Emergency loan fund established for Penn Avenue businesses
By Sarah Burke The Bulletin

Penn Avenue – In August, the board of the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) unanimously approved a $35,000 emergency loan fund for businesses struggling during the Penn Avenue reconstruction project, which is running far behind its original schedule.

The new loan fund, established with a grant from the URA, is being administered by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC).

“We pursued this objective because we were hearing from [Penn Avenue] business owners about the terrible impact the project is having on them,” said Rick Swartz, executive director of the BGC.

He noted that one business reported an 80 percent decline in revenue compared to 2013, and others have experienced up to a 50 percent decline.

Jennifer Hedges, owner of Modernformations Gallery and Performance Space on Penn Avenue, said that potential event

City of Pittsburgh sues Monro Muffler
By Wesley Davis Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield – On Aug. 13, the City of Pittsburgh’s Bureau of Building Inspection filed a legal complaint against John W. Van Heel, chief executive officer of Monro Muffler Brake, Inc.

See Monro | page 5

Walkers, cyclists push for ‘livable streets’
By Carrie Garrison The Bulletin

Bloomfield – Christina Howell of Bloomfield has created a bicycle and pedestrian advocacy committee that held its first meeting on Sept. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at East End Book Exchange.

See Streets | page 10

ABOVE: The Penn Avenue reconstruction project’s negative impact on businesses has prompted the creation of an emergency loan fund. Photo by John Colombo Photography.

Dear Editor:

I read with unease Taia Pandolfi’s article on the Environmental Charter School’s (ECS) hopes to expand into Garfield (“Charter school to reapply for expansion,” September 2014). I want to address the way Mr. McCann mischaracterized discussion about the proposal at school board open hearings when he offered that “It was a much more philosophical conversation about the role of a charter within a public school system.” In truth, many Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) parents raised concerns explicitly about ECS’s specific effort to expand via their proposed amendment.

I object to ECS expansion via amendment for four concrete reasons. First, while ECS argues that growing a K-8 in Garfield and a 9-12 in the Hill District will provide their resources to those neighborhoods, there is no serious intent to offer an ECS 9-12 education to residents of these neighborhoods. ECS Catalyst indicates that one reason the school did not apply for a second charter is that “the current K-8 students would be required to enter a lottery for the high school ...” against rising PPS eighth graders, including those residing in neighborhoods in which they hope to grow (http://www.ecscatalyst.org/qa.html). Thus ECS's current student population, which is demographically unlike Pittsburgh Public Schools racially and socioeconomically, would be reproduced at the high school. To be community assets and innovators, the new ECS schools would need to be available to the community and reflective of the PPS population.

My second concern is that ECS has failed to demonstrate educational successes with a student population like the district's as a whole. While 71 percent of PPS students meet criteria for free and reduced-rate lunches, only 27 percent of ECS students qualify. In order to recruit a more economically and racially diverse student body, ECS should follow Federal Office of Civil Rights guidelines for student recruitment. Please see http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201405-charter.pdf for more information.

My third concern arises from ECS's 2012-2013 suspension data: 21 percent of ECS students are African American, yet 73 percent of their suspensions were for black students, a fact I hope ECS will address.

Finally, I asked that ECS present for public review a fully developed high school curriculum so we could understand what the new school would offer and how it would meet district standards.

These are not philosophical questions. Instead, they are concrete, real, and about whether or not the proposed ECS expansions would serve PPS children – especially the children of the neighborhoods they propose to enter.

Sincerely,

Alison L. Patterson
Loans from page 1

hosts have been hesitant to rent her space due to the construction.

In a typical summer, Modernformations hosts have been hesitant to rent her space due to the construction.

Borrowers may use the funds to help offset their losses – or to pay for marketing and promotions to minimize future losses.

As a condition of URA funding, loans cannot be used for construction.

Loans will be repaid to the BGC at 2 percent interest, compounded monthly.

“We pursued this objective because we were hearing from [Penn Avenue] business owners about the terrible impact this project is having on them.”

- Rick Swartz, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

This summer, Hedges said, only four events were hosted at the space.

“Patrons are unsure if the businesses are open, and getting to them and the gallery has been very difficult,” she said. “When they do finally get to the area, there is no parking available.”

Hedges said her income from another job is supporting the gallery during construction, but she recognizes that not all business owners have that option.

Businesses located between Pacific Avenue and Mathilda Street are eligible to apply for the loans, which range from $500 to $5,000.

After the first nine months, during which no payment is expected, borrowers can choose to repay the loan over a period of anywhere between 12 and 60 months.

So far, the BGC has received five applications. The review committee – comprised of BGC staff and board members, as well as a URA representative – has made its recommendations on those applications to the BGC board of directors.

“Depending on the demand, we may need to secure additional funds,” Swartz said. Swartz said there are two primary reasons that the program is offering loans rather than grants.

First, the Internal Revenue Service prohibits tax-exempt organizations, such as the BGC, from making grants to business owners to support their operations.

Second, all loan repayments will be returned to the fund, allowing the BGC to offer loans to additional businesses in the future.

Although two-way traffic is scheduled to reopen on Penn Avenue in the late fall, construction will resume once winter ends in 2015.

Hedges said that, despite the frustrating delays and inconveniences, she sees the project as a necessary investment in Penn Avenue.

