

Letter from the Editor

Happy Birthday to us. Happy Birthday to us. Throw a party! We are officially a year old this month. Talk about coming a long way. In just one year, we have grown from a four-page newsletter to this month's eight-page edition. We ran out of space. You have been sending us emails, flagging us down on the boulevard, and intercepting us at meetings with your requests and feedback. Keep it coming. We appreciate hearing from our readers. It may take us a few issues before we can honor your request. Remember we are all volunteers here. Would you like to join us?

In addition to increasing our size, we added color on the front and back. The email edition has always been full color, but we recognize that roughly 80% of our readers are picking up the paper copy. So we are coloring your world too. Clearly, that comes at a price. Color printing costs more than black and white. While we enjoy putting together each issue, and willingly do so without pay, our printer has to purchase paper and ink.

Life is a balancing act. Give and take. This year many people are giving up their beach vacation. Staycation is this summer's buzzword. If that's your plan, look around your neighborhood. Maybe you have neighbors with the same destination in mind. Make this the year to revive the block party. It's a great way to meet the neighbors, have fun, and share recipes. Round up a passel of neighborhood kids, add some adult chaperones and check out the group rates for the zoo, aviary and science center. Don't forget the library. They have free activities for adults and children.

You might not be spending the day at the beach, but you can spend the evening eating out. The boulevard has a wide variety of restaurants from which to chose. No formal attire required. Just saunter on up to Brookline Boulevard and decide between Greek, Chinese, Italian, American or pizza. For dessert, stop at the **Boulevard Ice Cream** or **Flanagan's Sweets and Treats**. This year's vacation requires no packing and unpacking, and you can sleep in your own bed!

BOULEVARD ICE CREAM

Quality is number one at **Boulevard Ice Cream**. **Chuck Bader** sells premium ice cream, nothing less than 14% to 16% butterfat. He orders from five different dairies located in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan. In fact, the Michigan dairy is a little pricier so Chuck is the only Pittsburgh outlet for its product.

Joan Bader creates ice cream cakes with your choice of flavors. She needs time, so call at least two days in advance or four days if it's a weekend. The variety of mouthwatering flavors include some award winners, five varieties of vanilla and 24 varieties of chocolate. There are sugar-free and lactose-free treats as well as 98% fat-free yogurt and 100% fat-free sorbet. Everyone can have dessert at **Boulevard Ice Cream!**

Ask about the Unbelievable Milkshake Challenge and join an elite group of seven who met the challenge. With four scoops of ice cream and double thick cream, this calorie buster is twice as thick and twice as sweet as the regular milkshake. **Bryan Paynter**, a self-proclaimed milkshake aficionado, proclaimed it the "best milkshake" in the area.

Chuck and Joan have created a kid friendly zone on the boulevard with special sundaes and a birthday party room. The room can accommodate 7 to 12 children depending on their ages with a couple of adults.

Mark your calendar for the second Saturday after Labor Day for the Tasting Party. This is the 16th year for the event that drew 120 people last year. You pay for a single scoop and



719 Brookline Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412-561-9982

Summer Hours:
Daily Noon to 11:00PM
July 4 Noon to Midnight



taste all of the flavors.

Customers regularly come from Carnegie, Whitehall and Brentwood for **Boulevard Ice Cream**. Chuck has had customers tell him they had to stop for his ice cream before returning home to Iowa, Idaho, Texas, California and Germany. So where are you?

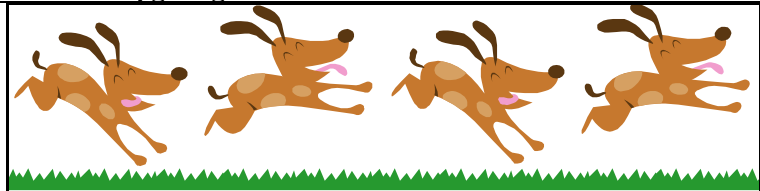
-Pamela Grabowski



Chuck and Joan Bader with their son **Cameron**.
Photo by **HK Photo Studio**.



