

the
Bulletin

A publication of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Vol. 47, No. 11
NOVEMBER
2022



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



*Serving Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield,
East Liberty, and Lawrenceville since 1975*

**Kelly Strayhorn Theater
addresses uncertain
future in E. Liberty**

By Joseph Hall & Adam Golden
Kelly Strayhorn Theater

Insight/East Liberty - The fall season is off to an amazing start at Kelly Strayhorn Theater (KST), with a host of beautiful and powerful performances rooted in the liberation of Black and queer people.

This season's title, "The Soul of East Liberty," stems from the brilliant words of La'Tasha D. Mayes, Democratic candidate for State Representative. During the Planning Commission's January meeting, Mayes said of our effort to maintain KST's presence in our community: "You can't develop the soul out of East Liberty."

Her words were echoed by more than two dozen community members in attendance.

See **KST** | page 2



ABOVE: (Left to right) Tabitha Burnett and Keegan Van Gorder observe Zachery Van Dorn and Eva Conrad creating ceramic vases at the Pittsburgh Glass Center on Sunday, Oct. 16. See more snapshots from the Penn Ave. block party on page 5. Photo by John Colombo.



ABOVE: BOOM Concepts' new arts action, Black on Black Love, includes a beautiful mural at Carrie Furnace in Swissvale, PA. Read more on page 7. Photo by J. Thomas Agnew.

**Repairing bad reputation:
Shuman Center might reopen**

By Alan Guenther *Bulletin contributor*

Perspective/Pittsburgh – Mayor Ed Gainey recently told reporters that an announcement could arrive soon to reopen the Shuman Youth Detention Center in Lincoln-Lemington. If the center is reopened, local activists and church groups are hoping it will be done right.

Having it "done right" means the county will have to change its documented history of abusing incarcerated adults and children.

The Shuman Center closed last year after operating for six years with a series of

provisional licenses issued by the state because Allegheny County failed to resolve allegations of abuses and violations at the facility. Last year, after a boy survived a heroin overdose while he was incarcerated in Shuman, the county decided to close the center instead of fixing the problems.

Similarly, the county has failed to address long-running complaints about inhumane conditions, poor medical care, roach-laden food, and unclean showers at the Allegheny County Jail.

See **Shuman** | page 6

- **PAGE 4** -

*PGH RADIO PIONEER TRUMPETS
LOCAL KIDS' ACHIEVEMENTS*

*BGC LUNCHEON (11/11/22): BUY TICKETS
AT BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD.ORG/LUNCHEON*

KST *continued from page 1*

In this spirit, we want to take a moment to update you on where things stand with KST while giving some insight into what comes next. We encourage you to read this update in full but, at a minimum, know this: We're here, we've been here, and we're going to have to act together to stay here.

Thanks to your support, the Planning Commission made a suggestion of continuance - in favor of more community engagement and participation in McKnight Realty's project before it returns to the Commission at a later time. In the days following the Jan. 2022 meeting, McKnight Realty [representatives] stated that a long-term lease for Kelly Strayhorn Theater was easy and imminent. They told elected officials it would happen. They assured community stakeholders it would happen. They told us it would happen.

Formal lease negotiations between KST and McKnight Realty began in March, continuing into April. KST worked in earnest toward a resolution that could provide the theater with a 29-year lease - an agreement that could address our operational needs during construction while also allowing us to plan for KST's long-term future at 5941 Penn Avenue.

However, in May, McKnight Realty abruptly ceased all negotiations, with no explanation, and pulled its application from the Planning Commission.

We remained consistent in our communication and, in a June letter sent from our Board of Directors to McKnight, KST once again offered to co-vision the development with McKnight in order to cre-

ate a dynamic, mixed-use block centered on art and community. We shared our deadline to execute a 29-year lease: Sept. 30, 2022. McKnight has since made no acknowledgement of the letter - or even attempted to reignite lease negotiations by that date.

We understand that inflation, supply chain challenges, and labor shortages are

wreaking havoc on businesses across all industries. We know they are impacting this project. Given McKnight's reevaluation of the proposed development, there was a prime opportunity to vision with community members and execute an agreement that ensures KST's ability to thrive where we are.

But as it turns out, empty promises have no building blocks. After more than a year, the situation on Penn Avenue remains unchanged; McKnight has not agreed to a long-term lease for KST.

Many stakeholders have uttered a familiar refrain: "wait." As if a sudden benevolent streak will change the reality of what we know.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said: "For years now, I have heard the word 'wait'... This 'wait' has almost always meant 'never.'" In situations like ours, "wait" almost always means "never."

In a few weeks, we will share info about our strategic direction from here, and we ask that you visit kelly-strayhorn.org to provide your feedback. In the meantime, we invite you to enjoy The Soul of East Liberty. ♦



ABOVE: The Kelly Strayhorn Theater (5941 Penn Ave.) has become a fixture of East Liberty over the decades. Photo courtesy of kelly-strayhorn.org.



assemble
a community space for arts + technology

FREE

Afterschool!

for middle schoolers

MONDAYS:
GIRLS MAKER
NIGHT
GRADES 5-9

TUESDAYS:
AFTERSCHOOL
GRADES 6-8

4-6pm snacks included!

412-661-6111 • 4824 Penn Ave • assemblepgh.org

science • technology • engineering • art • math





ABOVE: Lawrenceville Corporation's founding members include (bottom row, left to right) Joe Kelly, Jim Foley, Joe Seabrooke, and Jack Rielly - as well as (top row, l-r) Mary Hartley, Jim Nied, Beth Webber, Alan Siger, and Jerry Kunic. Photo courtesy of Abi Gildea.

RIP Jim Foley, Lawrenceville Corp. pioneer

A Message from the Lawrenceville Corporation

Lawrenceville - With the passing of James "Jim" Foley on Oct. 1, the Lawrenceville Corporation (LC) lost its first President and founding Board member.

The City of Pittsburgh recognized Jim as "Man of the Year" in 1994. Today, we pay tribute to that man, to his dedication to Lawrenceville, and to the path Jim trod for all the neighborhood advocates that have followed in his footsteps.

Jim was a founding member of the Lawrenceville Business Association, and an important part of its eventual merger with Lawrenceville Development Corporation. In 2000, at the newly-formed LC, we named Jim as our President.

For over 40 years, Jim operated a real estate business [the Gribbin Company] on Butler Street. His keen sense of the neighborhood's real estate and property values were essential to LC's real estate development throughout his tenure, as was his political savvy and dedication to the positive development of Lawrenceville.

Beyond his foundational work with LC, Jim will be remembered for his community involvement with: the "Golden Carriage," a service which provided transportation for the elderly; the July Fourth Fireworks Committee; the holiday lighting committee; and the Catholic Youth Association. He will be remembered as many people knew him then - as the "Mayor of Lawrenceville."

