Neighbors Raise Issues with Family Dollar  
By Paula Martinac  The Bulletin

Bloomfield/Garfield — A small group of neighbors who say their quality of life has been impaired by living in close proximity to the Family Dollar store located at 5160 Penn Ave. met with representatives of the developer. Protestors on both sides of Liberty met with repre-See page 7
Thank you! The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation would like to acknowledge its NPP partners, PNC Bank and Allegheny Valley Bank. Thanks also to BNY Mellon, Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, The United Way, Dollar Bank, Citizens Bank, and all of The Bulletin’s advertisers.
Garfield – On July 24, more than 100 residents turned up at the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center to get tips on snagging a job with West Penn Allegheny Health System (WPAHS).

The event was hosted by the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) in collaboration with Neighborhood Learning Alliance, East End Works, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), BGC Pittsburgh CONNECTS, the City of Pittsburgh, Boys and Girls Club, Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development and Lawrenceville United.

The morning presentation in Garfield was repeated on the evening of July 26 in Lawrenceville at the Boys and Girl Club on Butler Street.

According to Kyle Cato, WPAHS’s Corporate Director of Talent Acquisition, “90 percent of our jobs are not clinical.” That means applicants without any medical training are still in demand for many hospital jobs, especially if they have skills in areas such as IT, marketing, food service, maintenance, business, human resources, legal and medical records.

WPAHS recruiter Liz Smith reviewed the basics of using the electronic application system. First, applicants must visit www.wpahs.org/careers/apply, where they fill out basic information about themselves. They then need to upload a cover letter and current resume as a text file or PDF. People can hunt and apply for specific jobs at certain hospitals within the system, or search more generally throughout WPAHS.

Cato explained the importance of key words to applicants’ resumes. The computer-based system actually scans resumes for words that address an applicant’s skills, such as “UNIX” (if they have IT experience) or “food service.” He also emphasized the importance of having multiple resumes tailored to available positions; when it comes to applying for jobs, one size does not fit all.

“We get about 9,500 resumes a month,” Cato stated, “and recruiters can only spend 30 or 35 seconds on each.” Key words that highlight experience and target skills for a specific position can pull a resume up during one of these searches and grab a recruiter’s attention.

In addition, electronic applications are preferred over paper resumes and letters. Cato advised, “Don’t spend your money on expensive stationery and stamps.”

Rick Flanagan, manager of the ENEC, noted that applicants can access computers and receive help honing their resumes at the ENEC office, 5321 Penn Ave, a space the organization shares with Pittsburgh CONNECTS, a free computer lab run by the BGC. “You’re trying to get the attention of a computer that scans for words,” Flanagan said. “ENEC can help you so your resume stands out.”

As of this event, WPAHS had about 535 job openings, according to Cato. ✤

Voting in Pennsylvania Just Got Harder

By Paula Martinac The Bulletin

Pittsburgh – The Nov. 6 general election will soon be here, and because this year is a presidential election, the stakes are high. In order to vote in Pennsylvania, you must be registered by Oct. 9, 2012.

In addition, this year voters will be required to present a valid photo ID, so you may need to take steps now to avoid being turned away from the polls in November. If you’re confused about Pennsylvania’s new voter ID law, you’re not alone. Although this law is facing a legal challenge in the courts, you should be prepared to show an ID in November, pending the outcome of an appeal to the state Supreme Court. You will need to show a photo ID with an expiration date, including any of the following:

• Pennsylvania driver’s license or non-driver’s license photo ID (PA driver’s licenses and non-driver’s photo IDs are valid for voting purposes 12 months past the expiration date)
• Valid, unexpired U.S. passport
• Unexpired U.S. military ID – active duty and retired military (a military or veteran’s ID must designate an expiration date or designate that the expiration date is indefinite). Military dependents’ IDs must contain an expiration date and must not have expired.
• Unexpired employee photo ID issued by federal, Pennsylvania, county or city governments.
• Unexpired student photo ID from an accredited Pennsylvania public or private institution of higher learning, including Pennsylvania universities, colleges, seminaries, community colleges and private two-year colleges. Your ID must contain your name and photo, and have a current expiration date.
• Unexpired photo ID cards issued by a Pennsylvania care facility, including long-term care facilities, assisted-living residences or personal care homes.

If you don’t have any of these forms of ID, you are entitled to get one free of charge at a PennDOT Exam and Photo Center; the closest center to our neighborhoods is located at 708 Smithfield St., downtown. The office is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. (At press time, the AAA West Penn Auto Club in East Liberty said they would not be issuing these photo IDs.)

In addition, State Sen. Jim Ferlo’s office recently unveiled an online tool that helps voters determine if they have acceptable ID for voting. The “Voter ID Quiz” walks users through a series of yes or no questions, provides documents for download and offers direct assistance for those who need an ID. Visit www.senatorferlo.com/voterID to take the quiz.

For more information about photo IDs, call toll-free 1-800-932-4600, visit www.votespa.com or email RA-VOTERIDQUESTIONS@pa.gov. ✤
Local Program Helps Youths and Community

By Kathryn Vargas  Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield – How did you get your copy of The Bulletin today? If you picked it up from one of the 120 drop-off locations in the East End, your paper was hand-delivered by participants of Garfield CISP.

Garfield’s Community Intensive Services Program (CISP) is part of a larger Allegheny County program established in 1990 as a restorative justice model in which juvenile offenders seek to repair the harm caused by their transgressions. Over the past 22 years, Garfield CISP has certainly made an impression on the community. The delivery of The Bulletin is only one of many ways the program has had an active presence in the community.

As an alternative to juvenile detention for low-level male offenders, CISP’s model is centered on building character, the social and emotional growth of participants and good citizenship. Each day, CISP participants spend six hours working with staff in group therapeutic sessions, academic and job readiness workshops, manhood development and volunteer activities. CISP’s staff members are all adult men from similar neighborhoods and backgrounds as the youths. These men serve as mentors to the young participants. “Our staff can really identify with the youths and are role models to show them that no matter where you are coming from, positive decisions lead to positive outcomes,” stated Dion Dupree of Garfield CISP.

