Penn Manor Apartments the Next Step in Welcoming Home Former High Rise Residents

By Mandy Kendall
The Bulletin

Twenty-three former tenants of the demolished East Mall High-Rise are back at home in East Liberty, following the completion and grand opening of the Penn Manor Apartments, located at the corner of Penn Avenue and North St. Clair Street. The site was once the location of a large abandoned building, which was torn down in order to accommodate the construction of the new apartments.

Penn Manor Apartments, which celebrated its “ribbon-pulling” celebration on January 23, is the first project completed to replace the former East Mall Apartments, which were demolished in 2005. Penn Manor Apartments is owned by The Community Builders, Inc. (TCB), who also manages the New Pennley Place rental community, located nearby at Penn and N. Negley Avenues. The apartments were developed through the cooperation of The Community Builders, East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI), and the development corporation, The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA), PNC Multi Family Capital, and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh.

The three-story building contains 55 apartments: 48 one-bedroom, and seven two-bedroom. Six of the units are fully accessible for persons with disabilities, and others can be adapted for those with special needs.

The building also features a community room, outdoor sitting and garden space, and a community laundry room.

Thirty-nine of the 55 apartments are priced as “affordable,” while 16 are “market rate.” Rent prices range from $495-$610 plus utilities for one-bedroom, and from $664-$725 plus utilities for the two-bedroom apartments. Income requirements for the affordable rate apartments are $20,100 for one person, $22,950 for two people, $25,588 for three, and $28,700 for four people, with several other factors taken into consideration.

The total development cost of the building was approximately $8 million, with financial assistance coming from the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA), the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA), PNC Multi Family Capital, and the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Corporation.

Incumbent City Leaders Will Face Many Challengers in Upcoming Elections

The 2007 Elections may see a change in leadership representing the East End and the City, as a tough mayor’s race heats up and two councilmen in the East End see their seats challenged.

In City Council, District 7 incumbent Len Bodack, who currently represents Bloomfield, East Liberty, Friendship, Garfield, Highland Park, Lawrenceville, Morningside, Polish Hill, and Stanton Heights, will be facing challenger Patrick Dowd who currently serves as school board member for School Board District 2.

In District 9, which includes the neighborhoods of Homewood, East Liberty, East Hills, Larimer, Lincoln-Lemington and parts of Point Breeze, Friendship and Garfield, incumbent councilwoman Twanda Carlisle, is already seeing several challenges to her council seat. Potential candidates who have officially or unofficially declared their candidacy the Reverend Ricky Burgess, a Homewood pastor and Community College of Allegheny County employee; Rachel Cooper, the daughter of District Judge Kevin Cooper; Shawn Carter, a former aide to Councilwoman Carlisle; Ora Lee Carroll, executive director of the East Liberty Concerned Citizens Corp; Ed Gainea, a former aide to State Representative Joe Preston; Judy Ginyard of the Lincoln-Larimer Community Development Corporation; and K. Chase Patterson, education program manager for the Urban League of Pittsburgh. Only three of these candidates - Burgess, Cooper and Patterson - had officially announced their candidacy as of The Bulletin’s press time.

And, of course, the biggest battle of the year may be the race for Mayor as District 8 Councilman Bill Peduto launched his campaign on January 22 to unseat Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, who is now in his sixth month as mayor, following the Sept. 1 death of Bob O’Connor.

The May Democratic primary will likely be the decisive election, given the absence of Republican candidates of any note. Where any of these campaigns may lead in the next few months is yet to be seen. Keep watching The Bulletin for continuing updates on these important races...

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The FINAL DEADLINE for the March 2007 issue of The Bulletin is Thursday, February 15, 2006. This includes ALL classified ads, Bulletin Board announcements, story submissions and ad space reservations. Information is accepted on a space-available basis. For more information, call 412-441-6915.
Brackney Returning to Police Command at Zone 5

By Rick Swartz
Executive Director
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Neglected and abandoned properties are the bane of many urban neighborhoods -- creating safety hazards, encouraging crime, and driving down property values. Where can you turn for help when a neighboring property becomes a problem?

If and when you witness crimes occurring on the property, call 9-1-1. If the crime involves drugs or prostitution, call Narcotics & Vice at 412-323-7761. Make sure that your descriptions of the persons and vehicles involved in the incidents are as detailed as possible.

In other situations, it may be in your best interest to file simultaneous complaints with the City of Pittsburgh’s Bureau of Building Inspections (BBI) and with the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD). BBI can issue citations for problem properties -- and in drastic situations, levy fines against property owners who do not comply with citations. The City of Pittsburgh is responsible for most actions against delinquent property owners. These steps include fumigating vermin-infested properties, padlocking and boarding up abandoned properties, condemning properties, and demolishing properties.

