

the Bulletin

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Garfield housing development suffers setback at URA

By Joe Reuben *Bulletin contributor*

Garfield - Last month, Module Design, Inc. was prepared to enter into negotiations with the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) to purchase nine city-owned lots in the 5100 block of Rosetta Street.

Then, the URA's Board of Directors could not muster a vote to green light the negotiations; a motion that was on the table to do just this died for lack of a second.

It was a bit of an awkward moment for the agency, considering that Module is collaborating on the project with the Pittsburgh Housing Development Corporation (PHDC), a subsidiary of the URA.

Most observers thought the vote would be a mere formality. But board members Ed Gainey, a state representative for the city's East End, and Lindsay Thompson, an aide

See **Module** | page 2



ABOVE: Jeff Wilson takes a break from his daily routine - vaccinating people on a walk-in basis - outside Wilson's Pharmacy (4101 Penn Ave.) in Lawrenceville. The pharmacist's vax tally now tops 12,000 arms and counting. Read more on page 4. Photo by John Colombo.



ABOVE: Bloomfield Saturday Market vendors arrange fresh produce at 5050 Liberty Ave. Learn more about East End farmers markets on page 8. Photo courtesy of Abi Gildea.

Wilson's Pharmacy offers free vaccinations

By Andrew McKeon *The Bulletin*

Lawrenceville - Wilson's Pharmacy (4101 Penn Ave.) has been around long enough to survive a crisis or two. Founded 81 years ago, the pharmacy is now a neighborhood mainstay with a new mission to combat COVID-19.

Building on his grandfather's pledge to help local residents through times of need, pharmacist Jeff Wilson is now vaccinating anyone who walks through the door; no appointments necessary.

"As people heard about us on the local news, they began coming from all over the place," Wilson explained. "When we first started off, just vaccinating the med-

ical professionals, we had people driving down here from Erie, PA."

According to estimates, the pharmacy has, as of press time, vaccinated more than 12,000 individuals. Wilson had apparently heard enough testimonials, from folks who could not access vaccination sites in their own neighborhoods, to know what he should do: vaccinate everybody who walked into his pharmacy.

He still makes house calls to a number of home-bound Bloomfield residents. From the sidewalk outside of his family pharmacy, Wilson regularly vaccinates people

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*MAYORAL CANDIDATES RESPOND
TO FIVE PRESSING QUESTIONS*

*'UNBLURRED' CRAWL FRINGE
FESTIVAL REACTIVATE PENN AVE.*

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to Mayor Bill Peduto, peppered Module with questions about the project. Both said they felt some discomfort at seeing houses that would likely cost over \$300,000 to build somehow be categorized as “affordable” housing. They also said they needed to see more details on how the goal of affordability would be achieved on some percentage of Module’s new homes.

Brian Gaudio, a principal with Module, attended the April meeting, attempting to help Gainey and Thompson understand

how his firm managed to achieve that objective with one of three homes it built last year in the 5500 block of Black Street. A two-story, two-bedroom house [5456 Black St.] managed to sell for \$184,000 to a low-income homebuyer, who was able to receive mortgage subsidies on the purchase from both the URA and the Housing Authority of Pittsburgh.

Gaudio said he would work with the PHDC to secure grants from various sources - funds sufficient to make at least three of Module’s ten prospective homes affordable to households earning less than \$61,000 annually.

Gainey observed that Garfield, like a number of other East End neighborhoods, is trying to fend off displacement of residents that “too often is the by-product of new development.” He was hopeful that Module could make a larger commitment to building affordably-priced units if it acquires these city properties. In addition to the ten homes slated for Rosetta St., Module is also aiming to build two more homes in the 4900 block of Broad Street, on city-owned lots. Both of those homes would be sold at market-rate prices, according to Gaudio.

The URA Board was told that Module’s project had the support of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), the community development group in Garfield. However, Rick Swartz, the BGC’s executive director, said after the meeting that the board of his organization is withholding support until it sees how many units are made affordable, and at what prices.

“Our goal with any housing development is to see one affordably-priced home built for every two that are built and sold at

market-rate prices. With ten units on Rosetta and two on Broad, Module needs to commit to making four of their homes affordable if it’s looking for our support,” he told *The Bulletin* recently. “It’s what they managed to do on Black Street.”

Module is expected to continue refining its development plans in the hopes that it can return to the URA Board, as soon as this month, to get the approval needed to begin exclusive negotiations on the purchase of the parcels in question. ♦

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College & Career Readiness Program: senior spotlight on Bryell & Mekka

A Message from the BGC Youth Programs Team

Garfield - During the month of March, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's (BGC) youth programs staff have been helping students in the College and Career Readiness Program (CCRP) complete the last steps of the college application process, mainly in finalizing their decisions of which colleges and universities they will be attending in the fall. The list is impressive, and continues to grow.

CCRP students so far have been accepted to William & Mary, Northwestern, Wellesley College for Women, Spellman, UNC-Greensboro, UNC Winston-Salem, North Carolina A&T, Randolph Community College, IUP, Pitt, Theil, Hampton, Drexel, Barber School of Pittsburgh, Penn State, SRU, Point Park, La Roche, Cal U, Morgan State, Lincoln, RMU, CMU, Clark Atlanta, Benedict, Temple, Clarion, Chatham, University of Akron, LSU, Duquesne, and CCAC.

Our youth staff wanted to take time to share the stories of two of our CCRP students.

Bryell is a senior at Urban Pathways Charter School. She is currently a full-time student who is balancing her academics, a 25-30 hour work week, and driving lessons, while also being the mother of a son under the age of one. With all of that being said, Bryell has a fabulous GPA of 3.9. Her plan is to attend a local program/college and become a nurse, or to achieve another position in the medical field.

