BGC Elects New Board of Directors
By P.J. Maloney Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.

Garfield – In October, the membership of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) voted to place five new members on the BGC board. At the same time, it said goodbye to four

Prioritizing Projects for Penn Avenue
By Paula Martinac The Bulletin

Garfield – Community members interested in having a say in what Penn Avenue will look like in 2018 turned out on Nov. 4 for the last of three public meetings on strategic planning for the business district.

The meeting, held at Saint Maria Goretti Community Activity Center on North Atlantic Avenue, was facilitated by Josette Fitzgiebons, Neighborhood Business District Manager at the Urban Redevelopment Authority, and attended by about 30 people.

Samantha McDonough, Penn Avenue Business District Manager, spoke first, pointing out that some of the major projects residents asked for 15 or 20 years ago are finally coming to fruition. For example, a grocery store is being constructed at 5200 Penn; more restaurants have opened; more arts programs for youths have been created; and a number of vacant spaces have been beautified by the Green + Screen program. In addition, a new, comprehensive Penn Avenue website kicked off on Nov. 1. (See related story, p. 4.)

EECM Unveils Green Building
By Paula Martinac The Bulletin

East Liberty – East End Cooperative Ministry launched its capital campaign to construct a brand-new 56,000-square-foot building called Community House on Penn Circle North back in 2010,

Architect Wins Founders Award
By Kristin Douty The Bulletin

Garfield- Originally hailing from San Diego, architect Freddie Croce says he never expected to move to Pittsburgh or to eventually earn an award for community service. But on Oct. 25,
Pitt Make a Difference Day in Garfield

Garfield – On Saturday, Oct. 26, 42 students from the University of Pittsburgh arrived by bus at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation Activity Center on North Pacific Avenue for Pitt Make a Difference Day (PMADD). PMADD is an annual event that transports Pitt students to neighborhoods around the city to participate in volunteer activities.

The students were split into two groups. One group, supervised by Garfield Community Action Team (GCAT), walked up to Kite Hill to clean the park for a Family Day held on Nov. 2; they picked up trash along the way. London Koffler, a freshman pharmacy major, noticed that “people are very friendly here.” Benjamin Yoder, also a freshman pharmacy major, said he enjoyed learning about Garfield and seeing the gardens. Most of the student volunteers had never been to Garfield before.

The second group stayed in the Activity Center to be trained on how to conduct a “windshield survey” before heading out to the streets. The survey is an exterior assessment of all properties in the neighborhood. Students learned what to look for to determine if a property is vacant or occupied, and the general criteria for rating a structure. The windshield survey had been started and halfway completed earlier in the year by Carnegie Mellon University students.

The Pitt students were asked to assess the condition of the structure as well as the type, color and number of stories, among other things. Chelsea Wilkins-Walker, a freshman Neuroscience major, said that, “When walking around the neighborhood, it was interesting to see the difference between the houses, both the style and condition.”

The results of the windshield survey will be entered into a database and later turned into a complete map of the neighborhood, showing characteristics such as type of housing stock, property condition and location of vacant lots. The BGC can use this data and these maps for future planning and development.

Omotayo Balogun, a junior double major in microbiology and Spanish, said that it was “good to see the neighborhood doing something about urban flight.” – Julie Collins, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Senator Ferlo Won’t Seek Re-election

Harrisburg – State Sen. Jim Ferlo (D-Lawrenceville) announced on the Senate Floor on Nov. 12 that he will not seek re-election to the 38th Senatorial District in 2014.

“I have faithfully served the 38th district for over 10 years, and I am proud to see the progress that has been made in the communities I represent. I remain committed to fulfilling the responsibilities of serving my district and will work as hard as I ever have to advance priorities for my constituents,” Ferlo said.

Long-term projects are still in the works for the 38th District, which comprises parts of the City of Pittsburgh and portions of Allegheny, Armstrong and Westmoreland Counties. Initiatives include the Allegheny River Towns Enterprise Zone (ARTEZ), Ferlo’s continued service with the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) of Pittsburgh, Bryant Street 2.0, and a new stormwater management project in some of Pittsburgh’s eastern neighborhoods.

“I look forward to unveiling my new stormwater management vision in Pittsburgh, as well as holding events regarding issues relevant to my district: Highmark and West Penn Hospital, and Social Security and Medicare reforms. I hope to work toward achieving some legislative goals over the next year as well,” Ferlo detailed.

Sen. Ferlo was elected to the PA Senate to serve the 38th Senatorial District in 2002. He was an integral part of several landmark pieces of legislation in the Commonwealth: the film tax credit, the research and development tax credit, banning texting while driving, expanding gaming, and instituting the portfolio standard electric generation to provide for more clean, renewable energy.

The existing 38th Senatorial District was significantly altered in the redistricting process in 2012, which was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2013. The newest iteration of the 38th District includes two wards of the City of Pittsburgh, and encompasses the most of the former 40th Senatorial District, taking in a larger swath of the North Hills.

Quiet Storm Departs Penn Avenue

Garfield – After over a decade at 5430 Penn Ave. in the Garfield-Friendship business district, the Quiet Storm Coffeehouse closed its doors on Oct. 27.

The building the restaurant occupied has been for sale by the Friendship Development Associates, the community group instrumental in bringing the Quiet Storm to the avenue in 2003. FDA is gradually winding down its affairs as it intends to discontinue operations by early 2014.

Efforts to find another place for the Quiet Storm on Penn Avenue proved to be futile. Rick Swartz, executive director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, said recently, “A number of alternate locations were considered, but in each case, either the building owner claimed to have other plans for the property, or the storefront they had just didn’t work from a physical standpoint.”

He said it may be possible “down the road for the Quiet Storm to return to Penn Avenue, if a space can be designed that specifically meets its needs.” – Joe Reuben, The Bulletin
Another House Transformed by Open Hand Ministries

By John Colombo
Bulletin Contributor

East Liberty – Open Hand Ministries (OHM), an East End nonprofit that helps low-income families achieve homeownership, just wrapped up converting another neglected Pittsburgh house into a home. Thanks to OHM, Quianna Wales and her family will be home for the holidays on North Sheridan Avenue.

According to its website, OHM’s mission is to “respond to the injustice and inequality common to inner city neighborhoods by providing low/moderate income, disadvantaged families the opportunity for affordable homeownership in the economically challenged Pittsburgh neighborhoods of Garfield and East Liberty.” That is not to say that OHM just gives people the keys and wishes them well.

