

## Letter from the Editor



Happy Mother's Day! We have been walking up and down the Boulevard checking out the new stores and revisiting the merchants who have been here awhile. Have you tried the roasted pork at **Las Palmas**? We haven't had a chance to stop at **Scoops**. Have you? And folks, there are rumors of more stores coming.

**Keith Knecht** and his crew of volunteers did an amazing job cleaning the Boulevard. We will have a recap next month on his efforts and the amount of trash collected. Whatever happened to putting trash in the trash can?

If you're a regular reader, you know we have been pushing the metaphor of the Boulevard as a flower garden we are nurturing—hoping for brilliant blossoms. We believe we are beginning to see results. A Boulevard gallery crawl! Penn Avenue in downtown maybe, but Brookline Boulevard?!? And yet, it's happening. Poetry readings! In Oakland, sure, but Brookline Boulevard?!?! And yet, it's happening. Not only are these events happening, but they are drawing crowds.

The weather is improving. We all need to get out and walk. Join us on the Boulevard. Find one event to attend this month. Stop in and explore one business on the Boulevard. The end of this month we will celebrate Memorial Day. Join your neighbors on the Boulevard for the annual Memorial Day Parade.



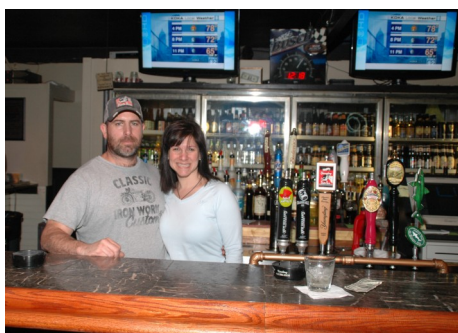
Shop local. Spend your money in the community where you raise your family.

## BROOKLINE PUB



734 Brookline Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15226  
412-531-0899

Hours: Mon.—Fri. 11:00AM to 2:00AM  
Sat.—Sun. 8:00AM to 2:00 AM



**Leo and Dana Hughes** in front of the beer case featuring 60 different beers! Photo by **HK Photo Studio**

Mount Lebanon has a saloon, but Brookline has a pub—**Brookline Pub**.

The beer case runs the length of the bar, and you're sure to find one of your favorites. In fact, **Brookline Pub** has Lindeman's Framboise Lambic. That elevates an establishment to first rate in my book. If they don't have your beer, ask for it. Leo tells us he will try to honor requests within reason.

Not only did **Leo and Dana Hughes**, proprietors of the Pub, allow us to hold our February "Fifty Ways To Survive Winter" sing-a-long, but afterward when we all trooped into the **Brookline Pub** for dinner, they couldn't have been more welcoming.

Leo and Dana have created a local watering hole with a zero tolerance for bad behavior. They are long time Brookline residents who care about the community. When renovations are completed on the adjacent storefront, the Pub will have a non-smoking area. They will also expand their menu to include family style dining options. Not only will a family be able to enjoy dinner at a reasonable price, but Mom and Dad will be able to have a beer or a glass of wine with dinner.

The Pub has come a long way since Leo and Dana took over. Leo told us that at first he looked around and wondered what he got himself into. He credits Dana for having the vision and focus to persevere. We're glad they did. It's nice to have that local spot where "everyone knows your name," and you can feel comfortable stopping in for a cold beer on a warm evening. It's even better when you can sit on the outdoor deck to enjoy that brew with nachos or wings. Jalapeno nachos with cold beer. Nirvana!

While we're waiting for those warm nights, stop at the **Brookline Pub** for breakfast on Saturday or Sunday morning. Join the dart league on Monday and Tuesday. If Karaoke more your style, then drop by on Thursdays. There's a DJ on Fridays and Saturdays for dancing. While the pool league has ended for the season, it will be back.

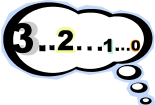
Stop by **Brookline Pub** and ask for your favorite brew. Thursday is wing night!

-**Pamela Grabowski**



The outside deck is popular in warm weather .

Photo by **HK Photo Studio**



## Counting Down The Brookline Print Edition

We are temporarily holding at three months while we examine our available funds. We are going to start to schedule some of the fundraising ideas that our readers have offered. We hope to announce our first fundraiser in the June issue. In the meantime, we still need your advertising dollars.



