Planning Begins for Next Phase of Single-Family Homes

A plan developed in 2000 to build 50 new single-family homes in Garfield is ready to enter its final phase, according to the two community groups involved in the development.

Officials from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) and Garfield Jubilee Association say they are pleased with the pace of sales on the last of the 16 homes built under Phase II. Joan Monroe, executive director of Garfield Jubilee Association (GJA), said, “This brings to 31 the number of houses we’ve been able to develop together. We have sales agreements or have had closings now on 29 of the units. The schedule to complete the project in its entirety has taken longer than we originally envisioned, but we feel blessed that buyers have materialized for these homes at every step along the way.”

By Joe Reuben
The Bulletin

Construction is wrapping up on the final four homes built under Phase II. Barbara Murphy, GJA’s housing specialist, confirmed that two are already under agreement, and expects that by mid-May, the final two homes will likewise be committed. Attention is now turning to where the next eight will go. A site map prepared by the groups indicates that new homes could be built at the corner of Dearborn and N. Millvale, as well as the 4900 and 5000 blocks of Broad Street, the 5100 block of Dearborn Street, the 300 block of N. Winebiddle, and the 5100 block of Kincaid Street.

“We’re trying to locate these homes close to where there has been other new housing development done in the section of Garfield between N. Mathilda and N. Atlantic,” Monroe told The Bulletin. “We want to draw on the strength of the work completed to date in propelling this next phase forward. We also want to be sure that nearby residents approve of these plans.”

Monroe cautioned that not all of the sites have been acquired from their owners, including the City of Pittsburgh, should one or more sites not be available from their owners, See HOMES, page 2

Photos courtesy L. Robert Kimball & Associates

Counter Intelligence

On a sunny day in early April, John J. Clark, a subcontractor with the Penn Avenue revitalization plan, conducted manual traffic-data collection at the corner of Penn and North Evaline and other intersections along the 2-mile stretch of Penn Avenue. The photo inset shows a closeup of the intersection counter used by Clark to complete this research. The manual counts occurred at peak hours of travel, from 7 to 9 a.m. and again from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., and will supplement the automated counts that took place along the corridor in late March by means of Automated Traffic Recorders (ATRs) - rubber tubes laid across the road at key intersections. The counts are now being reviewed by L. Robert Kimball & Associates, the company contracted by the city to oversee the revitalization project; the data will be uploaded into special software to establish traffic patterns along the avenue.

JUNE DEADLINE!

The FINAL DEADLINE for the JUNE 2008 issue of The Bulletin is THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2008. This includes ALL classified ads, Bulletin Board announcements, story submissions, and ad space reservations. All content is accepted on a space-available basis. For more information, call 412-441-5815.
PUBLISHER'S TASK FORCE REPORT

Who Ya Gonna Call...?

To get a free, installed smoke detector, or to have a tree planted or removed, or to get a permit for a picnic shelter?

Mayor Luke Ravenstahl has addressed all these questions in a guidebook, Mayor’s Neighborhoods First Handbook. The guide outlines every department in the city and what each is responsible for. It provides information on anything and everything you need to know about your city, how it operates, and who to call. Please be educated and informed on how to empower yourself to deal with issues that arise on a daily basis. While the various contacts contained in the handbook are valuable references, remember you can always call 311 first for questions, concerns, and comments regarding city services.

There are a limited number of copies of the guidebook available at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation office, 5149 Penn Avenue, or by contacting the Office of Neighborhood Initiatives at 412-255-2500.

Volunteers Spend Earth Day "Redding Up" City

An "Earth Against Litter Redding Up" took place throughout the city. April 18-20 Garfield neighbors pitched in to pick up on Saturday, April 19 Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation board member Jennifer Quinn reported that a group of dedicated volunteers "put a huge dent in" the neighborhood's litter, especially garbage dumped in a N. Millvale Avenue lot between Kincaid and Jordan Way.

HOMES, from page 1

According to Rick Swartz, executive director of the BGC, the architects for Phase III of the project will be Tai + Lee Architects and Hanson Design Group, and the general contractor, Steve Catranel Construction Co. "The two architectural firms in question have demonstrated an ability to deliver a product that appeals to the market we're catering to," Swartz said. "We don't have to reinvent the wheel at each stage of the development. Catranel knows very well what's expected by the Bureau of Building Inspection and other city agencies."

Murphy added that buyers have appreciated the warranty that Catranel provides to buyers on his workmanship. "For a first-time homebuyer, this is a major worry," she said. "What if something goes wrong, as it invariably does? They want to know that someone will be there to stand behind the product."

All buyers will be eligible for deferred-payment, second-mortgage options at zero percent interest, furnished by the city's Urban Redevelopment Authority. The URA is also providing a $75,000 pre-development loan to the BGC to ready homes for construction under Phase II. "The staff at the URA has stuck with us, even when others were questioning the wisdom of what we were attempting to do," Swartz noted. "Not every community is fortunate to have an agency like this."

Learn To Set Up a Block Watch

The Public Safety Department and Police Bureau encourage Block Watch and Business Watch programs to fight crime in our local communities and business districts. Both programs are based on the theory of prevention—stopping crime before it starts, and alerting police when it does.

Both programs use signs, slogans and stickers bearing the Watch logo accompanied by monthly meeting with other Watch members to encourage neighborhood, creative problem-solving and to send a message to potential offenders. The warning to potential offenders is clear: Your community will take an aggressive approach to work with the Public Safety Department to apprehend and prosecute all criminal violations. The Crime Prevention Officer in your zone will assist the Watch by providing recent crime information and safety tips.

— Mayor's Neighborhoods First Handbook

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation will host a presentation by Crime Prevention Officer Michael Gay from the Zone 5 Police Station on how to start a block watch program in your neighborhood.

When: Wednesday, May 17, 2008 - 6:00 P.M.
Where: Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Avenue

Public Safety Meetings

The Zone 2 Public Safety Council Meeting is held the last Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at Hill House, 1835 Centre Avenue. For more information, call 412-255-2827.

The Zone 5 Public Safety Council Meeting is held the second Tuesday of each month, with representatives of the police department in attendance. Meetings start at 7 p.m. at The Union Project, 801 North Negley Avenue (at Stanton). For more information, call 412-665-3605.