Do you and your neighbors have a Summer Block Party? We would like to publish a photo of your event. Contact us.



We would like to feature some dogs of Brookline for our "Dog Days of Summer" August issue. Do you regularly walk your dog on the boulevard or in your neighborhood? Call or email us. Make your pooch a star! See our contact information at the bottom of this page.

STOP THE TRASH

Are you tired of picking up the green and clear plastic bags of ads that litter your sidewalk and yard? You can stop delivery. If those bags go from your yard to the trash, we encourage you to call the number on the bag 412-881-3001. Leave your name, address and zip code. **DO NOT USE ANY PROFANITY!** We understand the desire to be particularly descriptive about the information you do not want to receive, but your request will not be honored if you use ANY profanity. Be nice, and you will not have to pick up those bags any longer!

-Pamela Grabowski



SETON BROOKLINE FARM STAND

1900 Pioneer Avenue
(Elizabeth Seton Center lot)

Wednesdays
11:30AM to 6:00PM



Has anyone wondered why **George Gilfoyle**, our "fire alarm inspector," hasn't been seen on the boulevard lately? He's under the weather. I'm sure he would like to hear from you.

Send your cards to **The Brookline** c/o SPDC, P.O. Box 9606, Pittsburgh, PA 15226. PLEASE put "GEORGE" in the bottom left-hand corner. Email messages to thebrookline@brookline-pgh.org. Put GEORGE in the subject line. We will deliver your get-well messages to George.

-Joanne Fantoni

BROOKLINE KIDS

Brookline Kids Preschool/Extended Care now has special opportunities for families of 3, 4 and 5 year olds with financial need. If you qualify for CCIS, we can help you while you are on the waiting list.

Your child may also qualify for our Head Start Pre-school. Extended care is from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday through Friday, year round in a warm Christian setting.

Spaces are Limited
Call Today for Info & Rates
(412) 531-0590
or (724) 390-0290

THE BROOKLINE CONNECTIONS

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We want to hear from you. Send your questions or comments by email, phone or mail. August issue's deadline is July 10. September issue's deadline is August 10.

ADVERTISING RATES

Contact Jessica Luffy at jess@jessicaluffy.com or call 412-343-2859 for more information. We have over 1,000 readers.

Year
SPDC Members \$280
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Non Members \$225
Three Months
SPDC Members \$100
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ASK ABOUT OUR SPECIAL ONE MONTH RATE!

Annual SPDC membership dues are \$5.00. Do the math!

The Brookline by email is in FULL COLOR!
The Brookline is available by mail.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: thebrookline@brookline-pgh.org or mnp.grabowski@verizon.net
Telephone: 412-343-2859
Mail: The Brookline c/o SPDC, PO Box 9606, Pittsburgh, PA 15226.

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Pick up **The Brookline** at a Boulevard merchant. Look for "The Brookline Available Here" sign in the window.

Talk to TIM

Your Brookline Realtor

Tim Reitmeyer
412-833-3600
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treitmeyer@howardhanna.com



South Hills and City of Pittsburgh specialist

JOANNE'S CORNER

Things that aren't here anymore - Part Six

After many years, we again have a candy & sweet shop on the boulevard. **Flanagan's Sweets and Treats**, located at the former **Fancy Nancy's**, is the new venture. Do you remember **Casilli's** on the boulevard at the bottom of Creedmoor Avenue (now the **DeBor** parking lot)? Also, **Belmar Candy** was across from the cannon, and **Sugar & Spice** was located next to **National City Bank**.

Not just because of the candy stores, but Brookline was a sweet place to grow up in the fifties and sixties. It was a safe, carefree and fun location for children and teens. **The Parkside Grill** (now **South Hills Art Center**) was a key meeting place for late teens and early 20-year olds to gather. It wasn't really for romance, more for friendship. The guys were very protective of the girls.