## Stop for Coffee

We want to meet you and hear your ideas, suggestions and complaints. We will even buy you a cup of coffee or tea. Stop by **Cannon Coffee** on the following days in May for a chat.  
 Monday May 3 10:00AM to 11:00AM  
 Thursday May 13 5:00PM to 6:00PM  
 Friday May 21 2:00PM to 3:00PM



**Annette Ferrieri** reports that according to an article in the **South Hills Record** dated April 8, 2010, **Aldi's** will be open in time for Thanksgiving shopping.

## READERS' RESPONSE

I worked with a man named **Bill Hogel** who said his dad was a beat cop on the blvd. when he was a kid which should be 1950s & 60s. They lived on Milan Ave. off of Edgebrook Ave. Hope this helps.

-John Bassani

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## THE BROOKLINE PAST ISSUES

**Clint Burton** has archived past issues of **The Brookline** at [www.brooklineconnection.com](http://www.brooklineconnection.com). Bookmark **The Brookline Connection** along with our site to keep up with local events and local team scores.

### CONTACT THE BROOKLINE

#### The Brookline Staff

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*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. June issue's deadline is May 10. July issue's deadline is June 10.

The Brookline by email is in FULL COLOR!

The Brookline is available by mail. One year subscription \$25.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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[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.

### 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 1,300 readers.

#### Year

SPDC Members \$280

Non Members \$400

#### Six Months

SPDC Members \$160

Non Members \$225

#### Three Months

SPDC Members \$100

Non Members \$125

Annual SPDC membership dues are \$10.00. Do the math!



**ASK ABOUT OUR SPECIAL  
ONE MONTH RATE!**

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.



**SENATOR  
WAYNE FONTANA**

Recently, some residents in the Brookline area received a mailer offering to help seniors with the Property Tax and Rent Rebate form for a fee of \$39. Beware of offers such as this – while it may not be **illegal to charge people to help them apply for a rebate, you can get the same help for FREE at any one of** my district offices.

The Property Tax and Rent Rebate program benefits Pennsylvanians who are 65 years old and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. Eligible seniors living in Pittsburgh with incomes under \$30,000 are eligible for a supplemental property tax rebate of up to \$325, on top of standard rebates. The program is offered each and every year and supported by gaming revenues. The deadline to apply is June 30, 2010.

No matter what assistance you need – we can help. Do you need to know if you're eligible? Do you need an application? Do you need help completing and filing your rebate application? Do you need to check on the status of your application? My staff can assist you with each of these questions and more. Please contact any one of my district offices for help.

If you're looking for more information, you can also get details and forms online at [www.PaPropertyTaxRelief.com](http://www.PaPropertyTaxRelief.com) or by calling 1-888-222-9190. Claimants who already applied for Property Tax/Rent Rebates may check the status of their claim online at that same website or by calling toll-free, 1-888-PATAxes.

As always, I look forward to working together with you.



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
CHELSA WAGNER**

A bill I recently introduced to protect some of our most vulnerable citizens, the elderly and disabled, from predatory practices by landlords (HB 1587) was recently approved unanimously by the House Urban Affairs Committee and will hopefully come to a vote by the full House soon.

Currently, landlords are permitted to claim up to 100 percent of a tenant's state Rent Rebate if this is part of the lease agreement. Unfortunately, many landlords include and enforce this provision without the full understanding of the tenant or their family. The lease agreement provided to personal care homes by the State Department of Public Welfare actually includes boilerplate language claiming the rebate for landlords.

When I learned of this predatory practice, I was outraged to see that Pennsylvania law actually permitted our low-income seniors and disabled residents to be taken advantage of in this way, despite the purpose of the Rent Rebate, which is to help Pennsylvanians on fixed incomes. My legislation would protect tenants by preventing landlords from claiming any portion of the Rent Rebate. As we face difficult economic times, it is imperative that we do all we can to provide security to our residents.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate is available to property owners and renters 65 years of age and older, widows and widowers 50 years of age and older, and permanently disabled people 18 years of age and older. Income limits are \$35,000 for homeowners and \$15,000 for renters, excluding half of Social Security income. If you believe you or someone you know may qualify, please stop by my office at 900 Brookline Blvd. or call us at 412-343-2094 for an application and assistance.



**CITY COUNCILWOMAN  
NATALIA RUDIAK**

On Tuesday, April 6, my office was proud to host a town hall discussion with the **Housing Authority of Pittsburgh**, architect **Ken Doyno**, **Turner Construction**, and community members to talk about the exciting redevelopment of the **Mazza Pavilion**. As many of you know, this senior highrise was closed down last year after 27 years of operation because of a mold infestation, and the residents were relocated to other housing facilities across the city.

