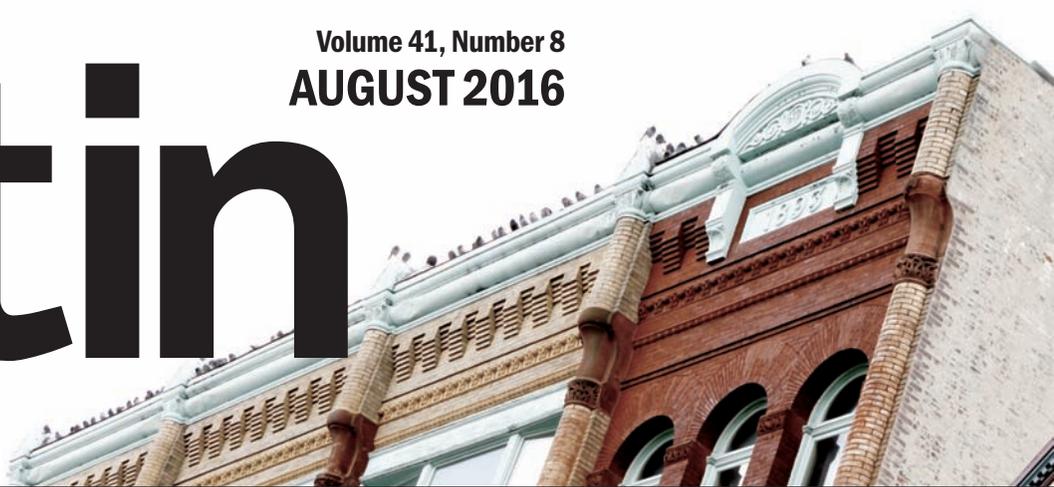


# the Bulletin

Volume 41, Number 8  
AUGUST 2016



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

## Negley Ave. bike lane project now more fact than fiction

By Elizabeth Sensky  
East Liberty Development, Inc.

*Negley Ave.* - "All roads lead to Negley" is both an interesting statement and a driving sentiment behind a new project from Pittsburgh's Department of City Planning. The project aims to introduce a series of bike lanes and safety changes to Negley Ave. in the Friendship, East Liberty, and Shadyside neighborhoods by the spring of 2017.

The idea for these bike lanes is no new concept. In fact, a bike lane on Negley Ave. was first proposed in Pittsburgh's 1999 bike plan. In recent years, the idea has gained traction thanks to the city's growing collection of neighborhood-based bicycle and pedestrian committees. Each year, these groups provide the city with their "top project" requests; Negley Ave. has been the top request from the East Liberty/Highland Park Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee and other organizations for the past few years.

"Negley is an important project because it will serve as a connector for many bike lanes that currently dead-end there and leave bicyclists stranded on a pretty unfriendly street," Kristin Saunders, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for the See **Bike Lanes** | page 7



**ABOVE:** Scilla Warhaftig (right) takes Ja'Ron Brown (left) and Deaudrick Lewis on a July 21 flower hunt at Borland Garden in East Liberty. Tucked behind Pittsburgh Obama School, the public green space is part of an "intentional community" featuring native foods, orchards, and pollination gardens. Warhaftig and other volunteers steward community engagement by teaching local residents and their children about plantlife. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

## Garfield revs up for annual Pittsburgh Art Car Festival

By Ethan Lennox *Bulletin* contributor

*Garfield* - Jason Sauer always felt himself to be "left-of-center" in his approach to making art. Alongside his wife Nina, Sauer co-owns the art gallery and community

See **Art Car Festival** | page 4

4

## Designs on Heth's Run: green space and stormwater solutions

By John Kohl *Bulletin* contributor

*Highland Park* - Heth's Run sits at the base of Highland Park, PPG Aquarium, and the Pittsburgh Zoo's overflow parking lot. While it was once a vital waterway, the

See **Heth's Run** | page 10

10



**ABOVE:** Members of the Pittsburgh chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) hoist their allegiance into the air during the downtown Bicentennial Parade on Saturday, July 9. Turn to page 9 for more glimpses of the parade celebrations. Photo by John Colombo.

A Publication of The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

the Bulletin

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PITTSBURGH, PA  
Permit No. 2403

## Lawrenceville United turns fifteen, renews local commitment

A message from Lawrenceville United's Board of Directors

### Commentary

Lawrenceville – This year, Lawrenceville United (LU) celebrates its fifteenth year of improving and protecting the quality of life for all Lawrenceville residents and stakeholders. As we look back, both LU and the neighborhood have much to be proud of today.

Crime has decreased by almost 60%. Hundreds of new trees have been planted and maintained. Dozens of blighted and dilapidated properties have been repurposed into side yards, green spaces, and affordable homes. New neighborhood amenities like a dog park, a tree park, community food gardens, and the Lawrenceville Farmers' Market have been created.

All of this did not come by accident or without effort. It took many residents volunteering their time and doing the often unglamorous work of showing up for block watches, tree plantings, clean-ups, board meetings, and long community development meetings. It has also included planning neighborhood events, and sustaining important community programs.

Standing on the shoulders of this legacy, we have some new faces in LU's leadership positions: a new executive director in Dave Breingan, as well as several newly elected Board members joining those returning to LU's all-resident, all-volunteer Board of Directors. And while our work plan will

continue to evolve to reflect the needs of the neighborhood, our mission remains the same: improving and protecting the quality of life for all in Lawrenceville.

As the neighborhood continues to change, our challenge is to meet that "for all" part - for families raising kids in Lawrenceville, for seniors, for people at risk of displacement due to rising costs, for residents concerned about the explosion of local development. True to our name, LU depends on all of us working together to meet these challenges and to find solutions, so we invite everyone to get involved.

There are many ways to contribute: become a member for \$5 per year to vote for board elections; work with PEP Rally to strengthen our neighborhood public schools; join Senior AdvantAGE, which supports residents aged 55 and over; volunteer with one of our many resident groups, like the Lawrenceville Tree Tenders or the Lawrenceville Organic Community Garden; come out to one of our upcoming events; play some games and cut a rug at the annual "Live! in Lawrenceville" fundraiser and party on September 17.

We also invite you to stop by our office at 4839 Butler St., give us a call at (412) 802-7220, or drop us a line at [info@lunited.org](mailto:info@lunited.org). We look forward to working with you. ♦

## PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

By Aggie Brose Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - On June 15, Pittsburgh Police officers were dispatched to a report of a person shot behind a house in the 400 block of N. Aiken Ave. and arrived to find that the 32 year-old female victim had already been transported to a hospital by private means. The victim indicated that she had been shot twice, once in each leg, and said she could not see who was doing the shooting. This case is now being handled by the city's Group Violence Intervention (GVI) detectives.

Following a drug investigation at a residence in the 100 block of N. Graham St., Pittsburgh Police Narcotics detectives conducted a search of the premises on June 30. Detectives reportedly recovered twenty "bricks" of heroin (a "brick" contains approximately fifty stamp bags of heroin) along with nearly \$4,000 in cash. Rudy Coghe, 60, of Bloomfield, was arrested at the scene and charged with felony drug offenses.

Zone 5 police reports indicate that a shooting took place in the 5100 block of Dearborn St. on July 14. A 28 year-old male victim was taken by private means to West Penn Hospital after being shot. Responding officers located the corresponding crime scene in the 5100 block. The victim was conscious, but in critical condition, and was transferred to Allegheny General Hospital for treatment. GVI detectives are currently investigating this case.

Apparently, in the recent wake of national tragedies, Zone 5 officers have been receiving numerous threats. Local residents are encouraged to send a "thank you" card to Zone 5 officers for keeping local neighborhoods safe. Cards can be mailed to: Pittsburgh Police Department - Zone 5 / 1401 Washington Blvd. / Pittsburgh, PA 15206. ♦

**TAKING MEDICATIONS JUST GOT EASIER!**

Stop Struggling to Manage Your Medication

There's an easier way with **AccuPac**®

1 We sort your prescriptions into conveniently labeled packets...

2 And deliver a 30-day supply in an easy-to-use dispensing box!

SMITH, JACKIE 1 / 2

**Morning**

2 ASPIRIN EC	81mg	Time Of Dose
1 FELODIPINE ER	2.5mg	
1 ZOCOR	20mg	Strength
2 VITAMIN C	500mg	Medication

**NO** Sorting pills  
**NO** Trips to the pharmacy  
**NO** Calling in refills

**All for the same co-pay!**

Not Child Resistant. EXP:6/24/2018



“It's easy to forget if you have taken your pills and the AccuPac helps my patients stay on top of their schedule. This is why I recommend the AccuPac to all my patients who are managing multiple medications.”

Nadia, Registered Nurse

©2016 Dapper Magazine

**AccuSERV** PHARMACY

5020 Centre Ave. • Pittsburgh

The better way to manage your medications!

call 412-586-5410 or 800-727-3583

Learn more: [www.accuservpharmacy.com](http://www.accuservpharmacy.com)

## Allegheny Cemetery offers new “Mayors of Pittsburgh” tours

By Nancy Foley Allegheny Cemetery

*Lawrenceville* - To commemorate the City of Pittsburgh's Bicentennial Celebration, the Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association, a [501 (c)(3)] non-profit organization, now offers self-guided tours where guests can visit the final resting place of twenty-eight Pittsburgh mayors in historic Allegheny Cemetery.

Notable stops include section 11, the final resting place of the city's first mayor, Ebenezer Denny, a compatriot of George Washington and famed hero of the Revolutionary War. In section 29, cemetery guests will find Joseph Barker, who served from 1850-1851 after being elected into office while incarcerated (one of at least eight prison stints). Section 20 boasts Mayor George W. Guthrie, who served from 1906-1909 before President Woodrow Wilson appointed him as the United States Ambassador to Japan.

Then, there is Charles Kline in section 40; his service was marked by scandal, a conviction on charges of corruption, and a now infamous “oriental rug.” In section 33, William McNair's headstone simply reads, “Husband,” though public record will remember him best for his antics in office - like when he named his chauffeur as the Director of Public Safety and stood on his head for press photos. At every stop, visitors will find a plaque bearing an image of the mayor (when available), as well as details on their terms served, political affiliations, and mayoral accomplishments.