Participants selected for the program are court-mandated to participate in CISP activities and complete anywhere from 50 to 100 hours of community service. Giving back to the community is a very important part of the program, and Garfield CISP has embraced this wholeheartedly. CISP participants volunteer with a host of local organizations and community groups – the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Mount Ararat Church, Missionary Temple Church and the Center for Victims of Violence and Crime are a few local examples. CISP is also responsible for a number of the local trash pick-ups and vacant lot restoration projects. They volunteer to maintain local parks and participate in community events like the annual Garfield Holiday Party for kids in December.

As CISP evolves further, it will continue to address some of the challenging aspects of the program, said Dupree. “The young men still face a number of challenges,” Dupree noted. “Many have trouble getting initial work placements because of their background and on top of that it is also likely that the young men owe restitution from $50 to $500, depending on the case.”

CISP is currently working on developing an internship initiative that would give participants volunteer hours with businesses that may later agree to hire the young people after a term of service. This would ensure that participants are well prepared to exit the program with a solid, work-ready background.

“The biggest challenge for our young men is to have an optimistic view of the future. They feel that the life they live is the only life to be lived, and it is our job to move that mindset and provide a routine and structured environment to ensure that they do not become repeat offenders,” stated Dupree. A big component of providing that inspiration and the example of better ways to interact with community is to expose youths to the work world and prepare them to be productive members of society.

Garfield CISP is always looking for new ways to partner and engage with local businesses and organizations. If you are interested in more information about the program or in getting involved as a volunteer or work site, please contact James Tucker, Garfield CISP Program Coordinator, at 412-243-6886.
Proposed Redevelopment of Lawrenceville Church Moving Forward

By Carolyn Ristau The Bulletin

Lawrenceville – E Properties and Development approached the Lawrenceville Planning Team in the spring with a proposal for redeveloping the former Holy Family Church, 250-256 44th St., into apartments. After several community meetings, many residents surrounding the property continued to express strong opposition to the development.

The Lawrenceville Planning Team consists of representatives from Lawrenceville United (LU), Lawrenceville Corporation (LC), the Lawrenceville Stakeholders, Councilman Patrick Dowd’s office and Pittsburgh Department of City Planning. The planning team works with developers to “steward the community plan and steward good development in Lawrenceville,” said Lauren Byrne, executive director of LU.

“The community plan isn’t explicit [on projects like this],” said Matthew Galluzzo, executive director of LC. Therefore, the planning team encouraged E Properties and Development to meet with the community, but with the caution that residents would be concerned over the density of the site.

The Holy Family Church site consists of a church building, school, parish house and parking lot. The plan that E Properties and Development and Landmark Design Associates (LDA), the project architect, developed after feedback from multiple meetings with LU, LC and the Lawrenceville Planning Team called for a total of 73 units in the three buildings, 88 parking spots for cars and 21 for bikes. This would require building two additional stories on the school and an additional parking level. When presented to 120 local residents on July 20, the community expressed strong opposition to this plan. Some concerns expressed were related to public safety, particularly for pedestrians, with the increase in cars in the area, the density of the site and the ratio of parking spaces to units.

As a result of these concerns, E Properties and Development removed the project from the City’s Zoning Board of Adjustment agenda and worked with LU and LC to set up four smaller community meetings and a fifth “report-back” community-wide meeting. Emeka Onwugbenu, CEO of E Properties and Development, explained that at the meetings “what was important for us was what [the residents] wanted. We believe in transparency in development.”

Byrne said that at the community meetings E Properties and Development presented alternative plans “to see if they address the initial concerns voiced.” The first alternative plan proposes 59 units complemented by 42 parking spaces for cars.
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 September 12 at 4 p.m. at the BGC’s Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave.

Letters Policy: Send letters to the editor by the 15th of each month to bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org. Letters must not be longer than 200 words; we will edit for length, spelling and grammar. The Bulletin reserves the right to reject inflammatory or anonymous letters. Please include your full name and neighborhood, which will be printed in the paper.

Dear Editor:

I was delighted to see that the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) board voted to work toward finding a way to move away from marijuana prohibition to a regime of strictly regulated legalization of the sale and use of marijuana for adults, similar to the way we regulate alcohol. [“Is It Time to Legalize Marijuana?” The Bulletin, August 2012]

The harms of keeping marijuana illegal vastly outweigh the harms that would be associated with a regulated, sane approach, which lets consenting adults have legal access to marijuana. Prohibition has been wildly unsuccessful at its goal of preventing marijuana use, and has been wildly successful only at creating crime where none need exist.

Although some may see the BGC’s quest to end marijuana prohibition as “quixotic,” recent national public opinion polls consistently show a majority of the population actually supports taxing and regulating the sale of marijuana to adults (otherwise known as “legalizing” it). Three states (Oregon, Colorado and Washington) will be voting on whether they will move to legalize the sale and use of cannabis this November, and 17 states currently have some form of legal access to marijuana for medical use. So the BGC is actually quite in step with the times.

I hope other mainstream community organizations in Western Pennsylvania, and from around the entire state, join the BGC in promoting an end to this 21st century prohibition. Kudos for common sense.

Jonny Goldstein
Garfield

Dear Editor:

We hire, elect people to work for us, resolve the problems in our neighborhoods... Sincere thank you to Mayor Ravenstall for “Love Your Block.” [“Garfield Receives ‘Love Your Block’ Grant,” The Bulletin, August 2012] Garfield has returned to a nice area that it was in the past.

Now ask the mayor to ‘Love Our Block,’ the 4900 block of Rosetta Street. City employees ignore our block, as if there is no Rosetta Street in this city. We are here, and will stay. We need help.

Lovella Svetich
Garfield

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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 September 12 at 4 p.m. at the BGC’s Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave.
sentatives of the store on July 23, at a meeting facilitated by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC).

Camille Turner, the store’s new manager, and her senior-most assistant manager, Danielle McCorkle, attended the meeting to discuss the neighbors’ concerns and ways to abate them. The BGC leafleted to invite all the nearby neighbors to the meeting. Members of three households brought their concerns to the table, and one nearby neighbor who could not attend sent a detailed list of issues in an email to Aggie Brose, the BGC’s deputy director.

