

the Bulletin

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BGC to consolidate offices, move into Activity Center

By Joe Reuben *Bulletin contributor*

Garfield - In a move that has been contemplated by its board of directors for several years, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) has decided to close its offices at 5149 Penn Ave. and 5321 Penn Ave., and consolidate all operations at the Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.) in Garfield.

The Center is now under renovation to accommodate the BGC's staff, and that of the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC), also currently housed at 5321 Penn, under one roof. New offices will occupy both levels of the building, according to BGC board president Jarnele Fairclough.

"The moves will necessitate the sale of our building at 5149 Penn," she confirmed.

See **Consolidation** | page 2



ABOVE: Jessica Lee (right) and Mark Strickland perform at Friendship Perk & Brew on Sunday, Sept. 20. The neighborhood eatery is now celebrating its three-year anniversary with al fresco performances for all to enjoy; check out the coverage on page 5. Photo by John Colombo.



ABOVE: A public safety official stops traffic to help his colleagues take core samples beneath Penn Ave. See page 15 for details on the reconstruction project. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

Pop-up made permanent: Redstart Roasters opens East Liberty shop

By Elizabeth Sensky *East Liberty Development, Inc.*

East Liberty - Matt Parmelee never thought he would own a coffee shop but, when opportunity came knocking, he could not turn it down.

A former software engineer, Parmelee began pivoting towards coffee in 2017, when he started roasting small batches as a side business called "Redstart Roasters."

While selling his coffee at pop-ups, restaurants, the East Liberty Farmers Market, and other local events, Parmelee grew a strong customer base. Many Redstart faithfuls asked when he would open up his

own brick & mortar space.

One of Parmelee's loyal customers happened to be the property manager of East Liberty's Detective Building (224 N. Euclid Ave.). After the property changed hands earlier this year, the manager approached him about opening up a café.

Redstart Roasters has now taken over the ground floor space formerly occupied by "The Bureau" coffee shop; this café space neighbors the Schoolhouse Electric showroom, a lighting and home décor retail-

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*NEW HOUSING IN GARFIELD:
CITY SETS OCT. 12 MEETING*

*GREEN ZONE COORDINATOR
ENCOURAGES URBAN FARMING*

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Consolidation continued from page 1

“We’ll miss being on the main avenue, but our previous board president, Bill Cornell, and other board members encouraged staff not to let that be the deciding factor.”

“Like a lot of nonprofit organizations, we are going through some critical belt-tightening,” Fairclough told *The Bulletin*. “Between the rent we pay at 5321 Penn and the mortgage payment we have at 5149 Penn, we are spending close to \$40,000 annually. With the move, we will be left with a mortgage payment each month on the Activity Center, which we already own, that comes to just \$9,000 annually. When you eliminate the utility expenses on two separate spaces, plus all the services and equipment that are duplicative in nature, the savings really do add up.”

When completed, the Activity Center will still have space for public meetings on the first floor, and a chairlift will be installed on N. Pacific Ave. to accommodate visitors in wheelchairs.

“It was important to staff, and to the board, that the Center remains a space where

people from all walks of life can meet or hold events open to the public. It will be a smaller space, obviously, but still capable of holding up to 50 people,” Fairclough disclosed. “Our community planning and development staff will have their offices on that floor.”

The lower level will house the ENEC and the BGC’s youth program offices, along with a public computer lab, much as it exists today at 5321 Penn Ave. New lighting, bathrooms, floor coverings and an air-circulating system are all part of the planned improvements, according to Fairclough.

“We’ve been aided greatly,” she said, “by the work of our project architects, Paul Rosenblatt and Bill Szustak of Springboard Design, who are based in Garfield.”

If all goes according to plan, BGC staffers will settle into their new quarters by the end of November. KeyBank has agreed to donate surplus office furniture, Fairclough said, “and we fully intend to take them up on that offer. We’re not going to be bringing very much with us.” ♦



The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation has a monthly email newsletter!

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BELOW: Hoisting empty beer cans for all to see, a trio of rowdy skeletons occupies Gross St. According to some neighbors, this ‘Bloomfield Bones Brigade,’ and its spooky retinue, posts up at the same yard every year. Photo by Andrew McKeon.



‘Learn & Earn’: youth employment program touts summer success

By Paris Wright Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation


Garfield - While the coronavirus has caused so many changes to what everyone considers “normal,” the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation’s youth programs team is still hard at work aiming to support young people across the city.

Every summer, the BGC partners with Partner4Work as a provider for the “Learn & Earn” youth employment program. This program is a community-wide effort to give youths/young adults in Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh an opportunity to gain the skills and experience necessary to become successful members of the region’s workforce.

This summer’s experience looked very different than it had in summers past, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, but the Youth Program Coordinators were able to partner with 14 different organizations, companies, and local businesses to provide 80 young people with a meaningful work experience.

Over the six-week duration of the program, these 80 young people completed 8,568 hours of work experience, collectively earning over \$62,000 in the process. The BGC also welcomes high school juniors and seniors [attending city schools] to apply for its year-round College & Career Readiness Program (CCRP).

[See the CCRP flyer below for more details]. ♦



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ABOVE: A new 'Gator-themed' mural, created by Most Wanted Fine Art's (MWFA) Jason Sauer, now adorns the Garfield Market (340 N. Aiken Ave.). Photo courtesy of MWFA.

BGC partners with UPMC's POWRR to assist young job-seekers

By Dr. Amber Epps Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - In collaboration with UPMC, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) will begin offering the POWRR (Partnership on Workforce Readiness & Retention) program to young job-seekers from Oct. 26-30.