Those friendships still continue today through the **Brookline 50's Picnic** held every year in September. I don't think any other neighborhood in the city continues to have a gathering of a couple hundred people (and still growing) every year. Don't forget these people are in their 70s. This picnic remains as popular as it is because of the efforts of **Butch Davores**. It wouldn't happen without him.

The Parkside Grill owners, **Agnes and Fred Daley** are gone now, but their son **Bob Daley** has his art studio at the location of the restaurant across from the cannon.

This year's picnic on Sunday September 20, 2009 at the Home Economics Building in South Park starts at 1:00PM. Contact Butch for details at 412-341-0968. Brookline people never really leave. They just go visiting for a while.

Question of the month: When and where was the first **Brookline 50's Picnic** held?

-Joanne Fantoni

Last Month's Memory Teaser

Question: What was the name of the movie theater located on the boulevard where **Cedars of Lebanon** is today?

Answer: The Boulevard Theater.

READER FEEDBACK

Just writing to comment on the letter in the recent issue of **The Brookline** from **Dana Bruno (McMinn)**. It was great to hear some of the old memories of **BICKERTONS** and their history on Brookline Blvd. Dana brought up some points that were memorable of their history. Her and her Mom were great and always good to the customers, and the penny candy thing is something that is hard to find these days. But Dana and her Mom were like mind readers when it came to people's Daily numbers. You would walk in the door, and they would be ready to put your number in already. Great memories on their part to remember all the different people's numbers. They were good people, and it was nice of Dana to remind the Brookline people of a place that is hard to find in today's world. I miss it. Thanks.

-Don Herrle

Just read your [**Julie Murphy**]"Curbing Fido" piece in "**The Brookline**" [June's Issue]. I walk my dog every day and we ALWAYS "pick up". After all, it is a \$300 fine. Besides that, it is a considerate thing to do for the neighbors. Since the mayor put up extra garbage receptacles, it has become easier to dispose of "Fido" waste. Really, there is no excuse not to "pick up" when there are many "pick up" bags at dog owner's disposal right on Brookline Boulevard that are always fully stocked. And you are right to remind owners that a CVS bag will do nicely as well.

But all of the above considerations are lost on some dog owners. Especially the owners of larger dogs. I have seen many "deposits" on the lawns of Pioneer Avenue and yes, even on Brookline Boulevard. This inconsideration of neighbors is awful.

What really bothers those of us "picker-uppers" are the people in their cars and trucks who scream out of their windows obscenities not so nicely reminding us to "Pick it up!" First of all, it is VERY rude to scream out of one's car or truck window in a threatening manner. I ALWAYS pick up. ALWAYS. It is the law!!

The anger directed towards owner and dog is unwarranted. And what really gets me is that I have the bag at the ready and these people come screaming along just when my poor pooch is trying to "do his thing."

Thank you for putting out the reminder to "pick up" in such a polite and respectful manner.

-Kathi Papaleo



Are you inviting auto theft? Roll up the car windows. Lock the car doors. Hide your valuables. Do all of these EVEN when the car is in your driveway. Don't make car theft easy, especially when it's your car!

THINK LOCAL FIRST

Why Buy Local?

Not so long ago nearly every neighborhood had a local business district that served its community. Unfortunately, car-centric strip centers, regional malls, big-box retailers and more recently, Internet commerce, have had a slow but corrosive impact on local businesses during the past 40 years. While the winds of change have presented multiple challenges to local businesses, people are beginning to consider that bigger is not always better and the tyranny of sameness robs one of a sense of place and community. What is more enjoyable than eating somewhere or buying something in a one-of-a-kind business? People deliberately seek individuality and uniqueness because it is interesting and soul satisfying.

Despite the numerous challenges, the most successful small businesses have adapted by offering something that cannot be duplicated or is overlooked by national chains. Goliath chains use size, price and uniformity as their formula, but the qualities of small, unique, and expert coupled with personal service can be an advantage that no large business can match. A traditional business district also offers the opportunity to get some much-needed exercise experiencing charms specific to these districts.

