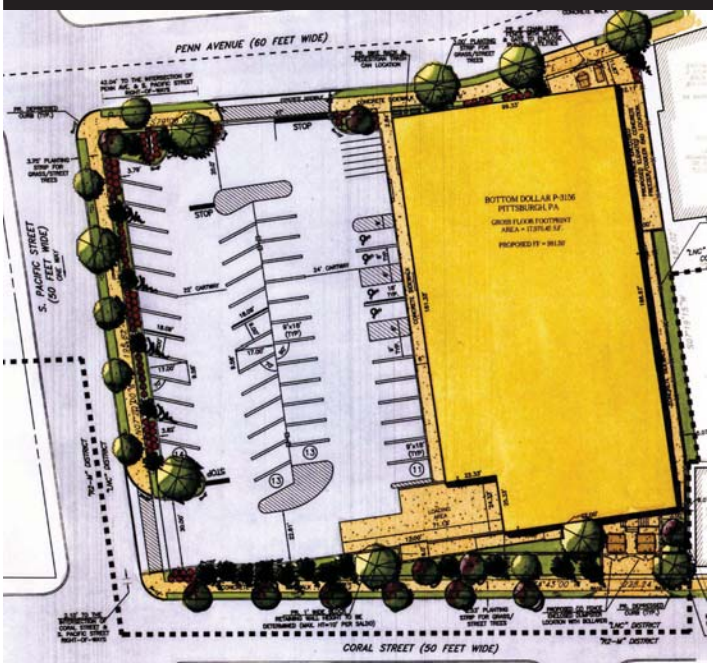
Volume 37, Number 6
JUNE 2012

the Bulletin

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



ABOVE: The developer's site plan for Bottom Dollar, with a landscaped parking lot at the corner. Courtesy Commercial Properties Inc.

Community Group Announces Support for Grocery Store Site Plan

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Bloomfield/Garfield – At its April meeting, the board of directors of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) voted to endorse a developer's site plan for a grocery store for Penn Avenue.

As reported in past issues of *The Bulletin*, Commercial Properties Inc. of Raleigh, N.C., has an option to build a Bottom Dollar grocery store on the current site of Schaedler Yesco Distribution at 5200 Penn Ave. Schaedler Yesco will be vacating the property in August.

The property was once the site of a Giant Eagle store, which closed in 1987. The U.S. Department of Agriculture labels neighborhoods such as Garfield "food deserts" because they have very limited access to quality, affordable food. Studies show this lack of food availability contributes to the nation's high obesity rate, and to chronic conditions such as diabetes and heart disease.

"We have been very strong in our support for a grocery store on Penn

See **Grocery Store** | page **2**

Wi-Fi Gets "Green Light" in East End

By Margaret Graham *East Liberty Development Inc.*

East Liberty – Advertisements for Internet service providers run rampant on the radio and TV, in newspapers and on the Web itself.

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Saxifrage School Begins East End Stint

By Rich Engel *Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

Friendship/Garfield – The Saxifrage School, a college redesign project, is landing in the East End for the next 10 weeks – and perhaps perma-

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Organic Gardening Movement Grows

By Melinda Maloney *The Bulletin*

Lawrenceville – The space at the corner of McCandless Avenue and Natrona Way, in Upper Lawrenceville's 10th ward, once held three

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Penn Reconstruction and Your Water Service

By Rich Engel *Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.*

Bloomfield/Garfield – Do you reside or do business at any of the following addresses? Do you believe your current water volume is deficient?

The following commercially-billed addresses get their water from the Penn Avenue water main: 4736, 4801, 4806, 4818, 4826-28, 4827, 4900, 4907, 4920, 4921, 4925, 5002, 5004, 5107, 5102, 5106, 5120, 5122, 5128, 5130, 5134, 5150 and 5152 Penn Ave.

The following residentially billed addresses get their water from the Penn

See **Water** | page **3**

ABOVE: The Teamsters Temple in Lawrenceville was filled to capacity for the East End Works Collaborative Job Fair on May 2. Read the story on page 3. Photo by Paula Martinac

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Frank H. Kush, MD
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Dr. Kush earned his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He completed his internal medicine residency at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital. Dr. Kush is board-certified in internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Ronald J. Nigborowicz, MD
Internal Medicine
Dr. Nigborowicz is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He completed his medical internship at UPMC Presbyterian, and is board-certified in internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. Nigborowicz is a clinical instructor in medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Priya P. Saxena, MD, FACP
Internal Medicine
Board-certified in internal medicine, Dr. Saxena received her medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine, Dominica, West Indies. She completed her internal medicine residency at Maryland General Hospital in Baltimore, where she served as chief resident. She is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and is NCQA-certified in diabetes management.

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Grocery Store *from page 1*

Avenue, and intend to endorse the site plan [that places its parking lot at the corner of Penn and S. Pacific avenues] at what would be a future hearing before the city's zoning panel," said the BGC's executive director, Rick Swartz.

"This grocery store will be a wonderful asset to our community," remarked Bill Cornell, president of the BGC's board. Cornell said he was heartened by community turn-out at a February 23 meeting at which Brantley Tillman, president of Commercial Properties, the store's developer, presented the site plan for the store to more than 125 residents.

"I was excited to see our community center filled wall-to-wall with residents of Garfield and Friendship, the vast majority of whom were enthusiastic supporters of the grocery coming into our neighborhood," Cornell told *The Bulletin* in an email.

The store does have some opponents. Felipe Palomo, a nearby homeowner on Coral Street, told Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC, "I would love the store, but I just don't want [the building] right up against my house."

Palomo is part of a group of about a dozen residents who live south of Penn Avenue and oppose the plan to position the store's parking lot on the corner of Penn and S. Pacific. The group organized a design charrette to develop an alternate plan they could endorse. On May 8, at a meeting facilitated by the BGC, they shared with Tillman their suggested design, which calls for the building to be positioned at the intersection of Penn and S. Pacific to create a "strong corner."

But the question of what consititutes a "strong corner" is debatable. "I personally feel strongly that a 'strong corner' can be well met by a well-landscaped corner parking lot," stated Eileen Kraus Dobratz, a Friendship resident and member of the BGC board, in an email. She also observed that having the parking lot on the corner would make Penn Avenue more "pedestrian-friendly," since trucks would be exiting onto S. Pacific and not Penn.

Tillman forwarded the alternate design to the operations division of Food Lion, the parent company of Bottom Dollar, which he explained has the final say in the layout of the site. At press time, Tillman reported that Food Lion is "not interested in the site with access only from Penn Avenue." He invited the group to come up with "other suggestions...that might make us a more attractive neighbor."

In the meantime, Tillman is moving forward with other work related to the store. He engaged a local firm, Civil & Environmental Consultants Inc., to do a traffic study of the area around the site to determine what measures, if any, the city would need to take to handle an increase in car and truck traffic created by the store. Tillman has already gone on record saying his company would pay for the installation of a traffic signal, if the study determines that is needed.

A hearing before the city's Zoning Board of Adjustment regarding the store has yet to be scheduled. ♦

Vacant Property Survey Needs Volunteers

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Garfield – The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) will be going block by block to do a comprehensive, community-wide assessment of the vacant property in the Garfield neighborhood on Saturday, June 23rd, from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are needed to help in this effort, which will "give us a good list of vacants," according to Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC.

"Collecting this information is very valuable," explained Brose. The list will allow the community to prioritize which houses need to be demolished and which can be rehabbed for sale or rent.

The City Planning Department is devising a form that volunteers will be able to fill out quickly. There will be boxes to check off to indicate if the house is vacant, the condition it is in and if there are broken windows and unsecured entrances.

All volunteers will be trained on how to do this survey before hitting the streets. Brose estimates that the survey itself will take about two hours. Breakfast and lunch will be served to volunteers at the BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave. Anyone interested in participating should call 412-441-6950 x 15.

Brose requests that neighbors be welcoming of the volunteers. "We'll be in the street with clipboards, looking at properties," she explained. "It's not the FBI or the police. And we'll only be looking at vacant properties. Please welcome the volunteers with a smile. " ♦

County Funds Roof Replacement for Penn Avenue Building

by Joe Reuben *The Bulletin*

Friendship – At its April board meeting, the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County approved a $50,000 grant for the building at 5530 Penn Ave. that is co-owned by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) and Friendship Development Associates (FDA). This occurred through the efforts of FDA board member Cassa Collinge and State Sen. Jim Ferlo.

The roof of this building has leaked for years, and, despite numerous patch jobs, could not be made sound, according to Rick Swartz, executive director of the BGC. The Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, a non-profit organization, is the building's principal tenant, and there were also seven apartments in the building that rented, until recently, at below-market rates.