The BGC Public Safety Task Force - composed of community leaders, law enforcement officers, and public officials - meets on the second Wednesday of each month in Garfield to share information on community safety issues and to review progress being made in the area of crime prevention in Bloomfield, Garfield, and Friendship. Residents and business owners are invited to attend the first 15 minutes of each meeting to raise specific concerns, or present concrete information about criminal activity to the Task Force. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, May 14, at 4 p.m., at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corp. Community Activity Center, 113 North Pacific Avenue (corner of Deerborn). For more information, contact Aggie Bresc, chair of the Task Force, at 412-441-6950.

--

The Medicine Shoppe

Location: 107 South Napoleon Ave.
M-F: 9:30am-6:30pm
Sat: 9:30am-3pm
412-363-0211

Frustrated with grocery & chain store service?

* PREFERRED SHOPPER DISCOUNT *

For every $50 you spend on prescriptions, you will receive a 10% discount on all items in store.

LOWEST PRICES

We match the lowest competitor's prescription prices, including 34 generic.

FREE DELIVERY

To place your order, call 412-363-0211 or visit our website.
“Lofters” Come to Penn Avenue

By Sarah Collins
Friendship Development Associates

At a sunny groundbreaking ceremony on April 16, Dr. Howard B. Slaughter Jr., chief executive officer of Landmarks Community Capital Corporation, announced that LCCC is making a $462,000 equity investment into a new development located at 5000 Penn Avenue in the Bloomfield/Garfield section of Pittsburgh.

Friendship Development Associates (FDA) purchased the lot at 5000 Penn in 1999. The plan is to develop three brand-new, for-sale, loft-style homes (dubbed “lofters”) where occupants can both live and work in their spaces. The estimated total cost for the development is $800,000. The loft’s feature 9-foot-high ceilings, open floor plans, full kitchens and baths, energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, washer/dryer hookups, and garages available with buyer upgrades.

“The development will help fill a blighted vacant lot on a major corridor,” said Dr. Slaughter. He said it will also be attractive “to workers at the new Children’s Hospital just two blocks away, and continue to shore up the business corridor of Penn Avenue and provide quality housing for three new families. We are pleased to provide this equity investment to Friendship Development Associates and look forward to working with them on the construction of this development.”

Courtney Ehrlichman, real estate manager for FDA, said, “This development has been key to our efforts to maintain a strong sense of revitalization on the Penn Avenue corridor, and is a continuation of the work we do.

See LOFTS, page 5

---

Breaking ground at 5000 Penn Avenue, (from left) Dr. Howard Slaughter, LCCC; Arthur Ziegler, Pittsburgh History and Landmarks; Mayor Luke Ravenstahl; Rob Stephen, The Urban Development Authority; Jeffrey Dorsen, FDA; and Dr. Emma Lucas and Charlie Batch, both of LCCC’s Board of Directors.

---

“Dying for freedom isn’t the worst that could happen. Being forgotten is.”

—Tom Brokaw

This Memorial Day, please remember the sacrifices our veterans made for us.

---

Business Loans

Borrow Smart

* Real Estate Mortgages  
* Equipment/SBA Loans  
* Lines of Credit  
* Cash Management Services  
* Free Business Checking  
* Remote Deposit

Don’t you think it’s time we meet?

Commercial Services

Pittsburgh (412) 373-4837  Fayette County (724) 583-7701  
Chicora (724) 364-5005

1-800-850-1160 PARKVALE.COM  
49 Locations

---

Walter J. Zalewski

Funeral Homes Inc.

“Exceeding Your Expectations”

Lawrenceville Polish Hill

Walter J. Zalewski, Supervisor  
360 Fort Pitt Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
412 682-2445  
412 684-2562
Garfield Home Displays Owners’ Lifelong Commitment to Community

This month, we congratulate Chris and Deborah Helfrich, owners of 5110 Dearborn Street in Garfield. Chris and Deborah are both lifelong residents of Garfield, and have resided at this location since 1977, raising their two children there.

When the BGC staff visited the house, we knew that recognition of it as a neighborhood showcase was long overdue. The Helfrichs have constantly invested in their home. The property is well-maintained, demonstrating the pride the Helfrichs have in their home and community.

The property is a three-story, single-family, old-style frame house with a great front porch, painted brown and ivory. Every porch spindle has contrasting ivory paint on the balls. The small front yard is accentuated by neatly trimmed bushes and a flowering tree in the center. The house always sports seasonal adornments, and when the BGC visited, there was a decorative spring flag waving in the breeze.

Deborah was very pleased when the BGC staff called her with the news about the house’s nomination. She told the BGC staff, “We refuse to leave. We have too much invested and are not willing to give it up. And my parents still live in Garfield. My husband does all the work [on the house], and this will make him and my dad so happy.”

On a street that has seen some hard times, the Helfrichs’ home is a ray of hope because of their strong commitment to continue to live and invest in our community.

They were missed then. They’re missed now.

Now is the time we especially remember those who served for our country. They fought to make a better world for the rest of us, and we will never forget them.
"Council to Go" Brings Service Back to the Neighborhoods

By Patrick Dowd  
Member of Council, District 7  
City of Pittsburgh

"Where is your district office?" is a question I have heard from many constituents in the office downtown and out in the neighborhoods. I am happy to report that this summer, my staff and I will be setting up district offices in Bloomfield. And in Friendship, Lawrenceville, and Highland Park, and Polish Hill.

On the campaign trail, Amy Enrico of Enrico's Tazza D'oro approached me with the idea of a roving district office that reaches out to you, our constituents, at businesses across all of our neighborhoods. This summer, we are proud to launch the product of her idea: “Council to Go.”

Council to Go will make good on promises I made over a year ago: to use your tax dollars efficiently, to set high standards for city services, to respond to every inquiry and request, and to make new opportunities for you to voice your opinions on city government. Also, I am pleased to support our neighborhoods' small businesses and institutions.

Monthly Council to Go sessions will come to the places you frequent in your neighborhood. There, my staff and I will have forms and applications for city services, information on new initiatives and legislation in Council, and access to the 311 service center. Our ultimate goal is to better represent the residents of our district, so we want to take the time to learn how government is affecting you and your loved ones.

True to my promise, I will accomplish this without spending a single dollar of your taxes. All of the hosts for Council to Go have donated their spaces to us, and I am sincerely grateful for their hospitality.

Over the first several months of Council to Go, my staff and I will evaluate the success of our current sites, and determine how we can improve our services and expand the program. I invite your feedback about Council to Go. You can e-mail me at district7@city.pittsburgh.pa.us or call 412-255-2140. For updates on Council to Go, you can visit our website at www.pghgov.com/district7.

