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

City Gets an Earful on Penn Avenue Reconstruction

Garfield - More than a hundred community members attended a May 14 meeting to discuss lessons learned from Penn Avenue's reconstruction project and influence plans for Phase II. Photos of the community input meeting can be found inside.

From food desert to destination: Lawrenceville freshens up Tenth Ward

Lawrenceville - Much of the attention placed on Lawrenceville's revitalization efforts has been focused on success stories along lower and middle Butler St. Yet, as anyone who lives or works in Lawrenceville - Ages ago, our ancestors gave up their hunter/gatherer ways to take up the plow and settle down. Fast forward 12,000 years and, despite all the new noise and technology, these very seeds of influence are still sprouting.

Even today, some people just can't resist the impulse to, as they say, "stop and smell the roses." Take Lawrenceville, for example. Neighbors here have proven that no backyard is too small to nurture an amazing garden.

As the neighborhood prepares for its annual garden tour on Saturday, June 20, from 11am to 3pm, local gardeners reflect upon the almost spiritual uplift they get from tending to these backyard spaces. Three families tell three very different, yet parallel, stories of gardening in Lawrenceville.

Long-time residents John and Ginny Ambrose maintain four generations of Lawrenceville heritage in their house, which was built in 1901 and gives way to a quintessentially stunning garden out.

East Enders beautify backyards with love

By Kate Bayer
Bulletin Contributor

Lawrenceville - Ages ago, our ancestors gave up their hunter/gatherer ways to take up the plow and settle down. Fast forward 12,000 years and, despite all the new noise and technology, these very seeds of influence are still sprouting.

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Online Community Survey:
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation Strategic Planning

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's mission is to improve the quality of life for all in Garfield and surrounding neighborhoods through active community engagement. The BGC's staff and board of directors are creating a strategic plan to guide our work over the next three years. Visit www.bloomfield-garfield.org to fill out the survey and ensure that our strategic plan reflects community input. There are only six questions and the survey will only take about 4-6 minutes. Please complete this anonymous survey at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.
Thank you! The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation would like to acknowledge its main corporate partners: WesBanco, Dollar Bank, and Allegheny Valley Bank. Thanks also to BNY Mellon, First Niagara Bank, PNC Bank, West Allegheny Health Network, PNC Foundation, the Sprout Fund, and all of The Bulletin’s advertisers.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation is working with Zone 5 of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and the Pittsburgh Department of Public Works (DPW) to address graffiti on Penn Ave. and surrounding areas.

Property owners who would like to have graffiti removed from their building are encouraged to sign a permission form, which gives DPW their consent to remove graffiti from a private building. Graffiti removal consent forms can be picked up at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation’s 5149 Penn Ave. office.

The City of Pittsburgh asks that property owners also log any complaints related to unwanted graffiti on their property by calling 311 or visiting www.pittsburghpa.gov/311/form.
Bike PGH offers cycling classes for everyone

By Dan Yablonsky BikePGH

No matter your skill level, from beginners to trail riders, BikePGH provides opportunities to improve your biking skills. Thanks to our presenting sponsor, Edgar Snyder and Associates, all of our offerings are fun, flexible, and affordable.

BikePGH’s Confident City Cycling classes are taught once a month (through October), helping beginners and new commuters develop the skills needed to confidently ride city streets. The classes begin in an empty parking lot where riders work on some control maneuvers that help them take on pot holes, gravel, and poor driver behavior. From there, participants break up into smaller groups for a group road ride, stopping along the way to evaluate strategies for navigating various intersections, bike facilities, and traffic patterns.

More experienced riders who are a little wobbly and might need a refresher course can join one of BikePGH’s Fundamentals of City Cycling classes. These classes are taught on the third Tuesday of every month at The Wheel Mill. The curriculum is flexible and the small class size allows instructors to evaluate each participant individually and give feedback on specific skills. Bikes are available to rent, but riders are encouraged to bring their own.

For beginners who require one-on-one instruction before they hit the streets, 2015 is the first year that BikePGH is offering private “Learn to Ride” lessons. Scheduling a lesson with one of BikePGH’s certified instructors is a tremendous way to receive personal instruction on a particular skill. Learn to Ride lessons are BYOB (bring your own bike, that is), but the lessons can also meet at Golden Triangle Bike Rental or any shop that rents out bikes.

Riders looking to schedule an individual lesson can email education@bikepgh.org. These personal lessons are $40/hour for BikePGH members or $50/hour for non-members. The next Confident Cycling Class will take place on June 20, from 10am to 1pm at the Bloomfield Saturday Market (5050 Liberty Ave.).

Multipurpose bar opens new pizza kitchen

By Carrie Garrison The Bulletin

Lawrenceville - Spirit Lodge, located at 252 51st St., inhabits a unique space that incorporates a spirits bar, a pizzeria, and a 3,000 square foot hall/room. Building such a multipurpose venue was no easy task but, now that things are up and running, co-owner/marketing and programming manager Leigh Yock knows it was all worth it.

“We tuned up the downstairs lodge and built the pizza kitchen from the ground up,” Yock said. “Construction started last summer and continued right up until we opened our doors in April.” A successful event promoter, Yock endeavored to create Spirit Lodge when co-owners Tom Barr and Jeff Ryan returned to Pittsburgh after working at a pizzeria in Brooklyn, New York. The trio has negotiated a division of labor that allows them to comfortably manage the bar, pizzeria, and Spirit Hall rentals.

According to Yock, they chose Lawrenceville because it represents “a unique slice of Pittsburgh. Our favorite things about Lawrenceville: the cemetery, the beer, and how it’s flat and easy to get around on a bike,” he said. “It’s amazing that we have two of the city’s best breweries, Hop Farm and Roundabout, both within a few blocks. Oh, and Nied’s, definitely Nied’s Hotel!”