According to Michael Stanton, executive director of OHM, there is a rigorous process the applicant must go through before a house even becomes a part of the equation. Ms. Wales had to spend a year making sure she was ready for homeownership by learning to be financially responsible. OHM starts from scratch with its clients and teaches them about a number of financial issues, including how to save money and how to budget. It’s a proven formula that makes sure the client succeeds in his or her new home.

When the client is ready for homeownership, a house is sought out specifically with that client in mind, matched to their particular needs. Stanton works closely with the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and East Liberty Development Inc. in finding suitable homes.

Ms. Wales, who had been a renter for the past 10 years in East Liberty, said she wanted to stay in the neighborhood; her father has also lived in the area for 20 years. Her house on North Sheridan was once a neglected three-unit apartment building, but with the hard work of OHM volunteers, it’s now a stunning 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home with front and back yards in which her children can play.

An open house and faith service was held at the house on Nov. 2 for anyone who was involved in the project, from those who assisted Ms. Wales with homeownership training to the volunteers who did the grunt work on the renovation. Family and friends were also at the gathering. Caffe d’Amore provided an espresso bar and beverages, and Kaleidoscope Cafe donated the food.

During the process, Ms. Wales said she became good friends with Stanton. “She is an incredible example of faith,” Stanton said. “Open Hand’s clients work far harder than if you or I were to go out and get a mortgage and buy a house.”

At the dedication, Stanton also acknowledged all the people in his network who volunteer or discount goods and services to make the homeownership program happen. Stanton said he has assembled a vast array of talent to “help our neighbors become homeowners, not spectators [who are] pushed out.”

For more information about OHM’s homeownership program, visit openhand-pittsburgh.org.

OHM volunteers, it’s now a stunning 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home with front and back yards in which her children can play.

Jazz “Lessons & Carols” Service
December 15 - 11:00 AM

Christmas Eve Services
December 24 - 5:00 & 11:00 PM

The Bulletin deadline for the January issue has been moved up to December 10!
The purpose of the final public meeting was to present all the ideas that residents and stakeholders had brainstormed at the two prior meetings. Each attendee received colored dots for voting on their favorite projects, all of which were listed on large posters displayed on the walls of the meeting space.

“arly, with more funding to support it, we would like to have real estate listings,” said Samantha McDonough, Penn Avenue Business District Manager. “There’s a clear desire from the community for that.”

McDonough emphasized the significance of getting this up and running. “Having one place to access information about all of the events and classes that are available on Penn Avenue, plus having our business resources listed in an easily searchable way, can only increase interest in our business district as a whole,” she said. “It also increases the connections among our businesses … and lends itself to growing the kind of inclusive and organized environment that people want to be part of.” – Paula Martinac, The Bulletin

The purpose of the final public meeting was to present all the ideas that residents and stakeholders had brainstormed at the two prior meetings. Each attendee received colored dots for voting on their favorite projects, all of which were listed on large posters displayed on the walls of the meeting space.

“You should affix your dots to the projects you think should have priority,” Fitzgibbons explained, in terms of future planning and funding. After the voting, the dots were tallied.

In the area of programming, attendees said that continuing “Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn” was their top priority. The next priorities, in order, were: having a team to visibly clean Penn Avenue regularly; developing a high-quality community space; continuing the Garfield Night Market, which debuted last summer; and creating volunteer-led walking tours on different themes, such as the Allegheny Cemetery, Penn Avenue architecture and public art.

In the marketing category, attendees prioritized the following projects: developing a marketing strategy for the district; creating a consistent Penn Avenue identity through visual branding; encouraging coordinated promotions (like Shop Late in Lawrenceville) and cooperative branding; sharing the new business map more prominently on Penn and updating periodically; and maintaining the new website and continuing to develop an online presence.

Physical identity was the third area of concern. Attendees voted to prioritize, in this order: encouraging businesses to use LED lighting to keep the storefronts lit after dark; defining the business district with signage, especially at gateways like Penn and Negley; incorporating more public art; developing a style guide for the streetscape and offering design consultations with local architects; and supporting greening efforts in the district.

Finally, in the area of business development, attendees voted to give precedence to: developing a plan to address vacant and abandoned spaces; creating and maintaining a comprehensive list of spaces for rent or sale; attracting a breakfast and lunch restaurant; continuing/expanding programs that encourage and provide assistance to artists to own live/work spaces; and developing a coordinated program to encourage and incubate pop-up businesses.

“All these ideas still need to be fleshed out,” Fitzgibbons pointed out. She encouraged residents and stakeholders to think more about how these projects might work and to email McDonough at bgcmainstreets@gmail.com with their thoughts. A committee will be putting the results of the three meetings into final plan form by the end of this month, when it will be posted on the Penn Avenue website.

“This will be an important document,” Fitzgibbons noted, which will be used when applying for funding. “We want to hear from you and see your faces again as we start putting these projects together.”

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New Penn Avenue Website Launched

Where can you find current, reliable information about the Penn Avenue business and arts district? A brand-new website for the district went live on Nov. 1 at pennavenue.org.

The website has been in the works since January. The design and implementation of the site were the results of a collaboration between Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and two Penn Avenue graphic design studios – Image Box at 4933 Penn and Plumb Media at 5131 Penn – and much of the work was done at cost.

The site features an events calendar, including information on and photos of Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn; a blog; a list of community organizations with their websites and contact information; and a complete map and catalog of businesses on the avenue between Mathilda Street and Negley Avenue.

“Eventually, with more funding to support it, we would like to have real estate listings,” said Samantha McDonough, Penn Avenue Business District Manager. “There’s a clear desire from the community for that.”

McDonough emphasized the significance of getting this site up and running. “Having one place to access information about all of the events and classes that are available on Penn Avenue, plus having our business resources listed in an easily searchable way, can only increase interest in our business district as a whole;” she told The Bulletin. “It also increases the connections among our businesses … and lends itself to growing the kind of inclusive and organized environment that people want to be part of.”

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Penn Avenue from page 1

ABOVE: Meeting attendees pondered which Penn Avenue projects they wanted to prioritize. Photo by Paula Martinac
members who are stepping down after years of service.

The new members, voted onto the board during the BGC annual meeting in October, are Talisa Cameron and Lilly Denhardt of Garfield, Benjamin Friedman and Jack Miller of Friendship, and Joe Ciotti of Bloomfield.

Leaving the board are Zuleikha Bjork, Freddie Croce, Callie Byford and Dorothy Eubanks of Garfield, and Eileen Kraus-Dobratz of Friendship.

The new directors bring an array of experience to the BGC board.

Talis Cameron lives on Broad Street in Garfield. She says she sees membership on the board as a good way to provide input to community affairs and an opportunity stay in close touch with what’s happening in our neighborhoods. Talisa also wants to help keep neighbors and friends informed about what’s happening in our section of town. Talisa is an enrollment billing representative with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. She has five grown children.