“I’m excited to see the results,” she said. To request a loan application, email ricks@bloomfield-garfield.org, or stop by the BGC’s community development office at 5149 Penn Ave.
Glass mosaic reinstalled
By Sarah Burke The Bulletin

Garfield – Daviea Davis’ glass mosaic, “Angel of Garfield,” was reinstalled Aug. 27 in a new location, the Penn Avenue side of Bottom Dollar grocery store. It had been removed from public display in November 2013 while the store was being constructed.

Davis said she created the mural along with Jessica Rutherford, as well as first-time teenage offenders from Garfield’s Community Intensive Supervision (CISP) program. Photo by Sarah Burke.

Friendship ‘cash mob’ to parade to Penn Avenue
By Susan Spangler Friendship Community Group

Friendship/Penn Avenue – Neighbors from Friendship will be parading en masse to Penn Avenue at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25 to shop at businesses, eat in restaurants, and visit nonprofits along the avenue until 4 p.m.

Through this “cash mob” event, Friendship neighbors hope to offer financial and moral support to Penn Avenue business owners during this time of street construction. The event was inspired by a number of Friendship residents expressing concern for the well-being of businesses on the avenue, as street and bicycle traffic is constrained to single lane, the number of parking spaces radically reduced, and pedestrian access to businesses challenged by fencing along the sidewalks of the construction site.

“Walking along Penn Avenue and talking to business owners compelled a number of Friendship neighbors to want to support the businesses in any way possible,” said Ted Cmarada, a Friendship Community Group board member. “The inspiration for the cash mob is not only to provide an infusion of financial support for business owners, but also to help lift their spirits and let them know that the community is behind them.”

“We also hope that this event helps to remind neighborhood residents to support Penn Avenue businesses and nonprofits every day,” he added.

The parade to Penn Avenue will begin at 11 a.m. at Baum Grove, at the juncture of Roup Avenue and South Fairmount Street.

Residents who want to join the cash mob but are unable to walk in the parade are encouraged to meet neighbors on Penn Avenue anytime between 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Oct. 25. For more information, send an email to paradetopenn@friendship-pgh.org.

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Open today!!!
Stop in today!!!
Monro from page 1

The complaint stems from a zoning board hearing on June 12 related to W.G. Tomko’s use of a site owned by Monro Muffler at 5531 Penn Ave. in Garfield.

W.G. Tomko had requested a special exception to the Local Neighborhood Commercial zoning code so that it could use the site to store construction materials and machinery. This request was denied by the zoning board.

“Their site’s current use is ‘an eyesore for the entry to the Penn Avenue corridor,’” said Jeff Catalina, owner of Verde Mexican Kitchen and Cantina. “There is such a great opportunity for that corner to be an anchor for the neighborhood, and yet it’s an eyesore.”

Brian Hill, project chief for the Bureau of Building Inspection, explained that the city filed legal action against Monro on Aug. 13, after waiting 30 days for Monro and Tomko to comply with the zoning board ruling that denied them the right to store uncovered construction materials and machinery. This request was denied by the zoning board.

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Hill noted that the city sent a letter on July 28 alerting Monro Muffler that the company is required to remove all machinery and discontinue its current use of the 5531 Penn Ave. site.

Representatives from Monro Muffler and W.G. Tomko did not offer comments on the use of the site at 5531 Penn Ave. As of Sept. 19, construction machinery and materials are still being stored at the site.

“I’m very disappointed that the corner remains undeveloped,” said Jeff Catalina, owner of Verde Mexican Kitchen and Cantina. “There is such a great opportunity for that corner to be an anchor for the neighborhood, and yet it’s an eyesore.”

Catalina highlighted the importance of the site’s location to surrounding businesses and arts studios, explaining that the lot at 5531 Penn Ave. “marks what could be a grand entrance for the Penn Avenue arts district.”

Echoing Catalina’s sentiment, Heather McElwee, executive director of the Pittsburgh Glass Center, said she would “love to see a more artistic and creative use of that space,” adding that she considers the site’s current use “an eyesore for the entry to the Penn Avenue corridor.”

A hearing for this case is scheduled for 9:15 a.m. on Oct. 23 in the court of the Honorable Judge Ronald Costa, 6808 Greenwood Ave. in Morningside. This hearing will be open to the public.

Thank you! The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation would like to acknowledge its main corporate partners, PNC Bank, Dollar Bank, and Allegheny Valley Bank. Thanks also to BNY Mellon, First Niagara Bank, WesBanco, Allegheny Health Network, Citizens Bank, and all of The Bulletin’s advertisers.
Lawrenceville – The start of the school year is always a busy and exciting time for families, but this year was especially so in the East End, where a number of events and programs welcomed the 2014-2015 school year with special style.

On Aug. 23, the Saturday before school started for Pittsburgh Public Schools, 800 people visited Arsenal Park for the first-ever “Back to School Bash,” a community event that included kids’ activities, music, food, and free giveaways of backpacks, books, groceries, and clothes. More than 30 organizations and local schools set up tables to offer a fun activity, provide information, and sign up kids for fall youth programs. The event was hosted by Encounter Church, in partnership with Lawrenceville United’s PEP Rally program and Friends of Arsenal Park.

“We wanted to welcome in the new kids, to let them know that coming to school isn’t a bad thing – we’re a family,” said Tommy Jetter, president of Woolslair’s parent group.

