In 1986, a vacant commercial laund-ry at Penn Avenue and North Atlantic was converted into Champion Commons, a first-class office building – and the first million-dollar investment on Penn Avenue since the 1960s. In the years since then, some of its tenants have includ-ed Garfield CISP (Community Intensive Supervision Program) and The Neighborhood Academy, a pri-ivate, college-preparatory school for grades 8 to 12.

Now, the building at 5231 Penn will be welcoming a new tenant – Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC has signed a lease on offices at Champion Commons, and plans to move several of its programs there in early 2012.

“We’ve outgrown the Drake Building,” Ellie Medved, Vice President of Ambulatory & Crisis Operations, told The Bulletin about the space they currently occupy on Liberty Avenue. She added that no significant build-out has to be done to Champion Commons. “The space works for us already.”

The offices will house about 200 staff in several of Western Psychiatric’s community-based behavioral health programs – those in which staff actually go out into the field instead of having clients come to the office. “The offices will be for staff meetings, checking in, document-ation, other traditional office activi-ties,” Medved explained. “But staff will spend the majority of their time out in the community.”

The services centered at Penn Avenue will include: Mobile Medication, in which nurses and peer support teams visit people in recovery to make sure they are taking their medications; the Neighborhood Living Project, which helps the home-less find housing; and the Community Treatment Team, consisting of doc-tors, nurses and social workers who provide treatment out in the field. The offices will also be home base to Service Coordinators, a team of sup-portive staff who help clients with set-ting goals for recovery. Medved said that a few clients a day might actually come to the building, but that the vast majority of their time will be spent out in the community.

See CHAMPION, page 11
Are We the Losers in the War on Drugs?

By P.J. Maloney
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation.

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation has arranged a community meeting on October 17, asking this important question: Are we, the tax-paying, law-abiding citizens, the losers in the “War on Drugs?”

Although the current U.S. drug policies have been in effect for 40 years, we still see almost daily media reports of drug busts and violence on the streets of our neighborhoods. Many of us witness drug-related mayhem regularly right in front of our homes. We know the routine: call the police, the police come, the druggies scatter, the police leave, and the druggies return. While many of our young men and women are in jail, others have been killed or maimed, and the street violence continues unabated with the drug culture as prevalent as ever. There has to be a better way.

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation board of directors wants to help find a better way. After much discussion and debate, the BGC board passed a resolution last month urging a community dialogue. Here’s an excerpt:

“We believe drug policy significantly affects the health and safety of our neighborhood and its residents. We encourage open debate, discussion and education about drug policy, with particular attention to the conclusions of the Global Commission on Drug Policy...We suggest that this education and discussion could include...the scheduling of a community meeting...”

“We hope that our neighbors who are concerned about drugs and drug violence will join us at the community meeting so we can discuss our problems and work together toward creating a solution,” said BGC board member Eileen Kraus-Dobratz, whose efforts were the catalyst for the board resolution. She said she was inspired by Tony Norman’s June 3rd column in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

The Global Commission on Drug Policy report was compiled by a group of internationally recognized policy experts including George Schultz, U.S. secretary of state during the Reagan administration. The report includes a long list of recommendations, among them replacing criminalization and punishment with the offer of health and treatment services; and creating government-sponsored models of legal regulation of drugs designed to undermine the power of organized crime and safeguard the health and security of citizens.

But Kraus-Dobratz emphasized that the BGC is initiating this community dialogue with no preconceived notions. “We want everyone to go into this process with open minds and a determination to identify problems precisely so we can discuss possible solutions without rancor.”

There seems to be consensus on at least one point: current policy isn’t working and street violence associated with the drug culture is a community-wide concern.

“Illegal use of drugs is compromising the integrity of many families, exposing children to constant danger, and driving up the costs of our criminal justice and corrections’ systems,” said Aggie Brose, BGC deputy director and chair of its Public Safety Task Force. “We know of police officers, prosecutors, and judges who are frustrated by the laws as they exist today, and how they tie up valuable resources that could be better deployed to achieve safer communities. The police arrest the dealers and users, the system has no room for them and cannot reform their behaviors, and they are back out on the street in no time.”

Kraus-Dobratz said she is hopeful that the October community meeting will be an important first step in energizing public support for a revised government policy that will have a positive impact, while redirecting the flow of billions of tax dollars away from enforcement and interdiction programs that don’t work.

“I want our neighbors to give us their personal opinions and personal stories, and their ideas,” she said. “We all need to come together on this issue.”

Community Meeting on Drugs and Drug Policy

When: Monday, October 17
Where: Morningside Church of God in Christ, 5173 Dearborn Street
Time: 7 p.m.

Confirmed Panelists:
Jonathan Caulkins, CMU Professor; co-author of Drugs and Drug Policy: What Everyone Needs to Know (2011)
Rev. David Else, founder and Director Emeritus of the Center for Spirituality in Twelve Step Recovery
Commander Tim O’Connor, Zone 5, Bureau of Police
FRESH FACES FOR PENN FAÇADES

By Joshua Barsczewski
The Bulletin

This fall, two venerable Penn Avenue institutions will receive much-needed facelifts, courtesy of a grant from Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, PPG PITTSBURGH® Paints, and The Home Depot through Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful’s Fresh Paint Days Pennsylvania Program. The two storefronts are Kraynick’s Bike Shop at 5003 Penn and Richard Rappaport’s studio at 5120 Penn.

Jason Sauer, owner of Most Wanted Fine Art and the Events and Volunteer Coordinator for the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative, chose the two storefronts to apply for the grant because of their visibility and historical significance.

“Kraynick’s gives back to the community and it’s such an old shop in need of painting. I believe it’s important for the legacy of Penn Avenue,” he said. He anticipates that repainting Rappaport’s studio will be an easier task but still said, “It could use some help.”

