

Letter from the Editor

August means hot and humid, and more humid. We are in the dog days of summer. It seemed appropriate to have a "Dog Days of Summer" issue and feature some of the local four-legged residents that regularly walk the boulevard.

The only breeze you can count on this month is the Brookline Breeze. This is a perfect opportunity for those who have yet to visit the boulevard. Watch the race, or better yet participate. Then stick around and stroll the boulevard.

Shop local is today's mantra. The many diverse businesses on the boulevard make shopping local easy for Brookline residents. Shopping malls have fallen on hard times. Besides, the businesses in shopping malls have to charge more to cover mall fees. In the mall, you get assembly line service. On the boulevard, merchants know your name, or at least recognize your face. There's something nice about that familiarity when it comes to spending your money.

More people are taking advantage of the programs at the library this summer according to librarian **Danielle Greenburg**. That's important. When Carnegie Library considers where to make budget cuts, we don't want the Brookline Branch on an underutilized list.

The crime statistics for June reflected a significant drop in criminal activity in Brookline. We can credit an increased police presence and residents' calls to 911 reporting suspicious persons and/or activity in their neighborhoods. Remember, crime doesn't go away. It just goes dormant, and we don't want to see crime blooming in Brookline!

Now comes the hard part. Don't stop. Don't give up. We are beginning to make a difference!

PITALAND

"I'm sorry you have to wait," the man said as the **Pitaland** clerk bagged a dozen meat pies and a dozen kibbee footballs. "I live in Atlanta now so I stock up before I drive back home," he said gesturing toward his cart loaded with pita bread, canned goods and containers of hummus and baba ghanouj. That's not unusual. We know a man who lives in Blawnox and shops at **Pitaland** after visiting his mother who lives in Brookline. People come from the tri-state area to shop. Recently customers from Uniontown asked **Joe Chahine** (pronounced Sh-ah-eh-n) where they could eat lunch. He sent them to another Brookline business - the **Moonlight Café**.

Joe Chahine has been operating this family owned business since 1980 when he took over from his brother who started the business in 1969. In addition to recommending other local businesses, Joe employs local residents. Almost all of Joe's employees are from the Brookline area. "They can walk to work," Joe says.

Everything is made fresh: pita bread, hummus, tabbouleh, baba ghanouj and the mouthwatering pastries. In fact, **Pitaland** baklava is served at the Holy Cross Church Festival. Several years ago, a church committee was formed to choose a supplier. After a baklava tasting, nine of the twelve committee members voted for **Pitaland**.

Kuhn's, Giant Eagle and Shop & Save supermarkets carry **Pitaland** bread. **Pitaland** also serves approximately 49 Middle Eastern restaurants in the area. This volume of wholesale business allows Joe to extend great prices to retail customers.

Why buy a bag of brown lentils in the supermarket, when you can scoop yellow and pink lentils from **Pitaland's**

620 Brookline Blvd.
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Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00AM -7:00PM
Sat. 8:00AM -6:00PM
Sun. 10:00AM-4:00PM

www.pitaland.com



barrels? If you've been buying plastic jewel case boxes of feta from the chain store, then you don't know feta, my friend. Stop by **Pitaland** where you can choose from plain domestic feta, creamy feta, Greek feta, and a tangy Bulgarian feta. Our favorite is a creamy French feta that begs us to eat just one more slice.

Pitaland ships to customers in Florida, South Carolina, Maryland, Ohio, West Virginia and Texas. Those customers probably wish they could shop in person. It's our familiar refrain dear reader. We don't recognize the treasures in our own neighborhood. Stop at **Pitaland** and discover what you've been missing.

-Pamela Grabowski

Joe Chahine
Photos by **HK Photo Studio**.



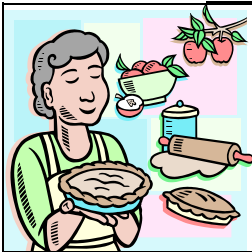


Do you and your neighbors have a Summer Block Party? We would like to publish a photo of your event. Contact us.



SETON BROOKLINE FARM STAND

1900 Pioneer Avenue
(Elizabeth Seton Center lot)
Wednesdays
11:30AM to 6:00PM



Do you have fruit trees, but don't know how to make a pie? Do you know how to make a pie, but don't have fruit? Can we start an Urban Gleaning Group in Brookline? Contact us. Better to bake a pie than let the fruit rot!