Chief among the issues were parking lot maintenance, truck deliveries, lighting and noise. Turner, who has been with the store just two months, expressed her willingness to bring any concerns she and her staff could not address themselves to her District Manager.

Some problems, like the fact that the parking lot needs repaving and the gates to the dumpster are broken and hanging open, are the responsibility of the landlord, Oakland Real Estate. “The gates are an eyesore,” remarked Brose. Turner said she is aware that the dumpster should be behind the gate and securely locked in, because outsiders are using it for illegal dumping; she vowed to make sure the District Manager brings it to the landlord’s attention.

Neighbors further reported they can hear loud announcements over the store’s intercom system over televisions and air conditioning units in their homes on S. Pacific Avenue. The intercom sounds off at all hours, even after the store is closed; one neighbor said her young children can recite the message by heart. Turner promised to speak to the security company about turning down the volume.

In addition, Turner said she would look into the issue of an excessively bright spotlight and store sign that never dim, even after hours. A resident who lives across the street noted she has had to put up blackout curtains to help mitigate the light.

Neighbors also addressed the problem of truck drivers who mow down street signs and run up over curbs. According to one report, a driver slept in his cab all night on the street with the air conditioning running. Additionally, although drivers are supposed to make their deliveries to the store at 6 a.m., they sometimes arrive as early as 4:30 a.m. and leave their motors idling until the manager arrives just before 6 o’clock.

While one neighbor asked if the store could use smaller trucks than the big 18-wheelers, Turner said the size of the trucks could not be changed, given how large the Penn Avenue store’s delivery is and how many stores the individual trucks serve. But she said she can direct the drivers not to arrive before the scheduled time, and not to park on the street, which is illegal.

Participants also hatched out the possibility of improving the landscaping of the lot with the addition of trees, plants and fencing or screening. Turner said she does not deal with landscaping, but would find out who in her parent company handles it for the branch stores. Brose raised the possibility of the BGC applying for street trees through TreePittsburgh, and added that additional landscaping and trees might help soften the noise. She also said she would contact the City about adding more trash cans to the perimeter of the property, to discourage littering.

The meeting adjourned after an hour, with the understanding that Turner would keep the BGC in the loop on her findings and progress, and report back within 30 days on which issues can be resolved and in what manner.

At press time, no changes had yet been implemented at the store, not even short-term improvements.

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Mapping Out a Safe, Healthy East End

City Moves Forward with Transportation Plan

By Carolyn Ristau  The Bulletin

East Liberty – Can Pittsburgh become an 8/80 city? According to Patrick Roberts, transportation planner in the Department of City Planning, that’s a city where “ages 8 and 80 would be safe on their own” using various modes of transportation. Roberts talked about this goal at the fourth MOVEPGH workshop last month. Safety was one of the main themes recurring throughout the workshop along with connectivity, choices and health.

City Planning is designing MOVEPGH to plan for future transportation development and address congestion and transportation modes. MOVEPGH is one of 12 components that will make up Pittsburgh’s first-ever city-wide, comprehensive plan. This plan will guide the city’s growth and development over the next 25 years. The fourth and final MOVEPGH planning workshop was Aug. 6 through 8 at the East Liberty branch of the Carnegie Library.

This MOVEPGH workshop focused on the East End of Pittsburgh. Amaris Whitaker, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) intern at City Planning, described the three-day workshop as “public planning: planning sessions open to the public.”

Consultant groups and individuals worked with City Planning employees and community members to identify current transportation issues and assets as well as possible future solutions. The design team consultants were Dr. Catherine Ross, a transportation consultant, and Joan Stein, an ADA consultant, and Aecom, Alta Planning & Design, Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc., John J. Clark and Associates, LaQuatra Bonci Associates, Trans Associates and Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

“You can’t build your way out of congestion,” explained Roberts. Instead, “[You] increase the number of modes” people can choose from and make them safer. These modes include walking, biking, driving and taking public transit.

The meeting room where the workshop took place was filled with maps. Some of the maps were purely informative, showing information such as the current congestion levels of Pittsburgh streets, the demographics of the city and transportation problem areas already identified, including missing connections in roads, trails or sidewalks.

Community members could write their own comments on some maps. These comments included “good bike lanes” on Liberty Avenue and “bad potholes” on Negley Avenue that make driving and biking difficult. Additional comments highlighted particular intersections that needed crosswalks or new or better signals to improve the safety of pedestrians crossing the street.

The consultants worked with other maps focused on specific parts of the East End. Using tracing paper, they designed alternatives to the current conditions, which they overlaid on the existing street grid. The consultants welcomed comments from the community regarding their designs.

In addition to working with the maps, community members were invited to join biking and walking audits of the East End led by Alta Planning & Design. The walking audit focused on East Liberty while the biking audits visited the northern East End neighborhoods on Aug. 6 and the southern East End neighborhoods on Aug. 7. Alta used these audits to experience the actual conditions for biking and walking in the East End and to gather community input.

Dr. Ross talked about streets where “bikes, cars and transit can share space and be safe.” She also discussed the need to increase connections and “safe travel choices” that “support independent living and aging in place.”

Phil Goff from Alta presented several potential projects developed over the course of the workshop. These included making Negley Run Boulevard a two-lane road and converting the remaining space for bicycle and pedestrian traffic; adding a contra-flow bike lane on the one-way block of Friendship Avenue in East Liberty so bicycles can travel safely in the opposite direction of traffic; and putting all parking on Hamilton Avenue on one side to make room for bike lanes.
East Liberty – On Aug. 2, East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) led a circulation and mobility vision meeting, part of a larger process to create a vision document outlining East Liberty’s transportation needs and goals. East Liberty’s 2010 Community Plan included scattered references to transportation and accessibility, but lacked a dedicated discussion of the neighborhood’s transportation vision.

Loralyn Fabian, program manager at ELDI, monitored the vision meeting and presented the introduction. She contrasted the redevelopment projects of the 1960s, when the community did not have a say, with the current era, when the community is consulted. Fabian said the Aug. 2 meeting brought together the “experts who live, work and play” in the East Liberty area for “the chance to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood.”