Sauer’s application was chosen as one of 10 projects to receive paint and funds. According to the award letter, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful received 48 applications. The project will receive paint directly from PPG PITTSBURGH® Paints. The Home Depot provided a $200 gift card in order to purchase additional supplies for the projects.

Additionally, Sauer will be using separate funds to coordinate two other paint jobs on Penn Avenue: his own gallery and Bob’s Auto at 4808 Penn. He has about 30 volunteers lined up, but needs more. Painting will take place on October 9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please contact Sauer at mostwantedfineart@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping to paint or provide further supplies.

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Neighborhood Academy Leaves
Garfield for New Campus

By Joshua Barsczewski
The Bulletin

The construction of The Neighborhood Academy’s new campus on N. Aiken in Stanton Heights is nearly complete. Classes started in mid-September for the academy’s 70 students, with the new campus capable of accommodating a total of 120 students.

The school offers its students science labs; a chapel for prayer, assembly and drama productions; a full kitchen and cafeteria complete with a fireplace; an “art shelf” to display student and teacher artworks; a large art studio that includes a pottery kiln; and a full gymnasium and indoor soccer field in a separate athletic building.

The soccer field is essential to the school’s financial sustainability, explained Melissa McKrell, Development Officer. “After many feasibility studies, we found that if we had a campus with an indoor soccer field, we could rent it out to other groups and organizations when our students aren’t using it,” she told The Bulletin. “That will contribute to meeting our bottom line.”

The campus also boasts a bioswale, a landscape element that removes pollution and silt from runoff water, keeping up with the school’s theme of sustainability.

The interior of the building was designed to be light, airy, and spacious, based on an idea put forth by President and Co-Founder Jodie Moore: that students learn better in an open environment. In keeping with that idea, all classrooms have retractable glass walls facing the interior hallway.

The architect was Thomas Wippenbeck from Burt Hill, a firm located in Butler, Pa., that specializes in educational facilities. Other projects by the company include the expansion of Canon-McMillan High School and a major renovation of Sewickley Academy.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY’S NEW CAMPUS INCLUDES AN INDOOR SOCCER FIELD, AVAILABLE FOR RENT TO OTHER SCHOOLS AND GROUPS.
Opportunities Abound for In-School and Out-of-School Youths

By Joshua Barsczewski
The Bulletin

On Tuesday, August 30th, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and the Neighborhood Learning Alliance held a meeting for students and parents from University Prep at Pittsburgh Millennium 6-12 at the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center to discuss afterschool programming and opportunities for recent graduates.

Mike Baltzer, who directs the Out-of-School Youth Employment Program for the BGC, spoke first. He said, “The program’s purpose is to help people ages 17 to 21 discover employment opportunities.” Those enrolled in the program receive one week of training focused on employment search skills such as resume writing and creating cover letters, followed by monthly training sessions on topics such as financial literacy and entrepreneurship, as well as certificate courses such as Microsoft Word and Customer Service. Participants are then matched with a worksite and work 25 hours each week at $7.25 an hour.

In order to participate, applicants must have a high school diploma or GED, be a City of Pittsburgh resident, and fall within income parameters set by the federal Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines. Rick Flanagan, BGC’s Youth Director, said, “The perfect candidate is a young person fresh out of high school who is a little bit lost in life.”

Mary Bray, the in-school coordinator of Community Works, spoke next. Community Works provides academic support, resume help, and job placement. Participants must be between the ages of 15 and 18, be currently enrolled in high school, and have parents who qualify for cash assistance through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Those enrolled in the program must take the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) examination and participate in BGC’s Community Learns program.

Next up, José Rodriguez of the Neighborhood Learning Alliance described Community Learns as a program that will help UPrep students get free academic help, including interventions and tutoring tailored to students on an individual level. The afterschool program also offers NovaNET Credit Recovery to help students regain credits from failed classes. Rodriguez stated, “Our goal is that no kid goes from one year to the next with unfinished credits.”

Flanagan then opened up the floor for questions. One man noted that similar programs in the past have not been utilized to their full potential. The Bulletin

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation holds its monthly board meeting on the second Monday of each month at 5321 Penn Avenue, starting at 7 p.m. These meetings are open to the public.
Garfield a better place to live and invest. Common themes emerged: “I wish Garfield had a better reputation”; “I want an authentic place...I want an affordable life”; “I want a clean and safe neighborhood”; and “I don’t want Garfield to become Friendship.”

From 400 ideas generated by residents and potential in-comers, cityLAB identified six main priorities that kept cropping up: to make Garfield (1) more visible, (2) an entrepreneurial hotbed, (3) a creative place-making can seed economic development by expanding entrepreneurship to both arts and non-arts related businesses.

4. Expand the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative. Although we’ve heard that the people of Garfield appreciate the arts, we have also heard that the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative could be better connected to Garfield. How can the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative be expanded to have greater success or failure of 6 Percent Place will depend on neighborhood involvement, Picker said.

cityLAB will host a Brainstorming Session on Tuesday, October 4, at 6 p.m. at the BGC’s Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Avenue in Garfield. If you are excited about the future of Garfield, come out to hear 16 great ideas for Garfield, share some ideas, and be part of the planning and brainstorming.

14. Bike Incline. A bike incline would connect Penn Avenue to the Garfield hilltop. A bike incline runs along the curbside, lifting cyclists up a hill at 3 or 4 mph. A bike incline was installed 15 years ago in Trondheim, Norway, and has been a big success: 14,600 people, or 9 percent of the town’s population, use it annually. Although bikes are probably more prevalent in Trondheim than Pittsburgh, the East End has perhaps the highest bicycle usage in Pittsburgh, making Garfield an excellent place to try this experiment.

15. Girl Cabs. Girl Cabs would be a women-only taxi company. There are many such companies around the world. Their goal is to provide safe rides for women and flexible jobs for women with families to look after. One such company, Viira Cabs of Pittsburgh, making Garfield an excellent place to start from,” but ultimately the success or failure of 6 Percent Place was featured. "The students have a body of work to start from,” but ultimately the success or failure of 6 Percent Place will depend on neighborhood involvement, Picker said.