At Arsenal Elementary, the street event was just one part of the “Ready Freddy Kindergarten Kickoff,” a program that aims to raise awareness about the importance of kindergarten attendance and to build positive relationships between schools, children, and parents. At Arsenal Elementary, the street event was just one part of the “Ready Freddy Kindergarten Kickoff,” a program that aims to raise awareness about the importance of kindergarten attendance and to build positive relationships between schools, children, and parents.

Remarks followed from Principal Ruthie Rea and parent leader Tina Russell, who welcomed the crowd to Arsenal Elementary. Parents accompanied their children into the school through a balloon archway to applause, the new “Arsenal All-Stars” and their families were ushered to the multipurpose room for breakfast and a game.

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After saying hello to Freddy, the friendly frog mascot of Ready Freddy, and entering the school through a balloon archway to applause, the new “Arsenal All-Stars” and their families were ushered to the multipurpose room for breakfast and a game.

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See Kickoff | page 11

School kicks off in style in East End
By Dave Breingan Lawrenceville United

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Approval sought for STEAM at Wooslair

By Carrie Garrison The Bulletin

Bloomfield/Lawrenceville – Parents and teachers at Pittsburgh Wooslair K-5 are rallying to transform the school into a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) magnet.

Dave Breingan, community organizer at Lawrenceville United, said that Wooslair stakeholders were hoping their STEAM proposal would be addressed at the Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) board agenda review meeting, which took place at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 17 at 341 South Bellefield Ave. The proposal was not on the agenda, however.

This month’s public hearing of the PPS board, where community members can offer testimony, was held on Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. There, Wooslair parents, teachers, and community members gave testimony and vented their frustration that the board had not yet considered the proposal. Breingan said it’s too early to know if the proposal will be addressed at next month’s meeting.

The push for STEAM magnet status began in November 2013, when Pittsburgh Public Schools recommended that the Board of Education close Wooslair for the 2014-2015 school year, citing looming budget shortfalls and the school’s low enrollment.

In response, parents and staff spoke out at the board’s public hearing, noting their love for the school. When the new school board took the school's closure off the table in December 2013, the Wooslair community planned a “We Love Wooslair Night” to bring the school together.

At the event, parents were surveyed to find out what they would like to see in Wooslair’s future.

“The results showed a keen interest in STEAM ... and sparked the formation of the Wooslair Vision Group, made up of parents, school staff, and community members,” Breingan said.

An “Envisioning Wooslair” event was held the following April, and Wooslair began to give more details about the potential STEAM curriculum. Parents, teachers, and community members did research on South Fayette School District’s STEAM Innovation Summer Institute and assembled a vision plan for Wooslair.

 “[The STEAM program] will accelerate student achievement because it is an educationally sound and rigorous program that prepares students for 21st-century careers,” the vision plan states.

 “[It] is helpful in eliminating racial disparities as it exposes students to careers that they may not otherwise be exposed to.”

Wooslair’s student body is 64 percent black, and 90 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-rate lunch.

While the proposal’s supporters await the school board’s decision, Breingan said, STEAM concepts are already being woven into afterschool programming.

“Wooslair staff and parents will be hosting a STEAM afterschool club this school year focused on ‘Scratch,’ a program that’s used to teach students the basics of coding, animation, and video game design,” Breingan said.

Wooslair parents and teachers have laid out a three-year plan for STEAM implementation. Starting in the 2015 to 2016 school year, the plan proposes, STEAM will be in place for kindergarten through second grade. By the 2016 to 2017 school year, STEAM will expand to kindergarten through fifth grade.

If parents already live within Wooslair’s feeder pattern, they won’t need to worry about their child’s acceptance into the proposed magnet school.

“Offering Wooslair as a partial STEAM magnet ensures that 100 percent of students in Wooslair’s feeder pattern will have access ... without parents having to go through the magnet process,” the vision plan states.

According to the vision plan, Wooslair has everything it needs to make a STEAM magnet work: “dedicated parents, skilled staff, students who love their school, and community support.”

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Community health center celebrates 30 years

UPMC St. Margaret Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health Center looks back on its first three decades

By Carrie Garrison

Bloomfield/Garfield – After 30 years in the Bloomfield-Garfield neighborhood, UPMC St. Margaret Family Health Center will celebrate its commitment to the community with a festival on Oct. 9 at 6 p.m.

Dr. Ann McGaffey has been with St. Margaret since its founding in 1984.

“We’ve been steadfast in the neighborhood ... We have been pleased to be committed to our patients, and our patients have been very committed to us,” McGaffey said. She proudly added that four-generation families are seen at this location as a result of patient loyalty.

In 2008, St. Margaret moved to its current location, 5475 Penn Ave. McGaffey recalled the careful thought that went into the architecture of the new building.

“We tried to create a very nice ambience with window light and a truly beautiful space,” she said.

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“We tried to create a very nice ambience with window light and a truly beautiful space,” she said.

This six-year-old space is complete with a lab, a large X-ray room, and spacious exam rooms. McGaffey said that windows connecting different rooms allow for easy communication between specialized staff members, which allows for faster test results.

St. Margaret is a residency health center; this means the doctors on staff are leading residents completing their medical training within the center. Recently, pharmacy residents have joined the team as well, led by Dr. Patricia Klatt.