Every complaint made to ACHD and BBI is recorded and issued a complaint number. Make sure that you get the complaint number when you file a complaint, and refer to that number every time you check on the status of your complaint. Pass your complaint and complaint numbers on to the office of your City Council representative.

Action on problem properties doesn’t happen overnight, but without citizen initiative, it doesn’t happen at all.

NOTE: There now is a special number to report broken streetlights: 412-255-LITE.
The mission of the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center is to improve the economic and social conditions of the residents of Eastside neighborhoods by providing quality workforce development services.

The Board of the ENEC hopes that they have found just the right person in the ENEC’s new executive director, Kraig Makohus, to keep them on track to fulfilling that mission.

“We are very excited to have someone with Kraig’s background, experience and vision onboard,” says Aggie Brose, Board President of the ENEC. “[Kraig’s desire to see the ENEC become a High-Performing Non-Profit, combined with his extensive program development and program growth experience, is what’s needed at the ENEC. His hiring enables us to further develop the ENEC into what it was originally intended to be for those seeking employment and training.”

Makohus has a strong resume of successfully growing the capacity of programs and organizations. As the former Director of Youth Satellite Services for Goodwill, Makohus grew their budget from $80,000 to a combined budget of $800,000. He also helped increase the reach of Goodwill’s In-school Transitional program, which helps kids with disabilities make the transition out of high school. During Makohus’s time there, the program grew from working with one school with 6 kids to involving over 35 schools with approximately 120 kids in the program.

Makohus, who an undergraduate degree in Public Administration from the University of Pittsburgh and a Masters in Business Administration from Waverley College, is also on the board of the CCAC Alumni Committee and the co-founder and board President of Compassionate Connection, a faith-based Christian counseling organization in the South Hills.

Makohus says that he is thrilled have the opportunity to advance the mission of the ENEC.

“I am very excited about this opportunity,” Makohus says. “The ENEC has strong history, but has struggled of late. It’s a new beginning for the ENEC. I am looking forward to the challenges that lay ahead as I work with our Board and our strong partners to turn the ENEC into a High-Performing non-profit.”

One of Makohus’s primary objectives as executive director is to increase the visibility of the ENEC in the community, which he considers to be an essential community asset.

Right now, many of the ENEC’s clients are either referred to the ENEC by the organization’s partners, or find about the organization through word of mouth. Makohus says that he would like to potentially find a new location for the center that is more conducive to walk-in traffic, to make more people aware of the services that are offered.

Makohus also says that he wants to strengthen the ENEC’s relationships with its partners, so that they can be as effective as possible in achieving their mission.

Makohus says that he is impressed with the relationships that the current ENEC staff have with employers. “These staff know the employers,” Makohus says. “They know who has a job opening. It’s more personal.”

Do you need help filing your federal or state income tax returns?

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation will be offering a free tax service to individuals who are working, but can’t afford to pay a private company to do their taxes.

We will be handling only those returns that do not require a Schedule C, D, or E to accompany them. We’ll even be able to file the federal returns on-line, which will speed up any refund you may have coming.

Saturdays, February 10 - March 31
Noon - 3 PM
By Appointment Only

For us to assist you capably, you’ll need to have:
- A valid photo ID
- Information on all of your sources of income (W-2, 1099, etc.)
- Verification as to your valid social security number, as well as those of any dependents

To schedule an appointment for this service, please call Rick Swartz at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, (412) 441-6950.
Local Architecture Firm Brings New Life to Historic Penn Avenue Building

This month’s nomination for “Showcase Property of the Month” is a 3-story brick structure (known to many as the “Arch” building) and adjoining courtyard located at 5115-5117 Penn Avenue which is owned by Loysen + Kreuthmeier Architects.

The recent history of this building is one of preserving a very historic structure in the neighborhood. The building located at 5115 Penn Avenue has a long history, dating back to 1905, when German immigrant John Hohman hired contractor Mark Lydon to construct a hotel on the undeveloped lot that he owned there, according to a house history written by Carol J. Peterson. For virtually the next 100 years, the building served as a tavern, fruit market, dairy store, variety store, and restaurant. A second building, once located next door at 5117 Penn Avenue, served as the home of the original owners. Following the closing of the Tiger Tail Restaurant in the early 1990’s, the 5115 building sat vacant and deteriorating until

See SHOWCASE, Page 6
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Celebrates Black History Month

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP) plans to celebrate Black History Month with a variety of special events in February. Each of CLP’s library locations will honor the work of African American authors, artists and musicians with a host of free programs for children, teen, adult and families.

Selected events include:

Harambee Read Aloud: Celebrate Black History Month with Reading, Dancing and Drumming
Wednesday, February 7, 5 – 7 p.m.
CLP Homewood - 7101 Hamilton Ave.
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and the August Wilson Center for African American Culture proudly present the Pittsburgh Dance Ensemble’s drummers for an evening of reading, dancing and drumming that the whole family will enjoy.

