Garfield - While much attention has focused of late on the ongoing Penn Ave. reconstruction project, a new building is rising on the southeast corner of Penn Ave. and S. Mathilda St.

See Penn Mathilda | page 6
Garfield - On September 17, more than fifty residents gathered at the Garfield Commons Pride Center (242 Fern St.) to help bring weekend bus service back to Garfield. The 89 Garfield Commons bus serves the only Port Authority route that connects Garfield’s hilltop residents with the Penn Ave. corridor that leads into East Liberty.

Kevin Martin, a Garfield resident who has been actively recruiting his neighbors to participate in this initiative, told The Bulletin that he sympathizes with folks trapped by transit issues.

“People who don’t own a car are really confined on the weekend because there is no bus service,” he said. “Imagine if, just in order to go to church or a movie on the weekend, you had to walk a mile to your nearest bus stop.”

At the September 17 meeting, Garfield residents prepared to send forms to Port Authority Transit - which operates the bus system - write letters to local elected officials asking for their support, and form a steering committee to negotiate future actions. Molly Nichols, a community organizer representing Pittsburghers for Public Transit, was glad for the turnout.

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Nichols confirmed that the Port Authority now has a more transparent process for tracking bus service requests. As a means of advocating for their neighborhood’s right to public transportation, no matter the day of the week, residents can always file Port Authority service requests.

Garfield advocates for weekend bus service

By Aggie Brose Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - On September 5, an armed robbery occurred at the K2 convenience store (4900 Penn Ave.). The suspect fled with cash in hand, according to Zone 5 police. The suspect is described as a black male; aged thirty to forty years, 5’5” tall, with a thin build and dark complexion. Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to call the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police at 412-323-7161.

On September 12, two men stole $50 in cash and a cell phone from a victim on the 300 block of Gross St. Zone 5 officers used the victim’s cell phone tracking application to find the suspects, who had also committed a robbery on S. Mathilda St. on the same day.

According to Zone 5 authorities, nineteen year old Dramell Robinson, of Garfield, and his sixteen year old male accomplice, from East Liberty, were arrested and charged with robbery.◆

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“We’re excited to see residents and community leaders invested in getting better public transit in their community,” she said. “It’s great to see how much energy there is right now.”

Nichols confirmed that the Port Authority now has a more transparent process for tracking bus service requests. As a means of advocating for their neighborhood’s right to public transportation, no matter the day of the week, residents can always file Port Authority service requests.

Martin and Nichols encourage everyone living in Garfield to attend the next community meeting and join the push for weekend bus service. The October 21 meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. at The Commons North Aiken (5330 N. Aiken Ct.). Anyone interested in expanding the East End’s public transit options is welcome to attend.◆
CARL Program Home Loans

Thinking about buying a “fixer-upper” in the Garfield area? If so, you may qualify for the Community Acquisition & Rehabilitation Loan (CARL) program.

The CARL program combines a mortgage loan and a rehabilitation loan, which allows you to buy and rehabilitate a home with one affordable financing product! For more information or a list of participating lenders, contact Samuel Su at ssu@pcrg.org or call 412-391-6732 (ext. 210).

Stoop City from page 1

reconnecting with some old friends.

From musical acts to lawn games to children’s puppet shows, every stoop will be different. Each host may define specific “house rules” for their private-turned-public gathering spot and welcome all visitors to kindly oblige.

An independent community organization, Bloomfield Livable Streets (BLS), has organized this family-friendly event to be as walkable as possible. By dividing the walking tour into staggered time slots, organizers hope to create an accessible timeframe for community members to interact with the activities at hand in casual fashion.

Unlike most street festivals, Stoop City is a non-commercial, neighborhood event; it is truly “for the people, by the people.” A product of Bloomfield’s D.I.Y. attitude and neighborhood spirit, this progressive festival is designed for everyone to have fun at their own pace.

From 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., the walking tour kicks off north of Liberty Ave., between Graham and Gross Sts, in the northeast section of Bloomfield. Starting at 2 p.m., all the stoops located north of Liberty Ave., between Gross and 40th Sts, will have two hours to show off their porch pride. Then, from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m., residents south of Liberty Ave. will wrap things up with some lively celebration.

Residents who wish to share their stoops are encouraged to reach out to the creative community and host porch-side performances; everything from rock bands to poetry readings and gardening demonstrations is fair game.

Participating artists will be placed at locations in response to the interests of porch owners. Complete details, including a map and sign-up forms for interested residents and performers alike, can be found at http://BloomfieldLivableStreets.org.

BLS meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month, inside the East End Book Exchange (4754 Liberty Ave.) at 6 p.m.

Representing local residents and business owners, BLS hopes Stoop City can help neighbors join together to advocate for accessibility and safety along Bloomfield’s streets.
Kids in the school yard.

Hosting 104 students at the end of last year, the school now accommodates 156 students, according to Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS). This symbolizes quite a reversal from the downward trend of enrollment that had dogged the school since 2010.