The program is designed to assist young people in choosing a career path, preparing for jobs, developing the skills necessary to retain these jobs, and also applying for positions available at UPMC. Light breakfast will be provided during each session.

The ENEC will also offer a workforce development series. These workshops will provide an overview of UPMC, covering topics like job interviewing, the hospi-

tal-standard STAR method, communication, unconscious bias, cultural competency, diversity in the workplace, and career advancement.

Sessions will be held on Tuesdays at the ENEC's 5321 Penn Ave. location in Garfield; light refreshments will be provided. It is important to note that the POWRR program and the workforce development workshops are not job placement programs and participation does not guarantee employment.

Seating is limited for both the POWRR program and the workshop series - in order to allow for social distancing. Interested readers may email brendan@bloomfield-garfield.org or call 412-362-8580 for more info. ♦

the 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, and are open to the public. Meetings are currently being conducted online via Zoom; email Nina@Bloomfield-Garfield.org for more details.

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

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Bloomfield-Garfield.org

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Redstart Roasters continued from page 1

BELOW: The wood interiors of Redstart Roasters' new East Liberty café space invite coffee lovers to enjoy the Detective Building's surprisingly warm ambiance. Photo by @d.j.hohman.



er that is temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Understandably, there was some hesitation at the notion of opening a café in the current circumstances," Parmelee explained. "However, given the unique opportunity of moving into the Detective Building space and seeing our wholesale café customers having minimal logistic issues, we felt like it was the right move for us."

Redstart Roasters takes a unique approach that brings conservation and good coffee together in one shared mission. All of its coffee bears the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center's "Bird-Friendly" coffee certification, which ensures farms produce coffee beans in a way that minimizes or eliminates clear-cutting - the deforestation that runs rampant in the coffee farming industry.

"Bird-friendly farms opt instead to plant their crops more or less 'as-is' in existing, old growth rainforests," Parmelee explained. "This results in more interesting, shade-grown coffee, as well as the preservation of critical migratory bird habitats."

Not unlike other certifications [Fair Trade, Organic, and Rainforest Alliance], Bird-Friendly farms can command a higher price for their crops, which helps to ensure all workers are paid a living wage.

Parmelee said this mission resonated with a lot of his customers at the East Liberty Farmers Market and other neighborhood pop-ups.

"Numerous customers explained the importance of our conservation and sustainability efforts, and how much it means to them on a personal level," he shared.

"Our café was born fully from the hearts of East Liberty residents, and our plan is to serve and enrich our café's new home in any way we can."

For now, Redstart Roasters is opening with a "soft launch." Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the café will be open - for takeout and limited seating only - every day from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Its menu features a variety of single-origin coffees alongside espresso drinks and pastries sourced from local vendors.

Redstart will donate a portion of its proceeds to a different local charity each month; in August, the roasters raised \$475 for Allegheny GoatScape.

Learn more at redstartroasters.com. ♦



ABOVE: Redstart Roasters founder Matt Parmelee samples some of his small-batch coffee. He recently opened a Redstart café in East Liberty. Photo by @benprysbilla.



The 1520 Adjudication Alternative Program

WHO: Individuals in Magisterial District Court can request 1520 Program. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) will determine eligibility.

WHY: This restorative justice program allows defendants in some cases to do community service or self-improvement activities in exchange for a case dismissal, the possibility of a sealed or expunged case record, and no additional penalties such as fines, court costs or imprisonment.

WHERE: The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) a court-approved 1520 Program service site.

WHEN: A schedule is developed from the interview & the amount of hours assigned by the MDJ

WHAT: An appropriate set of activities that could include land maintenance, tree tending, classes, or workshops, based on the MDJ & a short interview.

Ask your lawyer or the Judge in your case for eligibility.



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Perk & Brew hosts set from local jazz duo

All photos by John Colombo



ABOVE: A local jazz duo treats audiences to an outdoor performance along Friendship Ave. on Sunday, Sept. 20.

BELOW: Jessica Lee carries a tune in front of Friendship Perk & Brew.



ABOVE: Mark Strickland strums melodies on his hollow-body guitar during a Sept. 20 performance in Friendship.



ABOVE: Neighbors enjoy an al fresco performance, from a distance, in Friendship.

PA voters: What you and your government can do to reinforce trust in elections

By Charlie Wolfson *PublicSource*

Pittsburgh - The November general election is being built up to be one of the most tense, consequential and unusual elections to take place in U.S. history.

An incumbent president with historically low approval ratings is saying he wouldn't commit to election results if he loses, all while a pandemic killing thousands of Americans per week has forced the country to shift toward mail-in voting.

For the first time, the election itself will be conducted on two separate tracks.

"There really are two elections, the in-person election and the vote-by-mail election are almost on parallel tracks," said Rich Garella, co-founder of Protect Our Vote Philly. "And a lot of the processes are separate for those two."

The primary election on June 2 was Pennsylvania's first since changing its law to allow voting by mail without any excuse. Previously, voters could only apply for an absentee ballot for a limited number of reasons, and about 5% of votes were cast by mail in the 2016 general election. In the June primary, more than 1.8 million people requested absentee ballots while less than 3 million Pennsylvanians voted in total.

County election officials can take lessons from the June election to prepare for a similarly-run November election, but turnout in the general is expected to be much higher than that of the primary. Experts told PublicSource there are a number of things that state and county governments, as well as voters themselves, can do to make the Nov. 3 election as safe and secure as possible.

What can voters do?

Don't wait

If a voter applies for a ballot today, they'll receive it soon after ballots are mailed out in September. If they return a completed ballot shortly after that, experts say there will be almost no risk of being disenfranchised by Postal Service delays. Allegheny County, however, does not yet have a specified date for sending ballots, due to ongoing litigation about certain candidates being included.

