

## NEWSBRIEFS

## Zoning Board OK's Greenhouse

**Garfield** – Garfield will soon be sporting its first greenhouse, now that the city Zoning Board of Adjustment has given the green light to John Creasy, manager of Garfield Community Farm, to erect one on Edlam Way between Fannel and Wickow Streets.

At a hearing on Jan. 10 before the board, Creasy described his plans to add a one-story structure to the property he has developed as a farm that provides produce to residents of the East End, along with education to children and adults alike in the merits of growing their own fruits and vegetables. The tract of land Creasy and a number of volunteers have been dutifully cultivating sits along Cornwall Street near the city water tower.

Several neighbors, including Rev. Chad Collins from Valley View Presbyterian Church, testified in support of adding a greenhouse to the farm. The zoning board issued its decision Feb. 7, clearing the way for Creasy to get a building permit and begin construction this spring. – *Rick Swartz, Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.*

## Volunteers Needed for Garfield Survey

**Garfield** – On April 6, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) with the aid of volunteers and the Department of City Planning will be hitting the streets of Garfield to conduct a windshield survey of the neighborhood. The survey will last from 1 to 4 p.m. Anyone is welcome to volunteer for this event.

A windshield survey gathers information on the condition of all the residential property in the neighborhood. Volunteers will have a form with boxes to check off, detailing the type of property – whether it is occupied or vacant and the overall condition. The data collected on these forms will be used to help strategize ways to further implement Garfield 2030, the community's 20-year housing and land-use plan.

All volunteers will be trained on how to use the survey forms before going out in pairs into the neighborhood. Each pair of volunteers will be armed with a clipboard, a map of their section of the neighborhood and one form for each property in their section. Food will be served to volunteers at the BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave. Those interested in participating should call 412-441-6950 x 17 or email carolyn@bloomfield-garfield.org.

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." – *Carolyn Ristau, Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.*

## Townhouses Coming to Penn

**Penn Avenue** – Who would have imagined 15 years ago that Penn Avenue would be a lively street with restaurants, art galleries, professional offices, shops and loft apartments? The avenue has welcomed many new businesses and residents over the past decade. The changes have happened slowly, but they add up to a big difference – and the momentum is continuing.

Over the next several months, in the block between Aiken and Graham Streets, next to the Quiet Storm, you'll see two vacant houses demolished, which is just the first step to another new development. The boarded-up, empty houses will be replaced by three new for-sale townhouses.

Friendship Development Associates, Pittsburgh Housing Development Corporation and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation are jointly sponsoring the development. The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, which has been a key supporter of the revitalization of the avenue – particularly the Fairmont Apartments and the Glass Lofts – is helping to get the project off the ground with early financing.

The new townhouses will be designed to attract buyers who are looking for contemporary urban living with easy access not only to local shops and restaurants, but to nearby commercial centers in East Liberty, Lawrenceville, Shadyside and Oakland. A request for proposals was issued February 12th to developers experienced in urban infill projects. A proposal will be selected that best meets the goals of the project, and work on the design is expected to begin in late spring.

The community partners will review drawings as the design progresses to ensure the new townhouses contribute to the character and vitality of the corridor. Watch for the groundbreaking within the next year, and then it won't be long before there will be three new households on the avenue. – *Stefani Danes, Bulletin Contributor*

## West Penn ER Celebrates Anniversary

**Bloomfield** – On Feb. 14, West Penn Allegheny Health System and Highmark celebrated the one-year anniversary of the restoration of emergency medicine and other critical services at West Penn Hospital.

Since the reopening of the emergency department last year, West Penn has experienced significant growth, according to WPAHS officials. Outpatient volume increased 25 percent, while inpatient discharges increased 45 percent. Surgical volumes were also up by 30 percent. The hospital's services expansion has created jobs, adding some 240 full-time equivalent employees to the local workforce. West Penn also added numerous physicians to its medical staff, including specialists in bariatric surgery, endocrinology, general surgery, gynecologic oncology, neurology, neurosurgery, obstetrics and gynecology, orthopedics, palliative medicine and urology. – *WPAHS press release*

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