The pizzeria, Slice Island, takes pride in its homemade dough and sauce, as well as its locally grown meat and vegetables. Such dedication might seem ironic considering how this pizzeria started out as a joke between friends. “Pizza Boat - Jeff’s wood-fired, mobile pizza operation - had to take a hiatus in order to start this project, so we came up with the narrative that Pizza Boat was banished for eternity to Slice Island,” Yock said. Unlike most pizza places, Slice Island creates rectangular pie shapes and cuts them into six inch squares. “Our food is made daily, from scratch, using whole ingredients and often sourced as locally as possible,” Yock said. The pizza kitchen stays open until 1am and changes its menu every week in order to encompass seasonal vegetables. “We also offer focaccia sandwiches, salads, and fried goodies that are made-to-order with thoughtful ingredients,” Yock said.

Spirit Lodge’s bar features a one-of-a-kind sound system and its unique hall can accommodate 450 people for various weddings, parties, and performances. Customers can enter Slice Island’s open kitchen to pick up pizza by the square slice (or by the sheet) and enjoy their eats in the yard, at the bar, or while watching live entertainment in the hall. Now that things are taking off for Slice Island, Yock wants to expand its offerings. “Beginning in early June, we’ll be adding delivery and a weekend brunch buffet.” This June, Spirit Lodge has scheduled a number of interesting events in its Spirit Hall venue space. A “First Fridays” event on June 5 features local visual artist Laurie Trock and music from the band, Sleep Experiments. On June 25, Rhinestone Steel Festival, which strives to expand Pittsburgh’s queer music and arts scene, kicks off at the hall. Slice Island is also hosting a “Pizza Dojo” event on June 28 where it will compete with Spak Brothers from Garfield, as well as Bread and Salt, a bakery from Bloomfield, to create the best pizza. “Sauce will be split,” Yock acknowledged.

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation now has an email newsletter!

Subscribe at bit.ly/bgc_email and have the latest community news delivered to your inbox.

Beneath: An eye-catching sign in the walkway at Slice Island functions like a beacon, enticing Spirit Lodge patrons with the promise of homemade pizza. Photo by Carrie Garrison.

ABOVE: Pizza chef Brandon Bloomfield ladles sauce over a square pie at Slice Island (252 51st St.). Photo by Carrie Garrison.
New Post-Partum Unit and Family Waiting Area to better serve moms and their families

West Penn Hospital has long been known for its commitment to women’s health. Responding to an increasing demand, Allegheny Health Network is proud to announce the opening of a new 33-bed Post-Partum Unit and Family Waiting Area at West Penn Hospital. The new unit will further advance AHN’s patient-centered approach to obstetrics care and the comprehensive needs of mothers and families.

ABOVE: Patrick Hassett, assistant director of Pittsburgh’s Department of Public Works, gives a presentation outlining the city’s current plans for Phase II. Joined by other city officials and construction consultants, he spoke about possible changes being made to Phase II planning. Photo by John Colombo.

BELOW: Penn Ave. resident and property owner Ben Saks shares his thoughts regarding plans for Phase II of the Penn Avenue Reconstruction Project at a May 14 community input meeting held at the BGC Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.). Photo by John Colombo.
Econowash at 5148 Butler St.
By Aggie Brose
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Lawrenceville - The eyesore of the month is the Econowash laundromat (5148 Butler St.), a nuisance property in Lawrenceville. Staff from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) recently visited the laundromat and found it to be in deplorable condition.

Half of the machines did not appear to work properly, the change machine was not operating, and the floors appeared to be in need of a serious cleaning, in the opinion of the visitors. The establishment is currently open twenty-four hours a day with no security, encouraging public safety issues like fights, loitering, and vandalism.

According to the Allegheny County real estate website, the owner of record for the property is NSB Enterprises, LLC. The principal of the LLC reportedly is Nick S. Barash, and the mailing address for tax bills is the office of NSB Enterprises, located at 757 Hazelwood Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

Barash, who we reached at the NSB Enterprises phone number (412-519-0672), acquired the property in March of 2001 for $66,000. BGC staff contacted the Bureau of Permit, License and Inspection (PLI) and was informed that, in July 2013, they issued a letter noting that gaping holes had developed on the metal doors that cover an underground vault on the front sidewalk.

These holes, which look as if they have been patched over in the past, present a safety hazard to passing pedestrians and laundromat customers alike. In December of 2012, residents submitted a complaint to the Better Business Bureau. Barash owns five properties located in the Seventh, Ninth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Wards of the City of Pittsburgh. Under the NSB Enterprises LLC, Barash owns nine properties in the Ninth and Tenth Wards.

Although the property at 5148 Butler St. is up-to-date with taxes, it has been a nuisance in the opinion of nearby neighbors. Oddly, a second laundromat owned by Barash at 40th and Butler Sts. stands in sharp contrast to the Econowash; it shows evidence of being well-maintained.

In conversation with the BGC, Barash explained that he has plans to renovate the Econowash at 5148 Butler Street. This summer, he hopes to complete the interior restoration, which includes repainting the walls and installing new floors, as well as repairing the soap dispensers and washing machines. The owner said he also plans to have new dryers installed by October.

As for the damage to the laundromat, Barash claims that most harm is done by the customers themselves (during regular, daytime business hours) and not by unwanted activity occurring late at night. He plans to alter the laundromat’s hours of operation in the future and hire staff to open the doors at 6 am and close at 10 pm.