Mekka is a senior at Obama Academy who succeeds in the face of every challenge that comes her way; she works at least 35 hours/week at a local restaurant while also maintaining a 3.4 GPA. Mekka looks forward to parlaying her success into a postsecondary career as a first-generation college student. While she has applied to several schools, Mekka dreams of attending Howard University to study theater and performing arts. ♦



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the Bulletin

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Board Meetings are held by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation at 6:30 p.m. on the
second Monday of each month, and are open to the public. Meetings are currently being
conducted online via Zoom; email Nina@Bloomfield-Garfield.org for more details.

The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the publisher.

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Thanks also to Allegheny Health Network, West Penn Hospital,
the City of Pittsburgh, *The Bulletin's* advertisers, and all BGC
members for their ongoing support and assistance. Kudos!

Meet the BGC: Board Treasurer Zach Restelli



ABOVE: Zach Restelli, developer, general contractor, and BGC Treasurer, lives in East Liberty. He has been involved in the work of the BGC since 2013. Photo courtesy of Nina Gibbs.



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on Twitter (@BloomGarCorp)

Vaccination continued from page 1

BELOW: Jeff Wilson (right) administers a COVID-19 vaccination to Jessica Hurst, a resident of the Upper Hill District, at Wilson's Pharmacy in Lawrenceville. Photo by John Colombo.



who cannot leave their vehicles due to mobility issues.

"The big vacuum doesn't reach under the counter, where we 'dust-busters' do," Wilson said in reference to the effect that local, independent pharmacies can have on a global health crisis. While he keeps faith in the public health system, this third-generation pharmacist understands the many hurdles to the state's vaccine rollout.

"The state decided to cut down its list of providers and, somehow, we made that cut," he said while acknowledging legislators' recent efforts to make vaccinations readily available to all state residents.

Wilson's Pharmacy tries to make the walk-in process as smooth as possible. "We've heard the 'I'm afraid of needles' thing a ton of times," Wilson noted. "Then, after the injection, most people end up saying 'Wow! I can't believe that's all there is to it.' They're in and out in a couple minutes, then tell us how they can't believe how easy it was."

Wilson's specialists never turn people away

from getting vaccinated. Walk-ins are always welcome, even during peak hours; call 412-621-6471 to learn more.

Decades after his grandfather opened Wilson's Pharmacy, Jeff still adheres to his family's vision, albeit during a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic. "It's been a real pleasure and honor for us to continue serving the local community," Wilson said. ♦

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Garfield Jubilee's YouthBuild Program

Garfield Jubilee Association, Inc. is now recruiting for its YouthBuild Program. Eligible youths must be 16-24 years of age, meet low income requirements, and live in the City of Pittsburgh or Allegheny County. Participants without a high school diploma may complete the necessary GED requirements. Career tracks include opportunities in construction, as well as health care (CNA); the age requirement for this career track is 18-24 years, and participants must have a high school diploma.

Information on the YouthBuild Program is available at garfieldjubilee.org. For more info, call program coordinator Dion Jones at 412-665-5206; email DionJones@garfieldjubilee.org or YouthBuildPgh@gmail.com.

Bloomfield landlord discloses plans for S. Mathilda apartment building

By Joe Reuben *Bulletin contributor*

Bloomfield - An Oakland-based management company [NRM Properties, the subject of a story in the March edition of *The Bulletin*] maintains that it has no plans to displace all the tenants from a 12-unit apartment building it manages at 254-60 S. Mathilda St.

Two officials from NRM Properties said in a Mar. 26 meeting with representatives from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corp. and Bloomfield Development Corp. that the company intends to retain most of the tenants living at the property, even as it looks to begin making upgrades to the apartments in the years to come.

According to the community representatives, Bill Maurizio, a vice-president with NRM, said that his company's inspection of the building last fall did reveal problems with at least two of the apartments. He alleged that the damages, which NRM believes were caused mainly by the tenants living in those units, are significant; he explained that the only way NRM can address the damages is to not renew the leases of the tenants in question.

Maurizio said the remaining tenants at the property have taken care of their apartments, and that a rent increase of 40% or more is not planned for those units, as had been previously reported. NRM's plan, according to Maurizio, is to seek much smaller rent increases over time from the tenants who are maintaining their units well.

He admitted that rents in the building are well below what NRM considers to be the market rate for well-maintained apartments in the Bloomfield area. As units become vacant over time, NRM will make a number of improvements to the living spaces; when the apartments are placed back on the market, they will be at rates significantly higher than the current range of \$850-\$880/month for a two-bedroom unit.

Kate Kay, the leasing supervisor for NRM, said she is personally overseeing the day-to-day management of the S. Mathilda St. building. One of the tenant's complaints, aired in the March *Bulletin* story, was how difficult it became to reach anyone at NRM to find out what was actually going on with the building.

Kay said she is giving her contact info to all of the residents, and will keep them up-

dated on plans for the property. Maurizio stressed that Nathaniel R. Morgan, who he confirmed is the owner of NRM, aspires to have one of the better, if not the best, rental management firms in the city, and that it is NRM's aim to continue acquiring smaller apartment buildings in the Bloomfield neighborhood.

He disclosed that Morgan also has a financial stake in Cosenza LLC, the company that owns 254-60 S. Mathilda St. Maurizio said this is the niche that NRM is carving for itself, and that when the company has purchase agreements in hand for other buildings, it will inform the tenants and community groups about its plans for those properties.

NRM does not want to be labeled as a gentrifying force in any neighborhood, Maurizio stated, noting that NRM's apartments will always be priced well below the newer developments popping up in East Liberty and Lawrenceville.

On the flipside, Maurizio pointed to a number of rental property management companies in the Bloomfield area - ones that he feels are not doing a particularly good job of managing the properties in their portfolio - and mentioned that he does not want to see NRM lumped in with such bad company. ♦

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Mayoral election in sight, candidates respond to pressing questions

The Bulletin posed five questions to each Mayoral candidate [limit: 50 words/response]. Please get out there and vote on Tuesday, May 18.

