Pittsburgh in this way since leaving 10 years ago," he said. "I've learned a lot since then, and I'm excited to share it - and to work again in the city, and space, that gave me an opportunity to start my career."

On Sunday, Apr. 14, the sixth annual MOAPS is scheduled to run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Union Project (801 N. Negley Ave). This celebration of clay blends hands-on art activities in the studio, live demonstrations by professionals, and a sale featuring handmade pottery from over 30 regional artists.

Last year, more than 800 people attended the free, family-friendly event at Union Project. They met the potters; learned about new ceramic techniques; purchased handmade, functional work directly from their favorite artists; and even got their hands dirty in the studio.

MOAPS is supported in part by the Standard Ceramic Supply Company and Monmade. Union Project's programs are supported in part by the Allegheny Regional Asset District. Check out unionproject.org for more details and event info. ◆