Thank you for everything, Jim. ♦

YOUR AD HERE

THOUSANDS OF BULLETIN READERS
CAN ALMOST SEE IT NOW

ADVERTISE IN OUR MONTHLY PUBLICATION TO MAKE THINGS
HAPPEN FOR YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS. TO LEARN MORE,
CONTACT ANDREW AT 412-441-6950 (EXT. 113) OR
ANDREW@BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD.ORG.

the Bulletin

Serving Pittsburgh's
East End neighborhoods
since 1975

with the mission of reporting on issues affecting underserved
communities and facilitating local residents' exchange of ideas.

Vol. 47, No. 11

- Deadline for the December edition is Monday, Nov. 14th -

Editorial & Advertising Offices 113 N. Pacific Ave. • Pittsburgh, PA 15224 •
412-441-6950 (ext. 113) • Andrew@Bloomfield-Garfield.org

Total Circulation 14,500 Print Copies [home delivery & bulk distribution]

Staff Andrew McKeon, Editor • Rick Swartz, Proofreading • Trib Total Media, Printing
& Mailing • USPS, Home Delivery • Garfield CISP, Bulk Distribution

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. For more details, email Pam@
Bloomfield-Garfield.org.

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

The Bulletin is made possible in part by funding from Dollar Bank and WesBanco Bank.

Bloomfield-Garfield.org

© 2022 by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Thank You!

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) would like to acknowledge
its corporate and philanthropic partners: PNC Bank, Dollar Bank, Key Bank, Poise
Foundation, Highmark Health Foundation, Standard Bank Foundation, Program to
Aid Citizen Enterprise, The Pittsburgh Foundation, PNC Foundation, and The Heinz
Endowments. Thanks also to the City of Pittsburgh, *The Bulletin's* advertisers, and
the BGC's local partners in community development for their ongoing support.

**EAST
END
FOOD
COOP**

**COMMUNITY-OWNED
SINCE 1980**

**7516 MEADE STREET
PITTSBURGH, PA 15208
WWW.EASTENDFOOD.COOP
412.242.3598**

Man behind the mic: Larry Berger

By Diya Singh *The Northside Chronicle*

Pittsburgh - Saturday Light Brigade (SLB) is a radio show which aims to take youth seriously and elevate their voices. The man behind the mic for the program? Larry Berger, who is both the founder and serves as executive producer.

Berger had a passion for radio from the very beginning. When he was 13 years old he began working at a community radio station in Pittsburgh. At that point he had been more interested in the technical side of the radio, soldering wires, making recordings and things of that nature.

Eventually, he became an engineer for bilingual and specialty programs, which he said is what sparked a deeper appreciation for the capabilities of radio; giving a voice to others, and soon being on the air himself.

In 1978, when he was a junior in high school, he founded SLB for an audience of everybody, no matter the demographic.

"I pitched an idea for a radio program that would bring together people from all walks of life - youth and adults, rural and city," Berger said. "The Saturday Light Brigade was born and has aired since 1978."

As graduation loomed the following year, he decided that he wanted to pursue math and science, but he also had a deep intrigue in the world around him and learning about diverse backgrounds, things he attributed to his time working with radio.

"My time on the radio instilled a strong interest in learning about community issues, working with people with backgrounds different than mine, and thinking about the world from a broader perspective," he said.

Berger decided to attend Carnegie Mellon University where he earned a dual degree in Chemical Engineering and Engineering & Public Policy.

"One reason I decided to go to Carnegie Mellon was a relatively new department called Engineering & Public Policy," Berger said. "This department brought a multidisciplinary approach to solving problems at the intersection of technology and society. Engineering majors like me worked alongside students majoring in urban affairs, public policy, humanities, and other subjects. This mindset and my work on the radio supported my interest in environmental engineering — which requires different perspectives as well as good communications skills."

Throughout college, he was involved with the campus radio station, as well as maintaining the SLB program.

After college, Larry got a job as the technical editor of Measurements and Data Corp, a national magazine, but quickly transitioned to a job as an environmental engineer. In this profession, he worked for several different consulting companies before taking a job at MSA Safety (Mine Safety Appliances).

All the while, he still devoted time to SLB, which he both produced and hosted weekly. It was at this time that SLB started to grow. It also started to gather attention in the form of several state and national awards. The radio began to offer youth workshops, remote

broadcasts, and publishing a newsletter that reached thousands of listeners.

Then, in 2000, SLB was incorporated. Until this point, Larry was a volunteer, but he soon realized that he wanted to spend all of his time working within SLB, and transitioned out of his job as a director of environmental affairs at MSA Safety.

With its new developments, the radio gained a partnership with the Children's Museum in 2000 when the museum aimed to expand and was seeking out small nonprofits that could benefit from the expansion or plant seeds in their footsteps. In 2004, the studio was created, and it was just recently renovated in 2022.

Since then, SLB has continued to expand as a radio producer that makes content for and from youth. Not only do they make the effort to facilitate this, but they also ensure that created media is pushed out to radio stations all over the country.

Larry has managed to accomplish so much in his years at SLB. This does not go to say that SLB goes without tribulation. The radio has to navigate the world of ever-changing media and make sure that it is the most effective in reaching people.

"Another challenge is technology," Berger said. "While radio is still important, we now have to keep up with emerging technologies and make predictions on which ones we should focus on. This is daunting for a multinational media company, let alone a small nonprofit like ours."

As for Larry, he hopes to continue the improvement of the Saturday Light Brigade radio.

"My priorities now are to ensure the success of our expansion and, as always, continue to develop and grow our staff," he said. "I love what I'm doing, but also want to be sure it continues if I decide to slow down a bit or retire."

SLB can be heard on Saturdays, from 6 a.m. to Noon, on WRCT (88.3 FM).

[This story is published in partnership with the Pittsburgh Community Newspaper Network (PCNN). It was originally printed in The Northside Chronicle, the hyperlocal community newspaper of Pittsburgh's historic Northside.] ♦



ABOVE: Larry Berger is the founder and executive producer for Saturday Light Brigade. Photo by Joey Kennedy.

2022  **2023**

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS PROGRAM

The College & Career Readiness Program provides youths extra support the need to plan for graduation and post graduation careers or college education.

Resources
*includes, but is not limited to

- Personalized graduation plan
- Tutoring
- SAT Prep
- Paid internship in area of interest
- College application support
- Essay Prep
- Scholarship opportunities
- FAFSA support & so much more!

Interested? Please Contact

Julia@bloomfield-garfield.org & Judy@bloomfield-garfield.org

113 N Pacific Ave Pgh Pa 15224

412-441-6950 Ext 124 & 125



Penn Ave. stores host Garfield Block Party

Photos and captions by John Colombo

BELOW: Valkyrie Doughnuts manager/co-owner Jeremy Murphy (left) sells a tasty donut to Tobias Foglia. Vendors lined the 5400 block of Penn Ave. to serve partygoers in Garfield.



ABOVE: Local musician Hunter Paulson (1000z of Beez) performs at the Garfield Block Party on Sunday, Oct. 16.