Fresh posters now line the entrance, greeting visitors and pointing to reasons for the improved enrollment. One of the posters reads “What is STEAM?”

The vision for a magnet program based on a curriculum centered around science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) was born from the grassroots efforts of Woolslair staff, families, and several community groups; months of lobbying finally paid off when the school board approved their plan earlier this year.

A steam-powered locomotive called the “Woolslair Express” features pictures of families and teachers evoking the catchphrase, “Full STEAM ahead.” These words have become a mantra for a school that was targeted for closure only two years ago.

But these decorations merely speak to the real changes afoot at Woolslair. Down the hallway from the front entrance lies the new STEAM Lab. Formerly a conventional classroom, the STEAM Lab has been refurbished into an open maker space where students can engage in all sorts of hands-on projects.

This is Heather Laurent’s domain. One of the new faces in the building, Laurent is the lead STEAM teacher at Woolslair. She works with students in the STEAM Lab, and in their regular classrooms, leading many of the school’s new programs and technologies.

Students can study Lego Robotics and prototype their inventions with “electronic building blocks.” Teachers will help kids explore coding by using new iPads to design interactive games and stories. “The entire school community is excited for the new STEAM program and I couldn’t be happier to be a part of it,” Laurent said. “We’re really transforming education, breaking down barriers between traditional subjects and helping students build twenty-first century skills like critical thinking and collaboration.”

This year, every teacher at Woolslair will devote up to two weeks out of every nine-week learning unit to a project that immerses students in learning across the disciplines, often with real-world applications. In examining personal narratives, for instance, one classroom is currently working with a local artist to transform their own written stories into a community mosaic; the work will later be installed on a wall inside the school.

This winter, students can learn about climate and temperature through a series of activities involving snow. They will begin collecting snow in a mason jar to measure its evaporation, eventually drawing conclusions to aid in the construction of a catapult that launches projectile snowballs.

Shaun Tomaszewski, the K-12 STEAM coordinator for Pittsburgh Public Schools, facilitated various summer workshops to connect with teachers and host a brainstorm about these new STEAM projects. “I don’t think we’re finished yet, but to see things actually in place in the schools is super exciting,” he said. “It’s amazing to see where we’ve gone, from a conceptual stage last year to actually getting kids engaged, teachers engaged, and communities engaged.”

Magnet applications are now available for Woolslair’s 2016-2017 school year; all applications must be submitted by December 11, 2015. To learn more about how to enroll for next year, contact the school at (412) 529-8800.
Lawrenceville - It’s no secret to anyone who lives, works, or visits Lawrenceville - the neighborhood is changing. Over $100 million in investments is currently in the “pipeline” between Doughboy Square (34th Street) and the 62nd St. Bridge.

As a frame of reference, 207 building permits were issued between January and July, 2015. Only ninety-five permits were issued during the same seven-month period in 2012. Change is definitely happening, and quickly.

Residents, business owners, and community groups have been working diligently over the past several decades to realize some of this change. Crime has decreased by more than fifty percent over the last ten years as Lawrenceville becomes one of the safer neighborhoods in the city. Once vacant and dilapidated houses are now occupied by young families. Community gardens, stewarded by resident volunteers, have replaced vacant and overgrown lots.

The business district is thriving with a healthy, balanced variety of retail uses. Twenty-one new businesses have opened in Lawrenceville since this time last year. Many of these new ventures have presented employment opportunities, brought much-needed tax-revenue to the City, and have helped to create a buzz that is being recognized globally.

Yet revitalization cannot come at the cost of the quality of life to those who currently live and work in Lawrenceville. The priorities and needs of the present community must be at the forefront of the planning and redevelopment process.

As these changes have occurred, Lawrenceville Corporation (LC) and Lawrenceville United (LU) have worked to make sure that neighbors have an opportunity to participate in the development process. Unlike many other neighborhoods in Pittsburgh, Lawrenceville’s neighborhood organizations helped create, and continue to support, efforts that foster transparency in an otherwise veiled and complicated process. Newsletters, email blasts, and our Responsible Hospitality and Community Development processes ensure that stakeholders are educated about what is happening around them—whether it’s a liquor license, a zoning issue, or a development project of scale. These “table-setting” efforts frankly do not happen in a lot of other neighborhoods.

Even with these efforts, there still exists reasonable anxiety about the future—and a real concern about the role of community in shaping change. Unbridled investment and development puts Lawrenceville at risk of losing what we all value in the community: affordability, accessibility, diversity, inclusion, historic preservation, sustainability, and quality of life issues like access to parking.

How can we manage this change together and ensure that the community’s priorities are met? If you are reading this piece, you are likely a community member. This is a call to engage—to come to the table. It involves active, meaningful participation by the people who live and work in the neighborhoods where change is occurring and whose lives are most affected by the policies, systems, and structures that are targeted for change. Together, we have an opportunity to steward development the right way.

