City of Learning takes shape in East End

By Sarah Burke
The Bulletin

East End – School may be out for summer, but community organizations in the city’s East End and beyond are hard at work creating a vibrant, networked campus for children and teens.

Pittsburgh City of Learning, a pilot program facilitated by the Sprout Fund, offers young people a searchable database of summer learning opportunities in fields from robotics to fashion to gardening. By taking advantage of classes, camps, and workshops offered by 19 partner organizations throughout the city, participants can work toward digital badges that document what they’ve learned.

“For people who are unfamiliar with digital badges, I start by comparing them to a Boy Scout or Girl Scout merit badge – visual symbols of a skill or competency someone has acquired,” said Khalif Ali, program manager at the Sprout Fund. “Badges are a way to recognize participants for what they’re learning, and organizations for creating environments where they can learn.”

Bike, in-auto thefts skyrocket in East End

By Wesley Davis
The Bulletin

East End – Zone 5 police crime reports for May and June indicate that the number of bike thefts and thefts from automobiles has been increasing across the East End, with many occurring in the 3

Penn Avenue – Efforts by a prominent local developer to build a new AutoZone retail outlet at the intersection of Penn and Negley avenues now hinge on an upcoming ruling by the city’s Zoning

Panel hears argument on AutoZone store

By Joe Reuben
The Bulletin

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East Liberty principal takes on new leadership role

East Liberty – In June 2014, the Pittsburgh school board approved the appointments of several new administrative personnel. One appointment will affect the Barack Obama Academy of International Studies 6-12, an East Liberty school.

Wayne Walters, principal of Pittsburgh Obama 6-12, will also serve as assistant superintendent for 6-12 schools. Pittsburgh Obama will still have its seasoned chief as he faces a new role.

“I will maintain my level of leadership, visibility, and service to the stakeholders of Pittsburgh Obama 6-12,” Walters said. “I plan to continue with innovative approaches in place in our International Baccalaureate program, with a focus on developing teacher expertise to shape the overall achievement and development of our students.”

Walters will split his time between Pittsburgh Obama, other 6-12 schools, and the administration building in Oakland.

Although some may find this a daunting task, Walters said his “intermittent absences will not impede Pittsburgh Obama’s quest for continuous improvement as a quality educational option in the Western Pennsylvania region.”

Pittsburgh Obama also has a new director, Meghan Murray, who joined the district in 2011. With experience in human resources and curriculum development, Murray said she is confident she can fill in as Obama’s newest administrator.

“I am committed to ensuring that the school will move forward with academic success under the new leadership model that allows Dr. Walters to have a greater impact on the students of Pittsburgh Public Schools,” she said. – Mercedes Howze, Pittsburgh Public Schools

Career Connections students to enroll in new schools

Lawrenceville – Following a final decision by a judge from the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania siding with Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS), Career Connections Charter High School (CCCHS) officially closed at the end of this past school year.

The 280 students who attended CCCHS will funnel into their respective feeder schools in PPS for the upcoming year. As the application process for some charter and magnet schools opened as early as last December, many are already full. Students wishing to attend those schools will be placed on a waiting list.

The charter high school opened in 1999 with the mission to provide students with a professionally minded education focused on hands-on experience, internships, and a curriculum designed to prepare students for the professional world.

CCCHS spent two years fighting PPS’s decision to withhold renewal of the school’s charter in 2012. PPS held that CCCHS had altered its planned schedule, class options, and requirements of students in violation of its charter. The additional issue of lower test scores, PPS said, gave the district strong reasons to close the school.

According to an announcement on the school’s website, students and parents must contact their home districts to access their school records.

The PPS website houses information about ongoing enrollment under “Neighborhood School Enrollment.” Parents must provide a number of required documents, including evidence of child’s date of birth, immunization records, and proof of residence.

The parent hotline is available during the summer at 412-622-7920 and at parenthotline@pghboe.net. Registration can also be completed at the Summer Welcome Center in the Office of Student Support Services, Room 440 of 341 S. Bellefield Ave. – Taia Pandolfi, The Bulletin
Thefts from page 1

Pittsburgh Police are seeking tips and information from community members regarding the tragic death of 17-year-old Naytel Pack.

On the evening of July 17, Pack was fatally shot in Nelson Mandela Peace Park in Garfield. As of press time, no suspects had been identified.

If you have any information, please use this anonymous hotline to call the Pittsburgh homicide detectives:

412-323-7161

Your call will be completely confidential. In an emergency situation, always call 911.

Friendship and Bloomfield neighborhoods.

Zone 5 Police Commander Tim O’Connor said that in Zone 5 there were 47 thefts from cars in June and 56 in May, explaining that the uptick corresponded with the warmer weather beginning this spring.

In-auto thefts usually involve a thief breaking a car window or opening an unlocked door, then removing valuables such as cash and electronics. A theft-prevention flyer from the City of Pittsburgh Police Department advises car owners to “park your vehicle in well-lit areas for your own safety. If you must leave valuables in your car, secure them out of sight before reaching your destination.”

“Lock your cars and don’t leave anything in them,” Commander O’Connor recommended. He went on to suggest that bike owners should store bicycles inside their homes because thieves are “cutting right through those locking mechanisms.”

Jane Kaminski, BikePGH’s membership and outreach assistant, encouraged local bike owners to participate in BikePGH’s “I Heart My Bike” anti-theft program.

Kaminski said that this program aims to prevent bike theft in two ways – by promoting photos of bike owners with their bikes on social media, and by establishing a database of serial numbers and owners’ information to aid in the recovery of stolen bikes.

“One of the key things is locking your bike right,” Kaminski explained, highlighting the importance of using a metal U-lock and attaching this lock to the frame rather than the tire.

Kaminski added that BikePGH’s database of bicycle serial numbers and related information is now linked with a national bike index, which helps bike owners recover stolen bikes across the country.

BikeFest 2014, which will take place from Aug. 8 to 24 across the city of Pittsburgh, would be a great opportunity to participate in I Heart My Bike, Kaminski said.

BikePGH’s website encourages victims of bike theft to first “call 911 and report the theft to the police.” More information about BikePGH’s anti-theft program can be found at www.bikepgh.org/i-heart-my-bike.

