

the Bulletin

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ABOVE: Sojourner House MOMS on Black Street has a brand-new play yard. Read the complete story, starting below. Photo courtesy GTECH Strategies

Shovels Set to Hit Ground for Penn Reconstruction

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Penn Avenue – With work scheduled to begin this month on Phase 1 of the reconstruction of Penn Avenue, about 50 people turned out for a final public meeting on details of the project. “We’re ready to rock’n roll,” Patrick Hassett, assistant director of the Bureau of Transportation and Engineering of the city’s Department of Public Works, remarked about the impending start of the \$5 million project.

Phase 1 construction encompasses the blocks from Mathilda to Evaline streets, and will continue through the end of 2014. Through an exhaustive evaluation process, those four blocks were determined to be “in greatest need,” Hassett said. The tentative plan is for a second phase that extends reconstruction from Evaline to Aiken Avenue (or possibly as far as Graham) but construction on those blocks may not begin until 2015 or later.

“There hasn’t been any investment on the avenue in decades,” Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, reminded the audience. “Remember that when there’s disruption.”

See **Reconstruction** | page **11**

Where Education and Play Come Together

By Margaret Graham *ELDI*

East Liberty – On Black Street, there used to sit two vacant lots. Years of patience, volunteers and several grants later, it’s now a play yard for the youths of Sojourner House MOMS – a program

See **page 3**



Arsenal Park Needs Some TLC

By Jill Harkins *The Bulletin*

Lawrenceville – You would not know that Arsenal Park is an important historical landmark, once the site of the Allegheny Arsenal, by the looks of it. A catch basin with a hole large enough

See **page 5**



Bam! Pow! Learn! with Comics

By Paula Levin *Literary Arts Boom [The LAB]*

Garfield – I’m not sure when it happened exactly: I discovered the (incredible) Pittsburgh comics scene and its value for kids.

This was not something I set out to find. I was really just going

See **page 13**



ABOVE: Three of the houses in historic Bride’s Row were severely damaged by fire on July 21. The owner of 5443 Penn Ave. (center) is Henry Enyenihi; 5441 and 5445 Penn are owned by Friendship Development Associates. At press time, the cause of the fire was unknown. Photo by Rick Flanagan

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NEWSBRIEFS

With Appeal Officially Dismissed, Bottom Dollar To Start Construction

Penn Avenue – After two years of negotiation and compromise with the surrounding community, Bottom Dollar will finally begin construction of a full-service, 18,000-square-foot grocery store at 5200 Penn Ave.

In the interest of re-opening discussion with the four neighbors and one community group who filed an appeal of the site plans with the Court of Common Pleas, Bottom Dollar put forth a final compromise site plan in late May. The appellants agreed to the compromise, which includes a 4-foot, 4-inch brick wall along part of South Pacific Avenue, and Judge Joseph James officially dismissed the appeal on June 26.

C. Brantley Tillman, principal of Commercial Properties, Inc., the developer for Bottom Dollar, told *The Bulletin* that construction of the store could start as early as this month, with a grand opening in early 2014.

Preparations are underway for construction, with the glass mosaic mural by artist Daviea Davis, currently affixed to the A&M Market at 5224 Penn Ave., in the process of being removed for safe-keeping. When construction is completed, the mural will be remounted on the Penn Avenue facade of Bottom Dollar.

This will be the first Bottom Dollar store within the city's limits, and the first grocery store for the neighborhood since Giant Eagle closed its doors in 1987. The store is being financed entirely with private funds.

"We're moving the neighborhood in the right direction with this investment," said Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation. "With Bottom Dollar, the reconstruction project (*see related article, page 1*) and all the work our Main-streets Manager is doing, Penn Avenue is where it's happening." – *Paula Martinac, The Bulletin*

Vandals Strike Lawrenceville Trees

Lawrenceville – Lawrenceville United, Tree Pittsburgh: Lawrenceville Tree Tenders and countless volunteers have come together over the years to plant hundreds of trees not only in new and old green spaces, but all along residential and commercial corridors. The trees provide improved air quality, water conservation and stormwater mitigation, as well as climate control, lower energy costs and increased home values.

Lately, vandalism has struck this urban forest. Tree damage – from accidentally nicking the bark with a garden tool, to breaking off branches, to "skinning" trees – can be fatal and cost thousands of dollars to replace. Tree Pittsburgh teaches in its tree tender courses: "The outer layer of a tree is where water and nutrients flow between the roots and leaves, so damaging this layer can cause significant harm to a tree. Young trees whose bark is still thin are especially vulnerable to damage from lawnmowers, parked bicycles, etc. These wounds often take years to heal and can even kill a tree outright if they are bad enough."

The most recent damage occurred during Lawrenceville's Independence Day Celebration, when someone completely skinned a tree in Arsenal Park, thus killing it. (*See photo above.*)

People can be ticketed for damaging a tree in any way, including by securing a bike to a tree with a bike lock or something similar. To help keep trees safe and protected, residents can report problems and any and all tree concerns to 311 and also email them to Ivtreetenders@gmail.com. – *from Lawrenceville United newsletter*



Photo courtesy Lawrenceville United

Residents Invited to Garfield National Night Out Party

Garfield – The Garfield Community Action Team (GCAT) and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) are co-hosting a National Night Out (NNO) party from 7 to 9 p.m. on Aug. 6 at Nelson Mandela Peace Park on the corner of North Evaline and Broad streets. There will be free ice cream, kids' activities and live entertainment for all to enjoy.

"National Night Out was created to promote residents' involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie and to send a message to criminals that crime is not welcome," Mayor Luke Ravenstahl said in a statement on the city's NNO website.

GCAT chose Mandela Park as the site for this year's NNO. This park has seen drug activity in the past, but several recent initiatives are reclaiming the park for the use of the local children. With the help of neighborhood volunteers, GCAT planted a butterfly garden along the park's fence in June. To complement the efforts of the volunteers, the Department of Public Works has promised to add two trash cans, replace the rubber surface and repair and paint the equipment by the end of the summer, according to Minette Vaccariello, GCAT volunteer and Garfield resident.

"The party on Aug. 6 is an opportunity for neighbors to come out and enjoy the new gardens, catch up with friends and perhaps meet some new neighbors," said Vaccariello.

In addition to the ice cream and activities, there will be handouts and displays about ways that the community can help to make the neighborhood safer. Free porch light bulbs and free gun locks will be passed out while supplies last. There will be a focus on gun safety throughout the evening, including the fundraising campaign of the Gun Buyback Initiative that ends on Aug. 31. Donations will be accepted online at www.razoo.com/story/Gun-Buyback-Initiative and by mail and in-person at the BGC's main office, 5149 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15224 through the end of the month. – *Carolyn Ristau, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

EVO Playground Variances Denied by ZBA

Friendship – The request for exceptions to zoning requirements for the natural playground that Earthen Vessels Outreach (EVO) has been planning for a year ["EVO Takes Playground to Zoning," *The Bulletin*, Vol. 38, No. 7] has been denied by the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA).

Concerns centered on a sign larger than permitted by city regulations; proximity to the property line of the church; and the safety of children playing on the very steep slope. According to the ZBA decision, "The applicant has failed to show that unnecessary hardship will result if the variance is denied because the applicant is already operating a successful, licensed daycare operation on the subject property, and failure to construct a playground in no way threatens the licensure of that operation."

Ryan England of EVO told *The Bulletin* that he hopes to find a new location for the playground in Garfield, and that he is exploring several sites. He said his hope is that The Heinz Endowments, which provided the funding for the natural playground, will allow EVO to use the funding for a new location.

EVO's official statement stated, "EVO is disappointed that we will not be building a natural playground in Friendship, but are excited to pursue building one in Garfield instead. We would like to thank the many neighbors who supported this effort to provide quality play space for local children." – *Jill Harkins, The Bulletin*

Thank you! The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation would like to acknowledge its NPP partners, PNC Bank and Allegheny Valley Bank. Thanks also to BNY Mellon, Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, The United Way, Dollar Bank, Citizens Bank and all of *The Bulletin's* advertisers.

Play from page 1



ABOVE: Sojourner MOMS kids crafted birdhouses to install in their play yard. Photo courtesy GTECH Strategies

that provides safe, independent housing and supportive services for homeless, single, dual-diagnosed women in recovery and their dependent children.