African Drumming Workshop
Presented by UMOJA African Arts Company
Saturday, February 10, 1 - 2 p.m
CLP East Liberty - 130 S. Whitfield St.
Children ages 8 – 12 years old are invited to participate in this workshop to learn traditional and neo-traditional African dance, drumming and storytelling.

Fiction, Film & Fun
Friday, February 16, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
CLP Main
4400 Forbes Ave, 1st Fl.
Join Jeanne Bergad to discuss the novel, To Kill a Mockingbird, and screen the film it inspired. The screening will take place in the Director's Conference Room.

Black History Month Book Club
Saturday, February 24, 2 - 3 p.m.
CLP Hill District - 419 Dinwiddie St.
Participants are invited to discuss The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis. Light refreshments will be provided.

Going to Nicodemus
Sunday, February 25, 2 p.m.
CLP Main - 4400 Forbes Ave, Children’s
This program celebrates Black History month by teaching about the former

See CLPGH, Page 12
Do You Want a Good Life or a Great Life?

By Carol Briney
Professional Organizer

Life is about the journey, not the destination. It is about being in the process of becoming who you would like to be or doing something you want to do. It is a quest to find yourself and your place in the world. It is about living your best life—your great life.

I believe that we were all put on this earth to live a great life. I believe we must want to change more than we like the “stuff” that keeps holding you back. You must be willing to give up being a caterpillar. That is the key to becoming a different you too. You cannot have both.

Having a good life, in my opinion, means that you have food on the table, a warm place to live, and enough money to get by on. Having a great life means that you are living your dreams, doing being and having what you want. Living a great life not only affords you an awesome life but it also allows for you to be of service to others with both your time and your finances. I believe that we must want to change more than we like the “stuff” that keeps holding you back. You must be willing to give up being a caterpillar. That is the key to becoming a different you too.

When you think about it how does a caterpillar become a butterfly? This can only happen by his wanting to fly so much that he is willing to give up being a caterpillar. That is the key to becoming a different you too. You must be willing to give up the old “stuff” that keeps holding you back. You must want to change more than you like the comfort and familiarity of what you have right now.

If you want a great life I urge you to find small increments of time in your daily life to make the changes necessary to become or have what you desire. When we multiply tiny pieces of time with daily effort we too will find that we can accomplish magnificent things. "Your only limitations are those you set up in your own mind, or permit others to set up for you." -Og Mandino

Until next time, I wish you the true riches of life, love, peace, happiness, and the time to enjoy it all.

Carol Briney is a Speaker, Trainer, and Holistic Professional Organizer. She can be reached at universalarider@comcast.net 412.781.8773 www.universalar.com

Karen Loysen took an interest in the building in 2001. She and partner Peter Kreuthmeier oversaw the renovation of the building and purchased it from the Bloomfield-Gariflde Corporation last year. As the before and after photos show, much work and love was put into rehabilitating the building, which Loysen expects to be completed in summer 2008. Loysen says that the building was in extremely poor shape when work on the building began, with no water, gas or electric service, broken windows, nearly two inches of water in the basement, missing sections of roof, and water and fire damage throughout the building.

Measuring the building became quite a challenge as well, as portions of the building were considered too dangerous to enter.

It took the architects nearly five years to complete the building, which now houses the architects’ offices.

The facade behind the archway has been modified to remove the heavy glass block that made up the entrance, and replace it with a glass entryway, which Loysen says is constructed so as to accent, rather than detract from, the look of the masonry and the architecture of the arch in the front of the building. The illusion is also maintained by framing the glass using Cor-Ten (weathering) steel.

The second and third floors house apartments, which also echo the original look of the building. The apartments contain the same original exposed masonry as the rest of the building, and the large windows that look out over the river towards Lawrenceville and into Garfield, are encased in old wood that was an original part of the building. The apartment bathrooms also include over-sized soaker tubs, with specially designed accents, such as a curved shower curtain rod and towel hangers, custom-designed by RedStar Ironworks.

Next door at 5117, the building was similarly poor condition. The architects decided to demolished the front 2/3 of the building, leaving the remaining portion to become a hospitality and storage area for the firm.

In place of the front of the building, Loysen + Kreuthmeier has placed a grassy courtyard, the perimeter of which is landscaped with river rocks that the owners had truck in from Maryland, giving the courtyard the serene feel of a Japanese sand garden. The gate to the courtyard maintains the appearance of the facade of the building which formerly stood there, which Loysen says helps to maintain the visual flow of the block, keeping it from appearing as though there is a “hole” in the visual fabric of the row.

Loysen says that they hope to use the courtyard for a grand opening celebration marking the building’s restoration some-time over the summer.

We are pleased to see that such investment and care are being put into buildings on the Avenue, and commend Karen Loysen and Peter Kreuthmeier for their conscientious efforts to preserve the great architectural history that we have in our neighborhoods.