Previous to this community meeting, a technical committee comprised of regional professional experts in circulation andmobility compiled lists of the key users, assets, issues and goals of the neighborhood. The community members at the Aug. 2 meeting went through these lists, marking those items they agreed with and adding their own suggestions. This process was also used for a list of community values consolidated from the 2010 Community Plan.

The lists dealt with broad terms and issues applicable to the whole neighborhood. The existing issues identified by the technical committee included “crosswalk lights inaccessible to sight-impaired,” “poor vacant storefront conditions,” “lack of infrastructure maintenance,” “lack of bike and pedestrian connectivity and within, park systems” and “traffic congestion.”

The meeting was designed to discuss only neighborhood-wide issues. The format did not provide the opportunity to address specific issues such as the poorly designed intersection at Target that endangers pedestrians.

The information gathered from this meeting and the technical committee will shape a final circulation and mobility vision document. This document is online at www.eastlibertypost.com/circulation_mobil.ity. Fabian said it was available for public review and comment from Aug. 20 to 31 with the final draft accessible after Sept. 1. Contact Fabian at 412-361-8061ext. 28 for a hard copy of the circulation and mobility vision document.

Fabian explained that this document will be shared with developers and planners working in the neighborhood so they “incorporate better infrastructure” in their projects. ELDI will also submit it to City Planning to be folded into MOVEPGH, the transportation component of the city’s comprehensive plan (see related story, page 8).
East Liberty – Every first Saturday of the month, I try to set aside time to volunteer with Open Hand Ministries (OHM). I got involved because of my interest in revitalizing Pittsburgh’s vacant properties. OHM rehabs homes in Garfield and East Liberty for low-income, first-time homeowners with the assistance of volunteers. The use of volunteers is crucial to keep the houses affordable for the new owners.

This summer, OHM is working on a home in East Liberty for a single mother with three children. The house is more than 100 years old and had previously been converted into a multi-family unit. Now OHM is restoring it to a single-family dwelling and adding improvements such as spray foam insulation and higher ceilings in the attic.

Every first Saturday of every month, volunteers of all skill levels are invited to lend a hand in preparing the house for its new owner. Skilled volunteers are also needed every Wednesday. For more information on volunteering with OHM, email Michael Stanton, OHM executive director, at mstanton@pts.edu.

I am a part of helping a deserving family own its own home. In addition, I always meet new and interesting people and learn new skills. In August, I learned how siding is installed from the ground up and therefore the best way to take it off is from the top down. In July, I learned three new words—“parget,” “trowel” and “hawk”—as we covered the stone walls in the basement walls with cement. This is called pargetting. We each used a trowel and hawk to apply cement.

“[You’re] learning something along with creating something habitable from a derelict building,” said Jack Jessup, a fellow volunteer, about why he likes working with OHM.

Jessup felt he grew from the experience by being okay with things that can kill you and being okay with it.”

The first Saturday workdays are open to all volunteers. Future 2012 workdays are Sept. 8, Oct. 6, Nov. 3 and possibly Dec. 1.

By Carolyn Ristau

Lawrenceville – At 2 p.m. on Sept. 17, 1862, the first of three explosions ripped through one of the laboratories at the Allegheny Arsenal in Lawrenceville. In the worst civilian disaster in the history of the American Civil War, the deadly blasts claimed the lives of 78 persons, many of whom were teenage girls. The cause of the deadly explosions remains one of the great mysteries of the 19th century.

On Sunday, Sept. 16, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Arsenal Park at 40th Street, the Lawrenceville Historical Society and the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War will commemorate this tragedy with a series of programs. The commemorative event, “A Memorial: Lawrenceville’s 1862 Arsenal Explosion,” is free and open to the public.

At 11 a.m. to noon, Tom Powers (author of Portrait of an American Community: O’Hara Township, Pa.) and Jim Wudarczyk (Pittsburgh’s Forgotten Allegheny Arsenal) will present a PowerPoint lecture that examines the events and theories behind the explosion. Using government documents, newspaper accounts and other sources, Powers and Wudarczyk meticulously examined the data and will shed new light on the subject. During the presentation, the Lawrenceville Historical Society will unveil a three-dimensional animated illustration of how the laboratory looked in 1862 and the sequence of explosions. This lecture will be repeated at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday and on Thursday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. at Canterbury Place, 310 Fisk St.

There will be demonstrations from 12:30 to 1 p.m. and 2:30 to 3 p.m., and music performances will take place from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. and again between 3 and 4 p.m.

Historic re-enactors will be on hand, and the Lawrenceville Historical Society has reissued a limited reprinting of the book Pittsburgh’s Forgotten Allegheny Arsenal.

By James Wudarczyk

Lawrenceville Historical Society

1862 Mystery Explosion Commemorated

1862.png

BELOW: The Allegheny Arsenal emblem. Photo by Tom Powers

ABOVE: Volunteers work at removing aluminum siding from a house and folding it up to be recycled. Photo by Emily Rosenthal

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Innovative LAB Helps Kids Get Creative
By Patrick Bowman Lawrenceville Corporation

Garfield – The Literary Arts Boom (LAB), operating out of Assemble, a community space for arts and technology at 5125 Penn Ave., is not your standard after-school program for neighborhood kids. In keeping with the spirit of Assemble’s experiential art curation, LAB seeks to be a “creative-writing laboratory” focused on project-based workshops that incorporate art, technology and communication.

Children are encouraged to embrace LAB as their “third place,” unique from home and school, and explore their inspiration and interests while finding their personal voices to tell their stories. Mentoring by a group of dedicated volunteers is also essential to LAB’s programming. These volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds and offer the social capital, diverse skill sets and critical connections to help sustain LAB’s mission.

For founder Paula Levin, LAB channeled the ways in which she felt about her adopted home, Pittsburgh, into a creative environment for local children to write and explore in an atmosphere separate from pervasive digital media outlets. She thought about the ways in which the technology sector and arts scenes in the city continue to grow side by side, and how all these influences, combined in the proper setting, can allow children from ages 6 to 18 to become engaged rather than distracted.

“What kids do during their out-of-school time struck me as really important,” said Levin, a recent graduate of Carnegie Mellon University’s Heinz School of Public Policy. “How do we encourage kids to play, write and create when it’s so easy to consume and be entertained? At LAB we want to imbue all of our programming with the spirit of exploration, experimentation and invention exhibited by historical and fictional mad scientists of past and present.”