The Community Design Center of Pittsburgh, the Negley Place Neighborhood Alliance, Sojourner House MOMS, GTECH Strategies and East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) all worked together to make the play yard a reality. The plan was first conceived by local architectural firm Burt Hill (now Stantec) in 2008 when Sojourner House received a Design Fund grant from the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh (now Design Allies). Originally, the moms and their children – about 12, at the time – helped to imagine the possibilities of a play space.

Evaine Sing, ReClaim Program Manager at GTECH, worked on the project with Burt Hill in 2008. That process, she said, included a lot of conceptualizing of what the play yard could be. The space opened in 2010 and since then, MOMS has expanded, with more than 40 children ranging in age from babies to teenagers. The time had come for adding new features to the space that didn't initially fit into the budget, Sing said.

Sing encouraged GTECH to revisit the

project in conjunction with a Heinz Youth Philanthropy grant. That \$15,000 grant allowed GTECH to partner with other organizations and add amenities that were visualized, but never achieved, in the first round of planning. Most of the labor and materials were donated, Sing explained.

“The interesting thing going back is that at first, the kids didn't have a space to play,” said Sing. “This year it was a different challenge. It's not about the magic of creating a space, but what will the kids be able to leave behind?”

The program allowed GTECH and Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh staff to work with the MOMS kids on Wednesday nights, when moms were busy with training and taking classes as part of Sojourner House MOMS. The program had four education themes: fitness, art and music, animal habitats and planting. The four sessions coincided with new elements being added to the space. As the youth participated in the program, they made art that will become a permanent fixture at the play yard.

“It's a way for the kids to leave their legacy,” said Sing. “They can have a legacy here, and things can be added as new kids come.” ♦

Correction

The article “Butterfly Garden Promotes Safe Community” [*The Bulletin*, July 2013, p. 7] incorrectly stated that the Nelson Mandela Peace Park is in Bloomfield. It also neglected to give the location of the park, which is at N. Evaline and Broad Streets in Garfield. *The Bulletin* regrets the error and omission.

the Bulletin

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Councilman Brings New Public Safety Technology to the East End

By Carolyn Ristau

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield/East Liberty – City Councilman Ricky Burgess (District 9) has played an instrumental role in bringing new investment in public safety to the East End neighborhoods of East Liberty, Garfield, Homewood, Larimer, Lincoln-Lemington and East Hills to help combat the high number of gun-related incidents, including homicides, in these areas.

This summer, SST, Inc. is installing the ShotSpotter Flex System in these neighborhoods. This system is a series of acoustic sensors that work together to detect and locate gunfire. Once the sensors detect gunshots, they transmit the location to an offsite server, which then passes the information to 911 dispatchers and police patrol cars simultaneously.

When installation is complete, 60

sensors will be placed within an area of 3 square miles, stretching from the western end of Garfield through East Hills. The only gunshots guaranteed to be picked by the sensors are within this area. However, the sensors are powerful enough to likely pick up shots within a half-mile buffer around the targeted area as well, according to SST.

Concurrently, Avrio RMS Group is installing additional video surveillance cameras within the same 3 square miles. These new cameras and the already-existing Homeland Security cameras will work with the Shot Spotter sensors. When the sensors locate a gunshot, the nearest cameras will be aimed in that direction to record immediate visual evidence of the incident.

“The intent is that these two systems will work together,” said Marita Bradley, executive assistant to Councilman Burgess.

According to SST, less than 20 percent of gunfire incidents are reported to 911, on average. With this technology, every gunshot within the targeted area will be reported to the police within seconds of the occurrence, and audio and visual forensic evidence will be captured instantly.

Councilman Burgess introduced a reso-

lution that provided up to \$1 million to pay for the installation of this new technology in the East End. The legislation passed on April 30, 2013, and was signed into law on May 3.

“This investment will complement our current and ongoing public safety campaigns to reduce the number of guns and gun violence in our neighborhoods,” remarked Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, who chairs the Garfield Public Safety Task Force. ♦

COMMENTARY

The Future of McCleary School An Update

By Matthew Galluzzo

Lawrenceville Corporation

Lawrenceville – As part of the current disposition process of Pittsburgh Public School-owned properties being facilitated by Fourth River Development, LLC, Lawrenceville Corporation (LC) and Lawrenceville United (LU) have been granted permission to participate as community stewards in relation to the sale of McCleary Elementary School in Upper Lawrenceville. Accordingly, potential purchasers are being asked to approach us in order to review potential projects and provide feedback to Fourth River.

Given that the proposed projects are in the earliest stages of pre-development – i.e., limited or no architectural drawings, site plans, etc. – LC and LU staff are currently looking only to provide general evaluations of the potential developments based on developer track record and capacity, and whether the proposed projects comport with relevant community plans. We trust that any selected developer will continue to liaise with us and the community at-large as plans advance.

LC and LU know that residents and other stakeholders are concerned about the future of larger institutional sites in the neighborhood. And it is clear that the redevelopment of McCleary will have a significant impact on the surrounding blocks, potentially serving as a hub for a quickly transitioning part of the neighborhood.

Luckily, a nearly year-long public planning process involving more than 200 residents, business owners and developers culminated last month with the release of the Upper Lawrenceville Community Plan. The plan identifies both McCleary School and its adjacent thoroughfare, McCandless Avenue, as critical to the future health of the neighborhood, and it makes discrete recommendations about its re-use and 21st-century infrastructure. We firmly believe that any redevelopment at this site should occur in accordance with the community vision laid out in the Upper Lawrenceville Community Plan.

As mentioned above, this is an early-stage proposal review. We appreciate the chance to participate in the vetting process in a substantive way, and we anticipate working with the selected team to advance a contributing project for the neighborhood. To that end, the opportunity for broader community input will likely occur as the selected applicant initiates its redevelopment process of the site. As is typically the case with developments of this scale, LC and LU will host community meetings at the appropriate time where residents of Upper Lawrenceville can provide input and ask questions of the development team.

Please feel free to contact LC at 412-621-1616 with any questions or concerns. ♦

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For more information, or to schedule an appointment at Craig Medical Associates-UPMC, please call 412-422-5970.

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Arsenal Park from page 1

to hold the orange city cone that fell inside of it weeks ago greets people at the entrance. The gunpowder magazine, the only building that remains from the original 19th-century arsenal, has a rotten roof. The concrete floors of the tennis courts have chipped from a maroon to an ashy gray, and the solid cement trails have turned to an unattractive mixture of gravel and grass.

According to Lawrenceville historian Jim Wudarczyk, "We're losing a little bit more of our heritage every day," as the site deteriorates. However, Friends of Arsenal Park, a community organization founded to make improvements to the park, is confident that introduced legislation will bring help to the site soon.

Wudarczyk, who published a book about the site in 1999, says that the Allegheny Arsenal opened in 1814 after the War of 1812 proved to the federal government that it was not prepared to provide its troops with adequate supplies. After the construction of the arsenal built in what Wudarczyk called the "newly created village of Lawrenceville," the population of the area increased dramatically. The arsenal made and loaded gun

cartridges, and was just reaching its peak during the Civil War when an explosion in one of the main labs killed 78 people, resulting in the largest civilian disaster of the Civil War.

The park was established in the early 1900s and was well maintained into the 1960s. In 1991, Wudarczyk's wife, Cyndy, spearheaded a campaign to return the



ABOVE: A gaping hole at the park entrance is an accident waiting to happen. Photo by Jill Harkins

park to its prior glory, and then City Councilman Jim Ferlo was instrumental in the revitalization of much of the park. When he left office in 2002, Arsenal Park was once again forgotten, said Wudarczyk.

Before resigning his seat in early July of this year, Councilman Patrick Dowd introduced legislation at City Council to allocate \$70,000 for the creation of a "master plan" to rehabilitate Arsenal

Park. As of press time, a vote had not yet occurred, but if it is approved, the money will go to the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy to fund a study. According to Randall Sulkin, President of Friends of Arsenal Park, the study will take between nine and 12 months and will, "among other things, analyze the historical use of the land, the landscape, the current uses, community feedback on proposed uses, accessibility, safety and maintenance recommendations."

Wudarczyk is not a member of the Friends of Arsenal Park, and wants the city to provide funding for "brick and



ABOVE: The roof of the historic arsenal's magazine is rotting and falling off. Photo by Jill Harkins

mortar repairs" instead of a study to tell him what he said he already knows is wrong. He said he believes that nine to 12 months is too much time and \$70,000 is too much money to spend when the problem – a deteriorating park – is already quite clear. ♦

The group Friends of Arsenal Park is on Facebook: www.facebook.com/Arsenal-ParkPGH.

