

# the Bulletin

Volume 39, Number 9  
SEPTEMBER 2014

Serving Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty,  
Lawrenceville, and Stanton Heights Since 1975



## Garfield residents stand against violence

By Sarah Burke *The Bulletin*

*Garfield* – On Aug. 5, the Garfield neighborhood joined communities across the country in celebrating National Night Out, an annual gathering that promotes crime prevention and public safety.

More than 200 people attended the party in Nelson Mandela Peace Park at the corner of Broad and North Evaline streets. In addition to dinner, speakers, live music, and arts and crafts activities, this year's

event offered neighbors the chance to stand together after the fatal shooting of 18-year-old Naytel Pack, which occurred in the park on July 17.

“We wanted to be sensitive to what had recently happened, but at the same time come together to show that we are a strong community and that we will not

See **National Night Out** | page 3

## Charter school to reapply for expansion

By Taia Pandolfi *The Bulletin*

*Pittsburgh* – In a unanimous vote on July 23, the Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) board rejected Environmental Charter School's (ECS)

See **School** | page 4

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## Local foods take root in Lawrenceville

By Ed Nusser *Lawrenceville Corporation*

*Lawrenceville* – Lawrenceville Corporation and Lawrenceville United have partnered with several locally owned and operated businesses

See **Local** | page 5

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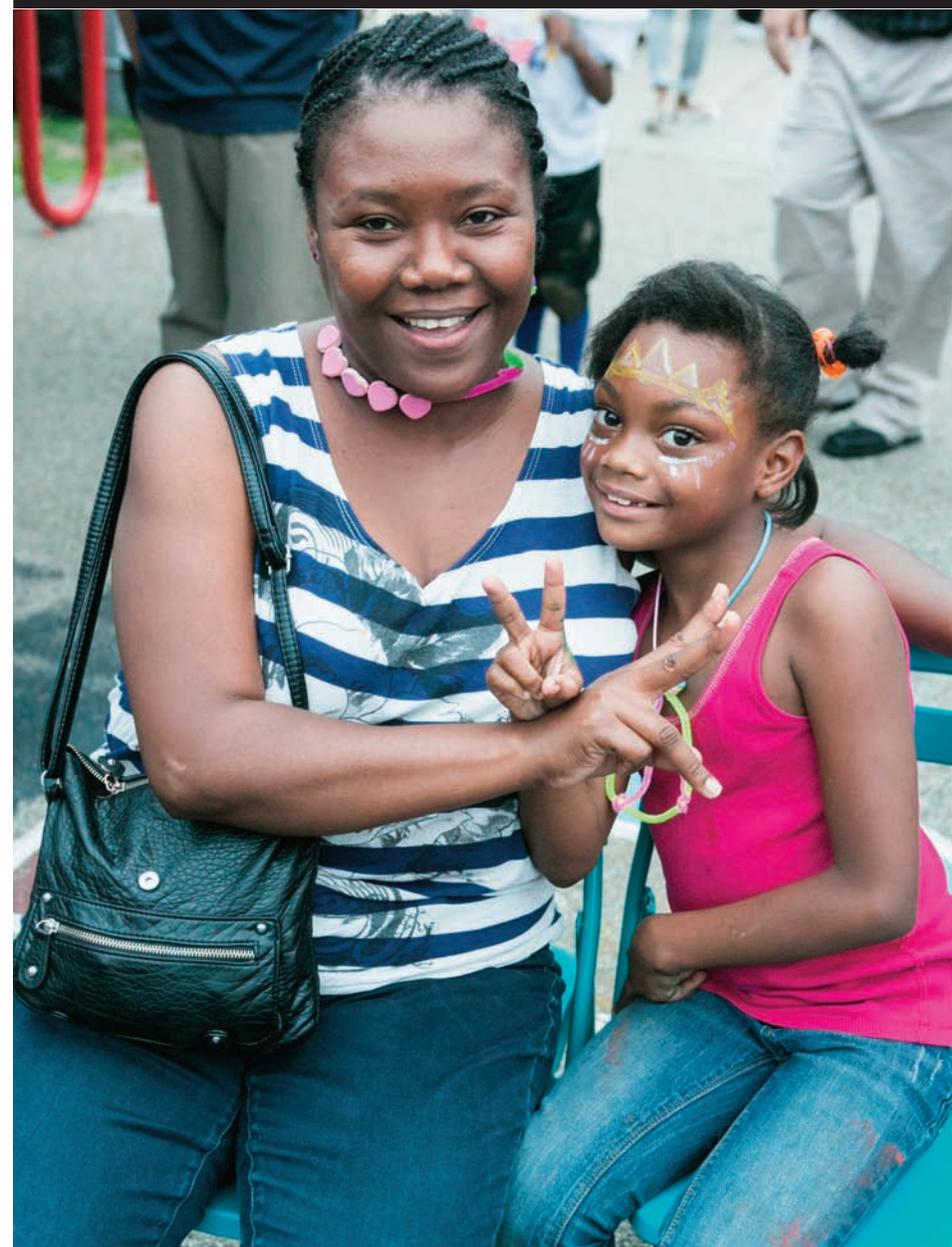
## Task force offers free STD testing

By Jason Herring *Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force*

*East Liberty* – John Easter isn't waiting for you to walk through his office door. He is out in the community, actively looking for you as a

See **Testing** | page 6

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ABOVE: Camilia Cole (left) and her daughter, Chienne Cole, hold up peace signs at National Night Out in Garfield. Photo by John Colombo Photography.



ABOVE: Single-screen theater Row House Cinema recently opened in Lawrenceville. See page 8 for the full story. Photo by John Colombo Photography.

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the Bulletin

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# New sequence set for Penn Avenue reconstruction

By Ed Jones L.R. Kimball and Rick Swartz Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation



**ABOVE:** Penn Avenue construction work proceeds between Winebiddle and Evaline streets in Garfield. Photo by Patrick Burke.

**Penn Avenue** – The Penn Avenue reconstruction project, cutting between the neighborhoods of Garfield, Bloomfield, and Friendship, has encountered a number of complications that have caused it to fall behind schedule.

If the project had continued to follow the current sequence of construction, the

contractor believed that completion of the roadway and curbing would not have occurred in the 2014 construction season. In order to address this issue, a revised sequence of construction has been put in place to attempt to have all of the roadway and curbing work finished by November.

The construction sequence was originally

separated into four phases:

**Phase 1:** Reconstruction on the westbound, or inbound, lane of Penn Avenue. This phase is underway.

**Phase 2:** Reconstruction on the sidewalk adjacent to the westbound lane.

**Phase 3:** Reconstruction on the eastbound, or outbound, lane of Penn Avenue.

**Phase 4:** Reconstruction of the sidewalk adjacent to the eastbound lane.

During all of the phases, westbound traffic was to be maintained on Penn Avenue, and an eastbound detour utilized.

In order to complete the roadway work in the current construction season, the city has approved the contractor's newly developed plan to start the third phase, consisting of the Penn Avenue eastbound lane reconstruction, while the reconstruction of the remaining segment of Penn Avenue's westbound lane (Phase 1) is being completed.

Subsequently, all sidewalk reconstruction will be moved to the end of the project. Throughout the new construction

sequence, traffic operations will be maintained similarly to the current traffic patterns. Implementing this new construction sequence will allow for completion of the roadway portion of the project, including curbs and intersections, within this construction season, and will result in the reopening of Penn Avenue to two-way traffic after Nov. 1.