2. BBQ Cook-Off. A BBQ cook-off could accomplish many things. Family-friendly, it would promote neighborhood. At the same time, it might attract people into Garfield – everyone loves BBQ. It could also support budding entrepreneurs and teach them how to start a food-based business.

3. Dream Property Database and Guide. The vacancy that residents have complained about can also be viewed as an opportunity: vacant lots and buildings, foreclosures, and inexpensive properties for sale are dreams come true for people in expensive cities. Will we attract some new residents if we create a database that simplifies the search for property?

4. Expand the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative. Although we’ve heard that the people of Garfield appreciate the arts, we have also heard that the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative could be better connected to Garfield. How can the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative be expanded to have greater appeal? Can the people of Garfield take ownership in it and make it stronger than it is now? Creative place-making can seed economic development by expanding entrepreneurship to both arts and non-arts related businesses.

14. Bike Incline. A bike incline would connect Penn Avenue to the Garfield hilltop. A bike incline runs along the curbside, lifting cyclists up a hill at 3 or 4 mph. A bike incline was installed 15 years ago in Trondheim, Norway, and has been a big success: 14,600 people, or 9 percent of the town’s population, use it annually. Although bikes are probably more prevalent in Trondheim than Pittsburgh, the East End has perhaps the highest bicycle usage in Pittsburgh, making Garfield an excellent place to try this experiment.

5. Community Internet Radio. Neighborhood residents spoke of having no “voice.” One way to provide a voice could be launching an Internet community radio station. Internet radio remains unlicensed and is relatively easy to get started. A very small space is required along with a group of people dedicated to ensuring consistent programming. Equipment costs approximately $25,000.

6. Dearborn Street Market. This market would include antiques, secondhand goods, handmade goods and locally grown fruit and vegetable stalls. It would bring visibility, creativity, and entrepreneurship to Garfield. It should be located on a problem block to encourage family friendliness and to “take back the block.” Vendors would be a mix of locals and outsiders, to encourage diversity and to learn from each other.

Bikes on Broad. Currently, Pittsburgh’s bike map bypasses Garfield. While routes on Bike Pittsburgh’s maps are only suggested, it’s unlikely that bicyclists will choose a route not marked. Our goal should be to put Garfield on the map. To that end, a permanent route, with a great bicycle/pedestrian environment, could be planned.

8. Exercise Parks. China has it right. Exercise equipment is dotted throughout the urban landscapes of dense Chinese cities, available for everyone to use. People both young and old gather to use the facilities, stay fit, and socialize. Many Garfield locals commented on the lack of facilities for exercise; could the neighborhood try a free exercise gym like this?

9. 6% Space. There are many vacant and discarded properties in Garfield – more than can be quickly converted into affordable housing. We propose finding alternative uses for these properties that encourage in-migration and private investment. Could Garfield incentivize rapid development through ideas like these?

10. Housing That Sets Garfield Apart. The goal is to create affordable housing solutions for the Garfield community that do more than just provide a roof over someone’s head. Well-designed housing could set Garfield apart. A memorandum of understanding has already been developed between Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Architecture and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation to design and build a series of affordable houses that take another approach to what Garfield’s new housing stock might look like.

11. Tiny Housing. Tiny housing is another way to provide affordable housing. Small equals cost-efficient. There is a growing “tiny housing” movement in the United States. We’d like to look at what these innovative and creative little houses might mean to Garfield.

12. Kid Cafe. Create a space for youths, managed and programmed by them. Programming should be creative, with music and the arts. Young people should be in charge. This will be difficult to implement, but worth trying. With the high percentage of youths in Garfield, a place for and by young people could provide many benefits.

13. Garfield Hilltop Park. The BGC’s Garfield’s 2030 Plan suggests the topography of Garfield should be respected. In keeping with this plan, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation is looking at ideas for assembling enough land to allow the neighborhood to develop the hilltop park.

To become involved in any of these projects, or to find out more, email info@citylabpgk.org, or call 1-866-PGH-CITY.
full potential because teachers were not in contact with the afterschool program directors. He expressed concern that there will be a similar disconnect in the future. He said, “You need to have time to sit and meet with teachers—don’t wait for the end of the semester to see that a student is failing.”

Rodriguez and Flanagan both expressed optimism about the future, stating that UPrep has an extremely helpful counselor and principal who will see to it that students get all the help they need. Flanagan assured the audience, “They will work with us on internships, academic support, career development programs, and organizing other collaborative partners such as Hill House and Oakland Planning Development Corporation.”

Although the programs are open to students from any neighborhood, Flanagan said, “The ideal candidates are from 15224 and 15206 zip codes.” For more information about any of these programs, contact the BGC’s Youth Development Center at 412-441-9833.
Blasier Urban and East Liberty Development, Inc. are working together to bring the Odeon Building, a theater/office space, to East Liberty.

In the neighborhood’s heyday, East Liberty had at least seven theaters. Then in the 1960s, with urban renewal, many local businesses, including movie theaters, left. Thus, the Odeon Building development will bring back a piece of the neighborhood’s history in a new way.

“Movie theaters are one of the great things about East Liberty’s history that are no longer here,” said Nate Cunningham, director of real estate for East Liberty Development, Inc. “What better place for a movie theater than on Main and Main,” he added, referring to the building’s location on corner of Penn and Highland Avenues in the heart of the neighborhood.

The Odeon Building is an $18 million project that will redevelop the site of a former PNC Bank branch and some adjacent structures into a two-level complex featuring an 8,000-square-foot restaurant, and 60,000 square feet of office space. Developers are hoping to capitalize on growth in the neighborhood over the last decade. “A movie theater represents a great anchor to the entertainment district that we are creating in East Liberty,” said Cunningham.