ABOVE: Commonplace Coffee baristas Georgia Ziarnowski (left) and Sloan Baker help fuel the festivities on Sunday, Oct. 16.

Join us for a night of merriment
Bloomfield Development Corporation
Holiday Party
 Friday December 9 from 5-8PM
 Trace Brewing, 4312 Main Street
 Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door
 Buy online: bloomfieldpgh.org/holidayparty
 Includes one drink & food from local businesses
 Raffles for gift baskets

Wanted: Office Attendant Guest Relations (Lawrenceville)

20-25 hours/week

Responsibilities include: supporting front desk operations, registration of guests, and administrative & data entry.

Must be able to work some evenings and 1 weekend per month. Customer service experience a plus; must be reliable and detail-oriented. Criminal background check (clearances 33 & 34) required. Must be fully COVID vaccinated.

Paid Parking. 401K - 3% match. \$12.00 hourly rate.

Please contact Becky at 412-246-1102 (05); email becky@rmhcgph-mgtm.org.

Pittsburgh's only women-owned and operated medical marijuana dispensary.

We are open for online
 and phone reservations
 during COVID-19.

412.404.7464 (Opt. 3)
 5845 Centre Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15206



MAITRIMEDS.COM



@MAITRIMEDS

Shuman continued from page 1

The problems were documented in a University of Pittsburgh study released on Sept. 1. In response to an appalling 17 deaths at the jail since April 2020, the county has announced it will bring in the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCHC) to study the situation.

A similar study three years ago failed to yield results, said Tim Stevens, leader of the Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP) in an October letter to jail officials and Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. More than 75 activists, church groups and citizens joined Stevens at last month's Jail Oversight Board meeting to voice their anger over poor conditions in the jail.

Media reports say the county has requested proposals to either redevelop or reopen the Shuman site at 7150 Highland Drive. It could be redeveloped for another purpose, or it could be reopened as a detention center, run professionally by either the county or state government, or a private prison operator.

That last option – to be run by a private contractor – would be cause for serious concern, given the poor record for-profit companies have had in running jails safely. In a recent study, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) said privately-run prisons had been linked to “numerous cases of violence and atrocious conditions.”

If Shuman reopens, city police will undoubtedly be happy to have a place again to put

juveniles charged with the most violent crimes. At a press conference with the mayor last month, Pittsburgh Police Commander Richard Ford said that since Shuman closed, police officers have had no choice but to let young offenders back out onto the streets after being arrested.

If there is a need for a separate facility to put the most violent young offenders, it is also true that, while they are in the county's custody, they must be housed safely – free from drugs, roaches, and other forms of abuse. The county's history, and its sad refusal to fix conditions at either Shuman or the county jail, raises serious doubts about how well it will plan for what comes next.

[Alan Guenther is a member of the Pittsburgh Peace Is Possible Coalition, which includes members of local religious and activist groups advocating for better conditions in the jail.] ♦

Time To Sell Your Home?

CALL 412-377-7775

MaureenStates.com

Welcome to Experience



NEIGHBORHOOD REALTY SERVICES

1028 S. Braddock Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15218
412-241-4700x11

ARE YOU BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE?

Do you need money to help catch up on **mortgage payments**?
Do you need money to help pay **homeowner's insurance**?
Do you need money to help pay **property taxes**?
Do you need money to help pay **utility bills**?

The Pennsylvania Homeowner Assistance Fund (PAHAF) may help!

Homeowners facing COVID-related financial hardship should apply.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PAY THE MONEY BACK
AND IT IS NOT A LIEN AGAINST YOUR HOUSE

NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES

is a non-profit law firm providing **FREE legal services**. We assist homeowners eligible for our services in filing PAHAF applications.

To Apply for Help Call 866-761-6572 between 9am and 1pm Monday-Friday

or

Apply online at www.nlsa.us
(click on "Get Legal Help")



NEIGHBORHOOD
LEGAL SERVICES

December Bulletin Deadline: Monday, Nov. 14th

Bulletin advertising info available at bit.ly/bulletin_ads

To receive a monthly deadline reminder, email Andrew@Bloomfield-Garfield.org

BOOM Concepts presents: Black on Black Love

A Message from BOOM Concepts



ABOVE: A new installation (exhibited Downtown at 820 Liberty Ave.) from BLACK ON BLACK LOVE, an arts action presented by BOOM Concepts. Photo courtesy of D.S. Kinsel.

Pittsburgh - BOOM Concepts is excited to announce the birth of "BLACK ON BLACK LOVE" - a dual-site arts action that includes a public art mural and gallery exhibition.

In order to bring BLACK ON BLACK LOVE into reality, BOOM Concepts negotiated intentional partnerships with Rivers of Steel and The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. These partnerships provided the organizational support needed to accomplish themes of justice, joy-centering, and protecting & prioritizing Black artists.

This arts action is not only the result of careful planning, skillful execution, and a selection of amazing artists across disciplines, but also a product of one of BOOM's principal tenets: Black Excellence.

At the Carrie Furnace site, seven artists spent their week-long fellowship creating a 75-ft. mural using nothing but aerosol and house paint. The artist team included Cue Perry, Latika Anne, Jameelah Platt, Jerome "Chu" Charles, Kemist1, Juliandra Jones, Dejourn Brown, and Leon Peays. Their collaborative mural includes inspirational text, stylized images of Black figures, simplified hearts, and many other unique depictions of how the artists interpreted the phrase "BLACK ON BLACK LOVE."

The mural's location at the Carrie Blast Furnaces [in Swissvale] honors the legacy of Black

ironworkers at the site. This project marks the second BLACK ON BLACK LOVE-themed mural installed through a partnership between BOOM Concepts and Rivers of Steel, with the first project being completed in 2020.

Feel free to enjoy the mural during visiting hours at the Carrie Furnace. Register for the tour and discover how guerrilla artists, urban explorers - and later curators, installation artists, and even landscape designers - have made creative use of a revered space.

The related exhibition is presented in a standard, white-wall gallery space at 820 Liberty Ave., in the city's Cultural District. This group show uplifts the work of nine Pittsburgh-based practitioners - Norman Brown, Sakony Burton, Dominick McDuffie, KINSELLAND, Camerin "Camo" Nesbit, atiya jones, Staycee Pearl, Junyetta Seale, and Marce' Nixon Washington. The space allows for more interpretive explorations of the theme.

Each artist takes a different approach, providing patrons with multiple definitions of the phrase "BLACK ON BLACK LOVE." This gives us a view of the phrase as a display of sacred ritual, casual interactions, self-love, outward affection, and spell-casting between different creative mediums and materials.

The BLACK ON BLACK LOVE exhibition will remain on display at 820 Liberty Ave. [Downtown] through Jan. 8, 2023; open gallery hours are available Wednesday-Sunday. Visit boomuniverse.co to learn more. ♦

Need a place to learn, explore, hang out and more? Check us out!