Many residents living near the Econowash cannot drive to other laundromats or even walk to the other end of Butler Street while carrying loads of laundry. With greater attention from its owner, this laundromat could serve as a valuable amenity in this part of Lawrenceville.

This Eyesore of the Month is presented by D’Alessandro Funeral Home & Crematory Ltd.

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Tenth Ward Fresh

from page 1

in Upper Lawrenceville can testify, the Tenth Ward is the next big thing on the horizon.

The area has become home to some of the best dining in Pittsburgh (including James Beard-nominated Cure restaurant and perennial Thai favorite Pusadee’s Garden), as well as many up-and-coming shops. With the creation of the Tenth Ward Fresh program, Upper Lawrenceville has also become a destination for fresh food.

Emphasizing local accessibility of fresh produce, the Tenth Ward Fresh program marks collaboration between the Lawrenceville Corporation, Lawrenceville United, and several local businesses and landmarks (City Grows, the Lawrenceville Farmer’s Market, Wild Purveyors, Lawrenceville Organic Community Gardens, 52nd St Market, Butcher on Butler, and Goodwill’s Good-to-Grow Greenhouse). The program also provides gardening assistance for residents who want to grow their own food. As the epidemic of food deserts becomes more apparent, many 10th Ward businesses want to help address the dietary needs of their neighborhood.

Patty Logan - whose urban greenhouse, City Grows (-address-), participates in the program – wants to see more of her neighbors enjoy farm-to-table dining at home. “One of our goals here at City Grows is to give locals of the 10th ward access to healthy, green choices within walking distance of their homes,” she said.

“We also give free, small-space gardening classes so that they can learn to grow their own healthy produce in backyards, balconies, patios, or whatever space is available.”

As a participant in Upper Lawrenceville’s community planning process, Deirdre Kane saw firsthand just how many of her neighbors wanted local access to healthier foods. “One of the main issues that most residents brought up was the lack of fresh food and grocery shopping options,” she recalled.

“Serendipitously, after the community meetings wrapped up, a building that housed a local corner market had just sold after being vacant for nearly ten years.” Just a few months later at that very location, co-owners Kane and Dora Walmsley opened up 52nd Street Market (601 52nd St.).

“I was really eager for them to move in because now there’s a place to get fresh produce with access to lunch items,” said Amy Garbark, a local artist who runs Garbella Studio on Carnegie street. “[Kane and Walmsley] are so interested in community feedback that 52nd Street Market quickly became a hub for distributing and collecting 10th ward information. They want to be woven into the neighborhood.”

On Saturday, June 6, the Lawrenceville Farmers Market begins offering additional access to locally grown produce every week from 1pm to 4pm. This year’s market has moved to 5137 Butler Street, in the Allegheny Valley Bank parking lot, to increase its visibility and accommodate more merchants.

Logan said she can already feel a boost in her neighborhood’s sense of pride. “We think the 10th Ward Fresh campaign is helping to re-energize Upper Lawrenceville while also making it known that the 10th Ward is a vital part of the community with lots to contribute.”

BELOW: The Lawrenceville Organic Community Garden on McCandless Ave. represents a joint effort between community members and several local organizations. Photo by Matt Buchholz.

ABOVE: The 52nd St Market serves a variety of locally and responsibly-sourced produce and prepared foods at 601 52nd St. in Lawrenceville. Photo by Matt Buchholz.

BELOW: Volunteers from the Garfield Community Action Team and Arsenal Middle School take a break while cleaning up the World War II Veterans Memorial in the 5300 block of Penn Avenue, where they also planted flowers and miniature American flags in anticipation of Memorial Day. Photo by Gary Cirrincione.
**Free loans for Allegheny County residents**

By Andrew McKeon  *The Bulletin*

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A director of client and community relations at the Hebrew Free Loan Association (HFLA) recently met with BGC Board Members to address the financial needs of residents in Bloomfield, Garfield, and surrounding neighborhoods. The HFLA has provided *The Bulletin* with the following information about interest-free loans available to qualified residents of Allegheny County.

Many local residents are struggling to finance credit cards, medical bills, home repair, college tuition, automobiles, and other living expenses. The Hebrew Free Loan Association (HFLA), a local nonprofit organization, is helping to defray these and other expenses by offering interest-free loans (on a non-sectarian basis) to qualified residents.

Pittsburgh’s HFLA, which was founded in 1887 and is now based in Greenfield, is the oldest of forty such ‘micro-lending’ agencies in the country. “We welcome residents of Bloomfield, Garfield, and other surrounding neighborhoods to contact us,” said Aviva Lubowsky, one of HFLA’s directors. “We live in challenging financial times, and we are here to help.”

Borrowers have requested loans for many different reasons: small business needs, vehicle purchase or repair, adoption, debt consolidation, family emergencies, fertility treatment, weddings, and funerals, just to name a few. Loans are not offered to help cover living expenses such as rent, utilities, or car payments. To qualify for a loan through HFLA, candidates must reside in Allegheny County and maintain a valid source of income. First-time borrowers also require a cosigner – another county resident who is currently employed, owns a home, and has established their own good credit.

By offering interest-free loans to people who may not qualify for assistance through other institutions, HFLA helps local residents achieve their goals while retaining financial stability and independence. For more information on how to apply, please visit www.hflaphg.org. Potential borrowers may also email any questions to info@hflaphg.org or call 412-422-8868 to schedule a confidential appointment with HFLA Board Members. ♦

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**Become a member of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation today!**

Striving to improve the quality of life for all in Garfield and surrounding neighborhoods, the BGC welcomes your support in pursuing active community engagement. Whatever you can give, be it time or money, please take a few moments to fill out the form below and donate to the BGC’s ongoing efforts in your community. It will undoubtedly make a difference! Kind supporters are encouraged to mail or hand-deliver their membership cards to the BGC office at 5149 Penn Avenue.