Lilly Denhardt is a community planner with Brean Associates in Pittsburgh. She lives on North Pacific Avenue in Garfield. Lilly is a new homeowner who says she wants to help with "the great community work that's already been done and to build on this area's strengths."

Benjamin Friedman says he is invested in the well-being and improvement of the community, and a seat on the BGC board gives him the opportunity to participate in the shaping of the neighborhood. Ben is an attorney who lives on South Evaline Street in Friendship. He and his wife are the parents of two children, ages 4 and 2.

Jack Miller also lives on South Evaline. The Pittsburgh attorney says, "BGC board membership gives me the opportunity to be a part of the continued growth of this community and to do what I can to help it improve."

Joe Ciotti is a management consultant at the University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center. Although he currently lives in Bloomfield, he is a native of the South Hills. He says, "I moved here simply to experience a different side of my city, and I soon found that I loved it enough to buy a home and stay. As a person who makes his living helping others start businesses, I believe I'll be able to help our neighborhood continue to grow."

![BGC board members](image)

**Welcome**

**Michael Gluhanick, MD**

**Internal Medicine**

Dr. Gluhanick specializes in Internal Medicine and treats adult patients age 17 and older and has particular medical interest and expertise in treating diabetes, hypertension and hyperlipidemia. He has served as a physician in the Pittsburgh area for the majority of the past five years and is dedicated to providing you and your family with quality primary medical care.

Dr. Gluhanick practices with the physicians of West Penn Medical Associates and has admitting privileges at Allegheny Valley Hospital and West Penn Hospital.

**Thank you!** The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation would like to acknowledge its main corporate partners, PNC Bank, Dollar Bank and Allegheny Valley Bank. Thanks also to BNY Mellon, First Niagara Bank, Allegheny Health Network, Citizens Bank and all of The Bulletin's advertisers.
**EYESORE OF THE MONTH**

**A Blot on the Landscape**

By Aggie Brose  
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

**Lawrenceville** – The nominated eyesore of the month is 247 42nd Street in Central Lawrenceville. According to the Allegheny County real estate website, the owner of record is Patrick Logan.

Interestingly, Patrick and Judy Logan acquired the property in May, 1950 for $0 (this is not a typo). Then, the property was transferred into Patrick’s name only in September, 1998 for $1. His tax billing address is 160 Turtle Lake Ct., Apt. 202, Naples, FL 34105-2311. The taxes are current.

Like most Lawrenceville homes, 247 42nd Street is a row house, so its condition affects the market value of the adjacent properties as well as the quality of life for nearby residents.

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation staff contacted the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) and learned that there are no current citations on the property. A notice was issued in July, 2010 for overgrown weeds. It then went to Housing Court in January, 2011, but was dismissed in March, 2011. The BGC staff learned that the back yard had become so overgrown with weeds that it became a magnet for dumping until the city intervened this past summer.

Mr. Logan has let this property stand abandoned for years. The front is dilapidated, with an aluminum awning that is falling down piece by piece. The property is a huge blot on a neighborhood that is otherwise on the rebound.

The BGC tried to locate Mr. Logan in Florida but his number is unlisted. We will send a copy of *The Bulletin* to him at his tax mailing address to ask what his plans are for the property. ♦

**Diabetes Prevention Program Free for 15 Participants**

**Bloomfield** – The YMCA’s Diabetes Prevention Program is a lifestyle intervention program that helps people at risk for developing type 2 diabetes reduce their risk by adopting healthy habits to increase physical activity and lose a modest amount of weight.

Thanks to underwriting from the Western Pennsylvania Hospital Foundation, 15 eligible participants will be able to complete the YMCA program for free, including free parking during meetings. Participants are only responsible for a $25 fee, which will be refunded after completing 16 weeks of the program. Anyone who lives or works in the Bloomfield area and meets the health and weight qualifications is eligible to participate.

Beginning on Jan. 22, the group will meet at West Penn Hospital for one hour at 3:45 p.m. each week for 16 weeks, followed by eight monthly maintenance meetings.

To learn more about the program, contact gnorth@ymcapgh.org or at 412-227-3820. – from a press release

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**Mixed-Use Development Going Up at Penn Circle North**

By Margaret Graham  
East Liberty Development, Inc.

East Liberty – The Community Builders, Inc. (TCB), a nonprofit, broke ground Nov. 4 on its newest development: East Liberty Place South, located at the junction of Penn Avenue and Penn Circle North.

The event was attended by local partners and community members, TCB staff and elected officials, including Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, Congressman Mike Doyle and State Representative Ed Gainey.

The new development will feature 52 units of mixed-income housing above 11,000 square feet of retail and hospitality space. Rents for the one- and two-bedroom units will vary according to family income. Amenities at the building will include a roof deck, indoor bike storage and a fitness center.

East Liberty Place South fills the remainder of the space left by the demolition of East Mall, the high rise that formerly stretched across Penn Avenue. The plot of land left behind on the north side of Penn Avenue was filled by another TCB project, East Liberty Place North, which opened three years ago. In addition to East Liberty Place North and East Liberty Place South, TCB runs New Pennley Place, Penn Manor and Penney Commons, all in East Liberty.

The $14.2 million development is expected to open in the fall of 2014. ♦
Garfield – “Homeless life is a very unpleasant and dangerous lifestyle,” says Catherine Hardy, who has firsthand knowledge of homelessness: She lived on the streets for 20 years. Now Hardy rents a small room for herself and works as a housekeeper at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

Hardy explained how she returned from a job in Maryland to be closer to her birthplace in East Liberty. “I became very ill. I couldn’t pay my bills and I ended up homeless,” Hardy said.

With the help of Lead Employment Coordinator at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, Usama Al-Teraifi, Hardy was able to find a job at a local gas station. “I worked any shift. If someone called off, I worked,” Hardy noted.

While she was excited to have work, Hardy said, she continued to visit the ENEC in search of a more stable position that included a comprehensive benefits package. Hardy said that her regular schedule involved working the night shift at a local gas station, sleeping for a few hours, and then coming to the ENEC to search for jobs with Al-Teraifi. Hardy praised Al-Teraifi, saying, “He is an expert. He has always been very patient and helpful. He is the light of my life.”

Hardy explained that she went through the UPMC POWRR workshop, a partnership between the ENEC and UPMC that refers qualified applicants to UPMC recruiters. Al-Teraifi noted that these workshops are a great way to learn about UPMC’s job application process and are held at the ENEC every Thursday at 10 a.m. After completing the POWRR workshop, Hardy said that Al-Teraifi was quite helpful in guiding her through the application process.