No reservations are needed; self-guided tours are free to the public. Maps, brochures, and literature detailing the cemetery's history and other famous “residents” are available at the administration office (open Monday through Friday until 5 p.m. and Saturday until 4 p.m.). ♦

## Local church hosts “Neighborhood Day” festivities in Morrow Park

By Karen Jacobs First United Methodist Church of Pittsburgh

**AT RIGHT:** Children enjoy the festivities at “Neighborhood Day,” a community engagement event hosted by the First United Methodist Church of Pittsburgh. The Bloomfield congregation looks to reach out to new neighbors and encourage “community-building” at its Aug. 14 event. Photo by Ron Chan.



*Bloomfield* - On Sunday, Aug. 14, the corner of S. Aiken and Centre Aves. will be filled with tents and festivities welcoming nearby communities to a fun-filled event sponsored by First United Methodist Church of Pittsburgh (First UMC, 5401 Centre Ave.).

Running from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Morrow Park, “Neighborhood Day” begins with morning worship, followed by self-guided tours of the church at 11:15 a.m. A nearby street will be closed to vehicular traffic to provide space for food trucks, along with a local fire truck that children will undoubtedly enjoy.

Before a pleasant background of music, attendees can navigate the many food options and rest at tables in the shade. The church lawn will play host to a free yoga class, open to the public.

Children will have plenty of space to enjoy face painting, chalk drawing, jump rope, magic tricks, and other activities provided by the Children's Museum. The congregation will provide homemade cookies, watermelon, and cold drinks at no charge.

Mission opportunities include packing bags of goodies and essentials to be given to the local homeless population.

As newly-appointed Pastor Jim Walker noted, “First church is about helping build community. The church is centrally located and it's the perfect place to have shared neighborhood events where we connect with each other and get to know our neighbors.”

Information about other ministries of First UMC will also be made available during Neighborhood Day. All events will be held outdoors, weather permitting. ♦

## the Bulletin

A publication of the  
Bloomfield-Garfield  
Corporation



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

### Volume 41, Number 8

The deadline for the September issue is **Friday, August 12, 2016.**

**Editorial and Advertising Offices** • 5149 Penn Ave. • Pittsburgh, PA 15224  
412-441-6950 (ext. 13) • Andrew@Bloomfield-Garfield.org

**Total Circulation** • 21,000 Copies • 18,000 Mailed • 3,000 Bulk Dropped

**Staff** • Andrew McKeon, Editor • Keith Williams, Photography Intern • Aryssa Shultz, Editorial Intern • Martin Pochapin, Advertising • Rick Swartz, Proofreading • Mary Anne Stevanus, Office Manager • Trib Total Media, Printing & Mailing • CISP, Distribution

**Board Meetings** are held by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month, at 5321 Penn Ave., and are open to the public. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the publisher.

*The Bulletin* is made possible in part by funding from Dollar Bank, WesBanco Bank, Allegheny Valley Bank, and The Heinz Endowments.

<http://bloomfield-garfield.org> © 2016 by Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

**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.



### “Like” the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

(<http://facebook.com/BloomGarCorp>)

for the latest neighborhood information and community photos



Toddler and pre-school programs  
Call for information or to schedule a tour.

### Arsenal Family & Children's Center

336 S. Aiken Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Phone: 412.345.0008

Email: [afcc@arsenalfamily.org](mailto:afcc@arsenalfamily.org)



Arsenal Family  
& Children's Center

Now accepting registrations for Fall 2016

# Art Car Festival *continued from page 1*

organization known as “Most Wanted Fine Art” (MWFA, 5015 Penn Ave.) in Garfield.

As an “art car” owner, Sauer is a member of a community that exists outside the mainstream art world. “Art car owners are visionary artists,” he said. Some customize their vehicles by affixing objects - a mosaic of broken mirrors, for example - while many others simply paint unique designs all over their cars. Now elevated as art, these mutant vehicles exude a kind of anti-establishment attitude, defying the conventional idea of visiting a gallery and quietly observing canvases on the wall.

Of course, being ideologically left-of-center, Garfield’s resident artist extraordinaire brings a very unique approach to this already unconventional scene. “Most art car owners plan on keeping the car forever,” he said, “or at least until someone T-bones it.” Sauer, on the other hand, would rather just skip to the T-boning. For the last twenty-two years, he has converted at least one car - full paint job and all - every year for entry into demolition derbies across the country. Sauer’s inimitable style will be on full display at the fifth annual “Pittsburgh Art Car Festival,” which he is organizing in partnership with Penn Ave Arts in Motion.

On Sept. 24, the free festival will be returning to its original location at the intersection of Winebiddle St. and Penn Ave. Intended to celebrate Garfield’s quirky art scene, the festival will feature artists, musicians, poets, live painters, vendors, kids’ activities, and different varieties of art cars. Because the art car community in the area is not particularly strong, Sauer said he “invite[s] all these other scenes to be part of it.”

Any kind of customized vehicle - whether it is a lowrider truck, motorcycle, Porsche, or demolition derby car - is welcome to participate. “If you’re putting stickers on your car or painting it a different color... or making a lowrider out of it or something, we celebrate that whole idea,” Sauer noted. His welcoming spirit is what makes MWFA, and its neighborhood, distinctive

in the art world. Sauer wants to focus the festival entirely on Garfield and encourage as much local participation as possible; he has invited neighborhood rappers and other artists to perform at the art car festival.

Interestingly enough, he was not even aware that a community of art car owners even existed until about six years ago when Nina turned to him and said, “What you are doing has a name.” Knowing that he was not alone, Sauer began plotting to go on tour and meet other art car owners. “I’ve been painting and smashing these cars forever in the name of art,” he said. Now, he could finally share his artworks with fellow enthusiasts.

After the Sept. 24 festival, the Sauers will spend a few months driving around to a dozen or so cities, visiting D.I.Y. arts districts and, naturally, demolition derbies. This year, they will be taking three art cars, at least one of which will be on display during the festival. Their trip includes a stop in Orlando for a Thanksgiving weekend derby before heading to Miami Beach for international art fair Art Basel. “We’re hoping to cruise Miami with a car on a trailer making all sorts of noise,” Sauer said.

Sauer readily concedes that his participation in the demolition derbies is not always viewed seriously by the other drivers. Derby competitions award first prize to the last car that is running and able to make a hit on another car. “We’re perennial losers,” he admitted, “but we do it in the name of art.”

This time around the derby circuit, though, the driver is feeling a little more optimistic about his chances. “We’re building big and bad cars for the first time ever,” he noted. Sauer and his team of collaborators are also converting a Toyota Prius into the first hybrid demolition derby car [see picture below].

The violent energy of the derbies reminds him of being in a “mosh pit” at a rock show; Sauer also remembers watching his grandfather tow the incapacitated derby

vehicles out of the scrum as a kid.

After they are demolished, Sauer splays the vehicular carcasses on the walls of his Penn Ave. gallery. He sees the whole process as an art form that is an “American original,” just like the art car itself.

“We’re reusing something that’s going to the scrapyard,” he said. “We’re pulling it out and giving it one last breath of life, the most exciting breath it’s ever had...and then we’re smashing the hell out of some Detroit metal.” Then, in perhaps the boldest example of his left-of-center approach, Sauer hangs the metal on the wall and calls it high art.

To learn more about the Pittsburgh Art Car Festival - including information about participating as a vendor, performer, or car owner - visit [PittsburghArtCar.com](http://PittsburghArtCar.com). ♦



**ABOVE:** Jason Sauer, co-owner of Most Wanted Fine Art (MWFA, 5015 Penn Ave.) gallery in Garfield, plots his next “art car” creation in front of some works that barely survived a demolition derby. Photo courtesy of MWFA.

## EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Some people think that choosing a modest memorial means sacrificing service. Our commitment to excellent service allows us to say that no matter what kind of a memorial you have in mind, we’ll provide you with the best service available, bar none.

### D’Alessandro Funeral Home & Crematory Ltd.

“Always a Higher Standard”

Daniel T. D’Alessandro, Spvr.  
4522 Butler St. • Pittsburgh, PA 15201  
Phone: 412-682-6500 • Fax: 412-682-6090  
[www.dalessandro ltd.com](http://www.dalessandro ltd.com) •  
[dalessandrofh@aol.com](mailto:dalessandrofh@aol.com)



**ABOVE:** “America’s first hybrid derby car” makes a pit stop on Penn Ave. before the Most Wanted Fine Art (MWFA) truck tows it back to the garage for alterations. Photo courtesy of MWFA.

## Jane's Walk: thoughtful tour of East Liberty

By Linda Hoye Kelly Strayhorn Theater

*East Liberty* - On Friday, July 8, an inquisitive group of visitors made their way through the streets of East Liberty. The group of residents, business leaders, and investors were taking steps toward addressing the future of the local community on the first annual 'Jane's Walk.'

Jane Jacobs was a Pennsylvanian, an activist, and an author, as well as a passionate urban theorist and planner. "No one can find what will work for our cities by looking at suburban garden cities, manipulating scale models, or inventing dream cities," Jacobs, who passed away in 2006 at the age of 89, once wrote. "You've got to get out and walk."

Jane's Walk is a moving conversation where people get together to explore and celebrate the neighborhood. Leaders share their knowledge, but also encourage discussion and participation among the walkers. Led by Janera Solomon, executive director of the Kelly Strayhorn Theater (KST), and Echo Strategies' Lou Musante, the group first convened outside KST's historic 101 year-old building.

"There are always things that you miss, things that you remember about the past. And then there are hopes and dreams that you have for the future," Solomon said as she pointed out various sites along Penn Ave. "We are here together to think about

what we'd like our neighborhood to be in the future."

Conversations ran non-stop as the animated group walked around the various cultural landmarks of East Liberty. From the old East Liberty Presbyterian Church (dedicated in 1935) to the hip new boutique hotels, the group took it all in while discussing the positives and negatives of a changing neighborhood.

Filled with a new perspective and vision of the neighborhood, participants returned to KST to meet with Mayor Bill Peduto, who wanted to hear about their observations. "There's a lot of change that's going on in East Liberty right now and we are seeing it in a community that really experienced disinvestment over forty years," Mayor Peduto said. "We want to be able to preserve the beauty that is within this community."

