



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

**Candidates crowd
District Judge ballot,
set sights on May 16**

By Sam Spearing *Bulletin contributor*

Allegheny County - In the lead-up to the primary election on May 16, all eyes are on the race for Allegheny County Executive, where a large field of candidates has brought in even larger amounts of money.

Meanwhile, numerous candidates have thrown their hats in the ring for the less-recognized position of Magisterial District Judge.

Incumbent Mik Pappas is leaving the seat wide open for a new magistrate in District 05-02-31 (comprised of Garfield, Friendship, Bloomfield, Stanton Heights, Highland Park, Morningside, Upper Lawrenceville, and East Liberty).

This Magisterial District Court is one of 46 across Allegheny County.



ABOVE: Pittsburgh Glass Center (5472 Penn Ave.) supporters join neighbors, media members, and elected officials to celebrate the center's expansion plans during a molten-hot ceremony on Thursday, Mar. 23. See more of the action on page 5. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

See **Magistrate** | page 2



ABOVE: Volunteers plant trees, courtesy of TreeVitalize, in Friendship Park on Saturday, Mar. 25. Photo courtesy of Bloomfield Development Corporation.

**Sara Innamorato promises to lead
county government with heart**

By Alan Guenther *Bulletin contributor*

Perspective/Lawrenceville - Faced with a dangerous situation at age 16, Sara Innamorato left her home with her mother and sister on Christmas Eve, determined to get away from her drug-addicted father.

Now, as the youngest candidate in the May 16 Democratic election for the all-powerful position of Allegheny County Executive, the 36-year-old Innamorato said she is using the pain of her personal experience to inform the way she helps people.

She's not a typical bureaucrat whose senses have been dulled by decades in government,

she said. Serving the 21st District [Bloomfield/Garfield/Lawrenceville neighborhoods in the city] as state representative since 2018, she often deals with neighbors in crisis at her office on Butler Street.

"We deal with real problems people are experiencing, because government systems aren't working for them," she said.

Some people she's helped were sleeping in their cars because they couldn't find a place to stay. There are seniors who don't know how they're going to pay their electric bills,

See **Innamorato** | page 6

Magistrate continued from page 1

Just a few years ago, this seat would have received even less voter attention.

While it maintains a much lower profile than other elected positions, this office is the site of many citizens' first interactions with the court system.

Magisterial District Judges handle a wide variety of cases involving landlord-tenant disputes, truancy, traffic citations, bail hearings, and more. Magistrates even open up their courtrooms to officiate weddings for constituents [full disclosure: Pappas officiated *The Bulletin* editor's nuptials].

When Pappas chose to challenge Ron

Costa Sr. in 2017, it was the first challenge that Judge Costa had seen in 24 years.

After running on a platform of reform - citing issues like the overuse of cash bail, and weak protections for tenants facing eviction - Pappas successfully unseated Costa.

The significance of landlord-tenant cases became even clearer during the COVID-19 pandemic, with rental assistance programs reshaping the landscape for both renters and landlords.

Now, after Pappas' six-year tenure, many candidates in the 2023 race are echoing values that helped him win elected office.

With six candidates in the race during an off-year election, all signs point to a narrow margin for the winning candidate.

While the influence of the Allegheny County Democratic Committee (ACDC) endorsement is debatable, candidates Casey Mullen, Kate Lovelace, and Philip Roberts all sought the committee's endorsement. The outcome underscored how close this race might be; Mullen narrowly won the endorsement with 22 votes while Lovelace and Roberts finished close behind with 20 votes each.

The three other candidates did not seek ACDC endorsement. Rachel Rosnick entered the race in mid-February, too late to seek the endorsement. Anthony Vaccarello and Richard P McCague have both foregone public campaigning for the time being, and were only officially recognized as candidates upon filing the necessary paperwork to appear on the Mar. 7 ballot.

Excluding Vaccarello and McCague, about whom little is known, all of the candidates have cited their past work in the court system on their campaign websites. Roberts currently works as the Assistant Solicitor at the Allegheny County Law Department, citing past experience in criminal law, family law, property law, and civil litigation on his campaign website. Mullen, who also has experience practicing law, points to his incarceration as a young man as an experience that informed his perspective on the judicial system.

In her law career, Kate Lovelace has often

represented children, families, and those with hidden disabilities; she founded Locally Served, a free legal clinic that loops in social workers to help solve clients' problems holistically.

Rosnick works as a staff attorney for Kids-Voice, a nonprofit legal agency, representing juveniles and young adults at magistrate hearings across Allegheny County.

All six candidates will have to work hard to set themselves apart in a crowded field. The district is comprised of roughly 35,000 residents - yet in the 2017 election, only 7,904 votes were cast in the race between Pappas and Costa Sr.

Hopefully, turnout will be higher this time, and voters will research the candidates for Magisterial District Judge ahead of the primary election on May 16. ♦

EASTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD EMPLOYMENT CENTER

113 N. Pacific Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Hours of Operation

Monday & Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

CAREER COUNSELLING

Individualized career sessions designed to help get your job search off to the right start

Individual & group workshops on resume building, cover letter writing, interview & digital literacy skills

WORKSHOPS

CAREER WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

COMPUTER LAB

Computer Lab open to the public, along with printing, copying and scanning services

REFERRAL NETWORK

PA CareerLink, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, East End Community Thrift, Dress for Success, and many more.

412-362-8580 ext 114 / 118

admin@enecptitsburgh.com

www.bloomfield-garfield.org/employment



LEARN HOW TO WELD!

Join Industrial Arts Workshop for **SUMMER WELDING BOOTCAMP**

We are recruiting teens age 14-18 to participate! The program is **free** to qualifying students & takes place at our workshop space in Hazelwood!

Tuesdays - Thursdays
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
June 20th - August 17th.

LEARN MORE & APPLY TODAY

www.iawpgh.org

STATE REP. MAYES: HERE TO HELP

Staffers from State Rep. LaTasha Mayes' office will be at the BGC Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.) on Mondays - Apr. 17 & Apr. 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. - to help constituents with a variety of services and programs offered by the state.

They can also help resolve issues where the state has failed to respond in a timely manner. To contact State Rep. Mayes' staff members in advance of their visit to Garfield, please call Twanda Carlisle at 412-665-5502.

HAPPY Easter

STATE SENATOR JAY COSTA

OFFICES TO SERVE YOU

FOREST HILLS: 1501 Ardmore Blvd. • Suite 403 • Pittsburgh, PA 15221
(412) 241-6690 • Fax: (412) 731-2332

BLOOMFIELD: 4736 Liberty Ave. • Suite 1 • Pittsburgh, PA 15224
(412) 578-8457 • Fax: (412) 578-9874

E-MAIL: costa@pasenate.com

TEXT: (412) 850-4255

www.SenatorCosta.com

Paid for with Pennsylvania Taxpayer Dollars

Applications open for Lawrenceville United's Board of Directors

By Dave Breingan *Lawrenceville United*

Perspective/Lawrenceville - Want to make a difference in the Lawrenceville community? Consider running for a position on Lawrenceville United's (LU) Board of Directors.

As a nonprofit neighborhood organization, LU has remained dedicated to improving the quality of life for all Lawrenceville residents since 2001.