The cinema in the Odeon will be run by Spotlight Theatres, a Georgia-based company. Spotlight uses state-of-the-art equipment and techniques. “Spotlight’s approach to digital projection, premium theater experience, flexible programming and a restaurant integral to the theater was the perfect mix for the diversity and demographics of the East End,” said Cunningham.

Not only will the theaters handle digital projection of movies, but they also have the capability to show other entertainment like sports or live theatrical productions on screen. For those businesses in the office space looking for conferencing options, one of the theaters will be able to accommodate video conferencing and meetings.

The office space is an important part of the development. International companies like Google, located just down the street in Bakery Square, and local small businesses and start-ups working together at the Beauty Shoppe, a collaborative workspace, have proven that the East End is ripe with opportunity for business and growth.

Cunningham hopes that the Odeon Building will bring in residents from all over the neighborhood and the city. “We think that East Liberty is the natural work/play hub for the surrounding East End neighborhoods,” he said.

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By Margaret Graham
East Liberty Development, Inc.

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The term “busy” comes to mind when describing Jason Sauer, an artist, educator, and gallery owner. In a soft-spoken tone, the Garfield resident agrees, “I’m very busy.” This month, Sauer’s hard work was noticed by *Pittsburgh Magazine*, which chose to honor him as one of its annual “40 Under 40” Pittsburgers.

Out of 160 candidates, an independent panel of judges selected the 40 winners based on “passion, commitment, visibility, diversity, and overall impact on the region,” according to Pittsburgh Magazine’s website. Winners this year include professors, non-profit administrators, business executives, and other artists.

East End residents may know Sauer best as the owner of Most Wanted Fine Art, a gallery at 5015 Penn Avenue. Each month, Sauer hangs new works by local and international artists in time for Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn, the avenue’s popular monthly gallery crawl. For the October show, Sauer will be hanging his own works – some of which were lying uncompleted on the gallery floor during our interview. He is showing his own pieces not for self-promotion, but in celebration of his six-year anniversary as a Garfield resident.

Although Sauer downplays his community service by calling it “basic” and “low-key,” he admits that he wishes he had someone who would help alleviate some responsibilities. He said, “I’m hoping some young grad student wants to come help with the workload.” If his past and present activities are any indicators, though, he would only use his potential spare time to start more projects, volunteer with more organizations, and make himself even further invaluable to the city he loves.

**SAUER WITH ONE OF THE ARTWORKS, “LOVE IS A SKULL ON A BIKE.”**
Garfield Resident Realizes Dream with Published Poetry

by Caitlin Cleary
Bulletin Contributor

“Every single poem in here is loved and hated by two different people,” Lucille Seibert says regarding her recently published book, The Unattended Kitchen Sink, meaning that she thinks her work touches something in different personalities. First published in spring 2011, this compilation of 176 poems is the culmination of years of writing. Seibert recalls her interests in reading and writing that began as a child.

As a child, Siebert read the works of Robert Louis Stevenson, which she says ignited her love of poetry. “I never thought I was capable of writing like him, though,” she asserts. At 7, she realized a new talent of reading poems herself. “It was before dinner. I said to my brother, ‘Can’t we ask Mom to read to us?’” To her surprise, her mother told her that she could do it herself.

Even with these early experiences, Seibert claims she did not consciously decide to become a writer. At 18, she began her college career at Northeastern University in Boston. Originally a biology major, she says she could not deny her interest in poetry. She bought her first poetry book while in Boston and recalls turning the pages thinking, “I want this someday.” Eventually, she moved to Pittsburgh and transferred to CCAC as an art major.

A Garfield resident since the 1980s, Seibert says she has everything she needs in the immediate area. “From Winebiddle to Evaline, I can shop at Artica or Awesome Books and get a quick meal at Spak Brothers.” In 1987, she found a poetry workshop and “that’s when things really began picking up.”

Seibert says she “designed this entire book” cover to cover. In fact, the front cover features a quilt design that she hopes to replicate in the form of a real quilt. The overall geometric design seems to lend itself to the structure of the book, she remarks. The poems work just fine on their own, but combined in the book, they create something much different. The title of the compilation comes from one of the included poems. Seibert says she picked it arbitrarily, solely based on its interest factor.

She asserts that she “did not mean to be autobiographical” in her poems, but they just came to her that way. Seibert’s friends say that their favorite poem is “All You Ever Wanted to Know About the Cookie but Were Afraid to Ask.” Also noteworthy is “I Am the Young Maple,” which employs vivid descriptions.

Even after a book launch at Awesome Books on Penn Avenue, Seibert says, “It still has not hit me that this book exists” – and she is, finally, a writer.

The Unattended Kitchen Sink is for sale at Awesome Books, 5111 Penn Ave., or University of Pittsburgh Book Center, 4000 5th Ave. You can also find it at www.claassen-langer.com.

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The Bulletin will be unveiling an eye-catching new design in the November issue, thanks to a working partnership of community groups and funding from the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development (PPND).

In 2008, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, publisher of The Bulletin, joined with other East End community organizations to form an alliance called the East End Partnership. Collectively, these organizations have been seeking to promote more livable communities through collaborative planning, programming and investment. In addition to the BGC, the partnership has included Lawrenceville Corporation, East Liberty Development, Inc., Friendship Development Associates, Bloomfield Development Corporation, and Lawrenceville United.

“The thinking is that, through collaborative efforts, Pittsburgh’s East End can be a powerful driver for economic development in the region through the next decade and beyond,” explained Rick Swartz, executive director of the BGC.

One of the main areas of collaboration has been a revamping and expansion of The Bulletin, which has undergone some redesign in its 36-year history, but never a complete overhaul. The BGC and Lawrenceville Corporation worked closely together to revamp the paper.

The redesign, created by Nium studio, includes a new front page that better utilizes four-color printing and features teasers of major stories. The interior pages will also get a fresh look. For example, readers will find the popular Bulletin Board section easier to navigate, with listings laid out according to dates and neighborhoods.