Jacobs proclaimed that a city's inner beauty can provide answers to new questions that arise from change. "Vital cities have marvelous innate abilities for understanding, communicating, contriving, and inventing what is required to combat their difficulties," she once stated. "Lively, diverse, intense cities contain the seeds of their own regeneration, with energy enough to carry over for problems and needs outside themselves." ♦



**ABOVE:** Janera Solomon (center, hand raised) points to landmarks past and present as she guides "Jane's Walk" tour-goers through East Liberty on Friday, July 8. Photo by Yeshua David.

# #1 Rated

## Large Health System in Western PA for Hospital, Medical and Surgical Quality Care

When measured for all the things that matter most—patient safety, satisfaction, quality and health outcomes—we top the list. So you can feel confident choosing Allegheny Health Network for the best possible care.

To find a physician, visit [AHN.org](http://AHN.org) or call 412.DOCTORS.



## Allegheny Health Network

Allegheny General • Allegheny Valley • Canonsburg  
Forbes • Jefferson • Saint Vincent • West Penn

Health + Wellness Pavilions at Bethel Park, Peters Township and Wexford

CareChex<sup>®</sup> Comparison<sup>®</sup> Medical Analytics. 2016 Quality Database.

## GARFIELD NIGHT MARKET

**NOW RUNNING THROUGH SEPTEMBER!**

**FOR MORE INFO AND VENDOR APPLICATIONS, VISIT [HTTP://GARFIELDNIGHTMARKET.ORG](http://GARFIELDNIGHTMARKET.ORG).**

## New Penn Ave. restaurant takes shape in former “Salt of the Earth” building

By Wesley Davis Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - On June 14, Tolga Sevdik met with nearby neighbors to discuss his plans to open a restaurant with a liquor license at 5523 Penn Ave., the site of the former “Salt of the Earth” restaurant.

Sevdik and his partner, Richard Deschantz of RT Investment Group LLC, currently own two downtown restaurants, “Meat & Potatoes” and “Butcher and the Rye.” They are also currently in the process of opening a third downtown restaurant called “Pork and Beans.”

Sevdik explained that the concept for the restaurant at 5523 Penn Ave. has not yet been determined, but that he plans for the restaurant to be completely “food-driven.” He praised the design of the space and its restaurant layout, noting that he does not plan to make significant changes to the floorplan.

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) has established a practice with

regard to applications for liquor licenses on the avenue; BGC staff schedules a public meeting inviting the applicants, neighbors, and proximate businesses to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This process was created several years ago in response to public safety issues that stemmed from nuisance bars that populated the arena.

The residents who met with Sevdik on June 14 to discuss his plans did not object to the application for a liquor license. Parking issues were their primary concern, and for good reason.

Neighbors were worried that residential parking spots might disappear when another high-traffic restaurant moves into the neighborhood. But Sevdik allayed their fears by indicating that he wishes to provide his customers with valet parking; he is now actively seeking a proper valet parking site in Garfield. ♦

## “Social Justice Conversation” series opens minds at Baum Grove

By Staci Backauskas Friendship Community Group

Friendship - On a warm July evening, neighbors gathered at Baum Grove for the new “Social Justice Conversation” organized by Friendship resident Ted Cmarada. “My intention is for this to be inclusive,” Cmarada said. “I hope it encourages people to self-reflect and be more conscious and awake to these issues, no matter their perspective.”

Cmarada, a psychotherapist, grew up in Clairton, and most recently lived in Maryland. Eight years ago, he began coming back to Pittsburgh to work on President Obama’s 2008 campaign. “Pennsylvania was in play in that first election,” he remembered. “I worked in the East End and I was very moved, and ultimately called, to come back and contribute to the healing of this community.”

By 2012, Cmarada was running the East Liberty office of Obama’s re-election campaign. “I was going door to door in neighborhoods in communities like Homewood and East Liberty and I saw, first-hand, the people who were suffering from social injustice. I realized I couldn’t stay within the four walls of my private practice. I had to take it to the community.”

His new series of public conversations was born out of a desire to provide neighbors with an opportunity to get together and raise their level of awareness on the main issues that fall under the social justice umbrella: civil rights and equal opportunity for income, healthcare, housing, and education. “A conversation that is exploratory and provocative causes people to challenge their own thoughts and daily actions,” Cmarada explained.

“Ultimately, it’s about respecting the equality and dignity of all people. I believe we can have a more just society if we all take responsibility to live mindfully, to realize how our thoughts and actions have an impact far beyond ourselves.”

Facilitating a conversation with six other open-minded interlocutors at Baum Grove, Cmarada helped the group cover a multitude of topics in just an hour - from people living with invisible disabilities to the challenges of finding safe low-income housing to the recent spate of violent events and the impact of social media. The only objective was to raise awareness of one’s individual assumptions, perceptions and judgments. As things wrapped up, each participant shared how they felt about the ongoing violence that is all too prevalent right now.

No problems were solved, but that is not the goal of the conversation. It was an invitation to recognize any opportunity to practice empathy and perhaps understand more about a shared sense of humanity. “We become a more inclusive and rich community when we tend to these issues,” Cmarada said. “And when we don’t, we become more isolated and fearful. Social justice is not just a movement, but a determinant of the quality of our individual lives and of the fabric of society.”

Upcoming conversations are scheduled for Aug. 8 and Aug. 22 in Baum Grove, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. ♦

Due to the success of The Big Easy, we are moving to a larger facility not only to facilitate our clients, but to expand our services, including daycare, boarding, a Café and grooming.

Voted “Best Veterinary Hospital In The City” for two consecutive years.  
-Tribune Review

### Safety Measures - Facility Design

**Safe Yards**  
Our outdoor play yards have a 6 feet fence with additional fencing to prevent escape.  
Our outdoor play yards also have artificial grass.

**Clean Air**  
Weather permitting, we have multiple garage doors that will be open to allow fresh air and clean breeze filter through for your dogs to enjoy while they are playing. This will maintain a clean and healthy facility free from bacteria and odor.

**Fire Protection**  
Our facility has a fire alarm and heat sensor that automatically dispatches the Fire Department in the event of smoke or heat detection. Staff is close by for emergencies.

**Veterinarians On-Site**  
Big Easy Dog Daze is the ONLY DAYCARE/BOARDING FACILITY IN PITTSBURGH THAT HAS VETERINARIANS ON-SITE should immediate care be needed.

Baked Goods for Dogs by The Pet Bakery of Oakmont!

### Services

- Wellness & Preventative Care
- Senior Pet Care / Specialty Diets
- Micro Chipping
- Urgent Care
- Surgery / Radiology
- Laboratory, On-Site
- Pharmacy, On-Site

**12 McCandless Avenue  
Upper Lawrenceville**  
412-908-9301  
www.TBEAH.com  
Walk-In services end 30 minutes prior to close of business. After-Hour emergency services available.

**Office Hours:**  
Mon-Thur: 9am-7pm  
Fri: 9am-6pm  
Sat: 9am-12pm



**NEW LOCATION  
OPEN FOR BUSINESS!**

Big Easy's Doggy Daycare, Dog/Cat Boarding  
Please call us today for booking information



**Celebrating 20 years of serving the community!**

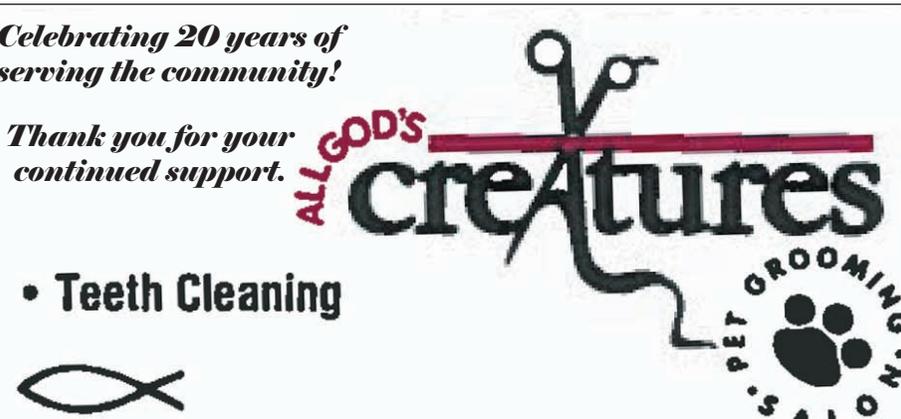
Thank you for your continued support.

**ALL GOD'S creatures**

• Teeth Cleaning

**PET GROOMING SALON**

5121 Penn Ave. • Pittsburgh, PA 15224 • 412-661-5636



**September Bulletin Deadline: August 12**

Download advertising information: [bit.ly/bulletin\\_ad](http://bit.ly/bulletin_ad)

Download guidelines for stories, photos, and notices: [bit.ly/bulletin\\_news](http://bit.ly/bulletin_news)

Keep up with neighborhood events! Visit the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's news blog at <http://Bloomfield-Garfield.org>

# Bike Lanes *continued from page 1*

Department of City Planning, explained. Negley Ave. also provides regional connections to the MLK East Busway and major employment centers, making it a prime access point to those in the area without cars or other means of transportation.

Public planning meetings around the project began in December of 2015. The most recent meeting (on May 26) showcased the proposed bike lane designs to the community.

The whole project spans a sizable length of the avenue from Howe St. in Shadyside to Stanton Ave. in East Liberty. On account of Negley's varying street widths, the plan features different bike lane styles for each area. Shared bike lanes are proposed for the more narrow stretches, specifically from Howe St. to Centre Ave., while buffered and normal bike lanes are proposed for wider areas of the street from Baum Blvd. to Stanton Ave.

The proposed changes include some parking and overall safety changes as well. Off-peak parking removal is suggested in some areas from Baum Blvd. to Stanton Ave. and the city has also redesigned several lanes of traffic to improve problematic intersections like Centre and Negley



**ABOVE:** Cyclists, motorists, and pedestrians move in fluid harmony in an architectural rendering of the city's plans for bike lanes on Negley Ave. After analyzing community input and consulting with various experts, the project must now pass state review before any bike lanes take shape. Graphic courtesy of the Department of City Planning.