Great Reasons to Think and Buy Local Goods and Services:

- **Buy Local – Support Yourself:** Studies have shown that when you buy from an independent, locally owned business rather than a nationally owned business, significantly more of your money is used to make purchases from other local businesses which strengthens the economic base of the community.
- **Keep Our Community Unique:** Where we shop, where we eat and have fun...all of it makes our community home. Our one-of-a-kind businesses are an integral part of the distinctive character of our neighborhood. "People generally seek out places that offer them the sense of being someplace, not just anyplace." - Richard Moe, National Historic Preservation Trust
- **Get Better Service:** Local businesses often hire people with a better understanding of the products they sell and take more time getting to know customers
- **Invest in Community:** Local businesses are owned by people who are more invested in the community's future.
- **Support Community Groups:** Non-profit organizations receive an average of 250% more support from smaller business owners than they do from large businesses.
- **Reduce Environmental Impact:** Locally owned businesses make more local purchases requiring less transportation and set up shop in existing business districts. This means less sprawl, congestion and pollution.

(Continued on page 5)



LOCAL BUS SERVICE

Are you 55+ and living in Brookline? Do you need a ride to the grocery store or to a doctor's appointment in Brookline? Well you are in luck. Brookline has a local mini bus service.

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsors the **Senior Van Transportation**. The all volunteer staff of **Al Allemang, Don Coaster, Bill Feineigle, Tom Lagnese, John Rosol** and **Ruth Smith** keeps the bus running Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00AM until the last call.

Once a week on Monday mornings, there is a scheduled run to Kuhn's on Banksville Road. The bus will also take residents to Giant Eagle in Sleepy Hollow. A host onboard the bus assists with loading and unloading bags. Since Brookline lost its local grocery store, this service should interest many of the seniors in our area.

Catching the bus is simple. Call the volunteer dispatcher at 412-344-4222 in the morning, and schedule your pick up time. The bus can accommodate 13 passengers. There is a donation box on the bus, but there is no set fee. Passengers can donate what their budget allows. This is also another community organization in need of volunteers.

If your trip is to the grocery store, doctor, beauty salon or other Brookline area destination, call Senior Van Transportation.

-Pamela Grabowski



Al Allemang driving the bus. Photo by HK Photo Studio.



**FROM SENATOR
WAYNE FONTANA**

If you are a resident who is 65 and older, a widow or widower 50 and older, or a person with a disability who is 18 and older, you may be eligible for the PA Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program. The state has just announced that the deadline for the program is being extended to December 31st. Just bring your income verification to any one of my offices and my staff can help you complete the form and submit it for you. Let my experts help!

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians who meet the age and status criteria who also fall within the household income limits. Residents with household incomes of \$0-\$8,000 can expect a maximum standard rebate of \$650; residents with household incomes of \$8,001-\$15,000 can expect \$500; residents with household incomes of \$15,001-\$18,000 can expect \$300; and residents with household incomes of \$18,001-\$35,000 can expect \$250. Renters with incomes between \$0 and \$8,000 can expect a \$650 rebate and those with incomes between \$8,001 and \$15,000 receive a \$500 rebate.

Already submitted your application? Rebates will begin to be distributed on July 1. After June 30, rebates will be distributed as claims are received and processed. In addition to visiting my offices, you can also get claim forms (PA-1000) online at www.PaPropertyTaxRelief.com. Once submitted, you can check the status of your claim online or by calling, toll-free, 1-888-PATAXES.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office for information or assistance. We look forward to working together with you.



**FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
CHELSA WAGNER**

Our neighborhood is fortunate to once again be home this summer to the **Seton Center Brookline Farm Stand**. The Farm Stand opened for business June 10, and will operate from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each Wednesday through November 11. Located in the **Elizabeth Seton Center** parking lot at 1900 Pioneer Ave., the Farm Stand brings the freshest, healthiest produce right into our neighborhood, often at prices far below the supermarkets. It supports our hardworking local family farmers, an important part of the economy in our region. And it is a fun community event that adds vibrancy to our neighborhood.