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Residents lobby for Kite Hill Park

By Wesley Davis
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield – At a Pittsburgh City Council post-agenda meeting on June 26 to discuss the future of Kite Hill Park, nearby neighbor Jerry McKeithen said that the City of Pittsburgh does “not maintain the park. They do not cut the grass.”

Neighbor Renee White said, “All we’re asking is to maintain the park. It took [the city] months to fill a sinkhole.”

At the meeting, Andrew Dash, from the city’s Department of City Planning, alluded to the city’s Open Space Plan, which recommended in July of 2013 that Kite Hill Park be divested, relocated, or naturalized.

Mike Gable, the city’s newly appointed director of the Department of Public Works, pointed out issues with sinkholes in the park and the park’s non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility guidelines. Gable emphasized that the park’s problems arise from the steep terrain at its location between Hillcrest and Rosetta streets in Garfield.

The post-agenda meeting took place following a community meeting at Brothers and Sisters Emerging on May 5 in Garfield. Community members were invited to weigh in on the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation’s (BGC) housing plan for the land where Kite Hill Park currently sits.

The consensus among neighbors was that Kite Hill Park should remain a park. Reacting to this community input, the BGC shelved its housing plan and arranged the post-agenda meeting to give neighbors a chance to advocate for their park to be protected.

The current Open Space Plan recommends that Kite Hill Park “relocate the neighborhood park function to another site with less steep topography.” Dash noted that there are other sites in Garfield

See Kite Hill | page 7

Artist inspires youths to create change

By Shannon Hussey
MGR Youth Empowerment

Lawrenceville – Being the target of a crime can lead many to feel powerless, but local artist Maggie Negrete found a way to transform her personal experience of being mugged into an empowering program for local young people.

Negrete works as a teaching artist for MGR Youth Empowerment, a nonprofit organization that provides art, health, and environmental consciousness programs to underserved youth. From July through early August, MGR provides an Arts in Action class at the Boys & Girls Club in Lawrenceville. The Arts in Action program gives students the opportunity to learn art forms from professional artists in various fields. Negrete, a visual artist, has centered this summer’s program on creating comics, an idea inspired by her encounter with two real-life heroes.

In mid-May, Negrete was threatened with violence and had her wallet stolen close to her home in Lawrenceville. After hearing the commotion outside of their home, two neighbors, a father and son, stepped in to help. They chased down the mugger and were able to retrieve Negrete’s wallet and hold her attacker until the police arrived.

As a way of thanking the men, Negrete used her talents to create a comic representation of the event, with the dynamic father-son duo depicted as superheroes. This incident and the art it inspired fueled Negrete’s interest in having the young people she works with recognize their ability to become heroes in their own communities.

For an hour every Tuesday morning, participants in Negrete’s Arts in Action class reimagine themselves as superheroes, and powers. Among the class’s identities are The Sleeper, who puts villains to sleep and dreams; Paws and Animalia, who can speak to animals; The Iron Boot, with a super soccer kick; and the innovative Kitten Tornado, who has the power to turn into either a kitten or tornado, depending on the severity of the situation.

In a recent project, Negrete prompted the class to imagine how they would use their super identities to benefit the local community by creating skits based on real events that are impacting the area. Using newspaper articles as sources, the class chose to address the Jordan Miles case, Chevron’s Marcellus Shale gas well fires, and the plan to build an AutoZone at the former site of Babyland on the corner of Penn and Negley avenues. The most commonly proposed solution to solving current issues is to go back in time to either stop them from occurring or to provide support during the event to lessen its eventual impact, Negrete said.

Through the program, Negrete encourages community awareness and attempts to instill the values of social justice in participants. While Negrete asks the class to create a new super identity, she also stresses the agency all young people have, reminding them that “you don’t have to be super to be a hero.”

September Bulletin Deadline = August 14
Students recover lost credits

East End – This summer, the Neighborhood Learning Alliance’s (NLA) summer credit recovery program helped more than 350 students stay on track for graduation. In nine locations throughout Pittsburgh, students made up coursework using NovaNet credit recovery software. All services were offered to students at no cost. Above, Sarah Brinkman (right), program coordinator at NLA, poses with Eric Payne, a student who finished his summer credit recovery. Photo by Rachel Zadnik.

Board of Adjustment.

The city panel took three hours of testimony on July 17 from both LG Realty Partners, which is seeking a number of variances to the zoning code, and the project’s opponents, which include five community groups in the East End, as well as a number of nearby business owners and residents.

If approved, the former Babyland building, an adjacent parking lot, and two commercial buildings on the opposite side of the lot would all be folded into a new 6,700-square-foot building and a 6,300-square-foot parking lot.

Jonathan Kamin, the developer’s attorney, contended that the variances the city deems necessary should not apply to their plan.

“The building as envisioned would not be different in any substantive manner from what exists today at the site,” Kamin told the panel. “The design of the new building and parking lot are really being dictated by my client’s compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).” Brian Gumberg, a representative of the developer, attended the hearing but spoke little.

Kamin led a professional engineer retained by AutoZone through almost an hour of testimony that focused heavily on the downward slope of Penn Avenue as it passes the site towards Negley. Kamin claimed that the city told LG Realty Partners it would not accept a parking lot at the corner, with the building next to it.

This caused his client to place the store instead at the corner of Penn and Negley, with its main entry facing the parking lot, as opposed to Penn, he said. A main entry facing the parking lot would be the only feasible way for persons in wheelchairs to enter the premises, Kamin maintained. The building itself would extend to the rear property line, with no setback from the alley, according to the site plan filed with the city.

The development’s opponents were represented by attorneys Jon Pushinsky and David Toal. Pushinsky identified their clients as the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation; Friendship Community Group, East Liberty Development, Inc.; Highland Park Community Development Corp.; and the Highland Park Community Council. Pushinsky and Toal solicited testimony from two local architects, Marc Mondor and Stefani Danes, both of whom criticized the site plan.