Aves. Assisting in community meetings, infrastructure surveying, and feedback processes, the Highland Park / East Liberty Bike / Ped Committee worked alongside the City of Pittsburgh to lay the groundwork for the bike lanes.

Committee founder Anne Marie Toccket has been right at the center of the planning process. "As a cyclist, someone who works in East Liberty, and a proponent of multi-modal transit street design, I am a supporter of the Negley Ave. lanes. I encourage the city and interested citizens to continue working toward safer streets for all who use them," she said. "Dedicated lanes bring us one step closer to eliminating fatalities and injuries on city streets."

According to Toccket, the avenue presents several challenges to bikers and drivers alike that this new plan hopes to address: First of all, traffic moves too quickly and drivers do not obey the speed limit. Then, there are the confusing lane changes that often cause motorists to move dangerously

around cyclists. Lastly, the lack of bike lanes means that cyclists are forced to integrate into traffic alongside large buses.

Funding for this project comes from the Transportation Alternatives Program, a federal transportation fund designated for infrastructure projects that improve non-driver access to transportation across the country. This means that the project has to go through a review process by the state which, according to Saunders, can take a while to complete.

While plans for the project are almost finalized, the city must continue its stakeholder and community outreach while going through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation review process. To this end, additional community meetings are scheduled throughout the city in the summer and fall. Toccket is hopeful the project will pass the review process and proceed without delay. "The plans are exciting," she said. "We are thrilled with the outcome and process so far."

The Department of City Planning will submit the final design drawings for review in August with plans to install the bike lanes in early 2017. The plans for Negley Ave. also tie into the current city-wide bike planning process of creating the "Pittsburgh Bike Plan."

"Through this process, we will identify a city-wide bike network to more clearly show the city where we are taking bike infrastructure in Pittsburgh," Saunders said. "One of the major goals of the bike plan is to improve connectivity by bringing more of the city within a quarter mile of a bicycle facility."

As planning continues, many community members are looking forward to the results. "The response at our first public meeting was positive. It was very well-attended and, although there were questions, the project seems to be well-supported by the community," Saunders said.

A schedule of the project's upcoming community meetings can be found at <https://pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/bikeplan>. The proposed designs are available at [https://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/Negley\\_PublicMeeting\\_20160526.pdf](https://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/Negley_PublicMeeting_20160526.pdf). ♦

**DOES ADVERTISING  
IN THE BULLETIN  
REALLY WORK?**

**IT JUST DID!**

Consider how many thousands of readers would see your ad in this very spot. *The Bulletin* helps local advertisers reach local customers.

No matter what business or service you want to promote, we are committed to providing quality placement and maintaining affordable insertion rates.

For more information about *the Bulletin's* advertising rates and policies, please call 412-441-6950 (ext. 13) or email [Andrew@Bloomfield-Garfield.org](mailto:Andrew@Bloomfield-Garfield.org).

Chaz & Odette  
5102 Baum Blvd., Pgh. PA 15224  
Tel. 412-683-8300  
Web [ChazandOdette.com](http://ChazandOdette.com)



- Friendly, casual, restaurant and bar where everyone can meet with friends for a great sandwich, full meal, or a local brew
- All of our meats are prepared in house, we cure each piece with our proprietary recipes, then smoke them for hours until they reach the height of their flavor potential
- Serving Real food made in house from fresh ingredients, the old fashioned way

**CHAZ & ODETTE**

## Ugly Concrete?

Steps, Ret. Walls, Pads, Foundations,  
Driveways, Sidewalks, and more!

**Concrete Repair &  
Restoration**

Don't replace your ugly concrete!  
Repair! It will save you money!

**412-734-5432**

[johnshomeimprovement.org](http://johnshomeimprovement.org)

PA# 050547 Fully insured

Credit cards accepted

**SAUER  
BROTHERS**  
Heating Cooling Boilers  
**412-782-1100**

**We've been installing  
Residential  
Furnaces &  
Air Conditioners  
For Over  
60 Years**

# Neighborhood FOCUS

## Assemble finds new Penn Ave. home

By Taia Pandolfi *Bulletin contributor*

Garfield - Educational arts nonprofit Assemble is moving from its longtime home at 5125 Penn Ave. to a new space just a few blocks down the street at 4824 Penn. This new venue, on the ground floor of the Penn Mathilda Apartments building, speaks to the organization's goal to provide more opportunities for its community of students, artists, and makers.

"The new space gives us a blank slate to think creatively on how we can optimize our space and best accommodate the variety of programs we offer to children and adults," Assemble board member Minette Vaccariello said. "We will have the opportunity to expand our programming so that we can deliver more STEAM [science, technology, engineering, art, and math] educational programs to our community."

By offering most of its programs free to the public, Assemble is committed to creating an accessible, equitable place for learning of all kinds. According to Assemble's director, Nina Barbuto, the nonprofit strives to provide its students with the best high quality space for high quality education.

The 5125 Penn location was a cozy, welcoming place, but it could not continue meeting the needs of an expanding organization like Assemble. "Some of the original features that make spaces like ours charming also make them difficult to maintain to the standard we want to meet for our students and guests," Barbuto said.

4824 Penn Ave. offers a newer, larger space than Assemble's previous home, making it easier to maintain while offering more storage, outlets, and bathroom facilities. Now located closer to a bus stop that many of its students use, Assemble can be even more accessible. A larger space promises wider opportunities for creative programming for a growing student base, as well as the ability to split events into groups and accommodate age differences. In the past, Assemble relied on external spaces to make these options available but, with the new space, it will be able to house all events in one central location.

In searching for a new home, Assemble's board of directors never once considered moving out of Garfield, a neighborhood that has nurtured their vision for five years. "There is a potential for anyone, both businesses and residents, to have to move out of the neighborhood due to higher rents and gentrification," Barbuto acknowledged.



**ABOVE:** Campers get their playful hands dirty at Assemble's summer camp. A new location on Penn Ave. promises even more space for Assemble's young makers to explore STEAM principles. Photo courtesy of Assemble.

"The relationships our teachers and I share with the kids and families who use our space are priceless. I am very fortunate to work alongside kids discovering things."

– Nina Barbuto, Assemble

hopes the new space will foster the growth of these collaborative experiences open to people of all abilities and interests.

"Although we haven't officially moved yet, we have already begun to make some connections with our neighbors living upstairs [in the Penn Mathilda residences]," she noted. "We hope to have opportunities to get creative with our neighbors who also have a vast amount of expertise and knowledge to share."

As a means of welcoming the community to its new space, Assemble is hosting a community open house on Aug. 27. Barbuto is thankful for all her fellow collaborators who have helped advance Assemble's ambitions of "building confidence through making." "Over the past five years, Assemble has had the honor to create, connect, and learn alongside our neighbors of all ages," she said. "The relationships our teachers and I share with the kids and families who use our space are priceless. I am very fortunate to work alongside kids discovering things."

Barbuto encourages potential collaborators to connect with Assemble on Facebook or email [info@assemblepgh.org](mailto:info@assemblepgh.org). Assemble's new location will officially open its doors at 4824 Penn Ave. in September. ♦

"We had a few criteria as we were evaluating spaces and our number one, non-negotiable was that it was in our neighborhood. Even through this move, Assemble has never left Garfield." She believes this move will expand Assemble's impact in the neighborhood by welcoming more students, families, and educators alike.

The physical accessibility of the previous space was of some concern, so the new venue is equipped with ramps, wider doorways, and multiple bathroom stalls. It also has central air, which will prove crucial during long summer months.

One of Assemble's central missions remains bringing diverse groups together in the common goal of creative expression and learning. The organization looks to keep partnering with teachers, artists, technologists, and the local community in enriching ways. "We

are so excited to now be neighbors with Level Up Studios [4836 Penn Ave.]," Barbuto said. "In fact, we have already started to talk about potential collaborations, since we share the same mindset about learning." She

## Goodwill Employment Training Center

Get started today. In less than one year, you can earn a diploma in administrative office skills or health care office skills.

- Small class size
- Job placement assistance after graduation
- 160-hour hands-on externship
- Free parking / on bus lines
- Next session starting soon!

Call today: 412-632-1706  
[www.getcpittsburgh.org](http://www.getcpittsburgh.org)

Goodwill Employment Training Center  
118 52nd Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

ACCSC  
Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges

GETC

# Pittsburgh Bicentennial Parade celebrates region's multicultural achievements

**BELOW:** Puppeteers honor the legends of Andy Warhol and Fred Rogers with larger-than-life outfits during the Pittsburgh Bicentennial Parade on Saturday, July 9. Photo by John Colombo.



**AT LEFT:** Many heritage groups, including various Asian-American cultural organizations, march through downtown streets to proclaim their "Pittsburgh pride" during the July 9 Bicentennial Parade. Photo by John Colombo.



**ABOVE:** "Rosie the Riveter" assumes her iconic pose for parade-goers downtown. Photo by John Colombo.

**AT RIGHT:** Decked out in full fatigues from the French & Indian War, historical re-enactors carry their muskets with pride during the July 9 bicentennial celebrations. The group soldiered through the parade as a living representation of Pittsburgh's oft-forgotten military history. Photo by John Colombo.



**BELOW:** Local wrestling legend Bruno Sammartino (left) greets crowds alongside local media personality Larry Richert. Photo by John Colombo.



## Laurentian Hall Apartments

Apartment Living for Senior Citizens in an Elegant Setting

**Offering These Amenities:**

- ◆ Equipped Kitchens
- ◆ Nightly Meals Catered by Nova Café
- ◆ All Utilities Included
- ◆ FREE On-Site Laundry
- ◆ FREE Parking
- ◆ On the Busline
- ◆ Section 8 Available for Qualified Applicants

**Immediate Openings - Efficiencies, 1-bedrooms and 2-bedrooms!**

For more information, call 412-361-4462

Equal Housing Opportunity Handicapped Accessible

## N3D NEXT THREE DAYS

### EXPLORE • TOUR • CELEBRATE

SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 10<sup>TH</sup>, 11<sup>TH</sup>

### GARFIELD

**COMMUNITY MEETING FOR NEXT 3 DAY EVENT SERIES: GARFIELD**

**WHEN:**  
August 1, 2016, 6pm

**WHERE:**  
BGC Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15224

**WHO:**  
Business Owners, Residents, Artists, Musicians, Entertainers, Community Organizations

**WHAT:**  
If you had 3 days to show off your neighborhood, what would you want people to see?

The Next 3 Days is a an event series by the Mayor's Office of the City of Pittsburgh, Urban Redevelopment Authority, and NEXTpittsburgh. The program consists of 3 days to showcase and attract new residents and consumers to the neighborhood. The events serve as a celebration and business opportunity for residents and business owners!