The project was inspired by 826 National, a project that combines quirky retail stores, like the Pirate Store located at 826 Valencia St. in San Francisco, with fun and effective youth programming with strong community connections. Levin spoke to 826 National’s office about founding a chapter in Pittsburgh, and became connected to folks in the area with similar goals, like Gregg Behr of the Grable Foundation, Matt Luskey of the Western Pennsylvania Writing Project and Jesse Schell of Schell Games.

Funding through the Sprout Fund, the Children’s Museum and the Lewis Fellowship has allowed Levin to devote herself full-time to the LAB, which has found a great partner in Assemble and a great location in the Bloomfield-Garfield corridor of Penn Avenue.

"[Being located so close] to a lot of children coming from low-income neighborhoods is important because we want to provide programming that’s accessible in terms of cost and location. All of our programs are free and we want to keep them that way,” said Levin. “There are also a lot of creative things happening along the Penn Avenue corridor. People have been very excited and supportive.”

Levin plans to grow the volunteer base for LAB over the coming months and introduce a larger operational capacity to provide quality programming daily. During the school year, Levin hopes to introduce weekly homework help sessions, in addition to one-off workshops that allow kids to develop their writing over time with ongoing attention.

For more information on LAB programming and mission, visit literaryartsboom.org or call 773-425-1531.

ABOVE: LAB participants made their own paper for handmade notebooks. Photo by Paula Levin
Steps from page 1

ABOVE: Rosetta Street steps, painted by Garfield artist Chris St. Pierre. Photo by Paula Martinac

public steps, have the word try painted on each riser. “I liked that people had taken care of them.”

Flott started an organization called Community Steps Cooperative (CSC) to promote the local use and maintenance of the city’s steps. The mission statement on CSC’s website is “to engage communities in the maintenance and improvement of the City of Pittsburgh’s public steps.”

Begun in October 2011, CSC is still making its own first steps. It has a website, Facebook page, board and funding. Alex Lake, executive director of CSC, said the group expects to get a P.O. box and will be applying for nonprofit status.

Lake came to Pittsburgh three and a half years ago to work at the Union Project through the Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience (PULSE). Now, at CSC, she said, “It’s neat to be part of something that’s just beginning.”

CSC will host its first volunteer workdays this fall. There are three workdays planned for the neighborhoods of Troy Hill, Oakland and Polish Hill. Lake explained these areas were chosen for having unique views of the city and having multiple staircases in close proximity. He said the goal of the workdays is to “make the steps more appealing to residents and visitors” by maintaining and repainting them as needed and “to get people to come to steps they might not otherwise come across or use.”

Lake noted that CSC hopes to have more workdays in the future in different locations, including other East End neighborhoods. In the meantime, he explained CSC will be working on additional initiatives for promoting the city steps. He discussed “assisting community members with ideas they have for their steps” and awareness programming such as “an art exhibit or something else not at a step site.”

Flott explained, “We don’t want to take over other people’s projects. We really like that certain communities take care of their spaces. We want to help them make it easier.”

This fall, Lake will be moving back to Garfield after living temporarily in Lawrenceville. The house he is moving into is on Rosetta Street, “near the alligator steps.” These steps are the feature image on CSC’s Facebook page. Flott said, “They are a good example of how you bring attention to your steps.”

“[The steps] are a quirky Pittsburgh thing,” Lake said. “It’s the kind of thing that makes cities unique.”

If you have a project for some city steps or want more information on volunteering with CSC, visit www.cscpgh.org or email Alex Lake at alex@cscpgh.org.

The Bulletin | SEPT 2012

Catering Company Opens on Main Street

By Samantha McDonough

Bloomfield – Roxanne Easley isn’t new to catering. She began in 2006, by delivering dinners to small businesses in the East End, while working full-time at Highmark.

Then, after working at the insurance company for 10 years, she lost her job in 2008. Encouraged by fellow church members and friends, she began to consider opening her own catering business.

With help from some small business classes, Easley decided to pursue her dream, naming her venture “Roxanne’s Soul Food Expressions.” Through word of mouth, she was soon busy enough to support herself solely with her catering gigs. For four years, she didn’t pick up another job. According to her website, the business serves everything: “a dinner for 2 or a banquet of 500.”

In April 2011, on a drive down Main Street, Easley saw a sign in the window that caught her eye. The former pizza-shop site at 4124 Main St. was available for lease. She wanted to stay in the East End area, and felt fortunate to have found a property where the price was right, so she signed a lease right away.

After that, she says everything seemed to come together. She did the work little by little over a year, mostly by herself, to become “Roxanne’s Catering and Take Out.” Her opening was Aug. 15, 2012.

Of the name change, she says, “I figured I would take out the ‘Soul Food’ because, well, I do more than soul food.” She says she doesn’t want to be boxed in by that label and is able to provide a wide range of delicious food.

Items are prepared in advance, and plans for community-related events and gatherings she hopes to host in the future. In addition, a new website is in the works.

For more information, visit www.rsecatering.com or call 412-315-7471.

Redevelopment from page 5

and 17 for bikes. In the plan, no additions are required for either the parking lot or the school. The second alternative plan proposes 68 apartments with 88 parking spots for cars and 21 for bikes. This plan uses an additional level of parking, but only one additional story on the school building.

Onwugbenu explained that potential alternative parking strategies were also discussed with residents. These strategies included restrictions preventing tenants from parking on the streets, discounts for tenants without cars, a second-car fee and a Zip car station. He said, “People liked these ideas.”

Byrne explained that of the three options presented, the original and the two alternatives, the community tended to prefer the second alternative plan. However, she said, “Given the option between one of these plans and none, none was chosen.”

According to Byrne, LU and LC “wanted to create consensus around one plan.” After getting the feedback from the meetings, she said, “LU cannot publicly support one of the three plans because there is no consensus.”

Onwugbenu told The Bulletin he is continuing to meet with residents and get additional feedback as his company and LDA try to develop “the optimal solution – the very best that is achievable.” He listed five issues they are addressing: less density, more parking, whether or not to include an addition, dumpster placement and the ability for the apartments to become condos in the future.