	<u>State Rep. Ed Gainey</u>	<u>Tony Moreno</u>	<u>Mayor William Peduto</u>	<u>Michael Thompson</u>
<i>1) The city will reportedly be receiving upwards of \$354 million in assistance over the next 4 years as a result of \$1.9 trillion stimulus package passed by the U. S. Congress in March. How do you think the city should deploy these monies in relation to its operating and capital budgets?</i>	“My priorities for deploying funding through the American Rescue Plan include protecting Pittsburghers harmed by the economic crisis and investing in Pittsburgh’s future by providing rental and mortgage assistance, financial assistance to small businesses, avoiding layoffs in the City workforce, investing in affordable housing, and fixing our roads and bridges.”	“Direct monies to immediate needs in our neighborhoods; focus on blight in neighborhoods, seeing poverty is the first step in accepting poverty; activate existing (unemployed) workforce for training and mobility; ensure availability of driver training/auto service training with seized vehicles, and then award vehicles to students.”	“We must restore a number of the cuts that were made to the budget and restore the City’s financial position. Additionally, we must use the remaining funds to advance a resilient and equitable Pittsburgh focused on people and neighborhoods first.”	“I would like to see 80% of recent City budget cuts restored. These are essential city services. With the remaining money, we need to commit to clean water and to not dumping sewage in the river. We need to update our water infrastructure.”
<i>2) Are you satisfied with the extent of the reforms the city has enacted in relation to the operations of the police bureau, given last summer’s protests?</i>	“No - we need to change the way we police this city and redefine the relationship between the police and our communities; by banning military-style weapons, expanding officer accountability, and redirecting resources toward community policing strategies that allow appropriately trained professionals to respond to non-violent incidents instead of armed officers.”	“Policies are in direct conflict with laws and city codes, causing confusion amongst the officers & protestors; political decision-making has caused the loss of life and property in our city; corruption causes mistrust in the rank and file, and in communities; failed policies are proven by 90% increase in violence.”	“We made changes to the command structure and further empowered the Civil Affairs Unit and Community Engagement Office. There is still a lot more we can do to improve community-police relations. The Legislature must overhaul Act 111 to give Mayors the power to bring bad officers to justice.”	“No I am not. We need radical police reform. We need to go with the East Pittsburgh plan. We fire all of officers and bring in the state police to run things for a while. Then, we transition to a charter police force of non-unionized officers.”
<i>3) The City of Pittsburgh has done much to put most of its daily operations online, including all of the business it handles by issuing permits, licenses, and departmental approvals. How would you assess the success of these efforts?</i>	“The rollout of online portals for city functions has been successful in making city services more accessible, but ensuring these accessibility improvements are equitable we need to invest in equitable internet service citywide so that everyone who chooses to use the city’s online portals has the opportunity to do so.”	“Licensing/permits/inspection is a failure, weaponized by the Mayor; inspectors are not certified professionals with experience; guidelines are used to punish non-supporters; BILP gives partiality to projects that the Mayor favors in his timeline, or as political favors, and prevents new business from coming to Pittsburgh.”	“We have brought a level of transparency and accountability to Pittsburgh City government that has never been seen. There is always more that we can do to improve. We have overhauled government in the name of accessibility & transparency.”	“Bill Peduto and his administration has done a decent job at moving City services online and he deserves praise for doing so.”
<i>4) The issue of affordably-priced housing remains one of the biggest challenges facing the city. What do you believe the city, or the state, still needs to do in order to help our neighborhoods retain a diverse population?</i>	“We have to significantly increase investment in affordable units, enact city-wide inclusionary zoning to ensure that affordable units are a part of every residential development, Include community benefit agreements in projects requesting public support, and expand the use of community land trusts to retain community control of publicly owned parcels.”	“City-funded ‘building trades’ graduates used to target abandoned housing - refurbish and start housing those in need; reward the newly-trained City employees with these homes, allowing them to be tax-paying voices in their communities; open zoning, increase units, and prioritize city residents in their neighborhoods.”	“We created a \$120 million affordable housing fund and started a program to make it easier for low-income residents to buy homes. We need to expand the land bank, which will allow us to get vacant properties in the hands of those who need them.”	“We need to put in place a firm law that requires 25% of all large new developments to be affordable housing. My campaign takes no money from developers and will give no tax breaks or tax incentives to developers. Developers need to stop bribing politicians like my opponents.”
<i>5) If elected [or re-elected] as Mayor, what would you list as your top three priorities over the next four years, and why?</i>	“If elected Mayor, my top priorities in my first term would be 1) demilitarizing the Bureau of Police and implementing accountability reforms, 2) increasing investment in affordable housing, and 3) resuming the legal challenge to UPMC’s nonprofit status to ensure that they pay their fair share to support our communities.”	“Public Works/public safety/career training; evaluate law enforcement & Public Works leadership and enforce/change existing policies - Public Works receives only 9%; prioritize clean and safe neighborhoods, parks, and open spaces - removing pension/Social Security offset; City-funded drivers training, and the implementation of the job-training programs mentioned above.”	“First, I want to expand our Avenues of Hope initiative to rebuild Black Main Streets. Second, I want to get funding for the Marshall Plan for Middle America to spur a just transition away from the fossil fuel industry. Thirdly, I want to cut carbon emissions by 50% by 2030.”	“Police reform: fire all of the police officers and transition to the state police, and then a charter police force of non-unionized officers. Affordable housing - 25% of all new developments need to be affordable housing units; clean water; we need a new police department and housing for all.” ♦

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BELOW: West Penn Hospital's Brian Johnson, MD (left), and Kevin Kusic plant a rose bush along Friendship Avenue to honor organ donors for 'Donate Life Month' in April. Photo courtesy of Catherine Clements.



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'Plant fever' catches on during pandemic

By Kelly Malone Workshop SF

Perspective/East End – Now that spring has sprung, many of us have caught plant fever [to go along with the allergies]. During the pandemic, people have been turning to houseplants for a hobby, a way to help stave off the loneliness of quarantine.