Mondor shared with the board a “sketch-up” of of the proposed building’s likely design in order to show how “incongruous” he felt it would be with the surrounding context. Danes questioned the developer’s argument that access for persons in wheelchairs is a main factor in restricting his client’s ability to orient the building toward Penn Avenue. She told the board that there are no ADA requirements governing access to a building from a parking lot, only for the design of the parking spaces themselves.

In response, Kamin said LG Realty had yet to engage an architect on the project. Irene Biler, a Friendship resident, testified that an AutoZone outlet she recently visited in Wilkinsburg has no windows along either side of its building. Biler also told the board she witnessed customers working on their cars in the store’s parking lot. Neither Kamin nor Gumberg indicated to the board that the exterior design of the new store would vary to any significant degree from other AutoZones.

A third witness for the opposition, Michael Mudry of Traffic Planning and Design from the South Hills, presented a traffic impact analysis which outlined what he believes could be significant problems with trucks and autos accessing the parking lot.

“A 16-foot-wide alley behind the site would pose difficulties for a tractor-trailer to exit the lot at the rear, as the developer is proposing,” he told the board. “The median strip that now exists on Penn would additionally hamper cars from entering the lot as they come up from Negley Avenue.”

Alice Mitinger, the panel’s chair, called for LG Realty and the opponents to submit their legal arguments in the case to the board by September 3. From there, the board will take up to 45 days to review those arguments and then issue its decision.
**New hires find success at Bottom Dollar**

By Weenta Girmay  
**Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center**

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**Garfield** – A little over a month out from Bottom Dollar’s grand opening, employees recruited through the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) hiring event are emerging as success stories.

**AARP member Barran Brooks** was hired by Bottom Dollar after attending the ENEC final recruitment session. At 72 years old, Brooks didn’t have the necessary computer skills to apply for the job online, and said he owes his job to Asia Carter, employment coordinator at the ENEC.

“[The application] had to be done online,” Brooks said. “That’s when I got in touch with the center and Ms. Asia helped me with it because I didn’t know anything about a computer at my age … I started to get discouraged and I started to leave, but she told me to just hang on and she would come over and help me.”

With Carter’s help, Brooks was able to complete the online application, which allowed him to attend the final recruitment session. He was one of the first to interview and was hired the next day to work at the grocery store’s Homestead location.

...continued on the page...
Reed Dance Intensive returns home

By Paula Simon
Kelly Strayhorn Theater

Friendship – Beyond the traditional camp, summer offers a wide variety of opportunities for young people in the arts to learn valuable skills. Greer Reed, founding artistic and education director of Reed Dance, is taking full advantage of this time by offering a two-week class to those passionate about dancing.

The Reed Dance Intensive was first offered in the summer of 2008 at The Alloy Studios, then Dance Alloy Theater, under Reed’s instruction. Reed, who also taught dance at Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12 during that time, started the program to provide dance classes to youths during the summer months. She believed that the summer presented challenges for youths in continuing their education due to program costs.

As a result, the first three years of the program were fully funded by local foundations. Reed’s passion for affordable arts education has made the summer dance intensive a successful annual program that continues today. Although the class was created to serve local youths, it has become a program of national interest. Today the class draws youths from all over the country.

Now in its seventh year, the Reed Dance Intensive returns to its roots at The Alloy Studios, located at 5530 Penn Ave., to provide quality dance education and summer programming to aspiring dancers ages 12 to 25. The class gives passionate students the opportunity to master the skills and techniques of professional dance in a non-competitive environment. In addition to offering classes, Reed strives to equip program participants with a realistic view of the dance industry, not just the basics of learning the steps.

“Through years of teaching, I’ve learned that only a small percentage of the participants are going to go on to pursue professional careers in dance,” Reed said. To her, she said, that is not a failure, but an opportunity to utilize dance as a vehicle where the park could be relocated, including the land surrounding the building where Fort Pitt Elementary School was formerly located. Dash acknowledged that relocating the park is unlikely to happen in the immediate future because “there is no funding at this time to build a new park.”

Melissa Council noted the number of small children who enjoy playing in Kite Hill Park, adding that her husband sometimes mows sections of the grass. Suzy South pointed to images produced by local architect Vera England that showed various options to improve the park. South highlighted the plan for a slide that would complement Kite Hill Park’s slope.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Councilman Reverend Ricky Burgess said that community leaders, neighbors, and the city should work together to “come up with some creative solutions.” Burgess added that the “park needs to be maintained.” Councilwoman Darlene Harris addressed community members at the meeting, saying, “I know how important the park is. It’s great that you stand by it.”

As of press time, Kite Hill Park’s supporters were waiting for a meeting with Burgess and Gable to discuss short-term maintenance of the park and the park’s long-term future.

See Dance | page 16

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Chef brings vegan options to East End

Bloomfield chef infuses recipes with local, organic ingredients

By Taia Pandolfi  The Bulletin

Bloomfield – Chef Mya Zeronis, born in Myanmar but currently residing in Pittsburgh’s Little Italy, has used her entrepreneurial drive to bring globally inspired dishes made from local vegan ingredients to the Pittsburgh food scene. Along with the rise of urban farms and environmentally conscious restaurants and kiosks in the East End, the organic and local food movement has grown considerably over the past few years.

“I’d rather eat food in its most natural form,” Zeronis said. She imbues each dish she creates with this desire, avoiding ingredients such as soy protein isolates, corn syrup and corn-based products, refined sugar, xanthan gum, and genetically modified organisms.

Zeronis’ dedication to producing organic and local vegan cuisine is rooted in her belief that a diet consisting of vegan options improved her own health and well-being. After moving to the United States to study journalism at Point Park University in 2000, Zeronis began working in the school cafeteria. She eventually left school and continued working in kitchens around the city, such as Six Penn Kitchen, honing her skills as a chef.

With such a busy schedule, Zeronis soon noticed that her diet was imbalanced. “I was just eating what I saw,” she said. “I realized that a lot of my problems were from not eating the right things.”

Once she adjusted her diet, “I felt so much better,” she said. “I didn’t want to eat meat or dairy anymore.” This experience inspired the decision to launch her vegan-friendly enterprises in 2011 and cook with the ingredients that had improved her own life. With a $5 investment to register a domain name, Zeronis began Lean Chef en Route. In 2013 she expanded her enterprise to include the juicing kiosk, Zest Wishes, at a number of farmers markets.