Community organizations are now setting the table; developers and elected officials are now coming to the table. But, we need well-informed residents and business owners at the table as well. These table conversations will shape the work of our community organizations and dictate the level of accountability we demand from the decision-makers.

On October 1, our organizations will host a community meeting at Arsenal Middle School (220 40th St.) at 6:30pm. This will NOT be a meeting about any specific development project but, rather an opportunity to re-set the table while we explore and refine our neighborhood’s role in the development process. Think of it as a sort of “Development 101.” In addition to LC and LU staff, city officials will be on-hand to discuss the technical aspects of city processes, outlining opportunities for residents to weigh in on proposed projects.

This promises to be an exciting and informative session for all of us. To learn more about the community meeting, or about development updates in Lawrenceville, please contact Lawrenceville United at 412.802.7220 or Lawrenceville Corporation at 412.621.1616. We look forward to working with you. More importantly, we can’t do it without you.
marking entry to a growing arts district along the corridor. The Penn Mathilda Apartments building, which broke ground at 4800 Penn Ave. in January, is finally taking shape thanks to ACTION-Housing, Inc., a non-profit agency headquartered in downtown Pittsburgh.

Designed by Moss Architects, the building will function as a gateway, offering both affordable housing and neighborhood-oriented commercial spaces to the Bloomfield and Garfield communities on either side of Penn Ave.

Of the building’s thirty-nine apartments, thirty-three of them feature one bedroom; six more units offer two bedrooms each. Half of all units will have a preference designated for military veterans.

ADA accessible and adaptable, these dwellings range in size from 630 to 970 square feet. Secure vehicle and bicycle parking, along with on-site laundry facilities and a community room, are among the more thoughtful amenities.

Since the building was developed to provide affordable housing, the following income restrictions apply: single tenants must earn less than $29,220 per year and two-person households must earn less than $33,360 in total annual income in order to qualify.

Including utilities, rents range from $605 to $730 for a one-bedroom apartment and from $730 to $875 for a two-bedroom apartment. Also of note: the move-in process has been set for February of 2016 and pets are not allowed.

Starting Oct. 1, applications are now available at http://ActionHousing.org, under the “Find Housing” menu. Supportive Housing Management Services (SHMS), will begin taking applications for units on Oct. 15; any applications postmarked before this date will be not be accepted.

Questions about applying for residence at Penn Mathilda Apartments may be directed to Mike Demes at SHMS (412-829-3910 or mdemes@shms-actionhousing.org).

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) will manage the first floor’s roughly 6,000 square feet of commercial space. Squared away for community-focused commerce, these units are sized anywhere from 880 to 2,000 square feet. The BGC seeks to attract commercial endeavors that will complement many of the businesses already established on Penn Ave.

Anyone interested in leasing one of these spaces may contact Rick Swartz at the BGC (RickS@bloomfield-garfield.org). ♦
Bloomfield - The first ever “Bloomfield Round Table” will commence at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 13, at the Shepherd Wellness Community Building (4800 Sciotia St.). Local residents and business owners are welcome to attend and voice concerns about their neighborhood.

Each attendee will be granted two uninterrupted minutes to talk about whatever they choose. Once everyone has been heard, the attendees will be offered additional time to speak until 7 p.m. A light pizza dinner will be available during the meeting.

Afterwards, in the same building, a monthly community meeting will take place to begin focusing on public safety, holiday lighting, and neighborhood feedback about Little Italy Days. An agenda for the Community Meeting is available at http://BloomfieldNow.org. All are welcome to attend one or both meetings.

Future meetings are expected to be held every other month at different locations in Bloomfield. Please call 412-681-8800 or email Contact@BloomfieldNow.org if you would like to attend and require any special dietary or disability accommodations.

Bloomfield - Thanks to an innovative community event from Highmark, Inc., now everybody has an opportunity to shop for their own doctor in a casual setting. On October 20, the “Meet Dr. Right” event will transform West Penn Hospital (WPH) (4815 Liberty Ave.) into a conversational hub from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Prospective patients will be able to speak with primary care physicians, obstetricians, gynecologists, pediatricians, and numerous Allegheny Health Network (AHN) community specialists. WPH President and CEO Ron Andro will testify to the profound effect such an informal “ice-breaker” can have on patients.

“It's important to have a physician who knows and understands your medical history,” he said. “This event will provide guests the opportunity to meet, mingle, and make appointments with physicians.”

Attendees can find the right match and even schedule an appointment on the spot, among all the healthy hors d'oeuvres and light beverages. According to Stephanie Ausefski, a Highmark marketing strategist, “It's great to get to know your doctor before all you're wearing is a paper gown.”

“This is a chance to talk on a personal level and see if the doctor is a good fit,” she explained. Highmark’s My Care Navigators will also be available to answer any questions about existing health insurance coverage.