Over the winter months, I got caught more than once talking to my plants, taking daily time to hang with my "plant babies." Plants are undoubtedly fun to care for, but you also need to know the best environment for each type when choosing your houseplants.

The balance of finding the right spot in your home, the correct amount of light, and a proper watering routine - not to mention learning how to troubleshoot issues as they crop up - are all crucial in plant care. Let's face it: we've all killed plants before. So don't let any past mistakes impact your confidence in your plant parenting skills.

We here at WorkshopSF wanted to share a few things to help you along in your plant journey, and give you some ideas on plants that are "easy-care" and "pet-safe" to help you build that confidence. There are thousands of plants out there with different care needs. The most important thing you can do is watch your plant and learn to read what it's saying. Look for changes and adjust accordingly.

There are a slew of awesome plant apps that can help you identify your plant just by snapping a quick photo, giving you the care and pointers to boot; some plant apps even remind you when to water or fertilize. Try the following apps: Vera Plant Care, Picture This, Planta, Florish, and Blossom. They walk you through most of what you need to know for each individual plant. Use the compass built into your phone to help figure out what direction your windows are facing to ensure your plants get the right amount of sunlight.

Start with an easy-care plant, learn about the maintenance, and slowly build your confidence. It's important to remember that becoming a green thumb takes practice and, more than anything, time. Here are a few of our favorite "starter plants."

- ♦ Pothos and philodendrons are both popular plants you can find at just about every plant store, and even hardware stores. They tend to grow quickly and trail down. These are great plants for beginners because not only are they easy-care, but they're also quick growers. Both species look similar, and have a few varieties with different leaves, but Philodendrons tend to have more heart-shaped leaves. Though they are not pet-safe, they can be set up high and out of the way of pets. Also, they will droop and tent to let you know, "Hey, water me please!" and then perk back up once they get watered.

- ♦ Peperomias (also known as "radiator plants"), which have several types/varieties and are pet-friendly, have been very popular this year. Pilea plants are popular and very easy to propagate (grow more). Our favorite is the Peperomia Obtusifolia - very easy-going and they grow fast - but we also love a Watermelon Peperomia, which is striped like a watermelon.

- ♦ Spider plants are pet-safe and fairly easy-care. They also spawn babies that can be propagated to make into more plants or given to friends. It's the perfect time right now to find Spider Plants at your local nursery or plant shop.

- ♦ Ponytail Palms are one of our favorites for any people with cats. I actually buy a new one every few months and just let my kids play with it. They tend to look like a large ponytail on a stump, and are very hearty and easy-care.

- ♦ Calatheas are stunning and have so many varieties. Many of the varieties featuring pink striping or pink accents, like the Calathea Ornata or Stromanthe Triostar, are popular this year. They can be a bit more complicated to care for than other plants, but are great for someone trying to expand their plant after gaining a bit of confidence.

- ♦ Attention succulent lovers: Echeveria plants are both easy-care and pet-safe. They tend to be the traditional rose-like, patterned succulent you can find everywhere in the summer. While they look stunning and can be grown indoors or outside, come winter, they require a change of care.

Workshop SF carries a small selection of plants, and gets new ones in weekly. Here is a list of some local plant shops & nurseries with houseplants available for sale.

Garfield: WorkshopSF, 5131 Penn Ave.

Shadyside: Shadyside Nursery, 510 Maryland Ave.; Synthesis, 813 Copeland Way

Bloomfield: Leone's Florist (some plants on hand), 4822 Liberty Ave.

Lawrenceville: Cavacini Landscaping & Garden Center, 100 50 St.; City Grows, 5208 Butler St.; Perrico Plants, 158 41st St. ♦

NeighborhoodFOCUS

Farmers markets ripening city’s East End neighborhoods

By Bryanna Johnson, Lawrenceville United
& Abi Gildea, Bloomfield Development Corporation

Bloomfield & Lawrenceville - Every year, without fail, Pittsburghers look for signs that we have made it to the other side of winter: flowering trees in full bloom, Opening Day for the Buccos, and the return of open-air farmers markets.

Soon, the parking lot at 5050 Liberty Ave. will be lined with pop-up tents, produce, and smiling faces [hidden behind masks] as the Bloomfield Saturday Market (BSM) opens for the 2021 season. Just over a mile away, the Lawrenceville Farmers Market (LFM) will fill Arsenal Park with similar sights and sounds on Tuesday afternoons.

The BSM will begin its eighth summer season on May 8, running every Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., through the month of November. Patrons will get to enjoy an array of produce vendors like Sturges Orchard, Tiny Seed Farm, be.wild.er farm, Who Cooks For You Farm, and others. Known for its selection of fresh local produce, BSM is also home to a variety of other producers - neighborhood favorites like Ocho Salsa, Chantal’s Cheese, Gryphon’s Tea, Fet Fisk, Wild Rise Bakery and Sprezzatura will all be in the mix this season.

The parking lane on Liberty Avenue will continue to act as an extension of the market, hosting Crooked Creek Distillery, East End Brewing, Old Time Farm, and

BELOW: At the Bloomfield Saturday Market, one vendor’s tattoos tell the whole story. Photo courtesy of Abi Gildea.





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Challenge PPS to institute district-wide best practices, focusing on accelerating achievement for Black children.
- EQUITY IN EDUCATION**
Provide an inclusive and representative curriculum that includes history and experiences of minority ethnicities.
- DIVERSIFICATION**
Develop policies to attract, train and retain teachers of color to equalize the current 85% white teaching force.

MAY 18

A Vote For Sala Is A Vote for Quality Education

Sala Udin is running for reelection for District 3 School Board Director because the work is not finished. Baby steps have been taken, but our children need giant steps in order to catch up. Throughout his career, Sala has been an outspoken voice for quality education and equity. Sala knows his way around the halls of Pittsburgh Public Schools and we need his voice.