For more information on the construction project, call Aaron Pickering, field manager, at 412-292-7265 or Aggie Brose, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, at 412-441-6950. ♦

## RECENT ARREST



**Friendship** – James Mason (left), 34, was arrested recently by Pittsburgh Police after being featured on KDKA's "Crimestoppers" segment. He was wanted in relation to a sexual assault that occurred in the Friendship neighborhood in July. Mason is being held in the Allegheny County Jail. Photo courtesy of Pittsburgh Police. ♦

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**For a free, fold-out map of all of the businesses (with phone numbers), contact the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, 412-441-6950.**

**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.

# the Bulletin

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Corporation



**Serving Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty, Lawrenceville, and Stanton Heights Since 1975** with the mission of reporting on activities affecting those communities and offering an opportunity for residents to express opinions and exchange ideas.

### Volume 39, Number 9

The deadline for the October issue is **Monday, September 15.**

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**Board Meetings** are held by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at 5321 Penn Ave. and are open to the public. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the publisher.

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[www.bloomfield-garfield.org](http://www.bloomfield-garfield.org) © 2014 by Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

## National Night Out from page 1



**ABOVE:** State Rep. Ed Gainey speaks at Garfield's National Night Out. Photo by John Colombo Photography.

put up with violence," said Minette Vaccariello of Garfield Community Action Team, one of the organizations that hosted the event.

The King of Kings Baptist Ministries gospel choir performed at National Night Out, and the church also had a grief counselor available for residents who wanted to talk about the shooting. L.C. Carter, pastor and founder of King of Kings, delivered opening remarks to the

crowd.

"When there is a problem, there is always a solution," Carter said, emphasizing the importance of strong families and education.

State Rep. Ed Gainey called Garfield "a neighborhood of families" and asked all in attendance to say, "I make a difference," with a hand raised.

"Every time you see a child on the street, say hello and show him you care about him," Gainey said. "Right now, our children need love."

City Councilman Ricky Burgess echoed the call for community action and accountability, asking attendees to repeat after him, "As it is to be, it is up to me."

Corey Buckner, special assistant to Mayor William Peduto, said, "I'm here today as a Garfield resident. I've got your back." He urged nearby families to come knock on his door or stop him on the street at any time.

Mayme Williams, Pack's grandmother, said that her grandson's murder "disrespected the community and God . . . Now, more than ever, we need to band together."

As night fell in the park, the Garfield neighborhood did just that. Assemble, an arts and creativity space on Penn Avenue,

helped residents paint a banner with reasons why they loved the peace park. Neighbors chatted with each other over a free dinner of macaroni and cheese, fruit, and brownies. Children lined up to have their faces painted and to explore the fire truck parked on North Evaline.

Vaccariello said that's exactly what National Night Out is all about.

"Our goal for the National Night Out event is to give neighbors a reason to come

out, connect, and talk," she said. "It's about keeping eyes on the street and keeping our neighborhood safe . . . Positive activity that happens in the park can help to keep out the negative activity."

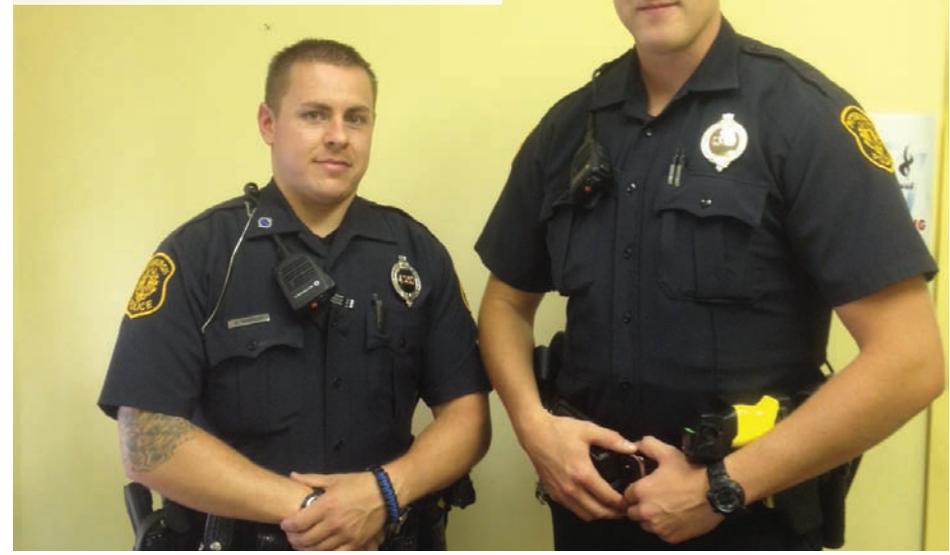
Garfield's National Night Out was hosted by Assemble, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Earthen Vessels Outreach, Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, King of Kings Baptist Ministries, Neighborhood Learning Alliance, and Tree of Hope. ♦



**ABOVE:** Kairon Turner, 2, paints on Assemble's peace park banner at National Night Out. Photo by John Colombo Photography.

# WELCOME to the NEIGHBORHOOD

**BELOW:** The Garfield neighborhood recently welcomed two new City of Pittsburgh Zone 5 police officers, Brian Markus (left) and Scott Brown (right). Residents are encouraged to introduce themselves to the new officers and to approach them with any public safety concerns. Photo by Wesley Davis.



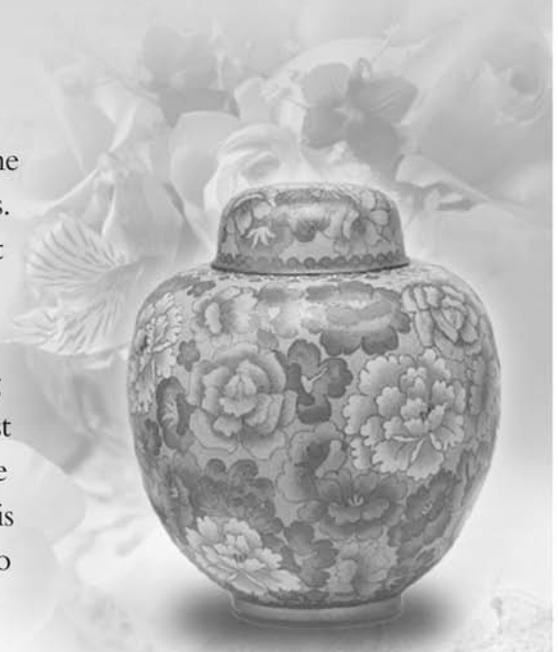
# School *from page 1*



**ABOVE:** The former Fort Pitt School in Garfield was the proposed site for a new K-8 Environmental Charter School location. Photo by Patrick Burke.

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proposal to expand its charter and create two additional schools under the ECS umbrella. Currently, there are two ECS schools: a K-3 in Park Place and a 5-8 in Regent Square. The expansion of ECS's charter would have resulted in a new high school in the Hill District and an additional K-8 at the former Fort Pitt School site in Garfield.

CEO Jon McCann of ECS said he is seriously considering feedback from PPS as ECS prepares a revision to the proposal for resubmission to the school board. Following months of discussion and planning, ECS made its initial proposal to PPS

McCann said. "It was a much more philosophical conversation about the role of a charter within a public school system."

Since its creation in 2008, ECS has faced a long waiting list each year, giving preference to siblings of current students. As the school's structure stands now, once students complete eighth grade they return to their respective feeder schools for grades 9 through 12. By expanding to create a high school, McCann said, ECS would be able to sustain a consistent educational experience from kindergarten through graduation.

**"Right now, Fort Pitt School is just an empty building with a sign on it. It has so much potential to do great things; it could be a brilliant community asset."**

*- Jon McCann, Environmental Charter School*

in May of this year. It was accompanied by a number of letters of support and signatures from current ECS parents and residents of surrounding neighborhoods.

"We really want to make sure this is a responsible step," McCann said. "We have been in conversation with various community groups, legal advisors, and education specialists and will continue to do so until we have addressed all the concerns that were raised."

Speakers at the public hearing, which was held on June 23, raised concerns about cost to the district and the drain from other schools. McCann said the dialogue was largely focused on the benefits and drawbacks of charter schools in general, rather than ECS in particular.