Join us at our first Council to Go session at the Bloomfield Farmers Market, on Thursday, May 15, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. I look forward to serving you over the coming years.

Council to Go Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bloomfield – Citiparks</td>
<td>Market</td>
<td>Shifting Thursday, May 15 3rd Thursday, 3:30-5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh Parking Authority Lot</td>
<td>Friendship Avenue and Easton Street</td>
<td>May – November only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomfield Alternatives – Savvy Media</td>
<td>4525 Liberty Avenue</td>
<td>3rd Thursday, 3:30-5 p.m. after closing of Farmers Market and in late spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrenceville – Carnegie Library</td>
<td>279 Fish St.</td>
<td>Shifting Wednesday, May 21 3rd Wednesday, 2-4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland Park – Enrico’s Tazza Bar</td>
<td>1136 H. Highland Ave.</td>
<td>Shifting Wednesday, May 28 4th Wednesday, 2-4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendship – Quiet Steam</td>
<td>5430 Penn Avenue</td>
<td>Shifting Thursday, June 5 1st Thursday, 2-4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polish Hill – Polish Hill Civic Association</td>
<td>3000 Brawton St.</td>
<td>Shifting Thursday, June 12 2nd Thursday, 2-4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We Need You!

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's annual membership drive kicks off next month, so watch for your renewal notice in the mail. Individuals and families join each year because they feel there is a value to the BGC pushing for change in their neighborhood or offering a program that no one else does. When you become a member of the BGC or renew your membership, you make a personal investment in the future of your neighborhood!

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation  
5149 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224  
412-441-6950 (fax) 412-441-6956
Housing Plan Stays on Schedule, Includes Changes

The site at Mossfield and Fern streets in Garfield Heights may look like just a big hole surrounded by a lot of dirt and some bulldozers poised for action. But, in fact, the necessary prep work is getting underway so that construction of 90 new housing units can begin in the fall.

The project, Tisha Germany of KBK Enterprises told The Bulletin, "is pretty much on track." KBK is the Columbus, Ohio-based firm, owned by Garfield native Keith B. Key, that is developing the site. Germany is the Pittsburgh office executive, operating out of a small house on Columbus Street.

This past January, Germany said, the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh demolished 105 of the old units to make way for the new construction. Now that the warmer weather has thawed the ground, she noted, "You'll see a lot of dirt moving and grading this spring and summer - a lot of what we call site prep work."

Then, by September or October, the site will be ready for laying the building pads, or foundations, of the units. After that, "the vertical construction goes very quickly," said Germany, emphasizing that they still anticipate that the first residents will be moving in next summer.

There have been a number of changes to the original plans for Phase 1 that were presented at the public meeting in March 2007 at the St. Lawrence O'Toole Activity Center. While there are still 90 mixed-income units and a "clubhouse" on the drawing boards, the location of the community center has shifted to the mid-public area (the architects call it a "muse"), accessible from Mossfield, with steps leading up to the community center. (See above drawing.)

Also of note, Germany reported, is that there will be "a few more" quadplexes (larger buildings containing four units each) than originally indicated. With the relocation of the community center, "we had to mass some duplexes together to make the site work. The space between the buildings was just too tight." She stressed, though, that the quadplex units will still feature distinctive front entrances and porches, and each will have a fenced-in rear patio. In total, the plan will feature six single-family homes, 17 duplexes, and 13 quadplexes.

Community members interested in learning more about the Phase 1 plans and changes are welcome to attend a public presentation by KBK before the City Planning Commission on Tuesday, May 6, at 2 p.m. The briefing will be held Downtown at 200 Ross Street, on the first floor.
Community Gardens Take Root in East End

Playwright George Bernard Shaw once wrote, "The best place to seek God is in a garden." And this spring, two community-based groups are bringing together faith and action to create urban vegetable gardens in the East End.

This is the second year there will be a community garden in a vacant lot in the 5300 block of Broad Street, owned by St. Lawrence O'Toole Church and situated next to its activity center. The garden was the brainchild of Laurie Cybulski of Morningside, a member of the parish.

The idea came partly out of the parish food bank, Cybulski explains. "The canned food we were giving to families was so high in chemicals and sodium, and we wanted a low-cost way to supplement that with fresh produce." The food grown in the garden is mowed out once a month during the growing season to about 24 families, who receive bags of green beans, potatoes, carrots, tomatoes, and cucumbers. "But no zucchini," Cybulski laughs. Although zucchini is usually easy to grow, the St. Lawrence O'Toole gardeners had no luck with it last year.

Cybulski has been growing her own food at home for about 17 years, and was very familiar with the work involved in testing the soil, creating raised beds, planting and harvesting. The clearing of the church lot at the start of the season is "a family event," she says, in which groups of volunteers take shifts. Last year, they completed the work in less than five hours. The clearing this season will take place after the 11 a.m. Mass on May 4. After that, a much smaller crew of six or seven will actually maintain the garden until fall.

John Creasy, assistant to the pastor at the Open Door church, is also a longtime gardener. Creasy says he has thought a lot about "how faith needs to impact how we live our lives." His thinking eventually led him to the idea of an urban farm.

"We have the best grocery stores in this neighborhood," he observes, "and yet many elderly people who live here can't get to the stores, and many others can't afford what's in them. I believe that the basics of what comes from the earth should be available to all" - a belief he calls "food equality."

To that end, the Open Door began partnering this year with Valley View Presbyterian Church and Open Hand Ministries (which rehabs houses and helps people become homeowners) to create Garfield Urban Farms - four plots tended by a volunteer crew. The largest plot, at Elora Way and Columbus Street, is being leased from the Urban Redevelopment Authority and will not be farmed until next year. Creasy says they want "to get out in the neighborhood" and talk to area residents.

"The secret is to have a garden," Creasy adds. "And we're going to have to fight very hard to keep it going."

Green Thumbs Wanted in Lawrenceville

Got a green thumb? Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. as a time to beautify Lawrenceville! During the May Community Clean Up Day, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy will provide flowers and tools for volunteers to plant flowers at the 48th Street and 57th Street gardens.

Volunteers will meet at Lawrenceville United (LU) 4825 Butler Street, for a light breakfast, followed by a break-out to the gardens and most littered sites in the neighborhood. At noon, a free lunch will be provided at the LU office. First-time volunteers receive a free "Help Keep Lawrenceville Clean" T-shirt.