"The cash flow to accumulate $50,000 or more in funds to replace the roof has never been there," Swartz acknowledged recently.

Swartz said Collinge pointed the groups to a county program known as the Community Infrastructure and Tourism Fund, which offers grants to non-profits for special projects like these. "We don't follow the workings of the county's redevelopment authority very closely, since we're in the city and have turned to the city's own redevelopment authority over the years when we needed help. Sen. Ferlo and his staff helped us refine the proposal to get the authority to approve it," added Swartz.

The BGC and FDA have owned the building since 1995, and it was recently reassessed for tax purposes at a value of $398,000. "At least the county will receive some dividend back on this investment as the years progress," Swartz said. ♦

Water Service *from page 1*

Avenue water main: 103 Gross St and 4823, 4825, 4909, 4911, 4914, 4916, 4918, 4922, 5005, 5007, 5010, 5012, 5014, 5018, 5137, 5145, 5151 and 5153 Penn Ave.

These properties will be affected by the Penn Avenue reconstruction project, which begins in July 2013. During this project Penn Avenue's street and sidewalks between Mathilda and Evaline Streets will be completely rebuilt with improved safety, accessibility, and amenities. While the street is being dug up, an important opportunity will exist for you to have your service improved.

Though many people believe they have a pressure problem, sources at Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) say there is very little that can be done to improve pressure other than installing an additional pump in your building. Old laterals from the water main can become clogged, and low volume can be easily mistaken for low pressure.

If you believe your water service may not provide enough volume, you can contact PWSA for a free test, whether you are a residential or commercial customer. You must have an existing line from the curb box to your building that is at least 3/4 inches in diameter; if you do, PWSA will test your service to see if it meets the 5 gallon per minute standard flow rate.

If your service does not meet the standard flow rate, and you are a residential customer, you can get a new line from the water main to the curb box, and a new curb box if needed, at no charge from PWSA. Customers that have commercial billing from PWSA must replace the line from the water main to their curb box at their own expense, but this expense will be much lower during the Penn Avenue reconstruction project than at any other time.

Please contact PWSA Dispatch at 412-255-2409 or -2429 to schedule a flow rate test before the start of the Penn Avenue reconstruction project. If you need a new line from the water main to your property's curb box, every effort will be made to schedule that update during the Penn Avenue reconstruction project. ♦

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

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Job Fair Features 80+ Employers

By P.J. Maloney *The Bulletin*

Lawrenceville – Attendance at the East End Works Collaborative Job Fair, held at the Teamsters Temple in Lawrenceville on May 2, underscored the need for jobs in the greater Pittsburgh area. Rick Flanagan, director of the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC), a co-host of the event, says approximately 1,000 people showed up looking for work, and more than 80 employers were on-site accepting resumes.

As early as 4 o'clock, when the fair opened its doors, the line to enter snaked along Butler Street, around the corner and down 47th Street. Attendees were all ages, genders and races. Some arrived in full business attire carrying briefcases, but some came in casual dress, just to check out their options.

> "The people in our neighborhoods want to work."

"The people in our neighborhoods want to work and are looking for good local jobs, as evidenced by the turn-out," remarked Lauren Byrne, executive director of Lawrenceville United, another co-host of the job fair. "Thanks to strong partnerships with the ENEC, Goodwill and others, we are able to connect our residents with the opportunities they are looking for."

Flanagan says it will be another few weeks before his staff members have hard numbers on how many people were hired as a result of the fair.

Among the employers at the Lawrenceville job fair were West Penn Hospital, Children's Hospital of UPMC, Omni William Penn Hotel, Wholey's, BNY Mellon, Two Men and a Truck, United HealthCare and PNC Bank. The event was a chance for job-seekers to present their resumes, and in some cases, to set up job interviews.

"We had the young and the old," said Flanagan. "Job applicants ranged in age from 14 years old to senior citizens." Young people were able to pick up applications for the City of Pittsburgh's Summer Youth Employment Program, which starts in July.

Other co-hosts for the event were PA Wants to Work, Neighborhood Learning Alliance and Pittsburgh CONNECTS. Support for the fair came from BNY Mellon, the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development and the City of Pittsburgh.

Even though job fairs like the one in Lawrenceville come only about twice a year, smaller events, sometimes featuring only one or two employers, are held more frequently, often at the ENEC offices at 5321 Penn Avenue. People can walk in without an appointment to get help with resumes, the job application process and the search for prospective employers. "Applicants can use our computers, our copiers and even our phones," Flanagan noted. *(See related story, page 6.)* ♦

Youth Employment Program Obtains Federal Grants

By Michael Baltzer *Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

East End – The Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board (TRWIB) has unanimously approved the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) for 1-year contracts to serve both out-of-school and in-school youths who reside in Bloomfield, Garfield, East Liberty, Hill District, Homewood, Larimer or Lawrenceville.

Last November, the TRWIB board released a request for proposals to help create a streamlined, transparent and accountable workforce development system in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. The U.S. Department of Labor provides funds to states to help people develop the necessary tools to start and enhance their careers.

Having operated successful youth programs in partnership with the City of Pittsburgh for over a decade, the BGC and its afterschool program partner, Neighborhood Learning Alliance (NLA), took the opportunity to revisit and revise their approach to youth workforce development. Their successful application will allow them to fund work-oriented programming for 20 out-of-school youths and 75 in-school youths.

Project TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) will serve out-of-school youths ages 17 to 21, helping them to develop vital skills needed to thrive in the workplace. Participants will work as a team to learn valuable skills, help improve their communities, gain leadership skills, earn money through paid work experience in various industries, experience personal growth and become work-ready candidates for today's job market.

The BGC will serve in-school youths by utilizing a three-tiered system to build upon the existing Community LEARNS afterschool model. The first tier will target all participants in the BGC/NLA-operated afterschool programs across the city, offering career exploration and career education activities. The second tier will focus on students expressing an interest in pursuing career planning. The final tier will provide high-performing students with paid internships relevant to their career interests.

For further information about either program, contact BGC Youth Development Director Rick Flanagan at 412-441-9833 or email RickF@bloomfield-garfield.org. ♦

Wi-Fi *from page 1*

Comcast and Verizon are pretty well-known, but have you heard of Green Light Wireless?

Green Light Wireless started when co-owner Evan Stein moved to an apartment building in Pittsburgh. Searching for a wireless Internet connection, he saw nearly 50 open networks and had an idea.

"I realized if I can see theirs, they can see mine," he said. "So I bought a connection and charged a nominal fee for neighbors to connect to my network."

And so, Green Light Wireless was born. Green Light Wireless is a partnership between Stein and Michael Frank, who together comprise Frank & Stein Associates.

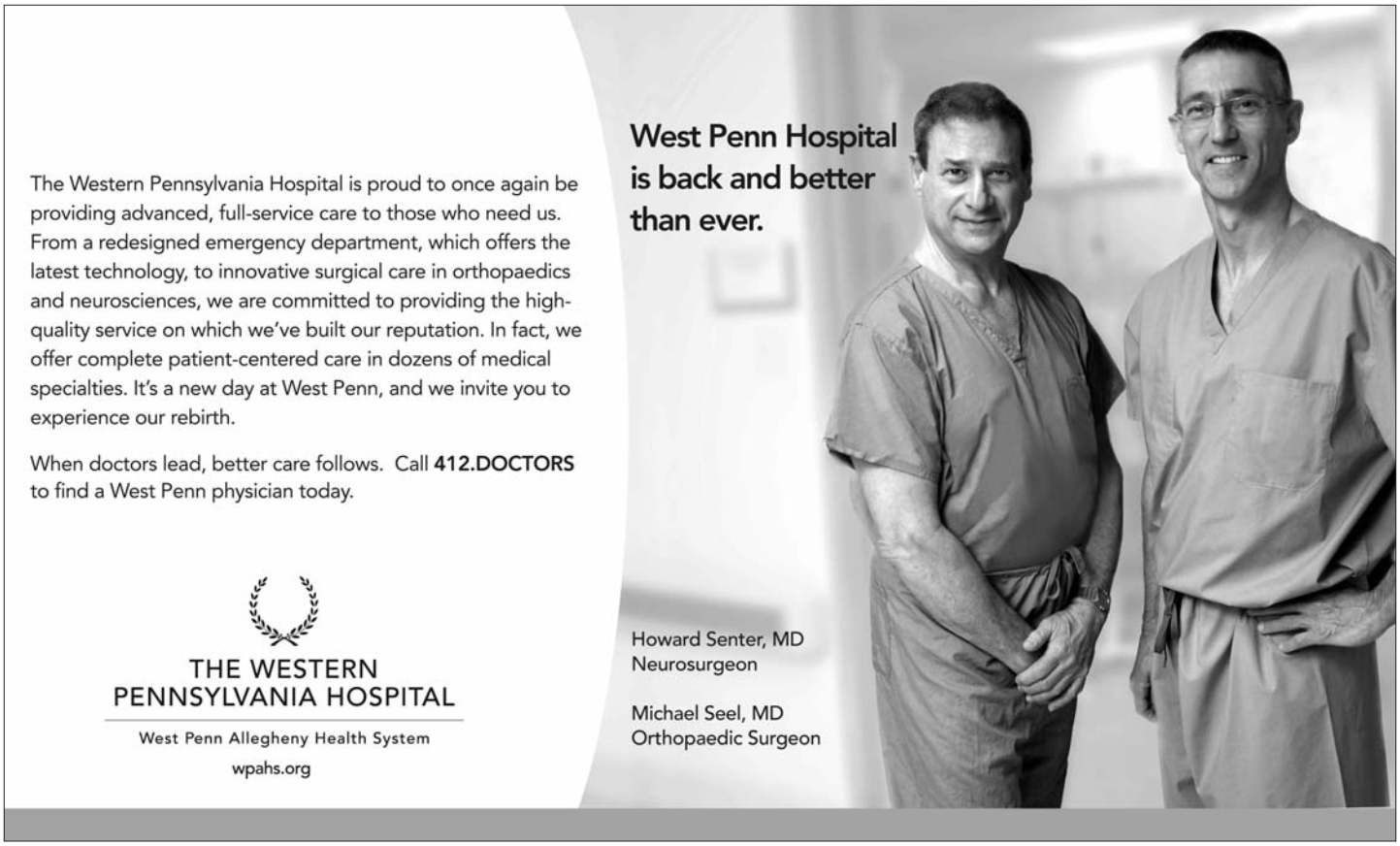
Green Light Wireless started contracting with property managers to install Wi-Fi in buildings for off-campus student housing. This process made it much easier for students to get connected. Instead of going through the hassle of contacting an Internet provider, scheduling install times and cancelling the service at the end of the year, students simply signed up through their building management.