TNT is a free afterschool program for highschool students in the Pittsburgh area.

Monday & Wednesday
College & Career Prep, Job Search, Homework, Tutoring, Etc

Tuesday & Thursday
Arts & Environmental Preservation

Open Monday - Thursday 3:00 - 7:00pm

For more info!

412-441-6950 Ext 124
Julia@bloomfield-garfield.org
113 N Pacific Ave Pgh, PA 15224
bloomfield-garfield/org

Bloomfield Garfield CORPORATION

Xing-Yi (Ying-i)
at Steel Dragon
5 Elements and 12 Animals
Internal and External martial aspects developed together

Classes
7-9pm Wednesdays
Noon-2pm Sundays

Also
Ying Jow
Baiyuan Tongbei
Bagua
Tai Chi
Capoeira

www.steel-dragon.org
info@steel-dragon.org

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

Do you live or work in Bloomfield?

Take our survey:
Tell us what you need most in Bloomfield!

bloomfieldpgh.org/survey

Bloomfield Development CORPORATION

Take the survey

Neighborhood FOCUS

Sierra Parm puts down roots in East Liberty's Enright Court

By Elizabeth Sensky *East Liberty Development, Inc.*

East Liberty - Homeownership is part of the bedrock of healthy, thriving communities. Census data shows that neighborhoods with higher rates of housing stability can achieve better community cohesion and increased participation in community organizations, among other benefits. Homeownership is also an essential step toward building generational wealth, especially for Black families who have historically been excluded from this opportunity.

In order to help its rental tenants become homeowners, ELDI launched its Affordable Homeownership Opportunities program in 2017. The program helps residents who are currently renting homes from ELDI purchase the very homes that they already occupy.

One of these residents is Sierra Parm, an Ohio native who moved to Pittsburgh ten years ago; she had been renting in East Liberty's Enright Court for the last six years. When Parm heard about the program, she reached out and began working with ELDI and Catapult Greater Pittsburgh - as well as homeownership specialist Mary Hester - in order to save, improve her credit, and eventually close on her home in August of this year.

Parm's inspiring journey proves that, with dedication and the right support, anyone striving for homeownership can achieve their goal. Find out how Parm made this dream come true in our Q&A below.

"It takes a lot of dedication to the process, but the reward and payoff of having your own space, having your own home, is well worth it."

- Sierra Parm, Enright Court homeowner

ELDI: *Where are you from and what do you do for a living?*

Parm: "I am originally from Youngstown, Ohio. I moved to Pittsburgh about 10 years ago. Most of my mother's side of the family is from Pittsburgh so, after college, I eventually moved here to be closer to that side of my family and to help out my mom. I was a political science major and originally started out working on campaigns and volunteering. Like many millennials, I worked on the Obama campaign. Then I worked in administration for Family Resources and, through my volunteering endeavors, I met my current boss who is a county councilman. He offered me an operations director position at the A. Phillip Randolph Institute. We do workforce development, connecting individuals all over Allegheny County to the building and construction trades as well as manufacturing and energy sector jobs through an eight-week training course that helps them build their skills and get the certifications they need to be competitive for those positions."

ELDI: *When did you decide to start pursuing homeownership?*

Parm: "I started this journey about three, maybe four, years ago, realizing that I wanted a little more stability in my life. I wanted a wealth-building opportunity. Hopefully, I will have a family of my own, someday in the future, and be able to pass it on to someone else. I also realized the importance of homeownership to the community as a whole, because communities are more stable when there's a greater amount of homeownership. It was a long journey, but it was definitely worth it. I learned a lot about being better in control of my money—it made me rethink how I

handle money and what it can do for me. The experience of moving towards homeownership has been invaluable for that reason."


ELDI: *Could you tell us about your involvement with the Enright Court Neighborhood Association?*

Parm: "I help facilitate monthly volunteer meetings, and then we also meet separately with ELDI if there is an issue. Over the last four years, I've seen ELDI, the neighbors, and everyone come together to make some really impressive changes - in the culture of the Court, in the environment, and also in empowering people to take control of their neighborhood. We've hosted many events and have a kids' event coming up Halloween. It's been nice to come together as a community, pool resources, and be able to do stuff for each other."

ELDI: *What are some of the tangible changes that have resulted from this neighborhood engagement in Enright Court?*

Parm: "We've seen several houses repaired through that process as well as some beautification projects, like the gate at the front of the Court, planting flowers, and putting out pumpkins, things of that nature. ELDI is currently working on making


- continued on next page -




18th Annual BGC Luncheon & Aggie Brose Awards

Honoring excellence in community activism in Pittsburgh

Save the Date



11/11/2022



OMNI WILLIAM PENN HOTEL
530 WILLIAM PENN PL, PITTSBURGH, PA 15219
HYBRID IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL EVENT
LUNCH: 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM
AWARDS CEREMONY: 12:45 – 1:45 PM
BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD.ORG

BELOW: East Liberty homeowner Sierra Parm celebrates after closing on her home in Enright Court, where where she has lived for the last six years. Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Sensky.



- continued from previous page -

the gates and grading uniform on the Broad Street side of the Court. But I think the greatest tangible thing has been the community meetings themselves. At one point, we were getting around 25 to 30 people coming on Monday nights - and that's pretty significant, especially for a small community. It's been great to see how much outpouring and interest there is from the neighbors in making a change. I think one of the things that ELDI did a really great job of was empowering residents to feel like they are a little bit more in control of their community and giving them the tools to community build on their own."

ELDI: How did Catapult provide assistance during your homeownership journey?

Parm: "I worked with Tammy Thompson, executive director of Catapult Greater Pittsburgh, when it was still Circles Greater Pittsburgh. She first talked to me about my personal finances. Then, when I was going through the home-buying process, I went back to Catapult and took their homeownership course."

ELDI: What did you learn through the course?

Parm: "The first-time homebuyer course is designed to teach you the process of buying a home. I also learned a few pieces of financial information that I found really valuable, like how to adjust my budget, how to handle student loans, etc. It was a very useful course. It made me feel a lot more comfortable as I went through the home-buying journey, because I knew what was going to come next."

ELDI: You closed on Aug. 25. Congrats! How does it feel to be a homeowner?

Parm: "Quite honestly, my home has brought so much peace to my life - knowing that it's a permanent place versus a rental. It's also brought a lot of joy because I'm looking around the house like, 'I can do this. I can do that.' I can change it, custom-

ize it, and make it more my own. So, it's been really exciting."

ELDI: How do you like living in East Liberty?

Parm: "I'm excited to be in East Liberty. I've enjoyed living here for the last six years. There's so much to do - there are always new restaurants, and it's so convenient to be able to walk everywhere. I rarely ever use my car. There's also a diverse group of people and a diverse group of mindsets. It's interesting to be able to go over to Galley and just sit down and talk to people. I find it to be an enriching experience, and I think it's only going to get better as they continue with more of the construction that's happening."

ELDI: What were the most challenging, and the most rewarding, aspects of your homeownership journey?