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**YES! I want to invest in my neighborhood through membership in the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation:**

☐ $10  ☐ $20  ☐ $30  ☐ $50  ☐ Other $ ________

All donations will go toward our efforts to improve the quality of life for all in the Garfield and surrounding neighborhoods. Our active community engagement continues to make a positive impact with the following:

- Youth education and employment
- Public safety initiatives
- Housing development
- Publication of *The Bulletin* newspaper
- Penn Avenue revitalization
- Greening the neighborhood

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**Passports: The Art Diversity Project**

The Passports program is an educational and artistic initiative that provides residents an opportunity to engage with local artists and community organizations. Each year, the Passports program features different artists and showcases their work through a variety of creative collaborations. This year’s Passports program will feature a diverse range of artists and organizations, including the Pittsburgh Glass Center, the Pittsburgh Technology Council, and the Pittsburgh Arts Council. The Passports program is designed to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of the Garfield and surrounding neighborhoods and promote local arts and culture.

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Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation Office

Monday – Thursday: 9am – 12pm

Friday: 9am – 2pm

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**Bulletin newpaper**

**Greening the neighborhood**

The Bulletin newspaper is an important source of information for the Garfield and surrounding neighborhoods. The Bulletin newspaper provides a platform for community organizations, artists, and businesses to share their stories and projects. The Bulletin newspaper highlights the many creative and vibrant organizations that contribute to the quality of life in Garfield and surrounding communities.
BASE goes beyond sports to mentor Garfield youths

By Andrew McKeon The Bulletin

Garfield - As football - the ultimate American obsession – generates more and more national headlines, many young ballplayers living in inner cities struggle with the challenges of growing up in environments that are not always conducive to success, even in sports. While football is a passion for many African-American youngsters living in the city’s East End, significant obstacles confront them in a city defined by its hills and valleys.

Brothers and Sisters Emerging (BASE), a relatively new non-profit organization, aims to provide a solid foundation for kids that will help them find self-fulfillment not only in sports, but also in life. Headquartered in Garfield on Hillcrest Street, BASE tries to reach far beyond neighborhood borders to connect underprivileged youths with the people and experiences they’ll need to jump whatever hurdles lie in front of them.

“We're proud to say that we're a part of their lives and I guarantee you they’ll say the same.”

– Robert M. Jones Jr., BASE

“The reason we formed BASE, which is actually the social services arm of Garfield Youth Sports, was to increase the amount of exposure we had with all of the kids in the neighborhood, and to be able to offer them more in the way of year-round activities,” said Garth Taylor, its program director and a long-time resident of Garfield. With the help of numerous volunteers, BASE provides an afterschool program that serves more than twenty young people every day.

Back in 1993, Taylor and his fellow Peabody High School graduate, BASE president Robert M. Jones, Jr., formulated a plan to start the Garfield Gators, along with a half dozen of their closest friends. The Gators became a group of pee-wee football teams defined as much by the camaraderie of the players as by the geography of where they lived. “Bob had a vision and he wanted to make things happen, things that we didn't have when we were kids,” Taylor said.

Both Taylor and Jones were fresh out of college then, so they had no real concept of just how much the community would come to embrace what they were doing. One of their guiding principles has always been to create sports teams that were all-inclusive. “Over the years, folks have come from other neighborhoods to participate,” Jones remarked. “Unlike some neighborhoods, it wasn't important to us what school a kid attended, or where they happened to live. It's always been about the kids. We've transported them in from as far away as the East Hills.”

As they've competed over the years against young athletes from other communities, Gators players learn not only the fundamentals of football, but also what it means to persevere and carry on through life's myriad difficulties. Jones will be the first to admit that mentoring youths can often become a two-way street, with the kids imparting as much to the adults as they do to the kids. “We're proud to say that we're a part of their lives, and I guarantee you they'll say the same.”

Despite its inner-city location, BASE's program model speaks to the need that kids growing up in single-parents families across the city have for constructive engagement with adults. “We want to lead the way in setting up that model,” Jones said. “There are so many stories of kids finding their way through their experience here, and we need to get better at telling them.”

With its five football teams and four cheerleading squads, BASE is trying to make as large an impact as it can on the lives of young boys and girls in Pittsburgh. As most of their adult volunteers will attest, we're all connected by our compassion and the ultimate goal is forging a bond that extends beyond sports. “It's like six degrees of separation, you know”, Taylor said recently. “Although we're a little isolated by our topography, Garfield is still pretty much at the center of the city. BASE represents an opportunity for growth and development for young people who may be lacking the resources enjoyed by their peers in more affluent parts of the city.”

“Once the Garfield community itself started to transition, when folks began to leave because of the shutting down of the public housing community, they still stayed connected,” Jones remarked. “They may have moved to other communities, but they remain tied to the program.”

Jones and Taylor have been with the program from the beginning, so they understand how the fundamentals of football can translate into the social mechanics of the larger world. “We love competing and we love the game,” Jones noted, “but we know it's a lot bigger than that.”

Adult volunteers help BASE in a variety of ways, such as reviewing each student's report card from school at the afterschool program. Attention to academics will never be de-coupled from the athletics, Taylor maintains. “Most participants never even pursue football after their stint with the Gators,” he noted. “Some of our kids went on to never play a down of football in high school, but they still hang out with those kids who did, or who played in college, or even the National Football League.”