Slowly, Green Light Wireless began to expand to coffee shops, laundromats and other retail locations. This allowed them to become a mainstream Internet service provider, and to build their own wireless network infrastructure.

This connectivity has been a benefit to East Liberty, where the set-up of Penn Circle makes Internet access within the commercial core difficult. As more businesses, especially technology firms, showed an interest the neighborhood, reliable Internet access became a key selling point.

East Liberty Development, Inc. was able to help Green Light Wireless find a tower location in the neighborhood, which enabled the company to be established as a wide-area distribution network.

Residents and businesses within 5 miles of the Green Light Wireless tower can get hassle-free, reliable Internet with locally-based service representatives quickly. Green Light Wireless offers packages as low as $19.89 a month, with speeds up to 40 Mbps. For more information, call 1-866-427-8649 and select option 2. ♦



Green Space Planned for Stanton Heights

By Brett Caloia *Bulletin Contributor*

Stanton Heights – Residents of Stanton Heights met May 16th to finalize competing proposals for a community healing garden before a community vote on July 18th.

This project began more than a year ago, when a Stanton Heights resident first approached Comcast about turning its lot at the corner of Stanton Avenue and Woodbine Street into green space. Comcast responded to the request by offering to dedicate a portion of the lot to a healing garden, in recognition of the tragic 2009 killing of three police officers in the neighborhood.

Since then, efforts have been underway to prepare the site and the community for this beautification effort. City Councilman Patrick Dowd's office worked with a landscape architect to create and present a set of plans to the community in a series of meetings late last year. Those plans are posted on the Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association (SNHA) blog at stantonheights.wordpress.com.

While those initial efforts received a great deal of support and the plan appeared to be going forward, a March meeting of the SHNA revealed some skepticism about the proposal in the community. Some of the opposition was a result of misinformation: residents said they had heard rumors about construction of a ball field and playground, but those were never part of any of the drafted plans.

Other concerns stemmed from particular elements of the proposed design. Specifically, there was a great deal of concern that the low undulating wall in the original design might provide an opportunity for loitering and graffiti. Some residents also expressed concern about the presence of a dog-walking area and visibility on the site.

In response to this opposition, SHNA scheduled a series of meetings to try to come to consensus on the issue. The April 16th meeting was very well attended. Residents asked that the plans be scaled back, and an alternative plan began to take shape. This alternative to the drafted plan calls for less available seating, no low undulating wall and high visibility. This alternative also removed plans for a dog-walking area, which concerned residents because of possible odor.

The May 16th meeting was scheduled to finalize both proposals. However, those who had previously expressed the most opposition were absent. Still, their concerns continued to be noted, and the community pledged to move forward with a final vote on July 18th. At that meeting, both proposals will be presented, and the community will take a final vote on which it prefers.

There is, however, agreement among residents that they want to see trees maintained and manicured to improve appearance and visibility. Broad support was also expressed for a neighborhood sign and a community bulletin board.

Furthermore, Stanton Heights residents showed their support for beautifying the area during a community clean-up on April 21st. Residents collected dozens of bags of trash and invasive species as well as 8 tons of concrete and 36 old tires from the site. All agreed that allowing the site to collect trash and be used for illegal dumping was not viable.

Residents who are interested in these ongoing efforts can consult the SHNA blog. They can also join a community listserv by sending an email to stantonheights-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. ♦

Gators' Field Gets Major Facelift

By Kathryn Vargas *Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.*

ABOVE: The overhaul of the Garfield Gators field will be finished by July. Photo by Paula Martinac

Garfield – The long-awaited reconstruction of the Garfield Gators field is finally underway. In May, the City of Pittsburgh Office of the Mayor and the Department of Public Works began making major renovations to the field. This $100,000 investment in Garfield includes full reconstruction of the field, planting new grass and adding new bleachers, grandstand and fence. All of the improvements will be completed before the Garfield Gators start their 2012 season in July.

The field, which sits directly adjacent to Pittsburgh Fort Pitt ALA on Hillcrest Street, has been home to the Garfield Gators for the 18 years the volunteer-based Garfield Youth Sports has been running the team. The field has experienced a high level of use and has earned the nickname "The Swamp" due to the condition of the field after a rainstorm.

This substantial investment in the field is very important to the coaches. "The improvements fit in with the transformation of the community," stated Bob Jones, director of Garfield Youth Sports. "With new housing and new residents, it only makes sense to have a new field and recreation opportunities. In my opinion, we have the best youth football program in the region, and this will help us to continue to grow."

Once the work is completed, the gates to the field will be locked and it will not be used until the start of the Gators' 19th season. This will allow the new grass to fully take root. Thanks to the City of Pittsburgh, the young people of Garfield will be enjoying a great place to play and practice. Come out to cheer on the Gators on their new turf this summer and fall. ♦

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SHOWCASE OF THE MONTH

Picture Perfect on S. Aiken

By Aggie Brose *Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

Friendship – The Showcase of the Month for June is 204 S. Aiken Ave. in the 8th Ward, City of Pittsburgh. According to the Allegheny County Real Estate website, the recorded owners are Michael and Holly Dolan who acquired the house in March 1991.

This property, built in 1910, is one of many outstanding homes on S. Aiken Avenue in the Friendship neighborhood. When you look at this house, it is "picture perfect," from the decorative wrought-iron fence winding up to the front steps, to the porch's meticulously painted wooden balusters and posts, to other vintage architectural features – everything is in pristine condition. The landscaping is simple but attractive. The house also has a unique garage door that complements the house.

Dolan told Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation staff that when he acquired the property, it was a three-family unit, and most of the houses on the block were also multi-unit. He stated that he was one of the people who spearheaded conversion of S. Aiken's grand old homes back to single-family. "People saw us put a lot of work into the house, and it gave them confidence that they could put dollars into their houses and fix them up, too."

"We are very happy here in the Friendship area," Dolan said. "It is a great neighborhood." The Dolans have raised three children there, two of whom are now college age.

The Dolans also own three rental properties in the neighborhood within a block of their home. Dolan said he wants to be an inspiration to other landlords to bring good tenants into the neighborhood.

The Dolans are also very community-minded people who engage in neighborhood issues that affect the quality of life in their neighborhood.

The BGC congratulates the Dolans for their commitment and investment in the neighborhood of Friendship. ♦

ABOVE: This property is one of many gems on S. Aiken Avenue. Photo by Paula Martinac

Thank you, PNC Bank. We would like to acknowledge the BGC's NPP partner, PNC Bank. Thanks also to BNY Mellon, Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, The United Way, Allegheny Valley Bank, Dollar Bank, Citizens Bank, and all of our advertisers.

ENEC Tools Match Clients with "Perfect Job"

By Carolyn Ristau *The Bulletin*

Garfield – In the past year, the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) has helped 239 local residents find jobs, over half at more than $10 per hour. Through a partnership with the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's Pittsburgh CONNECTS technology lab, computer software and workshops are available for people to develop the skills and confidence they need to get a new job or a promotion.