Talk to TIM
Your Brookline Realtor

Tim Reitmeyer
412-833-3600
412-343-5372
treitmeyer@howardhanna.com



South Hills and City of Pittsburgh specialist



Do you and your neighbors decorate for Halloween? Perhaps you even greet the trick or treaters in costume? Please contact us. We'd like to put your neighborhood in our October issue.

Brother Can You Spare A Dollar?

That's right, a dollar. The days of asking for a dime are long gone. As we have mentioned before, **The Brookline** is produced with an all-volunteer staff. The only perks are the positive emails and comments we get from our readers. Our state grant has run out, and state funding is harder to get.

If you enjoy **The Brookline**, please help us out. While we continue to volunteer our services, we have to pay for paper and ink. Roughly 80% of our readers pick up a paper copy of the newsletter. If you watch Public Television or listen to National Public Radio, you know the pitch. For pennies a day, you receive their broadcasts. We have a pitch too. Once a month you receive information about your community. We feature local merchants, provide information about local events and introduce you to some of the interesting people who live in our community.

We can always use volunteers, and now we need your dollars too. Look for us at the **SPDC** booth during **Breeze the Blvd.** on August 8. If you prefer to send a tax deductible donation, use our address below and make your check payable to "SPDC." Every dollar helps to keep **The Brookline** available in print format.

- The Editor

THE BROOKLINE CONNECTIONS

The Brookline Staff
Pamela Grabowski Editor
Stephen Rozwood Graphic Design
Jessica Luffy Advertising
Jan Beiler Proofreader
Amy Fisher Proofreader
Deb Park Proofreader
HK Photo Studio Photographer
Rosemarie Traficante Delivery
South Hills Printing - *The Brookline's official printer*

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

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.

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

ADVERTISING RATES

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

Year
SPDC Members \$280
Non Members \$400
Six Months
SPDC Members \$160
Non Members \$225
Three Months
SPDC Members \$100
Non Members \$125

ASK ABOUT OUR SPECIAL ONE MONTH RATE!

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



Funding for newsletter by Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development

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JOANNE'S CORNER

Things that aren't here anymore - Part Seven

People have been asking questions about the cannon and the park it sits in. The cannon that is there now is not the original.

The original World War I cannon, dating back to the 1930s was donated by the American Legion to the J&L Mill in Hazelwood to be melted down for scrap for World War II. Before it was melted it was inscribed, "To Japan via U.S. armed forces."

A marble and bronze marker commemorates local soldiers in conflicts from World War I through the Gulf War. The cannon that sits there now was dedicated in 1946.

In the early 1990s after the Gulf War a new plaque commemorating our local soldiers was dedicated. At that time the original time capsule was unearthed and a new capsule prepared with current neighborhood artifacts. The new capsule was never buried. It was misplaced and has been missing since. Anybody have any info about this mystery?

My memories of the cannon during the forties and fifties were of the older gentlemen of the community sitting on the benches passing time. Also, the **DeBor Funeral Home** would decorate the monument with their leftover baskets of flowers. Very pretty. I remember the parades in which I marched as a Girl Scout always started at the cannon.

Mary Jo DeBor, who was the mother of **Frank DeBor**, was a breeder of Corgis. She sponsored a dog parade on the boulevard awarding ribbons to the cutest and well-behaved dogs.

A correction to July's column. The name of the person in charge of the **Brookline 50's Picnic** is **Butch Davoren** not Davores.

Question of the month: What is the name of the park where the cannon sits?

-Joanne Fantoni

*(A special thank you to **Clint Burton** for sharing information about the cannon and the capsule. Visit Clint's site www.brooklineconnection.com for more about Brookline. - The Editor)*



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READER FEEDBACK

Who started **Resurrection's Fun Flair**?

Bill & Phyllis Carver

Who started the fish fry?

Bill & Phyllis Carver

Who started the **300 Club**?

Bill & Phyllis Carver

Who started the travel club to raise money for the church?

Bill & Phyllis Carver

Who raised thousands of dollars for the church?

Bill & Phyllis Carver

Who was very active in **Resurrection Ladies Guild**?

Phyllis Carver

Now that they have just recently moved from the parish, I want to make sure they are recognized for all the good work they have done for **Resurrection Church**.

-Babe Anderson

Just got the July issue, thanks for printing my letter. Anyhow it was nice of you to print something about the "green paper bags" that are laying all over the place. I called. I take a CVS bag or plastic bag out every night before my garbage goes out, and I clean up candy bar wrappers, potato chip bags...and so on. If everyone did this, we would have a lot less litter. Just think if everybody took a bag and cleaned up around them. It would be a lot nicer. Anyhow every Monday I do this. I must pick 10-12 of those "little green bags"...does anyone open them? Seriously. I always wondered. What the heck is in them, but what waste, and they are litter. Hopefully they go away.