“Things are changing around us, so we're trying as hard as we can to get our kids to think beyond the boundaries that defined their parents' lives,” Taylor said. “We're working towards tearing down those artificial barriers so that kids from Garfield will not have a second thought about someday crossing Penn Avenue into the world beyond.”
East Liberty - As far as most locals are concerned, the piece of land nestled between Euclid Ave. and Station St. on Penn Circle North is quite perfunctory; it is currently an East Liberty parking lot that plays host to weekly farmers markets. Yet, history abounds on this very plot of land that the Mellon family once called, “home.”

A community planning process has emerged to transform the site into a space of even greater neighborhood utility. Led by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) in conjunction with East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) and consultants at Fu Wilmers Design (FWD), this project relies heavily upon input from local residents and business owners.

As the URA’s planning and design specialist, Emily Mitchell, explains, scheduled community meetings will present “an opportunity for the URA and ELDI to introduce the consultant team to the community and catch up on what’s been happening in East Liberty while developing some ideas for the Mellon’s Orchard site and the surrounding public space.”

Residents and stakeholders will be able to respond to initial design concepts before project coordinators solicit the public’s feedback on final planning direction and phasing strategies.

Taking its name from the Mellon family homestead, this former orchard has undergone many changes over its lifespan. Around the turn of the century, when streetcar lines began taking hold on Negley Ave., the Mellons subdivided their orchard and sold it off for residential development.

“As early as 1890, fire insurance maps show a few wooden houses built on the orchard site,” said Justin Greenawalt, board member of the East Liberty Valley Historical Society. These houses were eventually demolished during the speculative urban renewal of the 1950s and 60s – when the land was first transformed into a Gulf Gas Station, complete with mushroom-like shelters over the pumps. Once the greenery and gas-pumps faded away, this Penn Circle plot was paved over and turned into parking spaces. Things have remained relatively unchanged to this day, although other plans have come and gone in between.

“More than a decade ago, a suburban-styled K-Mart store was proposed for the site, but those plans didn’t go anywhere,” said Kendall Pelling, ELDI’s Director of Land Recycling.

Although ELDI has no money invested in this project, the nonprofit organization joins a steering committee to review and advise the project as it moves forward.

“While we are asking the consultants at Fu Wilmers Design to take a fresh look at the Mellon’s Orchard site, this study is by no means starting from scratch,” Mitchell said. “This planning study will build off the framework set forth in the 1999 and 2010 Community Plans, as well as the various strategic plans and visions actively being implemented by the community.”

Residents and neighbors interested in getting involved can make their voice heard at the next community meeting, which will be publicized on www.eastliberty.org and all the ELDI social media channels.

**Mellon’s Orchard plans for new land use**

By Elizabeth Sensky

East Liberty Development, Inc.

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**Below:** One of East Liberty’s most historic sites, Mellon’s Orchard is no stranger to new plans, as evidenced by this sketch of a gas station that once stood on the site. Rendering courtesy of ELDI.
Summer jobs program develops young talent

By Dylan Essig Bulletin Contributor

Pittsburgh - Building upon an initiative of Mayor Bill Peduto’s, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) has a funding commitment from the City to be a partner in this year’s Pittsburgh Summer Youth “Learn and Earn” program. Approximately 1,000 teens will be placed in worksites across the city and 200 of these teens will secure paid internships through the BGC.

With funds from public and philanthropic sources, these internships are cost-free to employers. Beginning on June 29th, the Learn and Earn program will provide six weeks of employment for youths from aged 14 to 21.

The internships will help young Pittsburghers transition into the workforce and earn professional experience. Workers will be matched with a job that coincides with their individual career interests.

Prior to job placement, the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center will conduct job preparation workshops to train participants in some of the skills they will need to succeed in the modern workplace.

A number of employers have already signed on to help mentor young talent throughout the city. Organizations or local businesses interested in employing one or more youths at their place of business this summer may contact Rick Flanagan at 412-441-9833.

"Like" the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation on Facebook for the latest neighborhood information and community photos.

Welcoming

Daniel R. Molcsan, Jr., DPM, ACFAOM
Podiatry

Dr. Molcsan is a member of the American College of Foot and Ankle Orthopedics and Medicine, and a podiatrist with the Foot and Ankle Institute. He offers a full-spectrum of podiatry services to patients of all ages with particular clinical interest in providing geriatric and diabetic foot care.

He received his medical degree from Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and completed his podiatric residency at the Philadelphia Veterans Administration hospital. He has been providing podiatric care to patients for over 20 years.

Dr. Molcsan and his staff offer patients the very best in diagnostic and clinical treatment for disorders of the foot, ankle and lower extremities. He is affiliated with West Penn Hospital and is welcoming new patients.

As always, new patients are welcome. Most major insurances are accepted.
BELOW: Representing Pittsburgh at San Francisco’s tenth annual Maker Faire, local artists (l-r) Richard Jackley, Dante Lombardi, D.S. Kinsel, Nina Sauer, Jason Sauer, Kai Deventich, and Sam Thorp stand before a collaborative mural. Photo courtesy of MWFA.

BELOW: MWFA owner Jason Sauer hoists up the recently dismembered, passenger side door of the Pittsburgh Art Car, which met its effervescent fate in the name of art. Photo courtesy of MWFA.

ABOVE: Megabit, a mechanized colossus of an art project, poses with the Pittsburgh Art Car before demolishing MWFA’s vehicle with cannonballs at the annual Maker Faire in San Francisco. Photo courtesy of MWFA.

BELOW: MWFA owner Jason Sauer hoists up the recently dismembered, passenger side door of the Pittsburgh Art Car, which met its effervescent fate in the name of art. Photo courtesy of MWFA.

Are you interested in a research study of a new investigational birth control patch?

The SECURE Study

The Center for Family Planning Research is recruiting women to join a large clinical research study of an investigational contraceptive patch.