“Things picked up when I learned about the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center,” Hardy noted. She detailed how she was able to “become more confident using the computer” at the ENEC. The increased importance of computer skills in the workplace and in job searching created a need for Hardy to “relearn the system, because it has changed,” she detailed.

Hardy pointed out that she has volunteered at the Department of Veterans Affairs for 13 years. In describing her motivation to volunteer more than 2,000 hours of her time at Department of Veteran’s Affairs, Hardy said, “I like the doctors. I like the way they treat their patients, and I like seeing people get on their feet.”

Al-Teraifi said that he commonly assists individuals in the one-on-one way that he helped Hardy. He lauded Hardy for her volunteerism, noting, “It’s just in her, giving back to the community. That’s all that counts.” Al-Teraifi also highlighted Hardy’s unique “spirit of perseverance. Being homeless and searching for jobs and never quitting – she is very hard working.”

Hardy said that the ENEC is a positive way for all people who don’t have computer access to search for jobs. She went on to say that for homeless individuals, and anyone else in the community, the ENEC is a great place to be productive and safe during the day.

To find out more about the free employment resources offered by the ENEC, visit enecpittsburgh.org, call 412-362-8580 or come to the center at 5321 Penn Ave. in Garfield.
Penn Avenue Picks for the Holidays

This Holiday Season, You’ll Find Lots to Do and Buy on the Arts and Business Corridor

By Christine Bethea  Bulletin Contributor

East End – While the construction zone can be a bit daunting, don’t let that stop you from enjoying festive sights, sounds and holiday shopping along Penn Avenue. With less than a month to get your holiday goods and gifts, a quick trip up the street or just around the corner to your community arts and business district can make the job of helping Santa easier and yield unusual and unique gifts you won’t find in the big-box stores. There’s also plenty to do, from visiting St. Nick to art and cooking classes and lots of free events for the whole family. Here are some of the wonderful things that give this season a real jingle.

Through Dec. 31. Tour Tech Shop (192 Bakery Square). Tech Shop, in the mix with some wonderful retail stores, is a community-based workshop and prototyping studio where you can take classes and use state-of-the-art building equipment. As an incentive to try things out, Tech Shop is offering six-month and one-year membership packages. No appointment is needed to take a tour. Tech Shop is open from 9 a.m. to midnight every day except major holidays. Call 412-345-7182 or visit techshop.ws.

December (TBA). Santa Claus is coming to our side of town! So don’t pout thinking you’ll have to go downtown or to a mall. Bakery Square will host the jolly old soul the first week in December. He plans to be on hand to take photos with the kiddies and be part of full schedule of activities, but the details of his VIP visit are still under wraps. Stay tuned for the full details from the elves at BSQ headquarters: bakery-square.com.

Dec. 6. Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn. The stretch from 4800 to 5500 Penn Ave. (between Negley and Mathilda) is one of the city’s most vibrant art districts. The holidays make this neighborhood-based event one of the hottest tickets in town. Retail shops as well as galleries are open full throttle during the reconstruction of Penn Avenue, so don’t let a barrier or two stop you. In these blocks are some of the best places for mid-century furniture; fashion, new and retro; gifts, from classic to bizarre; and truly one-of-a-kind art. 5 to 11 p.m. or later. Most exhibitions and events are free to the public.

Dec. 6 to Jan. 26. SiO2 High School (Glass) Reunion @ Pittsburgh Glass Center (5472 Penn Ave.). This first-ever exhibition is devoted to a group of standouts from the 500+ high school students from Pittsburgh Public Schools who came through the SiO2 programs and went on to make glassmaking their profession. The exhibition is free. Visit glasscenter.org or call 412-365-2145.

Dec. 7 to Jan. 3. “Make Moves” with Bill Shannon @ The Irma Freeman Center (5006 Penn Ave.). Shannon, an internationally known artist and Guggenheim Fellow will showcase a 20-year retrospective of his craft, highlighting how he overcame challenges on his crutches through use of video, sculpture and art installations. The adult content pulls no punches. Details at Irmafreeman.org.

Dec. 7 to Jan. 18. Environmental Charter School @ Modern Formations (4919 Penn Ave.). The school’s first Thinking Lab Exhibition will be featured. Come see how art, science and design help students see and communicate with the world around them. The school will hold demonstrations and host gallery hours on Saturdays only. Visit modernformations.com

Dec. 7, 14, & 21. Saturday Crafternoons at Assemble (5125 Penn Ave.) promote project-based learning, hands-on making, experimentation and community engage-

Continued on page 9
Holiday Picks continued

Dec. 8. Afronaut(a) @ Kelly Stayhorn/Dance Alloy (5530 Penn Ave.). This is the final night in a Salon Film series being curated by African-American artist and filmmaker Alisha B. Wormsley; tonight, see short films by the East End’s Basquiat, D.S. Kinsel (see related story, p. 12). A $10 suggested donation at the door. More info at kellystayhorn.org/events.

Dec. 12. Kelly Stayhorn Theater in East Liberty (5941 Penn Ave.). KST celebrates the season with its annual Holiday Bazaar offering crafts for sale by local artists. The bazaar is free to the public from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 412-363-3000.

December and beyond. Chop, Wok and Talk Cooking Classes (5402 Penn Ave.). CWT has something for the “foodie” in your family. In December, the school offers classes with your health and taste buds in mind. Learn to bake gluten-free holiday cookies, create vegetarian Italian dishes or cook for a Date Night. A full roster can be found at chopwoktalk.com or call 412-362-0679.

December and beyond @ The Museum of Post Natural History (4913 Penn Ave.). Gather up the family for a visit to this one-of-a-kind venue. You might see a display about atomic age rodents or a global seed vault, or learn strategies for genetic copy prevention. It’s all weird … and wonderful. Open Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. and Frost Fridays from 5 to 8 p.m. or by appointment. Note: The museum is closed the Sunday before Christmas. Contact rich@postnatural.org.

For information about the fabulous Penn Avenue corridor and all it has to offer, visit pennavenue.org. For ideas about shopping on Butler Street, see the article on page 11.

Celebrating the Joy of Cookies
By Maya Henry
Lawrenceville Corporation

Lawrenceville – Imagine this: It’s the day after Thanksgiving, and instead of waking up before dawn and lining up in the cold outside a big box store, you sleep in, resting up after the holiday. Maybe you heat up some Thanksgiving leftovers for breakfast, take the dog for a walk, spend time with your family. You’re relaxed, knowing that this year, you’ll do your shopping on your own time, all while sampling delicious holiday cookies and supporting local small businesses. Not only that, you’re confident that your gifts this year will be one-of-a-kind and will be treasured by their recipients.

