Allegheny County warms up to school breakfast programs

By Heather Hopson Allies for Children

Allegheny County - A new report about school breakfast consumption in Allegheny County shows more students eating breakfast, but a wide variation occurring within districts. Breakfast Basics: A Comprehensive Look at School Breakfast in Allegheny County highlights how school policy changes can help combat childhood hunger and increase the number of breakfasts served.

“We know that breakfast matters when it comes to health and education. What we didn’t know was how local schools served students breakfast and how many children were actually eating it,” Patrick Dowd, executive director at Allies for Children, explained. “Our study found that more students are eating at school and more schools are finding creative ways to feed children outside of the typical time—before the official start of school—and the usual setting—the cafeteria.”

The report, produced by Allies for Children and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, is based on recently released data from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and local

On campus at Carlow, local high-schoolers forge careers

By Andrew G. Wilson Carlow University

Bunker Projects’ new online art gallery grows local collecting

By Jessica Rommelt Bunker Projects

Oakland - This summer, Carlow University will provide opportunities for local high school students seeking summer employment, maybe a second chance to recover

See Carlow Careers | page 5

Garfield / Op-Ed - As the director of Bunker Projects (5106 Penn Ave.), I also curate exhibitions like “Crystal Vision,” which was on view at our Garfield headquarters

See Bunker Projects | page 12

ABOVE: “May Day” never sounded so good, especially on April Fool’s Day. High school students from the U Prep Marching Band join local performers from the May Day marching band to make a joyful noise at Spak Bros. Pizza on April 1. The event commingled poetry, pizza, and brass bands for all of Garfield to enjoy. Photo by Keith Williams. Turn to page 11 to see more photos from this community jam session.

ABOVE: Behold the fresh look of affordable housing at Penn Mathilda Apartments (4816 Penn Ave.) in Garfield. Sunlight streams through huge windows to spotlight features like extended countertop space, tiled back-splashes, and glass-blown pendants crafted by the Pittsburgh Glass Center. For a peek at more interiors from the building tour, check out page 16. Photo by John Colombo.
Enright Park earns city protection

By Angelique Bamberg Enright Park Neighborhood Association

East Liberty - On April 19, City Council voted to re-zone the Penn Plaza property (5704 Penn Ave.) and Enright Park to allow for the redevelopment that the owners at LG Realty have aggressively sought for the site. Critically, the rezoning passed with concrete protections for the park and the neighborhood in the form of conditions that Mayor Bill Peduto, Chief of Staff Kevin Acklin, and the City Planning department assisted Council in attaching to the legislation.

Enright Park’s neighbors and community advocates worked tirelessly with the Administration to shape these conditions, and the City worked against tremendous pressure to ensure that the rezoning legislation moved forward only with them in place. While our organization normally could not support the re-zoning of either site without a Preliminary Land Development Plan from the developer, we nonetheless recognize the unique circumstances that brought us to this juncture, as well as the tremendous amount of work that has gone into balancing complex competing interests on this very important site.

Therefore, we - the Enright Park Neighborhood Association, and our supporters at the Friendship Community Group and Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation - gave our support to the legislation. These legally binding conditions will ensure an appropriate and thorough public review process for the entire site, giving the larger community the input which its citizens deserve.

We are grateful that these conditions guarantee that neither streets nor driveways will divide the park, and that most of what remains in the way of a mature tree canopy will be preserved. These conditions will allow the park to maintain its present size, although in a different configuration, and remain under public ownership, ensuring that future generations of residents will be able to enjoy it.

We see opportunities ahead to hold meaningful discussions about how Enright Park may best serve this community for years to come. In that vein, there is still much work to be done, and we’re going to continue to pursue what we feel will be the most favorable set of outcomes for the neighborhood during the unfolding development at Penn Plaza.

We express our utmost appreciation to the Mayor, to Chief of Staff Acklin, and to Planning Director Ray Gastil, along with those members of City Council who were receptive to our concerns. Most of all, we thank all those who came out in support of preserving this vital community amenity.

Op-Ed

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation has an email newsletter!

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BETWEEN: Volunteers with the Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association complete site prep for their rain garden project at Stanton & McCandless Aves. Volunteers are still needed for the May 7 “Love Your Block” project work day. Love Your Block is a partnership between the City of Pittsburgh and People’s Gas to revitalize Pittsburgh-block by block. Photo by Lissa Geiger Shulman.
City Council okays marijuana ordinance, knows true meaning lives in details

By Patrick K. Nightingale, Esq., Pittsburgh NORML

Pittsburgh - In April, Pittsburgh’s “marijuana decriminalization” ordinance - which gives City of Pittsburgh Police officers the option of citing an individual under a local code instead of filing a misdemeanor complaint - was amended to bring everything into compliance with state law. By reframing the code violation as a ‘civil’ violation, proponents sought to shield those cited under the local ordinance from any type of searchable record.

After meetings with the ACLU and the Municipal Courts Administrator, it became clear that the code violation could not be processed as a purely “civil” violation. Due to clerical concerns and other considerations, it could only be processed as a summary criminal violation. Therefore, City Councilman Daniel Lavelle submitted an amendment that would change the word “civil” to “summary” and remove “marijuana” from the title of the Ordinance. The change in terminology - from “civil” to “summary” - is significant because summary violations must be filed with the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), creating a “non-traffic” docket number that is eminently searchable.

With “marijuana” excerpted from the title, an individual’s criminal history will only show a city code violation for “certain defined conduct” instead of an incriminating keyword. Regardless of the change in the nature of the offense, an individual will not be fingerprinted or mandated to appear in court if they pay a fine. As a summary offense, it can be expunged from one’s record after five years. Any cited individual can pay the fine online by plugging in their AOPC docket number. Those involved in the local advocacy efforts still feel confident that the new ordinance will benefit citizens and police officers alike. At the very least, it can help reduce the number of police encounters that result in the filing of criminal charges and eliminate the need for officers to sit at city court for hours at a time. If enough people ask their elected officials to amend the local drug policy, then all Pittsburghers can avoid the severe consequences of misdemeanor, marijuana possession charges.