YOUR VOTE CAN MAKE A CHANGE TODAY

Read about Sala's entire program at:
SALAFORSCHOOLBOARD.COM

 **/SalaUdinHowze**

Tina’s, where customers can grab a drink before or after making their rounds at the market.

Celebrating its tenth year in operation, the Lawrenceville Farmers Market will run every Tuesday - from 3 to 7 p.m., May 18 through Nov. 2; and from 3 to 6 p.m., Nov. 9 through Dec. 14. The 3-4 p.m. hour is reserved for populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 to shop safely with fewer crowds. The market’s produce and meat vendors will include Harvest Valley Farms, Star Cross Naturals, Old Tin Roof Farm, Wildom Farm, Fallen Aspen Farm, and more.

LFM has quickly become a destination for baked goods, coffee, candles, jam, and beer- with vendors like Arsenal Farms, Crust Worthy, Colombino, Chez Lapin, Maple Street Jam Co., and Hop Farm Brewing on hand at Arsenal Park. Patrons can also grab a delicious dinner from Istanbul Grille, MyTaque, the Somali Bantu Community Association, or one many other prepared food sellers.

The Bloomfield Saturday Market, a program of Bloomfield Development Corporation, and Lawrenceville Farmers Market, a Lawrenceville United program, are working to increase food access and provide local communities with fresh, healthy food. For customers using credit, debit, or SNAP/EBT cards, both markets will exchange their payment for tokens that can be spent directly with vendors.

Visit the information tents on the S. Winebiddle Street side of BSM, and at the 40th Street entrance of Arsenal Park at LFM. For every \$5 spent, SNAP/EBT users will

- continued on next page -

'Farmers markets have always been vital food access points for Pittsburgh neighborhoods - last year more than ever.'

- continued from previous page -

continue to receive an additional \$2 in Food Bucks, which can be used just like cash on fresh fruit and vegetables.

Farmers markets have always been vital food access points for Pittsburgh neighborhoods - last year more than ever. BSM and LFM will continue requiring customers to wear masks and practice social distancing while inside and around the market. At this time, there will be no eating or seating available inside the markets.

The market staff will continue to work with the Allegheny County Health Department and Farmers Market Network to assess the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and will make adjustments as necessary. Whatever adaptations need to be made, customers are sure to find good food, safe practices, and a warm welcome at these neighborhood markets.

For more information on the Lawrenceville Farmers Market, visit LUnited.org/lawrenceville-farmers-market/, email market@LUnited.org, or call 412-802-7220. For the Bloomfield Saturday Market, visit bloomfieldpgh.org/bloomfield-saturday-market/, email market@bloomfieldpgh.org, or call 412-681-8800. ♦



ABOVE: Lawrenceville Farmers Market staff members welcome visitors to Arsenal Park. Photo courtesy of Bryanna Johnson.

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Summer Reading officially kicks off on **June 13, 2021!**



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FREE TO THE PEOPLE

Beyond Penn Avenue: 'Unblurred' Art Crawl joins (virtual) forces with PGH Fringe Festival

By Nina Gibbs Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - Penn Avenue will spring back into action on May 7 for the [in real life] return of Unblurred: First Friday Art Crawl.

Painted cars, performances, neon lights, giant mixed media, fiber arts, and photography are among the many attractions to be found outdoors - along with many socially distanced, indoor art experiences from 4 to 9 p.m. on Friday, May 7.

Irma Freeman Center for Imagination (5006 Penn Ave.) will host the Fiber Arts Guild from 6:30-9:30 p.m., and will be open for walk-ins, as will The International Children's Art Gallery (5022 Penn Ave.). Most Wanted Car Club will be at the corner of Winebiddle & Penn with some cool "Art Cars" on display, while neighboring businesses, Taquitos and Spak Bros. Pizza

will provide quick and tasty bites for any hungry art crawlers.

Moving down the avenue, multiple locations will display artwork on their gallery windows, including Boom Concepts (5139 Penn Ave.). The Opportunity Fund will play host to "a curious alien who wants to learn what it means to be an Earth Human." Visit PennAvenue.org to get clued in on these and other Unblurred listings.

For those who are still not ready to venture out into public, there will be no "fear of missing out," as anyone is welcome to experience Unblurred online - where they can check out local and international performances thanks to this year's collaboration with Pittsburgh Fringe Festival. Pittsburgh Glass Center, for example, will host a "Virtual Hot Jam" session as part of its

BELOW: Pittsburgh Glass Center's new "LIT" exhibition will be on display during the May 7 Unblurred festivities. Photo courtesy of Nina Gibbs.



20th anniversary celebration.

Pittsburgh Fringe Festival, one of the first "Fringes" worldwide to go virtual last year because of the pandemic, is back again from May 6 - 9. Still broadcasting virtually, the 2021 Pittsburgh Fringe will showcase over 50 different shows - some local and others from all over the world.

This year's international flavor stems in part from the festivities being held entirely online, which means artists do not have to worry about visas and expensive travel.

Pittsburgh Fringe has been able to book many more international shows, providing an interesting opportunity to see local Pittsburgh artists perform right alongside shows from across the globe.

The virtual performances will be made available on a wide variety of platforms: Zoom, Youtube, Vimeo, Facebook, and even Twitch. Some performances will be live and interactive, and only happen a few times during the festival; other shows are pre-recorded, and can be watched at any time over the Pittsburgh Fringe weekend.

Artists select their prices, so there are free shows, suggested donation shows, and charged shows (mostly \$5 and \$10, but one \$25); funds can go directly to the artists through their own payment systems. Learn more about the virtual festival at pittsburghfringe.org. ♦

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Lawrenceville stakeholders weigh in on future of historic Clack Facility

By Emily Persico *Lawrenceville Corporation*

Insight/Lawrenceville – During a recent Zoom meeting, community members took turns sharing their memories of Lawrenceville through interpretive performances, dioramas, drawings, and virtual show-and-tells.

