

## Letter from the Editor

Happy turkey, turducken or tofurkey month depending on where you sit on the meat to meatless scale. Frankly, we are going with a roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, baked squash halves filled with roasted apples, cranberries, brown sugar and a bit of butter, greens & beans, and of course, pumpkin pie! There's the first five pounds of the holiday season! Remember you don't have to make everything for Thanksgiving dinner. Let **Kribel's**, **Party Cake** or **Boulevard Ice Cream** help you with dessert. Make an appetizer tray of hummus, olives and feta from **Pitaland**. Start your dinner with greens & beans from **Mateo** or wedding soup from **Krazy Brothers**. Our country is a melting pot. Consider serving a multi-cultural Thanksgiving dinner.

We are launching our "Wedding Series" of merchant interviews this month. Perhaps you or someone you know will become engaged this holiday season. We want to introduce you to local merchants who can assist you with your wedding. Brookline has photographers, florists, caterers, bakers and printers. You don't have to trek all over the county for your wedding. At least give the local merchants a chance by starting on the Boulevard. Each month we will feature a merchant who can fill a wedding need. In addition, we will list similar merchants we have interviewed in previous issues. There is more than enough business for everyone if we all make "shop local" our mantra.

Unfortunately we had to say good-bye to **Flanagan's Sweets N Treats**. We are going to miss our local stop for a quick chocolate fix. As we say good-bye to one business, we are waiting to welcome a new business. **Las Palemas**, a carniceria (butcher), is opening at the corner of Castlegate and Brookline Blvd.

## HK PHOTO STUDIO

748 Brookline Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15226  
412-344-3323

Hours: Call for Appointment  
Email: [info@hkphotostudio.com](mailto:info@hkphotostudio.com)  
Website: [www.hkphotostudio.com](http://www.hkphotostudio.com)



It's a snap! Well, really, it isn't; but that is how you will feel when you talk to **Harmonie King** of **HK Photo Studio** on Brookline Blvd. You can say that photography is in her blood. Harmonie comes from a family of photographers and is the grandchild of a woman who was an artist in many mediums, including photography.

Outside of her family influence, Harmonie has been shooting pictures for 17 years. Starting in high school and expanding to Manchester Craftsman Guild while in school, Harmonie focused first on black and white photography. She even remembers fondly making a pinhole camera with her mother. Her first "real" camera, a Pentax K1000, sits proudly in her studio. A treasure she will always keep.

Harmonie's career started when she worked for another photographer who really tuned her skills into what they are today. At **HK Photo Studio**, Harmonie welcomes clients from near and far. She shoots everything from weddings to an upcoming dog calendar whose profits will benefit Animal Friends.

All forms of photography are welcome including family portraits, children, pets, senior photos and more. A special upcoming event will be pets with Santa! The studio is open by appointment only at this time but things may change as Harmonie is introducing a new section in her studio dedicated to works of art by various artists. She described these works as "useable, functional art." Of course, Harmonie also offers framing and mounting to her customers as well.

As we all live in the digital era, Harmonie finds that shooting with a digital camera allows her to easily upload the pictures for her clients to view. They can then choose, at their leisure, which photos they want printed. After clients choose their pictures, Harmonie makes any needed adjustments to them and then her lab provides the final prints.

A favorite type of print that Harmonie uses is one that mixes black and white with splashes of color. And as I suspect of most women, Harmonie enjoys photographing weddings the most.

Being that we are now in November, things are a little relaxed at **HK Photo Studio**. May through October is traditionally their busiest time of the year. Of course though, the holidays are coming soon and who wouldn't love to receive a picture as a gift?

-Carol Sossaman

**HERE KITTY, KITTY**

Where are all the cats? Don't worry, we know cats. We ARE NOT going to ask you to bring your furry friend to the Boulevard for pictures. We will come to you. If you have a "run under the bed when the doorbell rings" cat, you can send us a picture. See our contact information below.



In our October issue we misspelled **Jerry Metting's** name under his picture on page 4. We apologize for the error.

## THANK YOU AND WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP

We want to thank everyone who donated to **The Brookline** at the **Brookline 50's Picnic**. We enjoyed meeting residents and former residents of Brookline.

We are trying to find funding to continue the printed version of the newsletter after June 2010. Remember if you are reading this online, you have nothing to worry about. The newsletter will continue for you. If you pay for a subscription, you have nothing to worry about. At this time, we would be able to cover the printing of your copy with your subscription fee. We would lose the approximately 950 readers who read the paper copy including 65 of our readers who receive **The Brookline** with their Meals-On-Wheels delivery.