"There were parents from all over the city who were resolutely anti-charter schools,"

McCann said ECS's success speaks for itself and serves as a community model.

"Charter schools are meant to bring about innovation in the face of a large institution like PPS," he said. "This is not a question of new programming or new curricula. We are rethinking the fundamentals of how we approach public education."

Through collaboration with community groups and interested families, McCann said, ECS plans to revise the proposal to reflect not only the interests of the school and its students, but also to serve the needs of surrounding neighborhoods.

"Right now, Fort Pitt School is just an empty building with a sign on it," McCann said. "It has so much potential

## Local from page 1

in Upper Lawrenceville to launch the “10th Ward Fresh” campaign, which will celebrate and promote the rapid growth of local, fresh-food businesses in Upper Lawrenceville, often referred to by residents as the 10th Ward.

The seeds of this campaign were planted during the planning process for the Upper Lawrenceville Community Plan in late 2012 and early 2013. Throughout the planning process, it was clear that the 10th Ward lacked access to healthy, fresh food. Additionally, as community meetings progressed, a theme emerged that Upper Lawrenceville, like most of Pittsburgh, has roots in an industrial past and ought to remain a community of “makers.”

Motivated by the planning process, Upper Lawrenceville residents Deirdre Kane and Dora Walmsley partnered to create the 52nd Street Market. Early this year, the 52nd Street Market, located at the corner of 52nd and Holmes streets,

“[Residents] want access to local and fresh foods, they want a walkable and sustainable community, and they want to know and support one another.”

– Lauren Byrne, Lawrenceville United

joined the burgeoning local food scene in Upper Lawrenceville.

In addition to the 52nd Street Market, the neighborhood now features Butcher on Butler at 5145 Butler St., Wild Purveyors at 5308 Butler St., and the Lawrenceville Farmers Market, which runs every Saturday, June to October, in the Goodwill parking lot at 52nd Street and Berlin Way.



**ABOVE:** One week’s harvest from the Lawrenceville Organic Community Garden in the Allegheny Cemetery. Photo courtesy of Lawrenceville Organic Community Garden.

“Residents are excited about what they see underway in the 10th Ward,” said Lauren Byrne, executive director of Lawrenceville United. “They want access to local and

Avenue and Natrona Way. Additionally, Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Pennsylvania has launched a greenhouse initiative that supplies produce for the farmers market.

Walmsley said she believes that shopping at local businesses can help foster a sense of community among residents and make it easier to introduce people to new foods or products.

fresh foods, they want a walkable and sustainable community, and they want to know and support one another.”

These opportunities are available not only through shopping choices, but also through the grassroots food production beginning to take hold in the 10th Ward. The all-volunteer Lawrenceville Organic Community Garden is now operating two sites, one in the Allegheny Cemetery, and one at the intersection of McCandless

“We’re excited to take part in the [10th Ward Fresh] campaign,” she said. “Our hope is that new and old residents alike will see what our neighborhood has to offer in the way of diverse, yet accessible, food options.”

In the near future, the 10th Ward Fresh initiative will be producing a map of fresh food locations in the 10th Ward that will be available at participating businesses. ♦

## School from page 4

to do great things; it could be a brilliant community asset. We really hope that we can bring that potential to the neighborhood.”

As part of its efforts to reach out to the community, ECS has launched The Catalyst Project, a network to support the amendment process that urges participants to contact PPS board members and advocate for the expansion. Find more information at <http://www.environmentalcharter-school.org/news.cfm> by clicking “The Catalyst Project.” ♦

## Monro Muffler storage variance denied

By Sarah Burke *The Bulletin*

*Penn Avenue* – The City of Pittsburgh zoning board has denied W.G. Tomko, Inc.’s request to store construction materials at 5531 Penn Ave. in Garfield, owned by Monro Muffler, Inc. W.G. Tomko’s request would have required a variance to the Local Neighborhood Commercial zoning code.

The decision followed a June 12 hearing in which the board heard testimony from Shaun Rohland, W.G. Tomko’s representative. Several residents and Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation staff members also appeared at the hearing to oppose the variance, expressing concerns about safety, traffic, and the visibility of the piled construction materials at a prominent neighborhood gateway. In its written decision, issued on July 17, the zoning board concluded that the requested variance was not appropriate, stating that the applicant “did not present any substantial evidence of unique circumstances or conditions” and that “a variance would alter the essential character of the neighborhood.” ♦

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# Exhibit to promote eye health of artists

By Nina Sauer *Most Wanted Fine Art*



**ABOVE:** Artist D.S. Kinsel models Penn Avenue Eyewear sunglasses for Artistic Vision. Photo by Njaimah Njie.



**ABOVE:** Jason Sauer of Most Wanted Fine Art models Penn Avenue Eyewear glasses for Artistic Vision. Photo by Njaimah Njie.

Pittsburgh – Penn Avenue Eyewear and Most Wanted Fine Art are teaming up to support the eye health of local artists while giving back to charities that support Pittsburgh’s arts community. Penn Avenue Eyewear is an independent Pittsburgh-based retailer. Most Wanted Fine Art is a Garfield community service organization disguised as an art gallery.

Together, they will present “Artistic Vision,” an exhibit highlighting the works of more than 25 established artists, including 15 pairs of hand-customized, artistic wooden frames for sunglasses. The frames will be available through silent auction from 6 to 10 p.m. Sept. 12 at Most Wanted’s Homestead location, 143 W. Bridge St. E3.

All participating artists have been provided either a pair of Penn Avenue Eyewear sunglasses or prescription glasses, and all sales from the silent auction benefit Healthy Artists and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation. The event will feature comedy, live music, and free Rock Bottom Brewery beer.

“American artists . . . often work jobs that fail to provide them with health insurance,” said Julie Sokolow of Healthy Artists, an online documentary series about artists and their healthcare struggles. “This art show will help put a face to this dire human rights issue while celebrating the powerful visions these artists want to share with the world.” ♦

# Testing *from page 1*

part of Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force’s (PATF) new sexually transmitted disease (STD) testing program. Who are you? Anyone, any age, who is sexually active.

PATF offers free STD testing, along with its traditional HIV testing, six days a week at its East Liberty office as well as Cruze Bar in the Strip District on Thursdays and Prevention Point Pittsburgh on Sundays. The tests are done in a discreet, confidential manner and have proven popular in the community.

“Many times people will not get tested just because they don’t like the health department, or because they don’t want to be seen going into a clinic, or they just don’t make the time,” Easter said. “Being out in the community, in familiar surroundings, helps with all that. They know us and trust us to be discreet.”

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, southwest Pennsylvania has the second highest rate of chlamydia and gonorrhea infections in the state, with Allegheny County accounting for the most STD cases in the region.

People may be infected with an STD and not show any symptoms, resulting in many of these cases going undetected and



**ABOVE:** John Easter (facing) offers STD counseling. Photo by Jason Herring.

of screening for chlamydia and gonorrhea are then sent back to PATF. Participants can be notified of their results over the phone, which is not the

## HIV and STD testing hours

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**Sunday** 12 to 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday** 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

untreated, which leads to rising rates of infection. Men and women who are sexually active, especially young people ages 15 to 24, are at risk for contracting these infections. The only way to know that you do not have an STD is to get tested, Easter said.

“Testing is important because you can have an STD and not know it,” Easter said. “Women, especially, oftentimes are infected but show no symptoms.”

Urine is collected from the participant and is sent to the Center for Disease Detection (CDD) in San Antonio, Texas. The results

case with HIV testing. The entire process takes approximately one week.

PATF began oral testing for HIV in the community in 1997 and has maintained a highly successful community testing campaign to date.

Easter said that STD testing, which is partially funded through the Pennsylvania Department of Health, was an obvious fit for PATF’s list of services offered to the community.