Next 3 Days is FREE to participate and we need your input!

**Day 1 (September 9): N3D Kick-Off Party/ Block Party at Alloy Studios**

**Day 2 (September 10): N3D: Penn-Ave-Anew! Community Festival**  
Featuring the Penn Avenue Reconstruction Phase I Completion Celebration + Ribbon Cutting

**Day 3 (September 11): Garfield Home Tour + Open Houses**

For Everyone in the Flock and Every Room in the Nest, shop at

## ROBIN'S Nest

Unique Personal & Home Goods  
crafted by Local Artisans

handmade:

- Home Decor • Wall Art
- Bath & Body • Hand Bags
- Jewelry • Accessories

Come register for our **MONTHLY GIVEAWAY!**  
Winner chosen on "Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn Ave."  
NO PURCHASE OR PRESENCE NECESSARY

412.362.2600  
f /RobinsNestPittsburgh  
www.RobinsNestPittsburgh.com

HOURS: Tue - Sat 11AM - 6PM  
Monday BY APPOINTMENT

shop online!

visit us near the intersection of Penn + Negley  
5504 Penn Ave | Pittsburgh, PA 15206

# Heth's Run continued from page 1

stretch of land fell into disrepair over the past two decades - owing to local construction companies dumping waste into the area's narrow, once verdant creek. But, thanks to the concerted efforts of the Department of Public Works (DPW) and Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (PPC), Heth's Run has been making a steady comeback in recent years.

Initiated a decade ago, the Heth's Run Ecological Reconstruction Project represents a major social, recreational, ecological, and stormwater undertaking unlike anything Highland Park and the surrounding communities (Morningside, East Liberty, Stanton Heights, and Lincoln-Larimer) have seen in years.

Local and national engineers have been working on a master plan for the city's stormwater runoff, one that could help reduce potential flooding caused by heavy rainstorms and seasonal overflow. Pittsburghers need look no further than Washington Blvd., where a young family drowned a few years ago, to understand the devastating consequences of stormwater mismanagement.

Once finished, the Heth's Run project will afford residents of Morningside clear access from Highland Park to the Allegheny River below. Reinforcing Mayor Bill Peduto's commitment to sustainability, the design complements efforts made by the DPW and PPC to establish an effective, sustainable stormwater initiative for the whole city.

"We're still in the initial design stage," PPC spokesperson Scott Roller acknowledged.

**BELOW:** Heth's Run, a large swath of land situated between Highland Park, Morningside, and the Pittsburgh Zoo, is now the focus of a reconstruction project to provide public green space and improve local stormwater infrastructure. Graphic courtesy of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.



"We are, however, now starting construction on the project and making sure we get all the designs correct first. After all, how do you find a site as beautiful as this one, and then not want to make something great out of it?"

PPC's local track record includes the restoration of Mellon Park in Shadyside, the Frick Environmental Center in Wilkinsburg, and the recent international sand sculptures in front of the Oakland branch of the Carnegie Library.

One achievement of note to the Heth's Run project is the reconstruction of Heth's Run Bridge. Despite circumstantial delays and setbacks, along with a \$200,000 price tag for construction, the new bridge has finally materialized below the zoo.

Among the many collaborating firms currently working on the Heth's Run project are the engineering firm of D'Appolinaire; Nelson/Nygaard Transportation Planners; Biohabitats; landscape architects Wallace, Roberts, and Todd (WRT); Kolano Design of Pittsburgh; and HR&A Advisors, Inc.

To reduce public opposition, project organizers formed a survey asking local residents to contribute their input on the plans; results of the survey will be made public in August. According to a statement from Mayor Peduto, "through all of this, our focus needs to be on the future."

"I am an outspoken advocate of Pittsburgh's ability to become a leader of green initiatives and infrastructure in dealing with stormwater overflow and related issues," he stated. "We need to get this right because what we decide today will shape our future for the next 100 years."

When finally completed, the reconstruction project will include new athletic fields, walking paths, and maybe even a swimming pool to go along with all the improved stormwater capabilities. As of press time, the anticipated final construction date for the project is presently unknown, as is its projected overall cost. ♦



## Compassionate Care At Convenient Locations

The physicians and staff of Renaissance Family Practice-UPMC welcome Anita Balachandran, MD, to their office in Blawnox and Elaine Boron, DO, to their office in Millvale.



**Anita Balachandran, MD**  
Family Practice

Dr. Balachandran received her medical degree from the Kilpauk Medical College in India. She completed her family medicine residency at UPMC St. Margaret and is board-certified by the American Board of Family Medicine. Dr. Balachandran recently was a hospitalist at UPMC St. Margaret. She will be working at our Renaissance Family Practice RIDC office in Blawnox.



**Elaine Boron, DO**  
Family Practice

Dr. Boron received her medical degree at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her family medicine residency at UPMC St. Margaret. Dr. Boron is board-certified by the American Board of Family Medicine. She is a member of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians and the American College of Family Physicians. Dr. Boron will be working at our Renaissance Family Practice office in Millvale.

To schedule an appointment at Renaissance Family Practice-UPMC, or for more information, call 412-821-2277 (Millvale Office) or 412-781-1917 (RIDC Office).

Millvale Office  
111 Sheridan St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15209  
412-821-2277

RIDC Office  
121 Freeport Road, Suite 100  
Blawnox, PA 15238  
412-781-1917



## 2016 Friendship House Tour

The Friendship House Tour, scheduled for September 18, has room for a few more houses. Beautiful and historic houses are one of Friendship's biggest assets; this is a great opportunity to showcase your homes, meet new people, and support the neighborhood.

Sponsored by the Friendship Community Group (FCG), this tour welcomes homes of all kinds - young or old, renovated or waiting patiently for a new coat of paint, filled with antiques or with plenty of room to walk around. Apartments and condos are welcome, too.

All monies raised by the FCG go to provide stewardship for Baum Grove and the Friendship Playpark (located at the Montessori School), and sponsor a variety of community events. Interested parties can meet with neighbors to learn more about the tour at an upcoming cocktail party. RSVP to friendshiphousetour@gmail.com for date, time, and location.

## Lawrenceville resident recognized for excellence in education

By Mercedes J. Howze *Pittsburgh Public Schools*

Oakland - During its "Barbara A. Sizemore Summer Education Conference," the School of Education at Duquesne University presented Pittsburgh native and Lawrenceville resident Hannah McCarthy with its annual "Sizemore Spirit Award."

A twenty-four-year veteran of the teaching world, McCarthy currently teaches at Pittsburgh Brashear High School in Beechview and serves as the "Coordinator of the Teaching Magnet" at Pittsburgh Public Schools. She is now being honored for her work engaging urban youths about viable careers in education and helping her students realize the value of becoming teachers.

"The Spirit Award upholds the highest ideals set forth by Dr. Barbara Sizemore, a teacher and administrator with the Chicago Public Schools, and the champion of the desegregation of the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Throughout her life, Dr. Sizemore campaigned tirelessly to foster educational equity," Dr. Launcelot Brown, who chairs the annual conference, proclaimed. "Ms. McCarthy's two decades of work with her students is reflective of the 'Sizemore Spirit' and legacy. She was a unanimous choice for this year's award."

Now in its seventh year, the annual conference not only hosts professional development workshops, but also brings together nationally acclaimed educational leaders to help attendees further their work in educational equity. The conference and award are funded through a

grant from The Heinz Endowments.

As evidenced by her twenty-four years of membership in the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers (PFT), McCarthy is proud carry on the strong union values her family always embraced. She credits the union for helping her advocate for her students. McCarthy currently serves as the Vice President of Secondary Schools for the PFT and represents Pittsburgh as the American Federation of Teachers-PA Vice President. She is also a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society, an organization that advances the professional and personal growth of women educators.

One of her longest-standing affiliations, however, is a membership in the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH), Division #23, in Lawrenceville. The LAOH is an Irish-Catholic organization that promotes friendship, unity, and Christian charity. McCarthy's whole family is involved with the local AOH; her children represent the fifth generation of family membership.

"I have received recognitions throughout my professional life, but this Spirit Award captures the essence of my work," McCarthy said. "I believe that this award is not just for me, but I want to share it with all of my students who have gone on to become teachers and are continuing the work of educating others. I am deeply honored and very thankful to the Duquesne University School of Education." ♦



Follow the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation on Twitter (@BloomGarCorp)

### Are you depressed?

Participate in a research study investigating why some people with depression have thoughts of suicide and others do not.

**Looking for:**

**Men 55 or older who have been feeling sad or down, have less interest in activities, or who may have noticed a decrease in energy, concentration, sleep, or appetite.**

**Involvement:**

- 2-3 visits consisting of interview-style assessment of emotional well-being, memory and attention testing, and computer games
- Visit duration is 2-3 hours per visit
- Compensation ranges from \$100 to \$150, and up to \$50 for travel reimbursement
- fMRI scan (optional, \$150 extra)

**If interested, contact: [dnpl@upmc.edu](mailto:dnpl@upmc.edu), or call 412-246-6014**

### 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.



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 [GarfieldNightMarket@gmail.com](mailto:GarfieldNightMarket@gmail.com) or [mainstreets@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:mainstreets@bloomfield-garfield.org) or for more information. Additional event details can be found at <http://GarfieldNightMarket.org>.



### The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation has an email newsletter!

Subscribe at [bit.ly/bgc\\_email](http://bit.ly/bgc_email) and have the latest community news delivered to your inbox.

