

the Bulletin

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ABOVE: Penn Avenue elevation of the proposed Bottom Dollar store at 5200 Penn, to be part of the presentation at the August 2 zoning hearing. See story below. Photo courtesy Commercial Properties, LLC

6% Place Receives Funding, Forms Oversight Group

By Joe Reuben *The Bulletin*

Garfield – A project that aims to attract a diverse population of artists, media professionals, craftspeople and other “creative types” to the Garfield neighborhood and Penn Avenue corridor got a boost in June, with the awarding of a \$49,250 grant by the Heinz Endowments to the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC).

The Garfield area has begun to see an influx of younger households in the past five

years eager to live in a neighborhood on the rebound, according to local experts in the real estate industry. The purpose of the “6% Place Project,” as it is called, is to focus on what the community can do over the next decade to attract even more people who might otherwise opt to live elsewhere, according to Rick Swartz, BGC’s executive director. The theory is that if 6 percent of a neighborhood’s population can be cemented

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BREAKING NEWS

Hearing Scheduled for Grocery Store Bus Rented to Transport Residents

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Bloomfield – The City of Pittsburgh Zoning Board of Adjustment has scheduled a hearing for the proposed Bottom Dollar grocery store to be constructed at 5200 Penn Ave.

The hearing will take place downtown on Thursday, Aug. 2, at 10 a.m. at the John P. Robin Civic Building, 200 Ross St. All are invited to attend. At the hearing, Commercial Properties, LLC, the North Carolina-based developer in charge of the proposed construction, will give a presenta-

tion about the site plans for the property.

As reported previously in *The Bulletin*, the board of directors of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) passed a resolution in April in support of the developer’s site plan, based on strong community support for the store. The BGC will be providing free bus transportation to the hearing. Those who plan to attend should RSVP by calling 412-450-0447 and indicate if they need bus transportation. The bus will

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Verde To Open Second Restaurant

By Paula Martinac *The Bulletin*

Lawrenceville – Jeff Catalina says that he and his wife, Erin, always intended to bring several restaurant concepts to life. But, he admits,

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Is It Time to Legalize Marijuana?

By P.J. Maloney *The Bulletin*

Garfield – What’s the best way to deal with violence and other public safety issues related to street sales of marijuana? How about legalizing

See **page 6**



Penn Gets New Mainstreets Manager

By Carolyn Ristau *The Bulletin*

Bloomfield/Garfield – The Penn Avenue arts and business district welcomed Samantha McDonough as the new Mainstreets Manager

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ABOVE: Samantha McDonough is the new Mainstreets Manager for the Penn Avenue business district. Read the full story, starting above. Photo by Paula Martinac

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Transportation Planning Workshop Seeks Community Input

By Patrick Roberts *City of Pittsburgh, Department of City Planning*

East Liberty – From Aug. 6 to 8, urban designers, technical experts, engineers and community stakeholders will be busy working together at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh branch in East Liberty to develop innovative transportation solutions for Pittsburgh.

This three-day workshop – the fourth in a series of four workshops held in various neighborhoods over the past six months – is sponsored by MOVEPGH, a City of Pittsburgh initiative that looks at transportation solutions throughout the city. The workshop provides an opportunity for residents to join an open discussion about transportation issues that affect them. This

final workshop will focus on issues facing the city's East End neighborhoods, and all are invited to attend.

The purpose of these workshops is to develop and test various design and planning ideas related to transportation solutions for areas of change and redevelopment; increasing transportation choices; developing street designs that include complete streets concepts creating interconnected bike, pedestrian, transit and automobile networks; and developing strategies for maximizing street capacity.

Daytime open house workshop hours are Monday, Aug. 6, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.;

Tuesday, Aug. 7, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Wednesday, Aug. 8, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The public is encouraged to drop in any time during these hours to interact with the planning team and express ideas, plans and concerns.

The event will conclude with an evening wrap-up and public meeting presentation on Wednesday, Aug. 8, at 6 p.m., where the MOVEPGH team will discuss plan updates and new ideas, provide a workshop summary and receive public input. All sessions will be located at the library's East Liberty Branch, 130 S. Whitfield St.

In addition to joining the MOVEPGH

design team as it works to develop transportation solutions, the public can take part in two bicycle tours/audits of East End neighborhoods (held at noon and 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 6th and Tuesday, Aug. 7th), and a group ride to Mellon Park for a BikeFest-sponsored movie viewing after the evening wrap-up and public meeting on August 8th.

For more information, visit www.planpgh.com/movepgh. You can also find live workshop updates on facebook.com/planpgh and [twitter at @planpgh](http://twitter.com/planpgh). ♦

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with those who have a connection to the creative arts, the neighborhood's social fabric will feel the benefits over time.

"Garfield's poised to shed its image as a downtrodden community," according to Deanna Davis, a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker in East Liberty. "I've been working in this market for more than 15 years, and I'd have to say that interest in the neighborhood has never been stronger. People who could choose to live in neighborhoods with better reps are giving Garfield a serious look."

Davis, together with 14 other community stakeholders and residents, has volunteered to serve on a steering committee that will decide how the funds from Heinz are spent. The committee will also identify the best options for reuse of the Fort Pitt school property. A private consulting firm, cityLab, produced a report last year that suggested a myriad number of initiatives would help Garfield stake out a new spot on the regional map. That report is available on the firm's website, www.cityLabpgh.org.

The president of cityLab, Eve Picker, is a former Friendship resident who has been active in neighborhood revitalization work

for 25 years.

"The steering committee will be a mix of folks from many different walks of life, and the fact that they want to be part of this heartening," Picker said recently. "Some initiatives, like building a database of who lives here now and why, can be among the early fruits from its labor. Others, like creating a street market bi-weekly or monthly for vendors of all types to populate, will take the involvement of many more residents to make successful."

Picker said organizations in Garfield such as Assemble, Earthen Vessels Outreach, the Schmutz Lodge and Garfield Jubilee Association will also have representatives at the table. Her firm will serve as a consultant to the BGC on the project.

"In the end, we're going to be interested to see what tangible, permanent change results from the vision embodied in the report," Swartz observed. "We still have an uphill climb before we can say that Garfield is viewed in the same light that Morningside, Stanton Heights and other neighborhoods around us are. So we're going into this with eyes wide open." ♦



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