If a voter waits to submit their ballot for any reason — and waiting to learn more about downballot candidates is a very good reason — voting experts advise them to look into ballot drop off options. Currently, the only confirmed drop off option in Allegheny County is the county elections office at 542 Forbes Ave. *[Visit pavoterservices.pa.gov to register to vote online (you can request a mail-in ballot at the same time) or to request a mail-in ballot if you're already registered.]*

Vote by mail if you can

If you can vote by mail early, doing so will make it easier for in-person voters to safely and easily cast their vote. Fewer people showing up to polling places will result in shorter lines and a lower risk of COVID-19 transmission. Each of the experts interviewed for this story said they plan on voting by mail, despite concerns about Postal Service delays.

"I'm voting by mail," said Marian Schneider, president of Verified Voting. "As soon as I get the ballot I'm going to send it back. The best advice I can give to voters is don't wait until the last minute."

Consider being a poll worker

Poll workers tend to be older, and since the coronavirus poses a greater risk to older people, there is a concern that counties will face a shortage of poll workers. Schneider suggested that people who are at a low risk or already had the virus apply to work the polls. (While recovered patients have developed antibodies, it's currently unknown what risk previous COVID-19 patients have for reinfection or transmission.)

According to its website, Allegheny County will use more than 1,300 polling places in November. This is a return to the status quo after the county consolidated to fewer than 200 polling places for the June primary. According to a county elections division newsletter, the county contacted people who worked the polls in either of the last two elections, and 2,500 had responded saying they are willing to work in November as of early August. The county estimates that 6,500 poll workers are needed for the Nov. 3 election.

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Tell your friends

Patrick Christmas, policy director of the good-government nonprofit Committee of Seventy, said there is great value in talking to your social circle about the election and how to vote, even in a nonpartisan way. Sending out an email blast about upcoming deadlines and voting systems can have an impact.

“Folks should not underestimate their own power in communicating accurate, trustworthy voter information and election information to their network,” he said. If someone can “help 10 or 15 or 20 people successfully vote who otherwise would run into an issue, that’s a serious amount of value to the democratic process.”

What can government do?

Voter education

Voter education takes on even more importance when so many voters will be voting by mail for the first time. There are three deadlines voters need to keep track of — the deadline to register to vote, to apply for a mail-in ballot and to submit a completed ballot. On top of that, voters need to know where to find an application, where to send it, and where they can mail a completed ballot.

“I think a big thing we can learn [from the June election] is that there is a voter education gap,” said Suzanne Almeida, the interim director of Common Cause Pennsylvania. “Making sure that the voters know what the process is and know what it looks like when the process moves smoothly.”

Getting every vote counted

Pennsylvania law requires mail-in ballots to be “in the hands” of the county elections office by 8 p.m. on Election Day. Even if it was postmarked well before the election, under current rules, a ballot that arrives at the elections office after that deadline will not be counted.

This is a sticking point with voting advocates, especially considering Postal Service delays. The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is one week before Election Day; by the Postal Service’s own estimates, it may be impossible for someone to request a ballot on the day of that deadline and have the completed ballot received in time to be counted.

“You have to base the deadline on the actual ability of mechanisms to return the ballots in time,” said Garella of Protect Our Vote Philly.

A solution proposed by his organization and groups such as Common Cause Pennsylvania and Committee of Seventy is to allow ballots postmarked by Election Day to be counted even if they are delivered after Election Day.

This was permitted in the June primary in six counties on an emergency basis by an executive order from Gov. Tom Wolf but would require another executive order or an act of the legislature to apply to the November election. On Aug. 25, Wolf called for the legislature to take action as part of his fall legislative agenda.

“We want to give voters as much time as possible to decide they want to vote by mail,” said Almeida of Common Cause Pennsylvania. “The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot is a week before the election, which means there’s not a lot of time ... So allowing a postmark or some other indicator that the ballot was mailed on Election Day and received after Election Day would allow voters who want to vote by mail to have that full franchise, and not risk disenfranchising anyone.”

A top official in the Pennsylvania Postal Workers Union said that such a measure could be critical in making sure all mail ballots are counted.

“I think they’re going to have to change that [law] so they can receive ballots up to three, four, five, maybe seven days after election because I really feel that the post office is setting itself up for failure in this aspect,” said Kevin Gallegher, the vice president of the PPWU.

One way to take postal delays out of the equation is to urge voters to drop off completed ballots at the county elections office or drop box. By law, any voter can drop off their ballot at a county elections office, but this presents accessibility issues because there is only one location in each county.

It’s unclear if Pennsylvania will use drop boxes like some other states. The campaign of President Donald Trump sued to bar the state from using them, but a federal judge put the case on hold on Aug. 23, saying that the federal court would “apply the brakes to this lawsuit” and let the Pennsylvania courts rule on voting issues. The Trump campaign lawsuit alleges that the drop boxes are unconstitutional and open the door to “fraudu-

lent or otherwise ineligible ballots” being counted in the election.

“This seems like the Trump campaign sort of throwing up every argument it can think of to obstruct our ability to run an election efficiently,” Garella said. “I hope that there are drop boxes as long as they are done correctly and are secure and not some last minute cobbled together solution.”

Christmas said a workaround in the absence of drop boxes is allowing people to drop off their mail-in ballots at polling places on Election Day.

Fast, transparent results

It’s election week, not Election Day, in 2020. Officials across the country have stressed that the higher-than-normal number of mail-in ballots will mean that the counting will take longer, and there likely won’t be a result on election night.

Experts say it’s important for the counting process to be transparent in order to maintain confidence in the integrity of the election.