Community members 60 years of age or older and meeting certain income requirements (\$20,036 annually for a one-person household, \$26,955 for a two-person household) are eligible for Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers that can be used at the Farm Stand. These vouchers will be distributed on a first-come first-served basis on July 7 only at City of Pittsburgh Senior Centers, or call Allegheny Area Agency on Aging at 412-350-4219.

I thank the **Elizabeth Seton Center** and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank for once again providing this resource to our community, and encourage all of my constituents to support the Farm Stand, our local farms, and their own health by visiting the Seton Center each Wednesday.

THINK LOCAL FIRST (Continued)

- **Encourage Local Prosperity:** Economic research shows that in an increasingly homogenized world, entrepreneurs and skilled workers are more likely to invest and settle in communities that preserve their one-of-a-kind businesses and distinctive character.

As our newsletter continually suggests, Brookline still has many unique shops, services and eateries and those businesses deserve community patronage. By supporting our local businesses, you help our community and yourself. Take inventory of the goods and services available in Brookline. Make an effort to give your business to our Brookline merchants and other local businesses. While it is not possible to buy everything you need locally, we should always **“Think Local First!”**

-Keith Knecht

*Data from Sustainable Connections – www.sconnect.org

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Summer Reading Club

Summer reading is here. Kids, teens and adults join us for a summer of fun! Keep track of all of the reading you do this summer and win prizes! Please visit the library for more information and to sign up or visit our website at: www.carnegielibrary.org and sign up online.



For Kids and Teens:

Science in the Summer

Sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline

A four-day science camp focusing on physical science and electricity presented by Carnegie Science Center. Students must attend all four sessions. Space is limited and registration is required. July 6 – 9

- Students going into grades 2 & 3: 10:15AM.
- Students going into grades 4 – 6: 11:30AM.

Storytimes

Baby/Toddler: Stories, songs, rhymes and fingerplays. For children birth through age 3 with a caregiver. Thursdays at 11:00AM.

Preschool: Stories, songs, games and the occasional craft. For children ages 3-5 with parent or caregiver. Thursdays at 12:30PM.

Family: Creative fun for the whole family! Children age birth-6 with an adult are invited to participate in stories, songs, rhymes and a craft. Wednesdays at 6:00PM.

Craft Club for Kids

Kids in grades K – 5 are invited to make different crafts.

Friday, July 10 & 24 at 1:00PM.



Summer Movie Fun

Nothing to do this summer? Come to the Library and watch a movie. We will provide the popcorn, you bring a drink. Grade K-8. Thursdays at 3:30PM.

Teen Iron Chef Competition

Do you have what it takes to earn the title of Iron Chef? Then the Teen Iron Chef Competition is for you! Come and show off your culinary skills, but beware of the Mystery Ingredient! Grade 6-12. Monday, July 6 at 4:00 PM.

Artful Stories

Learn about different types of art by enjoying and discussing books. Then create your own artwork inspired by the featured artist. Grades K-8. Tuesdays at 1:00 PM.

Get Your Game On

Come try your skills at the **Nintendo Wii**. Grades 6-12. Registration is not required. Bring your friends! Wednesday, July 9 at 1:00PM.

Tween Craft – Woven Magazine Basket

Express your creativity by weaving a one-of-a-kind basket from recycled magazine pages. Grades 4 – 8. Monday, July 27 at 4:00PM.

Teen Screen Monday, July 13 at 4:00PM.

Teen Screen: Express Yourself Monday, July 19 4:00PM.

Each month, we'll show a film and serve up some popcorn (feel free to bring your own drink). The following week, we'll dish about the movie over pizza and pop. Grades 6 -12.

For Adults:

Monday Evening Book Discussion – Monday, July 20 6:00PM.

Wednesday Afternoon Book Discussion – Wednesday, July 15 1:00PM.

Explore new ideas and perspectives through fiction and non-fiction. New members are always welcome. Adults 18 and older.

NOTICE

The Flea Market scheduled for July 10th at the American Legion has been cancelled due to construction work.