The ENEC, located at 5321 Penn Ave., is open to everyone, not just the unemployed. "You don't have to be out of work to come here," said Bill Freed, workforce coordinator at ENEC. "You don't have to hate your job." It is ENEC's mission to help "people get the right job," Freed explained. ENEC even helps those new to the job market to replace or supplement job experiences with what Freed calls "pride experiences"— for example, raising a family or getting good grades.

A new seminar series at ENEC uses software and online skills-matching tools to help local residents enhance their relationships and careers and find the best vocation or college major for them. "This series helped a local mother advance her career at Highmark," explained Freed. The services work like a dating website, assessing a client's personal inclinations and skills and matching them to the perfect job.

The ENEC uses a three-step process: a self assessment, a job market assessment and a decision-making process. The Holland Codes assessment, one of the programs provided by Pittsburgh CONNECTS, asks 180 short questions about interests, abilities and temperament to determine personality type. For example, are you realistic, artistic or investigative? It then creates a list of occupations compatible with the answers. Once the information is gathered, ENEC staff members show residents how to use the assessments to the best advantage in choosing and applying for jobs.

In addition to looking at people's skills and educational background, the ENEC considers the barriers individuals may be facing. "We help you think proactively about what your barriers are so you can get the job," Freed explained.

The results affect more aspects of people's lives than just their careers. "In our mission to help people in career and workforce development know themselves, know the market and make the match, we can help them plan ways to continually improve themselves across several aspects of their lives in learning, earning and wellness," Freed said.

Through Pittsburgh CONNECTS, ENEC uses the Department of Labor's career exploration services (O*Net) and other assessments to provide local residents with self-improvement counseling that would cost hundreds of dollars elsewhere, but is free at ENEC's sessions. These programs will be installed in the three other Pittsburgh CONNECTS labs in Homewood, the Hill District and Southside Hilltop.

For more information on the seminars and sessions ENEC offers, call Gina Grubb at 412-362-8580. The ENEC offices are open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and weekends from noon to 6 p.m. ♦

East End Runner Finishes Marathon as Eighth Female

By Sarah Spicuzza *PULSE*

East Liberty – For 17 years, talented college graduates have moved to Pittsburgh to participate in a year of service through the Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience (PULSE). Laura Harnish, PULSE alumna from 2010-2011 and currently an East Liberty resident, ran the Pittsburgh Marathon May 6 and completed the race as top female Pennsylvania finisher, eighth overall female and 50th overall finisher at a time of 2:54:34.

"The Pittsburgh Marathon is my favorite," said Harnish of her sixth race. "It's a blast racing through the streets I run on every day, seeing friends along the course and the energy and friendliness of the crowds."

A graduate of Goshen College in Indiana, Harnish began training for marathons while student teaching. She wanted to give herself a new challenge after running track and cross country during high school and college. Marathons turned out to be the perfect stress-reliever. After running the Chicago Marathon in October of 2009, she was hooked.

In August of 2010, Harnish moved to the Highland Park/East Liberty community to participate in the PULSE program. Transitioning from years of running in the pancake-flat Midwest to the hilly terrain of Pittsburgh took some adjusting, she said.

"There were hills that initially seemed mountainous that I now run easily," Harnish said. "At first, every run was a hard run since the hills are unavoidable, and I was recovering from a stress fracture. It's definitely made me a stronger runner."

ABOVE: Laura Harnish runs around the Highland Park Reservoir in all seasons to train for two marathons a year, including the Pittsburgh Marathon. Photo by Kate Stoltzfus/Yinzpiration

Now she enjoys the terrain. "Hills give me a challenge and are more interesting than running mile after mile through a perfect grid of corn and bean fields."

Harnish has found a sense of community among PULSE fellows and runners alike. Shortly after arriving, she joined a running group called the Pittsburgh Pharaoh Hounds. The group offered her the support and camaraderie she experienced with her cross-country and track teams and had since missed.

Combining her love of running with her commitment to PULSE and Pittsburgh, Laura was a part of a team that collectively raised more than $3,500 for PULSE by running the Marathon. These funds will help PULSE to continue to cultivate a community of young servant leaders to transform Pittsburgh.

Chris Cooke, executive director of PULSE, said that many alumni are like Harnish. "They not only live in the neighborhood after their year of service, but purchase and renovate homes, start families, develop small businesses, start nonprofits, volunteer, work to be good neighbors and, in this case, run marathons," he said. "Through PULSE, a young, dynamic, emerging leadership is born in the community. These young people have fallen in love with a place, and the people of that place." ♦

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Sowing the Seeds of Social Justice

Graduate Student Sets Up Gardeners' "Lending Library"

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Lawrenceville – Amanda West had never been to Pittsburgh when she decided to move here in August 2010. She was drawn to the city from Richmond, Va., to enroll in Chatham University's Master's in Food Studies Program. Two years later, West is an active East End community member, having set up the new Seed and Story Library at the Lawrenceville Branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP) on Fisk Street.

West says she first became interested in food and cultivation while she was an undergraduate at Virginia Commonwealth University. An International Studies class "got me started thinking about food from a social justice perspective." Her research led her to Chatham's new graduate program. "I didn't even know Food Studies was a career path," she admits.

In school, West read about genetically modified (GM) seeds, which many activists oppose for their potential health hazards. "The whole Monsanto thing," she says, noting one of the largest producers of GM seeds, informed her thinking "about a community approach to combating that." The Chatham program, from which West will graduate this August, allows students to choose either a traditional written thesis or a community project. West chose the latter.

ABOVE: Amanda West created a seed library in an old library card catalog. Photo by Paula Martinac

"I wanted people to feel empowered about what they eat."

"I wanted to help people feel empowered about what they eat," she says, explaining why she chose to set up a seed library in Lawrenceville, where she currently lives. In a seed library, people "borrow" seeds and then bring back saved seeds from their crops for others to plant in turn. Many of the initial seeds to start the library were generously donated by TomatoFest and High Mowing.

West set up a "shelving" system for the seeds in an old library card catalog, located near the gardening books in the Lawrenceville branch. Although there is one row of the catalog for flower seeds, including perennials and natives, the bulk of the library is dedicated to vegetables and culinary and medicinal herbs.

There is no fee or membership requirement for checking out seeds, and no penalties if people don't bring back seeds to replace those they took. Some ground rules do apply, however, and are posted on the side of the card catalog. West says she hopes people will grow their seeds organically, which entails using only natural fertilizers and pest-control methods, but acknowledges she can't enforce that. "I can't be in everyone's back yard," she says.

See **page 9**

RealEstateHighlights

Check out our monthly picks of the top residential **(R)** and commercial **(C)** properties available in our neighborhood.

<C 5447 Penn Ave. Garfield *Rick Swartz - 412-441-6950. 5-BR house with attached former Chinese restaurant. No off-street pkg. $70k.*

613 Mellon St. R> East Liberty *Justin Cummings - 412-418-0596. 3 BR, 1 bath, fully remodeled, hardwood floors, off-street pkg. $180k.*

<C 3507 Butler Street Lawrenceville *Lee Gross - 412-687-9200. Brand new commercial storefront in the heart of Lower Lawrenceville.*

4520 Minerva St. R> Bloomfield *Jessica Milko - 724-316-9664. 4 BR, 3 bath, new renovation, 2 off-street pkg spaces. $149k.*

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Seeds of Social Justice continued

ABOVE: The Seed and Story Library features a wide variety of tomato seeds. Photo by Jenalee Schenk

In a fortunate coincidence, West's project has overlapped with a grant CLP received to put gardens into nine local branches, with Lawrenceville slated as one of them. "It was amazing timing," she notes. As part of her seed library, West will hold gardening and seed-saving classes at the Lawrenceville branch and at others around the city. She will also teach residents how to make "seed bombs" – balls of seeds, often wildflowers, which are tossed to produce instant gardens.

And what about the "story" part of the Seed and Story Library? In partnership with CLP, West will also be creating an oral history of local gardeners, interviewing Pittsburghers about the kinds of gardens they have had, the types of flowers and crops they have grown and their reasons for gardening. Do they garden for pleasure or to supplement their food supply? "You don't see a lot of garden history," she says. Excerpts from the interviews will eventually be available on a dedicated YouTube channel. To contact West about contributing a gardening story, email awest2@chatham.edu or call 757-635-6320.