Parm: "Disciplining myself enough to save for the down payment and closing costs was the hardest part. Telling myself no when I wanted Starbucks or other little things that were going to take away from me being able to buy my home. But I think that was also the most rewarding part, just showing I can do this. I can sit down every day, make a plan, execute it, and get myself from Point A to Point B to reach that goal. I did receive some help with the down payment and closing costs, so I ultimately didn't have to use as much of my savings as I thought. I ended up being able to purchase the home and have a nest egg for a rainy day."

ELDI: Do you have any advice for local residents considering homeownership?

Parm: "I would say that if you are considering homeownership, you definitely want to make sure that you are emotionally, mentally, and even physically in a space where you can do that. It takes a lot of discipline. It takes a lot of dedication to the process, but the reward and payoff of having your own space, having your own home, is well worth it. Knowing that you've built wealth and put in that work is well worth it. Be prepared to have days where you're a little bit unsure of yourself, where you're a little bit frightened, but also be prepared to have days where you have that wonderful feeling of, 'Yes, I'm doing this. I got it. I'm on my way to building wealth.' The feeling of getting there will outweigh all the anxiety you might feel." ♦

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A TEACHING OPPORTUNITY IN SPECIAL EDUCATION? WATSON'S FRIENDSHIP ACADEMY IS HIRING TEACHERS!

- Convenient location near East Liberty with easy access to public transit
 - FREE on-site parking
 - Teacher coaches, peer support & training
 - Excellent benefits package
- Equal Opportunity Employer**



255 S. Negley Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

questions? email: careers@thewatsoninstitute.org
or visit www.thewatsoninstitute.org



Befriend the Bulletin on Facebook

(facebook.com/BgcBulletin) We promise not to overshare!

Garfield Night Market: celebrating new voices in 2022

Photos by SK Visual Media



ABOVE: Dave Sanders juggles many roles while helping the Garfield Night Market thrive every month.

BELOW: Patrons enjoy a warm September evening on N. Pacific Ave.



ABOVE: Returning vendor Lauryn Parks connects customers with a variety of vintage clothing styles at the market.

BELOW: The Garfield Night Market is a First Friday hub for friendship and face paint.



If you have cancer, you have **all of us.**

Not all cancers are alike, which is why AHN has care teams devoted to each one. If you receive a diagnosis, we'll collaborate across the Cancer Institute to create a personalized treatment plan for you.

Find an expert now at ahn.org/cancer.

AHN CANCER INSTITUTE

Greenzone advice: cold-weather gardening tips

By Madeline Weiss Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Insight/Pittsburgh - Although outdoor activities begin winding down this time of year, fall is actually an important time for your garden.

Trees are often [successfully] planted in the fall, and it is an ideal time to prune your favorite woody shrubs and trees. Certain perennial plants, which come back each year, are best planted this time of year.

If you have annuals, or flowers or vegetables that last only one season, you'll want to take this time to rip them up, along with other debris from your garden, according to Penn State Extension. Mulching or providing cover crop in the fall can protect your beds and their supportive soils.

Locally, many gardeners take advantage of the autumnal growing season by planting bulbs in the ground. By doing a final weeding before the winter season arrives, they can help mitigate the spread of springtime weeds. This time of year is perfect for cultivating kitchen staples like garlic. According to a report from Penn State Extension, "garlic needs a cold treatment for two months to induce bulbing."

Pro tip: space your cloves about four to six inches apart, and about three to four inches down in the ground, with the root side down; generously mulch with straw.

Ultimately, your plants will do the talking - quietly guiding you through the steps - but autumn can be crucial to the success of your springtime yield. Proper soil care, pruning, and mulching will make a huge difference in the health of your garden, and make this coming spring even easier on your green thumbs - with more time to focus on your plans for a new growing season.

If you're not sure how to handle a specific problem in your garden, please reach out to the Garden Hotline at 412-482-3476 or alleghenyng@psu.edu. ♦

BELOW: Elephant garlic (*Allium ampeloprasum*) gets its name from its large bulbs, which actually enjoy Pittsburgh winters. Note the coin for scale. Photo by Acker Knoblauch.



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



The Child Tax Credit



\$3,000 to \$3,600 per child
for nearly all working families



Automatic monthly payments
for nearly all working families

[CHILDTAXCREDIT.GOV](https://childtaxcredit.gov)



They were missed then. They're missed now.



Now is the time we especially remember those who served for our country. They fought to make a better world for the rest of us, and we will never forget them.

D'Alessandro Funeral Home & Crematory Ltd.

"Always a Higher Standard"

Dustin A. D'Alessandro, Supervisor
Daniel T. D'Alessandro, Funeral Director
4522 Butler St. • Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Phone: 412-682-6500 • Fax: 412-682-6090
www.dalessandrofhd.com • dalessandrofh@aol.com

New AHN cancer clinic offers full slate of tests in one visit

By Stephanie Waite Allegheny Health Network

Pittsburgh - The disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic left many people neglecting important yearly screenings. Now, the Allegheny Health Network (AHN) Cancer Institute's new "Comprehensive Cancer Screening Clinic" offers an opportunity to complete a full slate of cancer screening tests in one convenient visit.

Screenings for seven different cancers will be offered and, depending on which screenings are selected, can be completed in as little as an hour's visit. Eligibility for screenings depends on age, gender, and other factors.

The screenings are offered on Fridays at two locations: AHN West Penn Hospital (Mellon Pavilion, Suite 340) in Pittsburgh's Bloomfield neighborhood, and AHN Cancer Institute at Forbes Hospital (2626 Haymaker Road 2A, Monroeville, PA).

Screenings are available for the following cancers: breast (ages 40 and up), cervical (ages 21-65), colorectal (ages 45 and up), head and neck (ages 18 and up), lung (ages 50-80 with history of smoking), prostate (ages 45 and up) and skin (ages 18 and up)

Enrollment is open to AHN and non-AHN patients; however, insurance coverage is required. To make an appointment, call 412-888-AHN2 (2462).


AHN is taking numerous steps to help patients stay safe in its facilities, including around-the-clock disinfecting and screening, spaced appointments, distancing in waiting areas and use of personal protective equipment. All patients attending the clinic will be asked COVID-19 screening questions on the day before the event and on arrival at either facility. ♦

Architect James Drum and the Stephen Foster Community Center

The Lawrenceville Historical Society's Public Lecture Series continues on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, with a presentation by Justin Greenawalt discussing "Architect James Drum and the Stephen Foster Community Center." Greenawalt will address the life and commissions of Drum, including his design of the mid-1880s iconic Lawrenceville school building. Lecture begins promptly at 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Carnegie Library, 279 Fisk Street, Pittsburgh, PA. Free admission. No reservations required.



ABOVE: The Garfield Gators defend home turf (a.k.a. 'The Swamp') from their fellow grid-iron gladiators on Saturday, Oct. 8. Photo by Rick Swartz.