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Penn Avenue Restaurant Opening Delayed

by Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

Garfield – Plans for a Hawaiian-themed restaurant called Saimin at 4923 Penn Ave. have been put on hold, but not significantly changed, according to Simon Chough, the proposed restaurant’s chef and co-owner.

As reported in *The Bulletin* in October of last year [“Aloha, New Restaurant?” Vol. 37, No. 10], Saimin will be a 30- to 40-seat upscale eatery with a small, frequently changing dinner menu of noodle dishes and grilled meat and fish plates, plus a full bar.

Chough’s co-owner in the venture is his father, Simon Chough, Sr., a UPMC cardiologist; his younger brother, Christopher, will function as general manager.

In a phone update last month, Chough told *The Bulletin* that the opening of the restaurant will be pushed back to early 2014 because of the reconstruction of Penn Avenue between Mathilda and Evaline Streets, which is set to begin this month on the north side of the avenue – where 4923 is located.

According to the reconstruction schedule, the roadwork and sidewalk for the north side of Penn should be

completed by spring 2014. (See related article, page 1) “We can’t open during construction,” said Chough. “It’s not feasible. That would be a hard time to open a business.”

Some work on Chough’s building is now taking place – contractors have fixed the roof and updated the plumbing – and more interior renovations will be possible during the reconstruction project, Chough said.

But, he noted, work on the exterior will not begin until the sidewalk is underway. The restaurant’s façade plans, as outlined to the nearby neighbors last September, include a sliding glass garage door.

Chough added that, after the sidewalk is completed on the north side of the street, “we might start opening for lunch and catering” while the south side of the avenue undergoes reconstruction.

Chough attended the June 27 public meeting that outlined the final plans for Penn Avenue reconstruction, and said he is excited about the final outcome. “In the long run, it will be great,” he remarked. “In the meantime, we’ll have a delay.” ♦

Grants Connect Lawrenceville Community

By Becky Thatcher
Lawrenceville United

Lawrenceville – Lawrenceville United launched the Lawrenceville AdvantAGE Program earlier this year to help connect long-time and new residents to each other, to businesses and to resources. The program has engaged hundreds of residents through mixers; enrolled more than 100 residents over 60 years of age in the AdvantAGE card and resource program so they can receive special discounts and incentives from 21 local businesses; and hosted special workshops on home maintenance, health and more.

Through the program, residents have provided informative feedback regarding other initiatives and programs that could be useful in helping residents stay connected and involved as the community evolves. The community often meets around important but very focused agendas regarding community development issues, and many longtime residents have expressed a desire to meet in more informal and fun ways outside of these meetings. In response, Lawrenceville United is announcing the Lawrenceville AdvantAGE Grant Program.

As part of this grant program – which is made possible by the McCune Foundation, PNC Bank and local businesses – residents will be eligible to apply for grant funding in the amount of \$50 to \$500 to support resident-driven activities that connect longtime and new residents. If

residents want to have a block clean-up and after-party; expand a Bingo to welcome new residents; plan a group outing to a local show and dinner; or host a volunteer event or a garden party at a local community garden, this funding can help to support those activities. It can also be used for projects that existing Lawrenceville organizations and agencies are working to implement to foster a sense of community, and will improve the overall quality of life of those living in Lawrenceville.

For an application and information on the guidelines for the grant, or to enroll in Senior AdvantAGE, please visit www.lunited.org, drop in at 4839 Butler Street or call 412-802-7220.

As part of the education and resource component of the AdvantAGE Program, Lawrenceville United will be holding a Health and Resource Fair on Sept. 13 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Lawrenceville Senior Center, 4600 Butler St. The event will be open to all residents, and there will be a specific focus on resources for our residents ages 60 years or older, including volunteer and work opportunities, United Way programs, County programs and more. An AdvantAGE Guide with information to help residents plan for the future and for aging in place will be available at the fair. ♦

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In Memory: Elnora Fortson

The staff and board of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation mourn the passing of Elnora Fortson of Garfield on July 9. Ms. Fortson was the wife of Walter Fortson and mother of daughters Akilah, Ayanna and Anika. A poet and songwriter, Ms. Fortson was an August Wilson Writing Contest poetry winner, recorded “Jesus Walks the Waters of My Soul” (Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Grant) and authored *Women of the Bible* and *Praise Poems for Sunday Mornings of Rejoicing*. She and her husband have been active members of the Garfield community for many years. Our thoughts are with her family at this time.

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EYESORE OF THE MONTH

Overgrowth Taking Over

By Aggie Brose

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Lawrenceville – Our eyesore of the month is located at 262 57th Street in Lawrenceville. According to the Allegheny County real estate website, the owners of public record are Mary P., Glenn R. and William J. Shook. They acquired the property in June, 1982. Their tax bill mailing address is 200 Dorothy Street., Apt A3, East Pittsburgh, PA 15112-1351.

The Shooks are current with their taxes. But that is not the only responsibility property owners have. They cannot let their property stand abandoned with broken windows and debris, and overgrown with weeds, as these owners have for many years.

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) staff contacted the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) record room and found that the property has an open file dating back to 2008. The property has been cited for being vacant; having open, broken windows; and having overgrowth and debris. Even though the record states that the case went to Housing Court in 2008, there is no report about the outcome in the BBI file.

In March of this year, BBI referred the property to the Department of Public Works to be boarded up. The BGC staff did observe that two of the windows were boarded up, but due to the high weeds and



ABOVE: Garbage and debris are obscuring this vacant hilltop house. Photo by Paula Martinac

garbage obscuring the staircase to the house, staff could not gain access to the house to see if any of the other doors and windows were open.

BGC was informed by the Lawrenceville resident who nominated this property that kids have been going in and out of the property. Even though young people may be trespassing, if they set the property on fire and are harmed, the owners could be held liable.

BGC left several voice messages for Mary Shook at 412-229-8690; at press time, she had not returned these calls. The staff will continue to try and contact the Shooks to see what their plans are for the property, and also send them a copy of this issue of *The Bulletin*. ♦

Paper Street Place Brings Pride to Hatfield Street

By Jill Harkins
The Bulletin

Lawrenceville – Becky Thatcher of Lawrenceville United (LU) is not sure what to call the area between 50th and 51st streets at the end of Hatfield Street – an alleyway or a gravel lot. “My best guess, without digging into historically entrenched craziness,” said Thatcher, “is that it was supposed to be an extension of Hatfield Street.”

In reality, this area – which LU recently beautified with the help of Love Your Block, a partnership between Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and The Home Depot Foundation to revitalize Pittsburgh block by block – is a paper street, just one of many in the city of Pittsburgh.

According to the City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works, a paper street “is a portion of land that was planned to be, but never became, an official municipal street.” Such a street has a name on maps, but oftentimes is gravel or grass instead of pavement; the many sets of steps in Pittsburgh are also examples. The problem with paper streets is that the city is not responsible for them, states DPW. Such streets should be maintained by the adjacent property owners, but these owners are usually not aware that the street belongs to them.

This confusion regarding who is responsible leads to rundown pathways like the one in Lawrenceville. Just a month ago, this small block between the Sunoco gas station and the Moose, a venue for shows and concerts, was an area where individuals dumped trash, among other negative activities. Thatcher called it “a dark, hidden place covered in vines,” as

well as “a major nuisance.” The area had such a laundry list of public safety concerns that Thatcher said LU had to ask itself, “What can we do that wouldn’t only green the space, but would bring pride back to a blighted block?”

The organization found its answer when it was awarded a Love Your Block grant in the form of a \$1,000 Home Depot gift card. On June 29, about 15 volunteers from the neighborhood and the board of the Moose, as well as from Deloitte Consulting, a company that had chosen Lawrenceville as the site of its annual impact day, built nine raised flower beds and two picnic tables.

Contractor Mike Van Alstine and artist Dave Calfo, whom Thatcher said she could pay only “in love of neighborhood and baked goods,” played a large role in the day as they began work on a mural on the wall of the Moose. Calfo said work on the mural, which will depict translucent, multi-colored bubbles, will progress as soon as Pittsburgh’s wet weather allows. Thatcher said that other objectives that still need to be completed include installation of trashcans and pruning of trees.