**Marijuana Decriminalization** Ordinance: Four Things to Know

1) Marijuana possession may no longer be classified as a “civil violation.” City police may now consider it a “summary offense.”

2) The word “marijuana” has been removed to lessen stigma for cited individuals; criminal histories will only reflect a city code violation for “certain defined conduct.”

3) Individuals will not be fingerprinted or mandated to appear in court if they pay a fine.

4) To clarify, this new ordinance only applies within the city’s geographic boundaries.

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

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In conversation with local filmmaker Chris Ivey: “East of Liberty” over the years

By Andrew McKeon The Bulletin

Before he moved to Pittsburgh, Chris Ivey grew up in Jesse Helms’ North Carolina hometown. As a professional filmmaker, Ivey has worked on all sorts of projects. Yet, none have resonated with the personal velocity of his ‘East of Liberty’ documentary series. Released in three installments, the film confronts active forces of gentrification, but stands the test of time - and reflection - amidst a changing East Liberty landscape. Ivey welcomes all perspectives into the dialogue by hosting screenings and subsequent panel discussions featuring the likes of Pittsburgh Post-Gazette columnist Tony Norman and journalist/historic preservationist Karamagi Rujumba, as well as a number of local residents and students. A consummate documentarian, he manages to find ugly truths where others fear to look. Ivey’s work is multi-valent and, metaphorically speaking, the sum of many moving parts programmed for conflict. The following Q&A is just a brief transcript of a conversation to be continued in further issues of The Bulletin.

The Bulletin: How are you able to engage your audience, up close and personal, in a way that most filmmakers would find too close for comfort?

Ivey: “I guess my thing is trying to be fearless. People are afraid of alienating clients and the ensuing repercussions but, for me, living in Pittsburgh, I haven’t got a whole lot to lose. I’m dealing with my own frustration as a black man, let alone a black filmmaker, in a town that really marginalizes our community of young black men. You begin to understand why people like [Pittsburgh’s own Academy Award-winning filmmaker] Antoine Fuqua and others, why they leave the city. But, they always try to bring something back here, bring work back to Pittsburgh.”

It seems like you enjoy the process outside of the process, the very public negotiation that is an East of Liberty screening and what it motivates our city to say about itself.

In a sense, the whole thing never stops moving forward. Did you ever foresee such an all-encompassing process?

“It’s kind of like life in a way. When I first started working with ELDI, they were really focused on the happy endings. I was like, ‘you can’t have happy endings when displaced residents haven’t moved back yet. You can’t have a happy ending when the mom-and-pop businesses who’ve been trying to survive are forced out,’ like the Jamaican restaurant Impressionz [6008 Broad St.] in East Liberty. Recently, I’ve just been more vocal than I have in the past about the film series. This is the conduit to put the information out there. It’s really up to the people in the community to rise up and do something. A long time ago, this one guy told me about most cities’ master plans for redevelopment. He said, ‘yeah, there’s a master plan. But there’s a master plan to the master plan that’s not on paper. You always have to keep that in mind.’”

At the last screening, panelist Bill Generett [CEO of local nonprofit Urban Innovation Paper. You always have to keep that in mind. “said, ‘yeah, there’s a master plan. But there’s a master plan to the master plan that’s not

Unblurred on Penn Ave.

The monthly Unblurred event takes place on the first Friday of every month between the 4800 and 5500 blocks of Penn Ave. Galleries, shops, and restaurants open their doors to welcome visitors from across the region. Typically beginning around 6 p.m. and winding down around 11 p.m., Unblurred is open to the public; many of the events are family-friendly and free-of-charge. Festivities include art exhibits, musical performances, dancing, and universal revelry for all in attendance. From May through September, the Garfield Night Market (GNM) will be open for business on N. Pacific Ave. - between Penn Ave. and Dearborn St. Updates on the market and other Unblurred activities are made available at http://pennavenue.org/unblurred. Interested parties may also email mainstreets@bloomfield-garfield.org for more information. Additional event details can be found at garfieldnightmarket.org, or by emailing GarfieldNightMarket@gmail.com.

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Carlow Careers  continued from page 1

high school credits, or a chance to take a college course at its campus (3333 Fifth Ave.) in Oakland.

The university is able to offer these three programs thanks to partnerships it has established with the Neighborhood Learning Alliance (NLA), the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), and the City of Pittsburgh’s “Learn and Earn” program.

“Carlow’s community partnerships are really growing,” explained Howard Stern, PhD, the co-director of the university’s master’s program in business administration (MBA), explained.

Last summer, Carlow partnered with the NLA to give students an opportunity to gain credits for courses that they had previously failed. Aligned with Pennsylvania state standards, the credit recovery program utilized two of the university’s computer labs; certified teachers and tutors facilitated classes and provided assistance.

“By recovering the credits they missed, the students can stay on a path to graduation,” Stern said. Because high school graduation is seen as vital to raising students’ career options and lifetime earning potential, Carlow will offer the credit recovery program again this year.

Beginning this summer, Carlow will participate in the city’s Learn and Earn initiative, a program that provides high school age students a chance to learn employment skills and gain experience by performing summer jobs on campus.

The program is grant-funded and operated through the NLA, which pays the necessary wages, payroll taxes, and worker’s compensation insurance. Participants are placed in a work site after attending a twelve-hour training seminar.

Typical job assignments at Carlow could include secretarial/clerical, administrative, housekeeping, grounds maintenance, or other NLA-approved work experiences.

