

## Repaving of Part of Penn Will Precede Reconstruction

*Penn Avenue* – Repaving of Penn Avenue from Evaline Street to Negley Avenue will precede the kick-off of the Penn Avenue Reconstruction Project, according to Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation.

Phase 1 of the reconstruction project, which is slated to begin in August 2013 and include new pavements, sidewalks, signals, lighting and streetscape, will only encompass Mathilda to Evaline Streets.

But the rest of the avenue is also in poor condition – although not as bad as Mathilda to Evaline. Given the need, Brose said she and Rick Swartz, executive director of the BGC, met with Director of Public Works Ron Kaczorowski in September and requested the Evaline-to-Negley stretch be repaved prior to the commencement of reconstruction.

“The whole avenue is in complete disrepair,” said Brose. “It will be several years before we get to Phase 2 of the reconstruction going, but the repaving of the rest of the corridor just can’t wait.” Phase 2, extending from Evaline to Aiken Avenue, will have the exact same elements as Phase 1, so “the repaving is just a temporary measure,” Brose added.

Although the exact date for the repaving had not been scheduled at press time, Kaczorowski told Brose that it is high on DPW’s priority list and that they would attempt to do it before mid-June, when Penn Avenue will host an arts festival.

DPW has already repaved Friendship Avenue, which is a suggested alternate route during Phase 1 construction.

This summer, there will be a community meeting to describe the final plans for Phase 1, and outline the traffic detours and various stages of reconstruction. Watch *The Bulletin* for an announcement of the date. – *Paula Martinac, The Bulletin*

## Grocery Store Appeal Delayed

*Bloomfield/Garfield* – A mix-up caused by staff at the Court of Common Pleas has resulted in a delay in the appeal of the site plans for 5200 Penn Avenue, the proposed location of a Bottom Dollar grocery store.

A status conference to try to mediate the differences between Bottom Dollar and five appellants who oppose the site plans approved by the Zoning Board of Adjustment was scheduled to take place on Feb. 28 at 10 a.m. The five appellants are individual property owners John Axtell, Philip and Marianne Bray and Jennifer Haven, and the nonprofit entity called Friendship Preservation Group.

However, although the lawyer for Bottom Dollar, Leslie Peters of Blumling & Gusky LLP, was informed of the status conference, the court failed to notify the city’s attorney and Kenneth Stiles, who represents the appellants. As a result, neither the city’s attorney nor Stiles showed up.

This will lead to further delay in construction of the store, should the appeal be denied. “We’re another month out,” Steve Wilson, real estate representative for Bottom Dollar, said. The original delay, precipitated by the appeal, was estimated at four to six months.

“Bottom Dollar hasn’t walked,” stated Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation. “This delay is costing them money. It’s costing the owner of the property [1017 Fifth Avenue Partnership] money. But Bottom Dollar still wants to come to our neighborhood.” Within the court’s appeal system, there is no cost to the appellants.

The court rescheduled the status conference for March 25. At press time, the outcome of that meeting was not yet known. – *Paula Martinac, The Bulletin*

## Location Changes for Garfield “Windshield” Survey

*Garfield* – The meeting place for volunteers doing the “windshield” survey of residential property in Garfield on April 6, 2013, has changed to the meeting room of the St. Maria Goretti Activity Center, formerly St. Lawrence O’Toole, at 5323 Penn Avenue. Parking is available in a lot off N. Atlantic Ave.

From 1 to 4 p.m., the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), the Department of City Planning and a bevy of volunteers will be gathering data on all the residential properties in Garfield to inform a strategy for implementing Garfield 2030, the community’s housing and land-use plan.

Aggie Brose, deputy director of the BGC, requests that neighbors be welcoming of the volunteers. “We’ll be in the street with clipboards, looking at properties,” she explained. “It’s not the FBI or the police. We will be looking at all our housing stock. Please welcome the volunteers with a smile.”

The rain date for the survey will be Saturday, April 20, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Volunteers will be notified ahead of time if the survey is postponed due to inclement weather. – *Carolyn Ristau, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

## Tree Park Sprouts Up in Lawrenceville

*Lawrenceville* – Since 2008, the Lawrenceville Tree Tenders have been working to create the Lawrenceville Tree Park, the neighborhood’s newest green space, in partnership with Lawrenceville United, Lawrenceville Corporation and Tree Pittsburgh. This month marks the completion of major work on the Tree Park, including the construction of a retaining wall, earthwork and lighting.

On the morning of April 6, 33 trees will be planted in the Tree Park, which is located at the corner of Stanton Avenue and Keystone Street. LTT will also be planting 12 street trees throughout the neighborhood, so volunteers can take part in either planting. Following the planting, there will be a celebration at the Tree Park, with food and music provided by DJ Zombo. For details about how to participate in the tree planting and celebration, see the Bulletin Board on page 14.

Next steps for the Tree Park include understory plantings and fundraising for a sculptural tree canopy element that will collect rainwater for watering trees and plants on-site.

The Tree Park converts long-vacant land into a neighborhood amenity. It will also serve as a neighborhood demonstration project, helping to educate visitors about trees, their benefits and care, so that people might be encouraged to plant trees and other greenery around their homes. Tree and plant species native to southwestern Pennsylvania will be used, helping to create a unique urban park experience. Species diversity will help protect Lawrenceville’s forest from disease and predators.

For additional information or to register for the tree planting, email [trees@paconserve.org](mailto:trees@paconserve.org) or call 412-586-2396. – *Christine Brill, Bulletin Contributor*



## Improve your computer skills with short-term training at Goodwill!

### Goodwill offers:

- 4 day classes (2.5 hours/day) in Microsoft Office 2010 Basics
- 2.5 hour workshops on Intro to Computers, Internet Basics, Maintaining Your New Computer & Social Media
- 3 day Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Excel 2010 Course for advanced users

**For class schedules and pricing, contact Meghan Moore at 412-632-1706 or [meghan.moore@goodwillswpa.org](mailto:meghan.moore@goodwillswpa.org).**

## Need your GED®? Looking for a new career?

Prepare for the GED® test while learning job readiness skills, math, language arts and test taking strategies. Goodwill is now an official GED® testing center for computer-based GED® testing!

**If you or someone you know needs help preparing for the GED® test, and would like to attend classes, please contact us to register for an orientation:  
Career Pathways GED® Registration Line: 412-632-1841**

**Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania  
118 52nd Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201  
[www.goodwillswpa.org](http://www.goodwillswpa.org)**

Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For more information, call 412-632-1809 or email [accommodations.request@goodwillswpa.org](mailto:accommodations.request@goodwillswpa.org).