“Because this is an especially tense election, and as a matter of best practice, I think it would be extremely beneficial for, basically a public education effort to focus on what is happening inside our election offices as workers are preprocessing, processing and counting these ballots,” Christmas said.

He suggested a live-stream of the counting room, a video tour showing the “life cycle” of a ballot, and frequently-updated results as ways counties can let the public keep watch over the process.

Almeida said that the systems are in place for a fully-secure election, and “we just need to communicate about the systems. Our elections are not going to be stolen.”

Pre-canvassing, or doing the work of opening envelopes, authenticating signatures, flattening ballots and preparing them for scanning, can begin at 7 a.m. on Election Day according to current law. To reduce the possibility of a backlog, some advocates are calling for pre-canvassing to begin well before Election Day, while holding off on scanning until Election Day. The governor called for the legislature to allow for pre-canvassing to begin 21 days before Election Day.

“We do not want to be in a position where there’s a very close race for president and the country is waiting on our 20 electoral votes and which way they’re going to go,” Christmas said. “Without time before Election Day for counties to do the preprocessing, which wouldn’t even include scanning, we’ll be putting ourselves potentially in a position with a tremendous amount of scrutiny over an extended period of time past Nov. 3.”

Invest in the election

All of the experts interviewed for this story agreed that counties will each need additional resources to meet the demands of this election. They need new equipment to sort and count paper ballots, they need more employees to process them, and they need personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies to protect poll workers and in-person voters.

“The bottom line for elections in these unprecedented times is counties are going to need more resources,” said Marian Schneider, president of Verified Voting. “And those resources are really in the form of people to work the back end and poll workers on the front end.”

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Neighborhood FOCUS

New housing on Rosetta: Oct. 12 meeting to spark discussion

By Joe Reuben *Bulletin contributor*

Garfield - A twelve-unit, single-family housing development proposed for the 5100 block of Rosetta Street in Garfield will be the subject of a public meeting scheduled by the city planning department for Monday, Oct. 12.

The homes would be built as a mix of market-rate and affordably-priced units, according to Brian Gaudio, a principal with Module Housing LLC. Module recently completed the construction of three homes in the 5400 block of Black Street in Garfield. One of the units was advertised as affordable, and is under sales contract to a buyer who will receive help in financing the purchase from the city’s Urban Redevelopment Authority [see the September edition of *The Bulletin*].

Module is seeking to purchase a number of vacant lots from either the Urban Redevelopment Authority or the city. But before doing so, Gaudio said, his company decided to see where neighborhood residents stood in terms of the proposed development.

“We’ve been reaching out to individual residents and other stakeholders in the community just to get a sense of how folks felt about new development on this street,” he noted. “We are only in the initial stages of determining whether new housing could work, so we haven’t yet settled on all of the details concerning the

BELOW: The 5100 block of Garfield’s Rosetta Street, near its intersection with N. Pacific Avenue. Photo by Joe Reuben.



“There is always some anxiety when a project of this scale is being proposed on a block like this, one that has largely reverted to open green space.”

- Nina Gibbs, BGC Community Engagement & Planning Coordinator

project. We want to be in a position to respond to what comes out of the community process.”

The land parcels that Module aims to acquire sit between Fort Pitt Park, which meets Rosetta at N. Winebiddle Street (one block west of the site), and the former Healcrest Farm, which is perched on a plateau immediately to its east.

A number of neighborhood residents are looking to incorporate these assets into an area that has come to be known as Garfield’s “Green Zone.” All of the parcels Module is pursuing sit within an R-1 zoning district, which allows for the construction of single-family homes.

The city’s meeting will start at 6 p.m.; it must be held online due to the restrictions that city staffers are observing during the COVID-19 pandemic. A slide presentation on the project is being prepared by the city; those wishing to view it prior to the virtual meeting may contact Nina Gibbs, the community engagement and planning coordinator for the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), at nina@bloomfield-garfield.org [see the flyer at left]

If the Urban Redevelopment Authority is to approve the sale of the properties it controls to Module, a letter of support must be forthcoming from a community organization in the neighborhood. The board of directors of the BGC is aware of the proposed development, and a number of its members intend to sit in on the meeting, according to Gibbs.

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JOIN US
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Oct 12 @ 6pm Online
contact Nina Gibbs for details

In regards to a twelve-unit single-family housing development proposed for the 5100 block of Rosetta St in Garfield
Module is seeking to purchase a number of vacant lots.
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Bloomfield Garfield CORPORATION

FOR MEETING INFO
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"There is always some anxiety when a project of this scale is being proposed on a block like this, one that has largely reverted to open green space," she recently shared with *The Bulletin*.

"Module will need to convince residents, at the end of the day, that its project won't detract from the quality of life in that part of the neighborhood, and would hopefully even improve it," Gibbs said. "To its credit, Module is reaching out to residents now. People will be interested to see what percentage of the homes would be priced as market-rate, and what percentage would be sold at below-market rate." ♦



ABOVE: A zoomed-in, preliminary rendering of the townhomes proposed for construction in the 5100 block of Rosetta Street in Garfield. Graphic courtesy of Module Housing LLC.



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Barriers beware: Women & Non-Binary Bike Summit gears up for advocacy

By Alexandria Shewczyk *Bike Pittsburgh*

Pittsburgh - On Saturday, Oct. 17, BikePGH will host its seventh annual Women & Non-Binary Bike Summit, presented by Dollar Bank. This year's Summit is a one-day, virtual event featuring workshops on bicycle adventures, bike maintenance, yoga, and skill-building activities to boost cyclists' confidence.

The online event will kick off with a panel discussion on diversity and inclusion in the cycling community - featuring representatives from Black Girls Do Bike, Major Taylor Cycling Club, and The Black Foxes.