Although neither of her two businesses operates full-time, Zeronis keeps busy by constantly experimenting with her dishes and expanding her business. Zest Wishes, her cold-press raw juicing business, offers innumerable combinations of fruit and vegetable juices made by Zeronis. She sells these, along with organic kale chips, sauces, tabouli, no-bake no-cheesecake, and pickled local organic vegetables at the Bloomfield Saturday Market, the Schwartz Living Market, and the South Side Farmers Market.

The juice ingredients depend on which items are in season, and Zeronis promotes the healthy aspects of each type of food. Zeronis said each juice provides a different

“Tangy Sweet Cashew Dip

Recipe By Mya Zeronis

Prepare Time: 5 minutes
Servings: Enough for 8-10 fresh vegetable summer rolls

Ingredients
Juice of 1/2 lime, and zest (if organic)
2 tablespoons raw organic apple cider vinegar
1 cup homemade raw cashew butter (or any store-made raw nut butter available in a deli container)
2 tablespoons Non-GMO Project Verified, wheat-free tamari sauce
1/4 cup unsulfured blackstrap molasses
1 clove garlic, minced
1/2-inch slice fresh ginger, peeled and grated
1 teaspoon minced hot chiles (serranos, jalapeños, etc.)
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

Preparation
Place all ingredients in a medium-sized, non-reactive (glass, stainless steel, or ceramic) bowl. Using a whisk, mix thoroughly until consistent. Use as a sauce or dip for vegetable summer rolls.
Penn Avenue – The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) attended Unblurred on July 3 to hand out free ice-pops and ask attendees what they wanted to see at the former Babyland site at the corner of Penn and Negley avenues.

Responses included (from left to right) a nonprofit music education space for girls, zine distro and community space, a youth empowerment center with after-school tutoring, and an accessible art gallery for emerging local artists.

The BGC also distributed flyers to raise awareness about a crowdfunding campaign organized in partnership with four other community groups: East Liberty Development, Inc.; Friendship Community Group; Highland Park Community Development Corporation; and Highland Park Community Council. The campaign aims to raise $5,000 for legal fees associated with opposing the five zoning variances LG Realty has requested for an AutoZone development project at the Penn-Negley corner (see pages 1 and 5). It is accepting donations through Aug. 15 at http://igg.me/at/keepitneighborhood.

health boost by combining the benefits of particular foods. For example, she said, mixing purple foods (blueberries, plums) with red foods (strawberries, apples) produces a juice that supports longevity and heart health. The juicer she uses often leaves behind pulp from the ingredients, which Zeronis repurposes for her Southwestern black bean veggie patties.

On the last Saturday of each month, Zeronis performs a demonstration for customers at the Bloomfield Saturday Market. Last month, she showed visitors how to make a Thai peanut sauce and summer rolls, which are shredded vegetables wrapped in rice paper. By demonstrating simple raw recipes, Zeronis said, she hopes to show customers that eating vegan can be accessible and easy.

Through Lean Chef En Route, Zeronis offers small- and large-event catering in addition to a monthly vegan brunch series hosted at the Schwartz Living Market at 1317 East Carson St. on the second Saturday of each month, where her wide array of skills and inspirations takes full form.

“I didn’t want to do a regular brunch,” she said. “I wanted to do something completely different.” The menu items are on a rotating schedule in keeping with her seasonal use of ingredients. To reserve a spot at the next brunch, visit http://august9brunch.brownpapertickets.com.

Although many of the markets where Zeronis sells her juices, condiments, and chips are only open during summer months, the winter promises to be just as busy. She said she hopes to move her organic kale chips, veggie patties, tabouli, and no-bake no-cheesecake into the commercial market by selling them at Giant Eagle Market District, the East End Food Co-op, and other year-round grocery stores.

For more information about Chef Mya’s dishes and locations, visit her website, www.ZestWishes.com.
Jewish volunteer organization finds home in East Liberty

By Taia Pandolfi

The Bulletin

East Liberty – A year after its launch, the Pittsburgh branch of a national Jewish volunteer organization, Repair the World, has set up permanent residence at 6022 Broad St. in East Liberty.

Repair the World: Pittsburgh’s ten fellows – young adults who serve a nine-month term engaging the Jewish community to work for positive change – rehabilitated the space. The Pittsburgh site currently contains a few meeting rooms and a stage area, with a computer lab coming soon. Although it formally opened in mid-June, it has already hosted a number of events, such as a community clothing swap and an open-mic night. They also hosted a volunteer fair at The Union Project on the corner of Negley and Stanton avenues on July 7.

“We want to use the space both as our own offices and a community space,” said Zack Block, director of Repair the World: Pittsburgh. “We hope to host as many events here as we can.”

The organization’s name comes from a teaching from Judaism, “tikkun olam,” which translates to a responsibility to transform and “repair the world.” The national organization, based in New York City, chose Pittsburgh to join New York City, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Detroit as one of its five Repair Communities, where long-term branches will develop ongoing relationships with local organizations and causes.

Block said he is excited to raise the visibility of Jewish service and advocacy in East Liberty. “We want to have the Jewish community reach out to the rest of the East End,” Block said. “There’s so much innovation [here] from both a social-justice, nonprofit standpoint and from a for-profit standpoint.”

Repair the World focuses its efforts toward issues of hunger, housing, and social justice. The Pittsburgh fellows – who are provided with comprehensive training, housing, and a stipend – work in partnership with community organizations: East Liberty Development, Inc.; Jewish Family and Children’s Service; and Higher Achievement. They choose a project suited to their interests and recruit local volunteers to help.

Fellows from this past year have explored a number of volunteer projects through these partner organizations. Four fellows partnered with Higher Achievement, an organization focused on helping at-risk middle schoolers succeed in classes by providing after-school and summer programming. Higher Achievement works with University Prep in the Hill District and Westinghouse in Homewood to provide children with homework help, mentoring, electives not offered during the day, and other support.

