

CCCHS Students Host Runway Event

Lawrenceville – On April 27th, young women in the group Leaders in Training for Tomorrow (LIFT) at Career Connections Charter High School transformed the Grey Box Theater on Butler Street into a New York City Fashion Week runway.

The young women prepared for weeks to put together the fashion show, according to CCCHS Student Affairs Liaison Vanessa Boyd. The purpose of the event was to bring awareness to teen domestic violence. The show sold out, raising \$175 for the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. The LIFT students also collected donations of shampoo, conditioner, makeup, lotions and other personal-care products.

The show was emceed by Joelle Felder, and the lead runway managers were Monet Griffin and Zemariah Water. Dest-tenae Oliver helped to choreograph a dance number, which the students performed to Beyonce's "Who Run the World? (Girls)," a girls' anthem.

"The young ladies were extremely happy to have engaged in an event that will be able to change lives," said Mrs. Boyd. "It is always rewarding to see young people participate in healthy activities. We salute these female coyotes." – *from press release*

Volunteers Needed to Help with GED Classes

Garfield – Cameron dropped out of high school 12 years ago. During the day, he works as a laborer in a sheet metal shop in Lawrenceville. Now in his 30s and stuck in a low-paying job with no chance of advancement, Cameron decided it was now or never for him. He needed a high school diploma to get any kind of a better job. That dream was fulfilled in April of this year when he earned his GED.

Thanks to a partnership between the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC), the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council (GPLC) and the Neighborhood Learning Alliance (NLA), Cameron and others have participated in a free GED study program held twice a week at the ENEC at 5321 Penn Ave. The cost of the exam is paid by the NLA, but seats are limited. For anyone in our community looking to earn a GED, this is the time to take action.

Beginning in 2014, earning a GED will get harder for everyone when a new set of tests and standards are introduced, and anyone who has not already passed the test will need to start over. Donald Block, Executive Director of GPLC, acknowledged that "the GED is no longer viewed as a second-class or low-level high school credential. Research has shown that many regular high school graduates would be unable to pass the exams."

The cost to take the computer-based GED exam will increase in 2014 to \$120 or more, and the forthcoming changes are leading to greater enrollment in all GED programs. Many programs now have waiting lists.

Volunteers are needed. GPLC provides training and materials for volunteer tutors willing to help others on the path toward earning a GED. With help from the staff of the ENEC, adult classes are held at the center on a schedule that meets the needs of the students. A library of print and computer-based resources is available, as well as practice exams.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help their neighbors earn a diploma should contact Erin Heryford at 412-441-9833. – *Jim Lenkner, Neighborhood Learning Alliance*

Lawrenceville WORKS! Launched

Lawrenceville – A major initiative aimed at reducing unemployment in Lawrenceville by linking residents to job-training programs is being launched by a partnership that includes two community organizations – Lawrenceville United and Lawrenceville Corporation – and Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania, which is based in Lawrenceville. The initiative, called Lawrenceville WORKS!, is funded by a grant from UPMC Health Plan and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

A key element of the new program is that Goodwill will hire a full-time Community Employment and Resource Specialist who will be dedicated to helping job seekers from the Lawrenceville area. Local residents who need jobs will be assisted individually by the Goodwill staff person and guided through various job-training and support programs to prepare them for work. In addition, the Goodwill staff person will help individuals deal with personal barriers to employment by connecting them to supportive services and community resources.

The new employment service will be introduced at a special kick-off event on June 20, from 4 to 7 p.m., at the Goodwill Workforce Development Center, 118 52nd St. Residents are invited to come learn about the new program and about the various programs and services that are available to help people achieve their employment objectives.

Matthew Galluzzo, Executive Director of Lawrenceville Corporation, said local employers will play an important part in the new program. "We are seeking collaborative partnerships with Lawrenceville employers to identify their needs so we can provide them with job-ready employees from the local area," he said. "In addition, pilot programs are being explored specifically around growing industries in Lawrenceville, including the hospitality and construction fields." – *from press release*

PSTF Warns Residents: "Remove It or Lose It"

East End – This spring, several East End neighborhoods experienced a rash of car break-ins. As a result, the Public Safety Task Force (PSTF) would like to remind residents of a few simple steps that will reduce the likelihood of their cars being targeted:

- Remove all valuables from view
- Lock your vehicle and secure all windows and sunroofs
- Never leave a firearm in your vehicle – not even in the glove box or trunk
- Park in well-lit areas
- Use your vehicle's anti-theft device, if equipped

The items most commonly stolen from vehicles are: backpacks, gym bags, briefcases; cash/coins, credit cards, checkbooks; wallets, purses; laptops, iPads/iPods, MP3 players; cell phones/chargers, docking stations; GPS devices; jewelry, keys, mail; garage door openers; and firearms.

Remember, thieves are looking for easy targets. It takes less than 30 seconds for a thief to break into your vehicle and steal your valuables. It takes 20 seconds for you to secure those valuables. – *Carolyn Ristau, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*



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