Today, that work includes convening residents around community development & planning efforts, helping older adults age in place, bolstering food access through the Lawrenceville Farmers Market and free food distributions, fighting for housing justice, planting trees, and providing direct support for residents - whether that means navigating an eviction, finding utility assistance, or accessing home repairs.

While LU staff and volunteers carry out much of this work, the organization's Board of Directors plays a pivotal role as a volunteer group that governs the nonprofit, provides strategic direction, oversees the Executive Director, monitors the financial health of the organization, and makes key decisions on matters affecting the community.

True to its grassroots focus, this Board is impaneled democratically through an open election process held every spring. Board members serve two-year terms, so roughly half of the Board members are up for election every year.

This year, the six "by ward" seats of the LU Board are up for election, with two seats representing each of the three City neighborhoods [wards] that comprise Lawrenceville: Lower Lawrenceville (6th Ward), Central Lawrenceville (9th Ward), and Upper Lawrenceville (10th Ward).

Considering that some Board members will be stepping down at the end of their term, LU expects a number of vacant Board seats in Upper and Lower Lawrenceville. In order to get on the ballot, prospective candidates need only be a Lawrenceville resident [and a member of LU, in good standing since Mar. 1, 2023]. Beyond that, eligible candidates must complete a simple, one-page application by May 12 to officially throw their hat in the ring. Voting from LU's membership will officially kick off at the Spring Membership Meeting on Jun. 7.

"Joining the Lawrenceville United Board is a great way to get involved and make a positive impact in the neighborhood," Alyssa Cypher, a Lawrenceville resident and President of the Board of Directors, noted. "We're looking for people from all backgrounds and skill sets, especially those who are traditionally underrepresented on boards (artists, activists, community organizers, etc.)."

More details about the Board election process, including a job description and the application, may be found at LUnited.org/2023-LU-Board-Elections. If you're a Lawrenceville resident and not quite ready to run for a Board seat, but would like to get more involved with LU, consider joining a committee or pursuing one of our many volunteer opportunities.

The LU Board is currently inviting local residents to join its committees on Development & Membership, Housing, and Equity & Inclusion. For more info, please contact LU at 412-802-7220 and/or info@LUnited.org. ♦

Valley View Church hosts Friday fish fry

Are you looking for a great fish dinner and/or sandwich during the season of Lent? Search no more, because Valley View Presbyterian Church is the place for you!

Our annual Fish Fry will be held every Friday afternoon through Apr. 7 (Good Friday). Valley View church is located at 601 N. Aiken Avenue in Garfield.

Our regular hours of operation will be Noon to 7 p.m. For ordering information, please call 412-361-0870.

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. 48, No. 4

- Deadline for the May edition is Monday, Apr. 17th -

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; these monthly meetings 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

© 2023 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.



SATURDAY APRIL 15, 2023

TREE PLANTING

9AM-12PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
ALICIA WEHRLE | awehrle@paconserve.org | 412-586-2386

WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY?
CONTACT:
VANIA ARTHUR | vania@bloomfield-garfield.org

[REGISTER HERE]

[@BLOOMGARCORP](https://www.instagram.com/bloomgarcorp) [@TREEVITALIZE](https://www.instagram.com/treevitalize)

Bloomfield-Garfield.org treevitalize.org

Black Mulch 2 cubic feet

West Virginia couple seeds affordable housing developments in East Liberty

By Elizabeth Sensky *East Liberty Development, Inc.*

Insight/East Liberty - East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) knows from experience that a thriving neighborhood is a mixed-income neighborhood - one that strikes a healthy balance between affordable and market-rate housing.

Breaking up concentrations of wealth and poverty will enhance the lives of people on both ends of the spectrum, as evidenced by various studies [including one recently conducted by the MacArthur Foundation]. Yet acquiring the funds to build and renovate affordable housing units, which is critical to the creation of mixed-income neighborhoods, is not always easy. Over the years, ELDI has worked with countless partners to find innovative ways to fund affordable housing projects.

In recent years, we have found success with the Federal Home Loan Bank Affordable Housing Program, working with John and Michelle Connor of Full Quiver Consulting to submit successful grant applications to the program. The Connors were instrumental in helping ELDI secure \$750,000 for the Garfield Affordable Homeownership Project, as well as \$410,000 for Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh to rehab 10 owner-occupied houses in Enright Court. They also helped our spin-off organization, Rising Tide Partners, obtain \$750,000 to redevelop an apartment complex in the East Hills, and an additional \$500,000 to rehab a single-family rental home in Hazelwood.

The Federal Home Loan Bank's (FHLB) Affordable Housing Program (AHP) provides grants and subsidized loans for acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of affordable housing for households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income (AMI), with projects serving lower AMIs typically being more competitive. Project sponsors [usually housing developers] partner with banks who are members of the FHLB Pittsburgh to seek AHP funding that is offered annually via one competitive funding round. Grants are awarded to the highest scoring projects, with up to \$750,000 in AHP funds awarded per project.

The Connors, our trusty guides in this process, have a fascinating history. The couple worked for Almost Heaven, a Habitat for Humanity affiliate in West Virginia, for nearly two decades; John served as the chief development officer, and Michelle was the CEO. Under their leadership, the affiliate grew from a small home office to one of the most productive Habitat for Humanity affiliates in the country. This experience offered them a wealth of expertise in grant-writing and fundraising, as well as an intimate understanding of what it takes to develop affordable housing projects.

In 2013, the Connors launched Full Quiver Consulting to help for-profit and nonprofit affordable housing providers secure financing for projects across the nation. In recent years, their work has centered on helping organizations navigate the often-difficult FHLB grant process. As the couple began to spend more time in Pittsburgh, ELDI helped them find a home in East Liberty's Enright Court to serve as their Pittsburgh "home away from their permanent home" in West Virginia. They are due to become homeowners in the Court this spring.

We sat down with John to learn more about the projects he and Michelle have helped bring to life in East Liberty [The following transcript has been edited for space. Read the full conversation at eastliberty.org].



ABOVE: [From left to right] John Connor, Mary Hester (ELDI's affordable homeownership specialist and co-founder of LifeVenture Real Estate Solutions), Tammy Thompson (executive director of Catapult Greater Pittsburgh), and Michelle Connor. The Connors live in West Virginia, but spend summers residing in East Liberty's Enright Court. Photo courtesy of ELDI.

ELDI: *How exactly does the FHLB program work? What makes this program unique?*

Connor: "The FHLB system in our country was established in 1932, coming off the heels of the stock market crash and the beginning of the Great Depression, as a way for the federal government to help stabilize the banking markets. The system consists of 11 district/regional "Federal Home Loan Banks" which provide lending, deposit, and other services to member lending institutions (Member Banks). Pittsburgh's is one of those 11 - and it serves Member Banks in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and West Virginia. In 1989, as part of some banking reforms that were taking place, the FHLBs created the Affordable Housing Program (AHP). Every year, the FHLBs must set aside 10% of the net income from their lending activities for Member Banks to use in the AHP- to help preserve or create affordable rental and homeownership opportunities across the nation. So, when you apply for a FHLB grant, you must partner with a Member Bank that submits the application on your behalf."