Pittsburgh youths will be learning and earning from June 27 through August 5, working their assigned tasks for five and a half hours per day (with a one-half hour unpaid lunch period) from Monday through Thursday. This June, the university will also begin offering a college course for any local high school students who might be interested in getting a taste of some college-level curriculum.

“This is a win-win, all the way around,” Stern said. “The students get to find out what the academic expectations are in a real college course, and Carlow gets to introduce its campus to potential students.” For more information on these programs, please contact the NLA at (412) 363-1910.

BELOW: Katie Molchan and Elaina Holko, the owners of “Mixtape” - a dance lounge, music gallery, cafe, and event space located at 4907 Penn Ave. - receive an acknowledgement of their business’ “worker approved status” on March 24. Rather than abide by the “tipped minimum wage” logic, Mixtape maintains a commitment to raising wages and providing paid sick leave for its employees. Photo courtesy of Pittsburgh City Paper.
Bike Pittsburgh puts pedal to the metal for “National Bike Month”

By Ngani Ndimbie Bike Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh - This May, “National Bike Month” kicks off the bicycling season in Pittsburgh, where pedaling around is one of the best ways to enjoy cool mornings and picturesque days. On Friday, May 20, Bike Pittsburgh will celebrate cycling for transportation by setting up five pop-up “commuter cafés” around town for “Bike to Work Day.” From 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., these pop-up stops will provide free coffee and breakfast treats for everyone who bikes. Since every day is the perfect day to start biking to work or maybe celebrate your daily bike commute, those without bikes may use Healthy Ride, Pittsburgh’s bike share system, to travel to their workplace.

Held as a part of the Venture Outdoors Festival, Bike Pittsburgh is teaming up with “412 Flock!” to showcase many models of family bikes – from handlebar kid-carriers to tandem tagalongs to rolling trailers – for all ages to enjoy. Anyone eager to see the cycles on display can attend the May 21 event from 12 to 3 p.m., at Point State Park. Parents can try out various child-carrying methods and ask questions of the bike-riding adults and kids before deciding to make the investment. Cycling experts will be on hand to offer safety tips and other information on how to have a fun and safe ride as a family.

In its third season, Bike Pittsburgh’s cyclist education program is booming. Riders who are comfortable on a bike, yet uneasy riding on city streets, are free to enroll in a “Confident City Cycling” class. The next class will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 21, at the Allegheny branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in the Northside. This fun, informative course is just $15.

A beginner’s class, “Fundamentals of City Cycling,” is offered in a comfortable indoor setting every third Tuesday of the month at The Wheel Mill indoor bike park (6815 Hamilton Ave). Learn more about all of the aforementioned offerings at http://bikepgh.org/citycycling.

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School Breakfast continued from page 1

Pittsburgh Public Schools stands out in the region for making sure students get a chance to eat everyday,” she said. “Out of seventy-three school districts surveyed by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), PPS was one of only twenty-three that met FRAC’s target of seventy low-income students eating breakfast for every 100 eating lunch.”

Most of the schools within The Bulletin’s demographic area serve breakfast to more than half of their student population. Pittsburgh Fulton ranks first in Allegheny County for feeding the highest percentage of students (82%). At Pittsburgh Arsenal, 74% of students eat breakfast. Pittsburgh Woolslair serves 61%; Pittsburgh Sunny-side serves 60%; and Pittsburgh Dillworth serves half of its student body.

“We know that one in five children in our region face hunger but, as a community, we can solve it,” the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank’s president and CEO, Lisa Scales, pledged. “As the network of school districts and agencies supporting one another grows to ensure all children have access to school meal programs, I am confident that the number of students benefiting from school breakfast programs will continue to increase.” To read the report in its entirety, visit www.alliesforchildren.org.
Familylinks: up with East Liberty families
By Elizabeth Sensky East Liberty Development, Inc.

East Liberty - Familylinks and East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) are partnering to bring more social services to struggling families and individuals in East Liberty. Familylinks provides wide-ranging, family-centered services throughout southwestern Pennsylvania. Services offered fall under three broad categories: behavioral health, education, and community and youth/family services.

The organization was founded in 2001 when two human services organizations, The Whale's Tale and Parent & Child Guidance Center, merged. With Familylinks, the focus is on integration. Families in the program are given the support they need to face mental health issues, developmental disabilities, addictions, abuse and other life challenges.

“Whatever it takes” is the organization’s unofficial motto.

“Once a family or individual is referred to the program, our resource coordinator is responsible for helping the clients make appropriate and individualized linkages and promote full participation with whatever resources they need. For example: housing, education, health care, transportation, job training, etc. Everything is geared toward increasing independence and self-sufficiency,” Paul Tedesco, Familylinks’ Senior Director of Behavioral Health Services, explained.

Personalized attention and support is something ELDI views as a valuable resource that might be extended to more residents in East Liberty and neighboring communities. As Ted Melnyk, ELDI’s Director of Family, Community and Social Equity, summarized, “To make a long story short, we are partnering with Familylinks to create a program focused on Section-8 or public housing tenants.”

Over the first year, ELDI and Familylinks aim to connect with fifteen to twenty families in the East Liberty area. The services are designed to enable residents to meet eligibility requirements for the Circles program, in which the goal is to get people to incomes of at least 200% of the poverty level. Once ELDI identifies a family or individual as a good match for the Familylinks program, they are typically seen within twenty-four hours of referral. The partnership is being funded by a grant from The Pittsburgh Foundation, a community foundation that connects donors to projects addressing critical needs of the Pittsburgh community. It is one solution being pursued to ensure East Liberty remains inclusive for all its residents. “We’ve physically built a mixed-income community where one-third of our neighborhood is permanent, affordable housing. New neighbors continue to join the community through market-rate developments, but we want more than just a physical mix,” Melnyk said.