Sounds like a dream you say? It’s not a dream, it’s the 14th annual Lawrenceville Joy of Cookies, Cookie Tour!

The Joy of Cookies Cookie Tour began in 1997 as a holiday open house at Jay Design Soaps & Gifts at 4603 Butler St. Driven by a spirit of collaboration among Lawrenceville merchants, the event grew to include more than a dozen shops. Today, The Joy of Cookies Cookie Tour includes more than 37 shops throughout the neighborhood.

Visitors will experience the many fabulous, independently owned shops, galleries and boutiques that offer a range of unique, eclectic, and handcrafted treasures perfect for gift giving. The tour offers the “un-mall” experience for shoppers who don’t want to settle for unoriginal gifts: extraordinary and rare items to please every age and style, and eateries that offer great food and a place to relax, all within the historic, artistic, friendly neighborhood of Lawrenceville. While shopping, visitors can nibble on samples of the shop owners’ favorite cookies and take home free recipes for their own baking. In 2012, 12 percent of visitors came to Lawrenceville for the first time because of the Cookie Tour. Over 70 percent of attendees made purchases during their visit and 78 percent said they would return within the next six months to shop again.

The Joy of Cookies, Cookie Tour will take place Thursday, Dec. 5 through Sunday, Dec. 8. On Saturday, Sec. 7, get around by hopping on and off the Cookie Tour trolley between noon and 6 p.m. Trolley stops and welcome centers will be located at Rite Aid, 3939 Butler Street; Teamster’s Temple, 4701 Butler St.; and Shop-n-Save, 450 56th St. Limited parking is available at the trolley stops. Also on Saturday, visitors can attend the Cookie Mall bake sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Teamster’s Temple. Visitors can also enjoy samples of milk and eggnog at the Cookie Mall from Turner’s Dairy Farms.

Unique gifts are just that – unique. Beat the crowds by shopping on Thursday and Friday and get first crack at one-of-a-kind gifts. For the full holiday experience, show up on Thursday for Light Up Lawrenceville, Lawrenceville’s tree lighting at the Allegheny Cemetery entrance, 4734 Butler St. The event will begin at 6 p.m. with the tree lighting at 6:30 p.m. Following the lighting, many of the Lawrenceville Joy of Cookies, Cookie Tour stops will be open late, along with other businesses participating in Lawrenceville’s monthly “Shop Late Night in Lawrenceville” event. There will be festive street entertainment, as well as in-store specials and refreshments in addition to cookie samples.

The Lawrenceville Joy of Cookies, Cookie Tour is made possible with support from Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, LISC/MetroEdge, Lawrenceville Corporation, Lawrenceville United, PNC Bank, Allegheny Valley Bank, Teamer’s Dairy Farms, Pittsburgh City Paper, LISC/MetroEdge, Rite Aid and Shop-n-Save.

ABOVE: Kids get creative at Saturday Crafternoons. Photo courtesy Assemble

ABOVE: Butler Street decked out for the Joy of Cookies Tour. Photo courtesy Lawrenceville Corporation

ABOVE: Kids get creative at Saturday Crafternoons. Photo courtesy Assemble

ABOVE: Butler Street decked out for the Joy of Cookies Tour last year. Photo courtesy Lawrenceville Corporation
Reading Can Be “Cool”

By Katy Frey

Neighborhood Learning Alliance

Garfield – The Reading Warriors program began its mission in June with a big goal of reading for one million minutes. By the end of the summer, the Warriors had logged close to 400,000 minutes, and they aren’t stopping any time soon.

Reading Warriors is a program of the Neighborhood Learning Alliance, which hired 30 high school students to read to elementary students at four camps for six weeks over the summer. Today, 40 high school students serve at five afterschool programs at Pittsburgh Faison, Lincoln, Weil, Arsenal K-5 and Woolslair elementary schools. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh librarians collaborated to help teens access books from the library, and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) Youth Employment Program partnered with hiring and placement.

Launching the program over the summer helped elementary-school children read for pleasure, while improving their reading ability. Continuing the program through the school year with many of the same children has provided an opportunity for Reading Warriors to show how reading more – and better – can help these same children do well in school. Reading Warriors select age-appropriate books and implement activities to help children practice strategies such as summarizing or visualizing.

Nancy Walker, program coordinator at the Arsenal afterschool program said, “The Reading Warriors were able to take reading – a thing that a lot of the kids previously had negative associations with – and turn it into something cool, something fun. For the kids who were at the BGC summer camp, they just carried this enthusiasm and energy with them into the school year. We’re off to a great start with the help of the Warriors.”

Twelve of the original 30 Reading Warriors from the summer program returned to serve in the school-year program, many in leadership roles. Miranda Johnson, 16, served at the BGC camp this summer, and now works with several of the same students in the after-school program at Arsenal. “It was nice to see some of the same faces, and continue on with our mission,” said Johnson. “The kids really get excited when they see us. We just picked up where we left off.”

The Reading Warriors work four days a week, and attend training every other Saturday.

“We’re getting better all the time,” Amy Baumgardner, program coordinator, noted. “We’re continuing with high-quality training for the Reading Warriors on the topic of reading strategies and interventions, but we’re also adding sessions about career paths toward education. Through their work, many of the Reading Warriors have discovered talents and interests in themselves that could make them really great educators. We want to help them get there.”

The Bulletin deadline for the January issue has been moved up to December 10!
Spend a Day on Butler Street

By Kate Bayer  
Bulletin Contributor

Lawrenceville – Do you want to have some fun shopping this holiday season? Come to Butler Street for one-of-a-kind items that will be sure to please even your most hard-to-buy-for friends or family.

Start your excursion through one of Pittsburgh’s oldest, yet trendiest neighborhoods by enjoying a cup of artisan espresso or coffee at Espresso A Mano at 3623 Butler Street. They have some of the ‘Burgh’s best java and a great selection of coffee-making equipment and accessories for the coffee lovers on your list.

Proceeding down the 3500 block, you come to three unique shops to explore. Asian Influences features Eastern fine art and antiques. Museum-quality art created by nationally and internationally known local artists is available at BE Galleries. Last but certainly not least, custom fabrics and home-related accessories can be found at T’s Upholstery.

Next, at 4119 Butler you can stop to watch Bernadette Gerbe create flame-blown glass in the window of her new shop. Choose from glass-sculptured flowers, fanciful glass animals and a gorgeous selection of beaded earrings and necklaces. You might find a necklace and matching earrings that will look super with your holiday outfit.