The Seed and Story Library officially opened on May 25. For more information, visit https://www.facebook.com/seedandstorypgh or http://carnegielibrary.org/events/programs/gardeningthyme. ♦

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Saxifrage *from page 1*

nently. Saxifrage is intended as a low-cost college that uses a specific neighborhood as its campus. The school will decide this July which neighborhood of Pittsburgh it will call home, after short "tryouts" in the North Side and Millvale and on Penn Avenue. Between now and July 2012, the school will be subletting space from 5450 Modern, the by-appointment furniture store newly opened on Penn at Roup Avenue.

Tim Cook, now 27, started Saxifrage as a research project after graduating from Washington & Jefferson College in 2007. By spring of 2009, a group of about a dozen interested people were meeting monthly to plan the launch of the school. The following year, Saxifrage incorporated and, through a visiting artist at the Mattress Factory, Glenn LoughrAn, found its first space rent-free at the corner of Federal and General Robinson Streets; it held a handful of one-day classes there, as well as music, discussion and fundraising events.

If all goes as planned, each member of a student body of 500 will do work in one "major skill" – organic agriculture, building construction and design, or computer development – plus one "major study" – art, rhetoric and literature, philosophy, health, politics, or math. Every student will be required to study Spanish. They will learn "to make and design things and judge and communicate ideas," according to the Saxifrage website, at a school with no dormitories and no cafeteria.

According to Cook, the neighborhood-as-campus will not only set the school apart, but will enrich the students and encourage them to lead a more "personally responsible" life while studying, instead of having a cloistered on-campus existence. "It should also mean that the school doesn't become a big property owner, and that more student money winds up being spent supporting local businesses and for apartment rentals than at most colleges," he says.

In the autumn of 2010, Saxifrage officially became a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and created a board of directors. The school was granted a Seed Award from the Penn Avenue-based Sprout Fund in summer 2011; that money is being used to complete the set-up of the school and its neighborhood selection process.

Saxifrage spent 10 weeks this past fall in the not-yet-open Millvale Community Library. In exchange for rent, they helped renovate the building, which is scheduled for completion this year. In the spring of 2012, Saxifrage spent 10 weeks, after hours, at Buena Vista Coffee Shop in the Mexican War Streets neighborhood. At both of these locations, they held short classes and small fundraisers, and explored the possibilities for establishing the school in that neighborhood.

"What we're looking at are walkable neighborhoods where there is enough room and unused spaces for the school," said Cook, "but still enough functioning communities and resources to create partnerships" in the business, artisan, spiritual and other sectors of the neighborhood. At the end of summer 2012, Saxifrage will make its neighborhood selection.

Cook sees the school eventually occupying a house and a warehouse, with its classes held at various locations throughout the community, such as in churches, art galleries and other businesses. "An economic development focus is central to Saxifrage," Cook says, "and we're looking forward to seeing how the school can work with and for this community." Find more online at saxifrageschool.org or email tim@saxifrageschool.org. ♦

Follow the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation on Twitter @BloomGarCorp!

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* GCAT is an initiative of the Bloomfield Garfield Corporation Elm Street District *

GCAT CHAT

Visioning Meeting for Broad & N. Graham Street Corner
Tuesday, June 5, at 5:30 p.m. at the corner of Broad and N. Graham Street
What would you like to see happen with the corner of Broad and N. Graham Streets? Become part of the positive change happening in Garfield! Join us for a visioning meeting at the corner lot of Broad and Graham. We'll start the initial planning there and then move the meeting down to 5429 Penn Avenue.

GCAT Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, June 27, at 6 p.m. at Most Wanted Fine Art, 5015 Penn Ave.
Be part of the Garfield Community Action Team (GCAT) and help with projects that improve the neighborhood. Enjoy some food and drinks; meet neighbors too!

Become a Garfield Gardener!
Saturday, June 30, at 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 5201 Penn Avenue.
Get your hands dirty this summer and join the Garfield Gardeners as we **clean-up and green-up** the neighborhood! We'll be meeting the last Saturday of the month, June through October. Our focus is to maintain our parks and Green + Screen sites, as well as creating new beautiful green spaces in Garfield. Join us on the porch of 5201 Penn Avenue for some light breakfast and then we'll get digging!
Email Minette for more information at: *gcatpgh@gmail.com*

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DIY Studio Makes Art a Party

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Lawrenceville – What do you do when you hit middle age and find your employment opportunities have dried up? The answer for Mary Lou Bradley and fiancé Joe Groom was to start over by creating their own business, one that both of them could enjoy. That's how Paint Monkey, an "entertainment art studio" located in the Ice House on 43rd Street in Lawrenceville, was born.

"We're in our fifties," explains Bradley, a native Pittsburgher who lived in New York City for most of her adult life. "People want to hire someone cheaper, so people over a certain age have to be creative [about jobs]."

Her career history included a long stint in syndicated television, working for the creator of the popular sitcom "Three's Company," and a turn assisting a New York City Council member. Groom, a native New Yorker, had an extensive background in commercial art and graphic design.

When their jobs in New York disappeared, they tried relocating to Florida, but found good jobs at a minimum there. "It was nothing but low-paying service and tourism jobs," notes Groom. In August 2011, they made a road trip to Pittsburgh, deciding to take a look at Bradley's hometown with new eyes. "It's one thing to visit and another to consider a life here."

Groom says he was impressed by his tour of Pittsburgh. "The art scene is incredible. There are such good restaurants here. Florida was all chain restaurants." With the help of Bradley's cousin, who is a realtor, they found a 1950s-era house in Churchill that they loved and made an offer on.

Their dream for a new business fell into place quickly, too. The plan was to create a do-it-yourself art studio, where people could get step-by-step instruction in painting from Groom in a festive, social atmosphere. The proprietors at Who New, a Lawrenceville mid-century furniture store, pointed them in the direction of the Ice House, and they were immediately sold on the space. "A spot like this in New York City would be so rare and too expensive," says Groom.

Bradley and Groom "kicked around a lot of names," before settling on Paint Monkey, which plays off the saying "monkey see, monkey do." Paint Monkey supplies the space, art supplies, aprons and instruction. Groups choose from a catalog of paintings – all painted by Groom – and are guided through the creation of the same painting. At the end of the two- to three-hour session, each person has his or her own 16 x 20 masterpiece to take home.

As a unique feature of the experience, groups can bring in their own food and wine. Bradley and Groom are working with local restaurants like Piccolo Forno to make ordering food easy for parties. Plus, since Bradley trained as a pastry chef, she is able to supply a cake or cupcakes for an extra charge, if needed.

"They eat, they drink – it's a lot of fun," says Bradley, the studio's de-facto marketing director. "Lots of people [who come here] haven't picked up a paintbrush since they were kids." She calls it a good alternative for birthday parties, bridal or baby showers and corporate team-building events. "There's nothing in town like this," she notes.

Paint Monkey also sponsors children's painting events, with eight of the paintings in the catalog simple enough for kids to create. In addition, the studio is offering eight-week "Summer Fun Sessions" from June 18 to August 16 for students in 1st through 3rd grades and 4th through 6th grades. Each session will explore different mediums, such as painting, collage, button-making, fabric painting, birdhouse-making and more. Paint Monkey supplies all materials and also a healthy snack and drink.

For information, visit www.BeAPaintMonkey.com. ♦

ABOVE: Joe Groom leads novice painters through the creation of a sunflower painting. Photo courtesy Paint Monkey

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With the presidential election just months away it is time to get ready to vote this November! If you are a resident of PA and are: going to be at least 18 years of age by November , a new voter, or someone who has moved recently, it's time to make sure you are registered to vote! ***Keep a look out for our summer voter events!***

Need Help? If you need voter registration assistance, have questions about voting, or want to volunteer to get more people voting in your community please call The Promote the Vote hotline at **412-450-0661.** Promote the Vote is an initiative of : Neighborhood Learning Alliance

Assemble Launches Saturday Workshops for Kids

By Emily Rice *Assemble*

Garfield – Assemble, a community space for arts + technology located at 5125 Penn Avenue in Garfield, is launching Materials, Media and Me (M3), a series of Saturday afternoon workshops for children aged 8 to 10.

Each week, a different artist or technologist will introduce a material, show students how to use it and lead them through a project. M3 classes will highlight, in turn, metal, paper, fabric, found materials, electronics and paint. Students will explore the properties of the materials with the instructors – how it bends, how it attaches to another material, what can be made with it—before planning their own projects. At the end of the class, each child will have a take-home creation.

The M3 workshop exploring found materials will have students using recycled objects, LEDs and simple motors to make artful new toys. In the paper workshop, students will create their own paper from scratch and layer it with recycled materials to assemble collages. Solar cells, basic circuits, motors and LEDs will all be part of the electronics class, where students will be tasked with expressing their ideas using these different types of electronics.