The investigational patch contains the same type of hormones that are in many birth control pills. The patch is designed to be flexible and is applied onto the skin, just once a week.

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If you would like to learn more, please call the Center for Family Planning Research at: 412-641-5496
Or visit www.birthcontrolstudies.org

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Bakery rises to the challenge in Bloomfield

By Carrie Garrison Bulletin Contributor

Bloomfield - Rick Easton came up with the idea to start a bakery when he lived in Virginia, but he never broke ground on the idea until a friend told him about an opportunity right here in Pittsburgh.

At the former location of Adrian’s Pizza (330 Pearl St.) in Bloomfield, Easton found the perfect spot to open a bakery. Enter: Bread and Salt, which opened in 2010, just a block away from the bustling Liberty Ave. business district.

“I always admired Bloomfield’s pride in its Italian-American heritage,” Easton said. “I hoped that opening a bakery strongly inspired by the most traditional styles of Italian baking would give the neighborhood something else to be proud of.”

In naming his new venture, Easton was inspired by the very nuances of the breads he sought to create. “The name is about essentialism, simplicity and truth. All bread-eating cultures share traditions of hospitality and proverbs about bread and bread coming together.”

Bread and Salt offers various styles of bread, along with pizza al taglio and certain sweet goods. Citing his “slavish devotion to quality,” this baker is particularly proud of his unique ingredients and the pain-staking measures of his process.

“No other bakery uses exclusively organic flours and long, slow, natural fermentation. I use locally grown and stone-milled flours in varying percentages in every item [produced in this shop]. No one else here is doing that yet.”

“I produce a truly old-world style of baked goods,” Easton said. “This is all too rare in the United States. Not just here in Pittsburgh.”

In cooperation with the Allegheny Wine Mixer and Still City, Bread and Salt will co-host “Anti-Pasta,” a neighborhood event involving food, music, film, and cocktails on June 6. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/breadandsalt.

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Garden Tour from page 1

ABOVE: Tiger lilies and other perennials punctuate the landscape of a backyard oasis on Sherrod St. in Lawrenceville. Photo by Kate Bayer.

Bonaventure’s annual Memorial Day Parade on May 25. Photo by Rick Flanagan.

Bakery rises to the challenge in Bloomfield

ABOVE: Local baker Rick Easton stands in front of his bakery in Bloomfield. Photo by Carrie Garrison.

ABOVE: Students from the Pittsburgh Obama Academy Marching Band perform on Butler St. during Lawrenceville’s annual Memorial Day Parade on May 25. Photo by Rick Flanagan.

John tells of fond childhood memories playing baseball in the yard, where he later taught his own children how to play. Ginny has always enjoyed digging in the dirt, when she and John decided to put in a fountain - followed by a pond, stream, and bog – she began adding perennials.

Inspired by old-fashioned, English cottage gardens and the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse gardens in New Jersey, Ginny started with self-spreading plants like cone flowers, black-eyed susans, and coreopsis. Through trial and error, she developed an understanding of floral life-cycles and began planting according to seasonal blooms. The Ambrose garden has since grown into a private sanctuary, a gathering place for friends and family to enjoy the outdoors in natural comfort.

A few blocks away, on Sherrod St., two retired transplants from Queens, in New York City, have turned their ‘fixer-upper’ of a backyard into a bona-fide garden oasis. Al and Gillian Kupersmith grew tired of gardening within the confines of their condominium, where they shared limited space with their neighbors.

In considering a move to Lawrenceville, the Kupersmiths wanted a bit of gardening space to call their own, but also wanted to avoid the burdens of maintaining a big backyard. Gillian admits that when she and Al decided to buy the Sherrod St. property, they both knew there was a garden hiding somewhere behind the house; it was just a matter of finding it and then slowly bringing it back to life.

At first, the project seemed overwhelming to Gillian, whose thumb had yet to fully green. But, after talking with other home-gardeners and doing some research, Gillian uncovered numerous hidden bulbs and perennials that were determined to grow. She took these signs of life as her inspiration for clearing away all the weeds and giving her plants room to grow. Upon experimenting in her backyard, Gillian discovered that gardening is essentially a means of reading nature’s grand imperative, life cycles. She also discovered that pulling weeds can be therapeutic.

Situated on Clement Way, between Penn and Liberty Aves., a tiny courtyard behind Lauren Bland’s home proves that anything is possible, even when working with limited space. Using her imagination and some elbow grease, Bland turned a barren 8’ x 20’ concrete slab into a fabulous courtyard retreat.

“You can create a lot of atmosphere without a lot of space,” Lauren said. She and her husband began by layering patio stones over cracked concrete and stacking timber like ‘Lincoln Logs’ to create several raised beds. Within and around these beds, they planted small evergreens, shrubs, annuals, perennials, and climbing vines.

The garden’s most recent addition, a spectacular looking pergola, already boasts vines of morning glory, sweet pea, and honeysuckle – all of which were planted for their blooms, shade, and fragrance. Despite the entire flora, up to eight guests can bask in the courtyard for a magnificent sensory experience.

These are only three of many gardens that city-dwellers have nurtured to create their own urban oasis, a space where they can take a break from the hustle and bustle of city life. Even more gardens will open to the public on Saturday, June 20, as part of the annual Hospitality Garden Tour.

The free, self-guided tour will feature educational presentations, light refreshments, and live music at certain locations. Beginning at 11 am on Saturday, maps for the tour will be available for pick-up at the Allegheny Cemetery’s entrance on Butler St. More information about the tour, which is organized by the Lawrenceville Hospitality Association, is readily available at www.LHA15201.org.
New leadership at West Penn Hospital

By Patty Toner West Penn Allegheny Health Service

Bloomfield - Allegheny Health Network (AHN) has appointed Ronald Andro as the new President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of West Penn Hospital. Upon assuming responsibilities from Duke Rupert on June 1, Andro looks to build upon outreach work in Bloomfield and other neighboring communities.