"The Summit aims to celebrate, empower, and connect women and non-binary people and those who might feel excluded from the male-dominant cycling culture. Together, we can build a more inclusive and equitable community for people who want to ride bikes," Sarah Quinn, BikePGH Membership & Outreach Manager, explained.

A number of changes to the format - expanded accessibility (thanks to a fully-virtual format), in-person packet pickup, and pay-what-you-can registration - will make for a unique event this year. Those who pick up their packets in-person will receive a swag bag containing a WMNBikePGH sticker, BikePGH bandana, ride-friendly snacks, and educational resources such as the Pittsburgh Bike Map and Biking 101 Guide.

The Summit goes live at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 17, with morning sessions held via Zoom; afternoon activities will be made available on BikePGH's website. Visit bikepgh.org/summit or call the BikePGH office at 412-325-4334 for more details. ♦



AT LEFT: Fans of BikePGH's Women & Non-Binary Bike Summit pedal towards progress in Pittsburgh's cycling community. The seventh annual Summit will be held on Saturday, Oct. 17. Formatted with the 'new normal' in mind, the event will be a live, online broadcast, accommodating cyclists from Pittsburgh and beyond. Read the article at left for more details. Photo courtesy of BikePGH.

THE BULLETIN WANTS YOUR FEEDBACK!

This publication begins and ends with you, so we invite your opinions & insights. We'd love to hear from you!

Please email our tip-line/suggestion box:

Bulletin@Bloomfield-Garfield.org.



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nina@bloomfield-garfield.org
412-441-6950 x 17

Introducing Porchea Andrews: Garfield's Green Zone & Safety Coordinator

By Porchea Andrews Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - My name is Porchea Andrews (McGuire) and I'm the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's (BGC) Green Zone & Safety Coordinator.

Before I share my story, let me give you a quick recap on the history of the Garfield Green Zone. Years in the works, the project aims to activate various parcels and other open spaces - along what is the "green zone corridor" in the upper part of Garfield - through a program of long term enhancements and improvements coordinated by the BGC and its community partners.

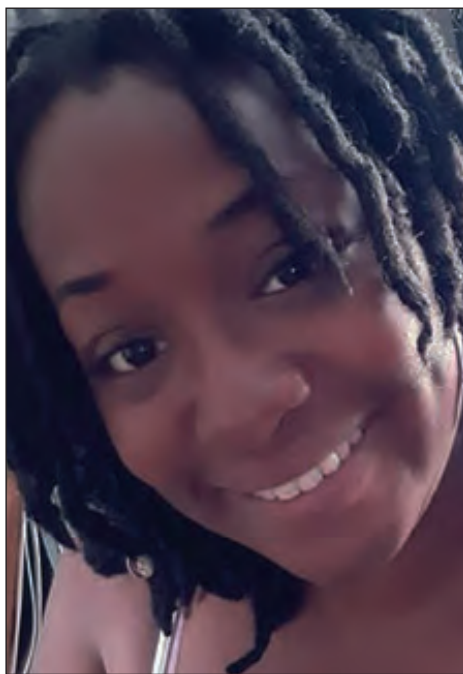
Consisting of 30 acres of land, mostly on the Garfield hilltop, the area is largely green and undeveloped. The Green Zone will provide a platform for local residents to better engage with their neighborhood's natural spaces, while also providing a pathway for non-violent offenders to avoid incarceration.

The project is designed to shepherd trail creation and restoration, the expansion of Ft. Pitt Park, and the addition of public art works to the neighborhood.

Its goals are very simple, yet far-reaching: maximize the benefit of existing green space for all Garfield residents; divert local community members from jail; and, where applicable, support the development of marketable job skills.

Now, back to my story; I hail from Gary, Indiana, a city that also has close ties to the steel industry.

In the fall of 2017, I moved to Pittsburgh to be closer to my mother and five siblings, who have resided in the city for about 15 years.



ABOVE: Porchea Andrews, the BGC's Green Zone & Safety Coordinator, is excited to contribute her urban farming expertise to planning efforts around Garfield's green spaces. Photo courtesy of Porchea Andrews.

As the second of six children, I'm the oldest girl (of the only two in the clan). My sister, Tatwona McGuire, is a Carlow nursing student and the founder of Life Stages Doula Services, which is based here in Pittsburgh.

I studied Psychology at Indiana University-Bloomington and have spent a great portion of my career working in behavioral services helping adolescents, transitional-age youths, and families in recovery.

As a mom of two [Asher (5) and Auria (3)], I wanted to pursue mental health & wellness in a different way when re-entering the workforce. Soon, I began studying herbalism, the various ways our environment contributes to our identities and our overall healing, and decided to approach wellness in a holistic way.

Upon graduating from the Horticulture Technology Program, and with assistance from my instructors in the PASA Apprenticeship Program, I have been able to channel my energy into urban agriculture and create useful, sustainable spaces.

I hope to build a positive rapport with Garfield residents by working collaboratively to address some of the safety issues and concerns in the neighborhood. Together, we can all create culturally relevant and beautiful spaces for the Garfield community to enjoy. ♦



ABOVE: The new KeyBank branch office, currently under construction at Penn & S. Negley Aves. in Friendship, is tentatively scheduled to open for business on Monday, Oct. 26. Photo by Joe Reuben.

Due to the success of The Big Easy, we are moving to a larger facility not only to facilitate our clients, but to expand our services, including daycare, boarding, a Café and grooming.

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-Tribune Review

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Hazelwood, Greenfield residents win weekend bus service on Route 93

By Barb Warwick *Pittsburghers for Public Transit*

[Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the July 2020 issue of The Homepage, a print newspaper serving Hazelwood. We hope the story resonates with Garfield residents who fought to secure weekend service for the 89 bus in their neighborhood.]