Last year the project was awarded a \$5 million stimulus grant from the President's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to do a comprehensive modernization of the facility, and with the cooperation between **Housing Authority**, City, and federal officials, Brookline residents can look forward to a beautiful, energy efficient building on our Boulevard.

Construction will begin this year (probably this summer) and continue until the summer or early fall of 2011. Final start and end dates for construction are still being negotiated. While the building is under construction, the sidewalk in front of Mazza will not be accessible, however the City and the Housing authority are working to make sure that pedestrian will have safe options for walking on the boulevard. The lower level parking garage will be inaccessible during construction, however will reopen after building completion.

The best part is that all of the former residents will be offered spots in the new **Mazza Pavilion** first before any new residents will be accepted. The thirty units in Mazza will remain available to senior and disabled residents, so even if all of the previous tenants do not return, there is a long waiting list of people eager to move to Brookline!

If you are interested in information about residency at **Mazza Pavilion**, please call the **Housing Authority** at 412-456-5000.

## JOANNE'S CORNER

*Things that aren't here anymore - Part Fifteen*

A story that I read in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on March 2, 2010 titled "Out of Towners" sparked my interest. Get it on the internet at [www.post-gazette.com/pg/10061/1039548-294.stm](http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10061/1039548-294.stm). It said about Pittsburgh what I said about Brookline in my July 2009 column. People from Brookline never leave they just go visiting for awhile. It was the tale of **Elizabeth Seton High School** grads (1956) who still lend a helping hand to a handicapped out-of-town fellow grad (**Frances Molinaro**). Not only are funds raised for this 1956 grad, but her elderly parents who are both in a nursing home in Pittsburgh are visited regularly by a former classmate since the handicapped daughter who lives in New Jersey is not able to. These ESH grads are now in their seventies and still helping and remembering their classmates of 54 years ago. That's Brookline people for you.

**Question of the Month:** What was the jingle on the radio about **Brookline Bank**?

### Last Month's Memory Teaser

**Question of the Month:** Do you remember the names of the longtime beat cops on the Boulevard?

**Answer:** Mr. Nassar, Alex Hogel and Rip Hines



## ART FORUM IN BROOKLINE

**Janine Dewitt** settles herself onto a stool in front of a microphone set up facing 30 chairs in Cannon Coffee, Brookline's newest coffee shop.

"After everyone gets their drinks and gets situated we can start with tonight's show," Dewitt says.

In the shop a small audience has gathered for the 2nd Cannonline Open Mic Poetry series. Today is St. Patrick's Day and the evening began with a bagpiper and a special barbeque on the shop's back porch to ring in the festivities.

Dewitt, a barista at Cannon Coffee and a creative writing major at Point Park University, emcees the Cannonline events on the third Wednesday of every month. The shop, which opened its doors February 4th, has already hosted two poetry and prose open mic nights and a gallery crawl.

As people make their way back to their seats, Jan begins with a poem by Audre Lorde. After, the night follows the format of three to four performers, a break for coffee and conversation, and more performances. Tonight several audience members get up to tell Irish limericks and jokes in honor of the date.

The first two events have been well attended, thus allowing the two-hour time slot to be filled with everything from poetry reading, piano playing, and dramatic monologues from local playwrights. An open stage set-up allows local performance artists to express themselves to their neighbors and peers in a community setting. All forms of performance art are embraced at the events, including poetry, prose,



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written word, dramatic monologues, and freestyle and slam poetry.

"It is a dream come true to have my shop be the forum for the arts of Brookline," says **Cannon Coffee** co-owner, **Benjamin Haake**. "We found that not only do locals want to be expressive through poetry, but every other foray, as well. It's awesome!" he gushes.

Held on the third Wednesday of every month, the Cannonline series welcomes performers from all over the Pittsburgh area, but especially Brookline.

"We are trying to create a place for the arts here in Brookline," **Nathan Mallory**, co-owner of the shop says. "We want to help spotlight the arts that are already in Brookline. You can be quirky here. You can be different here."

In addition to the Cannonline open mic series, **Cannon Coffee** organized a gallery crawl on March 27, showcasing all the great art that Brookline Boulevard has to offer. The all day event included stops at **Cannon Coffee**, **HK Photo Studio**, and **Michael Whitlinger Designs**, all located on the Boulevard.

An artist's reception was hosted at **Cannon Coffee** and featured the diverse fine artwork of local female artists, including **Christie Kubick**, **Lucy Storey**, **Mia Donna**, **Lois Walsh**, **Barbara Haake**, and **Katie Rife**. The reception also showcased local belly dancers. A wonderful evening was had by all who attended.