At press time, a final plan was not completed. Onwugbenu said, “We will definitely communicate the plan before going to zoning.” He described his intent to issue public documents with the details of the final design, “let it circulate and be discussed” and then follow this up with a community QA session. “Our goal is to take the plan to zoning in September,” he said.

For updates on the project, contact LU at info@LUnited.org or 412-802-7220.

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above: Roxanne Easley in front of her new establishment. Photo by Samantha McDonough
Bloomfield – Lee Smith says he never thought he’d be running a bar. But that is exactly the role the 35-year-old former probation officer fell into when his father, Don Smith, passed away in September 2010. His death left Lee’s mother, Jackie, to manage Toro’s, the bar the Smiths had opened together in 1988 at 5128 Penn Ave.

“I stepped in to help my mom,” Lee explains. Then, when Jackie died in April 2012 after a nine-year battle with cancer, Lee found himself the owner of the neighborhood bar. “Her dying wish was that I continue the bar,” Lee says. “She told me, ‘Try your best.’”

His “best” has included transforming Toro’s with a new look and ambiance. For starters, Lee took on major renovations of the space after Don’s death. “I remember coming here when I was 11 and saying ‘You could do this, Dad,’ or ‘You could do that,’” Lee recalls. But he says his father was hesitant to make extensive physical changes to the space, for fear they would take too much time and he would lose business. As a result, the bar in 2010 looked pretty much as it did when it was Stromboli’s, an Italian restaurant, right down to the old booths and tables.

The first thing Lee did was rip those booths out. Then “he sanded all the old wood, and built new countertops,” his wife, Janai, notes. “I didn’t see him for about six weeks.” He also installed sleek lighting fixtures, plush couches and a flat-screen TV. The renovations were completed in November of last year.

One major physical renovation remains: The Smiths are working with Samantha McDonough, Mainstreets Manager for the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, to obtain a façade grant that will allow them to open up the front of the building. They know how they want it to look, but need to engage an architect to translate it to drawings.

“My dad installed the glass block,” Lee explains of the current façade, “and it was appropriate to the time. But I want to open it up.” He’d like a storefront window that invites people in and makes the bar appear less foreboding.

At the same time, the Smiths are contemplating a different name for the bar. “We’ve been considering how you continue a family tradition,” Janai says. When the façade is renovated, they plan to rename the place “The Legacy Room,” which suggests they’re both carrying on for Don and Jackie but also making the bar their own. “Toro” was Don’s professional boxing name, but “many people don’t know he was a boxer,” Lee says. They’ve hung a large photo of Don with some photos of fighters he boxed, and also framed the boxing shorts he wore when he went up against Joe Frazier and Sonny Liston in the 1960s.

The menu is getting an overhaul, too, and a newly hired cook has added lunch to more traditional bar fare, like wings and fries. The new hours, begun in mid-August, are 11 a.m. to midnight during the week and 2 a.m. on weekends. The venue features a live DJ from 10 p.m. to closing on Friday and Saturday who “plays all types of music,” Lee says and they also like to be more involved with Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn, and were on the schedule for the first time for the August event.

Lee says the bar hasn’t really had any public safety issues. “There’s not too much people can get past me and my brother,” he notes of his older brother, Don Jr., who opens the bar every day. “I watch everybody. I’m very alert… I turn away business that doesn’t seem right.”

Both Lee and Janai say they enjoy their customers, who tend to be a mature, over-25 crowd. “As long as you’re respectful, you’re welcome,” Janai notes. They say they’ve had fun trying out different promotions, like a “guest bartender” period this past spring in which people who always wanted to tend bar got to try their hands at it. Janai, who handles the marketing end of the business, wants to offer drink and food specials during Steelers games this football season. “We’re both big sports fans,” she says.

Look for a new website, too, and a grand opening once the façade renovation is completed this fall.
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 neighborhood. Listings are submitted by organizations and individuals and are not guaranteed. For more information, please visit www.pittsburghgreenhouse.org.

September 6

GARFIELD
Volunteer Training
Literary Arts Boom (The LAB), 3215 Penn Ave., is looking for volunteers who like to work with kids, read, write, ask questions, be silly, have fun, make things, think about things and talk about things. Volunteers are essential to The LAB, so please get involved. This training session is designed for volunteers who would like to work with youth. (If you’d like to help in other ways — marketing, fundraising, outreach, design, events, or something else — email literaryartsboom@gmail.com.) RSVP by Sept. 3 by emailing literaryartsboom@gmail.com or calling 773-425-1531. Please fill the volunteer form out in advance at http://bit.ly/TheLABVolunteerForm.

September 7

EAST LIBERTY
Rain Garden Workshop
A two-day rain garden design-build workshop will be held today and Saturday, Sept. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at the Pittsburgh Green House, 308 N. Sheridan Ave. The workshop will provide residents and landscape professionals with a functional understanding of the basic steps to properly site, size, design, construct and maintain a residential or small commercial rain garden through hands-on and classroom learning. The cost is $50 per participant. Call 412-362-4744 or visit www.pittsburghgreenhouse.org for details.

LAWRENCEVILLE
Exhibit
Come to Gallery on 43rd, 187 43rd St., from 7 to 10 p.m. for the opening reception for an exhibit of Marun Sallad’s landscape painting. The exhibit will run from today through Oct. 27. For more information, visit www.galleryon43rdstreet.com or call 412-683-6488.

SHADYSIDE
Unique Fused Glass
Art with Heart, LLC, will be at the 2012 A Fair in the Park, 6300 Fifth Ave., today from 1 to 7 p.m., Sept. 8 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sept. 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mention this listing to receive a 10% discount.

September 8

EAST LIBERTY
Back to School Party
Crossroads East Liberty and Pittsburgh Obama 6-12 will be hosting a Back to School Block Party at 515 Highland Ave. from 1 to 5 p.m. Free school supplies will be offered as well as tours of the new Obama school building (formerly Peabody). Free food, live bands, games, face painting, prizes and giveaways will bring a festive spirit to the start of the academic year. The event will take place rain or shine.