With the recent beautification, Thatcher now likes to call the area either “Paper Street Place” or the “Garden off of Hatfield.” She said she anticipates that the project will be just one step of many to green the area along 51st Street, and hopes to continue to bring pride to the area with events such as National Night Out, which Paper Street Place will be hosting for Lawrenceville on Aug. 6. ♦

BELOW: Neighborhood children helped beautify Paper Street Place off Hatfield Street. Photo by Becky Thatcher



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Building a Community of Canners

Group Turns Backyard Gardening into an Urban Canning Initiative

By Jill Harkins *The Bulletin*

East End – Less than a year ago, canning homegrown food was nothing more than a fun hobby for Sara Blumenstein. Today, it is rapidly turning into a city-wide effort by Blumenstein and her partners Rob Burrows, Chelsea Burket and Gabe Tilove to educate the residents of Pittsburgh about how to can on their own and exchange with others.

According to Blumenstein and Burrows, who grow greens, beans, tomatoes, herbs, peppers, some edible flowers, and cucumbers in their own garden in Bloomfield, most people who grow food in their yards avoid canning for two reasons: it is too difficult to learn, or they end up with too many cans of one kind of food. The Pittsburgh Canning Exchange will work to lower both of those barriers simultaneously.

The Arts in Motion Festival on Penn Avenue on June 15 was the first event where the group had an information table, and they said they received very good feedback from the attendees they spoke to. “It was a great day for us because it helped confirm



ABOVE: The Pittsburgh Canning Exchange had an information table at Arts in Motion on Penn Avenue. Photo by Bea Spolidoro, from her blog: beaspoli.blogspot.com

“It makes more sense to can a lot of one thing at a time, ... but then you have tomatoes in your pantry forever.”

our initial hypothesis about food preservation: that it has a universal appeal, across backgrounds and across generations, because everybody eats and it is in everyone's interest to eat food that is good for them, sustainable and inexpensive year-round,” Blumenstein told *The Bulletin*.

First, the Canning Exchange will address the lack of education. “Canning is like anything else, it can sound a little intimidating when you're talking about vacuums and pH levels,” Blumenstein said. “But I think that learning how to do a new thing is incredibly empowering.”

To help city dwellers overcome any intimidation, the Canning Exchange will host Home Canning Parties, where a small number of people will be invited to the home of someone who is already proficient at canning. The participants will receive hands-on learning for nearly no charge; Blumenstein said that attendees may have to pay a few dollars to hold their place, but will probably receive a coupon to a local market. She said the Canning Exchange hopes to have its first Home Canning Party in early August.

Eventually, the Canning Exchange may host more professional workshops that cost a bit more, in addition to Home Canning Parties. These events will be held in commercial kitchens in Pittsburgh, allowing individuals who want to learn but have no supplies or equipment to get as much hands-on experience as they need. These more ambitious events won't happen immediately, said Blumenstein, but the

Continued on page 9

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Picturing Lawrenceville



Lawrenceville – Guglielmo Botter is an architect and artist from Treviso, Italy, who has been drawing since he was 6 years old. At just 13, the talented artist won a competition to design a postage stamp for Italy. Botter comes from a family of eminent restoration artists in Treviso, dating back to the 1800s. His father, Memi, was a painter and fresco restorer, and his mother, Lyu Da Corta Fumei, was an American artist who lived and worked in Pittsburgh from the late 1950s to the early '60s and took part in the very first Three Rivers Arts Festival. Botter is now in the process of trying to move to Pittsburgh from Treviso with his wife and two young daughters. The family has been spending the summer in Lawrenceville, subletting an apartment on 44th Street (*see drawing above; courtesy Guglielmo Botter*). Botter has an impressive portfolio of pen-and-ink maps and drawings of city buildings and streets. For more information about the artist or to commission his work, visit www.guglielmobotter.com.

Urban Canning continued

Canning Exchange does have partnerships with organizations such as Phipps Conservatory and the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, which already offer such classes.

Once the Canning Exchange has successfully educated those with a desire to learn, they will tackle the next issue: diversifying the kinds of canned foods in home growers' pantries. According to Blumenstein, "The classic problem that happens when you can your own food is that it's cheaper and it makes more sense to can a lot of one thing at a time, say tomatoes, but then you have a lot of tomatoes in your pantry forever."

To tackle this problem, the Canning Exchange will hold a swap sometime in the fall, where those who have canned a lot of tomatoes or pickles or strawberry jam can barter with those who have canned something different. Nothing will be for sale; only trades will be accepted. Blumenstein and Burrows are currently working on a web app that will allow traders to create profiles, tell others what they are growing and negotiate trades in advance of the swap.

"It would be a bummer to make 40 jars of tomatoes, and then nobody wants them when you get to the swap," Burrows explained. Once the swap is a more established event, people will also be able to leave reviews about the quality of individual traders' canned goods, creating what Blumenstein called "a sense of transparency in the system."

The Canning Exchange has been recommended for a Seed Award from the Sprout Fund, which if obtained, will help them meet the goals they've set, said Blumenstein. "Today, there isn't really a community built around canning. So the goals of the Canning Exchange are to build that community around food preservation here in Pittsburgh and to allow people to trade their homegrown foods. We think that canning is a really good way to eat local year round, and it's a lot less expensive than buying from the grocery store."

To find out more about the Pittsburgh Canning Exchange or to sign up for their email list, visit canningexchange.org. ♦



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NovaNET Flexibility Key to On-time Graduation

By Jill Harkins
The Bulletin

Garfield – The Neighborhood Learning Alliance (NLA), located at 5429 Penn Ave., has been actively using NovaNET since 2005. However, the online credit recovery program did not become necessary until last year, when Pittsburgh Public Schools started closing the doors to its summer schools due to budget cuts and other factors. When this happened, NLA's NovaNET program became one of very few options for high school students to recover credits lost due to failed classes during the school year.

“The schools had to go through a significant change, as did parents and kids,” said Stephen MacIsaac, Executive Director of the NLA, “Everyone is used to summer and night school, and all of a sudden those things were gone. School personnel, NLA and our community partners have all

been working together to prepare for this change.”

NovaNET is an online program that students can register for and use at one of the NLA's 10 sites in order to recover lost credits. Students begin with a pretest, and based on the results are assigned a series of lessons and tests very specific to their preliminary abilities. They must receive at least an 80 percent on every test in order to move on, and if they fail any test, a staff member must reassign certain lessons before they can retake it.

The NLA has tutors on-hand each day in addition to the staff members. Alvan Mbongo, a student at Carnegie Melon University and a credit recovery team member at the NLA, said that he spends most of his time keeping the students

focused. “The majority of my time is spent making sure the kids are on task because it's easy to get distracted,” he said. “I also help the students grasp the concepts and make sure they're working in the right direction.”

According to MacIsaac, a student is supposed to be able to recover half of a credit after 30 hours of work with the program. However, he said that he has not found this length of time to be particularly accurate. “That number is a bit of an illusion ... It's going to take the length of the time that it takes. And that's the greatness of NovaNET.”

That means MacIsaac can tell a student who seems unfocused or uninterested to go home for the day and relax before coming back with their mind fully on the task at hand. He said he finds the program not nearly as forced as a summer in school might be. The students are asked to attend every day, and if they do not, the program will take longer to complete. Excessive absences, or multiple days attended where the student does not put in any effort, may even lead MacIsaac to suggest a student stop using the program. However, he believes that the flexibility leads to better learning.


“Our hope is that kids actually learn the content, that the kids learn how to learn. We hope that they learn how to take notes and how to be purposeful in their studies. We want this to carry on to their other classes. It's not exclusively about helping them to recover this one credit,” MacIsaac told *The Bulletin*.

Shamari Nevels, an 18-year-old who has been using NovaNET at the NLA for the past two summers, in which time he has recovered the credits for four classes, said that he enjoys the flexibility, but that the program is not any less rigorous because of it. “With this program we actually have to do the work. We have to go through the lessons, remember everything, and actually retain the information.”

According to MacIsaac, “It creates a more young adult environment where they are making choices. Nothing is being handed or given to them; they have to make the decision to come in; they have to make the decision to work hard. It's all about young adults making decisions for themselves and I think that is super important.”

MacIsaac also emphasized how helpful the NLA's community partners, including Pittsburgh's Public Schools, the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, the Homewood Y and the Lovette Y, where students can recover physical education credits, have been in the transition to this new way to recover credits. He said, “It's another step in us all thinking differently about how we use our resources in the most effective way to help our most vulnerable children.”

Students who want to enroll in NovaNET must be referred by a high school counselor. To find out how to enroll, visit www.neighborhoodlearning.org. ♦



Back to School... Already!

It's hard to believe that in a few weeks school will begin again. Before sending your children off, stop and read the following tips.

Young Students

Pedestrian injuries are the second leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 5 to 14. So make sure that children:

- Look left, right then left again before crossing the street.
- Always try to cross a street when a crossing guard is present.
- Cross in front of the bus only after the driver signals it's okay.