“Evening of Praise”
Saturday, November 19, 4 p.m.
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
400 Barclay Avenue, Forest Hills

Sunday, November 20, 4 p.m.
ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
237-37th Street, Lawrenceville

Featuring
A string quartet, handbell choirs, organ recitals
Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, Java Jam
& A Catered Dinner

Call 412/271-7173 for reservations.

December Bulletin Deadline: Monday, Nov. 14th

Bulletin advertising info available at bit.ly/bulletin_ads
To receive a monthly deadline reminder, email Andrew@Bloomfield-Garfield.org

COMING!
COMING!
COMING!
COMING!

Matt's

5128 PENN AVE

LOCAL REAL ESTATE BLOTTER

- Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty, Lawrenceville, & Stanton Heights -

Real Estate Sales for the month of August 2022

Compiled by Lillian Denhardt, Residential Realtor

Bloomfield

Arthur J & Cheryl L Palmiere to Eric F & Bridget T Brockschmidt at 519 Osceola St. for \$415,000.

Brent Biseda to Sean & Elizabetha Lynch at 245 S. Mathilda St. for \$515,000.

Cynthia Gedman to Tianlun Jiang at 425 Ella St. for \$320,000.

Daniel Papasian to Annie Colonna at 332 West Penn Pl. for \$442,000.

Gartley Group LLC to Turian Capital LLC at 0 Liberty Ave. for \$175,000.

Jean A Rogers to Alyssa B & Christian M Dill at 5215 Celia Pl. for \$470,000.

Joseph E Materkowski to J and Ace Holdings LLC at 4300 Main St. for \$111,400.

JPT Property LLC to Suisui Hao at 16 Hemingway St. for \$460,000.

Mas Capital LLC to Alex R Rein at 424 Orwell Way for \$237,500.

Michael & Associates, Inc. to 328 S. Mathilda St. LLC at 328 S. Mathilda St. for \$716,875.

O'Neills Investments LLC to Brian Christopher Morelli at 424 Pearl St. for \$290,000.

Pia Santucci to Shadyside Properties LLC at 191 Morewood Ave. for \$224,500.

Richard & Catherine Porter to Maren K Ketcham at 4010 Howley St. for \$278,000.

Rose Mancine to Jesse Alexander Heberle Carpenter at 341 West Penn Pl. for \$255,000.

Sophia A Edgos to Yanjun Zhao at 759 S. Millvale Ave. for \$320,000.

Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church to 486 S. Graham LLC at 486 S. Graham St. for \$1,150,000.

Yesmina Salib to Mark B Spitz at 414 S. Evaline St. for \$451,250.

Friendship

David Adamson to Hazel Virido at 207 S. Aiken Ave. for \$587,000.

Charles J Gianakas to Daniel Matthew John Hodgman at 367 S. Graham St. for \$640,000.

Erick W Fuentes to Summerlea Properties, LLC at 5535 Centre Ave. for \$260,000.

Garfield

Daniel R Mooney & Rachel L Hermann to Brittany R Artimez at 4823 Rosetta St. for \$300,000.

Iona B Horn to Allison Catherine Sharrow at 507 N. Mathilda St. for \$195,750.

Joseph M & Kathleen Catania to Tramell Properties LLC at 4700-02 Penn Ave. for \$725,000.

Karen Hill to New Homestead Development

Company at 5222 Broad St. for \$173,000.

Marlene Jenkins to Jason Demarchi at 5105 Dearborn St. for \$97,078.

Mena Real Estates LLC to Future 2020 Management LLC at 322 N. Fairmount St. for \$205,000.

East Liberty

Ariella & Custer Dana Furman to Stephen & Hannah Masciolo at 5821 Hays St. for \$870,000.

City Of Bridges CLT to Darrell Brock at 506 Borland St. for \$125,000.

East Liberty Development, Inc. to Jacqueline Stewart at 527 Collins Ave. for \$155,000.

Nathan & Ashleigh Garcia to Christopher M Dunkers at 723 N. Saint Clair St. for \$625,000.

Omar D Payton to Nathaniel Muscato at 378 Enright Ct. for \$177,500.

Pauline & John W Smith White to Jack James Lawrence Daugherty at 310 Enright Ct. for \$155,000.

Lawrenceville

Benjamin S Berg to Benjamin Jerome Stewart at 3624 Mintwood St. for \$424,900.

Beth Ann Carella to Jenna P Mates at 143 Home St. for \$445,000.

Cartus Financial Corporation to Megan E Conover at 4844 Plum Way for \$335,000.

CJ Real Estate Management to Connor Obrien at 5313 Keystone St. for \$405,000.

David R Lemon to Eric Standish at 5336 Keystone St. for \$325,000.

Drew Adam Singer to Ariella Furan at 5553 Butler St. for \$725,000.

Dylan Powers to Cartus Financial Corporation at 4844 Plum Way for \$335,000.

Eric R McCarty to Keegan Ramser at 5301 Keystone St. for \$195,000.

Frank & Catherine Plawski to Phyllis Kim at 165 Almond Way for \$250,000.

John & Connie Meinert to Robert N Hartle at 35 McCandless Ave for \$320,000.

John C Kirch to Rebecca Badawy at 348 Main St. for \$445,000.

Lawrenceville Lofts LLC to Craig & Audrey Dunning at 3725 Butler St. Unit 210 for \$572,500.

Lawrenceville Lofts LLC to Robert S Harbison at 3725 Butler St. Unit 310 for \$554,300.

Lori Ann Pickel to Tyler Bradley-Hewitt at 314 44th St. for \$270,000.

Marie A McIntyre to We Buy Homes Pgh LLC at 226 1/2 42nd St. for \$130,000.

Martin F & Karen J Kane to Jing Lin at 306 54th St. for \$146,500.

Michael Kevin O'Toole to Connor Wilczek at 368 42nd St. for \$258,400.

Nicholas D & Lauren Fiore to Brittany Redmond at 5109 Holmes St. for \$395,000.

Obaid Ashraf to Rajeev Kumar Goyal at 232 42nd St. for \$413,000.

Paul V & Doris E Rymys to Yanbing Ye at 4041 Penn Ave for \$270,000.

Randal Scott Stuckwish to Ryan T McCann at 5252 Harrison St. for \$395,000.

Shelley L Queiser to Vellichor Properties LLC at 260 42nd St. Unit 5 for \$400,000.

Shelley Risk to Emma R Chieppor at 169 38th St. for \$415,000.

Steel Town Properties M2 LLC to Haute Holdings LLC at 4642 Hatfield St. for \$489,000.

Susan M Englert to Zachary M Eisenfeld at 4314 Foster St. for \$206,000.

Thomas John Waters to Jazmine E & Paul R Boatman at 3729 Mulberry Way for \$975,000.

Stanton Heights

Eric & Emily Pennesi to Mark Gordon & Laureen Mary Anderson at 1303 Woodbine St. for \$374,000.