### Xing-Yi (Hsing-i) at Steel Dragon

5 Elements and 12 Animals Internal and External martial aspects developed together

Classes  
7-9pm Thursdays  
1-3pm Sundays



Also  
Ying Jow  
Baiyuan Tongbei  
Tai Chi  
Lion Dance

[www.steel-dragon.org](http://www.steel-dragon.org)  
[info@steel-dragon.org](mailto:info@steel-dragon.org)

Steel Dragon Kung Fu & Lion Dance  
100 43rd St #113 Lawrenceville 412.362.6096

### Smokers Wanted

The University of Pittsburgh's Alcohol and Smoking Research Laboratory is looking for people to participate in a three-part research project. To participate, you must:

- Currently smoke cigarettes
- Be 18-55 years old, in good health, and speak fluent English
- Be willing to fill out questionnaires and to not smoke before 2 sessions

Earn \$150 for completing this study.

**For more information, call (412) 624-8975**

# Summer camp lifts spirits of pediatric burn patients

By Morgan Rupert Allegheny Health Network

*Bloomfield* - This year, the West Penn Burn Center hosted the thirtieth annual summer camp program for children who have sustained burn injuries. Children ages 7 through 17, who had previously been treated at the West Penn Burn Center, were invited to participate in camp activities designed to foster emotional healing while building self-confidence.

This year's theme: "The Sky is the Limit." Twenty-four children participated in the summer camp activities that began in Pittsburgh on June 4 before moving on to Zelienople's "Camp Kon-O-Kwee." Campers took part in a variety of activities including swimming, fishing, crafts, relay races, and zip lining.

"One of the goals of the West Penn Burn Center is to help pediatric burn patients gain the confidence to return to normal activities," West Penn Hospital (WPH) President and CEO Ron Andro said. "The summer camp for burn-injured children is a cornerstone component of that goal. Children are able to enjoy the friendship and encouragement of other campers who share similar experiences while also receiving the support and guidance of adult camp counselors."

The "kick-off" to camp began with a stop at Kennywood amusement park, where campers were able to let loose and reach for the sky on some of the region's most popular rollercoasters. The group then headed to Camp Kon-O-Kwee and concluded the first day by making "s'mores" around the campfire.

Thanks to an afternoon visit from one of Allegheny Health Network's "LifeFlight" helicopters and an evening hot air balloon session, counselors were able to push each kid's confidence into the stratosphere. One of the most popular stops of the week was a visit to the 911th AirLift Wing; campers were able to study planes, learn about the United States Air Force, and experience what it is like to wear some of the tactical gear while sitting in an armored vehicle.

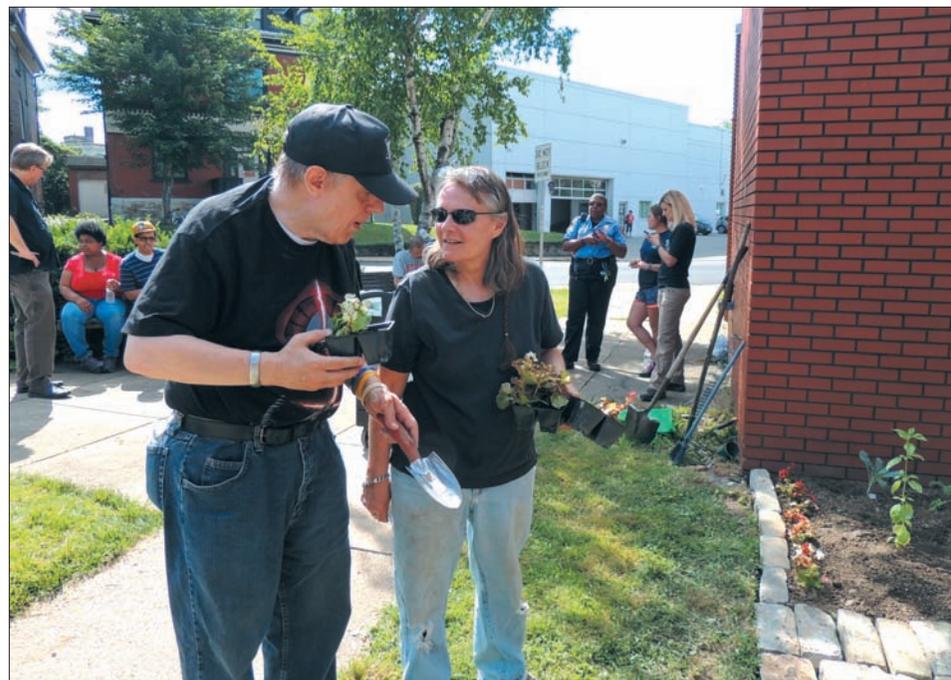
"The Sky is the Limit' camp was designed to give our campers a positive independent experience while encouraging them to step out of their comfort zone and try new things," the burn center's Linda Leonard, RN, explained.

"Burn Camp meets a number of needs for the well-being and continued physical and

emotional recovery of our pediatric patients who have been burned."

The camp experience wrapped up when the group returned to Pittsburgh and visited the Carnegie Science Center, where campers enjoyed a Buhl Planetarium show called "Stars over Pittsburgh." The live show guided campers through the current night sky, showing them how to locate the planets and pointing out constellations that are visible from their backyards.

Thanks to the generosity of local firefighter groups, businesses, organizations, and individuals, the summer camp program has remained free of charge. The counselor staff is comprised of burn center nurses, WPH employees, West Virginia University's School of Psychology graduate students, and former burn injury survivors. To learn more about the camp and its programming, visit <https://www.ahn.org/specialties/burn-center/>. ♦



**ABOVE:** On Thursday, June 30, at the 836 S. Millvale Ave. station in Bloomfield, City of Pittsburgh EMS Medic 9 and Rescue 1 paramedics join gardeners from the nearby Pittsburgh Mercy Intellectual Disabilities Services Alternative Training & Employment Center to plant vegetables, herbs, and a variety of tomatoes in a new garden. Photo courtesy of Pittsburgh Mercy.

## PITTSBURGH EYE ASSOCIATES



Dr. Roxana Barad Ophthalmologist  
Dr. Chris Cecchini Optometrist

### EVERYTHING LOCAL FOR YOUR EYE CARE NEEDS!

- Medical eye care & dry eye therapy
- Diabetic eye exams
- Cataract evaluation & surgery
- Refractive implants for cataract surgery
- Glaucoma evaluation & treatment
- Cosmetic eyelid procedures
- Full service optical department & contact lenses

4424 Penn Avenue  
Suite 101, Pittsburgh, PA 15224  
[pittsburgheyeassociates.com](http://pittsburgheyeassociates.com)  
Across from Children's hospital

412-683-0500

LET US TAKE CARE OF YOU!



## Back to School... Already!

It's hard to believe that in a few weeks school will begin again. Before sending your children off, stop and read the following tips.

### Young Students

Pedestrian injuries are the second leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 5 to 14. So make sure that children:

- Look left, right then left again before crossing the street.
- Always try to cross a street when a crossing guard is present.
- Cross in front of the bus only after the driver signals it's okay.

### High School Students

Statistics show that teen drivers are four times more likely to be involved in fatal crashes than more experienced drivers. If your children drive to school:

- Teach them, as well as, all passengers to buckle-up.
- Remind them to obey the speed limits
- Enforce no-drinking-and-driving rules.

### College Students

The number one crime on college campuses is theft. One-out-of-every 10 college students will be robbed while away at school.

- Remind students to always lock dormitory doors.
- Tell students not to keep large amounts of money in their rooms.
- Have students mark personal property with identifiable marks.



WALTER J

## ZALEWSKI

FUNERAL HOMES INC  
"Exceeding Your Expectations"

LAWRENCEVILLE POLISH HILL

Walter J Zalewski, Supervisor 216 Forty-fourth Street Pittsburgh, PA 15201-2893 412 682-3445  
Joseph M Lapinski, Supervisor 3201 Dobson Street Pittsburgh, PA 15219-3735 412 682-1562

©2016 WJ ZALEWSKI P.H., INC.

**September Bulletin Deadline: August 12**

Download advertising information: [bit.ly/bulletin\\_ad](http://bit.ly/bulletin_ad)

Download guidelines for stories, photos, and notices: [bit.ly/bulletin\\_news](http://bit.ly/bulletin_news)

## Renovations underway at Friendship Playpark

By Staci Backauskas *Friendship Community Group*

*Friendship* - Neighborhood children have been enjoying the Friendship Playpark, located on the campus of the Pittsburgh Montessori School (201 S. Graham St.), for the last seventeen years. Two years ago, an inspection of the park – which was scheduled to be rebuilt in 2019 – contained both good and bad news.

Although the inspector was impressed with the condition of the park, repairs to the play surface and some of the playground equipment were still needed. Organized by the Friendship Community Group (FCG), a “Playpark Committee” decided to pursue renovations rather than shut down and rebuild.

From its inception, the playpark has been endowed through the Pittsburgh Foundation, but necessary repairs now exceed any available funds. So, for the past two years, the FCG has collaborated with Pittsburgh Montessori administrators and neighbors to raise money for the park. In addition to hosting walk-a-thons, the FCG also puts on a bi-weekly “Park N’At” afterschool play session to raise money from lemonade sales, face painting, and art activities.

A mainstay at these play sessions, the “Berlin Food Cart” donates a portion of its sales to the neighborhood amenity. Monthly “movie nights” invite neighbors to gather and support the park by purchasing concessions. The park also received a boost from the Pittsburgh Foundation’s annual “Day of Giving” and the city’s “Love Your Block” grant program.

In May, Garfield’s destination lounge Mixtape (4907 Penn Ave.) sponsored an “Art and Auction Happy Hour” to help raise funds; all of the event’s art sales, as well as a percentage of Mixtape’s drink sales, went toward park repairs and improvements.

The Playpark now boasts a new slide, decks, and (ADA accessible) stairs. Now that volunteers have finished summer mulching, they will paint the park’s plastic tubes and metal poles. Beginning Aug. 1, the park will be closed for two weeks to facilitate a re-surfacing project and other renovations. Those interested in making a tax deductible donation to the Friendship Playpark may visit <https://www.pittsburghfoundation.org/node/35879>. ♦

## East End Cooperative Ministry invites local community to dinner table

By Shannon M. Anglero *East End Cooperative Ministry*

*East Liberty* - On May 14, East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM) hosted one of Pittsburgh’s “200 Dinners,” a city-wide event celebrating the city’s bicentennial anniversary. Hosted by EECM’s president and CEO Michael J. Mingrone, the dinner attracted nearly eighty attendees to the agency’s Community House (6140 Station St.) in East Liberty; organizers also created a robust presence on social media to engage an even wider audience with hashtags of “#200DinnersEECM” and “#200DinnerBurgh.”