Rupert, who has transitioned to the same CEO role at AHN’s Forbes Hospital in Monroeville, knows he is leaving West Penn Hospital in good hands. "It is an honor to be asked to lead the outstanding team at West Penn Hospital," Andro said. "The rich history of West Penn and its role in the Bloomfield community is well known. Duke has done an exceptional job re-opening the hospital and restoring it to its former glory."

In 2013, Andro became Chief Operating Officer of Allegheny General Hospital (AGH); he immediately set to work refining the hospital’s operational performance. Thanks to Andro’s notable contributions, AGH greatly increased its patients’ overall satisfaction levels in just a matter of months. Yet, regardless of his qualifications, Andro knows he has some big shoes to fill because Rupert oversaw seasons of change while fostering a first-class healthcare experience. "It has been an honor working with the talented and dedicated professionals at West Penn. With the great support of Highmark Inc. and Allegheny Health Network, we reopened the hospital’s emergency department in 2012 and we never stopped growing and innovating from there," Rupert said.

"Today, we are once again a full service hospital that strives every day to meet the highest standards of care for our patients and to help strengthen the vitality and growth of this wonderful community."

As he continues working to provide healthcare of the highest standard in Monroeville, Rupert remembers his time on Liberty Avenue with great respect and admiration. "Bloomfield has been incredibly supportive of West Penn Hospital, Highmark, and AHN. I can’t thank them enough for their unwavering dedication over the past few years."

NEW LEADERSHIP AT WEST PENN HOSPITAL

By Patty Toner

West Penn Allegheny Health Service

RIGHT: Taking over for Duke Rupert as CEO of West Penn Hospital (4815 Liberty Ave.) in Bloomfield, Ron Andro is known for rolling up his sleeves to improve the overall experience of patients. Photo courtesy of AHN.

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**June 5**

**FRIENDSHIP**

**School Fun Fair**

Pittsburgh Public Montessori School Fun Fair

This event takes place at Pittsburgh Public Montessori (201 S Graham St.) from 5-8 p.m. The donation is $5 per-person. The event will feature a bouncy house, real fire trucks, dozens of games, food, and a talent show! All proceeds benefit the renovation of the Friendship/Montessori playground!

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**June 6**

**BLOOMFIELD**

**Dance and Wine Event**

Wine sampling and Grecian inspired tapas, ballroom dance lesson - geared for beginners open dance party - performance by Pittsburgh Belly Dance Academy. $15.00 cash per person. BYO wine. 21+ and no jeans please. Casual resort attire suggested for this very special event. Togas optional!

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**June 7**

**LAWRENCEVILLE**

**Baroque Chamber Music Concert**

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (237 37th St.) will host a free Baroque Chamber Music concert on June 7 at 7pm. The concert will feature Lawrenceville resident and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra double bass player John Moore, along with other musicians. A reception will follow the concert. The event is free and open to the community. Free-will offerings will be accepted and the proceeds will be donated to summer lunch programs for Lawrenceville neighborhood youth.

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**June 11**

**LAWRENCEVILLE**

**Job Resource Workshop**

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville and Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania are teaming up to offer free computer workshops to area residents. The Job Resources Workshop will demonstrate how to use the various job search databases and resources available through the Carnegie Library, as well as how to research potential careers. The class will be held from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Goodwill’s Workforce Development Center at 118 52nd Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201. To register, contact 412-632-1842.

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**June 13**

**GARFIELD**

**Fairmont Sidewalk Sale**

On Saturday, June 13th, 2015, stop by 5461 Penn Avenue for the Fairmont Sidewalk Sale. There will be many items to shop from including clothes, kitchen items, and furniture. Refreshments and baked goods will also be for sale. Proceeds from the Fairmont Sidewalk Sale will benefit the resident summer picnic. Call (412) 362-6080 for more information about this exciting sale event and how you can be a part of it!

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**June 17**

**GARFIELD**

**Uber Driver Sign-Up / Insurance Enrollment**

On Wednesday, June 17, from noon to 4:00 p.m., there will be a joint health insurance and Uber driver enrollment event at the BG Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.). BGCC will offer free assistance for individuals to enroll in affordable health insurance plans. Attendees will also enjoy an information session on how to become a paid Uber driver and earn additional income.

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**June 23**

**LAWRENCEVILLE**

**LU Membership Meeting**

Hosted by Nied’s Hotel (5348 Butler St.), from 6:30 pm to 8 pm, Lawrenceville United’s membership event is a chance to hear about all the work being done in the community and to help shape priorities for Lawrenceville’s future, as well as elect our Board. LU hosts Board elections each year to ensure that our Board of Directors is elected by the current membership and truly representing the priorities and needs of the community. Information on the board candidates and election procedures can be found on our website. All ballots must be returned to LU by June 30, 2015. Appetizers provided, cash bar!

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**June 24**

**BLOOMFIELD**

**Paint Therapy Session**

Standing Strong Cancer Support Group presents “Paint Therapy Session,” a unique event that takes place from 6 - 8 pm at West Penn Hospital’s Wintergarden. Learn what paint therapy is all about - and how it can help with your healing journey at this FREE event. Only 28 spots available! RSVP to Mykie Bianchi by June 10th (mbianchi@wpahs.org or 412.578.4316)

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**June 25**

**LAWRENCEVILLE**

**Email for Beginners**

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville and Goodwill of Southwestern PA are teaming up to offer free computer workshops to area residents. The Email for Beginners Workshop will teach students how to register for an email account. We will also teach people how to send, reply, and forward messages, and also how to work with attachments. The class will be held from 6 - 8 pm at Goodwill’s Workforce Development Center at (118 52nd Street). To register, please contact 412-632-1842.