To register for this free event, call 1-855-856-0319 or visit http://Meet-Dr-Right.com. Free validated parking will be available in the Millvale Ave. parking garage.
East Liberty - When most people think of senior care centers, they seldom call to mind a festive environment. Visions of wheelchairs and candy dishes are never vibrant. But one building in East Liberty is re-writing the rules, one dance step at a time. Vintage Senior Center (401 N. Highland Ave.) is far from ordinary.

Ever since the non-profit organization Family Links joined on as a managing agent in July, Mary Bockovich, the agency's director of development and marketing, has marveled at the unique ways that Vintage staff and its volunteers enhance seniors' health and wellness.

“It’s not your traditional ‘just come for lunch and bingo’ routine,” Bockovich chuckled. From the pool sharks racking up games to the gym rats lifting weights, the building feels young and full of energy.

The atrium’s skylight ceilings and floor displays gradually intersect with various hallways, where each room is named after a different East End neighborhood. While enamored with the building itself, Bockovich credits the neighborhood’s proximity to the busway, and its youthful spirit, for creating such an accessible social environment for seniors.

Her organization knows that its partnership with Vintage will be mutually beneficial.

“[Family Links] can help Vintage with some of their administrative needs, like handling the back office, while they help us enhance our continuum of programming,” Bockovich told The Bulletin.

Although he is proud of the facility’s capacity to serve all East End residents, Vintage director Tom Sturgill really enjoys making a local impact with life-long residents of East Liberty.

“We’re helping these seniors become active and vibrant enough to keep up with the young renaissance in East Liberty and enjoy all the new things coming to the neighborhood.”

– Tom Sturgill, Vintage Senior Center

The building speaks for itself, but it is the weight-lifting and line-dancing seniors whose achievements testify to Vintage’s positive impact. “We’re helping these seniors become active and vibrant enough to keep up with the young renaissance in East Liberty and enjoy all the new things coming to the neighborhood,” Sturgill said.

For more information about Vintage’s very affordable memberships, visit http://VintageSeniorServices.org.

A fountain of “youth” in East Liberty

By Andrew McKeon The Bulletin

“Here in East Liberty and the surrounding neighborhoods, we have a lot of older adults who have been here for years,” he said. “They started here a long time ago and this is still their home.”

Sturgill hopes that events like the “senior prom” and Zumba Gold dance classes can help elderly locals stay healthy while they connect with old friends.

“We’re all about shattering the stereotype of aging,” he said. You come here and people are weight-training and practicing Yoga stretches. They’re doing very active, engaging things to keep themselves healthy.” During an “open house” event on Sept. 17, Sturgill welcomed the public to explore every corner of Vintage’s impressive facility.

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For more information about Vintage’s very affordable memberships, visit http://VintageSeniorServices.org.

The Bulletin helps local advertisers reach local customers. For more information about advertising in The Bulletin, including dimensions and pricing, please call 412-441-6950 (ext. 13) or email Bulletin@Bloomfield-Garfield.org
Local hospital expands family facilities

By Kathleen Fennell The Bulletin

Lawrenceville - While their children receive hospital care for serious illnesses, seventy-four families now call the Ronald McDonald House on 44th St. in Lawrenceville their nightly “home away from home.”

An ongoing expansion project will bring two additional floors, and fourteen more suites, to the facilities located behind Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh - along with new lounge areas, increased laundry services, and supplementary office space.

Executive Director Eleanor Reigel and her staff want to provide families with a place to de-stress, so they created a new lounge area where yoga and meditation classes inspire quiet relaxation. Another section of the common area features a teen lounge, fully equipped with gaming tables and music.

The Ronald McDonald House serves all pediatric facilities in Pittsburgh, but the majority of its residents are loving families whose children are in the care of Children's Hospital. For patients less than twenty-one years of age, their immediate family members - who live at least forty miles from the hospital – are eligible to stay at the facility. They are asked for a donation of $15 a night, but no one is ever turned away for inability to donate.

In a city with so many renowned hospitals, the services of the Ronald McDonald House are in high demand, according to Reigel. Over the past five years, the timetable to get parents and siblings into the House has grown from twenty-four hours to nearly three days. Now that the facility has expanded to meet demand, that wait-list is shrinking; what was once a maximum capacity of sixty families has grown to seventy-four.

“Given that Children's is known internationally for its tertiary care, the staff has increased its volume to provide more medical services,” Reigel said. “All of the medical facilities in Pittsburgh are renowned for their care, so there's an increased need for the housing program,” Reigel said.

Along with providing a place for families to stay, the Ronald McDonald House runs a daily meal program that brings volunteers to the hospital to cook a meal for patients’ families.

“Coming home to have a hot meal prepared by our wonderful volunteers always brings about a smile. It's just another sense of relief, one less thing [family members] have to worry about,” Reigel explained.