“It’s a phenomenal organization,” Block said. “The experience was really enriching for our fellows.” The fellows met with children in fifth through eighth grade three days a week to provide these programs to the students.

“This first year has been all about getting our name out there and finding out how we can collaborate with local groups,” Block said. “Pittsburgh is a very collaborative city. People really want to work together and build something great.”

Block said he plans to reach out to a number of other community organizations over the upcoming year to determine how Repair the World can better serve the East End, and East Liberty in particular. In September, the next group of fellows will begin their training and placement. Block said he hopes that the Pittsburgh chapter’s second year will bring even more tangible benefits to the community.

“I think we made a very good effort in starting to become part of the community,” he said. “At this point we need to keep building, figure out what we are doing in the right way, and focus energy toward those areas.”

In memoriam: Gary Carlough

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) mourns the passing of Gary Carlough, 62, a longtime friend of the BGC and an influential and award-winning local architect. Carlough, who co-founded EDGE Studio on Penn Avenue in 1995, passed away at his Fox Chapel home on June 29, 2014.

A graduate of Latrobe High School, Carlough earned a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the University of Arizona and studied at the Architectural Association in London.

“Gary and EDGE . . . were among the early businesses to see beyond the blight and neglect that had come to typify much of Penn Avenue’s condition by 1990,” said Rick Swartz, executive director of the BGC.

“He and Dutch McDonald made a bet when they bought an empty auto-service building on Penn in 2002 and transformed it into their corporate offices that the avenue would one day turn around. Gary in particular never seemed to doubt for a moment the wisdom of what they were doing,” Swartz said. ◆
New classes promote city cycling

By Dan Yablonsky
BikePGH

Lawrenceville – A study conducted by the Portland Bureau of Transportation in 2006 estimates that 60 percent of people would like to ride a bike on city streets but are concerned about doing so.

The fundamentals class is designed for riders of all ages to learn the basic skills of city riding, like starting and stopping, handling curbs or potholes, and crossing railroad tracks.

“Biking for transportation makes sense – it saves money, it gets people exercising, and it’s more environmentally sustainable.”

Given the overwhelmingly car-centric design of our streets, such concerns are perfectly legitimate, but a new initiative in Pittsburgh is helping potential bike commuters overcome their fears.

“To fill the gap in Pittsburgh’s bicyclist education, BikePGH created our City Cycling classes to give first-time and veteran cyclists alike the chance to learn and practice the skills necessary to take their next trip by bike,” said Scott Bricker, executive director of BikePGH, an advocacy group based in Lawrenceville.

“Biking for transportation makes sense – it saves money, it gets people exercising, and it’s more environmentally sustainable,” he added.

This past spring, BikePGH launched two levels of City Cycling classes – “fundamentals” and “confident” – to accommodate the different skill sets and comfort levels of new city riders. Both classes are taught by certified bike educators.

Fundamentals of City Cycling is taught Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m. at the Wheel Mill, 6815 Hamilton Ave. in Pittsburgh. The Wheel Mill’s controlled indoor space gives participants the chance to practice comfortably.

“Biking for transportation makes sense – it saves money, it gets people exercising, and it’s more environmentally sustainable,” he added.

Regardless of your resilience through the years, injuries happen. That’s why we offer unparalleled orthopaedic care close to home at West Penn Hospital. At West Penn Hospital, we believe in collaboration between nationally-recognized physicians, surgeons and rehabilitation specialists. We believe in cutting-edge research that brings you the most innovative solutions. And we believe in giving every patient dedicated, personalized service. Because it takes the best care to restore you to your best self.

Above: Seven people participated in the first Confident City Cycling class held at BikePGH’s office in Lawrenceville this past June. Photo courtesy of BikePGH.

Above: Confident City Cycling students learn to use Port Authority bike racks. Photo courtesy of BikePGH.
International co-working space opens in Lawrenceville

By Taia Pandolfi
The Bulletin

Lawrenceville – The Global Switchboard, an internationally focused co-working space operated by volunteer nonprofit Amizade Global Service-Learning, took up permanent residence near Doughboy Square at 3406 Ligonier St. in May. The shared space houses a number of Pittsburgh-based organizations and individuals with a global focus, with the intent of creating a collaborative work environment.

Nathan Darity, project manager at The Global Switchboard, oversees the day-to-day events and programs in the space. A native of Lancaster, Darity first participated in a service-learning experience in Santarém, Brazil, as a student. After completing a master’s degree in public health and international development at the University of Pittsburgh, Darity returned to Santarém as Amizade’s site director for that location. His promotion to project manager brought him back to Pittsburgh, where he has helped to build and then oversee the switchboard.

“We are taking people with a shared vision for how our world can look and giving them resources and a space to work,” Darity said. “It prepares us to be more rounded in discussions about global issues and better resourced to engage [in] global issues.”

For $150 per month for the first six months, which rises to $200 per month after that period, The Global Switchboard provides members with a multifaceted workspace at a much lower cost than traditional office rental.

The 4,200-square-foot building features classrooms, a meeting area, Internet, video-conferencing services, a kitchen, and individual workspaces. Organizations already housed there include GlobalPittsburgh, the Pittsburgh kitchen, and individual workspaces. Organizations already housed there include GlobalPittsburgh, the Pittsburgh kitchen, and individual workspaces.

In addition to providing local organizations with an affordable space to work, The Global Switchboard offers community members a wide array of benefits: access to its network of speakers, experts, and communities around the world; educational events; and exposure to a multitude of cultures not often represented in the city. As Pittsburgh’s arts and business culture continues to grow, Darity said that Amizade hopes to expand beyond national borders, connecting the city with cultures and ideas from across the globe.

Amizade, which is based in Pittsburgh, operates a number of international programs dedicated to global service learning, intercultural immersion, and the development of global citizenship. Programs range from faculty-led university programs to service retreats in a number of locations, including Northern Ireland, Bolivia, Tanzania, the Navajo Nation, and many others.