M3 is Assemble's newest program to use an educational approach known as STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math). This learning process explores the similar ways that scientists, makers and artists approach projects. "As educators, we plan and facilitate activities that highlight overlaps between these seemingly unrelated academic disciplines," explains board member and educator Ashley Andrykovitch. Assemble educators and staff will encourage students to think about what they want to express and how to plan and create a project. They will then share the results.

ABOVE: Students will work with various mediums at Assemble's new Saturday workshops. Photo courtesy Assemble

Assemble is a non-profit founded in 2010, which envisions a diverse community that creates, connects, and learns through the experience of art and technology. This program is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

M3 classes will take place from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturdays from June 2 through July 7. Classes will cost $5 per class, with materials and snacks provided. Drop by Assemble for more information and to sign up, or visit www.assemblepgh.org. ♦

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 the PSTF's monthly meeting during the first 15 minutes. The next meeting is June 13 at 4 p.m. at the BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 North Pacific Avenue.

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Gardening *from page 1*

blighted homes. Now, it is well on its way to becoming a source of fresh, free organic produce – for locals willing to put forth a little sweat equity.

Last year, Lawrenceville United (LU) received funding from Mayor Luke Ravenstahl's "Love Your Block" program to purchase the resources needed to transform the area into a community garden. Since then, LU, the Green Up Pittsburgh team and hundreds of volunteers from around the community have been hard at work to prepare the garden for planting and harvesting this year. They've succeeded – the first planting at the garden occurred at the end of April.

Under the leadership of Deirdre Kane, who offered to be the "go-to person" for the garden at an early planning meeting, and her co-chair Cleo Zell, the garden has become a satellite of the original Lawrenceville Organic Community Garden, located in the northeast corner of the Allegheny Cemetery. Many of the same volunteers who work on the cemetery garden have taken on work at the second garden as well. However, anyone with an interest is welcome to work on either garden – and will be rewarded with fresh produce for their efforts.

The garden is an "open garden," which means there are no membership or registration fees associated with it. All the plants and materials have been donated by the city's Green Up Pittsburgh team and other individuals, so interested community members simply have to show up on a scheduled work day to share in the harvest.

ABOVE: A new satellite organic garden has sprung up at the corner of Natrona Way and McCandless Avenue in Lawrencville. Photo by Paula Martinac

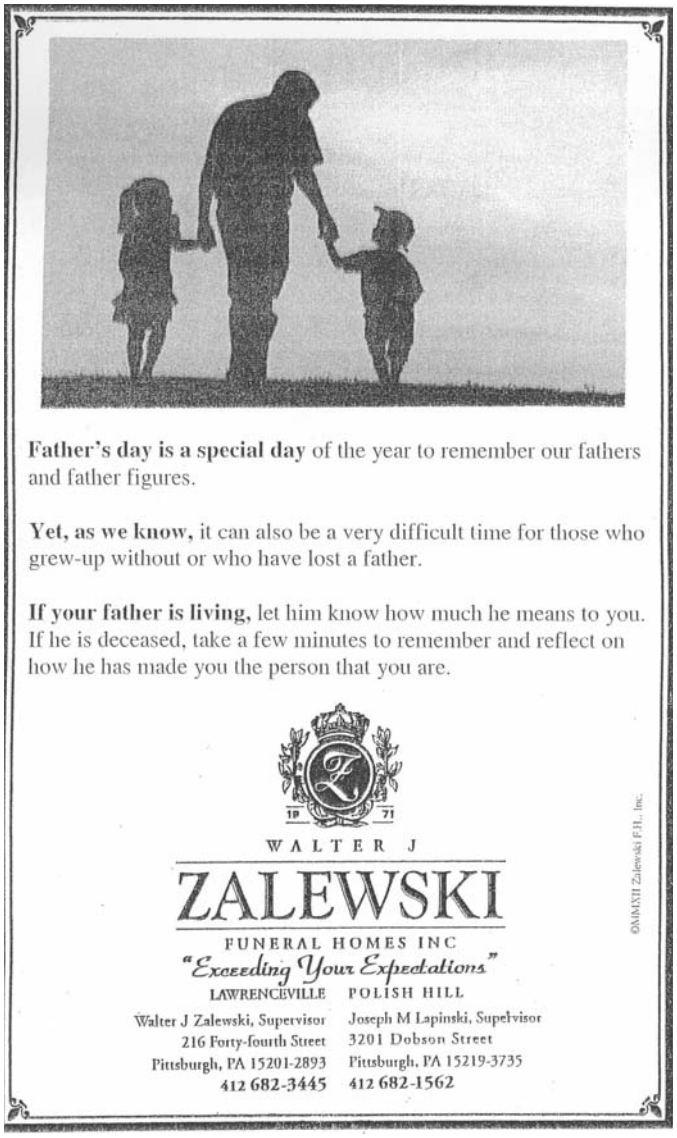
"It's like a village garden," Lauren Byrne, LU's executive director said. "As long as you invest sweat equity, you can take a share of the harvest."

The garden has been a long time coming. According to Byrne, "In 2005 and 2006, Lawrenceville United started to make it a priority to stabilize the alleyways in Upper Lawrenceville that were part of the state-funded Elm Street program," which aims to revitalize residential areas adjacent to business districts. "There were resources available to acquire vacant, past-delinquent abandoned structures that were proving a hazard to the adjacent community," said Byrne. So Lawrenceville United, along with the Lawrenceville Corporation, began to acquire some of the worst properties, prioritizing those in highly traveled areas.

Located, "right in the heart of Upper Lawrenceville," the three lots that make up the garden were such properties. Those lots became a GTECH (Growth Through Energy & Community Health) sunflower garden, which according to Byrne, prepared the community to see them "in a new light." They also benefited from the federal Weed and Seed program before receiving the award from the mayor's "Love Your Block" program.

Kane said she believes the garden will not just be a source of fresh food, but also of knowledge. "It's a great way for people in the neighborhood to know where their food comes from and a great way to educate people about how easy it is to get fresh food if you have space and are willing to get your hands dirty," she said.

To get involved with the garden or find out about planting days, "like" The Lawrenceville Organic Community Garden on Facebook, visit lawrencevilleorganic-garden.wordpress.com or email Deirdre Kane at lvgarden@yahoo.com. ♦



Tea Time

A record 300 people attended Sojourner House's 8th annual Victorian Tea "friendraiser," on Sunday, April 22. Those attending the "friendraiser" enjoyed a delicious tea, silent auction and raffle while learning about the award-winning work of East Liberty-based Sojourner House, a six-month residential rehabilitation program for addicted mothers and their children. Pictured above is the Tea Committee that made the event possible. Photo courtesy Sojourner House

the Bulletin BOARD

Local Events Announcements Classes Fundraisers

June 2

LAWRENCEVILLE

Tree Care Day

Join in on Tree Care Day from 9 am to noon. Tree Tenders need your help to weed and mulch the tree beds along Butler Street and to pick up trash along the way. Please meet at Lawrenceville United (4825 Butler St) at 9 am. Lunch will be served at noon. TreePittsburgh is providing supplies for this event.

GARFIELD

Food Pantry

Valley View Presbyterian Church will have its food pantry from 10 am to 1 pm at 601 N. Aiken Ave. You'll also have the opportunity to use computers courtesy of Pittsburgh CONNECTS free technology lab, which will be on site. Check your email, get on Facebook and take the time to register for trainings for computer basics, Internet skills or learning Microsoft Office. Call for details at 412-362-8580.

June 6-9

BLOOMFIELD

Parish Festival

Come to the Immaculate Conception/St. Joseph Parish Festival from 6 to 10:30 pm at 321 Edmond St for food, rides, games, indoor flea market, bake sale, basket raffles, 50/50 and more. Dinner is from 4 to 7 pm. Call 412-621-5199 with any questions.

June 7

BLOOMFIELD

Skin Cancer 101

From 6:30 to 7:30 pm Jason Simonson will present a program on skin cancer awareness for young adults at the Cancer Caring Center, 4117 Liberty Ave. Attendees will learn the risk factors, the signs and symptoms of melanoma, screening process, how to protect and be proactive as far as being safe in the sun, what to do if one is diagnosed, and an action plan to take for monitoring your skin. Jason will provide handouts and welcome questions and discussion. Light refreshments will be provided. Call 412-622-1212 to sign up. Space is limited.

June 8

GARFIELD

Interviewing Strategies

Have you been to countless interviews without getting job offers? Come learn the best ways to answer behavioral interview questions, effectively use body-language, and avoid interview pitfalls. Attend this 1 pm workshop at ENEC, 5321 Penn Ave., to explore interview success strategies, practice your skills in a low-stress mock interview, and learn how to make the interview work for you. For any questions or to register, please call 412-362-8580 and ask for an ENEC representative. This workshop is also offered on June 22nd at 11 am.