Hazelwood - For years, residents of Hazelwood and Greenfield have been asking for better bus service.

In June, Port Authority announced weekend service for Route 93 beginning this November – a major step toward improving mobility for these neighborhoods.

Starting at Johnston Ave. and Broadview Dr. in Glen Hazel, the 93 runs to and from the Lawrenceville Shopping Center. It covers Hazelwood, upper Greenfield, Squirrel Hill, Oakland, Bloomfield, and Lawrenceville.

Currently, the 93 runs only on weekdays, connecting residents to critical employment, food shopping, and healthcare destinations. It also provides access to sports and recreation in Schenley Park and to shopping, restaurants, and more along the entire route. Without the 93, weekend trips to these same destinations using public transit take three times as long.

"I'm a home care aid in Oakland," says James Thomas of Greenfield. "But the bus doesn't always run when I need it, so I end up having to catch an Uber a lot of the time. Having the 93 run on Saturday and Sunday is going to be a big help."

Allison Burd, a massage therapist, yoga instructor, grad student, and single mom living in Hazelwood, is also looking forward to the extended service.

"My teenage son wants to meet up with his friends in Squirrel Hill to study at the library, play basketball at the JCC, or grab lunch or a Starbucks," she says. "But on the weekends, it's impossible to get there. If I'm working, I can't give him a ride. Having a bus is going to make life a lot easier."

The benefits of the new weekend service are, indeed, most obvious when looking at what is accessible via transit from Hazelwood. In addition to providing access to several amenity-rich areas, the 93 route passes three different Giant Eagle grocery stores, addressing a major food desert issue for the neighborhood.

In early July, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported that Port Authority has budget approval to add weekend service on 10 routes. Philip St. Pierre, the Authority's director of service planning & scheduling, is quoted as saying, "We have heard the need for this type of service through our community engagement and comments received through our service request process [and] have been able to develop plans based on that feedback."

That's where resident voices – and the fight against the Mon-Oakland Connector (MOC) – come in. Since 2015, residents have been pushing hard against the MOC, a Department of Mobility and

Infrastructure (DOMI) plan that will use public money to build a road for shuttles between Carnegie Mellon University and the Hazelwood Green development. The shuttle road would replace the existing vehicle-free bike path through the southwest corner of Schenley Park and run directly next to the local soccer field.

Tied to a PWSA project to mitigate severe flooding in the Four Mile Run section of Greenfield, residents there feel like the City is forcing the shuttles onto them in exchange for getting the flooding fixed. Justin Macey, whose two young daughters are fourth-generation Run residents, says, "These floods are dangerous. My wife and I feel panicked every time there's a heavy rain. But the city won't do anything about it unless we let them run shuttles along the bike path I take to work and the field where my kids play. It's just not fair."

Despite claims from DOMI that these shuttles would improve mobility between Hazelwood and Oakland, Hazelwood residents are also unconvinced.

"We need better bus service now," says Teaira Collins, a local Hazelwood activist and mother of five. "I can't understand why the city wants to spend all this money to build a new road for shuttles when we could just expand existing bus service for a fraction of the cost."

Over the past five years, residents of Greenfield, Hazelwood, Oakland, Squirrel Hill, and elsewhere have been working

together to put a stop to the MOC. Then, in December of 2019, they came together with the help of Pittsburghers for Public Transit (PPT) to create a community-driven alternative plan to the MOC called Our Money, Our Solutions – a key component of which calls for extending the 75 from the Southside over Hot Metal Bridge into Hazelwood and adding weekend service for the 93.

"Our Money, Our Solutions solidifies the recommendations identified by the Greater Hazelwood Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan and draws on community feedback and data acquired through the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, DOMI, and 311 requests," explains Laura Wiens, executive director of PPT. "It's about driving the future of our neighborhoods from within and finding effective, sustainable transit solutions that meet people's needs today."

Now, with more than 1,000 individuals and more than 20 community organizations signed on and after nearly nine months of petitioning Port Authority, that weekend service is soon to be a reality.

"It isn't just about Hazelwood and Greenfield. This is going to mean weekend service for people across the city who need to get to work, buy groceries, visit family, get to the hospital – whatever," says Collins.

"We worked hard for this. It's really amazing what gets done when communities come together." ♦

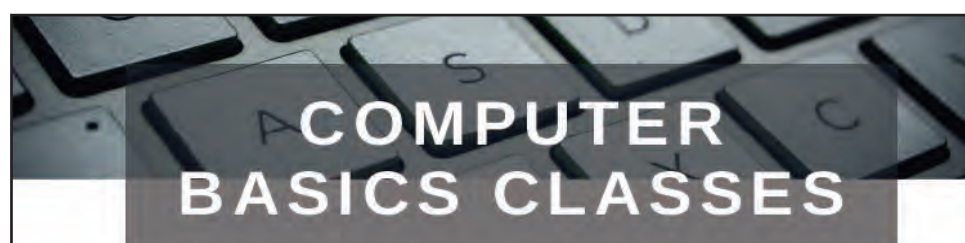


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LOCAL REAL ESTATE BLOTTER

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

Real Estate Sales (for the month of August 2020)

Compiled by Lillian Denhardt, RE/MAX Select Realty

Bloomfield

John A Curran to Amy A Armstrong at 4085 Cabinet St. for \$196,000.

Joseph Salak Jr to Jie Peng Lu at 4309 Milgate St. for \$162,000.

Nelson A & Catherine M Alfaro to Catherine M Amatangelo at 246 S. Evaline St. for \$1.

Robert P & Sue E Mahood Barone to Louis G Leonard III at 343 S. Aiken Ave. for \$539,000.