This breakout room was just one in ten convened during the first community workshop series for the Clack site planning process which, in total, brought together over 40 community members for a virtual week of fun and imagination.

Situated on bustling Penn Avenue, between 39th Street and 40th Street, the Allegheny County Frank B. Clack Health Center appears frozen in time. The property's hundred-year sycamore trees sway over some of the oldest buildings in Allegheny County; its quiet, winding walkways and open green spaces are separated from Arsenal Park by nothing more than a chain-link fence.

Despite its prime location and ample access to amenities, countless community plans have assumed, as ever, that the 5.2-acre site will more or less remain exactly as it has always been.

That is, until now. As county officials consider possible dispossession of the site, community members are reclaiming the long-forgotten space through collective reimagination. The first community workshop series kicked off a public planning process that will span the next few months, culminating in a set of community-focused design guidelines that will shape future development of the site.

As we continue to work through feedback shared during our first visioning session, we want to know what you think: Should density on the site be increased? Is the site best served by a history museum, a child-

care facility, mixed income housing?

Reflect on your values and priorities by taking a quick 5- 10 minute survey (bit.ly/ClackSurvey).

The Clack community planning process is spearheaded by Lawrenceville Corporation and Lawrenceville United, with expertise from Studio for Spatial Practice and architect Kisha Patterson.

Together, we have convened a group of stakeholders – including city and county officials, ACTION Housing, and Bloomfield Development Corporation – that will keep working behind the scenes to better understand development goals, constraints, and timelines to ensure future redevelopment of the site aligns with community values and priorities.

To receive updates on the second community workshop series happening this summer at the farmer's market and other outdoor locations, provide your contact information in your survey response at bit.ly/ClackSurvey, email info@LUnited.org, or call (412) 802-7220. ♦

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Name: _____

Birthday: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



Do you feel safe in your community? (on a scale of 1 being very safe and 5 being not safe at all)

What do you feel makes the community unsafe?

- What do you think are the biggest issues our community faces (Please only select the top 4)
- ☐ Employment/ Education Opportunities
 - ☐ Housing resources/ rental
 - ☐ Housing resources/home owners
 - ☐ Potholes/sidewalks/vacant property
 - ☐ Trash/dumping
 - ☐ Violent Crime
 - ☐ Non-violent crime
 - ☐ Help with small business
 - ☐ Clean Air

- If given an opportunity to meet with Officials whose work involves our public safety, who would you most like to be able to ask questions and hear from? (Please only choose 4)
- ☐ Zone 5 Police
 - ☐ Probation
 - ☐ Vice
 - ☐ Narcotics
 - ☐ Trauma Unit
 - ☐ DA's Office
 - ☐ US Attorney General
 - ☐ City Council members
 - ☐ State Representative
 - ☐ Mayor's Office
 - ☐ Magistrate
 - ☐ Permits, Licensing and inspection
 - ☐ Housing Authority of Pittsburgh
 - ☐ URA
 - ☐ Allegheny County Health Department
 - ☐ Department of Mobility & Infrastructure
 - ☐ PWSA – Lead
 - ☐ Lead Safe Allegheny
 - ☐ Other: _____

- I am interested in being part of a block watch:
- ☐ Yes ☐ No
- I am interested in helping pass out fliers and volunteer at events
- ☐ Yes ☐ No
- I would like to report a problem:

Is illegal dumping a problem near you?

1	2	3	4	5
No	A little bit	Moderate	Yes	Big Issue

Do you believe access to nature has a positive effect on people's well being?

1	2	3	4	5
No	Not really	Indifferent	Maybe	Yes

How often do you go for walks in Garfield (either to get to a bus/residence or for fun)?

1	2	3	4	5
I don't	Not often	Sometimes	Often	All the time

How often do you use other parks in Pittsburgh? (Frick, Schenley, Arsenal, etc)

1	2	3	4	5
I don't	Not often	Sometimes	Often	All the time

Would you be willing to clean and/or mow a vacant lot near you in you owned it?

1	2	3	4	5
No	Too busy	Tell me more	Maybe	Yes

Do you think Garfield would benefit from well maintained walking paths and benches?

1	2	3	4	5
No	Not really	Indifferent	Maybe	Yes

Would you like more trees on your street/in front of your home?

No	Need more info	Yes
----	----------------	-----

Do you feel that access to fresh, nutrient dense food is accessible to most residents?

No	Sometime	Yes
----	----------	-----

Do you know the meaning of environmental justice?

No	Need more info	Yes
----	----------------	-----

Do you feel like your environment influences your health (explain)

BGC looking for Greenzone Crew Leader: summer work

Bloomfield-Garfield Corp. Job Posting

Garfield - Reporting to the Chief Operations Officer, the Greenzone Crew Leader is responsible for training youth participants in the Learn & Earn program on basic green industry skills, landscaping duties, worksite safety, and professional communication.

The Greenzone Crew Leader will work primarily with the BGC's Greenzone Coordinator to develop work plans for each participant. They will prepare youths to work on crews that can train them how to safely utilize basic landscaping tools, conduct clean-ups, remove invasive species, and engage in plantings, pruning, mulching, and other projects in Garfield.

The crew leader will be responsible for logging daily information on all activities, doing weekly upkeep and maintenance on the equipment used, and assisting with clean-ups. This is a temporary position that will run from 6/21/2021-8/13/2021, 35 hours per week, Monday-Friday. The rate of pay is \$16.50/hour.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Work closely with the Greenzone Coordinator, other team members, and be able to take direction.
- Maintain a clean and safe job site, along with an organized equipment area.
- Maintain and care for equipment, tools, and other materials provided.
- Perform physical labor.
- Maintain program integrity and professional conduct on the part of all participants.
- Assist in mulching manually.
- Install plants & seeding.
- Coordinate and oversee trimming and pruning of shrubs or small trees, grass-cutting, and clean-ups.