Lawrenceville Community Clean Up Days are the second Saturday of each month, and are made possible through a partnership between Lawrenceville Corporation and Lawrenceville United. Funded by Mainstreets Pittsburgh and Operation Weed and Seed, Mainstreets is a program of the Urban Redevelopment Authority, and is funded in part by the City of Pittsburgh, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. Weed and Seed is administered by the offices of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and the U.S. Attorney Mary Beth Buchanan.
Thai Your Hunger Down in Lawrenceville

The most passionate Thai enthusiasts are addicted to La Filipinoana, the elegantly casual Butler Street destination restaurant. My latest visit was on a Friday evening in early April. Our party of four didn’t have a reservation, but we arrived early enough (6:30 p.m.) to be promptly seated. The modestly decorated BYOB spot, with blood-orange walls and a cream-colored tin ceiling, is intimate, but roomy. The main dining room seats approximately 30, and the smaller room behind it comfortably seats eight.

The menu is divided into two sections, Thai on the front and Filipino cuisine on the back, and reads, “Your taste buds will dance.” Mine started to groove before I even placed my order! The classic flavors of Thai cuisine – salt, spice, sweet – popped out at me. Not to be upstaged by their Thai counterparts, the classic Filipino flavors of soy, ginger, vinegar and garlic also danced.

We started with the vegetable Siopao (steamed dumplings) from the Filipino menu ($2.95), and the fresh ($4.95) and fried vegetable spring rolls ($2.95) from the Thai menu. The Siopao is doughty on the outside and deliciously filled with warm spinach, herbs, and spices. It comes with a killer soy-vinaigrette dipping sauce. As they say in the Philippines, “Masarap!” (delicious). The fresh spring rolls, stuffed with basil and mint leaves, cucumbers, carrots, vermicelli noodles and tofu, are undeniably fresh. The fried spring rolls, served with a plum sauce, are just as tasty. The flavorful lemongrass soup with mushrooms and the Thai-style wonton soup are also a hit. Appetizers and soups range from $2.95-$5.95. Dinner salads are $6.95-$7.95.

Adorned with fresh flowers or vegetables cut into flower shapes, dishes are presented in an aesthetically impressive way. The savory Eggplant with Tofu, sautéed with basil and bell peppers in a black bean sauce (from the Thai menu), is an excellent entrée choice ($9.95). Penang Curry, a classic Thai coconut milk dish made with chicken ($10.95) or vegetables ($9.95), is another delight. From the Filipino menu, Beef Caldereta, a Spanish dish of slowly cooked pot roast, olives, potatoes, and carrots topped with a mildly piquant tomato sauce, melts in our mouths and exudes comfort food ($11.95). Taste of La Filipinoana ($14.95), a sampler dish “representing fusion food of the Philippines,” is for those who can’t choose from the plentiful selections (it’s served with soup, Chicken Adobo, Beef Caldereta and Shrimp Curry, dessert, and ginger tea). Entrees range from $9.95-$14.95.

The homemade Thai tea ice cream, served with a crispy wafer stick, is unbelievably fantastic ($4.95). Homemade coconut and green tea ice cream; custard made with eggs, milk, and fresh lemon rind ($4.95); and sticky rice ($5.95) are also offered.

As we concluded our dinner, La Filipinoana was packed, with diners standing outside waiting to be seated. The “secret garden” opens this month, making it possible to dine alfresco beneath wisteria vines and white lights. I call it the “secret garden” because La Filipinoana grows its own spices there. I can already smell the fresh scents of cilantro, basil, and mint blowing in the breeze. We’ll be back, but until then, “Salamat po La Filipinoana” - which simply means “Thank you, and our compliments to the chef.”

Milo Walks for Miles

Milo is a 3-year-old Shepherd/Australian Cattle Dog mix, who was brought to the Animal Rescue League in February when his owners could no longer care for him. He’s a friendly and social fellow with a moderate energy level. Milo knows basic commands and enjoys long walks. A bit overweight, Milo will need a regimented diet and frequent exercise in his new home. Since he loves to walk and to cuddle up afterwards, he would make an excellent home companion and couch buddy. Staff at the ARL recommends an adult home with folks who understand his needs. Milo is up to date with all his shots, plus is house-trained and neutered. Milo is available at the Animal Rescue League, 6620 Hamilton Avenue, Pittsburgh (412-661-6452).

Breed Tip of the Month: The Australian Cattle Dog - also known as the Queensland Heeler, Blue Heeler, or Red Heeler - is a breed of herding dog developed in Australia for controlling cattle. It is a medium-sized, short-coated dog with a lot of energy and intelligence, and an independent streak. (Source: Wikipedia)
What’s Decided - and How - in a Divorce?
Second in a Two-Part Series

By Frank Pistella
Neighborhood Legal Services Association

In this second article on divorce in Pennsylvania, we will look at the major issues that a couple going through the divorce process needs to address: custody of minor children, alimony, support, marital property, counseling, and attorney’s fees. All of these issues, with the exception of custody and child support, must be addressed before the divorce decree is finalized by the court. Failure to address them could result in financial and emotional hardship for all parties involved.

The matter of alimony, as part of the divorce process, is sometimes misunderstood. There are two types of alimony. The alimony that is available during the divorce may include medical insurance coverage, attorney’s fees, and other expenses, and is known by the Latin term pendente lite. This alimony is temporary, and is available only until the court grants the divorce. The second type of alimony is agreed upon as part of the divorce settlement, and begins after the divorce is finalized. Either party to a divorce can receive either type of alimony.

The factors that are looked at in determining the amount of alimony and its duration are: the length of the marriage; the division of the parties’ marital property; and the parties’ ages, health, earning capacities, and needs. The couple itself may agree to the amount, the manner, and duration of the alimony payments; however, this agreement is subject to court approval. The couple’s agreement may be modified by the court prior to the granting of the final divorce decree.

The court will also look at each party in the divorce proceeding prior to deciding the length of time for which alimony can be granted. It may be granted for a specific time or for an unlimited time. This court decision is based on whether the person seeking alimony can work or develop a job skill; age; disability; or the need to care for minor children are also considered. If it is difficult for the person seeking alimony to work, it may be granted for a long or unlimited time period.

A person must ask for alimony as part of the divorce action before the court issues a final divorce decree. If a person does not ask for alimony before the final divorce decree is issued by the court, she or he may not come back at a later time to ask the court to order it. A person granted alimony by the court loses it once he or she remarries or lives together as husband and wife with a person of the opposite sex.