*-Makenzie Goodman*



# BROOKLINE AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Easter was great and very warm. This has been a season of crazy weather. Hope summer is better and not extremely HOT !!!

The May meeting of the **BACC** will be our last meeting of the season. We break over the summer and will return in September. The May meeting will be our **SECOND** Pot Luck Dinner.

We are hoping to have speakers who will talk about things to do in the community over the summer. We usually have someone from **City Parks** and **Carnegie Library** discuss the neighborhood/city events available for children and adults.

So, come one, come all !!! We had a fantastic time last year, and this is a great way to meet your neighbors, enjoy dinner and kick off the summer season.

The **BACC** provides the chicken, drinks and paper products. We ask the community to pitch in with a dish. If your name starts with the letters A-H bring a salad, I-Q bring a side dish, and R-Z bring a dessert.

See you at the Pot Luck !!!

*-Louise Pallone*



## DONATION HELPS LOCAL SCHOOL

**Brookline Regional Catholic School** recently received a \$75,000 donation from an anonymous donor. The donation is in honor of former **St. Pius X** Parish pastor, **Fr. Thomas Marpes**. It recognizes his commitment to Catholic education in the Brookline neighborhood during his years of service to the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

**Brookline Regional Catholic School** plans to use the donation to establish a tuition assistance program that is designed as an additional safety-net for qualifying school families in financial need. According to **Principal Janet Salley Rakoczy**, "We are excited about the donation. Many parents believe the gift of a Catholic education is far beyond their reach. These funds can make Catholic education affordable." Parents must submit the Private School Aid Service application that is available at the school office or on the school website at [breschool.com](http://breschool.com).

Over 93% of BRC families receive some level of tuition assistance. Financial assistance is based upon income, number of dependents and any extenuating circumstances. Awards may result in up to 80% of tuition. Notes **Rev. Robert Miller**, pastor, "Through the combined generosity of this donor, parishioners, and friends of **Brookline Regional Catholic School**, we are able to help families who want their children to enjoy the lifelong value of a Catholic education. Certainly the estab-

lishment of the **Fr. Thomas Marpes Fund** and our commitment to not increasing tuition is *good news* for Brookline and surrounding communities."

**Brookline Regional Catholic School** has a history of producing successful and accomplished graduates. Students learn in a supportive environment where every opportunity for success is available. **Brookline Regional Catholic School** is accredited by the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges and employs fully certified and highly qualified teachers.

*-Janet Sally Rakoczy*

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## MAY AT THE LIBRARY

### For Kids and Teens:

#### Storytime

Baby/Toddler: Stories, songs, rhymes and fingerplays. For children birth through age 3 with a parent or caregiver. Thursdays, May 6 & May 13 at 11:00 AM.

#### Kids Create – Spring Marble Magnets

Join us to put your favorite pictures or clip art onto magnets. Grades K-8. Younger children should be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Monday, May 10 at 4:00 PM.

#### Movies @ the Library: After School Movie Fun

Nothing to do after school? Come to the Library and watch a movie. Grades K-8. Thursday, May 13 at 3:30 PM.

#### Mother's Day Tea

It's time to celebrate moms! Join us for a tea party and craft. For kids age 3 and older with mom, grandma, aunt or other female "family" member. Saturday, May 1 at 11:30 AM. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED**



#### Get Your Game On!

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

#### Teen Book Club/Teen Advisory Council (TAC)

Monday, May 24 at 4:00 PM – Reading *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin. Join us after the book discussion for the Teen Advisory Council. Grades 6 – 12 are welcome.

### For Adults:

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

**Wednesday Afternoon Book Discussion** – Wednesday, May 12 1:00 PM – Reading *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson. ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY EVENT

**Monday Evening Book Discussion** – Monday, May 17 6:00 PM – Reading *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson. ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY EVENT



**Year Round Farm Stand at Seton Center**  
1900 Pioneer Ave. Every Wednesday 11:00AM—5:00PM

## 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.

Add a grocery store gift card to your shopping cart and send it to the **Brookline Christian Food Pantry, c/o Pat Erny, 2918 Pioneer Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15226-2038**



How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

-Anne Frank

## THIS MONTH

### May 1

**Flea Market** 10:00AM—2:00PM at the Recreation Center. Spots are FREE. Clean up for spring and bring your goods to sell.