Please consider a contribution. No amount is too small. Plus, it's tax deductible! Merchants please consider placing an ad in **The Brookline**. Even a one month ad will help.

Please help those who still need paper. Send your contribution to **The Brookline** at the address below.

## 50 WAYS TO SURVIVE WINTER



Are you working on your verse? Come on folks! We aren't asking you to write an entire song, just one line - ONE LINE. Surely you can come up with one line of our song. Our line is "Get out the quilt Milt." What's yours?

We are entertaining the idea of getting everyone together on a Brookline Blvd. street corner to sing the finished song during the first week of February. That's about halfway through winter. All we need from you is one line. We will assemble the lines into a song. Put that creative energy to work. We need a reason to get together between Christmas and Spring Fling. A rousing rendition of "50 Ways to Survive Winter" sung by the Brookline Residents' Chorus could be the perfect occasion. We will print "50 Ways to Survive Winter" in our January issue so you will be able to practice before the big event. Now get crackin' Jack; call on your muse Sue! We set a deadline Kline! It is December 15.

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### THE BROOKLINE CONNECTIONS

**The Brookline Staff**  
*Pamela Grabowski* Editor  
*Carol Sossaman* Writer  
*Stephen Rozwood* Graphic Design  
*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. December issue's deadline is **November 10**. January issue's deadline is **December 10**.

### ADVERTISING RATES

Contact Pamela Grabowski at [mnp.grabowski@verizon.net](mailto:mnp.grabowski@verizon.net) or call 412-343-2859 for more information. We now have over 1,150 readers.

**Year**  
 SPDC Members \$280  
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**The Brookline is available by mail. Call for subscription fee.**

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: [thebrookline@brookline-pgh.org](mailto:thebrookline@brookline-pgh.org) or

[mnp.grabowski@verizon.net](mailto:mnp.grabowski@verizon.net)

Telephone: 412-343-2859

Mail: The Brookline c/o SPDC, PO Box 9606, Pittsburgh, PA 15226.

Funding for newsletter by Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development

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



## FROM SENATOR WAYNE FONTANA

Concerned about keeping your family safe and warm this winter? If you need help with your heating bill, the Pennsylvania Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can help by providing cash grants to pay for home heating fuel and crisis grants to address heating emergencies.

The program is geared at helping low-income households. For an example, a two-person household with an income limit of \$21,855 is eligible; a four-person household must have an income of no more than \$33,075. Cash grants are based on income, family size, type of heating fuel and region. Crisis grants are provided to resolve heating emergencies. In addition to proof of income and household size, applicants must provide a recent bill or a statement from their fuel dealer verifying their customer status and the type of fuel that they use.

You can also do your part to save energy - unless there are young children or older adults living in your home, keep your thermostats at 65 degrees. Visit [www.turnsealsave.org](http://www.turnsealsave.org) to learn about available assistance programs, energy conservation and home weatherization tips.

The application period for LIHEAP will open for the 2009-10 heating season on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. For the upcoming heating season, the crisis portion of the program will open on January 4<sup>th</sup>. While you can apply online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us), you can also stop by my office for more information, an application or assistance in applying for this program. My staff stands ready to help.

## FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

It's that time of year again – when people in many parts of the country feel a new chill in the air each morning, and put an extra quilt or blanket on the bed.

It's also the time of year when many states offer energy assistance to people who have low income and resources. Under the energy assistance program, your state may help with the cost of heating your home during the winter. But to get it, in most cases, you'll need to provide proof of your income. If you get Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, you can get proof of the amount of your benefit quickly and easily by going online. Just visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

There are a number of reasons you may need written verification of your benefit amount, besides energy assistance programs. Perhaps you're ready to make a major purchase and you're trying to get a loan from a bank or



## FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHELSA WAGNER

As Thanksgiving approaches, it is important for all of us to keep in mind that many of our neighbors are struggling this holiday season. Effects of the economic downturn have lingered, and family budgets—as well as those of agencies that provide essential assistance—are strained. I ask those of you who are able to join me in supporting any of the organizations in our area which I have listed below, or other groups which provide food assistance to those in need. Even the smallest contribution of money, food items, or your time as a volunteer will make a difference and show a family in need that someone is thinking of them.