The site is hosting its formal launch party on Aug. 23 in the outdoor space surrounding the switchboard. There will be a meet-and-greet from 4 to 5:30 p.m., followed by a global marketplace featuring local vendors, music, food trucks, live performances, and a beer garden. On Sept. 4, The Global Switchboard is hosting a soiree for public health and public and international politics graduate students at the University of Pittsburgh to open up internship opportunities at the site.

For more information about Amizade and The Global Switchboard, visit www.theglobalswitchboard.org.

Community nominations needed

By Becky Thatcher
Lawrenceville United

Lawrenceville – Lawrenceville United’s annual fundraiser, LIVE in Lawrenceville, will return for its second year on Sept. 20 from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Teamsters Temple, 4701 Butler St.

In addition to featuring local food and music, LIVE in Lawrenceville brings residents together to celebrate life in the neighborhood. Last year, more than 200 people attended the fundraiser, which included dancing, refreshments, and an auction of Lawrenceville-themed baskets. This year’s event will also feature an awards ceremony.

“There are so many great people doing great work in Lawrenceville during their free time that we wanted to find a way to acknowledge them,” said Steve Sokoloski, Lawrenceville United board president.

To do so, Lawrenceville United will present two honors: Neighbor of the Year and Outstanding Community Partner.

The Neighbor of the Year award will go to a resident of Lawrenceville who has gone above and beyond in terms of service – giving back to the Lawrenceville neighborhood, being a community advocate, and working tirelessly to grow and improve the neighborhood fabric of Lawrenceville.

The Outstanding Community Partner award will go to a business or organization that has been a major champion of Lawrenceville and the residents and has given support, beyond expectation, to the community.

In order to make sure all are considered for the awards, Lawrenceville United is requesting community nominations. Anyone is welcome to nominate a person for Neighbor of the Year, or a business or organization for Outstanding Community Partner, by submitting a one-page letter outlining the nominee’s qualifications based on the criteria above.

Nominations may be mailed to Lawrenceville United, 4839 Butler St., Pittsburgh, PA 15201, or emailed to info@lunited.org, by Aug. 31.

Please include your name and contact information in case the Lawrenceville United board of directors has any follow-up questions.

The board will review all nominations for each award and select the winners, who will be acknowledged during a special ceremony at LIVE in Lawrenceville.

To purchase tickets or learn more about the event, visit www.lunited.org or call Lawrenceville United at 412-802-7220.
where learning takes place.”

Pittsburgh is now one of six U.S. cities involved in the City of Learning movement, which started in Chicago. Ali estimates that 3,000 Pittsburgh youths are participating in the pilot program this summer, and he said he hopes it will expose participants to new learning opportunities and resources they didn’t know about before.

“We don’t see this program as competing with formal learning, but complementing it,” Ali said. “It can help students understand how their learning in school … is connected to their interests. For example, if you have a student interested in robotics, you can say: ‘Here’s the math and science you’ll need to know’.”

While the technology is still in the early stages of development, Ali said the eventual goal is for students to collect their badges in a secure online “backpack,” along with portfolios, work samples, and other evidence of their learning. Unlike paper credentials, these could easily be shared with peers, parents, teachers, schools, and even potential employers.

The Sprout Fund is currently recruiting experts and community stakeholders for City of Learning working groups. These groups will work together to further refine the badges process and create seamless pathways between in-school, out-of-school, and online learning.

“We believe learning can take place anywhere and anytime,” Ali said. “Badges are just … a currency to unlock all these great opportunities in Pittsburgh and beyond.”

Growing teens into literacy leaders

Neighborhood Learning Alliance in Garfield is one of the organizations participating in Pittsburgh City of Learning. Their Reading Warriors program, which employs high school students to serve as community literacy advocates and reading mentors for children, has developed three badges for its participants – the Dynamic Read Aloud Badge, the Advocacy Badge, and the Library Badge.

Katy Frey, assistant director of Neighborhood Learning Alliance, said she views digital badges as an exciting new framework for the coaching and training Reading Warriors receive.

“We want our credentialing process to show real evidence of Reading Warriors carrying out the strategies we’re teaching,” Frey said. “Badges fit the criteria for that.”

Reading Warriors who earn the Dynamic Read Aloud Badge will demonstrate that they can engage children with a book by choosing interesting materials and asking thoughtful questions on vocabulary and comprehension. As evidence of their learning, participants can submit videos, captioned photos, copies of student work, and observation forms from peers and NLA staff.

The Advocacy Badge empowers students to take a leadership role by completing a community outreach project to get their neighbors excited about reading, or to help them access books and other materials.

To earn the Library Badge, participants learn basic library skills – how to search for Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP) resources, download online materials, and manage their accounts. Mastering these skills will help them find books for their work with children, or for their own education and enjoyment.

“The library is often an underutilized resource,” Frey said. “Only 10 percent of our new [Reading Warriors] recruits had library cards when they started the program.”

Frey added that, especially for low-income youths, the buildup of library fines can become a barrier to accessing what the library has to offer. She said she hopes the badge will help Reading Warriors connect with options like the Teen Fine Alternative Program, which allows young people to volunteer in exchange for fine forgiveness.

“[Badges] could really help someone who might not have the best credentials on paper.”

Empowering young makers

Other East End locations dipping their toes into the City of Learning digital badge pilot program include Assemble in Garfield and CLP’s East Liberty branch, among others.

Assemble has developed three badges so far – the Design Process Badge, the Failure Badge, and the Research and Development Badge. Students who participate in Assemble’s summer camps, which range from food to video game design, are eligible to earn these badges as they move through the making process.

“All camps are working with students to create a portfolio that allows them to explore the design process, failure, and research and development,” said Louise Larson of Assemble. “Our goal is to have students leave camp with a deepened sense of confidence and a physical artifact documenting their learning experience.”

Larson said that City of Learning is a great fit for Assemble, which provides hands-on, STEAM-based (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) learning opportunities for more than 7,000 children per year.

“We’re enthusiastic to be participating in the City of Learning system as active parts of the learning ecology of Pittsburgh,” Larson said. “Badging will also allow us to bridge partnerships of skill with other community organizations and ultimately Pittsburgh Public Schools.”

Corey Wittig, digital learning librarian at CLP, said the library has already experimented with offering a handful of badges – in this case, actual buttons – for youths.