“We now have first- and second-year pharmacy residents seeing patients with the doctors, providing safe and sound pharmacy advice and connecting with pharmacies on behalf of patients,” McGaffey said.

McGaffey completed her internship, residency, and fellowship at St. Margaret Hospital before heading up the Bloomfield-Garfield center.

In the past 30 years, St. Margaret has made efforts to connect with the community and make a difference, especially in Pittsburgh Public Schools.


This was the first elementary-school health partnership in the city of Pittsburgh and has been the longest standing, McGaffey said.

St. Margaret visits third, fourth, and fifth graders to teach the health programs “Kids Say Don’t Smoke,” “Peace Makers,” and “Puberty-Sexuality Education.”

In addition, St. Margaret goes to schools every Tuesday to conduct physicals. These services make a world of difference to students who otherwise would not have access to knowledge of public health, McGaffey said.

In the last two years, St. Margaret has added behavioral health services to its list of specialties provided on-site. Led by Dr. Patricia McGuire, the on-site psychiatrist, patients can now receive treatment for anxiety, depression, and other behavioral issues.

Continued on page 12
Exhibit to showcase Garfield artist
By Carrie Garrison  The Bulletin

Garfield – As he prepares for an exhibition on Nov. 7, Jason Molyneaux, artist-in-residence at Most Wanted Fine Art, has been hard at work collecting record album covers illustrated by Garfield’s own Mozelle Wilmont Thompson, Jr.

Jason Molyneaux, a Swissvale native and Carnegie Mellon University graduate, said he has been interested in records since he began disk-jockeying 20 years ago. This initial interest developed into an awareness of local Garfield records, which led to his discovery of Thompson's work a few years ago.

“When I became aware of Mozelle Thompson, I was kind of intrigued,” he said. “Early on, it became obvious that there could be potential for a project like this.”

One year after beginning his research, Molyneaux was contacted by Nina Sauer at Most Wanted Fine Art, with an offer to become the gallery’s artist-in-residence.

“It seemed like a good fit,” he said.

The featured artist, Mozelle Thompson, spent most of his life in the Garfield area. He grew up on Schenley Avenue after a brief time in the Hill District, where he attended Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Thompson attended the former Peabody High School in East Liberty (now the Barack Obama Academy of International Studies) and continued his education at Parsons School of Design in New York City.

Thompson passed away in 1970, but his memory lives on in his sister, Greta Thompson, who still lives in the Garfield neighborhood and recalled her brother fondly to The Bulletin.

“He was all about art,” she said. “He loved drawing.”

Molyneaux said he has been researching Mozelle Thompson extensively. He discovered Thompson’s keen interest in fashion design and illustrations, but said he decided to focus his exhibition primarily on Thompson’s record album illustrations. This focus has proven worthwhile, as Molyneaux has collected more than 91 of Thompson’s illustrations since beginning his project in January 2013.

The collection process has been costly, so Molyneaux has been pursuing outside resources. He is seeking a grant from the Sprout Fund to continue his research and collecting activities. Molyneaux said he plans to begin promoting this exhibition if he receives the grant funding this month.

The exhibit, set to unveil on Nov. 7 at 5015 Penn Ave. as part of Unblurred, will feature Thompson’s work in chronological order. It will be followed by a more official opening on Nov. 8 from 12 to 6 p.m., featuring jazz trumpeter Roger Barbour.

Molyneaux said he hopes to find a permanent place to display Thompson’s work after the exhibition. He has his sights set on the Heinz History Center and the Andy Warhol Museum. He also plans to make a short film about the exhibition.

“I’d really like to document people interacting with the artwork,” he said, adding that he expects it to air in early 2015.

Molyneaux said he’s excited about the future for Thompson’s albums and is keeping an open mind about what comes next.

“I’m ... into investigating any opportunity that might come up,” he said.

Community programs ‘pop up’ at former Quiet Storm
By Michele Morris  Friendship Resident

Penn Avenue – In the spirit of supporting the arts and encouraging new business development in the Penn Avenue commercial district, 5430 Penn Ave. is being offered free of charge to artists, aspiring restaurateurs, and other businesses courtesy of the new owner, E Properties and Development.

The 2,600-square-foot commercial space, which formerly housed Quiet Storm, will be available while the owner seeks a permanent tenant. Each “pop-up” host will be required to have insurance, be open at least one day per week, and hold an event during Unblurred, the commercial district’s monthly gallery crawl.

The expectation is that an aspiring business will take advantage of the opportunity to showcase its offerings and go beyond the minimum requirements. To kick things off, Yoga Hive hosted two successful Unblurred yoga events, with Evolve Wellness Spa offering foot massages after each session in the freshly white-boxed space.

Cafe Con Leche, which uses food to build community, will infuse the space with Latin flair through Oct. 10. The gallery and cafe will be open weekly, Thursdays and Fridays from 3 to 1 p.m., featuring art displays as well as Caribbean and Pan-Latino lunches and snacks prepared by SaludPGH.

“[I’m] super excited at the prospect of having the Quiet Storm space for Hispanic Heritage month,” said Tara Torres of Cafe Con Leche. Torres said she is confident she can host some special events and art shows that will bring new life to the space.

In addition to a grand opening party on Sept. 20, a “Celebration of Latino Heroes from the LGBT Community” on Sept. 25, and a Chilean “tesito” breakfast and live Chilean music by Copihue Canta on Sept. 28, Cafe Con Leche is offering a four-week Hispanic dance course by Southwest Ballet and a free figure-drawing studio. For more information, visit www.cafeconleche.com/events.