Hand-blended tea, culinary herbs and spices are available at Gryphon’s Tea, so have a glass of hot cider while browsing and making your decisions on which teas to buy. The next stop is Wild Card at 4209 for stocking-stuffers – select from artistic T-shirts, funky jewelry and artisan-crafted items at reasonable prices. Old and new collectibles that make perfect gifts for coworkers or friends await at Dandelions across the street.

No visit to Lawrenceville would be complete without a stop at the Gallery on 43rd and Jay Design, two mainstays of the neighborhood. In addition to the fine weaving of Mary Coleman at Gallery on 43rd – just steps off Butler at 187 43rd St. – you will find items such as hand-knit baby sweaters, gorgeous scarves, pottery, ceramics and jewelry, all created by local artists.

Jim at Jay Design, located at 4603 Butler, is brewing up soap with delicious holiday scents like bayberry, gingerbread and vanilla-cranberry. There is more than soap here, though, so spend some time browsing the lotions, candles and knick-knacks and petting the resident cats.

Both Mary and Jim will remind you about the upcoming Joy of Cookies Tour (see related story, p. 9). The tour is free, and last year more than 4,000 people attended. The proceeds benefit local charities and community groups. Hope to see you there! ♦

Above: Quinton Armitage (left) takes time out from his studies at the University of Pittsburgh to coach afterschool students. Photo courtesy NLA
“4 Under 40” in the East End

By Paula Martinac
The Bulletin

East End – Each year, Pittsburgh Magazine names its prestigious “40 Under 40” – a list of young movers and shakers across the city. The award is a way to “honor individuals working to make our region a better place to live, work and play.” While the East End is always represented on the list, this year four residents made the final cut. The Bulletin sat down with each of them to find out why they like Pittsburgh and what fuels their commitment to the city.

D.S. Kinsel

A visual artist living in Bloomfield, working in Lawrenceville, showing his work in Garfield, and originally from the Hill District, D.S. Kinsel, 29, says he doesn’t limit himself to one neighborhood. “People just stay in their same areas, but I try to get to three to five neighborhoods a day,” he notes.

He says that what he likes best about the city is its “potential,” which it’s just starting to meet. “There are resources here for artists,” he notes.

But living in Pittsburgh also has its challenges, particularly for young people of color. While he doesn’t encounter blatant racism, Kinsel says, “There’s a subtle undercurrent that puts you on the defense all the time.”

To Kinsel, being an artist “means being in the community.” He gives back by working at MGR Youth Empowerment as the Arts in Action Program Coordinator and National Social Media Coordinator. He also volunteers at the Hope Academy in East Liberty. He says he loves working with kids because “they’re honest. They say things like ‘Why did you make that?’ And they have great ideas.”

Kinsel’s own work has been exhibited at a variety of venues, including Assemble, Most Wanted Fine Art and Image Box on Penn Avenue. As a recipient of the Pittsburgh Foundation’s Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh grant, Kinsel is currently the artist in residence at 720 Records, Music and Café on Butler Street.

Julie Sokolow

The youngest of the “40 Under 40” recipients, Julie Sokolow, 26, is a filmmaker, writer and musician who lives in Bloomfield. Originally from New Jersey, she came to Pittsburgh to accept a prestigious Chancellor’s Scholarship at the University of Pittsburgh.

“There’s a lot of space here to create,” she observes. “It’s a pretty welcoming city. And the cost of living is very low considering how vivacious the arts community is.”

Another plus, she says, is that the arts community here is “about collaboration, Continued on next page

Our Remembrance Candle

During this Holiday Season, more than ever, our thoughts and prayers turn to those who have lost a loved one this past year. We are lighting a candle in our funeral home in remembrance of all the families that we have been privileged to serve. And it is in this spirit that we simply, but sincerely say... May the Peace and Joy of the Christmas Season be yours throughout the New Year.

WALTER J
ZALEWSKI
FUNERAL HOMES INC
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LAWRENCEVILLE / POLISH HILL
Walter J Zalewski, Supervisor
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412-682-1562
Kate Stoltzfus

“I love the people the most,” says Kate Stoltzfus, 30, when asked what she likes about Pittsburgh.

Stoltzfus lives and works in Garfield, running Plumb Design with her husband. But she’s made a real name for herself by reaching out to meet her fellow Pittsburghers. A few years back, she was “in a job I didn’t love, waiting for things to land in my lap. I realized I could start a project myself.”

She created the blog Yinzpiration (yinzpiration.com) with the goal of interviewing 100 people in their 20s and 30s. The blog, she says, is about “celebrating others who want to make Pittsburgh a better place.” When she reaches the finish line – she’s published 85 interviews – she says she hopes to have a party and invite all the interviewees.

Through her blog, Stoltzfus met two like-minded young women, Carrie Nardini and Emily Levenson, with whom she launched a women-focused service called Propelle. Although it started out as just a panel discussion, Propelle has blossomed into an organization that offers networking happy hours, individual business counseling and smaller “Mastermind” groups in which women talk about the challenges they face in their professional lives.

“There are so many opportunities here to start your own thing,” she says about the city. “I like to help other people overcome their fears.”

Minette Vaccariello

Like her fellow “40 Under 40” awardee, Minette Vaccariello, 34, says that in Pittsburgh “there’s an appetite to start things. If you want it, you can make it happen. The city lends itself to young people who might be ambitious and want to start something.”

A resident of Penn Avenue in Garfield, Vaccariello herself has been involved in starting a number of “somethings.” She’s one of the forces behind Handmade Arcade, the annual holiday crafter fair, and also the Eco Designers Guild, a service-oriented, environmentally conscious group of designers. EDG has partnered with Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation to “Green + Screen” vacant lots along Penn Avenue.

Vaccariello is also a vital member of Garfield Community Action Team, which plants gardens, operates clean-ups and in general tries to make the neighborhood a cleaner, safer place. “I’m proud of all the projects in different ways,” she says.

Vaccariello notes that the people she works with fuel her commitment to the community. “When the energy, excitement and ideas are there, that keeps me going.”

For a complete list of this year’s “40 Under 40,” visit http://www.pittsburghmagazine.com/2013-40-Under-40-Awards. You can also download an application form to nominate someone for 2014.
### December 1

#### EAST LIBERTY

**World AIDS Day**

Come together for a celebration of hope, to show support for those affected by HIV/AIDS from 4 to 6 p.m. at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland Ave. The celebration will feature music, speakers, a cookie bar, educational resources, free HIV testing and a floating lantern released at dusk. For more information, please contact the church at 412-441-3800.