-Don Herrle

Last Month's Memory Teaser

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

Answer: The Louisiana Grove, South Park in 1990.



Chuck Bader with some of his regulars!

Photo by **HK Photo Studio**

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August 8th



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**FROM CITY COUNCILMAN
 JIM MOTZNIK**

Since the first day I was elected as your City Council Member I promised I would do everything I can to make sure the seniors in my district, and across the city, are taken care of. Anytime I find something that I believe will help seniors I want to pass it along.

There is a free service offered to our seniors in the Brookline neighborhood that is being very under utilized. The Senior Citizens Mini-bus is a great way for seniors to get transportation to and from doctor appointments and shopping trips. Our seniors should not have to miss appointments or go without groceries because they cannot find a ride. This service is offered by **St. Marks Church** located on Brookline Boulevard. The bus runs from 9:30am to 2:30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. For more information and reservations, please call (412) 344-4222 (make reservations from 9:00 am-11:30am). I encourage all seniors in Brookline to take advantage of this service. Also, if you know any seniors that could benefit from this service please give them the information.

As always, if you have any questions or neighborhood concerns remember my door is always open. Feel free to stop by my downtown office or give me a call at 412-255-2131. My staff and I will be happy to help you in any way we can.

**FOREVER HOME
 BEAGLE RESCUE**



Rescuing beagles was an accidental calling for Brookline residents **Julie and Rich Stoops**. After their cat died, they visited a shelter and fell in love with a beagle. What they learned shocked them into action. Beagles, especially in the south are considered a throw away breed. Hunters toss them out after hunting season if they can't afford to feed the dogs. Or, the dogs are lost. Beagles cannot be trusted off-leash –ever. They are bred to hunt. Remove that leash, and it's bye-bye beagle. **Forever Home Beagle Rescue** is a rescue of last resort. These dogs were on death row in shelters usually just because shelters have limited space. In the four years they've only had one dog, Winnie, who couldn't be placed. She had significant medical issues and a history of being abused. Winnie continues her rehabilitation while she resides with Julie and Rich.

While they are always looking for foster homes, Julie and Rich are very cautious where they place the dogs. Check our volunteer list on page six, and this website foreverhomebeagles.petfinder.com.

- Pamela Grabowski

**WHY CHRISTMAS WREATHS
 IN JULY & AUGUST?**



You may be wondering why the boulevard has four Christmas wreaths hanging up in the middle of summer. Is it a reminder to shop early? (That's going too far.) Actually, the wreaths are part of the "Breeze the Boulevard" event being held August 8 in conjunction with the "Brookline Breeze Race."

The **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** and **South Pittsburgh Development Corp.** are holding a silent auction as part of the events. Anyone wishing to win one of the 4 1/2 foot wreaths may put a silent bid in by August 8. The wreaths are approximately ten years old and use a regular plug-in socket. Great and unusual way to decorate your home, garage or lawn. The monies raised will go to the "New Christmas Lighting Fund." Drop your bid off with name and phone number at **A-Boss Opticians** or **Michael Whitlinger Designs**. Our plan is to raise \$32,000 by 2010 to purchase new Christmas lighting for Brookline Boulevard.

-Linda Boss



**FROM SENATOR
WAYNE FONTANA**

I am excited for the Grand Opening of Pittsburgh’s casino – The Rivers, as are many others in our region. Casinos in the state have proven to be great revenue generators and an asset to their communities. That being said, there remains a need to ensure ongoing transparency and accountability of those facilities.

As Minority Chair of the Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee, I spent the last few months working with my colleagues to craft a comprehensive gaming reform bill. Senate Bill 711 recently passed the Senate and now goes to the House for consideration.

SB 711 makes a total of 37 changes to the existing slots law. Included is a restoration of the prohibition on casino officials making campaign contributions that was recently struck down by the Court. Other changes include banning future Gaming Control Board members from holding outside jobs, imposing a lifetime ban on someone with a felony conviction from getting a key employee slots license, prohibiting board employees from being employed by an entity that has dealings with the Board for a period of two years, providing for more information on ownership interests of the casinos, and ensuring public comment on changes.