Following Cafe Con Leche’s stay, the space is tentatively slated to be programmed by Roxanne Easley, who owns Roxanne’s Takeout and Catering on Main Street in Bloomfield. Easley lives in the area and has been a popular vendor at the Garfield Night Market.

For more information on participating in the pop-up program, send an email to 5430pennpopup@gmail.com.
Class prepares students for SAT

ABOVE: Hoon Kim of Pittsburgh Prep leads a free, eight-week SAT preparation class at Pittsburgh Milliones 6-12. The class is being offered in partnership with Neighborhood Learning Alliance and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation. Photo by Rachel Zadnik.

In August, Howell met with Dan Yablonsky of BikePGH. Together, they decided that Bloomfield desperately needed a cyclist and pedestrian advocacy committee.

Howell said that the group, called the “Livable Streets Committee,” was inspired by close calls with motor vehicles she had experienced on Bloomfield streets.

“I’ve had several incidents that have put my children in danger,” Howell said.

Howell said she hopes this committee will serve as a liaison between the Bloomfield neighborhood and larger city interests. She plans to work with her fellow committee members to advocate for safer streets.

Howell said the committee will also lobby for safer intersections, crosswalks, and sidewalks, keeping the needs of all pedestrians in mind.

Stanton Heights festival returns

By Sarah Burke The Bulletin

Stanton Heights – On Aug. 23, the Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association hosted its second annual community festival from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parking lot of Sunnyside Elementary School. The event featured 52nd Street Market (top left), balloon sculptures (top right), a bounce house (bottom left), a Pittsburgh ambulance (bottom right), face painting, a 50/50 raffle, the Citiparks Roving Art Cart, and Saltworks Theatre Company. Photos by Barry Werber.
Lawrenceville marks 200th birthday
By Molly Recka Lawrenceville Corporation

Lawrenceville – A quick Internet search of “Lawrenceville” will uncover trendy art studios, restaurants, and bars. And while the 200-year-old neighborhood has certainly had its share of recent development, it is also steeped in a long history worthy of celebration. The Lawrenceville Historic Society, Row House Cinema, and Atlas Bottle Works recently teamed up to create an event to celebrate Lawrenceville’s past and present.

The event took place at Row House Cinema, 4115 Butler St., from 4 to 11 p.m. on Sept. 12. Visitors were warmly welcomed into Row House Cinema by the smells of Franktuary’s food truck and barbecue from Smoke Taqueria outside. Smoke will be opening a new location soon on Butler Street in Lawrenceville.

In order to celebrate the neighborhood’s rich history, Row House Cinema screened three Lawrenceville-related films. Two of the movies, “She’s Out of My League” and “Money for Nothing,” were filmed in Lawrenceville.

The third movie, “I Was a Communist for the FBI,” is based on a true story. Community resident and historian James Wudarczyk presented a lecture on Matt Cvetic, a Lawrenceville resident and the film’s main character.

“When you sit down and reflect on all of the things we have as a community, beyond a new movie theater or Smoke opening up, it’s really impressive,” Mendelssohn said. “But it’s good to celebrate the new stuff, too.”

This event celebrated the “new” with local food and beer provided by Hop Farm, Church Brew Works, and Arsenal Cider House, along with the “old” in the form of stories, a lecture, and some incredible historical photographs. And of course, no birthday is complete without a homemade birthday cake, which was served to all of the Lawrenceville enthusiasts in attendance.

Kickoff from page 6

as they walked to their classrooms for the first time, then stayed in the class for an activity with the teacher before saying goodbye.

The festivities ended with a parent mixer that included games for parents to get to know each other and learn about the school.

“Ready Freddy’s aim is to ensure that families have a smooth transition into kindergarten,” says Medina Jackson, community outreach coordinator for the program. “The welcoming and festive atmosphere at Arsenal were done really well, and it was a great way to welcome families into the school and build relationships.”

Meanwhile, on the 40th Street side of the building in front of Arsenal Middle School, school staff and community volunteers held a rally to promote good attendance to the students, beginning a month-long challenge at the school, which includes rewards and raffles for youths who keep perfect attendance through the end of September. The event and challenge were part of the United Way’s “Be There” campaign.

Families were also invited into the school for “Back to School Nights,” which were held at all neighborhood schools. Staff at Arsenal Elementary added a twist by taking families out into Arsenal Park for a nature scavenger hunt, illustrating the ways that parents can support learning in everyday situations.

Adding to this community-wide, collaborative effort to promote a strong start to the school year, Our Lady of the Angels Parish and Cutitta Chiropractic in Lawrenceville separately organized school supply drives to support more than 100 local families.

To learn more about Lawrenceville United’s PEP Rally program, call 412-802-7220 or visit www.lunited.org.
Health center from page 8

“This enables our patients to access behavioral health care on-site, whereas they might be reluctant to go to another facility,” McGaffey said. This service, described by McGaffey as “absolutely necessary,” has enhanced the well-being of patients as well as the education of the residents.

“A Better Life through Eating and Exercise,” known by the acronym ABLE 2, is another new program St. Margaret has offered to support community health. Led by Dr. Elisabeth Hyde and additional residents, this program educates participants about exercise and obesity.