For more information on testing services offered at PATF, call 412-345-7456 or visit [www.patf.org](http://www.patf.org). ♦



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**October Bulletin Deadline = September 15**

# Teens, children rally for reading

By Sarah Burke *The Bulletin*

*East Liberty* – On July 31, more than 100 people attended the second annual Public Display of Reading at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. The gathering was organized by Neighborhood Learning Alliance’s “Reading Warriors,” high school students who serve as reading mentors for children and as community literacy advocates.

“Reading in public is just one way that the Warriors can disrupt people’s expectations and highlight the positive impact teens are making in the community,” said Katy Frey, assistant director of Neighborhood Learning Alliance.

Throughout the event, Reading Warriors and East Liberty residents read aloud to children. Youths stood beside the road waving signs that read “Did you read today?” and “Honk if you love reading,” inspiring motorists to sound their horns as they passed through the intersection of Penn and Highland avenues. In a closing round of cheers, community members of all ages clapped along with the Warriors, repeating, “P-O-W-E-R, we’ve got the power, ‘cause we are the reading stars.”

For more information on the Reading Warriors, visit [www.neighborhoodlearning.org](http://www.neighborhoodlearning.org).



**ABOVE:** Jazmine Scott (right), a Reading Warrior, reads “Morris and Boris at the Circus” to a child at Neighborhood Learning Alliance’s second annual Public Display of Reading. Photo by Sarah Burke.

# Poverty simulations to recruit allies

By Taia Pandolfi *The Bulletin*

*East Liberty* – In partnership with Just Harvest – a Pittsburgh organization that fights social injustice – East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI), Open Hand Ministries, Repair the World, and the East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM) are hosting two poverty simulations in the fall as part of their promotion for “Circles,” an anti-poverty initiative that launched this summer. The simulations will take place from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 18 at Eastminster Church and Nov. 17 at East Liberty Presbyterian Church.

Poverty simulations consist of a series of 15-minute “weeks” carried out by participants who have been assigned a specific role to play, such as a mother of three or a young man who can’t find employ-

ment. After roles have been assigned, each person is given weekly food stamps, bus passes, and a budget. Medical complications, transportation issues, and trouble finding a job are just some of the issues that crop up throughout the week, forcing participants to renegotiate their planned expenses.

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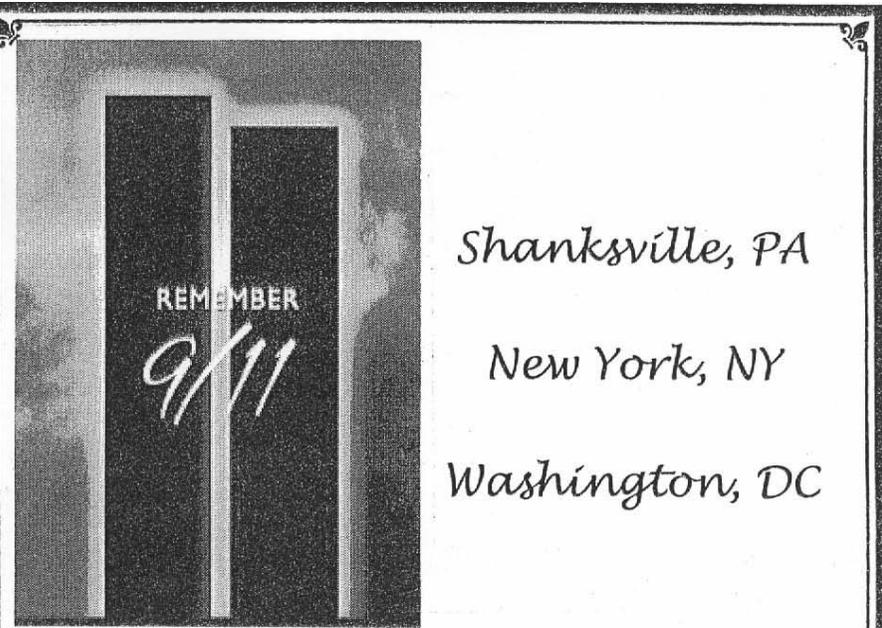
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# Neighborhood FOCUS

## Hometown theater with a modern spin

**Row House Cinema brings intimate, single-screen experience to Lawrenceville** By Taia Pandolfi *The Bulletin*

*Lawrenceville* – Row House Cinema has joined the many locally owned businesses that populate Butler Street in Lawrenceville, offering the neighborhood entertainment options reminiscent of a time before the multiplex.

The new, single-screen, 83-seat theater at 4115 Butler St. is housed in a former storefront that was renovated earlier this summer. So far, owner Brian Mendelssohn said, community reactions to Row House Cinema have been “extremely positive.”

“[A movie theater] is such an anchor amenity for a neighborhood,” Mendelssohn said. “People also seem to be looking for an experience that’s more magical, that allows them to escape and enjoy the night.”

Instead of screening current blockbusters, Row House Cinema features older favorites and artistic, independent gems. Films are grouped into weekly themes like Tragical Magical – which included films like “Edward Scissorhands” and “Coraline” – and a Wes Anderson festival. This summer, Row House offered community members the chance to vote for their favorite summer films, which were then screened during the week of Aug. 8.

During the week of Sept. 12, Row House Cinema will be showing films with a Lawrenceville connection, such as “I Was a Communist for the FBI” and “She’s Out of My League,” to coordinate with the neighborhood’s bicentennial celebration. Mendelssohn said the cinema is also planning a back-to-school week, a Coen brothers week, and a Woody Allen week.

Every Thursday and Sunday at noon, Row House offers “Kids Will Be Kids” shows where children are free to move around and play during the movie, another feature that makes the theater stand out.

“It gives parents a chance to bring the kids along without worrying,” Mendelssohn said. “There’s a movement to banish kids from theaters because they make noise, so we wanted to offer times where some noise is expected, where kids can recite the lines and sing along.”



**ABOVE:** Christopher Schmidt serves a sample of beer from Atlas Bottle Works. Photo by John Colombo Photography.

Row House Cinema publishes its weekly schedule on its website and Twitter account, in addition to pasting a printout on the front door. Its active online presence brings something new to the concept of a hometown theater, in keeping with the neighborhood’s younger demographic.

The cinema shares a roof with craft beer distributor Altas Bottle Works. Audi-



**ABOVE:** Jesse Flati and Stephanie Flati from the band The Lopez share refreshments at Row House Cinema. Photo by John Colombo Photography.

ence members can stop next door for a beer before the show or purchase one at the concession stand. Mendelssohn said there’s “a lot of synergy” between Row House and Atlas, allowing for special events that combine a film screening with a beer tasting. “Night of the Living Stout,” for example, featured a showing of

“People . . . seem to be looking for an experience that’s more magical, that allows them to escape and enjoy the night.”

– Brian Mendelssohn, Row House Cinema

“Night of the Living Dead,” as well as samples and pints from Full Pint Brewing.

In keeping with the theater’s hometown feel, the concessions range from popcorn with real butter to locally made soft pretzels and vegan pastries on weekends.

Tickets are \$9 for regular showings, with \$1 discounts for students and Lawrenceville residents. Thursday tickets are discounted at \$6 all day. There are discounts for costumes, too: “\$1 if it’s ok, \$3 if it’s great, and free movie admission if it’s unbelievable,” according to the website.

The concept of a neighborhood theater has gained popularity in recent years in the Pittsburgh region. Establishments like The Manor in Squirrel Hill and Harris Theater Downtown remain widely popular with visitors and residents, offering a range of films and experiences.

“We’re so excited to be in a city like Pittsburgh that embraces and accommodates independent theaters,” Mendelssohn said.

To view the schedule of showtimes, visit the Row House Cinema website: <http://www.rowhousecinema.com>. ♦

# Art car festival to collide with Penn Avenue Arts in Motion

By **Nina Sauer** *Most Wanted Fine Art*

*Garfield* – Penn Avenue Arts in Motion will collide with the Pittsburgh Art Car Festival to bring Garfield a day of free art and community fun from 12 to 8 p.m. Sept. 27 at 5022 Penn Ave.