“How can people across races and socio-economics get to know each other? How can long-time residents flourish and remain in our changing neighborhood?” he asked, addressing the proverbial white elephant in the neighborhood conversation.

“We strongly believe that the Circles program can help accomplish this vision of a truly mixed-income community, and that Familylinks can play a vital role in getting us there.”

In late March, ELDI hosted a property manager luncheon at Familylinks’ East Liberty offices in an effort to cultivate partnerships with local landlords to help identify participants for the program.

For more information, contact Ted Melnyk at ted.melnyk@eastliberty.org. To learn more about Circles and Familylinks, visit http://circle-sphg.org and familylinks.org.

Tree Pittsburgh puts down roots in Bloomfield
By Christina Howell Bloomfield Development Corporation

Bloomfield - Communities gain long-term benefits from trees, from raising property values to significantly reducing storm water runoff. For a business district, the effects of trees can help their bottom line; research shows that visitors are willing to spend more in a commercial district lined with trees, which also increases their positive impression of the neighborhood.

Several studies have even linked trees in an area with higher property values in that area. In Bloomfield, there are two ways neighbors can help increase the number of trees in Bloomfield: one can plant trees on their own property, or, alternatively, apply to plant a street tree in front of their home or business.

TreeVitalize, a state-funded program aiming to increase the urban tree canopy, accepts applications from groups that include residents and commercial property owners; the program will help remove pavement and also provide stakes, ties, mulch, and trees. Currently, Bloomfield’s Mathilda St. neighbors, who have already submitted an application to TreeVitalize, are still able to add local properties to the application until June 1.

Those interested in applying for a street tree before June 1, or those who are interested in planting a tree in their yard, should contact BDC by calling 412-681-8800 or reaching out via email at contact@bloomfieldnow.org.

Bellow: Spring planting efforts are already underway in neighborhoods across the city. Thanks to local advocacy, Bloomfield is next. Photo courtesy of Tree Pittsburgh.
DIY school looks to hone skills in Garfield, connect with arts community

By Amber Epps Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - Growing up in Pennsylvania, Kelly Malone always admired her parents’ creative abilities. While "mom worked out of a sewing room and dad did his woodworking in the garage," Malone thought it was strange to see two people who so loved making things be confined to such small work spaces.

She wanted to create a space where people could be social, make things, and get their hands dirty together – all in a casual environment where everyone feels at home. Seven years ago, Malone started the workshop of her dreams in San Francisco. "It was a little rock-and-roll, not 'your mom's' crafts. I promoted it in dive bars by making free beer koozies for folks with my sewing machine," she said. As the city's cost-of-living shot through the roof, one of its resident makers contemplated moving to a "Do It Yourself" (DIY) kind of town to build an even better workshop from scratch. The plan was to add more experimental arts programming and tap into an off-trend creative community, one that thinks a bit more outside-of-the-box. Enter: Garfield's arts corridor along Penn Ave.

"Pittsburgh is rock-and-roll, DIY, and full of creative people. Penn Avenue is a big part of that; from Jason at Most Wanted working on his demolition derby cars to Mr. Roboto hosting shows and Spak promoting poetry through pizza, this avenue has a great DIY energy."

— Kelly Malone, Workshop PGH

Right from the start, Malone told The Bulletin she knew the neighborhood was a perfect fit for Workshop PGH. "Pittsburgh is rock-and-roll, DIY, and full of creative people. Penn Avenue is a big part of that. From Jason at Most Wanted working on his demolition derby cars to Mr. Roboto hosting shows and Spak promoting poetry through pizza, this avenue has a great DIY energy."

The 5122 Penn Ave. location will be similar to what Malone founded in San Francisco. Refocusing her energies on Workshop PGH, a gallery/creative space at 5122 Penn Ave. in Garfield, Malone hopes to engage local artists and entrepreneurs to help them teach other about their endeavors. Photo courtesy of Kelly Malone.

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Area as both teachers and students contribute towards each other’s success. “Workshop SF was the first DIY school of its kind in the country and I put a lot of heart and soul into it. Now there are DIY schools popping up all over and we started something,” Malone said. “I just wanted to take a sewing class with guys and girls where we made cool stuff and listened to good records. I imagined classes that were more social and fun, not such a commitment.”

She is excited to grow her teaching staff and partner with businesses in the area to where things lead. Malone admits that she has already become all too familiar with the pinball machine at Spak Bros. Pizza (5107 Penn Ave.) The pinball wizard looks forward to Unblurred on May 6, when the workshop will showcase its interactive art shows to promote DIY techniques like woodworking, screen printing, and interior design.

Workshop PGH will open for a stripped-down preview party during Unblurred before Malone begins building out the space to begin offering some classes by the end of May. Malone hopes to make her Garfield workshop even more significant than what she founded out in California. “We built a cult following in San Francisco by creating a fun experience that you just can’t get from DIY bloggers, videos, etc,” she said. “We would do events for companies where employees who are tied to their computers all day can put the phones away, have some fun, and just make stuff.”

Workshop PGH is currently looking to recruit creative teachers and partner with all kinds of local businesses. Classes will be offered at the space on Penn Ave., as well as at some makers’ individual studios. Malone encourages those interested in learning more about her workshop to follow @workshopPGH on Instagram, where she will regularly update class schedules and openings. “I’m older and wiser than before and I want to offer more creative programming here because Pittsburgh is a really creative place,” she said. ♦

**Community dialogue: housing in Lawrenceville**

By Lauren Byrne Connelly, Lawrenceville United and Ed Nusser, Lawrenceville Corporation

Lawrenceville - Over the past year, Lawrenceville Corporation (LC) and Lawrenceville United (LU) have hosted a number of community meetings to discuss the housing projects currently planned and underway in the neighborhood. There are approximately 1,000 market-rate residential units in the planning or construction phase throughout Lawrenceville.