In collaboration with Kathy Fink at Creative Fitness – along with University of Pittsburgh nutrition and exercise students – ABLE 2 allows patients to exercise with resident doctors for one hour on Monday evenings.

In addition, participants tour the grocery store to search for healthy foods and gain a deeper understanding of nutrition labels. McGaffey said this program, now offered in eight-week sessions, has shown great success in patients.

The health center is also dedicated to promoting childhood wellness, which has led to a collaboration with Kristin Hughes, an associate professor at Carnegie Mellon University, and Nathan Mazur, a cartoonist.

Together, they have created Fit Wits, 34 food cartoon characters that illustrate healthy and unhealthy snacks as well as appropriate portion sizes for children. This program includes Fit Wits MD, a flashcard presentation given to children at their well-child visits.

“This is a fantastic intervention,” McGaffey said.

McGaffey said the health center’s staff members look forward to hosting its 30-year anniversary celebration on Oct. 9. The festival, led by nurse manager Virginia Gray, will incorporate the health center’s business partners and patients.

To promote community health, the festival will also feature blood pressure checks, a pulse oximeter, tours of the facility, and open conversation with nurses. In addition, a member from the Allegheny County Sheriff’s Office will attend to take fingerprints and provide child identification kits.

Looking back on 30 years of commitment, McGaffey said, “I’m very proud of what we’ve done.”

Celebration to support library
By Chuck Staresinic Friends of Lawrenceville Library

Lawrenceville – Five years ago this fall, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP) announced that five neighborhood libraries in Pittsburgh would close. Pittsburghers were rightfully appalled to learn that CLP – a leader among American public library systems – would close so many neighborhood branches.

However, the financial pressures that led CLP to make the announcement were very real, and the outlook was grim unless dramatic changes were enacted. One of the five libraries slated to close was the Lawrenceville branch on Fisk Street.

Of course, as many readers know, the Lawrenceville branch is alive and well. It’s open six days a week now; it used to be open only five. In 2009, library hours added up to 40 per week, but now they total 51.

In 2009, there were three full-time and two part-time employees. Now, there are five full-time and three part-time. The branch has a dedicated children’s librarian and a dedicated teen library assistant. The library is bustling with activity and patrons of all ages.

The 116-year-old building sparkles. It has a new slate roof, having gotten a good 115 years out of the first one. The original woodwork and windows have been carefully restored. Air conditioning has been added. (Now, when summer temperatures hit 93 degrees, the library becomes a refuge instead of closing due to heat and humidity.) It has re-plastered ceilings and new lighting.

The basement, a public gathering space for decades that had become a dilapidated storage room, has been refurbished as an open, fully wired space for computer classes, educational programs, performances, and gatherings.

The story of how this dramatic turnaround took place over the past few years is well known to many Pittsburghers, but that does not make it any less historic. CLP’s leadership realized that its greatest asset was Pittsburghers’ love for their libraries.

A question was added to the ballot in the 2012 general election, asking Pittsburghers if they would support a 0.25-mil real estate tax ($25 for property appraised at $100,000) that would go directly to CLP. More than 70 percent of those who voted replied “yes.” This is one of the main reasons that Pittsburghers benefit today from a library system that, instead of closing libraries to cut costs, is finding new ways to improve and add to the services it offers.

Supporters and patrons of the Lawrenceville branch of CLP feel that this is something worth celebrating. And like the library, which everyone knows is “Free to the People,” this celebration is open to all. The annual Fall Festival and Art Auction to benefit the Friends of the Lawrenceville Library will be held at the library, 279 Fisk St., from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11.

The event will feature raffle prizes, refreshments, a silent auction of donated works by Pittsburgh artists, and entertainment.

The Friends of Lawrenceville Library group will use the proceeds of this annual event to support programming at the Lawrenceville branch, and will donate a portion to CLP to support the citywide library system.
New commercial district manager to improve Penn Avenue

By Sarah Burke The Bulletin

Penn Avenue – In September, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) welcomed a new commercial district manager, Amber Epps, to its staff.

Epps said she has spent her first few weeks on the job getting oriented to the BGC and making the rounds on Penn Avenue to meet local business owners.

“I’m excited about the potential Penn Avenue has,” Epps said. “It’s always great to watch something grow bigger and better. I know there are a lot of people who care about the avenue and want to see it do well.”

Epps will be responsible for carrying out the five-year strategic plan for the Penn Avenue corridor, which is available online at http://bit.ly/penn_strategic_plan.

Rick Swartz, executive director of the BGC, said one of Epps’ top priorities will be vacant storefronts on Penn Avenue.

“She’ll be working on ways to induce owners to put those properties back into use,” Swartz said.

Since April, Epps had been serving as coordinator of the Garfield Night Market, which aims to build a bridge between the Garfield neighborhood and Penn Avenue’s monthly Unblurred gallery crawls.

Epps has also taught communications and computer courses at the college level since 2002. She is currently a part-time instructor at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and at LaRoche College.

Epps can be reached at 412-441-6950 x16, or at mainstreets@bloomfield-garfield.org.

Below: Amber Epps recently joined the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation staff as commercial district manager. Photo by Sarah Burke.

PUBLIC SAFETY NOTICES

Friendship – James Mason, who was wanted in relation to a sexual assault that occurred on Roup Avenue in Friendship is currently in custody after being featured on KDKA’s “Crimestoppers” segment. City of Pittsburgh police reported that a second sexual assault on Friendship Avenue is no longer under investigation after the police found that no crime was committed.