Under the Pennsylvania divorce law, marital property means all property acquired during the marriage. This definition includes the increase in the value of the property, but not the property itself, that either spouse acquired prior to the marriage (he or she may have acquired it by gift or inheritance). Also, it does not matter if the title to the property is in the name of only one spouse. A couple can divide its property in any way it chooses. The couple may have the court make the agreement part of the court order granting the divorce. The court cannot modify a property division agreement as long as the parties ‘fully disclosed their finances to each other and entered into the agreement knowingly and voluntarily.’ In unusual circumstances, such as fraud, the court inclined to modify a property division agreement.

A property division agreement is a good idea, because it saves both parties’ time, money, and aggravation. If no property division agreement between the parties is possible, either spouse may ask the court to divide the marital property in a fair way. When the court looks at how to divide the marital property, it looks at certain factors: the number of minor children, if any; the parties’ health; and their standard of living. The court does have the right to give more marital property to one party than to the other. Just like alimony, a request to divide marital property must be made as part of the divorce action before the court finalizes the divorce decree.

Child support and custody, unlike alimony and marital property, do not have to be included in a divorce action. These matters can be decided at any time and in a separate court proceeding. Either party in a divorce proceeding can have child support and custody included as part of the divorce case. A couple can always make a written agreement on child support and custody and have the court make that agreement part of a court order. If the parents cannot reach an agreement on child support and custody, either parent may ask the court to decide these matters.

After a child support and custody order has been issued, either parent may ask the court, at any time, to modify the court order. The basis for modification of custody is if it is in the best interest of the child. The modification of child support is a change in the circumstances of either parent.

One of the purposes of the Pennsylvania divorce law is to try to preserve and protect the family, especially in situations where children are involved. In any case, the court can order counseling if either party requests it. Participating in counseling will not generally delay or prevent the divorce. Some courts may also require the parents to attend a seminar about how to help children deal with divorce.

Lastly, the costs of going through a divorce will vary. Every court charges for bringing a divorce action. Beyond this, additional costs occur when there are hearings on alimony, support, or marital property, and these can drive up the cost of the divorce. Private attorneys also charge fees, which vary widely. A person seeking a divorce but who is unable to pay court costs can ask to be excused from paying them. That individual will have to make a request to the court, and show that he or she has little or no money to pay the court costs.

Neighborhood Legal Services Association (NLSA) represents victims of abuse regardless of their income. Our toll-free number in Pittsburgh (between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.) is 1-866-761-6572. For more information on NLSA, please visit us at www.nlsa.us. At our website, you will also find a link to www.Pa.AWHelp.org, which provides valuable legal information on a multitude of legal topics.

---

**LEGAL EASE**

**NeighborWorks® Western Pennsylvania**
(Formerly Neighborhood Housing Services)

In partnership with the

Bloomfield Garfield Corporation
and
National City Bank

PRESENTS a FREE Homebuyer Workshop

*Everything you need to know about becoming a homeowner!!*

**When:** Saturday May 17th
**Time:** 8:30AM to 4:00PM
**Where:** Bloomfield Garfield Community Activity Center
Located at 113 North Pacific Avenue, Garfield

A light lunch will be provided

Register Today! 412-281-9773 ext. 100

National City
Neighborhoods Are the Heart of the City

Pittsburgh is a city of 90 unique neighborhoods. The character of our neighborhoods is often defined by the business districts within. Neighborhood business districts are at the heart of many communities, providing a place for the exchange of goods and services, as well as a place for neighbors to meet and socialize.

As neighborhood revitalization and reinvestment remain among my top priorities, we are focused on creating and maintaining vibrant neighborhood business districts. We want to maintain the long-time businesses that have served our communities for years, while also attracting new ones. We want residents to see their business districts as assets, and not as things of the past. In addition to implementing programs to make the business district safer, cleaner, and more attractive, we are also crafting initiatives to attract and help small businesses grow and succeed. City living is convenient and enjoyable, and our reinvestment in neighborhood business districts ensures that those benefits continue into the future.

My administration is currently putting together a plan to clean up our business districts. This multi-faceted approach will include working with the numerous business districts in the city to find out exactly what they need, providing direction and consultation in terms of planning and redevelopment, and making neighborhood business districts a priority for city services and government. Within the next few weeks, my staff will be contacting business owners and community leaders in our neighborhoods to discuss this initiative, and to find out what each business district needs.

We will make available to business districts a menu of resources to help clean up and make the streetscape more attractive and appealing (such as garbage cans, benches, and bike racks). We will also mobilize city teams to focus efforts on business districts in regard to graffiti removal, line/car paint-improvements. This program sparks investment in neighborhoods, attracts positive attention to businesses, and spurs other businesses to undertake needed improvements.

Contact the Urban Development Authority at 412-255-2566 for more information about this and other incentives, loans, and grants to small business owners looking to open up shop or complete renovations.

Please call my Office of Neighborhood Initiatives at 412-255-2566 with any questions regarding these programs. As the weather warms up, I encourage you to visit your neighborhood business districts, and to get out and enjoy all that your neighborhood and our great city have to offer.

---

Seniorsville Adult Day Care Center

Services Provided:
- Exercise
- Recreation and Entertainment
- Nutritious Well-Balanced Meals
- Individualized Plans of Care
- Medical Care
- Caregiver Support
- Crafts
- And Much More

For more information on our services, please contact us at: 412-441-6249 or www.seniorsvillepgh.com.

113 S. Aiken Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-441-6249
www.seniorsvillepgh.com

---

Journey
Let it begin

"Journey: A Service of Spirit, Hope & Praise."

Worship with us
Sundays - 8:45 a.m.
East Liberty Presbyterian Church
116 S. Highland Avenue
412-441-3600
Two Community Organizations Partner To Improve Friendship’s Tree-Lined Streets

Friendship Development Associates (FDA) and Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest (FPUF) are uniting to enhance the urban forest in Friendship. Friendship, a community already known for its beautiful tree-lined streets, will enrich its green streets with the help of FPUF through new trees, new tree pits, and a community outreach and education effort.

FDA is a neighborhood-based community development corporation that uses place-based real estate development strategies to bring about lasting beneficial market change in an unstable real estate market. FPUF, currently based in East Liberty, is an environmental nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the city’s vitality by restoring and protecting the urban forest through community maintenance, planting, education, and advocacy.