Residents, property owners, developers, and elected officials have all recognized the importance of responsible growth - and the community’s vision of developing a ‘housing for all’ strategy - as priorities. Community members want to further explore solutions to preserving affordable housing options in Lawrenceville.

LC and LU are hosting an event focused on the state of housing in Lawrenceville on Saturday, May 7 – from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - at Goodwill of Southwestern PA (118 52nd St.). The event will feature a presentation on the current housing market and recent history of Lawrenceville’s residential real estate market, as well as a panel discussion with local leaders to discuss the menu of tools currently available to preserve affordable housing. LC will also outline the work to date on the “Community Land Trust” initiative [–see “Community Land Trust Lands in Lawrenceville” article from the February 2016 issue of The Bulletin (Vol. 41, No. 2)–].

Partner agencies, local banks and lenders, and community groups will be on hand to provide resources for all those in attendance. Residents can expect to walk away with working knowledge on the current real estate market and information about programs for local homeowners and renters alike.

Refreshments will be provided and there is no cost to attend. Participants can register for the event by calling 412-621-1616 (ext. 106). Notes and information shared at the event will be made available online at [http://lvgopenh.com](http://lvgopenh.com) and [http://lunited.org](http://lunited.org).

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Lawrenceville - One of the chief characteristics of a strong community is the “people to people” connection. So says Leah Patgorski, a volunteer at the organic community garden located on McCandless Ave. and Natrona Way in upper Lawrenceville.

Patgorski, along with fellow resident Amber Book, lead a team of five volunteers in planting and managing this small “garden of eden” in the heart of one of the oldest city neighborhoods. It all began four years ago when Lawrenceville United (LU), which owns the lot, dedicated it for community use. During the first two years, Grow Pittsburgh provided initial training and tools, taught volunteer planners how to create raised beds, and provided them with necessary gardening tools.

Now that they have absorbed the know-how, these volunteers are on their own and, as such, responsible the garden’s planting procedures and general maintenance. Not only has the McCandless garden transformed a vacant lot into a community resource, it also provides the community with an integrated activity to entice participants of all ages. Anyone who is willing to roll up their sleeves and dig in, and anyone who just wants to learn about gardening, are welcome to join the group.

Neighborhood kids, mainly middle-schoolers, came together and formed one of the garden’s most unexpected volunteer groups. Driven first by curiosity and then genuine interest, they continue showing up on a regular basis to lend a hand with the planting, weeding, watering, and “debugging” of the garden environment.

During the growing season, everyone under the age of eighteen, regardless of whether or not they live in Lawrenceville, is welcome to get planting; young gardeners will enjoy a weekly meal sourced from the very vegetables they nurtured.

Patgorski and Book believe that by engaging the children in active, results-oriented agriculture, the garden will foster their sense of pride and ownership. As a result, these adolescents tend to protect their green-thumbed accomplishments; garden vandalism has decreased significantly over the past four years.

Lettuce, spinach, kale, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, corn, squash, melons, peas, grapes, artichokes, strawberries, rhubarb, and ground cherries round out the array of foodstuffs grown and shared among volunteers. All of the McCandless crops are sustainably-grown and pesticide-free. Volunteers even collect rainwater to support their irrigation efforts and regularly pay it forward by turning compost into fertilizer.

Occasional Sunday brunches and a community information session are on the calendar this year at the garden. Also of note: a local Girl Scouts troop is planning to create a “Little Free Library” on site. As always, additional volunteers are more than welcome.

On Sunday, June 12, the garden will take part in the Lawrenceville Garden Tour, which is to be held from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. The free, self-guided tour is an annual event of the Lawrenceville Hospitality Association. On the day of the tour, route maps will be available at the entrance to Allegheny Cemetery (4734 Butler St.). Visit http://lha15201.org for more information.
Construction Junction (CJ) is a non-profit organization, located in North Point Breeze at 214 N. Lexington Ave., that has a licensed and insured deconstruction service that provides its service. It is a free service for residents of Bloomfield, Garfield, and surrounding neighborhoods.

For neighbors who wish to be “green” during their next residential or commercial renovation, CJ’s deconstruction service provides: a walk-through and coordination to remove usable items from an unoccupied property; an experienced, fully-insured Decon staff to remove salvageable materials such as lumber, trim, fixtures, doors, windows, cabinets – anything that can be reused instead of going to a landfill, (benefiting the environment); savings on disposal costs; and job training opportunities for CJ’s partnerships with Goodwill and the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh.

Any goods that are taken out and resold are fully tax deductible, and a receipt for donated items is given. To request a free consultation, call Brian at 412-243-5025 or email bswearingen@constructionjunction.org.
Lawrenceville - When I moved to Lawrenceville eleven years ago, I instantly fell in love with my neighborhood. There was a very noticeable sense of community and, even though I grew up five hours from where I bought my home here, I felt welcomed as if I had lived here my entire life.

I wanted to be part of all of the positive change happening in my neighborhood and found that there were many ways to get involved. Whether it was the annual Independence Day celebration in Arsenal Park or the monthly cleanup efforts or even the annual Art All Night event, there was no shortage of volunteer opportunities.

I quickly found that Lawrenceville United (LU) was the best resource when it came to the well-being of the residents. I initially became active as a member (only $5 per year) by volunteering at cleanups, and also attending their bi-annual membership meetings and frequent development updates. Next to exercising my right to vote for our elected officials, being involved with this organization was the second easiest way to become more connected with my community and understand our pocket of Pittsburgh.

Eventually, I ran for a seat on the LU Board of Directors and have since been elected President. I'm proud of all of the hard work that LU staff and volunteers put into making this a better place to live for the residents.