The audience was a diverse mix of area youths, businessmen and women, past clients, agency staff, government representatives, and active community members. The diversity of the attendees allowed for a lively discussion on race, policy, poverty, community engagement, the role of faith in community, and how to better activate the community.

EECM asked dinner-goers to examine the effects of structural racism and how to develop a stronger dialogue around difficult issues. One of the main themes was building a bridge between the community and policy makers while widening opportunities for African Americans. As certain communities are continually left out of the redevelopment process and residents are feeling further marginalized, investments in the city need to be distributed in a more equitable fashion.

“EECM has never shied away from the tough questions. We welcome them,” Mingrone said. “This is why we needed to host this dinner in order to get the real conversation started. It’s the difficult, sometimes uncomfortable questions on race and inequity that allow us to develop real solutions to large problems.”

One subject that was consistently addressed at the dinner table: “if nobody acknowledges that these inequities exist, we can never solve any of the problems.” Dinner guests shared their thoughts on how many Pittsburghers just do not realize that issues of racism and poverty are actively affecting local communities. Once community members recognize these underlying forces, they might eventually work together to tackle issues like education reform, poverty, transportation access, and homelessness.

Attendees also celebrated some of Pittsburgh’s strengths, like innovative universities, an emerging restaurant scene, “sports-crazy” communities, diverse cultural attractions, and local residents’ general friendliness. It is worth noting that, for many dinner guests, the city’s transformation from a blue collar stalwart into a cutting-edge technology hub offers a point of hope for dismantling the racial divide at the heart of the “two Pittsburghs” concept.

“Conversation is the first step,” Mingrone clarified. “Then, we can start to implement some of the ideas that have developed from the discussion. Frankly, it’s our pleasure and our mission to hold these opportunities for community engagement and change. I hope more people attend in the future.”

Building on the success of the May 14 dinner, EECM decided to create a quarterly event; the next dinner will take place on Thursday, Aug. 4, at 6 p.m. All community members are invited to the August dinner, where notes from the previous event will be made available to everyone in attendance. ♦

**BELOW:** Elected officials join community organizers, developers, architects, and local residents for a July 18 ribbon-cutting to officially welcome the Penn Mathilda Apartments building (4800 Penn Ave.) into the Bloomfield-Garfield neighborhood. Photo by Andrew McKeon.



## Premier Building and Restoration Group, L.L.C.

### GENERAL CONTRACTING AND RENOVATIONS MASONRY AND CONCRETE SPECIALIST

Brick & Stone Pointing • Brick & Stone Cleaning • Brick & Stone Repairs  
Foundation Repairs • Chimney Repairs • Chimney Relining

Concrete Driveways • Sidewalks • Patios • Steps • Floors • Foundations

French Drains (Interior • Exterior) • Water Proofing • Parging • Stucco  
Hand Built Fencing • Omni Stone • Brick • Stone • Patios • Walkway

Garages • Room Additions • Storefronts  
Residential and Commercial

Fully Insured • A+ Better Business Bureau  
Senior Discounts • Military Discounts

**AUGUST ONLY:** 25% off on all brick cleaning, whole-house brick pointing, chimney repairs, plus all types of concrete work, waterproofing, and decks!

**412-371-9070 • 412-443-1636**

**“NEVER A NO SHOW ON JOBS”**

**THE CONTRACTOR WHO REALLY DOES CARE**

PA ID# 067-537

# the Bulletin BOARD

# Local Events Classes Announcements Fundraisers

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

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 **September** issue of *the Bulletin* are due by **August 19**. Please submit listings using our online form at [http://bit.ly/bulletin\\_submit](http://bit.ly/bulletin_submit).

from Pittsburgh. Her artwork is created with a mixture of ink, watercolor, and acrylic paint. Most of her art is inspired by music and nature. Open from 6 to 10 p.m.

income documentation. To register, call 412-206-9849.

## August 11 - Thursday

### LAWRENCEVILLE

#### Work Nights

Happening Thursday, August 6, from 6 - 10 p.m. Accelerate. Collaborate. Innovate. Stay up late at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in Lawrenceville (279 Fisk St.). Network. Get stuff done. Connect with other innovators, research your ideas, and jumpstart your ingenuity. Call 412-682-3668 for more information.

## August 13 - Saturday

### LAWRENCEVILLE

#### Back-to-School Bash

Running from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Arsenal Park, this is a free family event hosted by Encounter Church, Pep Rally, and Lawrenceville United to promote a prepared start to the school year. Over 300 backpacks will be given away. There will be fun and exciting kids' activities plus free food, music,

## August 6 - Saturday

### LAWRENCEVILLE

#### BBQ Dinner

New Bethel Baptist Church (221 43rd St.) in Lawrenceville will be hosting a barbecue dinner from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. BBQ ribs, chicken, sweet potato pies, and pound cake will be served. To place orders, call 412-291-8185.

## August 9 - Tuesday

### AARP Jobs Program

The AARP Senior Community Service Employment Program will hold a recruitment and informational event on Tuesday, August 9, at 2 p.m. at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center, (5321 Penn Ave.). This is a paid job training program for individuals who are unemployed and age 55 or older. Interested applicants must bring a driver's license or ID, Social Security card and

## August 5 - Friday

### SHADYSIDE

#### Quantum Theatre's "Peribañez"

Quantum Theatre presents "Peribañez" outdoors in Mellon Park from August 5 - 28. Showtime is 8 p.m. Tickets and more info: <http://www.quantumtheatre.com/peribanez/>. Peribañez unfolds the story of a newly married couple, Peribañez and Casilda - young farmers in a strongly connected rural community. The Commander's obsessive love for Casilda pushes the young couple to make increasingly painful sacrifices as they strive to preserve their marriage on the brink of war. A cast of ten performs in the urban oasis of the Jennie King Mellon Rose Garden, right in the heart of Mellon Park. This sublime summer offering features live folk music and the spectacle of the Spanish Golden Age, cock-fights and all.

### LAWRENCEVILLE

#### Fish Fry Dinner

On August 5, New Bethel Baptist Church (221 43rd St.) in Lawrenceville will be hosting a fish fry dinner from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sweet potato pies and pound cake will be served. To place orders, call 412-291-8185.

### GARFIELD

#### Knauer Family Exhibition

Bantha Tea Bar (5002 Penn Ave.) - family exhibition features an art collection from Robert Knauer, Evan Knauer, and Brynn (Knauer) Gminder. Music and Videos by the Knauer Brothers. Open from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

#### Art by Acorn

Bantha Tea Bar (5002 Penn Ave.) - Ashley Cornwall (Acorn) is an abstract painter and illustrator

## August 1 - Monday

### GARFIELD

#### Vacation Bible School

At Morningside Church of God in Christ (5173 Dearborn St.), Pastor Lamont B. Shields presents Vacation Bible School. The theme is "Joy in Jesus: Everywhere. All the time!" Running from Monday, August 1 through Friday, August 5 - from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bookbags will be handed out during the closing program on August 5. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Come bring your friends, join the fun, and discover the "Joy in Jesus."

## August 2 - Tuesday

### LAWRENCEVILLE

#### Adult Game Night

Looking to get away from it all? Take the night off for friendly board game competition. A variety of board games will be available. Feel free to bring a snack. For adults 18 and older. Gaming begins at 6 p.m. every Tuesday at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Lawrenceville (279 Fisk St.). Call 412-682-3668 for more information.

## August 3 - Wednesday

### POINT BREEZE

#### Shopping on a Budget

Come to the East End Food Co-Op (EEFC, 7516 Meade St.) and join Just Harvest's Lindsay Wojtaszek in the POWER/EEFC Conference Room to learn how proper nutrition and a healthy diet can be achieved on any budget. Learn how to stretch your dollar and get the most out of your shopping experience. We will share tips on product selection, cost savings, meal planning, food for special diets, and healthy choices for children. Information about SNAP, food stamp eligibility, and the Just Harvest farmer's market "Fresh Access" project will also be discussed. This event is free; just call 412-242-3598 to reserve your spot.

## WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

Send us a note about what you would like to see in *the Bulletin*. Readers are welcome to sound off on our Editorial Board, write a scathing review, and pen 'op-ed's about neighborhood developments.

This publication begins and ends with you, the community, so we respectfully invite your opinions and insights. Please contact our neighborhood tip-line/suggestion box/commentary pipeline at [Bulletin@Bloomfield-Garfield.org](mailto:Bulletin@Bloomfield-Garfield.org).

## National Night Out 2016

Join your neighbors for a Garfield community National Night Out celebration and block party!



August 2nd, 2016  
5:00-8:00 pm  
Nelson Mandela Peace Park  
(corner of Broad St. and N. Evaline St.)

**FREE Dinner & Ice Cream**

**DJ Nick Nice**

**Face Painting**

**Children's Activities**

**& MORE!**



Hosted by: Bloomfield Garfield Corporation, City of Pittsburgh Public Safety Department, Garfield Community Action Team, Earthen Vessels Outreach, Garfield CISP, Garfield Jubilee Association, ASSEMBLE, 1 Hood Media, Make PGH, King of Kings Baptist Ministries and ALDI

# Volunteer Opportunities & Services

and a bounce house. Staff from local schools and family programs will be there with fun activities and sign-ups for fall programs. For more information, please call Lawrenceville United at 412-802-7220. Visit [www.encounterprgh.com](http://www.encounterprgh.com) for more details.

August 16 - Tuesday

## BLOOMFIELD

### Newborn Basics

6 to 9 p.m. in the Burstin room - first floor, north tower of West Penn Hospital (4800 Friendship Ave.). During this three-hour course, expectant parents are instructed in the care of a newborn infant with a hand-on skills lab (using dolls) to practice before their baby arrives. The fee is \$40 per couple. To register, or for more information, please call 412-578-7030.