ELDI: *Why is it called a 'Federal Home Loan Bank'?*

Connor: "That's one thing I always like to point out - and I steal this from Bill Miller, who was the former communications director at FHLBank Pittsburgh - 'Federal Home Loan Bank' is one of the absolute worst and most misleading names ever. When you think of 'federal,' you immediately think federal tax dollars go into that. Yet there are no tax dollars infused into FHLBs. It's all private money from investments and from the membership dues that Member Banks pay. Secondly, the FHLBs do not provide home loans as we think of them, so to call them a 'home loan bank' is a misnomer. Lastly, they're not a bank that you or I could go to and open an account. In fact, they only exist for their Member Banks, so they are essentially a bank for banks. Just to pull that curtain back, there's no federal tax dollars. It's not a government grant. It's all private, but the beauty of it is that banks are in the business of making money, and they consistently make money year after year. So, it can be a very reliable, regularly occurring source of

- continued on page 13 -

Learn & Earn

Summer Youth Employment Program



APPLICATION DATES: March 10-June 9

Learn and Earn provides Allegheny County youth the opportunity to:

- 1 Earn over \$1,300
- 2 Build job skills
- 3 Develop professional networks
- 4 Explore career pathways

Be sure to mark the
Bloomfield Garfield
Corporation as your
Application Support
Center!!

APPLY ONLINE AT:
WWW.JOBS4SUMMER.ORG

Applicants must be between the ages of 14-21, live in Allegheny County, authorized to work in the U.S., and meet program income requirements. Remote options are available. In-person participants will be given bus passes.

412-441-6950 ext 125

Judy@bloomfield-garfield.org

113 N Pacific Ave Pgh, PA 15224



BELOW: A glassworker pours molten energy from the Pittsburgh Glass Center's (PGC, 5472 Penn Ave.) second story into the parking lot during a Mar. 23 ground-breaking ceremony. PGC unveiled its expansion plans in spectacular fashion. Photo by Andrew McKeon.



ABOVE: Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald (left, behind podium) reminisces about growing up in the city's East End - back when a hub like the PGC would have been unthinkable - on Thursday, Mar. 23. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

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.**



Rejoice in the Lord!

**HOLY WEEK
WORSHIP SERVICES**

+

ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
237 37TH STREET, LAWRENCEVILLE
Rev. Donn E. Woolweber, Pastor
412/621-2720

Palm Sunday, April 2 - 11:30 a.m.
Good Friday, April 7 - noon
Easter Sunday, April 9 - 11 a.m.



Befriend the Bulletin on Facebook

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

Innamorato continued from page 1

and addicts who need help.

In an interview with *The Bulletin*, Innamorato spoke about how everyone should have adequate housing and shelter, because she knows what it's like to not be able to go home when it's an unsafe environment.

"I know how our family went from stability to chaos so quickly," she said. When she says the county must treat addicts with kindness, provide safe needle exchanges and treatment, she is thinking of her father, Paul. She loved him - and worried, as a young child, that she had done or said something to cause his addiction.

Six years after leaving a toxic environment at home, when she was 22, Innamorato learned that her father, who had remarried, was now reported missing in Florida. Months passed before his body was found by the side of a highway, its features eroded but still identifiable. She said Paul was a casualty of the opioid epidemic, but she doesn't really know how he died.

"I don't know if he committed suicide," she said, or if he "just gave up because he was so deep in debt to people and had hurt so many people that he loved."

She said she knows so many people who

have gone through traumas worse than hers, but she feels that her deep well of personal experience can help her connect with people who are in need of answers.

People are angry with government, said Innamorato, who grew up in Ross Township and has lived in Lawrenceville for the past 10 years. They don't want bureaucratic solutions from the same stale leaders who have clung to office since the turn of the century.

They want something - and someone - new. Over the past five years, residents of the Pittsburgh area have been voting out politicians who've been in office for decades.

Progressive candidates have been on a winning streak. That's why, she said, she stands a good chance to win election against other Democratic county executive candidates who have larger staffs and more campaign funding.

"It's been happening up and down the ballot," she said.

In 2018, Innamorato ousted long-time incumbent Dom Costa from his seat in the state legislature. Ed Gainey defeated long-time Mayor Bill Peduto in the 2021 May Democratic primary election. Last year, Innamorato's former running mate, Summer

BELOW: County Executive candidate Sara Innamorato shows off her 'Pennsylvania tattoos.' Her ink includes a tiny replica of a key-stone (the logo for her first campaign) and PA wild flowers. Photo by Alan Guenther.



Lee, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

While opponents like County Treasurer John Weinstein and City Controller Michael Lamb tout their years of running large departments, Innamorato said their experience

is "administrative." Her strength is listening to people and understanding why government needs to change.

Beyond Weinstein and Lamb, the other opponents in the race are Theresa Sciulli Colaizzi, who retired from the city school board in 2013; former Republican county councilor Dave Fawcett; and activist William Parker. Allegheny County Councilor Liv Bennett dropped out of the race on March 17.

Asked how she would manage a county government with more than 6,300 employees and a budget in excess of \$3 billion, Innamorato said she would rely on progressive ideals. When she looks at the county budget, for example, she does not talk about bloat or cutting costs. She talks about fair wages for employees.

"Who are the people there? And are they making a wage where they can sustain themselves and their family?" she asks. She plans to create a culture where county employees are "compensated fairly and treated with dignity and respect."

She plans to eliminate "wage gaps" based on gender and race. Asked how she would close those gaps and provide living wages without

- continued on page 12 -

STEAM SUMMER CAMPS

FREE

for Garfield residents!

HANDS-ON



IN PERSON



ASSEMBLE SUMMER CAMPS

Calling all Assemblers! Assemble summer camps are a weeklong STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Math) exploration! This summer, students will be learning through making, collaborating with friends, and building confidence at the Penn Avenue studio. Camps for students in grades 1-9 run from June 20-Aug 11, 9am-4pm with before and after care available 8am-5pm.

REGISTER TODAY!



THEMES:

- STORYLAB
- ART-ITECHTURE
- MYTHICAL CREATURES & MONSTERS
- STEAM
- GEMSTONES & GEOLOGY



assemble

412-661-6111 4824 PENN AVENUE ASSEMBLEPGH.ORG

Lawrenceville community must convene around mobility solutions

A Message from Lawrenceville United & Lawrenceville Corporation

Op-Ed

Lawrenceville/Bloomfield - Few things are as important to our quality of life as our ability to move around our community. While the “walkability” of the Lawrenceville neighborhood is part of its essential character and one of its main selling points, ongoing mobility challenges impact the daily lives of all residents and community members.

Poor sidewalk and accessibility infrastructure, along with seemingly non-stop construction, make it difficult for neighbors to get around safely - especially people with disabilities, parents with strollers, and older adults. Drivers speed along residential streets, into busy intersections like 40th & Butler, threatening the safety of pedestrians, bikers, and other motorists.

Although Lawrenceville has a growing bike network and is well-served by transit lines, there is still plenty of room for improvements to make biking and busing easier. And anyone who knows Lawrenceville knows that parking is a perpetual priority for the neighborhood.

The Lawrenceville community has con-

vened many meetings over the years to find solutions to these issues, and now those conversations are finally bearing fruit.

Late last year - after months of discussion between Lawrenceville United (LU), Lawrenceville Corporation (LC), the Department of Mobility & Infrastructure, the Pittsburgh Parking Authority, and the Office of Nighttime Economy - City Council Member Deb Gross introduced a Mobility Enhancement District (MED) ordinance that will be the subject of a series of community meetings scheduled for April.