Being an active member of the LU Board has given me the opportunity to advocate for all of the positive work being done in Lawrenceville, while also acting on behalf of neighbors and friends' priorities as it relates to the transformation of our neighborhood. Anyone and everyone should truly consider applying for a seat on the LU Board.

To apply for a Board position, Lawrenceville residents must first become an active member of LU for at least six months. Applications may be submitted through http://lunited.org.

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**LU Board President counts many ways to get involved in Lawrenceville**

By Steve Sokoloski, Lawrenceville United

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**Bunker Projects continued from page 1**

through April. The show surveys sixteen different artists who have worked with our organization over the years. It celebrates both the launch of a new, online gallery store and our continued relationships with participating creatives.

As an experimental space that works with a lot of multi-media artists outside the focus of commercial art objects, the web gallery store is a new frontier aimed at generating income for Bunker Projects and its affiliated artists. There are so many different ways to interact with the arts, but collecting is a really important one that we need to encourage within our neighborhoods. We want to inspire Pittsburghers and people all over the world to collect the exciting work being made by artists living and working right here.

This way, local artists can continue building dynamic, economically sustainable careers that also enhance our city's commercial districts. All the works featured will be available for purchase through the web gallery store throughout the year, with new selections of work added regularly. Find the gallery store and news of other Bunker Projects and upcoming events at http://bunkerprojects.org.
KST benefit goes “Full Bloom” in East Liberty
By Linda Hoye Kelly Strayhorn Theater

BELOW: Dancers and beat-keepers of all ages get things moving at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater’s (KST) “Full Bloom” dance party. From the Penn Ave. sidewalk to the main lobby, nothing is off limits for performance at the eighth annual Full Bloom on Saturday, June 4. Photo courtesy of KST.

East Liberty - Pittsburghers are preparing to bring out their dancing shoes at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater’s (KST) “Full Bloom” dance party on Saturday, June 4. One of Pittsburgh’s signature events for the past seven years, Full Bloom has offered guests delicious food from Mallorca, K&T’s Fish & Chicken, Mad Mex, People’s, Guacho, Kaya, Salem’s Market & Grill, and many other local partners.

The evening begins with a VIP Reception at KST’s 5941 Penn Ave. location from 7 to 9 p.m. Featuring live entertainment, food and drinks from some of the area’s trendiest establishments, and a dance floor that inspires unrivaled fun and frivolity, this one party where people can let their hair down - while also supporting a summer’s worth of accessible arts events for families and children.

Fueled by live entertainment from some of Pittsburgh’s best deejays in the theater’s historic lobby, the dance party has plans to be quite unstoppable from 9 p.m. until midnight. “My wife, Lynn, and I are delighted to serve as event chairs for KST’s Full Bloom,” Senior Vice President of Marketing at Dollar Bank, Joseph B. Smith, acknowledged.

“Every year, more and more people attend this benefit bash to support ‘East Liberty LIVE!’ The increasing support for the event means that this theater can continue to be a cultural anchor for a uniquely diverse and growing neighborhood,” Smith added.

KST’s executive director, Janera Solomon, appreciates Full Bloom’s potential for more community engagement. “It’s always an exciting evening for the theater and East Liberty,” she said. “We constantly strive to bring quality, accessible arts programming to our friends. This year, we are joined by sponsors such as PNC Bank, Dollar Bank, Duolingo, Shadyside Inn All Suites Hotel, Wagner Insurance, and others. By supporting Full Bloom, our sponsors are ensuring innovative arts experiences are available to more people and providing positive creative activities for the local community.”

Schedule and ticket information, including access to a limited-time “Pay What Makes You Happy” discount, can be found at http://kelly-strayhorn.org.

WPH spotlights importance of organ and tissue transplants
By Morgan Rupert Allegheny Health Network

Bloomfield - Thousands of lives are saved every year because someone makes the selfless choice to become an organ donor. To honor those who gave the gift of life and call attention to the growing need for more people to register as organ donors, Allegheny Health Network (AHN) hosted a variety of April events in commemoration of “National Donate Life Month.”

West Penn Hospital (WPH) honored those who gave the gift of life by holding a flag raising ceremony on Friday, April 1. Representatives of WPH and the Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE) joined a recent stem cell transplant recipient and others to speak about the importance of organ donation. WPH also participated in “National Donate Life Blue & Green Day” on Friday, April 15 by encouraging people to wear blue-and-green-colored clothing in memory and appreciation of organ donors.

“Organ and tissue transplants give thousands of people new leases on life every day. But for every individual who receives an organ donation, there are many more that wait,” WPH President & CEO Ron Andro said. “As someone whose family has been directly impacted by organ donation, I know the life-changing impact that organ donation has.”

The AHN Transplant Institute is a nationally recognized organ transplantation program that has provided patients with high-quality, innovative and compassionate care for decades. The AHN Transplant Institute is ranked among the top ten heart transplant centers nationally - and number one in the state. The hospital’s heart, kidney, and liver transplant patients experience the best three-year survival rates in the region.

The transplantation program is accredited by the Foundation for Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT). FACT accreditation demonstrates commitment to quality in cellular therapy and bone marrow transplantation through adherence to rigorous standards. Among the first in the nation to join the National Marrow Donor Program, WPH is the only hospital in the region with a blood and marrow transplant program approved by the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology (ACTION).

“The FACT accreditation speaks to the skill and dedication of everyone involved with the Cell Transplantation Program,” Cyrus M. Khan, MD, hematologist and assistant director of the program, explained. “West Penn Hospital is a recognized leader in the treatment of patients with leukemias, myelodysplastic syndromes, Hodgkin’s and non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, myeloma and related disorders.”