June 10

LAWRENCEVILLE

Founder's Day

At 4 pm, join the New Bethel Baptist Church, 221 43rd St, in celebrating the work of the late founder Rev. Dr. LeRoy Walker Jr. in fellowship and worship.

June 11

Childcare Info Session

Come learn about two area businesses that work to strengthen families and support positive development. Every Child, Inc. provides an array of individualized services and specialized approaches to birth, foster and adoptive families and children through case aides, clinicians, and family support specialists and Kidsville Daycare provides top-rated daycare services from infancy to age 12. This session starts at 5:30 pm at the ENEC, 5321 Penn Ave. For any questions or to register- please call 412-362-8580 and ask for an ENEC representative.

June 12

GARFIELD

Digital Music Devices

Do you use an MP3 player or Apple device or even a mobile phone for your music? If you'd like to learn how to use either iTunes or Media Player or want to add/remove your music from your device, from 4 to 5:30 pm at 5321 Penn Ave., we'll walk through synchronizing your tunes. Bring your device with you, and we'll provide some help! Call for registration or details at 412-362-8580.

LAWRENCEVILLE

LU General Meeting

Lawrenceville United membership meeting, 6:30 pm, at Goodwill, 118 52nd Street. Please come to find out what's going on in your neighborhood. All are welcome. Call 412-802-7220 or email info@lunited.org with any questions.

June 13

GARFIELD

Doing What You Love

At this workshop, you will take a deeper look at knowing yourself, your interests, aptitudes, and teamwork styles, assess your pride experiences and potential barriers to success, and how these relate to your personal choice of careers, schools, and in-demand jobs. This workshop is from 6 to 8 pm at the ENEC, 5321 Penn Ave. For any questions or to register, please call 412-362-8580 and ask for an ENEC representative.

June 15

GARFIELD

Resumes that Work

Come learn how to make the best impression on a potential employer by designing an effective and eye-catching format, highlighting your experiences and skills, and avoiding common mistakes. The average recruiter spends only 20 seconds looking at your resume, so make it count! This workshop is at 1 pm at the ENEC, 5321 Penn Ave. For any questions or to register, please call 412-362-8580 and ask for an ENEC representative. This workshop is also offered June 29th at 1 pm.

June 16

LAWRENCEVILLE

Garden Tour

The Lawrenceville Garden Tour from 11 am to 4 pm is free and open to garden lovers everywhere. Tours start at the Lawrenceville Organic Community Garden, located in the Allegheny Cemetery near the Butler Street entrance. Free maps of participating gardens will be available then.

GARFIELD

Netbook Giveaway

Pittsburgh CONNECTS will be drawing the winner of a free Netbook computer at noon at 5321 Penn Ave. Between now and the contest, get an entry for: Signing up with us for the first time, bringing a family member or friend, attending a workshop; logging in once a day; following us on Twitter; Liking us on Facebook, or checking in on Foursquare! A cookout will be offered to celebrate the event. Come join us to see if you've won! Other prizes will be awarded. (Contestants must have registered and received a raffle ticket prior to June 16th.) Call for details: 412-362-8580.

June 18

GARFIELD

HomeInstead Recruiting

HomeInstead is seeking compassionate caregivers for one-on-one home care for seniors. No nursing cert. required but access to a car is strongly preferred. Call ENEC at 412-362-8580 to reserve a seat for the company presentation and pre-hire interviews taking place at 3 pm at 5321 Penn Ave.

McDonald's Recruiting

Interested in learning more about careers with McDonald's? Call 412-362-8580 to reserve your spot to meet with regional recruiters, learn about job opportunities, complete an application, and participate in a pre-hire interview at the ENEC, 5321 Penn Ave. at 10 am.

June 19

GARFIELD

Computer Gaming Night

Come to our first head-to-head youth gaming night from 5 to 7 pm at Pittsburgh CONNECTS, 5321 Penn Ave., where you can demonstrate your skills to others in competition. Frag your friends or do end runs around their poorly constructed defensive line, all while eating pizza. (Game to be determined.) Call for registration or details at 412-362-8580.

June 20

GARFIELD

Casino Info Session

Recruiters from The Rivers Casino will be at 5321 Penn Ave. at 5:30 pm to discuss hiring opportunities and the application process. Positions range from managerial to wait staff to food service. All enthusiastic, hard-working, and interested candidates should call 412-362-8580 to pre-register.

June 21

GARFIELD

Poetry Slam Workshop

If you want to participate in our Poetry Slam on July 6th, join us for an introductory workshop from 4 to 7 pm at Pittsburgh CONNECTS, 5321 Penn Ave. Taught by an MFA, this workshop will explore poetry slamming/reading, and give insight on creative expression! Use this time to start a piece, or revise something you already have with the help of our team. Culminate the event with a reading of your piece during UnBlurred on Friday, July 6th.

June 25

GARFIELD

Lights, Cameras!

From 2 to 4 pm, The LAB @ Assemble (5125 Penn Ave.) will show students age 6-18 how to mold clay into monsters, develop a story about their creations, and then use stop-motion video to visually tell their story. This event is free, but please call 773-425-1531 or email literaryartsboom@gmail.com to reserve a seat.

WPAHS Recruiting

Come join the Corporate Director of Talent Acquisition, Kyle Cato, and his team to learn about career options, job openings, and the application process at West Penn at 10 am at the ENEC, 5321 Penn Ave. Our neighborhood hospital is looking for passionate and dedicated people to join a growing team. Call 412-362-8580 to reserve a spot.

June

LAWRENCEVILLE

Block Watch Meetings

Join Lawrenceville United's monthly block watches to discuss public safety concerns, learn about

Sorry, we do not accept listings over the 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. **Announcements for the JULY issue are due FRIDAY, JUNE 15, via email submission to bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org.**

Volunteer Opportunities & Services

exciting development and issues in the neighborhood and more. All block watches meet at 7 pm; visit http://www.lunited.org/general_info.html for dates and locations.

Free Summer Camp

Free Summer Camp for Lawrenceville residents June 25th through August 3rd, 10 am to 4 pm at Arsenal Middle School, 3900 Butler St. Please email becky@lunited.org or call 412-802-7220 for more information.

Church Services

Come visit us at the Door of Hope Community Church, 5225 Holmes St, every Sunday at 11 am for our church service. We also offer Sunday school for all age groups, plus Christians in Recovery, at 10 am. We also have an Excellence in Relationships Study on Wednesdays at 7 pm. Pastor Rudy Coleman and all of us would love to meet you. For any additional information, please call us at 412-781-6440, email us at dohcc@dohcc.net or check out our Facebook page for our calendar and updates on activities.

HIGHLAND PARK

Hip Hop Dance Class

Hip Hop dance classes offered every Monday and Thursday at 6 pm in the Union Project, 801 N Negley Ave. All skill levels and drop-ins are welcome. Cost: $10 or pay what you can.

GARFIELD

Computer Literacy

Pittsburgh CONNECTS offers computer literacy classes in Microsoft Office as well as resume workshops and financial assistance opportunities. These programs are offered at 5321 Penn Ave., as well as other sites in East Liberty and Lawrenceville. Please call for registration or details at 412-362-8580.

Free Summer Camp

Looking for a great way to spend your summer? If you are between the ages of 6 and 12, consider Valley View Presbyterian Church's Freedom Camp at 601 N Aiken Ave. Freedom Camp will run 9 am to 2:30 pm, Monday through Thursday, June 25th-July 26th. Camp includes breakfast, lunch, academics, crafts, bible studies, weekly field trips and a variety of activities. Camp is free. Space is limited so sign up early. For additional information or to obtain an application, please call 412-361-0870.

Materials, Media, & Me

Every Saturday from June 2 through July 7, noon to 3 pm at Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave, $5 per class. Class themes include paper, recycled material, paint, metal, fabric, and electronic material.

Experi-Mondays

Literary Arts Boom [The LAB] is an explosively fun creative writing laboratory that operates out of Assemble in Garfield (5125 Penn Ave.). We offer free out-of-school programming to Pittsburgh youth, aged 6-18. Students practice and improve their inquiry and writing skills in a safe and unique space. The Mad Scientist theme encourages youth to explore, experiment, and invent. Mentorship and fun inspire students to find their voices and tell their stories. Join us from 4 to 6 pm for snacks, homework help, and inventive activities that involve writing, art, technology, and communication. For more information, stop by The LAB, visit http://on.fb.me/TheLAB, or email literaryarts-boom@gmail.com.

PNC Hiring Workshops

Every Tuesday at 10 am at the ENEC, 5321 Penn Ave., you can take the first steps toward your new career in banking as a teller, customer or financial service associate and sales consultant. Attend the full series of workshops and assessments, and gain a guaranteed interview if you're a good match and fit for a banking or finance career. For any questions or to register, please call 412-362-8580 and ask for an ENEC representative.