A new feature called “Neighborhood Focus,” to be compiled monthly by Patrick Bowman, Lawrenceville Corporation’s marketing and communications coordinator, will appear in the centerfold, profiling an interesting person or organization from one of the five neighborhoods covered by the paper. It will also include a real estate feature, showcasing some available properties in the East End.

Once a quarter, Neighborhood Focus will highlight an event or activity that promotes civic engagement. To this end, a new program, “The Bulletin in Sight Grants,” will offer $100 to $1,000 to applicants who want to coordinate special, mappable events such as walking tours, scavenger hunts or urban farm tours. Watch the November issue for the debut of this feature with a map of “Reblurred,” available exclusively in The Bulletin.

For more information about these new grants, contact Bowman, at 412-621-1616 x 102 or patrick@lawrencevillecorp.com. The grants are made possible by funding from First Niagara Bank, Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group and PPND.

“The redesign of The Bulletin is part of a multi-year East End marketing initiative that wouldn’t be possible without hard work from both the BGC and Lawrenceville Corporation’s boards and staff, and our committed partners at PPND,” said Matthew Galluzzo, executive director of Lawrenceville Corporation.

“The BGC’s board is thrilled with the redesign and new features,” said P.J. Maloney, chair of the BGC’s Communications and Marketing Committee. “These changes will take our venerable community newspaper into the 21st century and make it an even stronger asset.”

Management of The Bulletin will remain the same, with editor Paula Martinac still at the helm and Martin Pochapin continuing as ad rep. Bowman will come on as associate editor, and Bulletin intern Joshua Barszewski, a University of Pittsburgh senior, will be working on the transition team this fall.

In addition to the redesign, future plans include expanding the physical reach of The Bulletin further into East Liberty and also into Larimer, by raising the print run from 20,000 to 25,000. The page count may also increase.

If you regularly read The Bulletin, the free monthly East End community newspaper published by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation since 1975, you can show your support by becoming a BGC member or renewing your membership online... for as little as $10! Just visit www.bloomfield-garfield.org, click on “Donate / Become a Member,” and follow the easy instructions for paying either via PayPal or by check. Two options - two easy ways to support your community newspaper! We hope you will join us in our commitment to bringing news and information to neighbors throughout Bloomfield, East Liberty, Friendship, Garfield and Lawrenceville.
by Willa Paterson
Three Rivers Community Foundation

From October 13 to October 15, the Senator John Heinz Regional History Center will host a conference entitled “Building Change: A Convergence for Social Justice.” The goal of this conference is to advance social justice and change in our region and world by creating stronger networks with and awareness among our neighbors, community organizations, and media outlets across the Southwestern Pennsylvania region.

The conference will feature more than 40 workshops and forums that will address crucial social issues relevant to today's society, such as neighborhood violence, prison reform, Marcellus Shale drilling, healthcare reform, the affordable reform, Marcellus Shale drilling, neighborhood violence, prison reform, and many others. There will also be skill-building workshops on grant writing, social media, filmmaking, corporate and legislative advocacy, and effective organizational models. The workshops will be led by experienced professionals.

On Thursday, October 13, there will be a youth component, Youth Leading Change. Approximately 350 high school students will be creating community service project plans during the day with local nonprofits. Some local examples include Tree Pittsburgh, who will be working with youths to host a service project, and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and Neighborhood Learning Alliance, who will also be bringing youths from their programs. Thursday evening kicks off the adult conference with a keynote address by renowned activist, economist, and environmentalist Winona LaDuke. Ms. LaDuke was Ralph Nader's running mate in the 2004 presidential election and is the founder and executive director of Honor the Earth, a non-profit whose mission is to provide education about environmental issues.

On Friday and Saturday, one can choose from the many workshops including “Meet Your Progressive Grantmaker,” hosted by the Garfield-based organization The Sprout Fund. There will also be an opportunity to mix and mingle with more than 40 organizations in the Social Justice Marketplace and hear local experts discuss the innovative work they are doing in their communities.

Check out Friday evening’s Pathways to Change: Performances and Awards to find out who this year's Champions of Change will be. The Three Rivers Community Foundation’s Grantees for 2010 and 2011 will be honored. Notable organizations from the Garfield area include the Garfield Community Farm, New Voices Pittsburgh: Women of Color for Reproductive Justice, and Persad Center. The event concludes Saturday afternoon with attendees working together to create an action plan for social justice in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Finally, come to the Building Change Film Festival, which begins October 12 and runs until October 16. Films will be screened at the Point Park University GRW Theater, Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12, the downtown Hampton Inn, the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, and the Andy Warhol Museum. The festival will feature both local and international films that deal with issues of social justice. Viewers will have the opportunity to have a discussion with the filmmakers after each screening.

Visit www.buildingchangewpa.org today to register and see the full schedule of events. Prices are $5 to $10 per day. Evening sessions are $10, and need-based scholarships are available.

Mainstreets Memo

by Rich Engel
Mainstreets Manager

Optimus Technologies opened its first location at 4820 Penn Avenue on September 1 of this year, but they have been around in one form or another since 2005. CEO Colin Huwyler started the biodiesel company as Fossil Free Fuels in Buffalo, N.Y. in 2005. Two years later, they moved to Braddock, Pa., where Fossil Free still operates, collecting waste oils and processing them into biodiesel. Optimus is a three-person spinoff, converting commercial and industrial vehicles to use biodiesel.

Optimus has used Vector retrofit technology to convert two heavy vehicles for Global Links, five for Pittsburgh's Department of Public Works, and one for Giant Eagle. Optimus's pilot project with one of Giant Eagle's tractor-trailers began 30 months ago, and its success means a new project of conversions for 10 trucks based out of Butler, Pa. The company is in talks with the University of Pittsburgh as well.

“The system is a manifold, a heat exchange and a computer,” said Huwyler. “A converted truck's engine starts and stops using regular diesel fuel from a smaller tank, but runs on biofuel in between, from the main tank. There's nothing new or different for the truck operator to do.” Vector heats the biofuel and fuel filter after the vehicle starts, and clears all the biofuel out after the truck's ignition is killed, crucial for engine maintenance in low temperatures.