Music and dance performances, live art battles, art and craft vendors, face painting, kids’ activities, and a mobile masterpiece roundup are just some of the day’s planned activities. The event is sponsored by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, BOOM Concepts, Carl’s TV, Most Wanted Fine Art, and Spak Brothers Pizza.

This is the third year that Penn Avenue has exhibited creative modes of transportation, including what has become the largest gathering of street-legal art cars in Pittsburgh. The event bloomed out of Most Wanted co-owner Jason Sauer’s love of the tradition of art cars – decorated, road-ready vehicles popular in southern states.

“This year we hope to expand and have more altered bicycles and more community groups participating,” Sauer said. To ensure the longevity and inclusiveness of the festival, Sauer has teamed up with D.S. Kinsel, co-founder of BOOM Concepts, Penn Avenue’s newest gallery, to combine the art car festival with Penn Avenue Arts in Motion, which launched in June 2013.

“The Penn Avenue Arts in Motion festival is the natural next step in the growth of the corridor,” Kinsel said. “This festival will help solidify the arts district as a true destination where artists can share with audiences and community.” ♦

## EYESORE OF THE MONTH

**BELOW:** A dancer poses with a vehicle at the 2013 Pittsburgh Art Car Festival. Photo courtesy of Most Wanted Fine Art.



## Property highlights need for land bank

By **Aggie Brose** *Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

*Garfield* – The eyesore of the month is in Garfield, at 418 N. Aiken Ave. According to the Allegheny County real estate website, the owners of record are Lily Geneva Yates, Edward Ellis Woodson, and George Henry Woodson.

The property was acquired in November 2000 for \$1, and it is tax-delinquent. The mailing address for tax bills is the property itself. The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) staff visited the property and found that it was boarded and in deplorable condition.



**ABOVE:** A jungle of weeds has overtaken the backyard. Photo by Sarah Burke.

Boards covered only the first-floor windows, and broken glass hung from the window frames on both floors. The side fence was broken, and the driveway was littered with cans, broken bottles, cigarette butts, and papers. The adjacent row of houses is occupied by families with young children. Residents told BGC staff that stray cats and dogs roam the overgrown jungle of weeds in the backyard.

BGC staff contacted the Bureau of Building Inspection and found that citations had been served on the property owner in 2012 for rubbish, garbage, overgrowth, broken windows, a disconnected downspout, and deterioration of the rear porch and roof shingles.

Within the last two years, the property’s condition has gotten worse. The citations have not been abated, nor has the property been condemned. The property poses an obvious safety hazard for the nearby neighbors and robs the community of value. The BGC staff contacted Yates, who informed BGC that there are no plans to improve the property.



**ABOVE:** Broken glass hangs from the first- and second-floor windows. Photo by Sarah Burke.

Land bank legislation was approved by city council and signed into law by Mayor William Peduto this past spring. If the land bank were operational today, it would be able to acquire a property such as 418 S. Aiken Ave. – and others like it that are sitting abandoned and tax-delinquent. The land bank would clean up and then maintain the property while placing it on the market for sale.

It is an unfortunate situation when the owners have no plans, and the land bank is still on the drawing board. ♦

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# Youths from East End march for peace

By Shannon Hussey *MGR Youth Empowerment*

*East End* – While young people are promoted as future leaders, they often lack a chance to influence the present. In an exercise of the power of their ideas and intentions, children at Camp Faison, one of several sites for the Pittsburgh Public Schools’ Summer Dreamers Academy, used the techniques they learned through MGR Youth Empowerment’s Arts in Action program to inspire change in local communities.

For the past five years, the city’s public school system has offered underperforming students the chance to improve their academic skills for the coming school year through participation in the Summer Dreamers Academy program (SDA). SDA provides students with

academic intervention in reading and math, as well as access to educational and athletic activities not normally offered through the district’s schools, at no cost to the students’ families.

Students who sign up for camp attend a full school day’s worth of activities for six weeks, from late June through early August. Pittsburgh Langley K-8, Pittsburgh Carmalt PreK-8, and Pittsburgh Faison K-5 hosted the camp this year, each serving students in the surrounding communities. Students from Lawrenceville, Bloomfield, Garfield, and East Liberty attended Camp Faison.

MGR Youth Empowerment, a nonprofit organization that provides art, health, and environmental consciousness programs to



**ABOVE:** Armed with messages of peace and unity, youths from Lawrenceville, Bloomfield, Garfield, East Liberty, and other neighborhoods took to the streets to inspire the residents of Homewood after a fatal shooting. Photo by Ken Neely.

underserved youth, offered two activities to campers this summer – Positive Spin, a cycling program that gives participants the opportunity to learn about bicycle safety, mechanics, and advocacy; and Arts in Action, which teaches campers several art forms and various ways to use art as a tool for community change.

In a response to a shooting close to their camp that put the entire school on lock-

More than 100 students and MGR staff members participated in the July 28 march that took place in the streets surrounding Faison. Despite the rain, many members of the community joined in walking with the students, as well as cheering from their porches and lining the streets.

“[The march was] a great way to show how people can come together to create

“Students were upset about [the shooting] and wanted to do something to be heard.”

– Ken Neely, MGR Youth Empowerment

down, campers at Faison used the skills they learned in Arts in Action to organize a peace march in the surrounding Homewood neighborhood.

“Students were upset about [the shooting] and wanted to do something to be heard,” said Ken Neely, an Arts in Action teaching artist.

Campers created banners and signs with messages of peace and composed simple rhythms on bucket drums to accompany a series of chants written for the event.

change,” one Lawrenceville student said.

Campers recreated the march the following week at Brashear High School during MGR Youth Empowerment’s “Youth Rally for Change,” the culminating summer event where Arts in Action participants across all school sites assemble to share their art and hear from prominent community members. This year, campers heard opening remarks from Mayor William Peduto and were given the chance to show him their capabilities. ♦

## In memoriam: Owen Thomas Galluzzo

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) mourns the passing of Owen Thomas Galluzzo, who passed away on Aug. 9, 2014, at age 9. He was the son of Meghan Eberle Galluzzo and Matthew Galluzzo, executive director of the Lawrenceville Corporation, one of the BGC’s partners.

Owen’s family requests contributions be made in his memory to the Owen Galluzzo Memorial Fund, c/o The Pittsburgh Foundation, 5 PPG Place, Suite 250, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. ♦

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# New gallery brings community focus to Penn Avenue

By Taia Pandolfi *The Bulletin*

*Penn Avenue* – A new art gallery opened this summer on Penn Avenue, with a mission to empower the community while bringing more variety to Penn’s gallery selection.

BOOM Concepts, the brainchild of owners Thomas Agnew, D.S. Kinsel, and Julie Mallis, has quickly become a popular destination on the avenue.

Although Penn is already home to a number of galleries, BOOM Concepts is unique in several ways.

The product of a partnership between Genesis Magazine and Magic Organs, the collective art persona of Kinsel and Mallis, the space encompasses a variety of purposes and uses, from providing a workspace for local artists to offering

adds another layer to the space.

“It’s a lot of work to run a gallery, so the more collaboration you have and the more talent you bring in, the better it will be,” Mallis said. “All of our talents and skills complement each other.”

BOOM Concepts consists of two floors. The lower floor is reserved as a workspace that is primarily used by Mallis and Kinsel, who bounce between solo projects and collaborative ones.

As guests walk from the lower floor to the main area upstairs, they go through what Mallis calls “a crazy maze installation,” which showcases local talent.

The main floor plays two roles: the gallery and the magazine’s headquarters. Mallis said this area is often used as a collabora-



**ABOVE:** BOOM Concepts hosted an event with Fight For 15, a national group that advocates for raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. Activists spoke with community members about methods and reasons for supporting the movement. Photo by Ohad Cadji.