High School Students


Statistics show that teen drivers are four times more likely to be involved in fatal crashes than more experienced drivers. If your children drive to school:

- Teach them, as well as, all passengers to buckle-up.
- Remind them to obey the speed limits
- Enforce no-drinking-and-driving rules.

College Students

The number one crime on college campuses is theft. One-out-of-every 10 college students will be robbed while away at school.

- Remind students to always lock dormitory doors.
- Tell students not to keep large amounts of money in their rooms.
- Have students mark personal property with identifiable marks.



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Recruiting for BNY Mellon



On July 16 at the BGC Community Activity Center in Garfield, more than 140 people attended a recruitment session for open positions at BNY Mellon. The event was sponsored by the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, and included information on the variety of jobs available and how to apply. Addressing the crowd's questions was BNY Mellon recruiter Kerry Kiley. For more ENEC events and information, visit www.enecpittsburgh.org. Photo by Rick Flanagan

Reconstruction from page 1



ABOVE: Candace Krnich of L.R. Kimball (left) reviews the stages of Penn Avenue reconstruction with community members at the June 27 public meeting. Photo by Paula Martinac

And there will be plenty of disruption, Hassett noted in his hour-long overview of the reconstruction project. "It's not necessarily going to be pleasant," he said.

The end result, however, will be four completely revitalized and spiffy-looking blocks, "from building line to building line," as Hassett explained. The project involves all new paving, sidewalks, curbs, lighting, street furniture, traffic signals, pavement markings, signage and utility poles. The design attempts to articulate the function of those blocks as an arts district.

Many of the features will be unique to this project, including about a dozen lighted benches and decorative tree grates specially designed by Lawrenceville artist Natalie Settles to look like tree roots. The sleek black street light design is also unique in the city.

Stage 0 begins in mid- to late August with drainage work, said Brian Krul, project manager for L.R. Kimball, a local engineering firm. Stage 1 extends through the fall and early winter and involves roadwork on the north side of Penn Avenue, block by block, beginning at Mathilda. When the roadwork is completed, stage 2 will launch, with the contractor reconstructing the sidewalk on the north side of the avenue in spring 2014. In stage 3, scheduled for summer 2014, the construction team will move to the south side of Penn, and do all the major roadwork beginning again at Mathilda and progressing block by block. Stage 4 will occur in fall 2014, with the sidewalk on the south side of the avenue being reconstructed.

In stages 2 and 4, Krul noted, there will be bridges from the street to the businesses and residences on Penn, to maintain pedestrian access to buildings.

The block-by-block, north-and-south

staging was designed to minimize the impact on businesses and residents. Given the disruption to parking, "It allows us to maintain parking in the other blocks," explained Hassett. "That's a commitment we made to the businesses." It also means, however, that the project will take more time, with an estimated completion date of December 2014.

During construction, Penn Avenue in those four blocks will be reduced to two lanes – one for parking and one for traffic inbound to downtown Pittsburgh. Traffic outbound from downtown will have a posted detour from Liberty Avenue to Baum Boulevard to South Negley Avenue, and from there back onto Penn. The detoured bus route has not yet been announced, but may be Friendship Avenue, said Hassett.

Krul said that approximate work hours for construction will be 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, but the contractor, Matcon Diamond, will determine the exact schedule. Krul assured meeting-goers that there will be minimal nighttime work, except in the very beginning of the project, and that property owners and businesses will be notified in advance with fliers.

The inspection/field manager for the reconstruction project was introduced at the meeting. Aaron Pickering of Baker Corp. will serve as the liaison between the contractor and property owners; his direct number is 412-292-7265. The community's point of contact – for questions such as where residents of the avenue can park while their individual blocks are disrupted – is the BGC's Brose, who can be reached at 412-441-6950 x 15.

"Let's all be patient, and in 18 months we'll have a 'wow' avenue," concluded Brose. ♦

Gaining Access To Fresh Food

By Emily Cleath

Just Harvest

East Liberty – This summer marks the first that shoppers can use food stamps to purchase fresh produce at city farmers markets. In May, Just Harvest – in coordination with the Food Policy Council and Pittsburgh Citiparks – launched Fresh Access, a program that enables EBT card/food stamp purchases at the Citiparks East Liberty Farmers Market.

Pittsburgh's farmers markets have long been a popular source of seasonal, locally produced, nutritious and affordable food. The Citiparks markets attract thousands of shoppers to seven locations around the city.

However, farmers and sustainable food advocates recognize that the real potential of these markets remains untapped. Many local residents are not familiar with the markets or view them as unaffordable for low-income households. Farmers markets have also traditionally been exclusively cash-based – another obstacle for those who are limited to food stamps.

"Given the high poverty rate in Garfield, East Liberty, and nearby neighborhoods, we felt launching the Fresh Access program in East Liberty was critical to helping an under-served section of the city," said Just Harvest's executive director, Ken Regal. According to 2010 U.S. Census data, a significant number of East End residents are living in poverty – almost 45 percent in Garfield, 33 percent in East Liberty, 27 percent in Lawrenceville, 21 percent in Friendship and 19 percent in Bloomfield.

The new program is a win-win-win: a win for those on food stamps who now have greater access to fresh, nutritious, and affordable food; a win for farmers, who can now better reach the 1 in 7 on food stamps who previously couldn't access their products; and a win for the whole community, whose democratic engagement with farmers is now further supported and expanded.

In addition to using their food stamps/EBT cards, shoppers will also be able to pay using commercial debit or credit cards. People wishing to pay with their cards should visit the Just Harvest tent at the market, where they can purchase wooden tokens that act like cash at the market. Vendors also accept Senior and WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) checks.

The East Liberty Market is open Mondays from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m., from May to November, and is located at 5800 Penn Circle West, next to McDonald's. Vendors sell a variety of fruits; vegetables; meats; cheeses; homemade jams, jellies and pickles; baked goods; honey; seedlings; coffee and more.

Just Harvest plans to expand to the Bloomfield Farmers Market later this season.

For more information and a complete list of markets that accept food stamps, stop by the Just Harvest tent at the market, call 412-431-8960 or visit justharvest.org/index.php/fresh-access. ♦

"With a Banjo on My Knee"



Lawrenceville – If it wasn't for the modern pavement, you might think these three men stepped out of 1860. But, in fact, they were part of Doo Dah Days at Allegheny Cemetery on July 13. The event is held each July in celebration of the birthday of 19th-century composer Stephen Foster, who is buried in the cemetery. Doo Dah Days featured performances by folk bands specializing in Foster-era music; educational tours of Allegheny Cemetery, the sixth oldest rural cemetery in the country; and costumed re-enactors. Musician Greg Adams and re-enactors Adam Ward and Kevin Tabor are pictured from left to right above. Photo by Tom Powers

Changing Acronyms in Friendship

By **Martha Terry**

Friendship Community Group

Friendship – Friendship celebrates summer, and the many accomplishments of its veteran neighborhood associations, as it transitions into a new chapter of community advocacy and engagement.

Since 1989 Friendship has been the beneficiary of two enterprising neighborhood associations, the Friendship Preservation Group (FPG) and the Friendship Development Associates (FDA), each working to improve the quality of life of its residents through real estate development, community engagement, green space development and active zoning enforcement.

Over the years the organizations can be credited with the development or renovation of over 77 housing units in the neighborhood and on Penn Avenue; the creation of the Playpark at Pittsburgh

Montessori; helping to close two nuisance bars; planting numerous street trees; and hosting dozens of neighborhood community building events – achievements that have helped transform Friendship into a flourishing neighborhood.

After a lot of consideration, Friendship has decided that the time has come for representation by one neighborhood association, the Friendship Community Group (FCG), a name voted on by attendees at the 2012 Friendship Flower and Folk Festival. In its first year, FCG has established committees and named its chairs, written by-laws and incorporated, and is applying for 501(c)3 status, which will allow it to accept tax-deductible donations.

FCG is assuming all of the functions of the former two groups, with the exception

of the role of real estate developer. FCG's focus will be on maintaining public green spaces in the community, most notably Baum Grove, a neighborhood-owned parklet at 400 Roup, and the Playpark at Pittsburgh Montessori, as well as continuing activities that improve the quality of life for all who live in Friendship. The group will also play a role in business border development and participate in any Penn Avenue Arts Initiative activities going forward. FCG is led by a board of directors.