Photos provided by Loysen + Kreuthmeier Architects.

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FREE TO THE PEOPLE

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
East Liberty Branch
130 S Whitfield St  412-363-8232

Toddler Storytime
For children ages 1-3. Tuesdays, February 6, 13, & 20 at 11 a.m.

Raising Reader Parent Club
For adult parents of children ages 3-5. Saturdays, February 3, 10, 17, & 24 at 10:30 a.m. Space is limited; call to register.

Tell-a-Tale Theater
For ages 3-7. Saturday, February 24, 11 a.m. Featuring the book Corduroy.

Chess Tournament
For Kindergarten-8th grade. Saturday, February 17 at 10:30 a.m.

East Liberty PC Center:
Introduction to Computers
Do you know how to use a mouse? What about the different parts of the computer? If you are unsure about any of these questions, this class is for you! Learn the basics of a computer, mouse and keyboard as a pre-requisite for all our other computer classes. NOTE: This class is designed for those who have little or no computer experience. Monday, February 5 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. OR Thursday, February 22 from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Buying a Computer
In this class you’ll learn how to read those crazy computer ads, handle slick salespeople, and discover helpful resources to aid you in your purchase of a personal computer. Saturday, February 24 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

To register for these classes or for more information about our free computer classes, call the PC Center-East Liberty at 412-363-6105. This service has been funded with federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds administered by the Office of the Commonwealth Libraries.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
Lawrenceville Branch
279 Fisk St  412-682-3668

Homework Help for Grades 1-12
Mondays, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Preschool Storytime
For ages 3-5. Thursdays at 11:00 AM, February 1, 8, 15, 22.

Story Theatre
For ages 5 and up. Tuesday, February 2nd from 1-2 p.m.

Alice in Wonderland Tea Party
Saturday, February 10 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

We’re looking forward to joining the neighborhood!
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HEATING • COOLING • BOILERS
Animal Friends Provides Assistance & Winter Tips For Pet Safety

As the temperature tumbles, Animal Friends urges pet owners to protect their pets from the cold. Animal Friends, southwestern Pennsylvania’s premier pet resource center, offers the following assistance and guidelines for pet owners.

- Pets who spend a lot of time outdoors need more food in the winter. Keeping warm depletes energy, so pets need nutrients to maintain energy levels as well as healthy, warm coats.
- Salt and antifreeze used to melt snow and ice can irritate the pads of your pet’s feet. When your pet comes inside, wipe his feet and belly with a damp towel before he licks them and ingests poisonous chemicals. Be sure to wipe up any spilled antifreeze, which tastes sweet to animals but can be deadly.
- Keep the fur around the paw pads trimmed to protect against ice build-up and frozen fur, which can lead to frostbite. Frostbite often appears as red or gray patches on the skin. If you suspect that your pet has suffered frostbite, wrap the affected area in a blanket or towel to warm it gradually and call your veterinarian.
- Don’t leave your pets alone in closed cars, which can act like refrigerators in very cold weather.
- Recognizing the reality that many pets live outside, Animal Friends offers free bundles of straw to anyone who owns or cares for outdoor pets. Dry straw, when linings the floor of an enclosed doghouse or pen, can increase the inside temperature by 10-20 degrees. Straw delivery is available for pet owners without transportation. Interested individuals should call (412) 847-7066 to reserve a bundle. Each request will be answered.

HELP WANTED

Looking for part-time support staff with a teaching certification or strong background working with either elementary or high school youth in an after-school setting. Full-time position available for candidates who also have extensive case management experience with high school youth. If interested, call Joe Dostilio at (412) 441-9833 or e-mail resume and cover letter to jodostilio@hotmail.com

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For further details or to view the property, call Mr. M. Khan Coldwell Bankers Real Estate 412-363-4000, ext 708 or 412-464-0282

For Sale

Beautiful 3-Family House

715 N. Mathilda Street, Pittsburgh
Across from Canterbury Housing
4BR 3 bath, 2 Kitchens, Large fenced yard, wall to wall, full finished basement, 2 laundry hookups, Built in wardrobes Rent the 1st floor and live in the other section! Call Pat at Coldwell Banker Real Estate 412-363-4000 or 412-560-0367

For Sale

Beautiful Brick House

5201 Penn Avenue (Corner of Pacific Avenue) Zoned LNC Local Neighborhood Commercial 4BR, 2 Bath, Central Heat and Air Conditioning Build in wardrobes & closets, wall to wall finished basement with laundry hookup and storage shelving, water purifier, security alarm, dish washers, fenced back yard with 2 1/4 car parking, front porch enclosed with beautiful new awning. Call Mr. Herb Thomas, Choice Homes 412-731-7990 or 412-580-4247

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Being recognized among the world’s most elite hospitals certainly means a lot to us. But it means the most to the patients who turn to us for our expertise, compassion, and innovation. For more information, please call 412 DOCTORS (362-8677), or visit our website at www.wpahs.org.

needs of these residents, says that she and other residents are pleased with the Penn Manor Apartments. Sims expressed her pleasure especially in the response that the residents have received from developers, financers and others as the new apartment complex was being planned.