Requisite Skills:

- Hardscaping experience is a plus.
- Watering, familiarity with irrigation a plus.
- Able to assist in loading materials, lifting heavy items, & helping team members.
- Some experience with managing youth participants, developing work plans and schedules, and providing guidance and training as outlined in the job summary.
- Able to track proper completion of timesheets and to ensure a meaningful work experience.

Requirements and Qualifications:

- Minimum of two years of previous landscaping experience preferred.
- Must have valid PA driver's license.
- Knowledgeable/experienced in installing a variety of landscape & hardscape projects.
- Must be professional in appearance and in all interactions with youths, fellow team members, and the general public.
- Highly motivated, self-driven, and detailed-oriented.
- Great time management skills, available Monday through Friday during daytime hours, with possible hours needed on occasional Saturdays.
- Punctual and dependable.
- Ability to work effectively with individuals of differing backgrounds, knowledge, and skill levels.
- Can furnish or complete the process for obtaining Act 33/34 and FBI clearances.

Resumes and cover letters may be sent to amber@bloomfield-garfield.org. ♦

Bakery Square selects first two artists for community art program

By Elizabeth Sensky East Liberty Development, Inc.

Larimer - In February, the owners of Bakery Square unveiled its new community art program. The program coincides with the completion of Bakery Square 3.0, an extension of the complex that includes new offices for Philips and a 12,400-square-foot, two-story building that will house the restaurant incubator Galley Bakery Square.

To ensure that the new developments felt like a part of the community, Walnut Capital worked with the Larimer Consensus Group to find ways to integrate the site with nearby neighborhoods.

A main feature of the program is a public art display on the facade of the Galley Bakery Square building. The building will showcase artworks on two exterior panels, totaling approximately 720 square feet.

Walnut Capital put out a public call for artists in February to find an individual artist or team of artists to create the first façade piece.

To gain local input on their artwork, the selected artist would complete a residency with community groups and students at the nearby Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Public School's Lincoln Elementary. After judging 85 applicants and interviewing 5 finalists/teams, a committee of Bakery Square team members, Larimer residents, and local art experts chose two artists instead of one - thereby doubling the program budget.

The selected artists, Janel Young and Lori Hepner, are both Pittsburgh natives. Young will immediately begin her residency with the schools and then install



ABOVE: Artist Janel Young. Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Sensky.

her artwork in May or June. Hepner will begin her residency in the fall of 2021, with plans to install her artwork over the late fall/winter season. Each of the artworks will be on display for six months.

In an announcement on its website, Bakery Square shared the reasoning for selecting two artists: "Our decision was driven by the desire to meet what we perceived as needs expressed by the community and schools while also taking the inaugural pilot project and extending it through one additional, contiguous season. An ongoing, revolving model has been considered from the very beginning, and this allows us to turn that into a reality."

Young is known for her mural work, which often incorporates elements of advocacy and community engagement. In 2019, she worked with the Beltzhoover community to create Pittsburgh's first "art basketball court" in Upper McKinley Park - a project she dubbed the "Home Court Advantage."

For this project, Young said that she aims to honor what Larimer is, what it has been, and what it still represents to its residents.

Hepner, who also works as a professor of integrative arts at Penn State Greater Allegheny, uses programmable LEDs and digital projections in her work. Drawing on her background in photography, she hopes to engage with the students through interactive digital workshops. Given the light-based nature of her work, Hepner was selected to install her pieces during the darker fall and winter months.

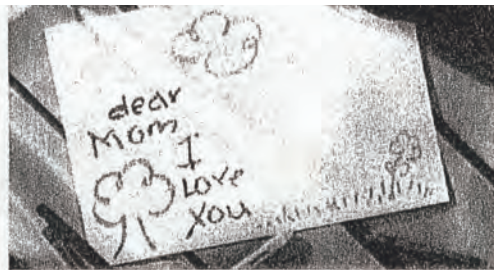
Bakery Square has not announced any plans for the program beyond these two artists but, according to Morton Brown, public art consultant for the project, his team remains open to ideas.

"This was meant to kick off the new building, and try out some exciting adornments, while connecting to the community. This project and/or other iterations of an art project could continue though, depending on how well this continues to be received, and other factors," Brown explained. "So far, so good!"

For more info, visit bakery-square.com/bakery-square-artist-announcement. ♦



ABOVE: Artist Lori Hepner. Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Sensky.



Reflecting on Mother's Day

Mother's Day can be a sad time for those whose mothers are no longer living.

Whether this is your first Mother's Day without your mother or if it has been years since she has died, there are many ways to honor your deceased mother or grandmother on Mother's Day.

We would like to offer the following suggestions:

- **Talk about your mother with people who remember her.**
- **Bring out pictures of your mother, and show them to other family members.**
- **Consider taking flowers to the cemetery.**
- **Do something your mother would have enjoyed.**
- **Give a Mother's Day donation to your mother's favorite charity in her name.**
- **And finally, bring back the tradition of wearing a single white carnation in memory of your deceased mother.**



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Claussen Cafehaus brings German pretzels to Pittsburgh’s ‘Little Italy’

By Andrew McKeon *The Bulletin*

Bloomfield - With the Mar. 20 opening of Claussen Cafehaus (4615 Liberty Ave.), Connor Claussen began a new chapter in his family’s eventful journey.

While working overseas with a musical theater troupe, Claussen’s mother, a Greensburg native, met a German man with great taste in food and music. She ended up marrying him and moving to Highland Park [where they co-founded a music school in their own home] before eventually giving birth to Connor - who still retains a keen ear for pitch and tone, as well as an understanding of the finer ingredients needed to create traditional German baked goods.