If your own family is in need of help, please know that you are not alone. I have heard from many families who have found themselves in need of assistance for the first time and do not know where to turn or are ashamed to ask for help. Everyone deserves help when times are tough. Contact the agencies below or the Allegheny County Department of Human Services at 1-800-851-3838. Also, please do not hesitate to call or stop by my Constituent Service Office at 900 Brookline Blvd. (412-343-2094) for information on assistance programs.

**Brookline Christian Food Pantry**  
c/o United Methodist Church  
1001 Chelton Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15226  
412-344-8451

**Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank**  
1 North Linden St.  
Duquesne, PA 15110  
(412) 460-FOOD (3663)  
[www.pittsburghfoodbank.org](http://www.pittsburghfoodbank.org)

financial institution. Or maybe you're applying for state benefits or moving into a new apartment or home.

Whatever your reason, Social Security makes it easy for you to get the written verification you need at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). Just look in the left column under "What you can do online," expand the "If you get benefits" section, and select the "Request a Proof of Income letter" link.

The letter can be used for any reason that someone requires proof of your income. In addition to offering proof of your income, the letter is an official document that verifies your Medicare coverage, retirement or disability status, and age. The letter does not include your Social Security number.

From the time that you complete the online request, it will

*(Continued on page 4)*

## JOANNE'S CORNER

### Things that aren't here anymore - Part Ten



I had a response from a reader about the 5&10 not being a **Ben Franklin**, but an **Autenreith's** with a receipt to prove it. I was referring to the original 5&10 next to **Brookline Savings & Trust** and owned by the **Rauch** family of Brookline. Check the Brookline history book at the bottom of page 102 and note the "Ben." [Circled in picture above] The **Autenreith's 5&10** appeared later. Other businesses at this location were **Anthony's Curtains & Blinds**, **Barter All** and now **Cash for Gold**.

The **Brookline 50's Picnic** on September 20 was a great success. Over 300 people who grew up in Brookline attended. Some promotions for **The Brookline** newsletter by our editor Pamela were accomplished. Also, enough money was collected to buy a memorial brick at Resurrection saying "Brookline 50's Picnic, est. 1989—Always Friends." Also, I attended **Chelsa Wagner's** picnic on September 19 celebrating the arrival of **Baby Thaddeus**. Very nice—delicious food. Check out Whited-Jacob Park.

#### Question of the month:

Does anyone know the name of the first Brookline newspaper from the 30's & 40's before becoming the **Brookline Journal**?

-Joanne Fantoni



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### Last Month's Memory Teaser

**Question:** Does anyone know the name of the dentist who had an office above **G. Reisacker's Market**?

**Answer:** Dr. Rhodan



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## FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (Continued)

*(Continued from page 3)*

take about 10 days for you to receive the proof of income letter in the mail. If you need one sooner, you'll want to call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or visit your local Social Security office.

But for most people, simply requesting the proof of income online is the most convenient way to get what you need. Get your benefit verification by visiting [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

-LeeAnn Stuever  
Social Security Manager in  
Downtown Pittsburgh

# THE ELLIOTTS

Eight bands from the United States were invited to participate in the 2009 Beatles Week held in Liverpool, England in August. One of the eight was **The Elliotts** from Brookline. Yes that's our Brookline. **John Bechtold, Dave Romesberg, Billy O'Connor** and **Scott Johnson** formed the band in 2004. While the intent was to showcase their original material, they soon discovered a mutual interest in The Beatles.

**The Elliotts** don't dress like the fab four, nor do they resemble them. That is until they play. "When we walked off the stage in Liverpool, a group of British fans told us that we sounded just like The Beatles." That's because **The Elliotts** have dissected the music so they can play and sing like The Beatles, including three-part harmony. They are also using the same type of instruments which helps to create the authentic sound.

To have garnered the success these men have achieved in five years requires work and focus. **Dave Romesberg** has won the Pittsburgh Singer/Songwriter Contest, and **Billy O'Connor** was the original drummer for Blondie, the seventies rock band. The band rehearses at John's Brookline home, and like most artists, the men have other jobs to pay the rent. **Scott Johnson** repairs guitars at Pittsburgh Guitars where John also works. John set goals for the band from the beginning. "Liverpool was definitely on the bucket list." He's not sure what the next goal might be.

After playing the Cavern Club where Brian Epstein first saw The Beatles perform, it's understandable that **The Elliotts** might have to take some time to consider the next entry on the "bucket list." While a repeat performance at Liverpool is not yet a guarantee, you will find the band at 2010 Abbey Road On The River where they have a standing invitation. Abbey Road is the largest annually held festival in the United States celebrating The Beatles' music. It's a five day event held over Memorial Day weekend and draws as many as 30,000 attendees. If you haven't planned your vacation for next year, you might want to consider Abby Road where you can cheer for a band from your hometown.