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THIS MONTH

July 14

Brookline Block Watch Meeting 7:00PM at Magistrate Charles McLaughlin's office 736 Brookline Blvd.

Do you have an event you want us to list? Send an email to mnp.grabowski@verizon.net. Please put Brookline Event in the subject line. No email? Then call us at 412-343-2859.

COMING UP

August 15

Fighting 5th Fallen Heroes Motorcycle Ride Rain or Shine. Ride starts and ends at the Clemente Bridge & The North Shore. Leaves at 11:00AM. Registration starts at 8:00AM. Short 20 mile ride through the Pittsburgh neighborhoods of the Fallen Officers and will pass the Zone 5 Station. Fees \$20 per rider \$10 per passenger. All proceeds benefit Fallen Heroes Fund.



**MOVIES IN THE PARK
BROOKLINE MEMORIAL PARK
Oakridge Street
Thursdays at Dusk**

- July 2 "Hotel for Dogs"**
- July 9 "City of Ember"**
- July 16 "Igor"**
- July 23 "The Day the Earth Stood Still"**
- July 30 "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa"**
- August 6 "Tale of Despereaux"**
- August 13 "Inkheart"**
- August 20 "Wall-E"**

BROOKLINE RECREATION CENTER

412-571-3222

YOUTH PROGRAMS:

Boys & Girls Indoor Soccer \$15.00 Fee
Kinder Sports Free program of sports and crafts with Mickey and Milan. 11:00AM to Noon. Age 6 and under
Girls Fast Pitch Softball Sat. 2:00PM to 3:00 PM Free
Mr. Joe's Fitness Program Come and receive personal in class training and nutritional info from **Joe Syzmanski**. Ages 13 to 17

Boxing Get ready for Golden Gloves. Mon. Tues. Wed. 6:00PM to 9:00PM. Ages 8 to 36. Subnovis, novis and open divisions are trained by Mike and Carlos.

Boys & Girls Summer Basketball League Ages 9-14 \$25.00 per player. Season runs mid-June through first week of August.

ADULT PROGRAMS:

Joe's Fitness Club Come and receive personal in class training and nutritional info from **Joe Syzmanski**. Men & Women age 18 and over .

Boxing Get ready for Golden Gloves. Mon. Tues. Wed. 6:00PM to 9:00PM. Ages 8 to 36. Subnovis, novis and open divisions are trained by Mike and Carlos.

Body Sculpting and Weight Loss Program Mon. and Thurs. 6:30PM to 7:30PM \$30.00 for 10 classes

Yoga Tues. 6:15PM to 7:15PM \$50 for 6 week session or \$10 per class.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- **BREEZE THE BLVD.** August 8 Volunteers needed. Call **Linda Boss** at 412-563-0759.
- **MEALS ON WHEELS** call 412-343-8144
- **SENIOR VAN TRANSPORTATION** call 412-344-4222
- **BROOKLINE CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY** call **Pat Erny** 412-344-8451
- **CLOTHES CLOSET MINISTRY** call **Brookline United Presbyterian Church** at 412-531-0590

Are you unable to volunteer your time right now? You can still help many of these organizations.

Meals on Wheels accepts cash and donations of cookies, desserts and bread.

Buy a grocery store gift card for the **Brookline Christian Food Pantry**. You don't have to load the card with a large sum. Every little bit helps. Send it to the **Brookline Christian Food Pantry**

c/o Pat Erny
 1036 Norwich Avenue
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From Left: **Vince Borelli, Pat Borelli and Bob Gallagher** enjoy the sun and food at **Mateo's**.
Photo by **HK Photo**

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It was a great day for the Memorial Day Parade!



Photo Credits left and above Jan Beiler.

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Garcia's Cut Off

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Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
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Photo credits: Above Jan Beiler. Below: Amy Fisher

Bottom left: Dinner and a show at **Antonio's**. Thank you **Antonio**. The playoff beard worked! Photo by **HK Photo Studio**.



Left: **Al Allemang** at the wheel of **St. Mark's** mini bus.
Photo by **HK Photo Studio**.