Volunteers also host activities like movie screenings and craft nights. Some even provide haircuts to hospital guests. “We really try to think of every aspect so they can totally focus on their child and feel that the family is one unit,” Reigel said. “Keeping everyone together benefits the overall support system.”

Interested parties can get involved by visiting RMHCpgh.org. Opportunities abound for volunteers to host an event, prepare a meal, or donate supplies via Facebook and Amazon. Corporations can also contribute funds to earn naming
East Liberty - Two of East Liberty’s best supportive housing programs, Michael’s Place and Path to New Life, provide housing to ex-offenders who are recovering from addiction and transitioning from prison life to independent living. As initiatives launched by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the programs offer members more than just a place to stay; addiction counseling and mental health services help to ensure participants’ long-term success.

Housed in a non-descript, redbrick Victorian at 501 N. Negley Ave., Michael’s Place has been in operation since 2001. In 2012, the affiliated Path to New Life program was created to care for single men with disabilities at a nearby facility.

A majority of individuals discover the programs through social service agencies; both non-sectarian programs accept men over twenty-one years of age - regardless of race, color, or creed. In order to hone the skills they need for a new life, residents of Michael’s Place and Path to New Life are expected to participate in recovery programs such as AA and/or NA and attend necessary out-patient therapy.

As Linda Kilderry, director of homeless programs at St. Vincent de Paul, explained, “Because we treat the individuals with dignity as they reach their goals, we can better assist them in developing the skills to permanently transition out of homelessness, towards the greatest level of independence possible.”

Path to New Life also offers vocational training and volunteer opportunities fitted to each resident’s abilities and interests. This collaborative community effort is a result of partnerships many local organizations, including New Century Careers, Community Kitchen Pittsburgh, Bidwell Training Academy, the Community Collage of Allegheny County, and more.

“During my stay, I began to work on many long-ignored issues like depression, alcohol abuse, untreated grief, and self-esteem issues,” recounted one member, who chose to remain anonymous. “Learning to live alone brings new challenges but it is truly a blessing to have a permanent housing situation.”

Participants are given their own one-bedroom apartment and assigned a Service Coordinator to assist in developing a Service Plan. The aim is to build a support network for residents and make them feel as comfortable as possible.

Kilderry knows this sentiment is echoed by participants and she remains optimistic about the programs’ future in the neighborhood. “It’s been very exciting to watch East Liberty develop in the nine years since Michael’s Place became part of the community,” Kilderry said. “While there is still a lot of work to do, it’s very evident that the overall atmosphere is continuing to improve.”

Anyone who wishes to apply to homeless programs in Allegheny County may contact Allegheny Link at 1-866-730-2368.
The Bulletin has asked me to write a neighborly column. You might be asking, “What in the world could Kweillan Everest write about in a monthly column?” The answer is, “You!”

The editor wants me to help invite readers to share their important moments; he knows how I love to keep up with what’s happening in the neighborhood. So, consider me a conduit for any conversational, neighborly news items that might otherwise be construed as “gossip.”

But, I’m not talking about politics, land development, business, and all of that. I’m talking about good gossip, a positive detour from all the negativity making the news these days. I want to report on all the happy events in your life.

I like to hear about my neighbors and their families and what they’re doing; where their kids are going to school, who’s having a birthday, whose relatives are coming into town for the holidays, who’s getting married, who’s getting indicted by a grand jury (just kidding about that last one).

So, here’s the plan: as long as you and your friends tell me what’s going on, I will help you broadcast your personal stories. Do we have a deal? Just drop me a note whenever you want me to tell folks about your family events and other great things that are happening to you and those close to you.

Perhaps your brother is coming home from a military assignment overseas? Or, you’re going back to school to finally earn that degree? Maybe you’re hosting a family reunion with a cookout before the Steelers game?

Whatever it may be, I want to know. Photos are welcome, too. Think of this as a printed medium for social media. I would “like” to “follow” you and help you share your lives with other readers.

To reach me via standard mail, submit your information care of: Kweillan Everest/The Bulletin/5149 Penn Ave./Pittsburgh, PA/15224.

My email address is: Kweillan@Bloomfield-Garfield.org.

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**Penn Ave Arts in Motion**

The Pittsburgh Art Car Festival

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**BELOW:** Festival organizers and co-owners of Most Wanted Fine Art at 5015 Penn Ave., Jason (left) and Nina Sauer (right) pose for a family picture with their son, Rowdy. Children were excited to see all the decorated “art cars” and play amongst the demolished derby vehicles parked throughout the lot. Photo by John Colombo.

**BELOW:** Christina Morrow, a demo artist at the Pittsburgh Glass Center (5472 Penn Ave.), shows festival-goers how to do “lamp work.” Blowing glass with a torch instead of a furnace, she takes extra precaution when working in public. Photo by John Colombo.