“Everybody has listened,” Sims told the crowd at the grand opening. “We made it happen. We are continuing to make it happen. We’re going to keep making it happen in East Liberty.”

Sims says that CORE’s members helped to determine which former East Mall tenants would have first preference for the new apartments, and also helped Community Builders establish criteria for any prospective new tenants for the building.

Adarryl Dreher, Portfolio Manager for The Community Builders, Inc., says that the developer has plans in the works to build another mixed-income apartment building at the site of the former East Mall High-Rise. That building, which would begin construction in 2008, would feature an additional 60-65 units.

Many of the former high-rise residents are also waiting for other housing being developed at the site of the former Liberty Park high-rise on the eastern side of Penn Circle.

I Don’t Have The Time!

With today’s busy lifestyles, it hardly seems that there are enough hours in the day.

Work, family, friends all seem to take up more and more of our time.

That’s why talking about funeral prearrangements is an easy topic to put off.

But it’s an important matter that deserves a few minutes of your time and can benefit you and your loved ones.

So stop making excuses. And take a minute to call.

We guarantee the call will be time well spent.

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**Mastromatteo Memorial Dinner**

This past October, the City of Pittsburgh and the Morningside Community lost a dear friend and community leader in Samuel P. Mastromatteo. Sam was well known around the city for being an instrumental stakeholder in many of B.I.G. League baseball organization and for always going out of his way to help local residents. To honor “Sam” and assist his family, the Morningside Area Community Council, St. Raphael’s Church and community leaders led by former Pittsburgh Police Chief, Dom Costa, will be hosting a spaghetti dinner on Sunday, February 18 from 4-7 p.m. at St. Raphael’s Multi-Purpose Room in Morningside. Tickets can be purchased at most of the local businesses in Morningside or from MACC members. Tickets are $8 for adults and $5 for children 12 & under. All proceeds will be donated to the Mastromatteo Family Fund. For more information contact Tom Fallon @ 412-621-3006.

**Women’s Franciscan Retreat in Millvale**

The Sisters of St. Francis of Millvale invite women to journey toward a deeper relationship with God during a Franciscan Retreat through Saturday, March 10. Through Sunday, February 4 at their Motherhouse campus, 146 Hawthorne Road. The retreat will combine individual and group reflection, the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, massage, and centering prayer. Fee is $95 for adults, $20 for college students and includes room and board. To register, please contact Sister Kathy Adamski, pre-registration coordinator, at 412-215-7708 or guidance@nauticom.net.

**Oasis Intergenerational Tutoring Program**

If you are 50 years of age and older and would like to make a difference in the life of a child, OASIS is looking for you. OASIS, a national education organization, located in Macy’s Department Store in Pittsburgh provides educational, cultural and wellness programs to adults 50 years of age and older. OASIS is recruiting older adult volunteer mentors to assist in our Active Generations after school program targeting children in 3rd to 5th grade at Ft. Pitt Accelerated Learning Academy. Active Generations is an intergenerational nutrition/physical activity program that promotes the importance of physical activity and a healthy diet to assist in combating the childhood obesity epidemic in today’s children. Training on the nutrition/physical activity program is provided free of charge to all volunteers. If you would like more information about the Active Generations program, or are interested in volunteering please contact Shirley Fisher at OASIS at 412-232-9519 or sfisher@oasisnet.org. Opportunities tutoring students in kindergarten through 1st grade are also available at Allegheny Traditional, Arsenal, Beaver Valley Elementary, Ben-Ed Schools, and the Mountaineer School. Designs, styles, textures and colors. There will be an entrance to the festival as well as a kids’ area to encourage active participation and leadership within the education field. The ideal group will represent a diversity of races, ages, gender, including educators, parents, grandparents, young professionals, small business owners, and community leaders. Learning participants will meet Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 9 p.m. (light dinner included) from March 13 to May 22. The application deadline is February 9, 2007. There is no fee to apply or to participate in this program. If you are interested – Leaders in Learning, please visit our website (www.pittsburghcoro.org/IL) for detailed information and the application. If you are interested in helping us identify potential participants, nomination forms are available online as well. Join us in creating a cadre of emerging leaders who will help shape the future of public education in Pittsburgh!

**Peabody High School “All Classes” Reunion**

Come join your former classmates and friends for a Peabody High Class Reunion for “ALL Classes.” on Wednesday, July 4, 2007. The theme will be “Remembering Garfield, The Way It Was.” The reunion will take place at the St. Lawrence O’Toole Activity Center, located at 140 N. Atlantic Avenue in Garfield from 6 p.m. til 12 a.m. After you’ve had your picnic with your families, join us for an evening of “Remembrance, Dance and Song.” Hot dogs will be served; event is BYOB. Cost is $10 per person, payable at the door. For more information, please contact Michelle Glass-Franklin at (323) 806-0412 or by e-mail at LHFKFranklin@msn.com; or Roxanne Miles-Thomas at (412) 661-2710. We hope to see you all there!!!