Beginning immediately and extending through July, FPUF will bring its arboreal expertise to Friendship to help make the best choices possible in tree species, placement, and maintenance. The organization will also reach out to the community to ensure that residents have the knowledge necessary to ensure that Friendship’s trees live long and healthy lives.

“One of Friendship’s greatest assets is its street tree stock,” said Henry Pyatt, Neighborhood Planning Manager at FDA. “I’m very excited to connect that asset with the expertise and passion of FPUF.”

FPUF will use funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development’s Elm Street Program to augment the tree stock. The Elm Street Program seeks to help older neighborhoods adjacent to traditional commercial districts reinvigorate themselves as diverse, sustainable communities that in turn provide markets for the adjacent business districts.

ON APRIL 16, COUNTY EXECUTIVE DAN ONORATO AND MAYOR LUKE RAVENSTahl WERE ON HAND TO PLANT TREES ON FISK STREET IN LAWRENCEVILLE AS PART OF THE CITY’S “TREEVITALIZED” INITIATIVE. LAWRENCEVILLE TREE TENDERS (SEE BELOW) WILL TAKE CARE OF THE SAPLINGS.

First Tree-Care Day in Lawrenceville

The Lawrenceville Tree Tenders (LTT) invite you to the first Tree Care Day of 2008 on Saturday, May 3. Volunteers will meet at Arsenal Park (at the 40th Street entrance) at 8:30 a.m. and break into groups to tend trees on Penn Avenue and Butler Street - weeding, mulching, and picking up trash around the trees. You don’t have to be a certified tree tender to help out; anyone can volunteer! Just bring hand gloves and dress in layers. At noon, meet back in the park for lunch, as LTT plants the first tree of the season! RSVP to Molly at 412-683-3399, and let her know if you have a pickup truck that could be used for hauling mulch. LTT asks business owners to try and weed their tree beds prior to May 3 so that it will be easier for volunteers to work. If you’re interested in planting a tree in front of your business, contact Molly for a tree request form.

A house payment that never changes isn’t boring.

It’s reassuring.

Fixed-Rate Mortgage. Most likely your house payment is your biggest monthly expense. Why spend it on interest? A Fixed-Rate Mortgage from National City keeps your mortgage payment the same every month for the full term of the loan. This keeps your monthly payment within your budget. Where you don’t have to worry about it.

See if you qualify for a stable, long-term Fixed-Rate Mortgage from National City. Stop by your nearest National City location. Or visit NationalCity.com.
Tips for Successful Weight Loss
Small Changes Can Add Up To Big Benefits

By Amy J. DiPlacido, M.D.
Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health Center

Spring is in the air, and there’s no better time to shed some unwanted pounds. The benefits of losing weight are almost endless. By getting your weight down into a healthy range, you could have more energy, more self-confidence, and less risk of developing conditions like diabetes and hypertension.

Weight is a function of how many calories are taken in versus how many calories are burned. If a person eats more calories than he or she uses up, the excess calories are stored as fat. The opposite is also true. If a person burns more calories than he or she takes in, that person will lose weight.

Here are a few tips for successful weight loss:

- Set a goal of losing one pound per week. Slow and steady weight loss is the key to long-term success. People who lose large amounts of weight in short periods of time are much less likely to keep it off.
- Train yourself to eat smaller portions. Less food means fewer calories.
- Don’t skip meals. People who don’t eat breakfast are more likely to overeat at lunch or dinner.
- Eat only when you are hungry. Many people eat out of habit, like when they are sitting on the couch watching television, and this can add tons of calories to a person’s diet without even realizing it.
- Stop eating when you feel full. There’s no shame in taking part of a meal home from a restaurant to enjoy at another time.
- Watch the calories in what you drink. Between gourmet coffees and soda, many people drink hundreds of calories every day.
- Eat foods with lots of fiber because they will make you feel more full. This includes fruits and vegetables. The fiber helps to lower your risk of colon cancer, and helps to keep your bowels moving regularly.
- Limit fast food. When you eat out, choose healthier options, like baked fish instead of fried, or a side salad instead of french fries.
- Exercise more. Walk to the store, or try parking your car in the back of the parking lot so that you have to walk a short distance to get to the store.
- Commit to weight loss with a friend or a relative. You can cheer each other on and encourage each other to stay on track.

Remember, lots of small changes will make a difference. Diets generally do not work because they are hard to maintain over time, plus they may have such severe restrictions that they can cause you to miss out on some nutrients over time. Over-the-counter weight-loss drugs can be dangerous to your health, and many of them have not been studied to show that they are safe. Consult a physician for a personalized, healthy approach to weight loss and exercise.

TAX MAN
by Patrick N. Price
Tax Consultant
Internal Revenue Service

If you make eligible contributions to an employer-sponsored retirement plan or to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), you may be able to take the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit. To be eligible for the credit, you must be at least age 18 and not a full-time student, and you cannot be claimed as a dependent on another person’s return. You may be able to take a tax credit of up to $1,000 (up to $2,000 if filing jointly) if you make contributions to a traditional IRA, Roth IRA, 401(k), and certain other tax-deferred retirement plans. The amount of the saver’s credit is based upon the taxpayer’s income and filing status. Certain distributions from retirement plans made in the last three years reduce your eligible contributions for the saver’s credit. You can refer for more information to IRS Publication 590, “Individual Retirement Arrangements.”

Did You Know...?

The Allegheny County Department of Human Services sponsors SummerFood, a free breakfast, lunch, and recreation program for economically disadvantaged children 18 years of age and under. The program runs from June 9 to August 22. Delicious, nourishing meals will be served weekdays at approximately 120 locations throughout Allegheny County. For information on locations and times, call the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (toll-free) at 1-800-851-3838. For eligibility guidelines call 412-350-2798.
Children of St. John Neumann

“Dream for Peace”

“Dream for Peace” is the vision of a child who needs your help. There are, in fact, 120 children who have that dream and are involved in a unique program in Lawrenceville that intends to show “at risk” students that they can reach their ambitions.

In partnership with Lawrenceville United, the City of Pittsburgh Weed & Seed Program, Pittsburgh Gateways Corporation, and Our Lady of the Angels Parish, St. John Neumann Elementary School has taken a first step in creating an arts program to benefit students, their families, the community, and local artists with long-term rewards for our children. The vision is to create a sustainable, artist-in-the-schools program with the goal of teaching every child in grades 1 through 8 how to use art as a tool to express and realize their dreams.