### BLOOMFIELD

**Power Vinyasa Flow Class**

Join us at Clay Yoga on 4519 Liberty Ave. to welcome GO W/ THE FLOW, a nationally touring duo featuring yoga teacher Tori Reynolds and musician Ben Rivet. Tori will lead a powerful yet playful 90-minute power vinyasa flow while Ben plays guitar, sings, and even beatboxes. This class is a great way to twist all the turkey out of your system and get ready to take on the world! Class begins at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.clayyoga.com or call 412-335-1332.

### December 2

#### EAST LIBERTY

**Affordable Care Act**

Do you have questions about the Affordable Care Act (also called Obamacare)? Enrollment takes place every Monday through Friday in December at the East Liberty Family Health Care Center, 6023 Harvard St. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To enroll, please contact George Moses, Certified Application Counselor, at the center at 412-345-7848 (o) or 412-867-1173 (c), or email gmoses@elfhcc.com.

### December 3

#### HIGHLAND PARK

**Foundational Yoga**

Increase balance, flexibility and strength through yoga starting on Tuesdays in 3 classes, 8 to 9 a.m. or 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Nuin Center, 5655 Bryant St. Classes pay careful attention to alignment, anatomy and breath to integrate the body and mind. Classes last through the month of December for $15 per class. For more information, contact Susan Rupani at 412-417-6300.

#### GARFIELD

**Learn About Obamacare**

Come to the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center on 113 N. Pacific Ave. at 6 p.m. to learn about the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) and how it affects your family. Food will be provided. To register for this information session, please call 412-362-8580.

### December 4

#### LAWRENCEVILLE

**Weekly Game Show**

4th through 12th graders are invited to come on down from 4:30 to 6 p.m. and compete in a weekly game show at the Carnegie Library at 279 Fisk St. Each week’s competition will be based on a different game or reality show from MythBusters to Name That Tune to Silent Library, also offered Dec. 11th and 18th. For more details, please contact the library at 412-682-3686.

### December 5

#### LAWRENCEVILLE

**Light Up Lawrenceville**

Lawrenceville United will hold a tree lighting event from 6 to 7 p.m., with the tree lighting at approximately 6:30 p.m. Our tree lighting will once again take place in the drive of the Allegheny Cemetery at 4734 Butler St. There will be variety of entertainment and activities for the whole family, courtesy of Encounter Church. For more details, contact Lawrenceville United at 412-802-7220.

### December 6

#### PENN AVENUE

**Unblurred**

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 pennavenue.org.

#### GARFIELD

**Bidwell Recruitment**

Are you interested in training for free certifications in high-demand fields? Visit the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) at 5321 Penn Ave. for a Bidwell Training Center recruitment session at 11 a.m. on 5321 Penn Ave. Bidwell offers training and certification for many majors, including pharmacy technician, medical claims processor, medical coder, electronic record medical assistant, culinary arts, chemical laboratory technician and horticulture technology. To register, contact 412-362-8580.

#### GARFIELD

**Winter Ball**

Come support your local Baptist church, King of Kings, at the Winter Ball. The party begins at 7 p.m. at the Hosanna House, 807 Wallace Ave. in Wilkinsburg. There will be live music performed by a band. King of Kings Church suggests a $40 donation. For more information, call 412-613-9624.

### December 7

#### LAWRENCEVILLE

**Children’s Party**

Lawrenceville United will host a children’s party from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. featuring crafts, treats, presents and pictures with Santa. Be sure to purchase some goodies from our local organizations and groups who are raising money as part of the Cookie Mall running from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more details, contact Lawrenceville United at 412-802-7220.

### December 8

#### GARFIELD

**Money Management**

Join NeighborWorks to learn about creating a budget that works for you. To register for this event, please contact the ENEC at 412-362-8580 or visit www.mnwva.org.

### December 9

#### LAWRENCEVILLE

**Teen Time Snowglobes**

Stop by the Carnegie Library at 279 Fisk St. for fun activities, snacks and more in the Teen Space from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Make snowglobes, but with an Xbox, of course. The event is open to kids from grades 6 to 12. For more details, contact the library at 412-682-3686.

### December 10

#### LAWRENCEVILLE

**Bad Craft Night**

Need a white elephant gift for a holiday party? Haven’t crafted since kindergarten and feeling the urge to create? Join us for Bad Craft Night from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Carnegie Library at 279 Fisk St. There will also be a cookie exchange, so bring your favorite holiday treats. For more details, contact the library at 412-682-3686.

#### GARFIELD

**Glass Art Sale**

Art with Heart LLC, featuring fused glass by Sherriene Allen, will be for sale at the Pittsburgh Glass Center’s Winter Sale at 5472 Penn Ave. from 6 to 9 p.m. The Winter Sale continues on Dec. 8 and 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### December 11

#### GARFIELD

**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 PSFT’s monthly meeting during the first 15 minutes. The meeting starts at 4 p.m. at BGC Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave. For more information, call 412-441-6950 x115.

### December 12

#### GARFIELD

**Hiring Event**

Visit the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) at 5321 Penn Ave. to speak with ...
Volunteer Opportunities & Services

Home Instead, an organization searching for Compassionate Caregivers to assist seniors. Interested job-seekers must have access to a car, but a nursing certificate is not required. To register, contact the ENEC at 412-362-8580.

December 14

EAST LIBERTY

Holiday Bazaar
Celebrate the season at the Holiday Bazaar, hosted by the Kelly Strayhorn Theater on 5941 Penn Ave. from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Bazaar is the perfect place to find treats for family, friends and coworkers who’ve been nice all year. KST is proud to partner with local artisans to offer delicious baked goods, handcrafted jewelry, and one-of-a-kind gifts. The event is free and open to the public.

December 16

LAWRENCEVILLE

Teen Gingerbread Houses
Stop by the Carnegie Library at 279 Fisk St. for fun activities, snacks and more. Teen’s in grades 6 to 12 can make and decorate their own “gingerbread” houses from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. For more details, contact the library at 412-682-3668.

December 18

EAST LIBERTY

Math and Science
What is the BIG idea? Come find out at the Carnegie Library at 130 S. Whitfield St. at 6:30 p.m. The event is part of the Pre-K program for preschoolers and parents to learn about science and math as a family. For more details, contact the library at 412-363-8274.