Through participation in clinical trials, the transplant team has developed new techniques for harvesting, purifying, and transplanting stem cells, from bone marrow, peripheral blood, and umbilical cord blood to make transplants safer and more effective than ever before.

“The spectrum of care ensures that every patient has access to every possible treatment, procedure and clinical trial best suited for them,” Andro said.

More than 120,000 people are currently waiting for life-saving organs and tissue donations. Together, with CORE, WPH encourages everyone to become an organ donor by visiting please visit their local DMV website. For more information on the cell transplantation program, visit http://ahn.org/specialties/cancer-institute or call 412-362-8677.

WesBanco bank senior vice-president Joseph Flynn (center) presents the bank’s 2016 contribution to the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation to Aggie Brose (left) and Rick Swartz. Photo by John Colombo.

Below: Dancers and beat-keepers of all ages get things moving at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater’s (KST) “Full Bloom” dance party. From the Penn Ave. sidewalk to the main lobby, nothing is off limits for performance at the eighth annual Full Bloom on Saturday, June 4. Photo courtesy of KST.
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 placement or thorough edits of any listings. Announcements for the May issue of The Bulletin are due by May 15. Please submit listings using our online form at http://bit.ly/bulletin_submit.

Sorry, but we do not accept listings by phone.

**May 4 - Monday**

**FRIENDSHIP**

**F4 Returns 2 Baum Grove**

F4’s annual Flower & Folk Festival will take place from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, the day before Mothers’ Day. The Festival benefits maintenance of the Playpark at Pittsburgh Montessori and Baum Grove, the park behind the Baum Boulevard Alldis where the Festival is held. Performers King Fez, Los Sabaros, Donna Occhipinti, Barrels to Beethoven, and Aerial Silks will accompany children’s activities, food, flowers and plants, raffle and book tables, exhibitors, and an artists’ market. (Contact Martha Terry at materry@pitt.edu) Thanks to Festival sponsors Giant Eagle, The Watson Institute, City Council Members Deborah Gross and Dan Gilman, and Friendship Community Group.

**May 5 - Tuesday**

**BLOOMFIELD**

**Housing Inventory**

Join volunteers and community members to kick off Bloomfield’s new housing program! On Saturday, May 7, volunteers will conduct a property condition inventory. Two 3-hour shifts will begin at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. with lunch at 12:00 p.m. Meet at 366 Gross Street, 15224. Please register to volunteer by calling 412.681.8800 or email christina@bloomfieldnoc.org.

**May 7 - Thursday**

**LAWRENCEVILLE**

**Better Streets Lawrenceville Meeting**

Lawrenceville neighbors and friends looking to make our community a safer and more enjoyable place to bike and walk. Join us! We meet the first Thursday of every month, 6:30 at the BikePGH office - 188 43rd St. Pittsburgh, PA

**May 7 - Saturday**

**BLOOMFIELD**

**Mom & Baby Expo**

5-7:30pm / Free / West Penn Hospital, Wintergarden (North Tower, 1st floor). Lots to do and see! Meet OB/GYNs, pediatricians, midwives, doula and prenatal yoga instructors. Also available: nursing bra fittings, home safety check appointments, homemade baby food recipes, pampering products for moms, 529 college savings plans and much more! Light appetizers for adults and snacks for children available. Register now at 1.855.856.0319 or visit meet-dr-right.com.

**May 8 - Sunday**

**LAWRENCEVILLE**

**West Philadelphia Orchestra Performance**

West Philadelphia Orchestra Balkan Brass Band is in town for the Pittonkatonk festival, and has agreed to stop by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Lawrenceville on Sunday, May 8th at 12 p.m. Bring the whole family to jump, swing, dance, and play with them. If the weather is nice, the performance will be outside in the parking lot of the Stephen Foster Center next to the Library. Featuring activities for kids, feel free to bring your lunch and celebrate Spring with your neighbors.

**May 10 - Tuesday**

**BLOOMFIELD**

**Look Good, Feel Better**

10am – 12pm / Free / West Penn Hospital, Karen Jones Room (North Tower, 2nd floor). A free program from the American Cancer Society designed for women dealing with hair loss and skin changes from chemotherapy and radiation. You will learn specific techniques to help make the most of your appearance while undergoing treatment. You will also take home a makeup package valued at $200. To register, call 1.800.227.2345.

**May 11 - Wednesday**

**FRIENDSHIP**

**Library Book Sale**

Support Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh by coming to the library for the Friends annual book sale, featuring books, cds, dvd and more! Proceeds from all Friends events benefit programming at our historic Lawrenceville library branch and throughout the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh system! Sale starts when the Library doors open at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 7th.

**Meet Ben Stoviak, the new Garfield Night Market Coordinator**

Stoviak has enjoyed working with the Three Rivers Arts Festival, Silver Eye Center for Photography, Pittsburgh Lesbian and Gay Film Society, and several other local arts organizations. While he loves hanging out in the garden, cooking, picking through antiques, swimming, bourbon, live music, the arts, and the local food scene, Stoviak is also very excited to join the Garfield Night Market this summer. Stop by S. Pacific and Penn Ave. on May 6 to say hello to our new coordinator.
Waves Learning Party

Assemble, 5125 Penn Ave. – from 4 to 6 p.m. Ever thought about how ocean tides work, or why thunder and lightning never seem to happen at the same time? What do light, sound, and oceans all have in common? Waves! Join Assemble for a Learning Party on Wednesday, May 11th to learn all about and make some waves! This event is free and open to all ages – we invite kids and grown-ups and everyone in between. Hands-on activities will be led by local makers, scientists, artists, and technologists. All materials provided.