**Panic-Anxiety / Depression Support Group**

A Panic-Anxiety / Depression support group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at U.C.P. Community Center, 4638 Centre Avenue at Neville Street in Oakland. For information, call 412-255-1155, or just drop by. NO FEE.

**Leaders in Learning Training Program**

The Coro Center for Civic Leadership and A+ Schools announce a new leadership training program called Leaders in Learning! Leaders in Learning is a ten-week part-time training program that will provide an opportunity for emerging leaders in education to enhance their skills and to build sustainable professional and social networks. We envision a community mobilized to improve public education in order to produce successive generations of young people who thrive and who build their families and futures in Pittsburgh. This vision requires leadership – our goal is to identify and support new leaders in this field. Coro and A+ Schools are looking to: Convene new faces in education; Generate new ideas and create a safe space for new energy and conversation; Build new leadership within the education community; Raise the level of understanding for educational issues; Leaders in Learning are looking for a diverse group of individuals that are dedicated to professional and social networks. We envision a community mobilized to improve public education in order to produce successive generations of young people who thrive and who build their families and futures in Pittsburgh.

**National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences**

The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences has announced the 9th Annual Young Producer’s Award. It is a scholarship program for high school seniors intending to major in a communications-related field when they enter college. The scholarship is worth $2500 and a first-runner up scholarship is available for $500. The scholarships will be awarded to the individuals who prepare the most creative and effective storyboard and script for a 30-second televised public service announcement (PSA) dealing with the following topic: “Bullies: Don’t Be One; Don’t Tolerate One.” In addition to the monetary award, the winner will have the opportunity to work with area television professionals to produce a broadcast-quality PSA based on the storyboard. Once the PSA is produced, it will be aired on local television stations. See their website at www.natasmid-atlantic.org/ypa.htm for entry forms, script format, storyboard format, content guidelines and research information. The deadline for submission is February 23, 2007.

**Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival**

The 3rd Annual Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival, will be held Sat, Feb 10, from 9a.m. - 5p.m. and Sun, Feb 11, 9a.m. - 4:30p.m. at the Crowne Plaza, Pittsburgh South, across from South Hills Village Mall, Fort Couch Rd. The festival will offer free learn to knit and crochet as well as classes for the novice to advanced with nationally recognized teachers. Machine knitting makes an entrance to the festival as well as a Creative Fibers Arts Class, ongoing throughout the festival. There will be 40 exhibitors from across the US displaying fibers, cashmaya, peace, natural fibers, cashier, cashmaya, hand dyed, hand spun yarns, patterns, designs, styles, textures and colors. There is truly something for everyone of all ages. You don’t have to be a knitter or crocheter to attend. Just bring yourself, your imagination and maybe a friend, daughter, sister or Mother. Brigadier Bluebird will also teach a special class for kids with entertainment and snacks while mothers shop or take a class. The proceeds from the kid’s class will go to the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army will also be collecting fabrics, notions and yarns for their Annual Fabric Fair in March. For a full schedule or more info: 412-963-7030 or go to: www.pghknitandcrochet.com.

**Friendship House Tour Looking for Glass Houses**

Looking for Glass Houses for 2007 is the “Year of Glass,” an effort to promote the Pittsburgh region as a viva-cious cultural community through collaborative efforts focused around glass and how it has shaped the past, present and future of the region. As part of the Year of Glass, the Friendship House Tour committee would like to feature houses on the 2007 House Tour that have beautiful stained glass and/or lots of glass of any description and/or whose owners collect glass, and/or even someone whose name is Glass. As part of the 2007 Friendship House Tour, the Pittsburgh Glass Center will be the starting point. If you and/or your house fit the bill and you would consider having your house on the tour in September 2007, please contact Sarah Collins at 412-441-6147 ext. #7 or email her at sarah@friendship-pgh.org. If you have any apprehension about opening your house, please let Sarah know and she can put you in touch with homeowners who have had their house on tour to talk with you about their experience.

**Dance for Fitness, Health, & Fun!**

Dance for Fitness, Dance for Health, Dance for Fun!!!!! Focus on you this Winter Season, by getting in shape and expressing your creative side. Expert training, and performance opportunities for Kids and Adults in Dance and Fitness at PITTSBURGH DANCE ARTS. Conveniently located at 4059 Penn Ave. near Main Street. Just one block from the New Children’s Hospital. Please go to our website, www.pgh-dance.com, for a complete schedule of classes. 412-681-7523.