Fossil Free Fuels continues to thrive in Braddock, collecting oils from 18 Giant Eagle branches, among many other city location. They will be opening four fueling stations in the next year in Duquesne, Braddock, South Side, and Larimer, next to the Department of Public Works' Division 2 facility. Ordinary drivers of diesel cars and trucks can apply for a fleet card to use the stations.

At 4820 Penn, some rehabilitation is already underway. Optimus is going to screen and glaze the east-facing windows, and repair parts of the roof of their new 7,000-square-foot space. Until now, they shared 9,000 square feet with Fossil Free Fuels in Braddock and had a small Oakland office. “It's a little more work than we anticipated,” said Huwyler, “but great to have our own space.”
Pittsburgh CONNECTS

A collaboration of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, and the Neighborhood Learning Alliance, Pittsburgh CONNECTS, a new technology center at 5321 Penn Avenue, has a brand-new schedule of community events, classes, workshops, and more. All events are free. Anyone can come to do homework, communicate with friends, make a budget, find a job, or do just about anything online with our 20 computers. For more information and to RSVP, call 412-362-8580.

Weekly Events:

Computer ABCs: Every Wednesday at 3 p.m., learn about computers in an entry-level class. Designed for beginners of all ages. RSVP to reserve your seat.

University of Pittsburgh Student Nurses Association: Every Tuesday from 6 – 9:00 p.m, nursing students will be on-hand to help you learn to use the Web to find health information.

Special Events:

Computers Classes: “10 Things You Don't Know about iPads,” October 7 at 6 p.m.; “PC/Mac Repair,” October 11 from 12 – 4 p.m.; “Internet Basics,” October 26 at 1 p.m.; “Microsoft Excel Basics,” October 27 at 2 p.m.

Personal Finance 101, with PNC’s Paul Winston: Ask an expert questions about checking and saving accounts, balancing a checkbook, and more. October 14 at 2 p.m.

Online Banking 101, with PNC’s Clarence Jackson: Explore the world of online banking, virtual wallets, fund transfers, and more. October 19 at 6 p.m.

Online Publishing, with Walt Fortson: Learn how to turn blogs, poems, songs, and short stories into an online book. October 20 at 5 p.m.

Invoicing for Non-Profits, with Stephen MacIsaac of the Neighborhood Learning Alliance and Jeffrey Boykin of Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation: Learn how to run a non-profit organization. October 29 at 6 p.m.

Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System (PNCIS) Information Session: On October 27 at 6 p.m., PNCIS will provide timely and valuable property information to individuals and organizations working to improve communities in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. Receive free access to the PNCIS website after attending this training session.

Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center

Looking for work? Feel your resume is out of date? Find all the online application forms confusing? Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center is here to help. ENEC is free and will help you learn to write resumes, interview, and keep a job after being hired. ENEC works closely with UPMC, Children’s Hospital, and PNC Bank to make it easier for you to get employed there. Enroll in one of our partnership programs today and receive free job readiness training and advice to getting your foot in the door at some of Pittsburgh’s largest employers. This October, ENEC is hosting a number of events to suite your needs.

Weekly Events:

PNC Partnership Workshop: Every Tuesday at 10 a.m., learn about career opportunities with PNC Bank’s partnership program.

UPMC/Children’s Hospital POWRR Workshop: Every Thursday at 10 a.m., learn about career opportunities with UPMC and Children’s Hospital. ENEC help you apply online.

Special Events:

Pittsburgh Police Career Information Session: Have you ever wanted to serve your city as a police officer, fireman, or EMS professional? ENEC will help you take the first steps towards one of these careers on October 5 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Call 412-362-8580 for more information.

Holiday Application Days: If you’re looking for extra cash during the holiday season, visit ENEC from October 17 to October 27 from 3 – 6 p.m. for job readiness training and assistance applying online. Seasonal jobs at Target, Whole Foods, Marshall’s, and other stores are available. Representatives from hiring stores will be on-site. Please call 412-362-8580 for exact dates.
The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, announcements, fundraising events, and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Send announcements to Bulletin@bloomfieldgarfield.org by the 15th of each month. We do not accept listings over the phone. Listings published on a space-available basis.

UNBLURRED: OCT. 7

The first Friday of each month, from 6 to 11 p.m., galleries and venues in the Penn Avenue Arts District (4800-5500 Penn Avenue) open their doors and showcase a variety of artwork and performances. Guests will experience new art and meet the most eclectic array of art-makers, old and young, modern and classical, famous and amateur, emerging and veteran, all within walking distance of each other. For a complete list of participating venues, visit http://is.gd/unblur online.

A PLACE TO BELONG

Come visit us at the Door of Hope Community Church, 5225 Holmes Street, Lawrenceville every Sunday at 11 a.m. for our church service. We also offer Sunday school for all age groups, plus Christians in Recovery, at 10 a.m. For additional information, please call 412-781-6440, email us at doorofhopecommunitychurch@verizon.net or check out our Facebook page for our calendar and updates.

YOGA ANNIVERSARY CHALLENGE

Yoga Hive invites you to celebrate its one-year anniversary by committing to do yoga every day for 30 days. Yoga Hive Studio is located at 5491 Penn Avenue. For more information, visit www.yogahivepgh.com.

VISIT LAWRENCEVILLE HOMES

The 2011 Lawrenceville Hospitality House Tour is Sunday, Oct. 2. The tour starts at noon at the Butler Street entrance to Allegheny Cemetery. It is self-guided, but transportation is available through Lenzner's Transportation Company. Advanced tickets are $12 and are available at Perk Me Up, Jay Design, Gallery on 43rd, Dandelions, CoCa Café, and Pavement. Tickets purchased on the day of the tour are $15. The event concludes at 5 p.m. Volunteers to act as docents are still needed. For more information, visit www.lawrencevillehousetour.org.