The day-to-day work of FCG will be accomplished through the activities of four committees, which were established based on feedback from the strategic plan-

ning process facilitated by Stefani Danes from April 2011 to November 2012. These committees are Leadership, Marketing and Public Process, Housing and Business Borders and Neighborhood Environment. Each committee has sub-committees, to address the variety of activities and initiatives that Friendship has undertaken since 1989.

FCG will continue to hold quarterly community meetings, mount the Friendship House Tour in the fall, organize the Friendship Flower and Folk Festival in the spring and coordinate other activities such as tree-tending and litter pick-ups. For more information about FCG, email casabill@yahoo.com or materry@pitt.edu. ♦



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National Night Out @ Nelson Mandela Peace Park
Tuesday, August 6, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Nelson Mandela Peace Park, N. Evaline Street
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Comics from page 1



ABOVE: Kids showing off the first Comics Club publication, fall 2012. Photo by Paula Levin

about my business: I run Literary Arts Boom, a creative writing laboratory that aims to build a culture of reading and writing with Pittsburgh youth. Our Mad Scientist theme encourages kids to explore, experiment, and invent. Mentorship and creativity inspire students to pursue their interests, find their voices, and tell their stories.

The LAB operates from Assemble, a community space for arts and technology at 5125 Penn Ave. Throughout the past school year, Assemble hosted Learning Parties at which a number of experts packed into a room to create a science fair-type event focused on a theme like planets or sound. The LAB always led an activity station. After a few of these events, I recognized that writing could be really intimidating. There's that blank piece of paper, unblinking, waiting for words. It reeks of homework to a lot of kids.

So I began incorporating more visual elements and conversation into our activities. LAB volunteers and I combined drawing, listening, and sharing with the writing prompts we'd already planned. The kids seemed to stick around our table more than before.

We carried this over to our Homework Help sessions, which always began with 10 minutes of writing. We saw kids more willingly put pencil to paper when drawing was an option. I was still resistant, though. A pesky voice in my head kept saying, "Ok, enough drawing. Time to write now."

In the meantime, I met a lot of comic artists and began to see that comics were a language all their own - a visual language. As somebody who began to learn Spanish when I was in sixth grade, I know that learning one foreign language prepares the mind for learning others. So

I got really excited about how visual language could prime students for written language.

Comics engage reluctant readers and writers because they mix images and words, alleviating the pressure some kids feel to get through an entire page of text. Comics allow a child to look and linger.

Lucky for me, Nina Barbuto, the director and founder of Assemble, had taught comics workshops at the Carnegie Museum of Art. Together, we created Comics Club. The first group of kids met one day a week throughout October 2012. The LAB published a collection of their work; digital versions can be viewed at issuu.com/thelab_pgh/docs/comicsclub_0ct2012.

In the spring, we expanded Comics Club to be an eight-week series. The participants were a wild bunch that became fast friends. They learned about storytelling and created their own charac-

ters, settings and plots. They worked together and independently. They selected favorite pieces from their portfolios for our next publication. We're about to send their Cosmic Comics Club collection to print.

Underlying our comics workshops is the notion that images can speak and words can illustrate. We plan to really dig into these concepts during Comics Club Camp. For five full days, beginning on Aug. 5, campers will go through the entire process of creating their own comic, from idea-generation to publication. The cost is \$130 for the week, with after-camp care available for an additional \$50. We don't want to turn anybody away, though, so scholarships are available. Kids who qualify for free or reduced lunch should contact literaryartsboom@gmail.com or 412-906-9522. More details and registration can be found at comicsclubcamp.eventbrite.com. ♦

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The first Friday of each month, from 6 to 11 p.m., various venues in the Penn Avenue Arts District, 4800-5500 Penn Ave., open their doors to showcase the work of a variety of artists and performers. For more information visit facebook.com/pennavenuearts.

EAST LIBERTY**Comics Workshop**

There will be a free course covering sequential art, visual communications and creative writing at the East Liberty branch of the Carnegie Library, 130 S. Whitfield St., the first four Fridays in August from 1 to 3 p.m. Teens will then be able to apply their new artistic talents toward creating their own comic that will circulate at the library. Registration encouraged, call 412-363-8232.

GARFIELD**"Automata"**

Come to the Irma Freeman Center for Imagination, 5006 Penn Avenue, from 7 to 10 p.m. for the opening reception for "Automata," a Kinetic Art Show curated by Katy Dement. Music by BurnOutWarCry: a spontaneous ritual and Mike Tamburo.

Garfield Night Market

The Garfield Night Market will premiere from 6 to 10 p.m. on N. Pacific Avenue between Penn Avenue and Dearborn Street. More information at garfield-nightmarket.org.

August 3

LAWRENCEVILLE**Flea & Vendors' Market**

Come to New Bethel Church, Fellowship Hall, 221 43rd St., from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for great barbeque food and good bargains. Call 412-441-5968 for more info.

August 4

GARFIELD**Garden to Spa**

Study and create with herbalist Michelle Czolba for part of her Garden to Spa Series at Healcrest Urban Farm, 5200 Hillcrest St., from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. An exploration of all-natural hand-crafted skin care and homemade cosmetics. Learn to craft your own products for your own needs. Fee is \$15. Register at www.healcresturbanfarm.com/classes.html or contact healcresturbanfarm@gmail.com.

Volunteer Days

Enjoy local beer, wine, pizza and teapops while volunteering at Healcrest Urban Farm, 5200 Hillcrest St., from 4 to 7 p.m. Enjoy some local favorites, Spak Bros. Pizza and the growers of East End Brew, in the lovely gardens. Will also run on August 14 (5-7:30 p.m.), August 25 and August 28 (5-7:30 p.m.). Bring water and wear old clothes and covered shoes.

August 5

LAWRENCEVILLE**Art Camp**

Does your child like to draw, color and paint? During this five-day camp from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Lawrenceville branch of the Carnegie Library, 279 Fisk St., participants will explore various types of art, mediums and techniques to create their own masterpieces. Supplies provided. Registration is required for all five days. Recommended for children entering grades 1-5. To register call 412-682-3668.

EAST LIBERTY**Ancient Egypt Class**

Bring your kids to the East Liberty branch of the Carnegie Library, 130 S. Whitfield St., from 6 to 7 p.m. for "Digging into the Past: Ancient Egypt" where they will enjoy two hands-on activities that will let them explore ancient Egypt. For ages 6-11. Registration required. For more information or to register call 412-363-8274.

GARFIELD**Comics Club Camp**

Send your child to Comics Club Camp at Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., through August 9. Campers will create their own comic from idea-generation to publication. Students should bring a lunch; afternoon snacks provided. Ages 8-12. Camp runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Fee is \$130. After-camp care is available from 3 to 6 p.m. for \$50 per week. Scholarships are available. Contact literaryartsboom@gmail.com or 773-425-1531. To register, visit <http://comicsclubcamp.eventbrite.com>.

August 6

GARFIELD**Ex-offender Employment**

Usama Al-Teraifi, Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center Job Developer, will talk about employment for those with criminal backgrounds at the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave., at 2 p.m. Information will be presented about how different employers view ex-offenders, how and where to get your criminal record, things you can do to change employers' perception of you, how to answer difficult interview questions about your criminal history, and much more. To register call 412-362-8580.

Hula Hoop Class

Join hoop enthusiast, performer and teacher Abbey O'Brien for a workshop in basic hooping at Healcrest Urban Farm, 5200 Hillcrest St., at 6 p.m. Fee is \$15. Register at www.healcresturbanfarm.com/classes.html or contact healcresturbanfarm@gmail.com.

August 12

EAST LIBERTY**Science in the Summer**

Bring your kids to the East Liberty branch of the Carnegie Library, 130 S. Whitfield St., every night through the 15 from 6 to 7 p.m. to learn about genetics. For students entering grades 2-6. Registration and a parent permission slip required. For more information or to register call 412-363-8274.

August 13

GARFIELD**CVS Recruitment Session**

Hear about CVS Caremark's 200 inbound customer service positions at the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave., at 1 p.m. Full-time positions at a rate of \$10 per hour, with benefits after 90 days and paid training. You must have computer skills. To register call 412-362-8580. Hosted by the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center.

August 14

GARFIELD**AARP Recruitment**

Come to the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Ave., from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. for information about AARP's WorkSearch, a paid training program to assist individuals 55 and older in obtaining experience and training needed to get a job. To qualify, you must be an unemployed, low-income resident of Allegheny County above the age of 55. Bring a copy of your PA ID or PA Driver's License, Social Security Card, resume, and documents showing past 12 months of income (including spouse). To register call 412-362-8580.