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**Ongoing**

**GARFIELD**

**Sojourner House Service**

Sojourner House (5460 Penn Ave.) is inviting all women 18 years or older - who have at least one child 12 years or younger, are actively seeking custody of a child, or have recently become pregnant to participate in treatment. The Single County Authority and providers that serve the injection drug abuse population shall give preference to treatment as follows: Pregnant, injection drug users, pregnant substance users, injection drug users, and then all others. For more information, call 412-441-7783.
Volunteer Opportunities & Services

GARFIELD

Dancing Devils
Join us every Thursday at 6 pm for the Dancing Devils class at Los Sabrosos Dance Company (4909 Penn Ave). This class draws heavily from belly-dance and expressive movement fused with mudras, yoga, ancient wisdom, and new-age ideas. Classes will follow a circle warm up, technique training, expressive musicality, and circle stretch. You will learn movements for personal and community prayer, meditation, and devotion. Classes are $15 each, or $50 for a month of classes and are open to all levels. Scholarships available.

FRIENDSHIP

Hospital Volunteership
We are looking for volunteers age 18 and older that can work between 2 and 24 hours per week. We need help with clerical work, customer service, transportation, and other areas. Meal vouchers will be provided after four hours of work and free parking will also be provided. Background checks are necessary to be eligible. To learn more or complete an application, please visit https://www.ahn.org/locations/west-penn-hospital/volunteering or call 412-578-5314. Applications are also available in Friendship Dining Room.

STANTON HEIGHTS

Green Committee
Join the Green Committee to work on a Love Your Block application and make plans for a summer project in the community. Meeting time is always at 7 p.m., and the location will be posted on www.stantonheights.org or facebook.com/stanton-heights.

PITTSBURGH

Summer Credit Recovery
Does your high school student have failed school credits? Neighborhood Learning Alliance (NLA) and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) are hosting summer credit recovery activities this summer. These programs will help students with failed credits get back on track to graduating from high school. To determine whether your high school student needs credit recovery, please call the NLA at 412-385-3356.

GARFIELD

Earthen Vessels Camp
Children ages 3-14 years old can join Earthen Vessels Outreach and Seeds of Hope Church for their annual 6-week camp starting June 1! This camp will be held Monday through Friday from 8:30 am-3:15 pm. Activities include structured learning in STEM (Science, technology, engineering and math) subjects and visits to the zoo, swimming, bowling, as well as Ildewll, among others! Scholarships are available and tuition is determined on a sliding scale. Before and after camp care is also available at an additional cost. Call to register your child now at 412-681-7272 or 412-414-2993.

BLOOMFIELD

Neighborhood Awards
Northwood Realty Services, in partnership with In Community Magazines, is proud to offer a great opportunity for your residents to show pride in the places they call home and boost the reputation of your community. We’re encouraging all municipalities to help promote the awards, so you can be well represented among the winners. Categories include: Best all-around Neighborhood (East, West, North & South), Best Community Event, Friendliest Neighborhood Park, Best Block Party, Best Architecture & Landscaping and Neighborhood Spirit (Children’s submission). Residents will find out how their neighborhoods stack up when our annual $250 and be featured online and on our social media channels.

HOMewood

Camp Cadet Application
The Allegheny County Camp Cadet program is still accepting applications for its August 2015 program. Any boy or girl who resides in Allegheny County who is between the ages of 12 and 14 (and in good physical condition) is encouraged to apply. Allegheny County Camp Cadet is a non-profit, charitable organization that is funded by contributions from the community and is free to attendees. A mini-police academy program, Camp Cadet is designed to provide a better community understanding of law enforcement activities while simulating an atmosphere similar to a police training academy. For more information, please visit www.alleghenycountycampcadet.org. You can also contact Officer Mike Spagnoletti, Co-Director of Camp Cadet, at 412-473-1322 or via e-mail at mspagnoletti@county.allegheny.pa.us for an application or to receive more information about this special program.

DOWNTOWN

PSA presents Intr(au)spective
The Pittsburgh Society of Artists (PSA) in partnership with Three Rivers Arts Festival (TRAF) presents its own dedicated art show, entitled Intr(au)spective. From June 5- June 14, at 937 Gallery (937 Liberty Avenue) in the cultural district. Please come out and join us for the opening reception on Friday, June 5 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

BLOOMFIELD

Bloomingfield Saturday Market
Every Saturday, beginning May 30, from 9 am to 1 pm, enjoy a wide variety of farmers and food vendors, free live music, cooking demonstrations and health activities by Allegheny Health Network/West Penn Hospital. Don’t miss the fire truck for kids to explore while you shop at the market. SNAP benefits are accepted at the red information tent.

Games Learning Party
Come to Assemble (5125 Penn Ave.) from 4:30 to 7:30 pm to meet game programmers and board game designers, learn new games, and pick up tips to design your own game. This free event is for youths ages 6 to 15, and also for any adventurous adults. All materials are provided. Assemble’s monthly Learning Parties provide opportunities to look, learn, and make in an informal, yet educational environment.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Sunday Market
The Night Gallery hosts a market every Sunday from 1 to 5 pm. Come to 4936 Harrison St. for artisan bread, fresh coffee, and amazing jewelry.

July Bulletin Deadline: June 15
Download advertising information: bit.ly/bulletin_ad
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