

The Bulletin

serving Bloomfield, Garfield, East Liberty, Friendship, and Lawrenceville since 1975



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- serve the incorporated territory of the BGC and surrounding communities
- report on activities and ideas affecting those communities
- offer an opportunity to express opinions and exchange ideas

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Don't forget to visit The Bulletin's blog at www.bgcbulletin.blogspot.com for the latest events and happenings!

SHOWCASE OF THE MONTH

Lawrenceville's New Wild Card Is a Winning Hand

This month, our Showcase Property is Wild Card, an innovative new storefront located at 4209 Butler Street in Lawrenceville that stocks a number of goods made by more than 130 local vendors. The store celebrates the diversity of Pittsburgh's local art scene by carrying a range of items, including cards, clothing, bags, jewelry, housewares, crafts, and artwork.

This impressive shop is the vision of owner and Lawrenceville resident Rebecca Morris. She has made it a priority to personally know about 90 percent of the artists who sell in her space. In designing the storefront, special attention was made to keep the spirit of the original 19th-century building while also giving it a modern feel.

At the back of the store is a gallery space that features work by a new local artist every six weeks. Future plans include arts-&-crafts classes with local artists and custom-made invitations and wedding books. The store is always looking to expand its vendor base, so interested local artists should contact Rebecca at 412-224-2651 or email info@wildcardpgh.com.

Above the store sit two equally impressive new loft apartments designed by Rebecca's husband, Brian Mendelssohn, of Bolero Development in conjunction with Pittsburgh-based MossArchitects. Each of these innovative modern apartments features two bedrooms and two baths and a private rooftop deck with city views. Environmental sustainability is central to the design. Over 10 percent of the building materials were taken from the original building, and a number of large windows provide beautiful natural light-

ing throughout the space.

As with the storefront, Mendelssohn made it a priority to keep the roots of the building intact when designing the lofts. As a housewarming gift, Mendelssohn gives his tenants an old photo of the property when it was the site of Lawrenceville's Isaly's, the famous ice cream shop and deli. Each apartment rents for \$1,900 a month including utilities (except electric) and a parking space.

The combined efforts of Rebecca Morris and Brian Mendelssohn represent a true commitment and investment in the commercial and residential development of Lawrenceville. Residing on 46th Street themselves, they are a shining example of residents investing in and giving back to their local community. There is something for everyone at Wild Card, so stop in for your holiday shopping - you never know what unique treasures you might find!

To nominate a property as either a showcase or an eyesore, please email Bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org, or call 412-441-6950 x15.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

WILD CARD OCCUPIES THE BUILDING THAT ONCE HOUSED LAWRENCEVILLE'S ISALY'S.

BELOW: A BANK OF WINDOWS AND A PRIVATE DECK ARE FEATURES OF THE BUILDING'S TWO LOFT APARTMENTS.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

MEMBERSHIP IS NOW ONLINE!

Did you know that the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation is a membership organization, composed of people like YOU who want change and improvement in their neighborhoods? Now you can become a member of the BGC or renew your membership online! Just visit www.bloomfield-garfield.org, click on "Donate / Become a Member" on the front page, and follow the easy process. If you prefer to donate by check, there is also a membership form to print out and mail in. Two options - two easy ways to support your community! We hope you will join us and your neighbors in our commitment to the revitalization of Garfield, Friendship, and Bloomfield.