On May 20, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., students will proudly exhibit and perform the various art forms they have created in this program. Family, friends, neighbors, patrons, artists, and business and political leaders are invited to attend this event at Our Lady of the Angels Church, Holy Family Socia Hall, 256 44th Street, Lawrenceville. The “Dream for Peace” music and art event is free to all, but those in attendance will be able to purchase the students’ art. All proceeds will help ensure sustainability of the “Dream for Peace” program. Contributions will also be gratefully accepted.

For more information, please call 412-682-0929.
The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, announcements, fundraising events, and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Send announcements to gcbulletin@yahoo.com by the 15th of each month. Information is published on a space-available basis.

**FITNESS “BOOT CAMP” IN LAWRENCEVILLE**

B.O.D.Y. Personal Training/Dance/Fitness will be hosting an outdoor boot camp class in Arsenal Park, Lawrenceville. Class begins the week of May 5th and runs through the week of June 23rd, 2008. Run, walk, jump, and drill your way to better fitness this summer, all while enjoying the great outdoors. Bring a friend and increase the fun. For more details or to sign up please call 412-628-2986 or email developingyou@gmail.com.

**FREE POETRY READING**

Garfield resident Elorna Fortun will give a free poetry reading on Saturday, May 10, at the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific, from 5-7 p.m. She will also sign copies of her new poetry collection.

**PERSAD CENTER’S 20TH ANNUAL AUCTION**

The Persad Center, the nation’s second oldest licensed counseling center specifically created to serve the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, will hold its 20th annual “Celebrate Life, Celebrate Art” auction on Monday, May 12, at The Carnegie Museum of Art, 4400 Forbes Avenue, in Oakland. From 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. there will be a private preview & cocktail reception for patron ticket holders only ($185 in advance). General admission to the event is from 6-11 p.m. ($75 in advance). For more information, call 412-441-9786, or visit www.persadcenter.org.

**L’VILLE AFTER-SCHOOL ART PROGRAM**

Operation Weed & Seed Lawrenceville’s after-school program is fun for everyone! Kiln-N-Time, located at 3801 Penn Avenue in Lawrenceville, is now accepting registration for your child to enjoy a fun-filled after-school program of painting pottery, making mosaics, and sculpting for a free! If he or she has to do is come into our studio and fill out a registration form, and bring a copy of their report card and parental approval (no exceptions). We have expanded our intervention/prevention and therapy workshops to the whole family. Each student that participates in the after-school program must also participate in three family unit workshops. Students and their parents/caregivers are invited to make a complete family dinner place setting. A special Family Circle Dinner event will be held in August 2008, hosted by Kiln-N-Time, Lawrenceville United, and Operation Weed & Seed, and served on the dinner sets designed by families. Food will be donated and provided by Whole Foods. For more information call Sandy Simon at (412) 687-0383 or visit www.KilnNTime.mysite.com.

**“BRIDE ROW” MEETING, PART II**

Friendship Development Associates and its partners in Bloomfield and Garfield are holding a “Bride Row” Community Meeting, Part II, on Thursday, May 1, at 6 p.m. At this follow-up, the architects will present their conceptual design for the eight buildings at 5439-5453 Penn Avenue. The meeting will be held at the Penn Fairmont Apartment Building, 5461 Penn Avenue, and pizza and refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Matthew Galluzzo at FDA at 412-441-6147 x 4.

**SUMMER CLASSES AT Pgh DANCE ARTS**

Come spend the summer with Pittsburgh Dance Arts, 4059 Penn Avenue (near Main Street). Experience the magic of dance, theater, and tumbling with our expert teaching artists, in our safe and friendly environment. Increase strength and flexibility, develop coordination, improve motor skills. Tumbling & Dance Camp (June 23-27, ages 4-12), Performing Arts Camp (July 28-August 4, ages 5-14), and Ballet Intensive (August 4-8, ages 7-14 - for the serious ballet student). For adults, join us for on-going, energizing, inspirational, and fun classes (all levels) in Ballet, Tap, Jazz, and more. Call 412-681-7523 or go to our website for schedule information: www.pghdance.com.

**SAVE THE DATE; FRIENDSHIP HOUSE TOUR**

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, September 21, Friendship hosts the 15th Annual Friendship House Tour. In the celebration of Pittsburgh’s 250th birthday, Friendship is celebrating the pride and progress of our community by showcasing what makes us unique – architecture and architecture! This year’s tour is titled, “Pride and Progress – the history of architects and architecture in Friendship.” The tour begins at EDGE studio and features homes with interesting architectural amenities, as well as the homes and businesses of various architects in the community. A particularly interesting stop along the tour route will be the home of prominent 19th-century architect Charles M. Bartberger and the school he designed, now Pittsburgh Montessori. Please stay tuned for further information unfolding.

**HISTORY OF THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.**

The Lawrenceville Historical Society presents “History of the Allegheny Health Department,” a free talk by Dr. Bruce Dixon, the Department Director. Dr. Dixon will discuss the history and mission of the Health Department. The presentation takes place on Thursday, May 15, at 7 p.m. at Canterbury Place, McCaul Auditorium (1st floor), 311 Park Street, in Lawrenceville. For more information contact info@LHS1920.org.

**“HAPPY HILL” MEMORIES**

Do you remember Happy Hill? Do you have stories, memories, or fondness for the hill near Butler Street and in between 45th and 46th Streets? Some call it “Happy Hill,” while others refer to it as “Happy’s Hill.” As relatively recent transplants to Lawrenceville who live in this area, we’re collecting memories of this great, green hill. Please contact Café Jimotha at jimotha@yahoo.com (include “Happy Hill” in the subject line). Or you can send an old-fashioned letter to 225 45th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

**DDRI CRAFT SHOW**

The Distinguished Doberman Rescue Inc. (DDRI) Craft Show will be held Saturday, May 31, from 10 to 3, at Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Holy Family Social Hall, 256 44th Street, Lawrenceville. Admission is free. Crafters’ tables are available for $35, due with application by May 2. For an application and more information: www.ddrir.net.

**MORNINGSIDE C.O.G.I.C. PENTECOST SERVICE**

The Summer Vacation Bible School of the Morningside Church of God in Christ, 5173 Dearborn St., will sponsor a Pentecost service on Sunday, May 4, at 4 p.m. The theme: “A Time of Refreshing/ Restoration.” The guest speaker will be Pastor Avril Veen of the Holy Spirit Fellowship in Beaver Falls, Pa. For more information, call 412-361-9865.