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**ABOVE:** Festival organizers and co-owners of Most Wanted Fine Art at 5015 Penn Ave., Jason (left) and Nina Sauer (right) pose for a family picture with their son, Rowdy. Children were excited to see all the decorated “art cars” and play amongst the demolished derby vehicles parked throughout the lot. Photo by John Colombo.

**BELOW:** Hometown hip-hop hero, Mac Miller, dropped by Re-fresh PGH (5450 Penn Ave.) to sign some autographs and unveil a new line of apparel just down the avenue from the festival. Photo by John Colombo.

**BELOW:** Visiting Garfield all the way from Guyana, Violet Michael (left) and Margaret Ferrell took a break from the festivities to recharge with some tasty fruit drinks. Photo by John Colombo.

**ABOVE:** Vendors lined the parking lot of Champion Commons (5231 Penn Ave.), offering wares to potential customers at the “Penn Ave. Arts in Motion” festival on Sept 19. All the tables and tents made for a bountiful display of hand-crafted items and local artworks; festival-goers leisurely perused vendor tables while artists shared their skills with those in attendance. Photo by Shannon Kenyon.
Old-time radio act inspires childhood nostalgia

By Janice Ortenberg

Pittsburgh - All seniors interested in revisiting an innocent time in their lives, when they sat akimbo to their parents and listened to the radio, are invited to become a part of the audience experience that is Vintage Radio Players.

Performing together for almost a decade, this volunteer ensemble reenacts old radio programs from the 1930s, '40s, and '50s by reading directly from authentic scripts — complete with commercials, sound effects, and a bit of music to accompany scene changes.

Comprised of a diverse group of seniors, the Vintage Radio Players do their best to recreate a “period-perfect” atmosphere. By taking audiences right into the studio for their favorite radio productions, the players encourage imagination as they alight upon touchstone programs such as “Baby Snooks,” “My Friend Irma,” “Fibber McGee & Molly,” “Life with Riley,” “The Great Gildersleeve,” “Burns & Allen,” and more.

A “trivia segment” helps spectators uncover some childhood memories to enhance the experience. The Vintage Radio Players often perform at nursing homes, retirement communities, AARP chapter meetings, and local church groups. The troupe is constantly planning new segments to initiate even more audience participation.

Their renditions of yesteryear’s favorite radio comedies often bring a smile to remembering faces in attendance. Envisioning the stories coming to life and giggling at the characters' responses, many are transported to simpler times, when life was seemingly had a more innocent and care-free flavor.

The volunteer group presents its shows free of charge and welcomes everyone to participate in future performances. A donation to the First Presbyterian Church, located Downtown at 320 Sixth Ave., is greatly appreciated. The church functions as a home base for the performers, who rehearse twice a month. Standard rehearsal times are the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 1:00 p.m.

Those interested in scheduling a performance, reserving a specific date, or even joining the cast for rehearsals and performances may call Jeanne Miller at 412-854-1811 for further information. ♦

Forty Years Strong!

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) will hold its Annual Luncheon on Friday, November 20, at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association in Oakland (4215 Fifth Ave.) — from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald will introduce keynote speaker Dennis Davin, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. For additional information, please contact the BGC's Deputy Director, Aggie Brose, at 412-441-6950 (ext. 15) or Aggie@Bloomfield-Garfield.org.

Need a new doctor? Come find the right match.

Meet, mingle and make appointments with doctors from Allegheny Health Network and nearby community practices.

- Family doctors and internists
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- Many more specialists

Coming to West Penn Hospital!
Tuesday, Oct. 20
5 – 7:30 p.m.
Register at meet-dr-right.com, or call 1-855-856-0319.
Free validated parking

Meet Dr. Right
4800 Friendship Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
Lawrenceville - In the heart of our vibrant and bustling community lies one of the most serene and beautiful parks in Pittsburgh. Just a few steps away from the busy streets and hard-working families of Lawrenceville, a naturally lush paradise hides in plain sight. It is home to more than 300 pristine acres of foliage, water features, wildlife, gardens, and well, graves. Yes, graves.

One of the biggest and oldest "rural" graveyards in the country, Allegheny Cemetery is far grander than the famous last names of its entombed men and women. East End natives often reminisce about catching tadpoles in the cemetery's ponds, scouting around for picnic spots, taking the scenic route from Penn Ave. to Butler St., or simply watching deer frolic on the grounds. These stories are now part of the cemetery's rich history, one built upon storied origins.

During the height of Pittsburgh’s industrial age in the mid-1800s, three members of the Third Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh wanted to create a burial ground connecting spirituality and nature. In 1842, Dr. J. Ramsey Speer, Stephen Colwell, and John Chislett, Sr., founded the cemetery on a 100-acre farmstead.

Following an imperative to protect the sanctity of the grounds, the founders passed laws preventing any development or disruption of the existing ecosystem. The cemetery is still protected to this day, and for many years to come. According to assistant Nancy E. Foley, who has worked for the cemetery since 2007, "Allegheny Cemetery exists as much for the living as it does for the dead."