Joel Tyler Blumer to Carl T Gruhn at 4530 Camelia St. for \$350,000.

Shivam Kranti Gupta to Simon Paul Lantinga at 6512 Adelphia St. for \$535,000.

This column, which uses data from Allegheny County's online portal, contains occasional errors. If something looks off, let us know.

Feel free to call with questions, or just to chat about real estate in your neighborhood. Contact Lillian at lillian@agent-lillian.com or 412-335-6068. ♦

Local Services

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

Pro Tec Pest & Termite Service

"Quality Service at an Affordable Price"

John Cygnarowicz
412-628-6893

York Commons
is accepting applications
for residency!

APARTMENT AMENITIES

- Most utilities included in rent that is based on income
- One bedroom apartments
- Small pets welcome
- 24-hour emergency maintenance
- Onsite laundry facilities
- Service Coordination

Supportive and affordable apartments for those 62 years of age and older. The waitlist for adults 18 years of age or older living with a disability has been closed.

Call or visit York Commons today!

4003 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412-682-1151

www.SrCare.org/york-commons

Professionally managed by SeniorCare Network



Partner4Work awarded funds to career-assist Allegheny County Jail residents

By Debra Jacob *Partner4Work*

Pittsburgh - The Partner4Work (P4W) Pittsburgh Reentry Career Services program (PRCS) has been awarded \$900,000 in funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

These funds will help P4W reduce recidivism and increase community safety as it works in partnership with the Allegheny County Jail (ACJ), PA CareerLink Pittsburgh, American Job Centers, and community-based organizations.

The effort aims to improve employment services and connections, and enable citizens to successfully reintegrate and remain in Allegheny County.

PRCS serves participants who are low-income individuals, ages 18 and older, and confined to the ACJ at the time of enrollment.

The program provides high-quality pre- and post-release career services to people incarcerated in the ACJ, including mentoring, scholarships to attend occupational trainings, transitional employment opportunities, subsidized wages for on-the-job training, job placement assistance, and supportive services - with dedicated

partners providing legal aid, housing, and transportation assistance.

Skilled workers in Allegheny County are in demand in industries like manufacturing, construction, transportation and logistics, financial services, and IT. Within each industry, P4W engages with employers and community-based organizations to design and implement occupational training programs and career pathway models to assist job seekers facing systemic barriers to employment, including those with records.

PRCS is built around the following core components: highly qualified program staff delivering pre- and post-release supportive and career services; participants' choice of training and work-related activities that align with in-demand jobs and provide career-track employment at sustainable wages; and strong relationships with key partner agencies.

These relationships will be leveraged during this project to further build access to these pathways for those with justice-system involvement.

Visit partner4work.org for more info. ♦

BELOW: Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation staff members step out of their rabbit warren (113 N. Pacific Ave.) to enjoy a fall day in Garfield. Photo by Lauren Lubarski.



Give Thanks

On Thanksgiving we are supposed to give thanks.

But what does that mean?

It means being thankful for what you have and not dwelling on what you don't have.

May you and your family be blessed with many reasons to be thankful for.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



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



Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center
113 N. Pacific Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Autumn Workshop Schedule

Topics Include:

Resume Construction & Updating

Sept 14, 2022 | Oct 12, 2022 | Nov 2, 2022 | Dec 7, 2022

Cover Letter Writing & Updating

Sept 21, 2022 | Oct 19, 2022 | Nov 9, 2022 | Dec 14, 2022

Interview Skills

Sept 28, 2022 | Oct 26, 2022 | Nov 16, 2022 | Dec 21, 2022

"Self Guided" Computer Basics

Every Tuesday and Thursday

Reserve your space today!

Phone 412-362-8580 ext 114

Email: admin@enecpittsburgh.com

Should you keep Narcan in your first aid kit? This pharmacist says yes.

By Juliet Martinez Hazelwood Homepage

Insight/Allegheny County - According to health department data, Allegheny County lost 719 people to drug overdose in 2021. The number of deaths from drug overdoses has been climbing in recent years, which some experts say the isolation of the pandemic has made worse.

In September, I spoke with administrative clinical pharmacist Julie Oplinger about the overdose prevention drug Narcan. Oplinger works with the Duquesne University Center for Integrative Health, organizing and facilitating outreach events in Allegheny County.

She distributes Narcan, and teaches people to use it and how to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose, no matter who might be experiencing it. Oplinger's answers have been edited for length and clarity.

Juliet Martinez (JM): Can you tell me a little bit about Narcan?

Oplinger: "Narcan is the brand name for the nasal spray of naloxone. It's used in the event of an opioid overdose. Naloxone is an opioid antagonist, so it blocks the effect of certain drugs in our bodies, reversing an overdose and the effects of the opioid medication. If it's given to a person who is not overdosing, it won't hurt them."

JM: How do you know if someone is overdosing?

Oplinger: "If the person is unconscious, unresponsive, has clammy skin, blue lips or blue fingers, pin-point pupils and very slow breathing or pulse."

JM: How do you administer Narcan?

Oplinger: "First contact 911. Then lay the person on their back. Tilt their head back and administer one nasal spray into one nostril by firmly pressing your thumb against the red plunger. Then roll them to one side in case they vomit. That can potentially happen, and you don't want them to inhale it."

Administer Narcan through one nostril. If they're going to have a response to the one nasal spray, it's going to be within two to three minutes. If there is no response, you want to administer the other nasal spray into the other nostril. You can't reuse the sprays. Once they're used, they must be discarded. However, if you have additional Narcan available, you can give one every 2-3 minutes if the person is still unresponsive. Stay with the person and wait for the paramedics to arrive."

JM: What response should people look for?

Oplinger: "The person should hopefully start to regain consciousness after the first dose. Breathing and heart rate should start to increase. They should respond to your voice or touch. One thing I want to warn people about is that after you administer the Narcan, the person could be combative once they wake up. Some folks become upset that their high is no longer there."

JM: Who needs to keep an anti-overdose drug on hand?

Oplinger: "Narcan should be a part of every single person's first aid kit, whether they're a

first responder, a teacher, or just an everyday person or parent. It should be in everyone's first aid kit."

Our goal at the Center for Integrative Health is to reduce the stigma of Narcan. Often-times when someone approaches our table at an event, we'll say, 'We offer Narcan here free of charge. We'll train you on how to use it.' They'll say, 'Oh no, I don't do drugs.'

However, you never know if you have an elderly neighbor or friend who's on pain medication and accidentally takes too much, or if you have a toddler next door who somehow gets into their parents' medication, and they overdose.

There are just so many scenarios where Narcan can be used to save someone's life."

JM: What about fentanyl? I understand it is a medication used in clinical settings, but people are also using it as a street drug or mixing it into other kinds of drugs. Is Narcan effective if someone is overdosing on fentanyl?

Oplinger: "Narcan will indeed reverse the effects of fentanyl. Fentanyl is an opioid drug. It works the same way as say, oxycodone and heroin. It's more potent (up to 50 times stronger than heroin), however it still can be reversed by Narcan."