The MED would create a dedicated, locally controlled source of funds for mobility improvements made to Lawrenceville and the Bloomfield border area. These funds would come from new meters being placed on Butler Street and Penn Avenue, nighttime enforcement of meters, and dynamic pricing to capture extra revenue when demand is at its peak.

By better managing the supply of parking when many visitors are coming to the neighborhood, the plan is to increase turnover for small businesses, while simultaneously reducing the amount of “cruising” that takes place as visitors cir-

cle residential blocks in search of precious parking spots. Revenue from the MED could help fund crucial mobility enhancements like bus shelters, sidewalk repairs, bump-outs, traffic signal upgrades, and more.

Potential changes to the Residential Permit Parking (RPP) program in Lawrenceville and the Bloomfield border area are also under consideration as a companion to the MED. Currently, large swaths of the residential community aren’t included in RPP zones - and daytime hours of enforcement end precisely when many residents come home from work, and when visitors begin arriving to enjoy the Lawrenceville nightlife. Nobody loves paying for parking, but unlimited free parking is an incentive for people outside the community to park all day, taking up limited on-street parking and only exacerbating the issue.

Any changes to RPP would be informed by the needs of each block. Some streets may benefit from adding RPP while others may benefit from hybrid zones (a mixture of metered parking and RPP). Another option would be modifying RPP enforcement hours to extend into the nighttime.

While conversations around parking often bring about heated discussion, many community members are ready to move forward with the suggested changes.

“I believe it will benefit residents to secure parking with permits, and create parking turnover that benefits businesses along Butler Street,” Eric Kellar, owner of Lawrenceville Pet Supply, said.

Armin Samii - who chairs the all-volunteer resident group “Better Streets Lawrenceville,” which has long advocated for improved mobility options - agrees that it’s time to reconsider how we manage parking in Lawrenceville.

“The current [RPP] program no longer

reflects the usage patterns of our vibrant neighborhood,” Samii explained. “The proposed changes will encourage visitors to carpool, take public transit, or use active transportation to get to Lawrenceville - making our neighborhood better for residents, businesses, and visitors alike.”

As the MED and possible RPP changes are being considered for advancement, LU and LC will conduct a series of community engagement events to explain some of the proposals in greater depth and solicit feedback.

The Lawrenceville “Happenings” community meeting will kick things off at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Apr. 13, at Arsenal Middle School’s auditorium.

In the weeks that follow, community members will be encouraged to stop by three open houses to see visuals of the various proposals, engage directly with LU and LC staff, and offer their input.

The first will be held on Tuesday, Apr. 18, from 5-7 p.m. at Trace Brewing (4312 Main St.); the second will be held on Saturday, Apr. 29, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Ice House Studios (100 43rd St.); and the third will be held on Monday, May 1, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club (4600 Butler St.). The community process will conclude at the Lawrenceville “Happenings” meeting on Thursday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m. at Goodwill’s Workforce Development Center (118 52nd St.).

All community members - including residents, small business owners, workers, visitors, and other stakeholders - are invited to attend these sessions, get information, and offer input.

For more information, please visit LUnit-ed.org. Lawrenceville United may be reached at 412-802-7220 or info@LUnit-ed.org; Lawrenceville Corporation may be reached at 412-621-1616 or info@lawrencevillecorp.com. ♦



WE'RE HIRING!

OPEN TO EVERYONE,
EVERY DAY. 8AM-8PM

POSITIONS
STARTING AT
\$15 AN HOUR



7516 MEADE ST.
PITTSBURGH, PA 15208
WWW.EASTENDFOOD.COOP
412-242-3598

Future Camp 2023

evolve



Join us July 24- August 4 @ Winchester Thurston School

An inclusive, autism-friendly arts • media camp for transition-age youth & young adults. Ages 12-30 can apply.

One Garfield resident will receive a FULL SCHOLARSHIP.

Neighborhood FOCUS

City ponders using Land Bank funds to remedy blighted properties

By Alan Guenther *Bulletin contributor*

Pittsburgh - After nearly a decade of discussion about how to redevelop hundreds of vacant, decaying properties, Pittsburgh City Council may finally be ready to take a cautious step forward.

According to Councilwoman Deb Gross, the council is not yet ready to vote on a measure that would speed the transfer of vacant, blighted properties [in the city's possession] to nonprofit groups that could ostensibly do something with them.

Instead, Gross told *The Bulletin*, she is considering a "post agenda" public meeting,

where Council would gather a panel of experts and neighborhood groups to discuss rules governing how the city's Land Bank uses upwards of \$7 million in federal funds to acquire, clear title to, and ultimately sell several hundred properties that are, at present, languishing across the city.

The Land Bank was created in 2014. But in all that time, City Council has not created a clear legal procedure to smoothly transfer city-owned properties to the Land Bank - so that it can move quickly to deliver neighborhood eyesores into the hands of responsible developers and individual buyers - creating stable, tax-generating homes for city residents.

Most of the properties owned by the city were acquired through foreclosures on properties with long-delinquent tax bills. Currently, the transfer of properties to nonprofit groups and other parties can take five years or longer.

After hearing from the public, Gross said, Council will decide what to do next. As *The Bulletin* went to press, no date had been set for the post agenda meeting.

Moving forward with the Land Bank legislation is the best hope for advocates who want to rescue blighted homes and neighborhoods. This became even more evident in early March, when Allegheny County Judge John McVay handed down a decision that stopped housing advocates, including the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, from using the state's Abandoned & Blighted Property Conservatorship Act to take control of at least 75 city-owned abandoned homes and vacant lots in the Garfield and Larimer neighborhoods.

If the community groups had won their legal challenge, they would have shaved years off a complicated process to win the rights to redevelop such properties. But McVay issued an order that will stop the nonprofit groups from being appointed by the Court as conservators for City-owned properties - until a state appeals court can rule on whether the City is exempt from the law, as the City has argued. In January, McVay ruled that the City is not exempt.

This means going back to the drawing board for the Land Bank. Councilwoman Gross told *The Bulletin* that she and City Council's solicitor have been discussing what questions should be addressed by experts who will debate the merits of turning properties over to the Land Bank.

Fixing homes is less expensive than tearing them down and building new houses, said Kendall Pelling, executive director of the Rising Tide Partners, a nonprofit development group.

Though he was disappointed in Judge McVay's ruling, Pelling said he thought that Councilwoman Gross's idea to have more discussion on the issue was "a great idea."

"The more thoughtful dialogue we can have around how to fix the system, the better," said Pelling. A Garfield resident, Pelling described his Rising Tide group as a "nonprofit, land-recycling organization" working in six different communities throughout the Pittsburgh area.

Pelling, 45, has worked in real estate redevelopment since 2002. For much of the last decade, he said, the administration of former Mayor Bill Peduto allowed the city's process for dealing with blighted properties to "break down completely." Experienced personnel left. Necessary funding was not provided.

- continued on next page -

Building Stronger Neighborhoods Together

Got a small business (or an idea for one)?
Get help with your financing needs.
Let us connect you with flexible options for start-up costs, working capital, equipment, vehicles, leasehold improvements and more.