**Dance Alley Offers New Winter Classes**

The Dance Alley Theater School announces two NEW class offerings, Afro Modern II: New World Fusion and Hip Hop III, during its 2007 Spring School Term, runs through April 20, 2007: Afro Modern II: New World Fusion explores contemporary dance with popular styles from Africa, Caribbean and the Americas like R&B, reggaeton, soco-louk, merengue, rumba, mbalax. To the delight of current Hip Hop II students, Hip Hop III will focus on developing improvisational skills and musicality. Taught by Scott Lowe, one of Dance Alley Theater’s own company members, the class will explore many styles of the form, but the focus will be on “house” and “locking.” A range of creative movement classes continue to be...
offered for children as young as three, including First Steps, Creative Movement, Creative Pre Ballet and Introduction to Dance as well as a variety of classes for tweens, teens and adults. From Modern Technique, Jazz and Ballet to Hip Hop, Salsa and Middle Eastern Dance to the popular Pilates classes, Dance Alley Theater has something for everyone. All dance and movement classes are taught in a fun, creative and uniquely non-competitive environment with seasoned master teachers, often with live accompaniment. The complete schedule of classes is now available online at www.dancealle.org. For more information or to register, please call 412-363-4321 or visit www.dancealle.org.

AFRO CUBAN DANCE

Come to Tracey Yorke Dance to experience Afro Cuban: Rumba & Folkloric Traditions on February 24 from 12 - 2 p.m. Enjoy the unique blend of African & Spanish dance styles. The dance will be taught by Afro Cuban Rumba. All levels. Cost: $25. For more information, please call 412-478-8146.

MORNINGSIDE PRAYER & PRAISE BREAKFAST

Morningside Church of God in Christ invites you to a Prayer and Praise Breakfast (full breakfast buffet) on Saturday, February 3 from 9:30 a.m. - noon at the LMS Center, located at 3257 ward Street in Oakland. The theme will be “The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much,” James 5:16b. The breakfast will feature Keynote Speaker Evangelist Roberta Watkins of the deliverance Temple COGIC in Aliquippa, PA. Donation is $20. The breakfast is being hosted by the Morningside COGIC Evangelist Board. For more information, and/or to purchase a ticket, please call Evangelist Frances Reynolds at 412-758-5440 or Morningside COGIC at 412-361-9865. Come and let us pray and fellowship together in Christian Love!

GARFIELD FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER OFFERS FAMILY SERVICES

The Garfield Family Support Center provides free services to parents of young children to keep them abreast of their child early childhood developmental expectations and as well as having the opportunity to enhance their parenting skills. The Support center is a place in the community for parent and children to come together, share support one another and learn about their community’s resources and special events. The mission of the Garfield Family Support center is to provide support and interact with families living in the Garfield Community. The support center will focus on bringing families together to promote unity, leadership and awareness of the Garfield community. All Garfield residents who have children ages 0-5 years will be offered this free program and a full spectrum of services will be available to the child and the child’s family including homework and tutoring assistance. In addition, vocational training, educational programming and recreational activities will also be offered to teens and young adults. The Garfield Family Support Center offers the following services: Home visits for individual parents or Children ages 0-5 years. Child development activities • Family Goal plans • Parent to parent groups • Parent and child play interaction groups • Child development screenings • Health Insurance assistance • Computer classes for parents and children • Parent and child read to succeed program • Education and Employment and Career assistance • Housing Assistance • Conference lab for parent and group meetings • Health and Child care information • Food Bank • Family referral services to community Human and Social Services. How do you sign up for these great programs here at Garfield Family Support Center? For more information about the Garfield Family Support Center, contact us at (412) 661-9560 or just stop by the Garfield Family Support Center located at 3515 Hillcrest Street in Garfield.

MORNINGSIDE COGIC BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The summer vacation Bible School at Morningside Church of God in Christ will sponsor a Black History Month Service on Sunday, February 18 at 4 p.m. The theme will be “The Role of the Black Church in History Past and Present.” For more information, call 412-361-9865. Elder Lamont Shields, Pastor, Evangelist Gertrude Shropshire, Chairperson.

BOOK, ART SUPPLIES, PILLOW DONATIONS

The Urban Fusion Café at the Union Project is seeking book donations for the take one/leave one community reading shelf. Any quality books for Fiction, Non-Fiction, Sci-Fi, Social Commentary - you name it. Also the Café is collecting coloring books, crayons, rugs and throw pillows for the new kids corner. If it would be enjoyed by your neighbors, bring it to the café!