Free Survival Workshop

Learn how to prepare for a long-term power grid blackout or almost any mega-disaster. The Citizens of GridEmergency.Org will explain the electric power grid vulnerability and explain why it’s wise to be prepared. He’ll also show how you can protect yourself and loved ones. Bloomfield-Garfield Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave. Wednesday, May 11th, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

May 12 - Thursday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free Genealogy Class

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville and Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania have teamed up to offer free computer classes to residents who want to brush up on their computer skills. The class topic on May 12 is Genealogy. Students will learn how to use Ancestry.com to get an overview of genealogy. Classes are held in Goodwill’s computer lab at 118 52nd St. and run from 6 to 8 p.m. Participants must register for this free class in advance by calling 412-632-1842.

Work Nights

Stay up late at the Library: Network. Get stuff done. Connect with other innovators. Research your ideas and jumpstart your ingenuity! Come to the Library for a creative co-working environment; guidance from library professionals well-versed in technology; entrepreneurship; working sessions with members of Open Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Code & Supply; coffee and snacks. Thursday, May 12; 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Lawrenceville (279 Fisk St.) Call 412.682.3668 or email lawrenceville@carnegielibrary.org for more info.

May 14 - Saturday

BLOOMFIELD

Cancer Screening Event

9am – 1pm / Free (screenings are for adults 18 years and older) / West Penn Hospital. Screenings include: colorectal, prostate, breast, skin, cervical, neck and throat, hepatitis C/HIV, lung, and genetic cancer risk assessment. Cancer-related health information, such as screenings, services and prevention will be offered by medical professionals. Pre-registration is required; space is limited. Call to register: 412.DOCTORS and select option 2, then option 1.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Steel City Pizza Fest

What is the Steel City Pizzafest? It is Pittsburgh’s first free-to-the-public music and pizza festival. It features 6 hours of the best bands in the Pittsburgh area. Blues, Roots Rock, Modern Rock and more. All Family Friendly and in partnership with The Lawrenceville United Community Group and the Friends of Arsenal Park Committee. This one-of-a-kind festival is limited to 15 local pizza shops and restaurants. It’s a great way to promote some of the best Pizzas in town. Come out to Arsenal Park, from noon to 6 p.m. to enjoy the festivities. Contact Michael Devine at 412-680-4505 or www.zomboworld.com. Event info available at https://www.facebook.com/pg/pizzafest/.

May 15 - Sunday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free Senior Dinner

A free pasta dinner for Lawrenceville residents ages 65 or older will be held at Kaleidoscope Cafe (108 43rd St.) on May 16th. Dinner begins at 5 p.m. and reservations can be made until 7 p.m. Call 412-683-4004 to reserve your table or to volunteer. BYOB.

May 18 - Wednesday

STANTON HEIGHTS

Monthly SHNA Meeting

Heads Up! Lawrenceville Farmers’ Market Moves to Arsenal Park

The Lawrenceville Farmers’ Market is changing locations, and will be held in Arsenal Park in Central Lawrenceville beginning this summer! Arsenal Park is located between 39th and 40th St., between Penn Ave. and Butler St. Lawrenceville United (L) surveyed more than 250 Market customers and received an overwhelming response from residents who wanted the market to engage the neighborhood’s fantastic green spaces in a central location that could accommodate access from all three wards.

With opportunities for kids to play and families to picnic, neighbors could enjoy the natural beauty of a park instead of walking through warms in a parking lot. The Farmers’ Market committee feels that the best location to create a sustainable fresh food source for the Lawrenceville community is Arsenal Park. We are so grateful to have such wonderful hosts in Goodwill, Allegheny Valley Bank, and the 10th Ward. We can’t wait to see you in the Park! Running from June 4 to October 29, the Saturday market will operate on the 40th St. side of Arsenal Park from 1 to 4 pm.

May 21 - Saturday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Harvey Milk Day

“IF you want to change the world, start in your own neighborhood.” - Harvey Milk. On Saturday, May 21 celebrate the legacy of activist Harvey Milk by joining Lawrenceville United, Tree Pittsburgh, Gay 4 Good, and Friends of Arsenal Park to care for young trees throughout the neighborhood. We will meet at Arsenal Park at 9 am – 40th/39th Streets. Activities will include: picking up litter; pulling weeds; planting flowers; spreading mulch; having fun!

May 25 - Wednesday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Meet n’ Greet

Interested in learning more about Lawrenceville United or joining our Board of Directors? We are hosting a meet-and-greet on Wednesday, May 25th from 5:30pm – 7:30pm at our offices, located at: 4839 Butler St.

May 26 - Thursday

LAWRENCEVILLE

Open Computer Lab

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville and Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania have teamed up to offer free computer classes to residents who want to brush up on their computer skills. The class on May 26 is an open lab for students to work on resumes, job search, or email with an instructor on hand to help students as needed. Classes are held in Goodwill’s computer lab at 118 52nd St. and run from 6 to 8 p.m. Participants must register in advance by calling 412-632-1842.

Ongoing Opportunities

FRIENDSHIP

EVO Summer Camp

Are you looking to enroll your child into a Summer Day Camp where they can have fun, meet lots of new friends, and participate in art, STEAM activities, sports and academic activities in a safe and nurturing environment? If you answered yes to any or all of the above, register your child for the Earthen Vessels Outreach Summer Day Camp 2016! Located in the Friendship-Bloomfield area, Earthen Vessels Outreach’s six-week camp begins

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BGC Seeks Employers to Host Interns

Utilizing funding provided by the city of Pittsburgh’s “Learn and Earn” program, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) is expecting to place 150+ youths in worksites and other job settings this summer. The BGC is looking for employers who would like to host youth interns. Youth applicants will be matched to sites according to their interests; these young workers are eligible to participate in a variety of work environments. If you would like to host one or more 14- to 21 year old youth interns this summer, please call Rick Flanagan at 412-206-9849.

June Deadline for The Bulletin = Friday, May 13