"Back then, people held the belief that nature is greater than man," she explained. "They saw time spent alone in nature as a spiritual experience. So, the park was designed not to interfere with that sense of intimacy, instead providing a spiritual escape from the urban chaos."

Maintaining the delicate balance of native plants and wildlife so close to the city is a top priority. Not only does the cemetery employ a team of people that care for the grounds, but they seek out partnerships to help study and sustain the diverse flora and fauna. In one notable collaboration with Tree Pittsburgh, the cemetery strives to protect and restore its urban forest through community tree planting.

A Tree Pittsburgh survey of 1,966 individual trees identified ninety different species in the cemetery. Such a plethora of vegetation not only cools summer temperatures, but also helps to reduce air pollution in densely populated, urban areas like Lawrenceville. Joe Stavish, a community education coordinator at Tree Pittsburgh, explained that these trees soak up 7,750,889 gallons of stormwater each year.

"This is the only place where we can witness a tree’s full lifecycle," he said. "If a tree dies, we usually cut it down and take it away. But, in the cemetery, the tree has an opportunity to serve as a home for wildlife, food for insects, and a base for moss. It’s all vital to maintaining a healthy ecosystem."

Stavish admires the cemetery’s dedication to biodiversity and its accessibility to the public. He considers it an outdoor classroom where everyone can observe the oldest plants in the city, including a few oak trees that have been around for more than 150 years.

Still, it is the people that keep the cemetery alive as a place for exploration, meditation, and reflection. For lots of fun facts and stories, follow the Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association on Facebook.
The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, fundraisers, and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Listings are published on a space-available basis; we cannot guarantee any placement. Announcements for the October issue of The Bulletin are due by Sept. 24. Please submit listings using our online form at http://bit.ly/bulletin_submit.
**Volunteer Opportunities & Services**

**October 13 - Tuesday**

**EAST LIBERTY**

**Book Club: Rockin’ Readers**
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh East Liberty at 4 p.m. Discuss and explore literary adventures and different book genres! This month’s featured genre is horror for kids. For children in grades three through five.

**October 14 - Wednesday**

**GARFIELD**

**Free Creepy Science Learning Party**
Assemble, 5125 Penn Avenue from 4 to 6 p.m. Do you like gak, oobleck, or gloop? What about feathers and bones? Ever wonder what’s happening with that bread in the back of the fridge, or how to clone your sister? All of these questions involve some pretty CREEPY SCIENCE! Join Assemble for a Creepy Science Learning Party on October 14th and learn what CRAWLS about the world around you! Participate in fun, hands-on activities led by local makers, scientists, artists, and technologists. Fun for kids, friends, and grownups! All materials provided.

**October 15 - Thursday**

**GARFIELD**

**Meet New West Penn Hospital CEO Ron Andro**
6:00 pm, 113 N. Pacific Avenue. The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) will host a community welcome reception for residents and community stakeholders to get to know the new CEO of West Penn Hospital, Ron Andro. Ron will give a brief presentation about the future of the hospital and then take part in a Q&A session. Light refreshments will be provided.

**October 16 - Friday**

**EAST LIBERTY**

**KST presents “On Triumph and Trauma”**
7 p.m. pre-show mixer and 8 p.m. show at Kelly Strayhorn Theater’s Alley Studios 5330 Penn Avenue. As part of KST’s World Stage Series, Luke Murphy’s On Triumph and Trauma centers on a critical point in Irish history and explores Irish identity. This four-dancer performance draws on political transcripts and scholarly research to thematically depict Easter Rising and the 100 years of tumultuous Irish history that followed. Pay what makes you happy.

**October 17 - Saturday**

**EAST LIBERTY**

**Kids Create: Wearable Art**
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh East Liberty at 3:30 p.m. Be creative with materials and make something you can wear anywhere. For children ages three and up.

**GARFIELD**

**Homebuyer Education Workshop**
113 N. Pacific Avenue from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Dollar Bank representatives will show you how you can own your own home, including information about: credit counseling and restoration programs, grant money for closing costs, affordable mortgage and down payment options, programs to help public housing residents, section 8 tenants and renters, and your free credit report including an evaluation. To register, please call: Aggie Brose of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation at 412-441-6950 ext. 15.

**October 19 - Monday**

**EAST LIBERTY**

**STEM Imagination Builders**
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh East Liberty from 5 to 6 p.m. Imagine, design, construct! Using STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) skills to build with blocks and structural toys, children develop critical thinking, teamwork, motor and communication skills. For families with children age 2 – 10.

**October 20 - Tuesday**

**EAST LIBERTY**

**Storytime: Japanese and English**
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh East Liberty at 11 a.m. Celebrate our city’s diverse culture as we explore new words through songs, action rhymes and stories in both English and Japanese for children and their parents or caregivers. For children ages two to five and their caregivers.