GIRLS PLAYING BASKETBALL

Girl’s basketball is growing fast in the Pittsburgh area. In an effort to increase and improve girls basketball in the east end of Pittsburgh, the Steul City Club, a girl’s basketball program began its soul mate this past winter. The Steul’s season in February, is inviting interested players to participate in both clinics and traveling teams. The clinics and tryouts will be held at Carlow University. The dates for the tryouts are: February 11 and 25. The dates for the clinics are: March 4, 11, 18, and April 1. The cost of the clinics will be $65. The fee for the tryouts is $315. This will include the clinic, uniforms, sweat suit and team bag. The fee for the tryout is refundable if a player does not make a team. The times are as follows: 10 & under 9:30-11; 1 & under 10:30-12; 12 & under 12:00-1:30; 13 & under 1:30-3:00; 14, 15 and 16 & under 3:00-4:30. The age is determined by the player’s age as of January 1, 2007. Each player will receive a clinic T-Shirt and mesh shorts. There are separate teams for the 14, 15, and 16 & under. If you have any questions call John Brown at 412-881-7027. Registration for the clinics and tryouts can be completed at the door or you may have a registration form mailed or e-mailed to you.

OUR LADY OF ANGELS VENETIAN CARNIVAL

This year’s Gala promises to be an event that will transport you to beautiful Venice for one of their famous Carnivals. The Gala will feature a dinner buffet, live entertainment silent and live auctions and a cash bar. Black tie optional. Drawing of $10,000 Give Away with only 3000 tickets printed. Solders and Sailors Memorial Hall Grand Ballroom, Friday, February 17th, 2007. $75 per person. All proceeds benefit St. John Neumann Regional Catholic Elementary School. R.S.V.P. by February 8th. Please email jcanetersak@emailink.net or call 412-682-0929 for more information.

CHILDREN'S HOME HOSTS GALA EVENT

Join us for a night of dancing, dinner and fun. The Children’s Home of Pittsburgh’s signature special event, Shake Your Booties will be held on Saturday evening beginning at 7 p.m., February 24, 2007, at The Circuit Center and Ballroom on the South Side. This fabulous event features silent and live auctions with guest auctioneer Sally Wiggan, scrumptious dinner selections by The Fluted Mushroom, smooth jazz entertainment by Pittsburgh’s own Harold Betters Quartet, and dancing to the sounds of Jill West and the Blues Attack. All proceeds benefit The Children’s Home of Pittsburgh. For information or tickets, contact Audrey Innocenti at ainnocenti@cheopenhgh.org or at 412-441-4884, ext. 229 or visit www.childrenshopenhgh.org.

BRING YOUR DOG TO THE MOVIES NIGHT

Does your dog give you “puppy dog eyes” when you get ready to leave the house without him? Are you looking for more activities for your whole family? leggeds included? Or, are you and your dog home makers of indoor playtime? Don’t just stay home! Instead, bring your dog to the movies. Animal Friends is hosting another edition of our popular “Canine Movie Nights” on Friday, February 2 at 7 p.m. Our February feature is the Disney animated, “Beverly Hills Chihuahua.” Get your dog’s ID and come to the movies! Animal Friends is a powerful, and unknown.” For a complete schedule go to www.pennavenuearts.org or pick up a handbill/mail at participating locations.

UNBLURRED: FIRST FRIDAYS ON PENN

Penn Avenue Art Initiative hosts its first Unblurred of 2007 on Friday, February 2. Unblurred is a monthly event that opens the Penn Avenue Arts District (4800-5500 Penn) for exploration by adults and children. This month’s Unblurred showcases SNATCHBOX’S HARD CORE COMEDY BANG at Modernformations Gallery and Performance Space. The evening includes a variety show, a dance party with DJ Em and on exhibit “MONSTER: PART TWO An artistic display of the mysterious, powerful, and unknown.” For a complete schedule go to www.pennavenuearts.org or pick up a handbill/mail at participating locations.

DOOR OF HOPE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Door of Hope Community Church, located at 5227 Holmes Street in Lawrenceville, will host the following community events in February:

Febuary 23
Women’s Craft Day - February 24
Call 412-781-6440 for more information on these events.
slaves who traveled to and settled Nicodemus, Kansas, the only African American community of its time. Participants of all ages are welcome to attend.

One Shot: The Life and Work of Teenie Harris - Film (58 minutes) Tuesday, February 27, 12:15 p.m. CLP – Downtown and Business
612 Smithfield Street
The viewing of this film provides an insight into the lives of the Hill District community that local celebrity, Teenie Harris, captured in his photographs from the 1930s to the 1970s.

Tales from the Heart - An Evening with Temujin the Storyteller Tuesday, February 27, 6:30 p.m. CLP - Main, Children’s
4400 Forbes Avenue
This program kicks off the Library’s Stories Alive storytelling program. Families are invited to hear tales from Africa, the Caribbean, and the Americas.

For more information, please call the BGC Main Office at 412-441-6950

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The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation holds its twice-monthly board meetings at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of most months.

The meetings are held at 5129 Penn Avenue (BGC’s Youth Development Center)

All meetings are open to the public and community members are welcome to attend.

For more information, please call the BGC Main Office at 412-441-6950

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