Public Safety Task Force

The Public Safety Task Force has convened monthly in Garfield since 2000. At the table are representatives from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, the Bureau of Police, other neighborhood organizations, the offices of the Mayor and City Council members, various city and county departments and the state. Community members are invited to bring specific concerns to PSTF's monthly meeting during the first 15 minutes. The meeting starts at 4 p.m. at BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave. For more information: 412-441-6950 x15.

August 15

LAWRENCEVILLE**Tween Gaming Program**

The Lawrenceville branch of the Carnegie Library, 279 Fisk St., will be hosting its first-ever Tween

Scene Gaming program at 4 p.m. Participants will play games on the Xbox Kinect. For grades 3-5.

August 16

GARFIELD**Devi Dance Class**

Receive an introduction to goddess storytelling, mantras, mudras, bellydance and yoga from Dana Launius in the Healcrest Urban Farm orchard, 5200 Hillcrest St., at 6:30 p.m. Fee is \$10. Register at www.healcresturbanfarm.com/classes.html or contact healcresturbanfarm@gmail.com.

August 17

STANTON HEIGHTS**Community Day**

Stanton Heights Block Watch Committee of the Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association is sponsoring a community festival in the Sunnyside School parking lot from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be food vendors, a Roving Art Cart, games, a juggler, balloon sculpturing, a large balloon-enclosed trampoline, a Chinese Auction and face painting by Three Rivers Village School.

August 19

LAWRENCEVILLE**Family Technology Class**

The Lawrenceville branch of the Carnegie Library, 279 Fisk St., will be hosting "Family Fun: Tech Storytime & iPad Adventures," a tech storytime using both print and digital books at 7 p.m. Afterward, explore the library's iPads and learn how to support literacy development using technology. For more information call 412-682-3668.

August 20

GARFIELD**Home Depot Recruitment**

Come to the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave., at 2 p.m. to meet with the Human Resources representative from the Home Depot. You will learn about open positions, including cashiers and lot attendants; the availability of full- and part-time positions; advancement and growth opportunities; pay rate and benefits; and how to apply. You will be able to ask individualized questions. To register call 412-362-8580. Hosted by the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center.

Poem Swap

Hear poets read the poems of other poets at Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave., from 7 to 9 p.m. Readers will include Karen Dietrich, Kelly Scarff, Meghan Tutolo, and Stefanie Wielkopolan. Suggested donation. There will be snacks and beverages. Authors' books will be for sale along with mad science supplies. Proceeds benefit Literary Arts Boom's creative youth programming. Contact 412-906-9522 or literaryartsboom@gmail.com for more information.

Sorry, we do not accept listings by phone.

The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, fundraising events and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Listings published on a space-available basis; we cannot guarantee placement. **Announcements for the September issue are due Thursday, August 15, via email to bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org.**

Volunteer Opportunities & Services

Composting Class

Find out how to make your food waste beneficial at the Healcrest Urban Farm, 5200 Hillcrest St., at 6:30 p.m. You will be introduced to a few easy methods for turning food scraps into soil in dense spaces. You will also have the opportunity to take part in our Healcrest Compost program, where your waste is our treasure. Dana Launius will share her experience and love of sustainable living. Bring water and wear old clothes. Fee is \$10. Register at www.healcresturbanfarm.com/classes.html.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Adult Game Night

Play word games, board games and video games with your neighbors at the Lawrenceville branch of the Carnegie Library, 279 Fisk St., at 6 p.m. Ages 18 and up.

DOWNTOWN

50+ Tutoring Opportunity

If you would like to participate in OASIS's intergenerational tutoring program, come to training sessions on August 20 and August 27 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Macy's downtown, 400 5th Ave. No teaching experience is necessary. Free training will be given to adults 50+. All materials, books, and supplies are provided by OASIS. Ongoing education is offered at no charge. For more information call John D. Spehar, M.Ed., Pittsburgh OASIS Tutoring Coordinator at 412-232-2021 or e-mail jdspehar@oasisnet.org.

August 22

BLOOMFIELD

Call for Donations

Ashley Mahon, a 15-year-old sophomore at Pittsburgh Allderdice from Bloomfield, has been chosen to attend the People to People Australia trip as a Student Ambassador in June 2014. Ashley and her family will be selling raffle tickets and handmade crafts at Little Italy Days on Liberty Avenue from 6 to 10 p.m. in order to raise money for her trip. Little Italy Days and Ashley's booth will also take place on August 23 and 24 (12 to 10 p.m.) and August 25 (12-7 p.m.). Ashley also has an account at Citizens Bank, 4701 Liberty Avenue, 15B-0099 called "Send Ashley to Australia," where you can make donations.

August 25

EAST LIBERTY

I Made It! Market

I Made It! Market returns to Bakery Square, 6425 Penn Ave., for a Sunday Marketplace from 12 to 4 p.m. pairing artisans selling handmade items with local farmer's market vendors. In the area surrounding Coffee Tree Roasters. For more information or to meet the artists visit www.imadeitmarket.com.

LARIMER

Larimer Street Fair

Join the Larimer Consensus Group and Green Action Team, Pittsburgh Community Services, Inc., The Kingsley Association, ACTION Housing Green House program, and GTECH Strategies at the 2nd Annual Larimer Green Street Fair at Larimer

Avenue and Mayflower Street from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Food, music and activities for all ages. The fair will offer an opportunity for businesses, organizations and community partners to have increased visibility in support of all those working to make Larimer a healthy and green community. For information on sponsorship, program ads and vendor tables contact Karen Garrett, PSCI at 412-904-4718 or email kareng@pghcsi.org or Carolyn Peeks, Chair LCG, carolynpeeks1955@gmail.com.

Further Out

GARFIELD

"Ineffable" Art Show

Come to 113 N. Pacific Ave. on September 6 from 6 to 9 p.m. for "Ineffable," an art show presented by Selena Shaffer. Collection of works by various artists, including Ras Maisha, Frederick Mowry, Billy Pilgrim and Maria Watson. For more info contact sshaffer0605@gmail.com.

FRIENDSHIP

House Tour

The 2013 Friendship House Tour, planned for September 22, is looking for homes to showcase on this year's tour. Old homes, new homes, newly remodeled, partially remodeled, and apartments (with landlord permission) are welcome. The Friendship Community Group is also looking for volunteers to help plan and execute this event. Planning meetings will occur monthly. If you would like to volunteer or if you would like to share your home or suggest a home you would like to see on the tour, email housetour@friendship-pgh.org.

GARFIELD

Car Festival

Pittsburgh Art & Car Festival will return to Penn Avenue Sept. 28. Most Wanted Fine Art is looking for artists, vendors and participants for the car show. Email mostwantedfineart@yahoo.com for details.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Church Celebration

The oldest existing church in Lawrenceville, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, will celebrate its 145th anniversary on September 29 at a 3 p.m. worship service at 237 37th St. Former pastor, Rev. James Keurulainen will be the guest preacher. Guest lecturers include Rev. Jack Hartman, Concordia Lutheran Ministries Director of Chaplaincy Services, and Rev. George Dolak. A dinner will follow in the church undercroft. Reservations: 412-621-2720.

Pre-K Program

Children's Hospital Family Care Connection Lawrenceville is offering a Jumpstart program for Pre-K children ages 3 to 5. The program focuses on the academic and behavioral skills needed for a successful transition to Kindergarten. Special sessions will focus on parent involvement with their children in the classroom. Classes run twice weekly from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning in September. Call 412-784-8683 to register.

House Tour

The annual Lawrenceville Hospitality House Tour will be held on Sunday, October 6 from 12 to 5 p.m.

This year the tour welcomes back Molly's Trolleys, which will be shuttling tour-goers throughout Lawrenceville. Advance ticket sales begin September 3rd and will be available at these Lawrenceville businesses: Jay Design, Gallery on 43rd, Dandelions, Coca Cafe and Pavement. Advance tickets will be \$12 and \$15 at the door the day of the event. Volunteers are needed and will be able to attend the tour for free. Local businesses are also encouraged to support the community and the event by placing an ad in the Hospitality Tour Book. Homeowners are encouraged to submit their house for possible inclusion in this year's tour. Contact kateb1950@gmail.com for more information.

PITTSBURGH

Redd Up Weekend

Citizens Against Litter is looking for volunteers for a Fall Redd Up weekend October 25 through 27. Projects could include picking up litter; cleaning up vacant lots, parks and ball fields; planting and mulching around trees and tending to gardens; among others. To sign up contact boris.weinstein@verizon.net or call 412-688-9120.