Several recent burglaries in the Friendship neighborhood are currently under investigation. Residents are reminded to lock their windows and doors and to follow proper safety precautions. – Wesley Davis, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

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October 3

**LAWRENCEVILLE**

Opening Reception

Come to the Gallery on 43rd Street, 137 43rd St., from 7 to 10 p.m. for the opening reception of "New Work" by Jonelle Summerfield, featuring oil paintings of recent travels to Europe. "New Work" runs Oct. 3 to Dec. 31. Call 412-683-6488 or visit www.facebook.com/gallery.43rdstreet for details.

Community Barbecue

New Bethel Baptist Church at 221 43rd St. is hosting an end-of-summer barbecue on Oct. 3 and 4 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come enjoy dinner, including sweet potato pies, chicken, and ribs. Call 412-291-8185 for more information.

October 4

**BLOOMFIELD**

Home Resource Day

Several nonprofits and other groups will be on-site to help you learn about low-cost resources for repairing or renovating your home, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Live music will begin at 10 a.m. at 5050 Liberty Ave. Visit www.bloomfieldnow.com for more details.

**LAWRENCEVILLE**

Slim Forsythe with The Mavens

Gather at Nied's Hotel, 5438 Butler St., at 7 p.m. for an evening filled with classic country, western swing, and mountain gospel music. This free event is open to the public, family-friendly, and smoke-free.

October 5

**LAWRENCEVILLE**

House Tour

This year's Hospitality House Tour will feature eight homes that vary in age, design, and construction, as well as St. Augustine's Church and Arsenal Middle School. The tour will include a "Take a Break" stop where visitors can listen to classical piano. Small treats will also be provided at each house by local businesses, community groups, and families. Acoustic musical performances will also occur at some of the homes. The tour begins at 4734 Butler Street at noon, inside the Allegheny Cemetery, and ends at 5 p.m.

October 6

**LAWRENCEVILLE**

Library Celebration

This benefit is held from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville. This free event includes refreshments, entertainment, raffle prizes, and an silent auction featuring original work by Pittsburgh artists.

**CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL**

Fundraiser

The Nied's Hotel Band is hosting a fundraiser for the Dr. Bill Neches Heart Camp for Kids with the motto "The Beat Goes On" from 7 to 10:30 p.m. at the Dr. Bill Neches Heart Camp for Kids with the motto "The Beat Goes On" from 7 to 10:30 p.m. at the Teament Temple, 4701 Butler St. Call 412-781-9853 for details, or visit www.niedshotel.com.

October 11

**BLOOMFIELD**

Fire Safety Day

Bring your kids to explore a fire truck, see a true balloon artist, and have their faces painted at the Bloomfield Saturday Market, 5050 Liberty Ave. Sign up to receive a free smoke detector from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Live, free concert by Ferdinando the Bull begins at 10:30 a.m. Visit www.bloomfieldnow.com for more details.

**GARFIELD**

Recruitment Session

Alorica is holding a recruitment session for inbound customer service agents from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Ave. The company offers two weeks of paid training, an average of $250 to $300 per month in bonuses and incentives, 401k, tuition reimbursement, and a casual dress code. Ninety percent of Alorica managers are promoted from within. To register, call 412-362-8580.

October 12

**GARFIELD**

Health Workshop

Come to the "Better Choices, Better Health" workshop at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, 5321 Penn Ave. The workshop will meet for six consecutive Fridays, Oct. 17 to Nov. 21, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Learn relaxation techniques, review guidelines for healthy eating and exercise, create weekly action plans, and discover the power of positive thinking. All workshop participants will receive the companion book, "Living a Healthy Life with a Chronic Condition." Light refreshments are provided throughout, with a graduation celebration at the end. Please call Usama Al-Teraifi at 412-362-8580 to sign up.

**SWISSVALE**

Family Fun Night

Come to Swissale Arcade Lanes, 7518 Dickson St., from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. for a women's ministry family fun night. This bowling party is held by New Bethel Baptist Church. For tickets and information, call 412-231-3128.

October 13

**LAWRENCEVILLE**

The Fall Spectacular

The Lawrenceville Senior Center is hosting its annual fundraiser, "The Fall Spectacular," from 1 to 10 p.m. at 4600 Butler St., inside the Boys & Girls Club building. There will be a bake sale, flea market, Chinese auction, raffles, food for sale, and bingo. Open to all ages. Call 412-622-6918 for more details.

October 16

**GARFIELD**

Pet Day

Celebrate our furry friends at the Bloomfield Saturday Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 5050 Liberty Ave. Live music will begin at 10 a.m. Visit www.bloomfieldnow.com for more information.

**SWISSVALE**

Halloween Party

Come to Estelle S. Campbell Boys & Girls Club, 4600 Butler St. Get dressed up and enjoy Lawrenceville United's annual Children Halloween Party. This includes a haunted house, face painting, princesses, and more. Call 412-279-7265 for more information.

October 17

**SHADYSIDE**

Deck Your Walls

From 6 to 9 p.m. on Oct. 17, and 12 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 18, a fall art sale to benefit Persad’s Free Care Fund will take place at 5000 Walnut St. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Bob McGrogan at 412-441-9786 x225, or visit www.persadcenter.org.