If our casinos are going to continue to compete with neighboring casinos in Delaware, New Jersey, and West Virginia, we must protect the integrity of our own progressing industry. I was excited to be a part of this overhaul and look forward to quick action by the House on this important reform measure.



**FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
CHELSA WAGNER**

A great race in our community

As a running enthusiast, I have great pride—as should all members of our community—that one of our region’s most challenging 5K run/walks is held right here in Brookline. But the Brookline Breeze, to be held this year on August 8, is not just for competitive runners. I encourage all members of the community to participate for fun and exercise. Entire families including babies in strollers are a common sight in the Breeze, and I look forward to joining their ranks this year!

Other than the daunting Brookline hills, the participation of the entire community is what makes our race so special. The Breeze is a chance for visitors from around the region to see our community. This year, the Brookline Chamber of Commerce has for the first time organized a sidewalk sale to coincide with the race. This will showcase the strength and diversity of our business district and hopefully bring those who come to run back to Brookline in the future. My office will be participating by handing out water to runners along the route.

For more information or to register call 412-571-3222 or visit www.brooklinebreeze.com.

If the Breeze puts you in the spirit for more of a challenge, registration for the 2010 Pittsburgh Marathon began July 1. As a marathon board member, I was thrilled that we were able to bring back a world-class marathon in 2009 and make it the biggest Pittsburgh Marathon ever. Participation was so great that many had to be turned away, so reserve your place early for next year’s race by visiting www.pittsburghmarathon.com.

These races are great showcases for our neighborhood and our city and wonderful opportunities for family fun or a personal challenge. I hope you will consider joining me in participating.



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

**August 6 “Tale of Despereaux”
August 13 “Inkheart”
August 20 “Wall-E”**



412-531-7447

907 Brookline Boulevard

Garcia’s Cut Off

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with Heather

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AUGUST AT THE LIBRARY

For Kids and Teens:

Storytimes

Baby/Toddler: Stories, songs, rhymes and finger plays. For children birth through age 3 with a caregiver. Thursdays, August 6 & 13 at 11:00 AM

Preschool: Stories, songs, games and the occasional craft. For children ages 3-5 with parent or caregiver. Thursdays, August 6 & 13 at 12:30 PM

Family: Creative fun for the whole family! Children ages birth-6 with an adult are invited to participate in stories, songs, rhymes and a craft. Wednesdays, August 5 & 12 at 6:00 PM

Summer Reading Carnival

Celebrate the end of this year's Summer Reading Program! Saturday, August 15 at 11:00 AM. We're transforming the Library into a midway with Wii games, carnival games and snacks, a stuffed animal petting zoo, face painting and more! Summer Reading prizes will be given out during the festivities.

Craft Club for Kids

Kids in grades K – 5 are invited to make soda bottle lava lamps.

Friday, August 7 at 1:00 PM

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, August 6 & 13 at 3:30 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, August 4 & 11 at 1:00 PM.

Get Your Game On

Come try your skills at the PS2. Grades 6-12. Registration is not required. Bring your friends! Wednesday, August 12 at 1:00 PM.

Tween Craft – Soda Bottle Lava Lamps

Express your creativity by creating a soda bottle lava lamp. Grades 4 – 8. Monday, August 17 at 4:00 PM.

Teen Screen Monday, August 3 at 4:00 PM

Teen Screen: Express Yourself Monday, August 10 at 4:00 PM

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, August 17 at 6:00 PM

Wednesday Afternoon Book Discussion – Wednesday, August 19 at 1:00 PM

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

Call for Volunteers

- **FOREVER HOME BEAGLE RESCUE** call 412-304-4034 or BeagleHQ@msn.com Foster homes needed as well as donations of dog food, blankets and bath towels.
- **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

2918 Pioneer Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15226 –2038

Lend a hand any way you can. It really does take every one to make a community work.

THIS MONTH**August 7**

Brookline Breeze Car Cruise 5:00PM to Dark at Brookline Recreation Center. Fun, Food, Friends, and Trophies for Peoples' Choice Awards. Event will be in the lower parking lot and green space adjoining areas. All ages and many cars, motorcycles, anything that rolls. There will be a DJ.

August 8

The Brookline Breeze Brookline Recreation Center. One mile Fun Run 8:30AM to 9:30AM. Ages: Baby in a stroller to over 65. Starts at the community center. 5K run/fitness walk. 9:00AM to 10:00AM. Starts across from the center on the boulevard and runs to St. Pius and back to finish at the playground area walk way. **Brookline Blvd. will be closed for the race.**

August 8

After the Breeze Community Festival 10:30AM to 3:00PM. This event will be held in the large green space at the Brookline Recreation Center. Bands, games, petting zoo and food.