Son Hoang Thai to Roger W Tabor at 421 Fisk St. for \$267,000.

Thomas G & Cheryl M Savoldy to Winfred T Frazier at 730 Broughton St. for \$512,500.

Friendship

No sales to report.

Garfield

City of Pittsburgh to Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation at 5203 Columbo St. for \$1,000.

City of Pittsburgh to Ecocraft Homes, Inc. at 0 Kincaid St. for \$10,000.

John H Samuel to Eric Joseph Sepanski at 5317 Rosetta St. for \$121,000.

Joseph F & Marlayne A Derenzo to Luat T Vuong at 4811 Dearborn St. for \$146,000.

Vladic Bizyayev to Gary & Cheryl Ott at 4815 Dearborn St. for \$360,000.

East Liberty

East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) to Allwyn D & Thomas B Lamb at 5822-24 Rippey St. for \$492,500.

ELDI to Housing Authority of City of Pittsburgh at 6497-6499 Centre Ave. for \$735,234.

ELDI to Open Hand Ministries Inc at 5644 Rural St. for \$110,000.

ELDI to Nicole Cascone at 338 Enright Ct. for \$142,000.

East Liberty Development, Inc. to Sherree Goldstein at 418 N. Saint Clair St. for \$60,000.

Elizabeth Jean Taylor to Joseph M Rubin at 6315 Saint Marie St. for \$175,000.

Kelley M Datri to David B & Vivian C Gerritsen at 5503 Rippey Pl. for \$260,000.

Kevin D & Jennifer L Cox to Rebecca A Street at 6022 Stanton Ave. for \$530,000.

Nellie I Booker to Steel Town Properties M3 LLC at 750 N. Sheridan Ave. for \$80,000.

Steel Town Properties MD4 LLC to Rachel Ann & Justin Cornelius Coaxum at 6320 Saint Marie St. for \$415,000.

Lawrenceville

A & J Holdings LLC to Win-Win Funding Solutions LLC at 5238 Carnegie St. for \$1.

Adam Maczewski to Dana I Castner at 5222 Carnegie St. for \$243,000.

Anthony H Costa Sr to Pygmalion III LLC at

165 42nd St. for \$103,000.

Artem Dolinskiy to Milestone Custom Homes LLC at 120 45th St. for \$190,000.

Blinov Construction LLC to Trebor Z Evans at 5222 Keystone St. for \$640,000.

Bonnie Kathleen Ennis to Luke Mohamed at 4119 Foster St. for \$230,000.

Daniel H Quirk to Bryce Daniel Wilkins at 5224 Wickliff St. for \$465,000.

Donna M & Andrew Bianco to Michael C Reynolds at 3904 Liberty Ave. for \$30,000.

Gregory M Fitzgerald Jr to Martha Craig at 330 42nd St. for \$265,000.

Jack Z Li to Beatriz Marriott Revocable Trust at 5267 Holmes St. Unit 403 for \$450,000.

James K & Diane L Murray to Butler Street Partners LLC at 5175 Butler St. for \$638,750.

Kati Zmenkowski Burgess to Philip J & Shannon R Marchetti at 325 37th St. for \$290,000.

Kelly L Brunner to Erin Ashley Walker at 366 Main St. for \$229,000.

Lauren E Holder to Sara A Skapinac at 156 Home St. for \$225,000.

Ming Tse to Cody G Lewis at 5425 Carnegie St. for \$280,000.

MMR Development LLC to Sarah Morcos at 4205 Dunkeld Way for \$299,900.

Neil J Couch to Jayson M Shivey at 4839 Hatfield St. for \$290,000.

Pro2434 Holdings LLC to Nam Ly at 142 Banner Way for \$270,000.

Przemyslaw Linka & Eva C Smulski-Linka to Phillip J Wakim at 182 44th St. for \$550,000.

Robert S. Pestock to Nathan J Cybak at 263 42nd St. for \$256,000.

Sean Mason Bryan to MK Group Realty LLC at 5316 Butler St. for \$381,500.

Three 3241 Develop LLC to Ivan S. Devoren at 715 52nd St. for \$395,000.

William B Tedder Sr to Oakdale Development LLC at 3824 Penn Ave. for \$170,000.

William R Eichelberger III to Lisa Gonzalez at 5327 Keystone St. for \$155,000.

Zachary M Leffakis to 1301Grandview I LLC at 335 39th St. for \$159,900.

Stanton Heights

Charles A & Carmela A Farrah to Mike R Samantha at 1349 Hawthorne St. for \$175,000.

David A Brown to Ryan Michael Sheehan at 1580 Woodbine St. for \$185,000.

Duane Schick to Laura E Harnish at 4700 Stanton Ave. for \$225,550.

Michael A Brown to Alex Vierheller at 1165 Woodbine St. for \$188,500.

This column uses data from Allegheny County that contains occasional errors (sale price, owners' names, etc.). We strive for accuracy every month so, if something looks off, please let us know.

For questions, comments, or just to chat about real estate in our neighborhoods, feel free to email Lillian at lillian@agent-lillian.com or call 412-335-6068. ♦

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Reconsidering 'Reckless Abandon'

Letter-to-the-Editor

Dear *Bulletin*,

I'd like to offer some feedback regarding the Op-Ed from your September issue [Vol. 45, No. 9]. I'm a lifelong resident of the East End and I've been a front-and-center witness to all the local changes, some of which have been drastic as of late.

Before moving to Garfield a couple of months ago, my family and I lived in Highland Park; we traveled East Liberty Blvd. almost daily, at all times of day. Not once have I ever witnessed significant traffic, save for construction or similar causes, along the route where Mr. R. Malik Morris claims there was an issue - as he also took a shot at the recently added bike lanes.