Claussen’s father Axel, who grew up near the German city of Heidelberg, knows how to make pretzels in the same innate way that Bloomfield grandmothers know how to make red sauce - as a birthright. Upon perfecting the Claussen family recipe and opening a wholesale pretzel-making business, Connor knew that something was still missing.

“With the wholesale business, we didn’t really have a touch-point, end-to-end, consumer contact,” he explained. “In this new brick-and-mortar experience, it’s really cool to be ingrained in the Bloomfield community, where we’re operating on face-to-face interactions more than anything else.”

Claussen looks forward to nurturing more collaboration with neighboring businesses like Linea Verde Green Market and Bitter Ends Luncheonette - including plans for out-



ABOVE: The salted German pretzel, a Claussen family recipe, foregrounds Liberty Avenue scenery in Bloomfield. Photo courtesy of Claussen Cafehaus.

door seating in front of the three adjoining storefronts.

“We’re meeting with urban planners to see how we can safely introduce more seating and tabletops,” he said. “We’d all like to host more outdoor, weekend performances, and bring some more flair to the avenue.”

Running a family business is hard, but Claussen only has to look across the counter to find his everyday motivation. “We just keep chipping away to help make the dream come true...but it’s already come true,” he confided. “Our dream is already happening, and we just have to help customers enjoy it with us.”

Visit claussencafehaus.com to learn more. ♦



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City of Bridges CLT announces inaugural membership drive

A Message from City of Bridges Community Land Trust

Pittsburgh - City of Bridges CLT (CBCLT), a nonprofit Community Land Trust - currently serving the communities of East Liberty, Etna, Fineview, Garfield, Hazelwood, Lawrenceville, Millvale, Polish Hill, and Sharpsburg - recently announced its inaugural membership drive.

City of Bridges CLT builds community ownership that preserves permanent affordability in housing, empowers individuals, and ensures responsible growth and stewardship. Anyone living in CBCLT's partner communities who is also committed to creating a region with diverse communities where people thrive, build wealth, establish roots, and foster community ties without risk of displacement is eligible to become a member.

As a membership organization, CBCLT's Board of Directors is elected annually by its members, giving all members an equal voice in City of Bridges' governance and operations. Open to anyone age 18 or older, membership gives local residents the power to elect CBCLT's Board of Directors, nominate individuals for the Board, stand for election themselves, and serve on numerous committees.

The 2021 annual meeting and board election will be held the week of June 28; members who join before the annual meeting will be eligible to vote in the Board election. City of Bridges has adopted a "pay-what-you-can" model for membership dues.

"We want everyone at the table," Ed Nusser, Executive Director of CBCLT, said, "and we thought leaving [the cost of] dues up to each member was the best way to do that."

City of Bridges seeks to center the voices of those who have been systemically and historically disenfranchised; individuals who identify as BIPOC, members of the LGBTQ+ community, or local residents from any other minority population are especially encouraged to join.

Readers interested in becoming a member of City of Bridges CLT may join by visiting cityofbridgesclt.org/our-programs/membership. ♦

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Led the City's economic recovery from financial distress to sustainability — while raising the minimum wage and without laying off workers. [Post-Gazette, 2/22/21]

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more to do.**



Pittsburgh: Doing More Together

BOOM Concepts welcomes resident artist Maggie Negrete

By Thomas Agnew *BOOM Concepts*

Garfield - BOOM Concepts (5139 Penn Ave.) is kicking off a fresh slate of spring programming with a familiar face, Maggie Negrete.

Building on her work with BOOM as a teaching artist and hired illustrator, she was recently named "lead resident artist" of the BOOM Universe resident program.

In the following interview, Negrete speaks about her aesthetic background, some formative connections with venues in the Bloomfield/Garfield area, the current focus of her artwork, and more.

BOOM: *Now that you're a resident artist at BOOM Concepts, could you tell us about your earliest connections in the Bloomfield/Garfield area of Penn Avenue?*

Negrete: "My first memory of coming to Penn Avenue [in Garfield] was attending shows at Garfield Artworks in the early 2000s. From there, gallery crawls became my monthly routine - not only as a social outlet, but also as a way of showing my own artwork or hosting events, especially for the Pittsburgh Zine Fair. I've shown my artwork and/or hosted events at Modern Formations, Roboto, Bunker Projects,

Assemble, and now Boom Concepts."

BOOM: *What would you like to explore via your residency at BOOM Concepts?*

Negrete: "During my residency at BOOM Concepts, I'm creating my first product line featuring my own illustrations. After leaving a job in education to give birth to my daughter, I'm very excited to reintegrate into my creative community - and also to redefine my income streams to incorporate freelance [work] and the more passive income I get from merchandising. BOOM's artists inspire me to think about my art not just as wall hangings, but as a lifestyle."

BOOM: *How do you utilize your artwork to support your community?*

Negrete: "When I lived in Lawrenceville, I taught art during afterschool for Arsenal Middle School through MGR Youth Empowerment. Then, when I moved across town to purchase my home in Allentown,

I ran an afterschool program for the Brashear Association, including a summer camp to support student applications to Pittsburgh Creative & Performing Arts 6-12 school (CAPA). After taking time off for care-giving, I'm interested in the community that I can build around my designs. This will hopefully give me the flexibility to be of greater service to my community again."

BOOM: *Anything else you'd like to mention, like 'Mama Magia' or your art direction of the 'Women in Sound' zine?*

Negrete: "Check out my freelance work at mggIntcreates.com, or on IG (@mggInt). My witchcraft-influenced personal work, including astrology and cartomancy readings, are available at lamamamagia.com, or on IG (@lamamamagia). Finally, go check out 'Women in Sound,' the zine and radio show that I art-direct, at womeninsound.com, or on IG (@womeninsound); listen to the program on Sonos Radio or Mixcloud." ♦



ABOVE: Self-portrait of local artist Maggie Negrete, who recently began her 2021 artist residency at BOOM Concepts (5139 Penn Ave.) in Garfield. Photo courtesy of Thomas Agnew.



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