August 8

Breeze the Boulevard 10:00AM to 6:00PM. The sidewalks of Brookline Boulevard will be lined with merchants and vendors selling, demonstrating and informing. All types of vendors will set up their wares, arts & crafts, jewelry, food, flowers and more. It has been over six years since the last sidewalk sale, many changes have happened on your boulevard. This is the perfect time to stroll the boulevard and see what is there to serve you. Both the Brookline Chamber of Commerce and South Pittsburgh Development Corp. are working together to encourage you to shop local. Remember "Buying Local" helps local merchants support your community. So come join your neighbors and return to the boulevard for some fun, sales and bargains. Visit the Chamber booth in the center of the boulevard to participate in the Chinese Auction.

August 11

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

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. The 1500 riders will arrive on Brookline Blvd. at approximately 11:20AM to honor **Officer Stephen Mayle**.

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.

BROOKLINE RECREATION CENTER**412-571-3222****YOUTH PROGRAMS:**

Summer Lunch Program Free lunches will be served inside the center in the warming hut on the lower level by the playground through August 21, 2009.

Ages under 18.

Lunch: Noon to 2:00PM.

Snack: 3:00PM to 4:00PM.

Roving Art Cart Free program will be in the playground area. Ages 2—adult. August 4, 2009. 10:00AM to 1:00PM.

Picnic at the Pavilion: Permits done through the **Brookline Recreation Center**. The dates are on the calendar in the office. As the permits come in they are registered in the office above Mickey's desk.

Moore Pool Swimming Program Through September 7, 2009 1:00PM to 7:45PM.

ADULT PROGRAMS:

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

Men's Basket League Outside court at **Moore Park**. Permitted. This is not a Parks and Recreation Program. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at 6:00PM to 9:00PM.

Moore Park Adult Swim Monday through Friday 5:00PM to 6:00PM Ages 18 and over.

Breeze The Blvd.***Arts, Crafts, Sales, Food and Fun!***

August 8, 2009.
10:00 am til' 6:00 pm

Silent Auction:

4 ½ Ft. tall Christmas Wreaths
Benefits Christmas Lighting Drive

For information call Linda Boss at:
412-563-0759

Vendor space may still be available for Breeze the Boulevard. Call Linda Boss at 412-563-0759

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REAL ESTATE SERVICES

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Hi, **Luna Alencar** here. I was asked to interview some of the canine residents of Brookline for the "Dog Days" issue. Brookline dogs came out on a rainy day for this photo opportunity!
Photo by **Catia Alencar**



"Since I live on the boulevard, I have a front row seat for the parades," **CJ Knecht** says. I also live just a block away from **Boulevard Ice Cream**. There's nothing like a cone on a warm summer day."
Photo by **Catia Alencar**



Kathi Papaleo with **Dakota**. "I'm a mix of Border Collie, Beagle and Labrador Retriever. Frankly I think I'm very photogenic. This is my best side," claims **Dakota**.
Photo by **Catia Alencar**



Jeri Sanders with **Dog** (pronounced Dee-oh-gee). Don't you just love that name! Photo by **Catia Alencar**



Lovey & Snoopy Horwat are Fordham Avenue's favorite boxers!
Photo by **Jenn Horwat**

BROOKLINE DOGS



Rich Stoops with **Winnie** (front) and **Copper** (rear).
Photo by **Pamela Grabowski**



John Bechtold with **Trinda** "I have many friends on the boulevard, the folks at **Zippy's**, **Art Betz** from **Art's Auto Body**, and **Mike** at **MJ's**," says **Trinda**.
Photo by **Catia Alencar**



Julie Stoops with **Aero**
Photo by **Pamela Grabowski**



"I was crushed when **More for Your Dollar** closed," **Trinda Bechtold** said. "Laura had a treat for me every day. **Michael Whitlinger** saw my disappointment and put out a box of biscuits and a water dish. Yea, **Michael**." Photo by **John Bechtold**



Lisa Jackson with **Jax**. "I walk just about everywhere in Brookline. I love people, and I love to walk," says **Jax**.
Photo by **Catia Alencar**



Above: **Jen Bailie & Nick McCleary** with **Coal**. Left: **Amy Fisher** with **Leyla**. **Leyla** and **Coal** are best buddies.
Photos by **Catia Alencar**