LAWRENCEVILLE
Paint the Town
Join Delilah from Wish 99.7 at 8 a.m. to “Paint the Town” in Lawrenceville and transform the exterior of several buildings. Visit www.wish.com/paint_the_town.aspx to register as a volunteer or to learn more about the event.

September 10

BLOOMFIELD
Zumba Demo
The Caring Center, 4117 Liberty Ave., will host a Zumba Class from 6:30 to 8 p.m. A Zumba is a unique combination of dance and exercise designed to put “fun” back into fitness while maximizing caloric expenditure, burning fat and providing total body toning. The fast and slow Latin rhythms used during the class create a party-like atmosphere. No previous dance experience is needed. Join Tootsie Sobkiewicz, LCSW, Certified Groups Exercise Instructor and Zumba Instructor as she leads this fun-filled evening including a warm-up, 45-minute class and time for Q&A. Dress comfortably and bring a friend. Space is limited. Call 412-622-1212 to register.

September 12

EAST LIBERTY
Whole Foods 5% Day
Today, Whole Foods will donate 5% of total sales in the East Liberty store, 5880 Centre Ave., to Sojourner House, a residential treatment program to help mothers with children break the cycle of addiction. If you shop in the evening, please stop by the café for a small Sojourner House reception. For more information, visit www.sojournerhousepa.org or call 412-441-7783.

GARFIELD
News Learning Party
Want to document what’s going on in your neighborhood using words, art and video? Join Assembly for a free Daily News Learning Party and be part of a news-making extravaganza. Stop by 5125 Penn Ave. anytime between 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. to learn about the history of your neighborhood and tell others your neighborhood’s latest news. Engage in fun, hands-on activities for kids, friends and grown-ups led by local artists, journalists and more. All materials provided. This project is supported in part by Spark, a program of the Sprout Fund. Contact assemblberg@gmail.com for more information.

September 13

OAKLAND
Documentary Screening
Carlow University’s Women’s Studies program will screen “Miss Representation,” a documentary that correlates negative media stereotypes of women with low participation of women in the political process, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Kresge Theater, 3333 5th Ave., fifth floor. The film will be followed by a discussion panel with experts from Carlow, other local universities and nonprofit organizations who will comment on the film and invite the audience to consider how women and girls’ complex realities are distorted in the media. For more information, contact Dr. Katie Hogan at 412-578-6391 or kohogan@carlow.edu.

September 14

EAST LIBERTY
Dance Show
Camille A. Brown & Dancers use sketch comedy, live music, and bold dance to examine African-American humor throughout history at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Ave. “Mr. TOE. E. RANÉ” exposes issues of tolerance and the representation of African-Americans in the media. While not shying away from the origins of stereotypes of black entertainers, Brown seeks to celebrate the humor and perseverance of the black performer by blending contemporary with the historic. The show starts at 8 p.m. today and on Sept. 15. Come early to enjoy the pre-show mixer. Visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org or call 412-363-3000 for registration information.

September 15

LAWRENCEVILLE
Back to School Party
Step by Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., at 10:30 a.m. to meet your neighbors and fellow classmates. Get to know the library staff, which you can go to if you need homework help. Play games, read stories, do crafts and eat snacks. This is a family event for children of all ages and their families. Snacks will be provided.

LAWRENCEVILLE
Teen Time
Your school day might be kind of boring, but your backpack and locker don’t have to be. Come to Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., at 2 p.m. to jazz them up by making buttons for your backpack and magnets and mirrors for your locker.

September 17

BLOOMFIELD
Cancer Support Group
Teal Hearts Network, an ovarian support group meets on the third Monday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at The Cancer Caring Center, 4117 Liberty Ave. Please call the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition at 412-661-1059 to register.

LAWRENCEVILLE
End of Summer Camp-Out
Come to Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., at 7 p.m. to read stories about camping, tell spooky stories, roast marshmallows and make your own boninccus. This event is for children of all ages and their families. Snacks will be provided, including s’mores.

September 19

STANTON HEIGHTS
Community Meeting
The Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Sunnyvale Elementary, 4801 Stanton Ave. All neighbors are welcome. Discussion of upcoming board member elections, a speaker from the Pittsburgh Obama 6-12 and continued planning for the community healing garden at Woodbine Street and Stanton Avenue are on the agenda. For more information, visit stantonheights.wordpress.com.

September 21

LAWRENCEVILLE
Celebration of Hank Williams
At 7 p.m., Pittsburgh Cares is celebrating its 20th birthday and its relocation to Lawrenceville with a Celebration of Hank Williams party at the Lawrenceville Moose, 120 51st St. Tickets are on sale now. General admission is $10. VIP packages are also available. Tickets are available online at www.pittsburghcares.org by clicking on the Birthday icon, by phone 412-770-8150 and in person at Nied’s Hotel, 5438 Butler St.

September 25

LAWRENCEVILLE
Game Night
Come to Carnegie Library-Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., at 6 p.m. for a game night of chess, checkers, Scrabble and more.

September 28

EAST LIBERTY
Hot Pepper
At 8 p.m. today and Sept. 29, the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Ave., presents “Hot Pepper,”...
Volunteer Opportunities & Services

which captures the malaise of young low-level office workers in three quirky scenes set in an office break room. In the sharp and visually vibrant world of writer-director Toshiki Okada, 20-something co-workers wrestle with issues as mundane as selecting a restaurant for lunch or the temperature of the office. The show is performed by chelfitsch, a leading theater company in Japan and abroad, in Japanese with English supertitles. Come early to enjoy the pre-show mixer. Visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org or call 412-363-3000 for registration information.

September

FRIENDSHIP

Dance Classes

Come to the Alloy School, 5530 Penn Ave, to get your groove on and make new friends at community dance classes. Classes include hip-hop, contemporary/modern dance and salsa/meringue and are taught by experienced instructors in a supportive, non-competitive environment. Classes are designed for teens and adults at all skill levels. The fall session begins Monday, Sept. 24. Visit www.kelly-strayhorn.org or call 412-363-3000 for registration information.

GARFIELD

Experi-Mondays

The LAB, 5125 Penn Ave., hosts assorted writing workshops and activities that involve art, technology and communication for youths ages 6-18. Experi-Mondays are held weekly from 4 to 6 p.m. for fresh produce from the Garfield Community Farm and Knotweed Farm. The farm stand will run through October.