Contact Rich Newell
to learn more.
412-322-0290 ext. 101
Newell@ncd-fund.org



Contact Stefani Smith
to learn more.
412-322-0290 ext. 118
Smith@ncd-fund.org



Contact Us
Reach out at info@ncd-fund.org • Visit us at ncd-fund.org



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

BELOW: A city-owned property in the 5100 block of Broad Street in Garfield. Notice the condemnation sign and demolition placard dating back to August 2022. Photo by Andrew McKeon.



“We have to treat our neighborhoods like they’re valuable. That is the most fundamental element of real estate justice.”

- Kendall Pelling, Rising Tide Partners

- continued from previous page -

But the roots of the problem go all the way back to the early 1990s, long before Peduto. As the city’s population declined and more homes were abandoned, Pelling said, the city unfortunately embraced a system of what some contend were discriminatory real estate practices that led to entire communities being excluded from consideration.

Properties in wealthier neighborhoods were viewed as “attractive,” Pelling explained, while properties in lower-income neighborhoods, frequently occupied by people of color, were viewed as “not valuable.”

“We’re trying to prevent displacement of low-income residents and enable the restoration of communities by confronting blight head-on,” Pelling said. “The thing that gives me hope is that Mayor Gainey cares about these problems. I believe [Gainey’s] staff cares about these problems. And I also believe that every Council member I’ve talked with cares about these problems.”

Pittsburgh received a windfall in federal stimulus funding during the Covid pandemic. The city originally earmarked \$10 million in stimulus funds for the Land Bank. Late last year, \$3 million of that money was shifted away from the Land Bank to establish a “food justice fund,” to be used to reduce hunger among city residents.

With \$10 million in funding, Land Bank manager Sally Stadelman had originally set a goal to buy and sell more than 650 properties over a four-year span. After the funding was reduced to \$7 million, she presented a new plan that projects the Land Bank taking control of 390 city-owned properties, a decrease of 260 from the Land

Bank’s original goal. The city must obligate that money by the end of next year or it will have to be returned to the federal government. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, Pelling and other housing advocates maintain.

The clock is ticking, and if the city does not move fast enough, it will lose the stimulus dollars. But there is another reason to make haste. Decaying properties have a life of their own, Pelling said, and small repairs become huge repairs in no time.

“If you look at it historically, every decade, our most blighted neighborhoods might lose up to a third of their remaining population. It’s not because of gentrification. It’s because homes are allowed to rot away,” Pelling said.

“We have to treat our neighborhoods like they’re valuable. That is the most fundamental element of real estate justice,” he concluded.

By making neighborhoods safe and clean, and rebuilding decaying structures, the city can stop blight, stabilize neighborhoods, and provide affordable places to live. But first, the city must act.

[Alan Guenther, a frequent Bulletin contributor, lives in Bloomfield and can be reached at guenthera30@gmail.com] ♦

Free to the Community
Flex your creative side!



Remake Learning Days!

Trap + Paint Academy

May 19th

4PM-7PM

Open street community art event!

- Free-form painting on canvas with brushes
- Graffiti style spray painting
- Poster sized prints featuring pages from the
- Garfield Coloring Book created by local artists who live and work in the neighborhood.

Join the BGC & BOOM Concepts to create art, learn about the Garfield Community, our youth programs and the many resources available in the community.

The Bloomfield Garfield Corporation






113 N Pacific Ave Pgh, Pa 15224



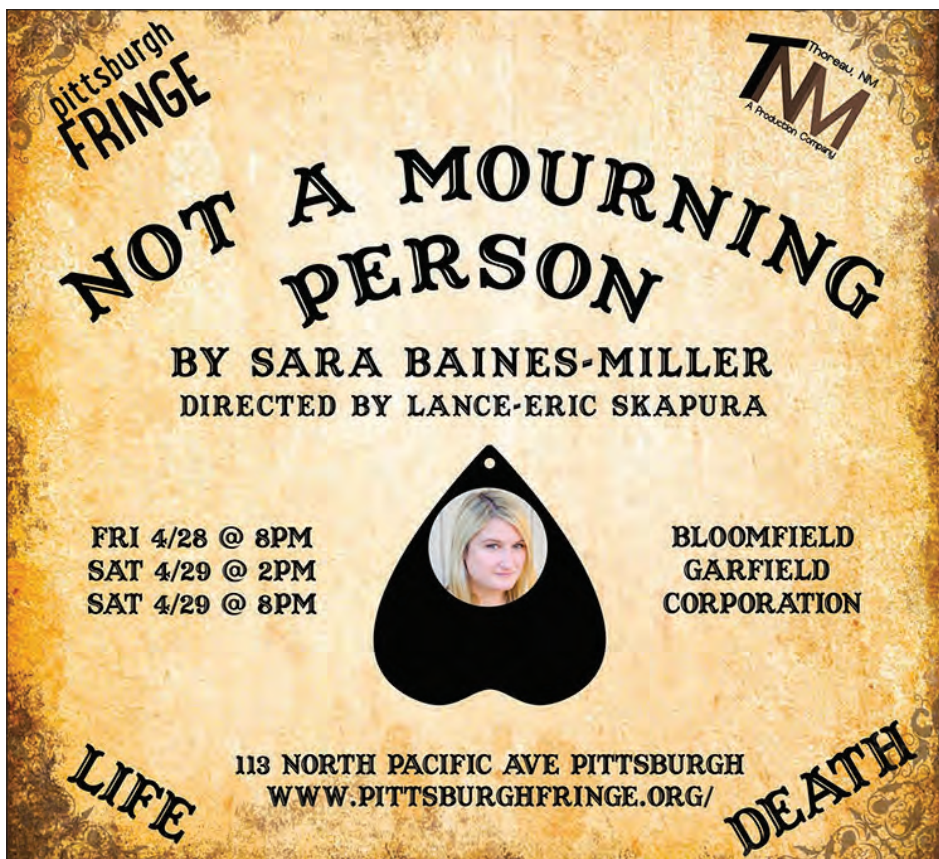





412-441-6950 ext 124

PGH Fringe: 'Not a Mourning Person' premieres at BGC Activity Center

By Wendy L. Rea *Bulletin contributor*



ABOVE: The show poster for 'Not a Mourning Person,' a Fringe Festival performance at the BGC Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.) in Garfield. Graphic courtesy of Wendy L. Rea.

Garfield - For the first time since the dawn of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pittsburgh Fringe Festival will return in person, and also virtually, to celebrate its tenth anniversary.

This year's festival, which runs from Apr. 26-30, will feature independent artists - hailing from all over the SWPA region - performing at venues up and down the avenue.

In the words of festival founder Xela Batchelder, "Fringe is an all-out, no-holds-barred, inclusive, multi-disciplinary, performing arts festival!" She welcomes everyone to visit pittsburghfringe.org for more details, and then "come on out and experience the Fringe."

"What would you do if you had a front row seat at your own funeral?" is the question asked by local playwright Sara Baines-Miller's new dramedy, *Not a Mourning Person*. The play's protagonist, Molly Parker, enjoys a front-row seat at her own funeral - and she has some questions.

Three performances at the BGC Activity Center [scheduled for Apr. 29-30] will provide the audience with answers.

"I wrote the play with the ambiance of a funeral in mind," Baines-Miller said, "so the fact that the BGC [Activity Center] previously served as a church makes for an absolutely perfect setting."

The local author, who has earned numerous awards for her playwriting, aims to have audiences laughing at the quips and crying at the pulled heartstrings.