December 19

LAWRENCEVILLE

Kids’ Gingerbread Houses
Stop by the Carnegie Library at 279 Fisk St. for fun activities, snacks and more. Children from 3 to 5th grades can make and decorate their own “gingerbread” houses from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. For more details, please contact the library at 412-682-3668.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Antique Appraisal Fair
"Sweet Pickens," a unique antique shop located within “The Zone” at 5217 Butler St., will host an antique appraisal fair from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Crown Antiques and Collectibles will sponsor the event with representatives evaluating items, giving a brief history or background and their value. A $5 fee is required for each item appraised. All proceeds go to the Boys & Girls Club of Western Pennsylvania of the greater Lawrenceville area. Call 412-784-1895 for more information.

December 21

EAST LIBERTY

Kids Create Origami
Join us at the children’s room for an origami presentation by Emmaline Silk at the Carnegie Library at 130 S. Whitfield St. from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Learn how to make fun shapes like frogs, cones, boxes and more. For more information, contact the library at 412-363-8274.

December 22

GARFIELD

Christmas Program
The Youth Department of Morningside C.O.G.I.C. will be presenting their annual Christmas Program at 5173 Dearborn St., beginning at 4 p.m. Come bring your family and friends. For more information, contact Pastor Elder Lamont B. Shields at 412-361-9865.

December 28

EAST LIBERTY

Family BINGO
Bring your family to a winter BINGO game at the Carnegie Library at 130 S. Whitfield St. The fun begins at 11 a.m. For details on this event, contact the library at 412-363-8274.

On-Going

LAWRENCEVILLE

Crafting Experts
Would you like to demonstrate your skill or show off your craft? Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville is looking for local crafters willing to give a 30-minute presentation to the Crafting Circle. Contact Angela or Karen for more information: 412-682-3668 or Lawrenceville@carnegielibary.org.

EAST END

Parent Feedback Wanted
Are you a parent of school-aged children in the East End? We want your feedback! PEP Rally is interviewing parents to get input on local schools and to think about how we can work together to support and strengthen our schools. Contact Dave Breining at Lawrenceville United at 412-802-7220 or Dave@LUnited.org to offer your input or get involved.

HIGHLAND PARK

Foundational Yoga
Increase balance, flexibility and strength with yoga. Careful attention is brought to alignment, anatomy and breath, creating body and mind integration. Every Tuesday morning from 6 to 7 a.m. at the Nuin Center, 5655 Bryant St. $15 per class; preregistration suggested. Taught by Susan Rupani, who has studied yoga for over 30 years, and is a graduate of YogaWorks 200-hour teacher training course. For more information, call 412-417-6300.

PITTSBURGH

Parents’ 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 concerns. The warmline answers from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

GARFIELD

Seeking 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. Looking for something to do? For details about internships, check out literaryartsboom.org/interns. For more information about volunteer opportunities, visit literaryartsboom.org/get-involved or contact The LAB: literaryartsboom@gmail.com or 412-906-9522.

HELP WANTED: DRIVER

Help by phone: 412-802-7220 or Dave@LUnited.org to offer your input or get involved.

HELP WANTED: YOUTH CARE WORKERS
Auberle - Where life changes for Kids & Families. National Agency of the Year by the Alliance for Children & Families. Seeking FT/PT experienced Youth Care Workers to supervise youths ages 7-18 in residential homes. Shift work. 21+ years of age, PA driver’s license, auto insurance, Acts 33/34/FBI clearances.

Resume via WS www.auberle.org or Auberle, Attn: HR Rep 1101 Hartman St. McKeesport, PA 15132 Email: hresources@auberle.org 412-346-0053 (fax) EOE
**Architect from page 1**

Croce received the 2013 Father Leo Henry Founders Award, given annually by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation to a person who demonstrates a commitment to change in the Garfield community.

Croce moved to Pittsburgh in 2001 with his wife and fellow architect, Jennifer Lucchino, to assume a position as a professor of architecture at Carnegie Mellon University. When friends and family learned he was moving to the Steel City, Croce said they asked, “Why Pittsburgh?” To his skeptics, he responded, “Why not?”

In 2007, Croce and Lucchino settled in Garfield, where they purchased and renovated a building at 4915 Penn Ave. to house their architecture business, inter*ARCHITECTURE, and a living space upstairs. Croce said they saw the neighborhood’s potential to grow into a booming business location for young entrepreneurs and seized the opportunity. “It is fun to see so many young people wanting to invest in Garfield… my wife and I wanted to be a part of that investment.”

The move to Garfield catalyzed an interest in community development and urban planning that then became a focus of inter*ARCHITECTURE, Croce noted. Wanting to get more involved in his neighborhood, he joined the board of directors of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation that same year.

Croce pretty soon perceived that the area – much of which was still shrouded in blight – needed a detailed community plan in order to improve. There had been an earlier Garfield Neighborhood Plan in 1999, which had a “short-term strategy to improve the economy and housing conditions in Garfield,” according to BGC executive director Rick Swartz. After reviewing that earlier plan, Croce saw a way to contribute to his new neighborhood.

Swartz said he remembered Croce’s first comments on the old Garfield Neighborhood Plan. “Freddie told [the board] that the plan was obsolete, and that we needed a fresh plan with clearly articulated ideas.”

Shortly after that initial assessment, preparations for a new, 20-year neighborhood plan got underway. Croce became the chair of the BGC’s Housing and Land Use Committee and was “instrumental,” Swartz said, in collaborating with Garfield Jubilee Association and neighborhood residents at a series of community meetings, where they voiced their concerns and ideas about the neighborhood. “Freddie kept our eyes on the ball.”

After extensive community input, the new Garfield Neighborhood Plan was unveiled in 2010, with a distinct strategy and a positive vision of the future – a neighborhood with higher numbers of homeowners, more green spaces, a stable local economy and fewer vacant or abandoned lots. Croce also helped strategize an implementation plan for how to start putting “Garfield 2030,” as the plan is called, into action.

When he was presented with the Father Henry Award, Croce said that he was “humbled” to be included in the legacy of community service in Garfield and “stunned” to receive the same award as past recipients such as Grady Roberts Jr. and Catherine Curry. Roberts is a past BGC board president and a lifelong resident of Garfield, whom Croce described as “a force”; and Curry, also a Garfield homeowner, is the current BGC treasurer. In his acceptance speech, Croce noted that, while Curry is not the most outspoken person at board meetings, “when she speaks she has something to say.”

Croce retired from the BGC board this fall, but he is not disappearing: He said one of his goals is to become more involved in the community, to help see the goals of Garfield 2030 come to fruition.

“The people who received the award in the past put so much time and effort into the community,” Croce said. “This is their neighborhood, but I’m still the new guy. I am just grateful to be a part of it.”

![Image of Freddie Croce accepting his award](https://example.com/croce_award_photo.jpg)