And we're finding fentanyl in everything. It's not just in a fentanyl patch. People are injecting fentanyl and it's being found in pressed pills. It's being laced into all different drugs such as heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine, and is being found in pressed pills, so people think they're getting one drug but they're actually getting something that contains fentanyl. Fentanyl is a big concern. But again, having Narcan on hand can reverse those deadly effects."

JM: Where can you get Narcan?

Oplinger: "It's available at every pharmacy. Each pharmacy has a standing order from the state so it's a prescription written right there, and they dispense it. That's the easiest, most direct route of obtaining Narcan."

JM: What else do you want people to know?

Oplinger: "What I would emphasize most is that addiction is truly, truly a disease. It does not discriminate. You might look at someone and think, 'Oh, there's no way they could have a drug problem. They're an athlete or a professional person.' That is simply not true."

Everyone you talk to most likely knows someone who struggles or has struggled with addiction, which simply reinforces that we all need to be prepared in our everyday lives just in case we come across someone who needs help."

[Juliet Martinez is the managing editor of The Homepage, a community newspaper serving Greater Hazelwood and the surrounding communities. This article is reprinted in partnership with the Pittsburgh Community Newspaper Network.] ♦



"Like" the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation
(Facebook.com/BloomGarCorp)

for the latest neighborhood information and community updates.

SAUER BROTHERS
Heating • Cooling • Boilers
412-782-1100
We've been installing
**Residential
Furnaces &
Air Conditioners
For Over
60 Years**

*Celebrating 26 years of
serving the community.*

**ALL GOD'S
creatures**

**PET GROOMING
SALON**

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

*Thanks for your
continued support!*

CHILD CARE
**NOW ENROLLING FOR
DEC/JAN START DATES**
Located in Garfield Heights
Now Enrolling 3 and 4 year olds

- Meals and Snacks Included
- Full and PT Care
- CCIS Accepted

**Monday-Friday
8 am to 5:00 pm**

www.mamashawns.com
Call Today! (412)361-2324

Scary stories: how vacant lot process haunts city neighborhoods

By Damian Hollmark *Bulletin contributor*

Op-Ed/Pittsburgh - Gather around the campfire, children, while I tell you a story of incompetence that will make your hair stand on end. It all started while Bill Peduto, a person of no small deception, occupied the Mayor's office. The city real estate office, losing staff members by the month, was allowed to shrink into virtual nothingness.

Today, the office isn't populated by ghosts, but rather the spirits of those who fail to pay their real estate taxes. Their presence looms overhead, like a faded diploma from the Heinz School of Public Policy at CMU. Those who work at the City-County Building must confront the specter of delinquent taxpayers on a daily basis - thankfully during the day and not at night, when strange sounds reportedly emanate from the depths of 414 Grant St.

In 2016, along comes the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC). Simpleton that it is, the organization politely solicited an opportunity to purchase 16 parcels of land, which the city controls, so that 25 new, single-family homes could be built for working-class families in the city's Garfield neighborhood. Given the fact that all of the parcels had languished for years in the city's possession, this was seen as a relatively easy ask. But no, children, it's never wise to assume that something is within the city's grasp - even something that the youngest of whippersnappers could accomplish (with both eyes closed) over a period of, say, 65 months.

Over the next five years, the city - much to everyone's surprise - managed to transfer title to 15 of the lots to the BGC. The good people of Garfield could finally rejoice, albeit to the chagrin of cynics who like to deride the city government for its muffed responsibilities (e.g., street snow-plowing, vacant lot cutting, giant pothole-patching, efficient issuance of building permits, etc.). Naturally encouraged by these title transfers, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) and its hobgoblins set to work lining up \$9.5 million in financing so that, when the 16th lot finally fell into their lap, it would be possible to break ground on their plans for a housing development in early 2022.

But the city dropped the hourglass on this one last parcel. Peering into the fog of city hall, and its many defective broomsticks, the BGC noticed that nothing had been done

to ready the final lot for sale. Frustrated by the BGC's habit of constantly pointing out procedural inadequacies, the city turned to a private law firm for help in late 2021.

These lawyers were asked to do what only the city could fail to do in a timely manner: get an order of court from a Common Pleas judge that, like a regular broomstick, would sweep all liens and encumbrances from the legal title to the property, effectively clearing it for sale.

But the law firm, lacking the magic potion that soothsayers like Edgar Snyder use to make any problem vanish in the twinkle of an eye, resorted to sending a notice throughout the land - letting denizens from hither and yonder know the nature of its petition placed before the court. Oh, cursed attention to details!

Lo and behold, underneath a troll bridge [somewhere in the New Castle area] emerged another attorney who, wearing hooded garb and muttering all manner of incantations, filed an objection to the sale. His client, a woman who is not from these parts, contended that the city could never be the rightful owner of the lot in question.

After all, she hooted, the city had only taken possession of the parcel from her now-dead relative as recently as 1985. She depicted the sale an audacious plot - not to be confused with a hand coming from the grave - by the city to deprive her of a legitimate opportunity to shake down the BGC for financial gain.

"Woe to those who would allow such a devious scheme to proceed," was the mantra of her attorney. His gnashing of teeth, albeit overly dramatic [and not recommended by 10-out-of-10 dentists], could be heard all the way to Commonwealth Court.

By sheer coincidence, this court's chambers, perched high above Grant Street, could play a vital role in tying up the legal proceedings on the lot for at least seven more turns of the full moon - but only if Common Pleas Court were to give the boot to the nefarious lawyer from New Castle. If the Court had dungeons into which he could be plunged, all of this would make for an even better tale. But the aforementioned catacombs were apparently shut down after County Executive Rich Fitzgerald failed to pay the tab for the oil that lights the hallway lamps.

Now, with winter drawing nearer, and the prospect of no resolution in sight, the BGC faces the unhappy possibility of folding its tent - and offering it to families who won't be able to move into the homes that may never be built. It is a sad day in the local kingdom, but one that will nevertheless be overshadowed by the Steelers winning on any given Sunday - or the Pirates owner falling into a large ravine, never to be seen again. ♦

Tree Planting Day

With TreeVitalize and the Bloomfield Garfield Corporation



November 5, 2022
9AM - 12PM
Healcrest Green (corner of N. Pacific + Hillcrest in Garfield)

Join the Bloomfield Garfield Corporation and TreeVitalize as we plant trees at the Healcrest Green site! Light breakfast and lunch will be provided, and experts will be on site to help volunteers successfully plant trees!

Please register by emailing Alicia Wehrle
awehrle@paconserve.org





LAWRENCEVILLE

2022

Cookie Tour

December 10 & 11, 12pm-5pm

Shop local along Butler Street and Penn Avenue this holiday season with #LVPGH while snacking on homemade cookies! Shop, dine, and explore our local businesses in Lawrenceville. More details at: lvpgh.com/cookietour2022