"The idea of being at your own funeral was fun to explore," she said. "I like to write funny dialogue, but with a deeper meaning, and writing about a funeral definitely worked for my style. I like to make the audience laugh, but also ponder a bit, too."

According to director Lance Eric Skapura (The Booth, Fringe '22), "the arc of the play is the journey through grief. But, in this case, the journey is that of the dearly departed." The production features a local ensemble cast, including Robin Beruh, Chelsea Conway, Louise Fox, Mary Chess Randolph, and Stephen Toth.

"We're also particularly enthused to be working in such a great space," managing director Wendy Rea said. "This is our eighth production with the Pittsburgh Fringe Festival, which is now celebrating its 10th year! We skipped a bit because of COVID - otherwise, we've been producing with them since the beginning."

A local theatre company, known as "Thoreau, NM - A Production Company," will handle production for this Fringe Festival performance.

Seating is limited, so reserve your tickets now at pittsburghfringe.org. ♦

'Shake Your Booties' gala raises funds for Children's Home programs, benefits local families

By Bethany Bartilson *The Children's Home & Lemieux Family Center*

North Shore - The Children's Home & Lemieux Family Center will host its annual "Shake Your Booties" gala on Saturday, Apr. 22, from 6 to 11 p.m. at Acrisure Stadium.

The Children's Home encourages guests to get down for a good cause with this year's theme: "Shake Your Groovy Booties." A disco band called "Dancing Queen" will provide the soundtrack, and sports journalist Aditi Kinkhabwala will emcee the festivities.

The Children's Home promotes the health & well-being of infants and children, and the strengthening of family dynamics, through its four programs: Adoption, Child's Way®, Pediatric VIEW, and the Pediatric Specialty Hospital. This year's gala aims to raise funds to support the children and families it serves at 5324 Penn Ave. in Garfield.

For the last 25 years, Dancing Queen has been one of Pittsburgh's hottest disco/funk/dance bands. Covering the best of the 70s and 80s, this band has the look, attitude, and excitement to turn back the clock and keep the boogie going all night.

The emcee this year is CBS Sports reporter Aditi Kinkhabwala. Before her career at CBS, Kinkhabwala worked as a reporter for NFL Network; before that, she covered the New York Giants for the *Wall Street Journal*. As a resident of the Pittsburgh area, and herself a mother of two, Kinkhabwala naturally developed an interest in the mission of The Children's Home.

This year marks 30 years for CEO Pamela Keen's tenure at The Children's Home. As she celebrates this milestone, Keen is welcoming supporters to join her in the opportunity to sponsor the 2023 gala festivities.

Honoring community partners like Jameson's Army and Zachary's Mission, the event will feature a live auction for in-person attendees, and an online auction open to the public and accessible for supporters both near and far. The gala will also feature a "Fund the Mission" component, where supporters can bid to fund services that directly impact kids in The Children's Home's programs.

All proceeds will help promote pediatric health and well-being through services that establish and strengthen the family.

Shake Your Groovy Booties is being chaired by Julia Taylor, who has been an advocate for The Children's Home for many years. Along with the Shake Your Booties planning committee, she has encouraged volunteer participation and secured sponsorships to facilitate an engaging, interpersonal event - one that is designed to excite guests while also raising funds.

The Children's Home invites supporters to get down for a good cause at Acrisure Stadium on Apr. 22. Tickets start at \$200; for more details, visit <https://bit.ly/SYGB2023>. ♦

Ugly Concrete?

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

Concrete Repair &
Restoration

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

412-734-5432

johnshomeimprovement.org

PA# 050547

Fully insured

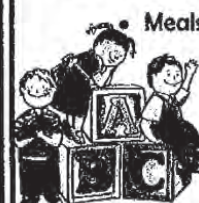
Credit cards accepted

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

May Bulletin Deadline: Monday, Apr. 17th

Bulletin advertising info available at bit.ly/bulletin_ads

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



FAWCETT

FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**My name is Dave.
I've beaten some real Goliaths
in the courtroom.**

**Now I'm running for County Executive
to take on the big problems where
career politicians have failed.**

**To protect our communities,
grow jobs, and keep our
young people here.**

Join me to get the job done.

Fawcett4CountyExec.com

Twitter: @DaveFawcett4ACE | Instagram: @fawcett4ACE

Paid for by the Friends of Dave Fawcett Committee

Innamorato *continued from page 6*

raising taxes, Innamorato said she would re-allocate funds based on different priorities.

“That’s not raising taxes,” she said, explaining how to potentially generate more revenue by pursuing large nonprofit agencies, such as the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), for payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreements.

Moving eastward in the county, UPMC is already buying up hospitals with PILOT agreements in place – so why not, she asks, have the same revenue-generating agreement in Pittsburgh?

On public safety, her solution is not to increase the number of police and make more arrests, but to “attack the root causes of violent crime” by helping people get the mental health treatment they need.

She would begin an overhaul of the Allegheny County Jail by firing Warden Orlando Harper, who has held the job for more than 10 years. More of her detailed positions on the issues can be found at saraforall.com

On a personal level, she said she learned to deal with her father’s addiction and death by volunteering to work with addicts at the nonprofit Prevention Point program. She greets the clients that she meets with respect.

“I know you’re going through this, and you have this addiction,” Innamorato said she tells them. “But you’re still human, you’re still valuable. And I still want to make sure that you know that you’re loved.”

[Alan Guenther is a frequent contributor to *The Bulletin* and can be reached at guenthera30@gmail.com] ♦



ABOVE: State Rep. Sara Innamorato (center, behind podium) is surrounded by supporters while announcing her run for County Executive. Photo courtesy of Sam Wasserman.



OpenStreetsPGH is looking for Activity Partners in your neighborhood

- 📍 If your small businesses, restaurant, or non-profit is located on or near the event route, you get FREE booth space - just submit an application!
- 🎉 You can host an activity to be enjoyed by our OpenStreetsPGH attendees - from fitness classes to live performances to giant board games, and everything in between.
- 🚲 OpenStreetsPGH is a free community street festival reclaiming our streets for people to bike, walk, and play. Events will take place in neighborhoods across Pittsburgh the last Sundays of May, June, and July.

OPENSTREETSPGH.ORG

When a call could ruin nap time.

We see you. With online scheduling, you can search for a doctor, location, and time that works for you without making a single call.
Now shh — book at ahn.org/schedule.



WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LOCAL REAL ESTATE BLOTTER?

[Ed. Note: The Local Real Estate Blotter, a Bulletin feature regularly found on this page, is on hiatus this month. Allegheny County's online real estate portal, where the blotter's listings are sourced, has not been updated. The Bulletin will resume publishing real estate listings as soon as the County website is back up and running. Until then, readers can look to the Sunday edition of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette for updated listings.]

Are you open to cremation?

We have an open door policy
because we have nothing to hide.

- ☐ **Yes, we return ALL the ashes**
Our exacting standards ensure the integrity of the entire cremation process.
- ☐ **No, we do not cremate pets in our crematory**
However, if you wish, we will be happy to refer you to a pet cremation specialist.
- ☐ **24/7 Cremation**
For your convenience we are available every day and we accommodate special requests and schedules.
- ☐ **"Whose ashes are in the urn?"**
We personally perform the cremation so we know.
- ☐ **We perform all cremations individually**
All cremations are done on-site, so your loved one never leaves our care.
- ☐ **We understand your concerns**
That's why we explain your options and respect your wishes.
- ☐ **No hidden charges**
Embalming is not required for cremation and we provide on-site refrigeration at no extra charge.