**October 21 - Wednesday**

**LAWRENCIVEILLE**

**Free Lecture: The Donora Smog Disaster**
Carnegie Library Lawrenceville 279 Fisk Street at 6:30 p.m. Speaker Brian Charlton, the curator and archivist of the Donora Smog Museum and Historical Society, will speak about the Donora Smog Disaster that left thousands ill and 27 dead in 1948. Waste from the mill that was typically carried away by the wind reached the ceiling of a severe temperature inversion and fell back to earth in the atmosphere, causing disaster.

**October 24 - Saturday**

**EAST LIBERTY**

**Halloween Mayhem**
Kelly Strayhorn Theater 5941 Penn Avenue from 12 to 4 p.m. A spooky treat for the whole family, the seventh annual Halloween Mayhem will feature a costume parade, live performances, puppets, refreshments, games and more. Come show off your Halloween spirit and pay what makes you happy.

**November Bulletin Deadline: October 16**
Download advertising information: bit.ly/bulletin_ad
Download guidelines for stories, photos, and notices: bit.ly/bulletin_news

**Fall Art Auction**
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk St. Stop by for an evening filled with art, drinks, food, music, and fun! The $5 event fee includes three drink tickets, with proceeds benefiting the CLP–Lawrenceville. Questions? Contact CLP-Lawrenceville Friends Treasurer Rebecca Alles at pghbekia@gmail.com or 412-657-6202.

**October 27 - Tuesday**

**LAWRENCIVEILLE**

**Halloween Magic Celebration**
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh 279 Fisk St at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy this family-friendly Halloween celebration! Starting at 6:30 p.m. there will be crafts and activities, then Magician Weird Eric will capture your imagination with his magic tricks at 7:00 p.m.

**October 29 - Thursday**

**LAWRENCIVEILLE**

**Free Genealogy Class**
Goodwill’s Workforce Development Center at 118 52nd Street from 6 to 8 p.m. Goodwill of southwestern Pennsylvania and Carnegie Library–Lawrenceville are teaming up to offer free computer classes to area residents. On October 29, an instructor from the library will teach students how to explore their ancestry using the website ancestry.com. Free parking is available. Contact Jaime Trackenberg at 412-632-1842 or jaime.trackenberg@goodwillswpa.org to register.

**October 30 - Friday**

**ROSS TOWNSHIP**

**State Representative Dom Costa’s Senior Fair**
Ross Township Community Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Seniors are encouraged to come out and get valuable information from numerous agencies about different programs and benefits they may qualify for. These agencies include Social Security, utility companies, AARP, healthcare agencies, home and assisted care agencies, and more. Free health screenings and flu shots as well.

**October 31 - Saturday**

**LAWRENCIVEILLE**

**Fun Horror Movies**
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, 279 Fisk St at 12:30 p.m. Enjoy two entertaining films and treats in the auditorium. At 12:30 p.m. two ghosts seek the aid of another crazy ghost to get rid of the family that moved into their home (PG). Then at 2:30 p.m. a teenage girl falls for the zombie boy that rescues her (PG-13). Call 412-682-3668 for more information.
Penn Ave. reconstruction project: Phase II community scoping meeting on Oct. 8

AT LEFT: This conceptual sketch provides a glimpse into the finished look expected for the area from Millvale Ave. to Evaline St. under Phase I of the Penn Ave. reconstruction project. Please join your neighbors and the Department of Public Works at the BGC Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.) on October 8, at 6 p.m., to discuss the project scope for Phase II of the Penn Ave. Reconstruction Project. This meeting is open to the public; all local residents and business owners are invited to attend. $5M in public funding is already committed to Phase II; community members can influence future plans by showing up to the meeting and making their voices heard. To RSVP, or to learn more, please contact Aggie Brose at 412-441-6950 (ext. 15) or Aggie@bloomfield-garfield.org. Conceptual sketch courtesy of Loysen+Kreuthmeier Architects.

Properties on Penn Ave.
Interested in buying/renting a property located on or around Penn Ave? Interested in selling/renting your own property located on or around Penn Ave? The Penn Avenue web site has a page dedicated to commercial and residential listings (www.pennavenue.org). The properties listed represent those that we know to be available. If you would like your property listed on our site, please email details about the property, sale/rent price, approximate square footage, contact info, and photos (if available) to Mainstreets@Bloomfield-Garfield.org. Please use “Property Listing” as the subject line. Note: The BGC is not a real estate agent and does not arrange or broker the sale/lease of any properties. Instead, the BGC seeks to facilitate a way for potential developers or investors to locate owners who may or may not be interested in selling or leasing their property.

BELOW: Amidst a "PARK[ing] Day" celebration on Sept. 18, Bloomfield Livable Streets' chair Bruce Chan reads the The Bulletin from his front row seat along Liberty Ave. Photo by Zhe Zhang.