### May 10

**Chamber of Commerce** 5:45PM at Carnegie Library 708 Brookline Blvd.

### May 11

**Brookline Block Watch** 7:00PM at Magistrate Jim Motznik's office 736 Brookline Blvd.

### May 17

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

### May 19

**Cannonline Poetry Open Mic Series** 8:00PM to 10:00PM at Cannon Coffee 802 Brookline Blvd.

### May 24

**Brookline Area Community Council** 7:30PM at St. Mark's Church corner of Brookline Blvd. & Glenarm Ave. Pot Luck Dinner. See page five for details.

### May 26

**Car Cruise** 5:00PM to dark at Brookline Recreation Center. There will be food, prizes, music and good fun. Bring your classic vehicle and join others in Brookline's #1 car show.

### May 29

**Brookline Gallery Crawl** This is going to be a monthly event on the last Saturday of the month. Walk up and down the Boulevard. Visit the merchants, and end up at Cannon Coffee to check out the art work.

### May 31

**South Hills Memorial Day Association Parade** 10:00AM Parade begins at the cannon and ends at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery.

## BROOKLINE RECREATION CENTER

**412-571-3222**

### YOUTH PROGRAM

**KINDER SPORTS** Thursdays 11:00AM to noon. Ages 3 - 5 Storytime follows from Noon to 1:00PM.

**TAE KWON DO** Mondays 6:30PM Children over 8 to adults. Free.

### ADULT PROGRAMS:

**FITNESS CENTER** Open weekdays from 1:15PM to 8:45PM. Participation is free.

**BODY SCULPTING WITH PILATES** Work out Monday and Thursday evenings from 6:15PM-7:30PM with our trained Pilates instructor, **Roxanne Eibeck**. Sessions run for five weeks (twice a week). Cost: \$30/session (10 workouts). Cost will be pro-rated for late enrollees. Bring your own mat.

**YOGA** Relax your mind, body and spirit Tuesday evenings from 6:15-7:30PM with our certified instructor, **Lori Grable**. Program runs in six week sessions. Cost per session: \$50. Cost is prorated for late enrollees. Bring your own mat!



**29th Brookline Breeze 5K Run/Walk**  
**August 14, 2010**  
**Mark Your Calendar!**



## ETHNIC FOOD FAIR



The **Pittsburgh Brookline School Food**

**Fair** will be **Tuesday, May 25** from 4:30PM to 7:30PM. The school sponsored event is part of an effort to bring the school community and the Brookline community more in touch with each other. The art teachers will engage students in making flags that represent different ethnic groups. The music teacher is putting together some songs that are reflective of certain ethnic groups. Parents are making food dishes that reflect specific ethnic groups.

We also have a new initiative that connects our Distance Learning program with our "Global Ambassadors." Our school is equipped to connect over the Internet to many places in other parts of the world. *- Adrienne Thomas*

## FREE MEALS



**Brookline Recreation Center** is serving free dinners for children 18 years of age and under from 5:30PM - 6:30PM on weekdays. Meals are prepared by Nutrition, Inc.

## SAVE THE DATES

**BROOKLINE KENNYWOOD DAY**  
**MONDAY, JUNE 28**



**BREEZE THE BOULEVARD**  
**SIDEWALK EVENT**  
**AUGUST 14, 2010**

(more information and application in next issue)



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*South Hills and City of Pittsburgh specialist*

# LOOK AT WHAT'S NEW ON BROOKLINE BOULEVARD



Have you stopped to meet **Mike Wega** and his crew? If your inspection is due, this would be a perfect time to make an appointment at **MJ Automotive Service Center**.  
*-Photo by HK Photo Studio*



Taking a walk to get an ice cream cone remains an option. While we will miss **Chuck Bader** and **Boulevard Ice Cream**, we welcome **Scoops on the Boulevard**.  
*-Photo by HK Photo*

## MAZZA PAVILION'S NEW LOOK



Above from left to right: **Mazza Pavilion** as it currently looks. **Mazza's** new look in the middle and at right. At left: A close-up of the new **Mazza Pavilion**.

*-Drawings from Rothschild Doyno*



## SPRING FLING



At left: **Bob Beiler** models an Easter bonnet. Below: **Alex Fisher** proudly displays his balloon dogs and a chocolate milk mustache! Right: **Keith Knecht** as the Litterbug assisted by **Eileen Papale**.

*-Photos by Amy Fisher*

SPDC sponsored another successful Spring Fling on March 20 at **Magistrate Jim Motznik's** office. Attendees were able to pick up flower seeds, enjoy cookies and coffee and the balloon creations of **Barry Taylor**.