Closer to home, **The Elliotts** will be playing St. Paul's Oktoberfest on Saturday, November 14 from 7:00PM to 11:00PM. It's the yearly fundraiser for St. Paul's Episcopal Nursery School, 1066 Washington Road in Mt Lebanon. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$25 each or \$45 for two.

You can find more events for **The Elliotts** - give the guys a chance to catch their breath after a whirlwind summer - at [www.myspace.com/theelliotsonline](http://www.myspace.com/theelliotsonline) (The Elliotts Online).



**The Elliotts** with a fan sitting in the same pub frequented by The Beatles. The photo on the wall to the left shows the fab four in the same booth. See page 4 for more photos. -All photos provided by **John Bechtold**

-Pamela Grabowski

## FREE MEALS



**Brookline Recreation Center** is serving free dinners for children 18 years of age and under from 5:30PM - 6:30PM. Snacks are served from 3:00PM - 4:00PM.

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South Hills and City of Pittsburgh specialist

## NOVEMBER AT THE LIBRARY

### For Kids and Teens:

#### Storytimes

Baby/Toddler: Stories, songs, rhymes and fingerplays. For children birth through age 3 with a caregiver. Thursdays, November 5 - 19 at 11:00 AM

Preschool: Stories, songs, games and the occasional craft. For children age 3-5 with parent or caregiver. Thursdays, November 5 - 19 at 12:30 PM

#### Craft Club

Green is the new groovy! Create your own 70's style by making a disco ball out of recycled music CDs. Grades K-8. Younger children should be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Monday, November 9 at 4:00 PM.

#### After School Movie Fun

Nothing to do after school? Come to the Library and watch a movie. We will provide the popcorn, you bring a drink. Grades K-8. Thursdays, November 5 & 19 at 3:30 PM.

#### Get Your Game On

Come try your skills at the **Wii**. Grades 6-12. Registration is not required. Bring your friends! Wednesday, November 11 at 3:30 PM.

#### Teen Book Club

Monday, November 23 at 4:00 PM. Grades 6 – 12 are welcome.



#### Dia de los Muertos ~ Day of the Dead

Monday, November 2 at 4:00 PM We're making paper marigolds, crafting skeleton candy baskets and designing skull masks at this spirited program to celebrate Dia de los Muertos, the Aztec Day of the Dead. Grades K-8. Younger children should be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

### For Adults:

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

**Monday Evening Book Discussion** – Monday, November 16 at 6:00 PM – Reading *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield.

**Wednesday Afternoon Book Discussion** – Wednesday, November 18 at 1:00 PM – Reading *Mt. Vernon Love Story: a Novel of George and Martha Washington* by Mary Higgins Clark.

## Call for Volunteers

- **FOREVER HOME BEAGLE RESCUE** call 412-304-4034 or [BeagleHQ@msn.com](mailto: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 everyone to make a community work.

## THIS MONTH

### November 9

**Chamber of Commerce** 6:00PM at Magistrate Charles McLaughlin's office 736 Brookline Blvd.

### November 10

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

### November 12

**Graduate Pittsburgh Summit** YWCA (Downtown) Event hosted by **Mayor Ravenstahl** seeks to develop a local action plan to decrease school dropout rate and better prepare students for college. For information call **Sabrina Saunders**, Manager of Youth Policy at 412-255-2637.

### November 14

**Wine Tasting Dinner** 6:00PM in Cullen Hall at **St. Pius X** 3040 Pioneer Ave. Several varieties of wines will be served to enhance a full course meal for only \$20.00. Please call Theresa Rocco at 412-343-1849 for details and/or tickets.

### November 15

**Pancake Breakfast** 9:00AM to 1:00PM in Fr. Quinn Hall at Resurrection Church. Adults \$5.00, Children (ages 3 to 5) \$3.00, Children under 3 free. The price includes pancakes, sausage, coffee (regular coffee donated by Starbucks), and drinks for the kids. The fundraiser sponsored by the **Parents of Cub Scout Pack 601** includes a 50/50 Raffle and a Chinese Auction. Some of the prizes: 2 tickets to the CLO's musical Christmas Carol, 2 passes to the Carnegie Science Center, 2 adult passes to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

### November 16

**South Pittsburgh Development Corp.** 7:00PM at Brookline Blvd. United Presbyterian Church 1036 Brookline Blvd.

### November 20 & 21

**Holiday Open House** at **Michael Whitlinger Design** and **HK Photo Studio**. **Harmonie King** is introducing her new Artists' Market. Everyone is welcome. See advertisement at bottom of page 8 for more information.