CREDIT AND BUDGET COUNSELING

Counselors from NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania will be serving clients at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Avenue, every Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m to offer private and confidential sessions on credit counseling and repair, budgeting, foreclosure counseling, home buyer counseling, and financial education for adults and youth. For more information, call 412-281-9773.

LECTURE BY LOCAL WRITER

Gary Rogers, president of the Oakmont Historical Society and author of Tales from Our Town: The Allegheny Valley, will share stories from his book on Thursday, October 20, at 7 p.m. The book is a collection of true stories from the lower Allegheny Valley that have been "lost" to history. The free event is at Canterbury's McVey Auditorium at 310 Fisk Street in Lawrenceville.

ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Holy Name Society of Our Lady of Angels Parish will sponsor its annual pancake breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The breakfast will be held at the Saint Augustine Social Hall at 220 37th Street in Lawrenceville. The cost is $5 for adults and $3 for children aged 12 and under. Proceeds benefit Our Lady of Angels Parish and other local charities.

STUDENT PUBLISHES STORY

Cody Stokes, a junior at Career Connections Charter High School, has a short story coming out in the upcoming Ralph Munn Creative Writing Anthology 2011: Allegheny County High School students' book. Stokes' humorous story, entitled "Ugh Nrr Grugknack: The Eternal Quest of a Crack Addicted Zombie for his Fix," explores the effects of drugs. The story was submitted for consideration in the 2011 Ralph Munn Creative Writing Contest, a contest for all Allegheny County 9-12 students. The complete anthology can be found in local libraries.

MASTER PLAN FOR UPMC SHADYSIDE

UPMC is inviting the public to attend a community meeting to discuss development of a master plan for the UPMC Shadyside campus. The event will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 4, at 6 p.m. in the West Wing Auditorium of UPMC Shadyside. No RSVP necessary.

SPECIAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP

The Mental Health America-Allegheny County will host a free workshop for special education students aged 14 to 21 and their parents. Topics for discussion include parental rights, disability culture, pride, and self-advocacy within the educational system. Light refreshments will be provided. The workshop is at the East Liberty Branch of the Carnegie Library, 130 S. Whitefield Street, at 5:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided. RSVPs are preferred. Contact lcowan@mhaac.net or 412-661-7860 x 2018.

SENIOR FAIR

State Representative Dom Costa is holding his 2nd annual senior fair Thursday, October 27th, from 9 a.m. to 12 at the Cherry City Volunteer Fire Company, 309 Davis Avenue, Pittsburgh 15209. Free admission, free flu shots, free health screenings and much more. Light refreshments will be served.

EVENTS AT ASSEMBLE

What's going on at Assemble, 5125 Penn Avenue, in October? Make a dragon kite that lights up the sky during a workshop with Via on October 5. Kites are equipped with LEDs that light while the kite flies. Learn how to use DRAWDIO. Using DRAWDIO technology, you can create art that allows you to play music. Workshop will be held October 5. The "This is NOT Art" exhibit by J.D. Whitewolf explores the definition of art and its difference from design. Opening night is October 7 from 6 to 11 p.m. The exhibit runs until October 30. Come watch a movie while creating things on October 14. $5 suggested donation. For more information about any of these events, contact assemblepgh@gmail.com.

MANIFEST: DO!

Learn how to be more productive in what you do by getting organized and getting in control. Come for a talk at Assemble, 5125 Penn Avenue, on October 13 and receive a free guide designed to help Pittsburghers get their lives in order to do great work. RSVP at tinyurl.com/SwfrzX6.

CALLING ALL TODDLERS

The East End Cooperative Ministry's Community Stress Center is offering programs throughout the month of October. Programming such as "Ask the Pharmacist" and Free Zumba Classes are occurring to help you reduce stress and maintain your physical and mental needs. For more information, call Pamala Pyle at 412-383-5137.

TUTORS NEEDED

Neighborhood Learning Alliance (formerly Wireless Neighborhoods) needs tutors for its afterschool programs. Candidates who wish to work with at-risk kids should be available between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m. and be strong in reading or math. Compensation is $13 - $15 per hour. This is a part-time job. If you are interested, please email your resume and schedule to: delivuk@wirelessneighborhoods.org.

LOW-COST INTERNET FROM COMCAST

Qualifying families can get monthly Internet access for $9.95. This service is available to low-income families in Pittsburgh with children who are eligible for free lunches under the National School Lunch Program. Participants will also receive a voucher for a $149.99 computer, a complementary Norton Security Suite, access to free digital literacy training, and a 30-day money-back guarantee. For additional information about the program, call 1-855-846-8376 or, for Spanish, 1-855-765-6995.
**Diabetes Expo**

On Saturday, November 5, the American Diabetes Association Expo and the WTAE TV Healthy 4 Life Expo will be held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Presented by Giant Eagle Pharmacy, this free, one-day health and wellness event showcases the latest products and services for people with diabetes, healthy living, and four anchor areas: “Living Better Screenings,” sponsored by Walmart; “Healthy Eating,” sponsored by Giant Eagle Pharmacy; “Have Fun/Get Active”; and “Youth & Family Zone.” For more information and to pre-register, log onto the website at: Diabetes.org/EXPOPITTSBURGH.

**Carnegie Library Happenings - October**

**Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - East Liberty Branch**
130 S. Whitfield St. 412-363-8274
Mon-Wed, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Thurs-Sat, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
**All programs are free; please call to register**

**Family Study Buddies**
For students grades K-5.
Wednesday, Oct. 5, 6:30 p.m.

**Baby and Me**
For parents and children birth-2 years.
Thursdays, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, 10:30 a.m.

**Terrific Tales for Toddlers and Preschoolers**
For ages 2-5.
Fridays, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, 10:30 a.m.