“We want to avoid the old model of access being dependent on income.”

– Julie Mallis, BOOM Concepts

community classes on finance and health. Jenesis Magazine, an online publication aimed at younger readers with a focus on music, culture, and style,

tive space between the artists and the magazine’s employees.

During events it will also be used for installations, film screenings, and community workshops. The owners said they

hope to feature community lectures on health, finance, and other topics relevant to the neighborhood. They are also planning community yoga and drawing classes for the fall.

At the end of the school year, BOOM Concepts hosted a show entirely curated, organized, and carried out by local high school youths that showcased fashion, art, and music.

“It was incredible that all these talented kids came together to support each other,” Mallis said. “That’s exactly what we want BOOM to support.”

Mallis said the collaborative aspect of BOOM Concepts is very important to her, and she sees it not only as an opportunity to support local artists and

See **Gallery** | page **12**



## Welcoming Allison Freeman, MD Allergist

Dr. Freeman is a board-certified allergist and treats patients with asthma, nasal polyps, rhinosinusitis, allergies of all types, including airborne, drug and food allergies. She is experienced in food and drug challenge/desensitization. She has particular interest in caring for patients with eosinophilic esophagitis.

She received her medical degree at the University of Toronto where she also completed her internship. Dr. Freeman performed her pediatric residency and allergy/immunology fellowship at McMaster University Medical Center.

Dr. Freeman joins David Skoner, MD and Deborah Gentile, MD in the practice of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology and she sees patients ranging in age from pediatric and beyond. She is on staff at West Penn and Allegheny General Hospitals.



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## Gallery from page 11

community efforts, but also to challenge the standard concept of what a gallery can bring to a socially and economically diverse neighborhood.

"We need to make a world where we can contribute to each other and to the community," she said. "We want to avoid the old model of access being dependent on income."

While BOOM Concepts does not limit itself to a particular style of art, Mallis said she and Kinsel are most interested in art that pushes boundaries and incorporates aspects of new media.

"Are you confused when you look at [the artwork]?" she said. "That's a good thing."

BOOM Concepts is partnering with Most Wanted Fine Art and other local groups to host a street festival on Penn Avenue on Sept. 27. Read more details on page 9.

For information about upcoming installations and community events at BOOM Concepts, visit the gallery's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/boomconcepts>. Artists and community activists can also send a message to the owners on Facebook to pitch event or installation ideas. ♦

## Friendship group recruits leaders

By Sarah Burke *The Bulletin*

*Friendship* – The Friendship Community Group is accepting applications for leadership positions. Applicants may send a resume and statement of interest to [nominations@friendship-pgh.org](mailto:nominations@friendship-pgh.org).

In the email, applicants should indicate whether they're interested in joining the

board, or one of the group's committees – leadership, marketing and communications, housing and business borders, and neighborhood and environment.

The group plans to host a meet-and-greet for prospective board and committee members at a time and location to be announced. Interested parties may contact the group for scheduling information at [nominations@friendship-pgh.org](mailto:nominations@friendship-pgh.org).

"Anyone who is interested in helping protect and advance the Friendship community with their time and talent is encouraged to apply," said Cassa Collinge, president of Friendship Community Group. "We are particularly in need of individuals with backgrounds in finance, accounting, and website design and maintenance."

The board of directors will be elected by those in attendance at the group's quarterly meeting on Oct. 16. ♦

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## Tour to showcase Lawrenceville homes

By Kate Bayer *Lawrenceville Hospitality Association*



**ABOVE:** The 2014 Lawrenceville Hospitality House Tour will feature a variety of homes in the neighborhood. Photo courtesy of the Lawrenceville Hospitality Association.

*Lawrenceville* – This year's Lawrenceville Hospitality House Tour will take place from 12 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 5, featuring an array of interesting homes and the magnificent architecture of St. Augustine's Church.

One of the featured homes is owned by Hal Medrano and Huong Tran, who describe it as "modern with a nod to tradition."

When they purchased it in 2005, they had their work cut out for them. It had been used as an illegal multi-unit, and their task was to convert it back to a magnificent single-family dwelling. They opened up doorways, redid natural wood floors and trim, and scoured Construction Junction for just the right touches. With hard work, they said, all of this was accomplished on a shoestring budget.

The home sports the traditional two staircases and is decorated with a striking combination of wall colors and contrasting artwork that reflects the owners' Cuban and Vietnamese backgrounds. They also created a magnificent garden with a pergola and a wide variety of flora.

A few blocks away is the home of Amee and Elizabeth Karambelkar. This home includes original wood floors, trim work, and a functioning gas fireplace.

In addition, the Karambelkars made a few creative changes, such as moving doorways, opening up the floor plan, and adding some functional features, like the bar hiding behind a sliding door in the dining room. The Karambelkars said they wanted their renovation to keep as much

of the historical character of the home as possible, while giving them the room and functionality they needed for their young family.

Who would think of buying a shipping container and making it an addition to their home?

That is exactly what Heather Mallak and Dror Yaron from 41st Street did. They had lived in their home for eight years when the opportunity to buy a vacant lot next to their property inspired them to pursue this creative and cost-effective solution, which added more indoor living space to their 1880s home.

These three homes – along with many others – will be part of this year's house tour, which is presented by the Lawrenceville Hospitality Association and sponsored by Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC and Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Adding to the "hospitality" flavor of the tour will be snacks and treats at each home provided by local businesses and residents, along with acoustic performances by local artists.

The tour begins at the Allegheny Cemetery at 4734 Butler St. and is self-guided. Molly's Trolleys will be available on a rolling route for visitors to hop a ride through Lawrenceville's 6th, 9th, and 10th Wards.

Tickets will be available beginning Sept. 3 at these Lawrenceville businesses: Jay Design, Gallery on 43rd Street, Dandelions, Coca Cafe, and Pavement. Advance tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online at [www.lha15201.org](http://www.lha15201.org). ♦



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# Dance icon continues to inspire generations of dancers

By Paula Simon *Kelly Strayhorn Theater*

*East Liberty* – Overcoming adversity is a common theme in the stories that artists of all disciplines tell. Internationally renowned dancer, choreographer, and actress Carmen De Lavallade has faced her share of challenges with racial discrimination and the politics of the dance world.

is a live, personal retrospective of De Lavallade's life and legacy. The performance is simple, yet elegant – De Lavallade combines dance with storytelling as she interacts with a collection of historic photo and video projections.

Although the performance is a memoir, De Lavallade remains humble throughout as she honors the people in her life, such as Alvin Ailey and Lester Horton, two monumental artists who supported and inspired her throughout her career.

One cannot talk about Carmen De Lavallade without also mentioning her renowned cousin, Janet Collins. Collins danced as the first African American prima ballerina for the Metropolitan Opera in the early 1950s.

Considered one of De Lavallade's biggest inspirations as a child, Janet Collins paved the way for other artists as well, including

ballerina Misty Copeland and De Lavallade's husband, Geoffrey Holder, an award-winning painter, dancer, choreographer, actor, and designer.

For the better part of the twentieth century, there were limited examples of black ballerinas in the professional dance world. Carmen De Lavallade became an inspiration for many, including Leslie Anderson-Braswell, a Pittsburgh native who has danced with Stuttgart Ballet in Germany, the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, and the Dance Theatre of Harlem in New York.

Since the age of three, Anderson-Braswell said, she knew she wanted to dance. Her mother exposed her to Carmen De Lavallade and Janet Collins early in her career.



**ABOVE:** Carmen De Lavallade will share her stories in *East Liberty* this September. Photo by Julieta Cervantes.

“I work with high school, college, and pre-professional kids. Carmen De Lavallade is an inspiration that they can be anything they want.”