“Regulars” at The Labs, teen-only spaces focused on technology and creativity, can earn a badge for attending programs regularly and respecting mentors, peers, and equipment. Teens can also earn photography badges that allow them to check cameras out of the library.

The library is offering several programs this summer through City of Learning, including a DJ workshop with Hip-Hop on L.O.C.K., an electronics class with TechShop, and an installation art camp with the Mattress Factory. Wittig said he’s excited to see the digital badge program take shape in Pittsburgh.

“[Badges] could really help someone who might not have the best credentials on paper,” Wittig said.

For more information, visit www.pghcityoflearning.org.
EAST LIBERTY

Family Storytime

Come to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty at 130 S. Whittfield St. to listen to stories, sing songs, and participate in rhymes. Program begins at 10:30 a.m. For ages 2 to 5 with a parent. Call 412-363-8274 to register. Upcoming dates: Aug. 8, 15, and 22.

GARFIELD

Unblurred

The first Friday of every month, from 6 to 11 p.m., various venues in the Penn Avenue Arts District, 4800-5500 Penn Ave., open their doors to showcase the work of a variety of artists and performers. Come out to enjoy this neighborhood event.

Art Exhibition

The Irma Freeman Center for Imagination, located at 5006 Penn Ave., is presenting an art exhibition by New Academy Press from 7 to 10 p.m. They are a Pittsburgh-based screen printing collaborative founded by Michael Burch and Justin George in 2011. Drawing on the natural world and the people who study it for aesthetic inspiration, they use careful attention to detail to create prints and paper sculptures that blur the distinction between art and artifact.

Closing Reception

The closing reception for Joe Beddall’s solo art exhibition, “Circles, Squares, and Other Points of Interest,” will take place from 7 to 10 p.m. at Bunker Projects, 5106 Penn Ave. An installation entitled “Now You See It” in the main gallery incorporates motifs and patterns that shift as the viewer moves around them. Three painted fiberglass screen panels are stretched from floor to ceiling, and the combination creates illusions of depth and motion, engaging the audience in a visual experience begging to be explored.

GARFIELD

Volunteer Days

Healcrest Urban Farm, located on the corner of Hillcrest and Pacific, offers volunteer days every Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. followed by farm tours from 4 to 5 p.m. Upcoming dates: Aug. 10, 17, 24, and 31.

EAST LIBERTY

Flea Market

The New Bethel Baptist Church at 221 43rd St. will host a flea market and vendor marketplace from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Barbecue and sweet potato pies will be available. Vendors should contact Catherine Cury at 412-441-9598 for more information.

GARFIELD

Sourdough Starters

Learn how to make sourdough bread, crepes, tortillas, and pancakes with sourdough starters, and receive a half a cup of complimentary Austrian Sour- dough. Healcrest Urban Farm is located at the intersection of Hillcrest and Pacific. Cost is $25 per person. Register one week in advance at www.healcresturbanfarm.com/events.

EAST LIBERTY

DJ Workshop

Hip-Hop on L.O.C.K. will teach teens how to jump on the wheels of steel and learn to DJ. Free workshop runs from 4 to 7 p.m. Beginners are welcome, and the library provides the equipment. Space is limited and registration is required. Sign up now at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty, 130 S. Whittfield St. Call 412-363-8232 or email eastliberty@carnegielibrary.org for details.

EAST LIBERTY

Magical of Electrons

The Labs @ CLP is a place for teenagers to learn and create. This free workshop with TechShop will cover the basics of electronics. Each student will learn how to solder and build his or her own POV (Persistence of Vision) Kit. Program runs from 4 to 7 p.m. Beginners are welcome, and the library provides the equipment. Space is limited and registration is required. Sign up now at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty, 130 S. Whittfield St. Call 412-363-8232 or email eastliberty@carnegielibrary.org for details.

EAST LIBERTY

Community Block Party

Lawrenceville United’s Senior AdvantAGE program is hosting a community-wide block party event in tandem with Rock All Night’s activities. Block parties will close down various blocks throughout Lawrenceville to street traffic. The parties are planned and hosted by residents and business owners on the block, but all residents are encouraged to tour around the neighborhood and visit all the different events throughout the day. Lawrenceville United will have a map online, in office, and at the various blocks with details on different events that day. Call 412-302-7220 or visit www.lunited.org for details.

GARFIELD

Homes of the World

Come to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty at 130 S. Whittfield St. to listen to a story and build with Legos, straws, connectors, and more. Program begins at 6 p.m. For ages 4 to 8 with their families. Call 412-363-8274 to register.

GARFIELD

Old-Style Condiments

Venture into the endless possibilities of flavor and learn how to stock your fridge with delicious condiments and complements to your everyday staples while the farmers markets are still bursting with veggies. Healcrest Urban Farm is located at the intersection of Hillcrest and Pacific. Cost is $25 per person. Register one week in advance at www.healcresturbanfarm.com/events. For more information, call 804-319-7377.

GARFIELD

EnEC Veterans Event

The Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) is proud to sponsor a veterans event, which will include job referral and placement, job search workshops, career exploration, resume preparation, training opportunities, and more. The ENEC is located at 5321 Penn Ave. Event begins at 1 p.m. To register, please call 412-362-8580. Visit www.envettspittsburgh.org for more information about the event.

EAST LIBERTY

Mexican Bingo

Join us at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty at 130 S. Whittfield St. at 1 p.m. for a Mexican version of bing0, and learn some Spanish. Program begins at 1 p.m. For families with children ages 4 to 12.

GARFIELD

Medicine Making

Learn about the advantages of making tinctures and delicious elixirs using herbs that you can
grow, wild harvest, or buy. Take a walk around the garden to learn about harvesting and processing techniques, how to make the best extractions from different plants, and, of course, how to do the entire process. Healcrest Urban Farm is located at the intersection of Hillcrest and Pacific. Cost is $25 per person. Register one week in advance at www.healcresturbanfarm.com/events. Call 615-804-0064 or email healcresturbanfarm@gmail.com with questions.