On-Going

HILL DISTRICT

Swim & Waterpolo

Training sessions will be offered from 9 to 11:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in August at Citiparks Ammon Rec Center outdoor pool at 2217 Bedford Ave. with Coach Mark Rauterkus, BGC and Pittsburgh Obama Academy. For high school and middle school students and those 9 and older. For more information, call 412-298-3432.

EAST END

Summer Food Service

Through August 16, Citiparks Summer Food Service Program will provide healthy and delicious breakfasts, lunches and snacks to all children up to 18 years old as well as to mentally disabled individuals up to 21 years old. Sites in the East End include: Bloomfield Community Center, 408 Ella St., Bloomfield; East Liberty Gardens Apartments, Complex Playground, East Liberty; Estelle Campbell Boys & Girls Club, 4600 Butler St., Lawrenceville; Inner City Ministries, 5643 East Liberty Blvd., East Liberty; and Valley View Presbyterian Church, 601 N. Aiken Ave., East Liberty. For hours of operation and a complete list of sites, call 412-244-3911.

GARFIELD

Call for Interns

Literary Arts Boom [The LAB] relies upon volunteers and interns to add expertise and energy to its educational youth programming, community engagement efforts, and mad science machinations. For details about internships check out <http://literaryartsboom.org/interns>. For information about volunteer opportunities visit <http://literaryartsboom.org/get-involved/volunteers> or contact The LAB at literaryartsboom@gmail.com or 412-906-9522.

Writing Workshops

Contact The LAB if you are a teacher, parent or youth group leader looking for exciting writing workshops and field trips in late summer or fall that involve any of the following and more: group stories and publications; Pittsburgh Poems (poems about place); cross generational oral histories; comics; or novel writing for National Novel Writing Month (in November). See a sampling of some of our previous workshops, at <https://www.facebook.com/Literar>

yArtsBoom/photos_albums or www.literaryartsboom.org/calendar.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Children's Yoga

The Lawrenceville branch of the Carnegie Library, 279 Fisk St., will host children's yoga classes on Fridays at 11:30 a.m. Yoga helps develop body awareness, improve posture and encourage good listening skills. Using play, stories, singing and games, yoga instructor Laura Herrmann will lead kids through breathing exercises, stretches and yoga poses. Recommended for children age 2-5. Registration is required. To register call 412-682-3668.

PITTSBURGH

Parenting Warmline

Call the confidential Parenting Warmline at Family Resources for support, information and referral, 412-641-4546. Free, live, confidential service where you can find information, referrals and support for any non-medical parenting concern. The warmline answers from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

GARFIELD

Computer Skills

Pittsburgh CONNECTS, 5321 Penn Avenue, hosts weekly computer classes. Intro to Computers, Mondays from 10 to 11:30 a.m., covers the basics of the computer from clicking the mouse to saving and attaching files. Internet and Email Basics, Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., covers basic internet navigation skills. For information on these offerings and Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel classes visit main.pghconnects.org.

Free Homework Help

Students in grades 1 through 12 are invited to drop in at 5125 Penn Ave. from 3:30 to 6 p.m. for homework help and writing practice at The Literary Arts Boom. Volunteer mentors assist students with their schoolwork and also lead writing activities that range from creative to expository. Parents must complete a student application: <http://bit.ly/LABStudentApp>. Copies will be on hand at The LAB. Call 773-425-1531 for more info.

Garfield Night Market

The Garfield Night Market seeks vendors for the summer and fall who will sell a mix of food, local produce, and handmade items. For its pilot year, vendors will be free to sell their goods at the Night Market for no fee. Those interested in vending, volunteering or sponsoring at this event should visit nightmarket.citylabpgh.org. For more information contact info@citylabpgh.org or 412-434-7080.

PENN AVENUE

Bike Free Fridays

When you walk, ride the bus, bike or skateboard to the Kelly Strayhorn Theater for any of the Friday performances, you will receive one voucher that may be exchanged for two free tickets to a future performance. KST is proud to collaborate with Bike Pittsburgh on Bike Free Fridays.

BLOOMFIELD

Dance Classes

Join the Pittsburgh Dance Center, 4765 Liberty Ave., 2nd floor, for Hip Curve Bellydancing Foundations on Saturdays from 10 to 11 a.m., Beginning Technique and Training Bellydancing Bootcamp on Mondays from 6 to 7 p.m., Level 2 Bellydancing: Combos and Choreography on Mondays from 7 to 8 p.m., and Tribal Style Belly Basics on Thursdays at 6 p.m.



A serene co-existence of the mundane and the magnificent ...



A collision of styles, showing contrast without conflict ...

Winding Down Winebiddle A Photo Essay

Photos and Text by Adam Eisenstat *Bulletin Contributor*

Winebiddle Street is an extended panorama, passing through several different neighborhoods, presenting a microcosm of the area – the whole city, too. In its sheer variety, the architecture is extreme if not jarring as it changes continuously, sometimes within a half-block.

From the heights of Winebiddle Street, the view is incredible. The stretch from Penn Avenue to Hillcrest Street, one of the 10 steepest in the city, offers a majestic vista – Garfield, Friendship, Bloomfield, Shadyside and Oakland, in all their diverse glory.

The street gets its name from Conrad Winebiddle (1744–1795), a pioneer settler of East Liberty who was a farmer and real estate speculator.

During the Civil War, Winebiddle Hill (near present-day North Fairmont Street) and Davis Hill (at the former Fort Pitt School) were enlisted in the area’s defenses, providing an ideal spot for gun batteries and fortresses.

No trace remains of those Civil War defenses, but the stalwart character of the street endures. Winebiddle Street epitomizes the way topography, architecture and other physical attributes breed familiarity and a shared environment, and become essential ingredients in the human mortar that binds a community. ♦

Adam Eisenstat’s work can found at I-Vortext.com.



Low-slung ranch house ... Victorian relic ... stone cottage ... stately manse



The city spreads out before you ... a majestic vista – adjoining neighborhoods ...

“I’d Like to Be ... Under the Sea”

Courtesy Laura Jean McLaughlin



Friendship – The time has come to celebrate the new sea creature in the Octopus Garden at 133 S. Aiken St. – a new friend for Octavia the Octopus. But before that can happen, the garden needs your help explaining to the world how and why this strange creature ended up in Pittsburgh. The sea creature has all sorts of parts that are powered by the wind, sun and other forms of positive energy, so use your imagination to discover how the creature made its way into the neighborhood.

Kids of all ages are invited to get creative and write a short story in 500 words or less and post it on the garden’s Facebook page. If you don’t have a Facebook account, you can email it to gardenseacreature@gmail.com. Don’t forget to give the creature a name! The garden’s Facebook community will vote and pick one winner and two runners-up.

The top three stories will be announced in early fall at the unveiling ceremony (details to follow). The winning story will be published in *The Bulletin* in late fall.

Even if you don’t submit a story, you can “like” the Octopus Garden on Facebook and watch the page for updates: www.facebook.com/octopusgardenpittsburgh. ♦

Classifieds

Education

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Now Enrolling for 2013

- Nursery School
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412-361-7733

Services

Versatile Writer Available ... Words with Style, Clarity & Verve. Copywriting, MarCom, Art Writing, PR, Journalism, Literary, Academic, Social Media & more. 917-282-8949 / ajeisenstat@gmail.com

Nutrition/Health Counseling ... I help people in midlife lose weight, manage cholesterol and blood sugar, and reverse high blood pressure naturally, so they can feel and look their best, free of chronic illness. Offices in Highland Park and Allison Park. Paula Martinac, MA, MS, Board Certified in Holistic Nutrition. Call 412-760-6809 or email paula@nutritionu.net. Visit www.nutritionu.net for more info.

For Sale

Items for sale ... Car seat, \$15; EvenFlo booster car seat, \$15; crib (dark wood) with mattress, \$25; infant changing table (blond wood), \$50; Command Performance 14-inch electric grill (never used), \$20. 412-682-6059.

Classified ads are cheap! \$5 for the first 15 words, 10 cents for each word thereafter. Single box \$15; double box \$30. Call 412-441-6915 for more information.

A Hauling Job?

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Fast, Reliable, Reasonable

Also demolition work, minor repairs, grass cutting, salvage credit.

412-687-6928 **Call Walt** 412-773-0599

Wanted

House ... North Braddock handyman house, garage + cellar. Wanted handyman Braddock small house. Estimates garage doors. 412-271-9343.