I have not encountered any dirt bike or ATV riders using those lanes. [Morris] goes on to imply that this is somehow linked to the BLM [Black Lives Matter] movement by attributing the rise in popularity of dirt bikes and ATVs to a 17-year-old movie centered around black youth.

This is a baseless claim and it feels divisive. I have absolutely seen these types of vehicles more frequently on the side streets; just yesterday, I watched [via Facebook] a large group ride travelling across the city. Whether or not that was just a one time event - or the beginning of a trend - remains to be seen. However, the tendency to want to criminalize and police the behavior of black youths is a disturbing tendency, to say the least.

All that's required to get kids riding safely, and not on city streets, is to create some trails. Garfield has plenty of unused green area that could easily accommodate this new usage. If kids have an area where they can ride responsibly, then I believe that they will. Thanks for your concern.

A loyal reader,

Tamba Nyandemoh ♦

PENN AVE RECONSTRUCTION COMMUNITY MEETING

Phase II reconstructs Penn Ave.
between Evaline & Graham streets.

The second phase of Penn Ave reconstruction in Garfield & Bloomfield is now projected for 2022. Please join us for this planning meeting with representatives from The City of Pittsburgh and PWSA.

Thursday NOV 5 | 11am-Noon

You must register to participate

This meeting will be on ZOOM & you can join via phone or computer.
Residents can ask questions about the project and process.

Community input on traffic, the streetscape design,
& community requested additions is to be collected in Spring of 2021.
Ground breaking and start of construction is estimated for 2022



TO REGISTER FOR THE MEETING
Contact Nina at the BGC Office
nina@bloomfield-garfield.org
412-441-6950 x 17

Ft. Pitt Park update: city begins second planning phase

A Message from the City of Pittsburgh

Garfield - The Fort Pitt Park Master Plan will kick-off the second phase of public engagement with an in-person event at the Fort Pitt football field on Thursday, Oct. 15, between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Those who feel safe at a public event are encouraged to attend, wearing a mask, and meet with the project team to provide input on neighborhood park.

In a socially-distant format, we will present the feedback gathered in the first phase of engagement, while soliciting local residents' opinions on various park elements and alternative park proposals.

All of the surveys will be published on the Fort Pitt page of the EngagePGH platform; you can also share your thoughts anytime through Nov. 15, even if you do not come to the event.

Visit engage.pittsburghpa.gov/fort-pitt-park to provide your input electronically or call the 3-1-1 response center to give feedback over the phone.

The responses gathered in this second phase will inform a draft plan, and the community will have another opportunity to provide input for the final master plan. ♦



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Lawrenceville Farmers Market extends season to December

By Sara Draper-Zivetz *Lawrenceville United*

Lawrenceville - As the leaves begin to turn in Arsenal Park, the Lawrenceville Farmers Market is also undergoing its annual autumn transformation. The bright stone fruits and lush tomatoes of summer are receding and, in their place, juicy apples, pumpkins, hot beverages, and a beautiful array of root vegetables are beginning to appear.

This year, more exciting changes are afoot because Lawrenceville United (LU) has extended the farmers market season by an additional seven weeks, allowing customers to shop for their groceries in a safe, open-air setting all the way through Dec. 15.

Vendors will set up for business in Arsenal Park every Tuesday afternoon; 3-7 p.m. through October, and 3-6 p.m. beginning in November. As the days get shorter and cooler, we will provide some extra lighting and heating to help our market patrons stay safe and warm while shopping the market.

Every week, two dozen farmers and producers will be on hand selling fresh fruits, vegetables, bread, baked goods, cheese, milk, meat, candles, soaps, olive oil, wine, beer, spirits, coffee, tea, and more. Lots of gluten-free and vegan options, as well as some delicious prepared food vendors, will be ready to satisfy any patron's appetite at Arsenal Park.

While at the market, visitors can also: register to vote; ask State Representative Sara Innamorato's office questions about programs, policies, and benefits for local families; get any documents notarized for free; and even drop off unwanted food scraps for the market's composting program.

Any customer using SNAP or P-EBT benefits will receive \$2 in Food Bucks to spend on fruits and veggies (for every \$5 spent in EBT). All the market's produce vendors will also accept Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers as payment. To stay up-to-date on the latest news, like a special Halloween-themed market planned for Oct. 27, sign up for the newsletter at lunited.org/lawrenceville-farmers-market.

As the world keeps navigating the challenges presented by COVID-19, LU remains committed to hosting an abundant, accessible, and safe market - one that provides fresh, local produce for as long into the season as possible.

All are welcome to bring their shopping lists, and their face masks, to Arsenal Park every Tuesday through Dec. 15. ♦

V-O-L-U-N-T-E-E-R-S N-E-E-D-E-D!

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation is looking for individuals willing to donate a few hours each month to helping create more affordably-priced housing in our community.

The BGC is partnering with a relatively new nonprofit, Rising Tide Partners, that specializes in getting abandoned houses and lots in places like Garfield back into community hands. It's a doubling down on existing efforts to fight against the further displacement of working-class residents.

A new steering committee will be formed to guide the work of Rising Tide Partners so that it remains true to the goals that are embodied in the Garfield 2030 Plan. Rising Tide will bring the experience and tools needed to assemble vacant properties and work with the committee to settle on a strategy for re-developing them: *by whom, for whom, and at what price.*

This is a great opportunity to have a positive impact on your community, and ensure that Garfield can remain economically and socially diverse. If you're interested in being part of this effort, please drop an e-mail to RickS@bloomfield-garfield.org, or call into 412-441-6950 (ext. 11) with your name and contact information.



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