August 19

**LAWRENCEVILLE**

**Adult Game Night**

Why should kids have all the fun? Join your neighbors at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville, located at 279 Fisk St., for board games, word games, and video games. Games we have played in the past are Ticket to Ride, Quiddler, Seven Wonders, Mexican Train Dominoes, and Backgammon. Age 18 and up only.

August 23

**LAWRENCEVILLE**

**Back-to-School Bash**

Encounter Church and Lawrenceville United's PEP Rally program are hosting a free family event to promote a prepared and healthy start to the school year. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. there will be a backpack giveaway, fun kids’ activities, free food, a bounce house, and health information. Local schools and after-school programs will be present to give out information and register kids for fall programs. For more information, please call Lawrenceville United at 412-802-7220.

**FURTHER OUT**

**LAWRENCEVILLE/GARFIELD**

**Free Student Physicals**

Physicals and dental exams are available for students at Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health Center, 5475 Penn Ave., and Lawrenceville Family Health Center, 5497 Butler St., on Tuesdays in August. Students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and bring past immunization records. To schedule an appointment, call Nurse Gray at 412-361-7562 or Nurse Williams at 412-622-7343.

**GARFIELD**

**Fabric Donations Wanted**

Melora Angst of Artisan Tattoo is seeking donations of fabric, yarn, sheets, and clothing for a community “art fence” installation on the Penn Avenue construction fence. Donations may be brought to Artisan Tattoo, 5001 Penn Ave., between 12 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

**GARFIELD**

**Late Summer Apothecary**

As asters take over our fields and gardens, come learn to identify the common plants of the late summer and how to look for what’s coming up. We’ll talk about identification, sustainable growing and harvesting practices, and the medicinal properties of many herbs. Healcrest Urban Farm is located at the intersection of Hillcrest and Pacific. Cost is $25 per person. Register one week in advance at www.healcresturbanfarm.com/events.

**CALL FOR HOUSES**

The annual Lawrenceville Hospitality House Tour will be held on Sunday, Oct. 5, from 12 to 5 p.m. The house tour planning committee is seeking neighborhood “labor of love” to feature on this year’s tour. If you reside in the 6th, 9th, or 10th wards of Lawrenceville and are interested in participating or getting more information, please visit our website at www.lha15201.org or contact Kate at 412-621-2573 or at kateb1950@gmail.com.

**Ongoing**

**EAST LIBERTY**

**Yearbook Opportunity**

Did you miss buying your Peabody High School yearbook? A retired teacher has an assortment of years from 1979 to 2002. Remember the memories at a very reasonable price. Call 412-922-3558 or 412-327-5171.

**SAT Prep Scholarships**

Looking for free SAT help? Neighbors in Need is offering five scholarships for Pittsburgh Prep’s summer intensive course. For more information, or to apply, visit http://ninipittsburgh.org/satprep or contact nicjedema@pittsburghprep.com.

**SMG/Santucci-UPMC**

The physicians and staff at SMG/Santucci-UPMC are pleased to welcome Roberto Bendoni, MD, to our office in Bloomfield.

**LAWRENCEVILLE/GARFIELD**

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**Further Out**

**LAWRENCEVILLE**

**LIVE in Lawrenceville**

Save the date: Lawrenceville United's annual fundraiser is back on Sept. 20. Come for a great night that will include music, dancing, auctions, food from local restaurants, and more. LIVE in Lawrenceville 2014 will be hosted at the Teamsters Temple, located at 4701 Butler St., from 7 to 11 p.m. For more information, call 412-802-7220 or visit www.lunited.org.

**Kindergarten Readiness**

Children’s Hospital of UPMC Family Care Connection, located at 5235 Butler St., will be offering a free kindergarten readiness program starting in September. This program is for children ages 3 to 5 and is held every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. We will focus on developmentally appropriate activities including math, storytelling, art, science, and strengthening the social skills needed for a successful transition into kindergarten. Please call Ms. Linda for more details or to register at 412-784-8683.

**Call for Houses**

The annual Lawrenceville Hospitality House Tour will be held on Sunday, Oct. 5, from 12 to 5 p.m. The house tour planning committee is seeking neighborhood “labor of love” to feature on this year’s tour. If you reside in the 6th, 9th, or 10th wards of Lawrenceville and are interested in participating or getting more information, please visit our website at www.lha15201.org or contact Kate at 412-621-2573 or at kateb1950@gmail.com.
Cycling from page 11

BikePGH is partnering with Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP) to host the Confident City Cycling classes monthly in different neighborhoods around Pittsburgh.

This class takes students, ages 15 and up, out to practice riding on streets, crossing intersections, using bike lanes, and operating the bike racks on Port Authority buses – a useful way to navigate our city’s unique topography.

The June and July classes were taught in Lawrenceville and East Liberty, respectively. Upcoming classes will take place Aug. 16 at the South Side CLP branch, 2205 E. Carson St., and Sept. 21 at the Allegheny CLP branch, 1230 Federal St.

“Now that I’m out and working, it’s kind of hard to find time to do biking, so I figured I could commute to work,” said Alex Shenoy, who participated in the Confident City Cycling class in Lawrenceville this past June. “It kind of fulfills that exercise requirement, and the class was a good way for me to make sure that I’m doing everything safely.”

To register for a City Cycling class, visit www.bikepgh.org/citycycling. Through a sponsorship with Edgar Snyder and Associates, participants can register for free by entering the promo code “Thanks-Edgar” on checkout.

Dance from page 7

for teaching valuable life skills.

“I want to create confident and dynamic people, and this intensive will bring this out in them,” Reed said.

At the end of the class, Reed said, she believes that participants will leave with improved levels of confidence, discipline, and reliability – skills that are essential to success in all walks of life.

The class concludes with a public showing, entitled “The Power, The Passion.” The presentation embodies the power and passion that the dancers need to transcend the challenges of performing on stage. By sharing each student’s unique experience from the class, Reed said, she believes the showing will be relatable to audiences.

“I believe that each audience member will be touched in some way by the performance,” she said.

Reed Dance will present “The Power, The Passion” on Aug. 16. The event starts at 2 p.m. (doors open at 1 p.m.) at Kelly Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Ave. Tickets are $25 at the door.