### November 30

**Light-Up Night** 6:00PM at CVS. The Christmas Lighting Drive Committee of **South Pittsburgh Development Corp.** and **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** are bringing back the Memory Tree this year. The tree will be located at the corner of Brookline Blvd. and Pioneer next to CVS. If you choose to remember a loved one with a memory tree donation, the cost is \$10.00 per person. Forms are located at **A-Boss Optical** and **Michael Whitlinger Design**. All proceeds go to new Christmas lighting. For more information, call the Chamber at 412-563-0759.

### November 30

**Kick-Off the Holidays Party** 7:00PM at St. Mark's Church corner of Brookline Blvd. & Glenarm Ave. **Brookline Area Community Council** invites everyone to continue celebrating after light-up and warm up with some hot chocolate and other goodies. There will be holiday bingo, coloring contests and games as well as music and a visit from the "Big Man in his red suit."

### December 5

**Dog Portraits with Santa Claus** 9:00AM to 6:00PM at **HK Photo Studio** 748 Brookline Blvd. Call for information 412-344-3323.



## BROOKLINE RECREATION CENTER

**412-571-3222**

### YOUTH PROGRAM

**Kinder Sports** Starts October 8 and runs through May 2010. 11:00AM to Noon. Ages 2 - 5

**Youth Fun Time** For boys and girls. Thursdays Ages 3 - 5 at 3:30PM - 4:15PM. Ages 6 - 8 at 4:30PM - 5:30PM Program is FREE.

**Youth Basketball Clinic** Saturdays October through November. Noon - 2:00PM. Boys and girls ages 6 - 8. Cost \$10

**Martial Arts Classes** A martial arts class based especially for the 5-10 year olds in mind. Taught by our own instructor, Joshua Kern. Specifically made to help foster and build the martial artists of tomorrow as well as to have a lot of fun this summer! Cost per child is \$20 per month. Tuesdays and Thursdays, ages 5-7 at 6:00PM - 7:00 PM, ages 8-10 at 7:00PM-8:00 PM. Older brothers and sisters can join in the fun as well!

**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 8:45PM. Ages 7 - over. Subnovis, novis and open divisions are trained by Mike and Carlos.

### ADULT PROGRAMS:

**Fundamentals of Acting** Do you think you have what it takes to be an actor? Or, maybe you saw a great movie and wanted to know exactly just how they did it? Well join Joshua Kern as he explores the basics and fundamentals of acting, with you in mind. Cost per Person: \$20 per month. Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00PM-7:30PM.

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

**Body Sculpting with Pilates** with **Roxanne Eibeck**, a trained Pilates instructor. Mon. and Thurs. 6:15PM to 7:30PM \$30.00 for 10 workouts

**Yoga** with **Lori Grable**, a certified yoga instructor. Tues. 6:15PM to 7:30PM \$50 for 6 week session or \$10 per class.

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# BOULEVARD ICE CREAM'S 16TH ANNUAL TASTING PARTY



Photo by Michael Grabowski

If you arrived when the party started at 7:00PM (at left), there was no waiting and plenty of elbow room. At 8:00PM (at right) customers were wall to wall and out the door. Chuck and his staff hosted another tasting extravaganza. You missed it? Mark your calendar for September 2010.



Photo by Michael Grabowski

## IT JUST GETS BETTER AND BETTER



Chuck Davoren put together another fabulous Brookline 50's Picnic. Everyone had a good time.

Photo by Jan Beiler



We bought jalaepno pierogies at the Boulevard News. Excellent!

Photo by HK Photo Studio

## THE ELLIOTTS



From left: Scott Johnson, Billy O'Connor, Dave Romesberg, John Bechtold in front of Strawberry Fields. *The Elliott photos provided by John Bechtold.*



Top left: John Bechtold in front of the Cavern Club. Top right & above: Inside of the club while The Elliotts performed. There is no air conditioning in this packed venue!

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**Holiday Open House**  
**On the Boulevard:**

Join us at:  
**Michael Whitlinger Designs**  
 &  
**HK Photo Studio**  
 (Now featuring an Artist Market)  
 For early discounts on your holiday shopping..  
 Cookies, Cider & Fun will be served  
**November 20th 6pm-8pm**  
**November 21st 9am-4pm**