**FRIENDSHIP FLOWER & FOLK FESTIVAL**

Come to the 11th annual Friendship Flower and Folk Festival on Saturday, May 10, in Baum Grove (intersection of Harriet, Fairmont, and Roup). Cet your garden started, and purchase beautiful, locally grown flowers, herbs, heirloom vegetables, and special Mother’s Day baskets. The proceeds support the maintenance of Baum Grove, Friendship’s own green space. In addition, enjoy deliciously grilled food, fabulous wine, and the ever-famous book sale. For more information about the festival or a order flowers, call 412-441-6147 x 7 or visit www.friendshipfloral.com. Designed by Friendship residents and sponsored by the Friendship Preservation Group and Friendship Development Associates.

**L’VILLE HOUSE TOUR**

It’s an early time to start thinking about the Lawrenceville Historic House Tour, which takes place Oct. 4-5. In honor of Pittsburgh’s 250th Anniversary celebration, the house tour is kicking it up a notch! The event will spotlight historic residences throughout the Lawrenceville neighborhood and include historic reenactments and performances at various locations. And, for the first time, you can nominate your own Lawrenceville house — or somebody else’s in the community — to be included in the “Snapshots Through Time” Lawrenceville Historic House Tour. Houses that are nominated should represent a particular time period, or have an interesting history or individual associated with the house. Houses should also be either restored or renovated in a thoughtful or unique manner. Moxém and “green” restorations are also welcome!
Mail nominations to Kate Bayer. 4738 Harfield Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201, call 412-609-2068 or visit www.lawrencevillehousetour.org. Also, contact Kate if you'd like to volunteer.

**Mildred's Daughters May Events**

Seedling sale at Mildred's Daughters Urban Farm, Stanton Heights area. Come to the farm May 16-31 to choose from over 30 varieties of heirloom tomato transplants, peppers, eggplant, and herbs - Fridays, 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon. Also, cooking class, "Beyond Basil: Herbal Pestos," Saturday, May 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; cost: $36, includes farm tour. Volunteer pot luck at the farm, Saturday, May 31, from noon to 5 p.m. Bring a dish and hand tools. RSVP so we can cook enough. Contact mildredsdultuors@earthlink.net or 412-799-0833.

**Low-Income Home Buyers' Program**

Allegheny Valley Bank has partnered with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh to offer the First Front Door Home Buyer Program. Qualified Allegheny Valley Bank customers can receive up to $5,000 in matching dollars toward the down payment and closing costs associated with home ownership. To qualify for the program, applicants must meet certain criteria, such as be first-time homebuyers and be able to contribute personal funds as part of the down payment and closing costs. Applicants' income level must be at or below 80 percent of the area median income, and they must be willing to complete at least four hours of home ownership counseling prior to the purchase of the home, which will include the topic of predatory lending. Prospective home buyers should contact Amy Curtis at 412-745-3828, or visit any of AVB's local offices.

**Pedal Pittsburgh Registration**

It's that time of year again! Register for Pedal Pittsburgh by visiting www.pedalpittsburgh.org or by calling 412-223-3345 to request a registration brochure. Held on Sunday, May 18, PNC Pedal Pittsburgh is a fun, educational bicycle ride - not a race - that draws over 2,000 riders annually. Join in celebrating Pedal Pittsburgh's 16th anniversary and experience the neighborhoods and design land marks that make Pittsburgh unique. We hope to see you there! PNC Pedal Pittsburgh 2008 is sponsored by the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh.

**Sip and Spin at The Union Project**

Pala Partners, Vin Fatales, and The Union Project are joining together for an evening of wine tasting, clay spinning, and community to benefit Dress for Success Pittsburgh. "Sip & Spin" will take place on June 12 from 6-8 p.m. at The Union Project, 801 N. Negley. Founded in New York City in 1997, Dress for Success is an international not-for-profit organization offering services designed to help female clients find a job and remain employed. Each Dress for Success client receives one suit when she has a job interview, and can return for a second suit when she finds work. This event will include wine from Dreadnought Wines and clay demonstrations by The Union Project's pottery studio. Cost: $10 for Vin Fatales members, $15 general public (a women only event). For more information, call 412-391-8502, or visit www.palapartners.com.

**Valley View Summer Freedom Camp**

Valley View Presbyterian Church, located at 601 North Aiken Street, presents "Freedom Camp 2008," from June 25 through July 26, Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Arts & crafts, music, math, field trips, bible study, and language arts for boys and girls, ages 6 to 12. Registration: Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Sundays, 1-2 p.m. For more information, call Jeria White at 412-361-0870, or Pastor Chad Collins at 412-708-6158.

**Free Healthcare Fair**

There will be a free healthcare fair on Saturday, May 3, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Centre and Morewood, Shadyside. Blood pressure testing; HIV testing and prevention; diabetes prevention information; breast self-care education; testicular self-exam info; chair massages; acupuncture, Bach flower remedies, and more. Snacks, too! For information, call 412-682-3342.

**Tal Chi Classes at ELPC**

Stretch yourself this spring with Tal Chi! Classes are again being offered weekly at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland Avenue, on Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. and 6-7 p.m. Judy Crow will return as the instructor. A donation of $3 per class is requested. For questions or further information, contact Rev. Patricia Fowler-Searcy at 412-441-3800 x 30.

**Home Buyers’ Education Workshop**

Neighborhood Housing Services, in partnership with the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, presents a FREE home buyers’ education workshop on Saturday, May 17, from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Activity Center, 113 North North Avenue, in Garfield. The workshop covers the following and more: how to prepare for home ownership; tips on setting up and maintaining a family-friendly budget; credit history and credit report information; tips on shopping for a home, pre-approval lending and foreclosure prevention; closing and moving-in information; and post-purchase information. Space is limited, so please call 412-281-9773 x 109 to register!

**Garfield Gators Registration**

Garfield Gators registration will be held each Saturday this month: May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31. Location: Old YMCA on Hillcrest. Time: 2-4 p.m. Cost: $15.
Now the Best Defense Against Breast Cancer

Is Just a Click Away.

When it comes to breast cancer, early detection is the best protection.

West Penn Hospital's board-certified radiologists and certified technologists offer the most advanced screening and diagnostic services, including digital mammography.

With the convenience of online appointment requests, taking care of yourself has never been easier.

To schedule a mammogram, visit ScheduleConnect at www.wpahs.org or call 412-578-1000.