UPMC Hiring Workshops

Every Thursday at 10 am at the ENEC, 5321 Penn Ave. Gain an interview with UPMC by going through the Workforce Readiness and Retention (POWRR) Hiring Workshops. UPMC has many career options every day (over 1500), and this ENEC effort will bring you right to UPMC and also has guaranteed interviews for successful candidates who match job and hiring needs and pass the POWRR steps and job requirements. For any questions or to register- please call 412-362-8580 and ask for an ENEC representative.

School Credit Recovery

Every Wednesday from 6 to 9 pm at the ENEC, 5321 Penn Ave., all youths 14 to 23 are invited to attend youth-specific workshops. This month: features NovaNet credit recovery, an online application for current high school students to retake missing credits toward a high school degree. We provide first-time users with login information and current users the opportunity to continue. Call 412-362-8580 for registration or details.

GED Open Preparation

Mondays and Fridays from 11 am to 2 pm is dedicated time to come and work on your GED with the Access 21st Century GED preparation program. Study preparation software with practice tests assists you in earning your diploma. Although this time is set aside for GED use, computers can be accessed to study at any time M-F from 9 am to 9 pm, and weekends from 12 to 6 pm. Offered at Pittsburgh CONNECTS, 5321 Penn Ave. Call to sign up via message: 412-567-3891.

Adult Computer Lessons

On Mondays, 1 to 2 pm, come and learn the basics of computers. Bring any questions and our Hands-OnTech staff will be here to answer and teach you the basics of using a computer. Offered at Pittsburgh CONNECTS, 5321 Penn Ave. Call to sign up via message: 412-567-3891.

H.S. Afterschool Help

Mondays 5 to 9 pm (until the end of school) are dedicated open session for 9th -12th grade students to complete end-of-year assignments and work on final test preparations. Although this time is set aside for study, computers can be accessed to study at any time M-F from 9am - 9pm, and weekends from 12-6pm. Offered at Pittsburgh CONNECTS, 5321 Penn Ave. Call to sign up via message: 412-567-3891.

Internet Basics

On Wednesdays from 12 to 1 pm, learn about the possibilities the Internet can provide through basic navigation skills and how to use the Internet to your advantage. Offered at Pittsburgh CONNECTS, 5321 Penn Ave. Call to sign up via message: 412-567-3891.

Computer ABCs

On Wednesdays from 3 to 4 pm, discover the basics of the computer, from clicking the mouse to saving and attaching files. Offered at Pittsburgh CONNECTS, 5321 Penn Ave. Call to sign up via message: 412-567-3891.

Homework Session

Tuesdays 5 to 9 pm (until the end of school) are open sessions for students K-8 to complete end-of-year homework and research, and prepare for finals. Parents and guardians are welcome to come and assist students, or use computers for personal use while with their children. Although this time is set aside for study, computers can be accessed to study at any time M-F from 9 am - 9 pm, and weekends from 12-6 pm. Offered at Pittsburgh CONNECTS, 5321 Penn Ave. Call to sign up via message: 412-567-3891.

EAST END

Parenting Warmline

Family Resources offers a confidential parenting warmline at 412-641-4546. The warmline provides information, referrals, and support for any non-medical parenting concern and answers from 9 am to 9 pm, Monday through Friday, and 1 to 5 pm Saturday and Sunday.

Ongoing

BLOOMFIELD

Tool Library

Have tools you'd like to share with your community? Old, rusty, neglected equipment kicking around that needs a good home? Want to join the sharing economy? For $30/yr, gain access to equipment for home renovation and gardening, bike repair, computers, sewing and quilting, food preservation, seed saving, and lots more. Become a member and help make this idea a reality! See us at facebook.com/PghToolLibrary or email pghtool@gmail.com.

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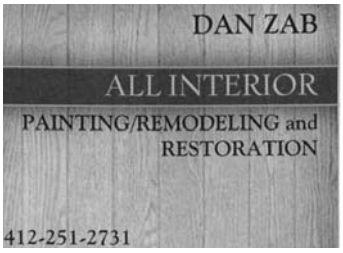

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Artists Collaborate to Create BFG Gallery

By Christine Bethea *The Bulletin*

Garfield – "Anything for the artists," quipped John Edgos, owner of the Big Fat Greek (BFG) Cafe at 5335 Penn Avenue, acknowledging the expansion of his restaurant into a gallery featuring local art.

Genuinely humble, Edgos rushed back to his front counter to take food orders. He didn't want to talk much about the business that took him five years to open, so he could get things "just right." Still, there is much to be talked about. Surfing the Internet, anyone can see BFG's great reviews. But Edgos also gets praise for the art on the restaurant's walls, created entirely by Pittsburgh artists.

"Offering his space has helped sell a lot of local work," said artist Susan Wagner, who supervises the café's gallery. "John believes in Pittsburgh art." That's something the visual arts community wishes all city businesses would do, just as they support the Steelers and the Penguins.

Wagner just happened to be passing BFG when she and a friend stopped for lunch. To their delight, Edgos pulled up a chair to join them for a friendly chat. "You need something on these bare walls," Wagner suggested, then asked if Edgos would drop by her studio in Friendship to take a look at some of the paintings she had done. While Wagner is best known for her bronzes of popular Pittsburgh sports figures, like Roberto Clemente in PNC Park, she has a fine hand with a paintbrush as well.

Enthusiastic, Edgos quickly took some pieces from her collection, and soon BFG was populated with Wagner's work. The artist said she was pleased to be showing her art, but in true Pittsburgh fashion, wanted to share opportunity. Soon she was contacting other artists, even jewelry designers, to showcase their work at BFG.

"I change the work on the walls as often as I can," Wagner said. "I sometimes call artists, but more often than not these days, they contact me."

Every artist would want to be part of this artistic collaboration. BFG has great light and walls perfect for large, sprawling canvases, as well as niches for more scaled-down work. Currently showing is art by two artists: Cemeon and L.J. Swiech.

Cemeon resides in Polish Hill and was raised in Russia, trained by his father and grandfather in the creation of iconography. The manuals he uses to inspire his work date back 600 years.

"There is a ritual before painting the biblical-based images and saints," he explained. "You have to bathe and fast, taking no food or water." Certain prayers must be said as he paints. In addition, he cannot sign his work. There can be no ego involved in creating holy art, he explained.

This technique has taken Cemeon – who claims that use of his last name would be vanity – a lifetime to perfect. Mixing the paints he uses, which are all made from natural sources, such as crushed rock or herbs, can only be done a little at a time. The several pieces of iconic art showcased at BFG are truly masterful.

BFG's other featured artist, L. J. Swiech, paints in an entirely different fashion. He creates high-impact, digital prints that practically smack viewers in the face with stunningly brilliant color. Mostly self-taught, Swiech uses photography to "collect pixels" for his work, then throws them into an Adobe Photoshop cocktail. He said his work is influenced by abstract expressionism, surrealism and music, and reflects ever-changing social and physical environments.

Both Cemeon and Swiech's work can be viewed and purchased at BFG for the next few months. For more information, call 412-661-2345. ♦

ABOVE: Artists L.J. Swiech, Susan Wagner and Cemeon in front of BFG Cafe. Photo by Christine Bethea

Support Community Change

Have you noticed all the changes in our neighborhoods? New homes, new businesses, new rental developments, a new public computer center… Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation members helped make them possible!

It's a fact – membership in the BGC helps to achieve growth and renewal in Bloomfield, Garfield and Friendship, bringing about meaningful change in the lives of our residents. Since June 2011, for example, membership donations helped accomplish the following:

• Construction of 5 new single-family, for-sale homes in Garfield, bringing to 44 the number completed with our partner, Garfield Jubilee Association, since 2002;

• The start of construction on Garfield Glen, 45 single-family houses for rent to working-class households, beginning this summer;

• Operation of MainStreets Program for Penn Avenue that produced public artwork and beautification projects, and filled 4 vacant storefronts with new entrepreneurs;

• Opening of Pittsburgh CONNECTS, a free community technology center on Penn Ave.;

• Placement of 45 teens and young adults in part-time jobs with area employers;

• Continuous interaction with law enforcement authorities through monthly meetings of the Public Safety Task Force;

• Redesign of our free monthly community newspaper, *The Bulletin,* to generate a larger readership and make it a more in-depth, vibrant forum for the exchange of information.

Please consider investing in your community by becoming a member of the BGC, at whatever level you can afford. Thank you in advance for your support of our work.

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

YES! I want to reinvest in my neighborhood through membership in the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation:

$10 $20 $30 $50 Other $ _____

You can direct your donation to a particular program, or allow us to use it in the area of greatest need by leaving the following program buttons unchecked:

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