August 20 - Saturday

## STANTON HEIGHTS

### Community Festival

This annual community festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sunnyside parking lot. Activities include bounce house, balloon artist, facepainting, community booths, music, food trucks, door prizes & more! More details available at [www.stantonheights.org](http://www.stantonheights.org)

## BLOOMFIELD

### Big Brother/Big Sister

10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Burstin room - first floor, north tower of West Penn Hospital (4800 Friendship Ave.). This one-and-a-half hour class is designed to help children ages 3-7 years welcome a new baby into the family. Activities include practice holding and singing to baby dolls, safety considerations, a special video, and a tour of the maternity department. The fee is \$25 per family. To register or for more information, please call 412-578-7030.

August 21 - Sunday

## Become a Bloomfield- Garfield Corporation (BGC) member today!

The BGC is a membership organization that counts on residents and business owners like you to support its efforts. Our membership has been a part of recent accomplishments like bringing an ALDI grocery store to Penn Avenue, facilitating the Garfield Night Market, and starting construction on 19 new affordable rental units in Garfield!

**A donation in any amount makes you a member.**

Visit <http://Bloomfield-Garfield.org> to donate online. Donations are also encouraged via standard mail; please call 412-441-6950 to receive a printed remittance card and become a BGC member.

## GARFIELD

### Old Time Gospel Musical

Performance begins at 3:30 p.m. at Morningside Church of God In Christ (5173 Dearborn St.). Guest singers will be Sister Tonya Carrington, Pastor Gary Brock (and his daughter, Lytia Brock-Sledge), Pastor Brian Wright Sr. and many more. It's one gospel musical you are not going to want to miss. Chicken dinners and Bar-B-Q ribs dinner will be sold before and after the program. For more details contact Deaconess Cathy Bryant at 412-853-2022.

August 25 - Thursday

## POINT BREEZE

### Reducing Aches & Pains

Come to the East End Food Co-Op (EEFC, 7516 Meade St.) and join Cutitta Chiropractic's Sarah Knight in the POWER/EEFC Conference Room at 7 p.m. We'll show you how to reduce your aches and pains without medication by focusing on treatments that actively address the underlying causes of your pain, rather than simply reducing your symptoms. This event is free; just call 412-242-3598 to reserve your spot.

August 31 - Wednesday

## LAWRENCEVILLE

### "Night at the Races"

Come for an end-of-summer celebration featuring juggler, yo-yoer, cool guy Mark Hayward! The party will kick off with games, activities, and crafts. Then, get ready for Mark Hayward's laugh-out-loud, jaw-dropping performance. This guy is the real deal; he's been on "The Late Show with David Letterman," as well as "America's Got Talent." All kids, teens, and families are welcome to join in the fun. Party begins at 6 p.m. at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Lawrenceville (279 Fisk St.). Call 412-682-3668 for more information.

## BLOOMFIELD

### Baby 911

6-9 p.m. in the Burstin room - first floor, north tower of West Penn Hospital (4800 Friendship Ave.). This three-hour class is designed for parents and caregivers to develop skills in infant/child CPR. It also focuses on valuable safety considerations, 'baby proofing' your home, SIDS, and car safety. The fee for this class is \$40 per person or \$75 per couple. For more information, or to register, please call 412-578-7030.

## Ongoing Opportunities

## GARFIELD

### GJA Needs You

Garfield Jubilee Association Inc. (GJA) - located at 5323 Penn Ave. - is recruiting volunteers to mentor and tutor youths aged 16 to 24. Each volunteer will be paired with a GJA student as they prepare to earn a high school diploma - while also working on program certification in construction, facilities maintenance, health, customer service, and retail. Upon receiving their high school diploma, students need help with post-secondary classes and job placement - and that's where you come in. For additional information about the many volunteer opportunities GJA has to offer, please contact Connie M. Taylor at 412-665-5210.

# Classifieds

## Services

### PRO TEC PEST & TERMITE SERVICE

"Quality Service at an Affordable Price"

John Cygnarowicz  
412-628-6893

### Hauling/Cleanup

We clear basements, yards, garages, attics, estates, etc.

**Fast, Reliable, Reasonable**

Also demolition work, lawn maintenance

412-687-6928 **Call Walt** 412-773-0599

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, Nov. 4, 2016

## Annual BGC Luncheon

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's (BGC) annual luncheon is scheduled for Friday, November 4th at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association in Oakland. This event is a great opportunity for friends and supporters to gather to reflect on the prior year and celebrate our accomplishments. For information about purchasing a ticket to the luncheon or signing up for a sponsorship, please contact Aggie Brose, Deputy Director of the BGC at 412-441-6950 ext. 15.

## assemble is MOVING!



Newer • Larger • More Accessible • 2 Blocks Away

Visit us in our NEW space at  
4824 Penn Ave in September 2016!

--- News to Note ---

We'll see you again at Unblurred in September in our new space!

# What it means to be an American

By Rick Swartz

## Op-Ed

What does it mean to be an American? It's a question I find myself turning to more and more, particularly as we endure the trials of a very dispiriting presidential election campaign and the tribulations of both wanton acts of violence committed by the worst of our own citizens and the reckless acts of those charged with protecting the rest of us from them. It is easy to lose sight of what holds us together and, despite our many differences and our many missteps, what causes people from around the globe to want to join our ever-churning, polyglot society.

What do I think of when I hear the term "American?" I picture an inverted pyramid: at the top of it is "the individual." As much as we entertain how important it is for family, community, and government to direct and order our lives, nothing replaces the significance and value of the individual in shaping his or her own destiny. Psychotic national leaders (Hitler, Stalin, etc.) devoted themselves to breaking down the concept that each of us is our own person.

On the next level of the pyramid, below the individual, comes "the family." Rarely can the world beyond the family replace the nurturing, discipline, and role-modeling that we look for in our mothers, fathers, and extended families. When the family fails in this basic mission, the damage done to the individual can be irreparable. How often have our worst citizens been raised in environments not fit for even dogs? Below the family on the pyramid comes "the community." From religion to ethnicity to neighborhoods to social groupings of any sort, we all seek to belong to something that is larger than just ourselves. The community can save us from losing the moorings of our dignity or self-reliance. It can open up opportunities that our family can't provide on its best day, even if the community isn't always the kind of place Mr. Rogers would've wanted to call home.

After community, occupying the smallest space at the bottom of the pyramid, is government. Are you surprised? Truthfully, we seem to have moved it higher on the inverted pyramid in recent decades. But Jefferson, our third president, probably had it right: the less we have to rely on its offices, the better off we'd be. Our government, reluctantly at times, has committed to making America into what is inscribed on the Statue of Liberty (you know, "give me your teeming masses yearning to breathe free"). While it hasn't always lived up to that promise, it certainly has tried harder than most. The region in what is now the country of Moldova that my maternal grandparents hailed from saw

almost 80% of its one million-plus Jewish population murdered between 1940 and 1945. Even its hardest critics have to admit that America is pretty good by comparison.

So where does this leave us? More so than before, we need to reaffirm that the tiers of the pyramid, ordered as I've described, matter a lot. Move one down - and send another up - and American society changes greatly. For all that has been written about our fraying republic in recent months, we still need to hold one another accountable as individuals for the way we comport ourselves and how we instruct our children. This has to happen on a daily basis. Exempting the individual citizen from his or her personal responsibility for their actions, freely taken in most instances, will do no one any good in the end.

Let's not give short shrift to the family's duty either. Too often, we excuse families when they fail to do what is theirs alone to accomplish. If life within the home is violent, abusive, or neglectful, we as the larger society need to call that out. If we don't, we risk de-stabilizing entire communities in the process. The family is the first line of defense in limiting the development of serious social pathologies that can overrun the rest of us.

The notion of "community" needs to be strengthened in the American mind. Government is not always the friend of community. We need our friends, neighbors, and even total strangers to come to our aid when we shipwreck on the shoals of dashed dreams, or get our fingers caught in the doors slammed in our face. The community can, at times, ward off government from taking the kinds of draconian actions that should be reserved only for the worst individuals or families. Yet, in too many cases, communities aren't organized well enough, or are too inconsistent in their enforcement of higher standards of behavior, to be of much help. That leaves everyone vulnerable to the predations of a government that can be much too slothful and disconnected from the everyday realities of its citizen's lives. And this comes from someone who's been a lifelong Democrat.

No era in American governance has contained more disappointments than the last eight years. There has been no national conversation that can couple the understandable goal of a government that does less with aim of asking it to do better. Our path forward lies in a skillful blend of the two perspectives. But to ask government alone to hold the lantern for us as we venture through this long, national night is another big mistake. Our country has grown much too big, and the complexity of its problems much too deep, to be solved in Washington, DC or even Harrisburg anymore. The time has come to push out, to decentralize, and to invert the pyramid that also defines government, moving the local to the top, holding the state in the middle, and placing the federal at bottom.

We'll still need the federal government to discharge some basic duties (safeguard the Bill of Rights, provide for the national defense, maintain the nation's infrastructure), and do its part to help hoist a re-defined safety net for all those who cannot provide for themselves. Just about everything else it does arguably needs to find another home. That's the national conversation that needs to happen, the one that past Presidents have never been able to bring themselves to start. The country is ready for it. It will make all of us very nervous. But the time to have that conversation is now. *[Editor's Note: the opinions represented by the writer are his alone]* ♦



**LAWRENCEVILLE  
VISION CARE**

**New Location**  
4321 Butler Street  
Open Monday - Saturday

412 - 682 - 2339




**Friendship Psychological Services**  
for children and adolescents to age 21 and their families.

Watson's expertise includes licensed psychiatrists, psychologists and therapists who meet the needs of children with behavioral and emotional challenges.

**We offer:**

- Diagnostic Assessments
- Psychiatric Evaluations
- Trauma Informed Care
- Family Support and Counseling
- Grief Therapy
- Outpatient Psychotherapy
- Parenting Skills and Behavior Management
- Medication Management

**"I can't"**  
We can help turn "I can't" into "I can."  
theWatsonInstitute.org | 412-749-6450  
255 S. Negley Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Emotional and Behavioral Challenges • Developmental Delays • Autism Spectrum Disorder

**DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER BULLETIN = FRIDAY, AUGUST 12**