– Leslie Anderson-Braswell, *Reed Dance*

At age 83, De Lavallade shows no signs of stopping. In September, Pittsburgh will have a chance to hear her story with De Lavallade's latest work, “As I Remember It” at Kelly Strayhorn Theater in East Liberty.

A one-woman show, “As I Remember It”

## Summer camp makes a splash

*East End* – The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation hosted a swim and water polo camp for 135 children this summer, as part of Pittsburgh Public Schools' Summer Dreamers Academy program. The camp took place at Pittsburgh Faison K-5 in Homewood, Pittsburgh Carmalt PreK-8 in Overbrook, and Pittsburgh Langley K-8 in Sheraden. Mark Rauterkus (pictured with campers in right photo below) served as manager of the program. *Photos by Rick Swartz.* ♦



“It was important to see images of these people, because all the important ballet companies were mostly white,” Anderson-Braswell said. “There were lots of pictures of Carmen De Lavallade growing up. She was gorgeous back then, and she still is. The fact that she's dancing and still involved at that level is such an inspiration. With inspirations like her still around, why would I quit? They're still here, and they're still inspiring me.”

Anderson-Braswell, who was presented with the Outstanding Woman of America Award in 1982 and the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council's Outstanding Artist Award in celebration of African American artists,

continues to teach with Reed Dance in Pittsburgh.

“I work with high school, college, and pre-professional kids. Carmen De Lavallade is an inspiration that they can be anything they want,” Anderson-Braswell said.

Kelly Strayhorn Theater will present Carmen De Lavallade's “As I Remember It” at 8 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 12 and Saturday, Sept. 13. Tickets are sold online and at the door: \$25 for general admission, \$20 for residents of the 15206 ZIP code, \$15 for students and artists, and \$10 for groups of 10 or more. ♦

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# Local Events Classes Announcements Fundraisers

## September 2

### EAST LIBERTY

#### Kids Create

Come to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty at 130 S. Whitfield St. at 6 p.m. to make a mask of a character from Little Red Riding Hood. Kindergarten through fifth grade. Call 412-362-8232 for more information.

### LAWRENCEVILLE

#### Adult Game Night

Casual board gamers are invited to Adult Game Night at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville at 279 Fisk St. from 6 to 8 p.m. Games played in the past include Ticket to Ride, Seven Wonders, Mexican Train Dominoes, and UNO. Upcoming dates: Sept. 9, 16, 23, and 30.

## September 3

### EAST LIBERTY

#### School Age Fun

Come to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty at 130 S. Whitfield St. at 6 p.m. to play fun math games with the Crazy 8s Math Club before bedtime. Ages 4 through 8. Repeats on Sept. 17 at 6 p.m. Call 412-362-8232 for more information.

## September 5

### GARFIELD

#### Unblurred Gallery Crawl

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 participate in this community event.

#### Art Exhibit

“Blind Intersections: Another Series of False Leads” is an art exhibit that will host its closing show from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Irma Freeman Center for Imagination, located at 5006 Penn Ave. This is a Stadiumtrash group exhibit curated by Pittsburgh underground music veteran Tee Glitter.

#### CLX Event Launch

Bunker Projects will host a launch event for a new community project called Creative Labor Exchange (CLX) at Unblurred from 7 to 10 p.m. at 5106 Penn Ave. The event will introduce the public to CLX through interactive skill-sharing activities, a video animation, and more. The goal is to inspire a culture of collaboration in Pittsburgh.

## September 6

### LAWRENCEVILLE

#### Farmers Market

Each Saturday the Lawrenceville Farmers Market runs from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., rain or shine. The market offers residents local produce, baked goods, jams, condiments, and local farm crafts. Upcoming dates: Sept. 13, 20, and 27.

### BLOOMFIELD

#### Saturday Market

The Bloomfield Saturday Market is an outdoor community farmers market that takes place every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Nov. 1 at the West Penn Hospital parking lot, located at 5050 Liberty Ave. SNAP benefits are accepted. Allegheny Health Network will give away four Pirates tickets or four Carnegie Science Center passes each week. Call 412-708-1277 or visit [www.bloomfieldnow.com](http://www.bloomfieldnow.com) for special event times. Upcoming dates: Sept. 13, 20, and 27.

## September 7

### LAWRENCEVILLE

#### God in the Movies

Encounter Church is hosting a new message series this September called “God in the Movies.” Starting Sept. 7, each Sunday message will explore deeper meanings found inside popular movies from the past few years. This year, the movies include “The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey,” “The Dark Knight Rises,” “The Hunger Games,” and “The Perks of Being a Wallflower.” Encounter Church meets every Sunday at 10 a.m. at Arsenal Middle School at 220 40th St. Visit [www.encounterpgh.com](http://www.encounterpgh.com) for more details.

## September 8

### EAST LIBERTY

#### Magnet School Information Session

Pittsburgh Public Schools is presenting an information session about the process of applying to a magnet school at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty at 130 S. Whitfield St. at 6:30 p.m.

## September 9

### BLOOMFIELD

#### Stress Management

Brant Meehan, MSW, Art Therapist, is hosting a relaxing and enjoyable evening that incorporates art,

aromatherapy, and music. Enjoy light refreshments and bring a friend. Participants will learn new and creative ways to reduce stress and cope better with life’s concerns and complications. Event takes place at the Cancer Caring Center at 4117 Liberty Ave. Call 412-622-1212 to sign up.

## September 10

### GARFIELD

#### Chipotle Hiring Event

Chipotle will host a hiring event at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center. The event will be held at 113 N. Pacific Ave. and will begin at 11 a.m. with a career presentation followed by on-site interviews. Call 412-362-8580 for details.

## September 12

### GARFIELD

#### Rivers Casino Recruitment Session

Rivers Casino will host a recruitment session at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center. Come meet with Rivers Casino’s recruiters at 10 a.m. at 113 N. Pacific Ave. There will be on-site interviews. Must bring a resume. Come find out the current open positions, availability of full- and part-time jobs, pay rate and benefits, and application process. To register and for more details call 412-362-8580.

### LAWRENCEVILLE

#### Lawrenceville Film Screening

In conjunction with Lawrenceville’s bicentennial celebration, Row House Cinema at 4115 Butler St. plans to show movies that were either filmed in Lawrenceville or have a Lawrenceville connection. The full schedule will be posted on the theater’s website. Some films will be accompanied by a short commentary and followed by a question-and-answer session. Admission will be charged.

## September 17

### LAWRENCEVILLE

#### Golden Years Lecture

As part of the continuing bicentennial celebration, the Lawrenceville Historical Society’s public lecture series will host local historian and author James Wudarczyk. Wudarczyk will recount the first hundred years of the neighborhood’s heritage with numerous anecdotes and character studies. This lecture will take place in the auditorium of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville at 279 Fisk St. Event begins at 6:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

## September 19

### LAWRENCEVILLE

#### PARK(ing) Day Putt-Putt

Multiple holes of free mini-golf will take over parking spaces on Butler Street for the day.

PARK(ing) Day is an annual international event in which artists, designers, activists, and citizens collaborate to temporarily transform parking spots into “PARK(ing)” spaces. Lawrenceville’s Putt-Putt is being organized by its Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Committee. For more information, visit <http://pghparkingday.wordpress.com/>.

## September 20

### EAST LIBERTY

#### Back-to-School Event

Come to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty at 130 S. Whitfield St. to play beach bingo and win school supplies from 12 to 1 p.m. Call 412-362-8232 for more information.

### LAWRENCEVILLE

#### LIVE! in Lawrenceville

Lawrenceville United’s annual fundraiser is back – 7 to 11 p.m. at the Teamsters Temple, 4701 Butler St. Enjoy live music, dancing, auctions, food from local restaurants, and more. For more information, call 412-802-7220 or visit [www.lunited.org](http://www.lunited.org).