So if you think you're open to the idea of cremation,
think of us—we can answer any questions you may have.

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.dalessandroh.com • dalessandrofh@aol.com

Connors *continued from page 4*

grant funds for projects. FHLBs are government-sponsored enterprises, or GSEs, but unlike other GSEs such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, they have done a wonderful job of being responsible in the handling of their money and finances. I can attest to that. They do amazing work in their communities."

ELDI: *So the money given through the FHLB Program is a grant, not a loan, correct?*

Connor: "That is correct. It is a reimbursable grant, meaning it's a grant that comes after the organization applying for the grant delivers on what they say they're going to do. That means the entity must incur the expenses for the project first. Here's where the Member Bank can step in and fill in the gap with a bridge loan or interim construction financing. Basically, once the award is granted, the Member Bank can very confidently lend the money knowing that the grant will come through once the house is complete and sold to a low-income buyer, or once the rental units are developed and rented out to qualified low-income families. In that process, they get the loan origination fees and some loan interest over the life of the project, so it's a win-win."

ELDI: *What affordable housing projects have you helped ELDI bring to life?*

Connor: "In 2018, we submitted a grant application on [ELDI's] behalf for the Garfield Affordable Homeownership Project, a collaboration with the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation to rehab eight houses in Garfield. The application was successful, and ELDI was awarded \$750,000 for the project. Due to COVID-19 and other challenges, the project was eventually scaled back to three homes in Garfield, all of which have been fully renovated and sold to minority, first-time homeowners. Full Quiver Consulting plans to help ELDI apply for another round of FHLB funding in 2023 for more affordable housing projects in East Liberty. Working with high-performing real estate developers like ELDI is highly rewarding as their work is transformational, but we are also passionate about working with smaller, minority developers and minority contractors who are stepping into this space in the greater Pittsburgh area."

ELDI: *Can you tell me about your experience living in East Liberty's Enright Court?*

Connor: "Michelle and I have a beautiful 32-acre farm in the mountains of Pendleton County, West Virginia, but as we started to take on more clients in the Pittsburgh area, we were traveling to Pittsburgh a lot, for multiple days on end. Early on, we would stay in an Airbnb or a hotel with our large family, but that became challenging, so we started asking some of our clients if they had a unit we could rent for the summer. Around the summer of 2019, Ted Melnyk [ELDI's director of operations] reached out and said we could rent a unit in East Liberty's Enright Court. We said absolutely and immediately fell in love with the neighborhood. The location is fantastic, right there in the heart of it all in East Liberty, but the charm and beauty of Enright Court is that it's its own little community with salt-of-the-earth people and a diversity that we don't get in the rural hills of West Virginia. Our kids made fast friends with the neighborhood kids, and our son Jack eventually befriended Miss Jeanette Carter, who was kind of like the 'neighborhood grandmother.' She has since passed away, but they really enjoyed a special connection. We've developed such a love for Enright Court that we can see ourselves staying there for many years to come. We love our school system in West Virginia and are not ready to make a full-time move, but we still spend almost all summer and a couple weekends each month in Pittsburgh, so we were excited to begin renting a unit in the Court, and are poised to buy this spring." ♦



ABOVE: Michelle Connor visits a work site in the East End. Photo courtesy of ELDI.

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

Calling all Woolslair alumni!

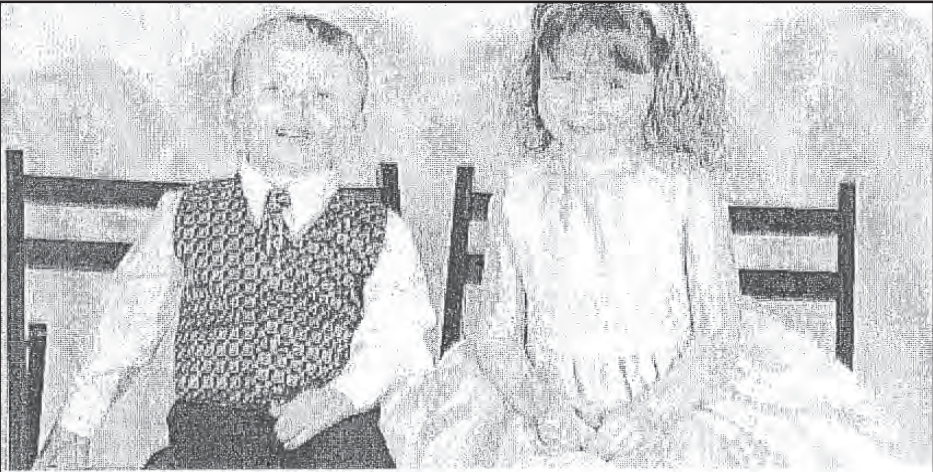
Did you or someone you know attend Woolslair elementary school?

We are getting ready to celebrate the 125th anniversary of this incredible, historic school and we would love to hear your stories, memories, and anecdotes from its past. We need to hear from you, Woolslair alum! Please email, write, or call us with your experiences as a student or staff member.

Email: WoolslairPTO@gmail.com

Write: Woolslair Elementary / attn: PTO / 501 40th Street / PGH, PA 15224

Call: 717-395-4975



A Season of Change

We can all remember coloring eggs, eating chocolate candies and wearing our finest clothing. But the true sentiment of Easter is the hope that it brings.

As we reflect on Christ’s resurrection and see the coming Spring, we receive a promise of future joy.

Let this season of change be a reminder that even life’s deepest sorrows can be followed with new beginnings.



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

HOLY NAME SOCIETY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

On Sunday, Apr. 30, the Holy Name Society of Our Lady of the Angels Parish will sponsor a pancake breakfast from 9 a.m. until Noon at Capuchin Hall (220 37th St.). Proceeds from the event will benefit local charities, as well as our efforts to distribute Giant Eagle gift cards to needy families in Lawrenceville, Bloomfield, and Garfield over the holiday season.

Cost: \$7 for adults (three pancakes, two sausages, orange juice, and beverage); \$3 for children ages 6 to 12 (two pancakes, one sausage, orange juice, and beverage); children under age 6 eat free. Pancakes are “all you can eat” at no added cost.

The Holy Name Society will also be collecting hand lotion, toothbrushes, Barbsol shave cream, and mouth wash for the Our Lady of the Angels Food Pantry. Tickets will be available for purchase at the door.

Small biz spotlight: Garfield’s ‘Diva on Fleek Boutique’

By Carlee Benhart Kukula Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation



ABOVE: Garfield’s ‘Diva on Fleek Boutique’ (DFB, 5129 Penn Ave.) has already earned a loyal following for its fashion-forward, specialty items. Image courtesy of DFB.

Garfield - Trendy fashion retailer “Diva on Fleek Boutique” is a welcome addition to the Penn Avenue business district.

Offering fashionable clothing & accessories for ladies, men, and children, the store at 5129 Penn Ave. has amassed a robust customer base in short time.

Behind the colorful new boutique is owner Sharell Johnson-Kacprzyk - a Carlow University graduate who grew up in Westmoreland County, and has made her home in Pittsburgh for the last 20 years.