**Kids Create: Origami**
For all ages.
Saturday, Oct. 15, 3:30 p.m.

**Where’s the BIG Idea? Math and Science for Pre-schoolers**
For ages 3-6 with an adult.
Wednesday, Oct. 26, 6:30 p.m.

**Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Lawrenceville Branch**
279 Fisk St. 412-682-3668
Mon-Tue, 12 to 8 p.m.
Wed-Thurs, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
**All programs are free; please call to register**

**Teen Time**
For middle and high school teens.
Wednesdays, Oct. 12, 19, 26, 4 p.m.

**Afterschool Recess**
For grades 2-5.
Thursdays, Oct. 13, 20, 27, 4 p.m.

**Pajama Party Storytime**
Monday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m.
Children are welcome to come in their PJs and bring their favorite stuffed animal for bedtime stories!

**CLP-Lawrenceville Film Discussion Club**
Tuesday, Oct. 11, 6 p.m.

**Friends of CLP-Lawrenceville**
Second annual art auction.
Saturday, Oct. 22, 6 p.m.

**Save The Date - The BGC Turns 35!**

You won’t want to miss the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation’s 35th anniversary celebration – a special luncheon on the theme “Determined” at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association, December 2, 2011, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

What makes this event “special”? And why is the BGC “determined”? This year’s keynote speaker, Tom Murphy, former mayor of Pittsburgh and current senior resident fellow at the Urban Land Institute, will talk about how to continue to create strong, sustainable communities in the face of slashed budgets. Anyone who got to know Murphy during his 12 years in office remembers his determination to remake parts of the city regardless of the challenges he faced. His epic battles with those he considered wedded to the past defined him as a visionary, and the testaments to his work are everywhere in Pittsburgh – North Shore ballparks, Southside Works, EastSide shopping mall, the David Lawrence Convention Center.

As an added feature of the program, the BGC will highlight the Penn Avenue arts district with a “micro-gallery crawl” and silent auction, showcasing the determination of local artists in bringing creativity and innovation to the historic corridor. The luncheon will also honor a few of the pioneers of Garfield, including two trailblazing gallery owners and one of the first people to purchase a house in the Garfield Home Ownership program.

Also on tap is a message from Sen. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) and a performance by The Neighborhood Academy West African Drum and Song Ensemble. All this and a three-course lunch, too – and the inimitable style of emcee P.J. Maloney of KQV Radio.

Watch your mailbox for advertising and sponsorship information, and for invitations to the special anniversary luncheon. Individual tickets are $60. For more information about how you can be part of this event, contact Aggie Brose at 412-441-6950 x15.

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**Verde Mexican Kitchen & Cantina**

**Hiring Event!**

If you are interested in joining Team Verde, contact the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (412-362-8580) by Oct. 7th to register and apply. Applicants will not be interviewed without registration.

Visit www.VerdePGH.com/blog to learn more about Garfield’s newest restaurant!
With no fancy storefront to draw attention to it, and an average-size door punctuated with discreet white lettering, Chop, WOK & Talk at 5404 Penn Avenue appears to be like any other street-level address. But go one flight up and activity abounds. That’s where Dorothy Tague reigns over her cooking queendom as the instructor who has taught nearly 1,000 classes over almost nine years.

“I guess we do look low-key,” said Tague, a Highland Park resident who captivates her students with her encyclopedic knowledge of food facts and straight-faced humor. For example, she once told a class, “Always remove the stems on these expensive shiitake mushrooms…they know the stems are inedible, yet they insist on selling them to us by the pound!”

Tague’s mentor and the inspiration for her cooking school was Anna Kao, owner of Anna Kao’s Chinese Cooking in Fox Chapel. However, Tague’s interest in cooking goes back further. Her mother used to throw parties for 50 to 100 people and little Dorothy, barely in the third grade, would help peel potatoes and clean shrimp for the events. As the years passed, cooking became more of a hobby than a career choice. Tague taught middle school and married a man with a successful fundraising business. To her horror, she soon discovered her chosen life partner was a plain “meat and potatoes” man. “Any attempts to break him out of the mold were useless,” Tague sighed, “I only got to practice the more exotic menus on special occasions and during holidays.”

It was her boredom with cooking regular meals that ultimately led her to Anna Koa. Due to Koa’s extreme popularity, Tague had to wait for four years before she got off the waiting list and began her first cooking class. All totaled, she took 56 classes and mastered over 300 Asian recipes. When Koa had to cut back her teaching to attend to her sick husband, Tague began to take classes at Pittsburgh Institute of Culinary Arts.

“I found I liked this one particular cooking program,” she said, “It was made for hobbyists like me. We didn’t have homework and no tests.”

Things were about to change in her own life as well. After 30 years, her husband’s business was downsizing. And a chance visit by guests from San Francisco got Tague thinking a bit differently about her cooking passion. It seemed they couldn’t find an Asian restaurant they liked, so after eating Tague’s Chinese cooking, they encouraged her to open a restaurant. She didn’t jump. Being a restaurant owner was something her mentor had loathed. She contemplated her own background as a former middle school teacher and decided to try teaching cooking as an alternative. The empty space in her husband’s building was easily transformed into her laboratory, and word got out quickly. “Word of mouth is so good, I rarely advertise,” Tague confessed, pointing out that her classes are always full. Her students come from all over the Three Rivers region. When executives from other countries come into town to work for the universities, she will often get the occasional student from foreign countries. Once, a Japanese executive sent his wife to keep her socially active and to improve her English. “But I’d love to see more people from Bloomfield, Garfield and Friendship,” Tague said tongue-in-cheek.

Dorothy Tague’s classes have also taken her off-site to places like Highmark, where they have used cooking as a teambuilding exercise. The hands-on process can be very much like a relay. As Tague calls out ingredients, students scurry to comply, snapping up whisks, chopping scallions and searing meat.

Chop, WOK & Talk also offers private parties. Everything is done in one night – perfect for people with busy schedules. The available courses revolve every so often to keep things fresh. For more information, call 412-362-067 or visit chopwoktalk.com.