## September 21

### GARFIELD

#### Characters of the Bible

Morningside C.O.G.I.C. presents “The Characters of the Bible” at 5 p.m. at 5173 Dearborn St. Bring family and friends and see some of the greatest characters of the Bible come to life. Call 412-361-9865 for more information.

## September 24

### BLOOMFIELD

#### Tango Sensual

The Pittsburgh Dance Center at 4765 Liberty Ave. is hosting its second annual Tango Sensual, a night of Argentine tango dancing with live music from the Redwood Tango Ensemble. Doors open at 9 p.m. and live music will run from 9:30 p.m. to midnight. \$18 charge at the door. BYOB.

## September 25

### BLOOMFIELD

#### Ballroom Dance Party

In celebration of National Ballroom Dance Week, the Pittsburgh Dance Center at 4765 Liberty Ave. is hosting a ballroom dance party, including a lesson. The lesson begins at 7 p.m. and the open dance party runs from 8 to 10 p.m. \$10 at the door, BYOB. No partner or experience necessary.

## September 26

### GARFIELD

#### Honey Addict Party

Local blog Honey Addict celebrates one year with a new website and party. Honey Addict is an outlet

**Sorry, we do not accept listings by phone.**

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 neighborhoods. Listings published on a space-available basis; we cannot guarantee placement. **Announcements for the October issue are due Monday, September 15 via email to [bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org).**

# Volunteer Opportunities & Services

for local artists, current events, and trending topics. Party and music performances from 8 to 11 p.m. at Most Wanted Fine Art at 5101 Penn Ave. Call 412-328-4737 or visit <http://honeyad-dicts.com> for details.

## September 27

### GARFIELD

#### Arts in Motion

Music and dance performances, live art battles, arts and crafts vendors, face painting, kids activities, and a mobile masterpiece roundup are just some of the day's planned activities. Vendors and vehicles (cars, motorcycles, or bicycles) can participate in this community event for free. The event is sponsored by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Most Wanted Fine Art, Carl's TV, Spak Brothers Pizza, and BOOM Concepts. Free from noon to 8 p.m. at 5022 Penn Ave., at the corner of Penn and Winbiddle. Call 412-328-4737 or email [mostwantedfineart@gmail.com](mailto:mostwantedfineart@gmail.com) for more information.

## Ongoing

### ALL NEIGHBORHOODS

#### YouthBuild AmeriCorps Program

Garfield Jubilee Association is looking for 50 young adults ages 18 to 24 who are in need of their GED. The YouthBuild AmeriCorps program offers GED and construction training, college education awards, job placement, and much more. There are limited spots available. For more information, contact Linda L. Giles, case manager and job developer, at 412-655-5222 or [youth-buildpgh@gmail.com](mailto:youth-buildpgh@gmail.com). First priority given to veterans.

#### Help for Parents

Raising kids is a challenge. The Parenting Warm-line 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.

#### Sojourner House Recovery Services

To be eligible to participate in treatment at Sojourner House, a woman must be 18 or older and have at least one child 12 or younger, be actively seeking custody of a child, or be pregnant. The Single County Authority and providers that serve the injection drug abuse population shall give preference to treatment as follows: 1) pregnant, injection drug users; 2) pregnant substance users; 3) injection drug users; and 4) all others. For more information, call 412-441-7783.

### 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.

### GARFIELD

#### Afterschool Programs

Assemble will be offering a safe space for kids to develop their problem-solving skills and creativity through making and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) education. They welcome youths in grades six through eight on Monday and Tuesday and kids in grades two through five on Wednesday and Thursday; all programs will run from 4 to 6 p.m. and snacks will be provided. Past activities include LED bracelets, ice cream making, and computer programming. Payment will be on a sliding scale – everyone is welcome to be a maker. Programs begin in mid-September. Assemble is located at 5125 Penn Ave. and online at [www.assemblepgh.org](http://www.assemblepgh.org).

#### Call for Photos and Information

Jason Molyneaux, an artist in residence with Most Wanted Fine Art, is curating an exhibit of art examples illustrated by Mozelle Wilmont Thompson, Jr., a Pittsburgh artist who grew up in Garfield. Molyneaux is reaching out to the community to find photos and information about Thompson from those who may have known him. The exhibit will open in November. Look for an upcoming Facebook event page for more information. Call Most Wanted Fine Art at 412-328-4737 or email [mostwantedfineart@gmail.com](mailto:mostwantedfineart@gmail.com) with information about or photos of the artist and his work.

### LAWRENCEVILLE

#### Free Pre-K Program

Children's Hospital of UPMC Family Care Connection, located at 5235 Butler St., will be offering a free kindergarten readiness program starting on Sept. 9. 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. Focus is on developmentally appropriate activities including math, storytime, art, science and strengthening the social skills needed for a successful transition into kindergarten. Admission is rolling, and there are still openings in the program. 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 "labors of love" to feature on this year's tour. For information on how to participate, visit the Lawrenceville Hospitality Association's website at [www.lha15201.org](http://www.lha15201.org) or contact Kate at 412-621-2573 or [kateb1950@gmail.com](mailto:kateb1950@gmail.com).

#### Photographs Needed

As part of the Lawrenceville bicentennial celebration, authors Joann Cantrell and James Wudarczyk are in the process of gathering photographs for a book on Lawrenceville for the Arcadia Images of America series. Persons with pre-1970 photographs of Lawrenceville buildings and events are asked to contact Wudarczyk at 412-681-4637. Appointments for the scanning of the pictures will be scheduled. Publication is set for spring of 2015.



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# Summer youth employee launches promising career

By Wesley Davis Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Pittsburgh – Hannibal Hopson’s summer internship in the office of City Council President Bruce Kraus didn’t just allow him to explore his interests while gaining work experience. It also led to a job offer.

Hopson, who lives in East Liberty, took this internship as part of the Pittsburgh Summer Youth Employment Program (PSYEP), a six-week program that helps young adults between ages 14 and 21 to have their first work experiences and explore career pathways.

“Every youth in the community should apply. I found [the program] to be extremely beneficial and fun.”

– Hannibal Hopson, Office of City Council President Bruce Kraus

The PSYEP is a City of Pittsburgh program operated in conjunction with the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) and other community organizations that provide soft-skills training and arrange internship worksites for hundreds of the city’s young adults.

Mallory Helbling, the BGC’s PSYEP coordinator, said that youth participants

like Hopson went through an initial soft-skills training and then completed interviews, arranged by BGC staff, at various worksites that matched their interests.

Hopson said he has an interest “in policy, and how policy affects people and governmental affairs.” Helbling noted that this interest made him a good fit for Kraus’ office.

Hopson said he reported directly to Kevin Kerr, the office’s chief of staff. Kerr highlighted the importance of internships as a way for young adults to have productive work experiences that can lead to future employment, adding that he started working in Kraus’ office as an intern.

Kerr said Hopson’s primary responsibilities were to field constituent phone calls and to prepare reports on neighborhood data in collaboration with another office intern and staff members.

Kerr lauded Hopson for his unique perspective and thoughtfulness, adding

that Hopson has “much more international experience” than most staff members.

Kerr also noted Hopson’s growth in fielding constituent calls, saying that Hopson was somewhat timid at first and quickly became an effective, confident problem solver.

Hopson was invited to continue working in Kraus’ office after the six-week PSYEP term because he is successful at what Kerr called “the bread and butter of a local office – whether you can help people and solve their problems.”

Working in a public office requires public speaking and interaction, Hopson said, explaining that his ability to articulate his messages effectively grew while working for Kraus.

Hopson encouraged other young people to participate in PSYEP next year.

“Every youth in the community should apply,” he said. “I found it to be extremely beneficial and fun.”

Hopson said he plans to accept the offer to continue working for Kraus in the fall.



BELOW: Hannibal Hopson’s summer internship led to a job offer. Photo by Wesley Davis.



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