**BLOOMFIELD**

Friendship Community Day

Our neighbors in Friendship will bring vendors and information about their community to the Bloomfield Saturday Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 5050 Liberty Ave. Live music will begin at 10 a.m. Visit www.bloomfieldnow.com for more details.

October 20

**BLOOMFIELD**

STEM Exploration

Preschoolers ages 3 to 5 can come listen to a story, participate in experiments, and have fun with science. This event takes place at 6:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St.

October 21

**EAST LIBERTY**

Family Fun Night

Come to Swissale Arcade Lanes, 7518 Dickson St., from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. for a women's ministry family fun night. This bowling party is held by New Bethel Baptist Church. For tickets and information, call 412-231-3128.

October 22

**BLOOMFIELD**

Pet Day

Celebrate our furry friends at the Bloomfield Saturday Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 5050 Liberty Ave., with many pet-related nonprofits and service providers. Live music will begin at 10 a.m. Visit www.bloomfieldnow.com for more information.

**LAWRENCEVILLE**

Halloween Party

Come to Estelle S. Campbell Boys & Girls Club, 4600 Butler St. Get dressed up and enjoy Lawrenceville United’s annual Children Halloween Party. This includes a haunted house, face painting, princesses, and more. Call 412-279-7265 for more information.

October 23

**LAWRENCEVILLE**

Oktoberfest Fundraiser

Our Lady of the Angels Parish holds this fun social event in St. Augustine Auditorium, 220 37th St., beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are $15 and include delicious German food – grilled bratwurst, sauerkraut and pork, German potato salad, pretzels, and homemade apple strudel. A number of Oktoberfest beers and German wine will also be available. There will also be a 50/50 raffle and other games. For tickets or more information, call 412-682-0929.

October 24

Taste and Learn

For one hour, starting at 2 p.m., at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St., come hear why Butler on Butler’s meat is best. Meat samples will be included. Call 412-682-3668 for more information.

Animal Blessing

In honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, there will be a blessing of animals at 11 a.m. on the steps of Our Lady of the Angels Parish, St. Augustine Church, 230 37th St. All pets large and small are welcome.

The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, fundraising events, and services that are of particular interest to our neighbors. Listings published on a space-available basis; we cannot guarantee placement. Announcements for the November issue are due Tuesday, October 14. Download submission guidelines at http://bit.ly/bulletin_news.
 Volunteer Opportunities & Services

games, music, dancing, food, and candy. For questions, contact Lawrenceville United at 412-802-7220.

October 26

LAWRENCEVILLE
TV Host Speech
At 11 a.m. the Holy Name Society of Our Lady of the Angels Parish will host television personality and author Mike Aquilina at St. Augistine Auditorium, 225 37th St. Aquilina is well known for his many shows, authored books, and thousands of articles. Aquilina’s talk will be “Through Hymns, With Hymns, In Hymns: The Christian Music That Conquered the Pagan World.” This free event is open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

October 28

EAST LIBERTY
Trick or Treat
Children enrolled in kindergarten to fifth grade can enjoy scary stories, goblin crafts, and snacks. This event is at 6 p.m. and will take place at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St.

November 19

STANTON HEIGHTS
Neighborhood Meeting
The Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association will host Mary Bach from AARP, who will speak about consumer interests and problems. This meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. at Sunnyside Elementary School, 4801 Stanton Ave.

Ongoing

MORNINGSIDE
Be a Scout
A scout pack meets at St. Raphael School on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Scouting is designed for boys in first through fifth grade, and ages 11 to 17. It emphasizes leadership, citizenship, and personal fitness while developing character, community, and familial understanding. Call Beth McKinstry 412-661-2963 or visit www.BeAScout.org for more information.

BLOOMFIELD
Afterschool Program
Earthen Vessels Outreach, a community-based nonprofit, is offering an afterschool program for your preschool to middle-school children. This CCIS-approved program offers interactive activities and educational enrichment through STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) tutoring, homework help, nutrition education, and more. Services available September to June, 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. The program is open on snow-delay days, snow cancellations, and school holidays. Transportation is provided from local schools within a two-mile radius. Call 412-414-2993 for more information.

Flu Shot Clinic
Come to UPMC St. Margaret Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health Center, 5475 Penn Ave., for a flu shot. The clinic will offer these Oct. 9 from 4 to 6 p.m. and Nov. 6 from 9 a.m. to noon. This flu shot clinic is offered for adults only and is $15, or free if the patient has a chronic condition.

EAST LIBERTY
Family Storytime
Storytime for families with children ages 2 to 5 will take place each Friday in October at 10:30 a.m. at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St.

Imagination Builders
Families can enjoy time together building with Legos, straws, connectors, wooden blocks, and more. This will take place each Monday in October at 6 p.m. at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty, 130 S. Whitfield St.

MULTIPLE NEIGHBORHOODS
Help for Parents
Raising kids is a challenge. The Parenting Warmline can help. Find information, referrals, and someone to talk to in confidence Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Call 412-641-4546, or 800-641-4546 for callers outside of Allegheny County.

Branding Penn Avenue
Have a new name idea for the Penn Avenue corridor between Negley Avenue and Mathilda Street? Check your mailbox as well as the Penn Avenue website (www.pennavenue.org) in October for more information on how you can help create an identity for this section of the avenue.

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