She first became acquainted with Garfield through “Unblurred: First Fridays,” a monthly gallery crawl that was brought to life by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation. This year, Unblurred celebrates its 25th year of Friday fun on Penn Avenue.

Johnson-Kacprzyk said she was drawn to the diversity of Garfield’s business district. “If everyone was from the same back-

ground,” she noted, “the world would be a very boring and redundant place.”

Seeing potential for the avenue to become a destination like the Strip District or Shadyside’s Walnut Street, she opened Diva on Fleek Boutique in November 2022.

“We’ve been very lucky to have the foot traffic that we have,” she explained.

Despite opening her doors at a time that can be rough for new stores, Johnson-Kacprzyk has welcomed a steady stream of customers ever since. She attributes the success to her love for fashion, and her ability to provide customers with unique items that are not available anywhere else.

Diva on Fleek Boutique is open from Noon to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For inventory updates and style tips, follow the store on social media or stop by 5129 Penn Ave. ♦

SAUER
BROTHERS

Heating • Cooling • Boilers

412-782-1100

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

Xing-Yi (Hsing-i)
at Steel Dragon

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

Classes
7-9pm Wednesdays
Noon-2pm Sundays

金

土

火

水

木

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

West Penn: 'Donate Life' Hospital Challenge

A Message from West Penn Hospital

Insight/Bloomfield - April is "Donate Life Month" and Allegheny Health Network (AHN) & West Penn Hospital (WPH) are once again participating in the Donate Life PA Hospital Challenge. Last year, AHN was recognized with first place for "Top Health System" performer; WPH was recognized with first place for "Top Hospital" performer.

The goal of the Donate Life initiative is to increase organ donation awareness and designations within hospitals & communities. According to the Center for Organ Donation (CORE), one individual can help up to eight people, while tissue donors can improve the lives of up to 75 people.

Each day, a million people await tissue and corneal transplants. Meanwhile, every 10 minutes, a new name is added to the organ list. The heart, kidney, pancreas, lungs, liver and intestines can all be transplanted as life-saving organs. Tissues such as bones, ligaments, and tendons are needed for vital surgical procedures to repair injured or diseased joints and bones. Corneas, heart valves, and skin are also able to be donated. Directed or designated donation for a friend or loved one is possible as well.

Living donation is also an option. National organ allocation guidelines allow families of donors to select recipients, typically family members or friends. Organs are matched according to height, weight and blood type, followed by medical urgency and time on the transplant list. Those awaiting a transplant in that Organ Procurement Organization's (OPO) service area are offered the opportunity for a transplant first. If there is no match, the organs are offered regionally, and then nationally, based on need. There are only a few medical rule-outs for organ donation.

Everyone should register as a donor. Every potential donation is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. CORE estimates that, every year, between 10,000 and 12,000 people - who are considered medically suitable for organ, tissue, and cornea donation - die, yet only a fraction of them are donors.

"West Penn Hospital wants to create a culture of donation," Dr. Brian Johnson, MD President of WPH said. "Locally, we use donations for our nationally recognized American Burn Association (ABA) burn program to improve the lives of these patients."

Donation only becomes a possibility once all efforts to save the patient's life have been exhausted, tests have been performed to confirm the absence of vital signs, and death has been declared. You may register as an organ donor through your state's department of motor vehicles registry by showing your decision on your driver's license or state ID card, which is considered legal authorization for organ and tissue donation.

WPH will host several activities during April to receive points for the challenge, such as a flag-raising ceremony to recognize those who have donated their organs, as well as those awaiting transplantation, on Apr. 3 (at 4800 Friendship Ave. near the Emergency Room entrance). On Apr. 25, the hospital will hold a rose bush ceremony outside the WPH School of Nursing.

Both events will feature remarks from hospital leadership and representatives of those who have donated or received organs or tissue. West Penn welcomes local residents to attend these events in support. ♦



ABOVE: Allegheny Health Network (AHN) employees kick off 'Donate Life Month' at West Penn. The hospital and health system both aced the 2022 challenge. Photo courtesy of AHN.

CARE ABOUT BLOOMFIELD? JOIN THE BDC BOARD!

The Bloomfield Development Corporation (BDC) is now accepting applications for new board members. Applications are due June 1st.

BDC works to build a thriving, diverse community through equitable engagement with the vision of a neighborhood where everyone can build a home, a business, and a future. We accomplish our mission through small business support, affordable housing advocacy, mobility & infrastructure planning, and the Bloomfield Saturday Market.

As the Registered Community Organization for the neighborhood, we also host community meetings about developments and city-led projects. For more info, visit bloomfieldpgh.org/board or call 412-681-8800.

To apply for membership on the BDC Board, email your resume and a brief bio to board@bloomfieldpgh.org.

COMING!
COMING!
COMING!
COMING!

Mary's

5128 PENN AVE

BYTE-SIZE BULLETIN:

- FOR BEST RESULTS,
READ OUR WORK AT YOUR WORK -

Subscribe at bit.ly/bgc_email and we'll deliver neighborhood news to your inbox every month.

Comic courtesy of BOOM Concepts
Artist: Maggie Negrete



Pittsburgh delays enforcement of city-wide plastic bag ban

A Message from the City of Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh - On Mar. 23, the City of Pittsburgh announced a delay in the enforcement of the single-use plastic bag ban - until Oct. 14 - in order to help ensure a successful rollout of this landmark initiative.

The City is also shifting the date when businesses would be required to post visible notices of the upcoming single-use plastic bag ban to 90 days before Oct. 14.

This updated amendment to the legislation also adds new details to the ban including: adding a requirement that the City launch and maintain a webpage dedicated to providing public information on the policy; directing the Department of Public Works to cultivate and share lists of distributors for both compliant paper bags and reusable bags; and creating a three-step sanctions framework whereby inspectors can issue written warnings for initial violations, which would then be followed by escalating fines.

“It is critical for the success of this major initiative that the City is prepared to best help businesses and consumers make the transition,” said Mayor Ed Gainey. “This extra time will allow us to do the work to be able to enact this policy with proper guidance for everyone in order to make this as smooth as possible for all of us. I would like to thank everyone on City Council, our environmental advocates, and community members for working with us to make this major piece of legislation a success.”

The City of Pittsburgh encourages businesses and consumers to begin going plastic-free ahead of the October deadline. ♦

May Bulletin Deadline: Monday, Apr. 17th

Bulletin advertising info available at bit.ly/bulletin_ads

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

COMPUTER CLASSES

The Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center is hosting Basic and Beginner Computer Skills classes.

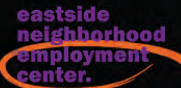
Every Tuesday and Thursday
10:00am – 11:00am (Basics)
& 2:00pm – 3:00pm (Beginner)

BASIC COMPUTER TOPICS

- Parts of the Computer
- Navigating PCs and Mobile Devices
- Opening and closing files and apps
- Basic internet browsing
- Basic Email usage
- Creating, saving, and printing documents

BEGINNER COMPUTER TOPICS

- Understanding computer - files & folders
- Basic Network Concepts, upload & download
- Security risks
- PC & Mobile Device Settings
- Using Social Media Networks
- Online collaboration tools



PHONE: 412-362-8580
EMAIL: admin@enecpittsburgh.com