Weekly Farm Stand

Come up to Valley View Presbyterian Church, 601 N. Aiken Ave., any Wednesday between 3 and 7 p.m. for fresh produce from the Garfield Community Farm and Knotweed Farm. The farm stand will run through October.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Kindergarten Readiness

Family Care Connection, 5235 Butler St., offers a free kindergarten readiness class for children ages 3 to 5. Our Jumpstart classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon. The sessions include social skills, math and reading readiness, songs, free play, art and music. A child-friendly snack is served. For parents who wish to stay in the center, they may read and relax or join in one of our adult cooking, crafts or parenting sessions. We also offer sibling childcare for toddlers. Ms. Stasi, 412-784-8683 ext. 13, for enrollment information. Class size is very limited.

Teen Poetry

Come one, come all, to the Teen Poet’s Laboratory, a series of four weekly workshops on Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the LAB, 5125 Penn Ave. Participants will have the chance to experiment with language, showcase their writing talent, share their work and receive feedback from peers, hone their wordsmith skills, and have their final work published in an end-of-the-lab anthology. LAB poets will also be able to read their work aloud at the final public reading event. We welcome writers of all abilities. Please RSVP to literaryartsboom@gmail.com or 773-425-1531.

Further Out

LAWRENCEVILLE

House Tour

The annual Hospitality House Tour will be held on Sunday, Oct. 7 from noon to 5 p.m. and will begin at the Butler Street entrance to the Allegheny Cemetery. Advance tickets will go on sale on Sept. 4 at these Lawrenceville businesses: Perk Me Up, Jay Designs, Gallery on 43rd, Dandelions, CoCo Cafe and Pavement. The tour is self-guided and this year will feature 10 unique homes and two points of interest, the Ronald McDonald House at Children’s Hospital and Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. For more information, visit www.Ba15201.org.

PITTSBURGH

Volunteers Needed

Citizens Against Litter are looking for volunteers for the fall Redd Up weekend, Oct. 19, 20 and 21. Groups and individuals interested in volunteering, please contact horis.westemstein@verizon.net or call 412-688-9120 to be put in touch with local neighborhood Clean Pittsburgh Stewards.

Classifieds

For classified rates, please call 412-441-6915 or email bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org.
Garfield—Jason and Nina Sauer and their 7-month-old son, Rowdy, of Penn Avenue’s Most Wanted Fine Art (MWFA) took a national art car tour with their interactive conceptual art demolition derby car from Aug. 5 through 25. The family visited cities and art districts in Ohio, Missouri, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia.

The art car was themed “most wanted” and transformed with every stop on the tour. The couple took mug shots of people in each city they visited and wheat-pasted them directly onto the car. The images were also uploaded to social media, so that supporters could be part of the trip and follow the adventures. The trip served not only to create art but also to advertise and recruit car artists for the upcoming October Art Car event in the Penn Avenue arts district.

While in the DIY art districts and museums in each city, the S auers met with other gallery owners and community groups to learn how they have successfully engaged the neighborhoods around them while furthering their arts message.

Nina Sauer explained, “These visits created awareness of Penn Avenue arts and culture while encouraging a relationship between districts. The ultimate goal was to create an opportunity for gallery swaps.”

Jason Sauer kicked off these swaps earlier in the summer when MWFA took Pittsburgh artists to the Waterloo Art District in Cleveland. This exchange will be continued in October in conjunction with Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn, as Cleveland vs. Pittsburgh comes to Garfield Artworks, 4931 Penn Ave. Nina Sauer said, “[This interaction] gives an introduction for artists into new markets while allowing an open discussion of what works and what doesn’t.”

After the trip, the MWFA team took the car to its next phase: destruction. On August 31, the car participated in an American folk art performance of Demolition Derby at the Great Stoneboro Fair in Stoneboro, Pa. Jason Sauer has participated in this event for 17 years, turning the resulting wreckage into art.

The artwork from this year’s car wreckage will be displayed at the Pittsburgh Art Car event, “Vehicular Abstraction.” The art car celebration starts the evening of Friday, Oct. 5, as part of Unblurred, and includes an exhibit at MWFA, 5015 Penn Ave. The art display will include Jason Sauer’s car-themed sculptures, as well as prints by Scott Frish, professor at West Texas A&M University, and John Lysak, professor at Edinboro University.

On Saturday, Oct. 6, “Vehicular Abstraction” changes speed and switches from art about cars to art on cars. Already-decorated cars will be part of a juried event, with the winner receiving a trophy and prizes. Celebrity judges will include Nicholas Chambers, the Milton Fine Curator of Art for the Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh Councilman Bill Peduto (District 8) and George Patterson, two-time winner of the Pittsburgh Gran Prix. There will also be children’s events, musical entertainment and more.

Visit MWFA’s website, www.most-want-edfineart.com, for more information about “Vehicular Abstraction” and the gallery’s events.

Garfield Gallery Drives Toward Art
By Carolyn Ristau The Bulletin

If You Read “The Bulletin” Every Month ...

Did you know that The Bulletin has been a free community publication of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) since 1975?

Why publish a community newspaper? Well, it’s not to make money! We do it because one of our goals is to bring about meaningful change in the lives of our residents, and we believe strongly that having access to information empowers people.

But the BGC doesn’t stop there. If you read the paper regularly, you know that, just since 2011, the BGC has also accomplished 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;
• Start of construction of 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;
• Hosting of planning sessions with community residents, city officials and their engineering consultants to move forward a $5 million reconstruction of the public infrastructure along Penn Avenue, between N. Mathilda and N. Evaline Streets, beginning in 2013;
• Opening of Pittsburgh CONNECTS, a free community technology center on Penn Avenue;
• 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;

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

YES! I want to support community renewal 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 areas unchecked:

__ Youth education and employment  __ Publication of The Bulletin
__ Penn Avenue revitalization  __ Housing development
__ Public safety initiative

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Please make checks payable to Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and mail to: Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, ATTN: Membership, 5149 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224. You can also donate online via PayPal at www.bloomfield-garfield.org.