

Letter from the Editor



Boy did summer go fast! Gift giving season is upon us. As much as we are going to miss **Michael Whitlinger's**, we will still find gifts on the Boulevard. When money is tight, that's when we really allow our creativity to soar. Gift certificates are available from many Boulevard merchants. Who wouldn't want a gift certificate for a dinner, a massage, a manicure or pedicure? In addition, do you know that **Salon Canova** sells Indigo Wild organic products now (www.indigowild.com)? How about a basket of goodies from **Pitaland**? A cookie tray from **Kribel's** or **Party Cake**? **Cannon Coffee** sells their specialty coffee by the pound. They also feature products from local artists. Have you seen **Rosemary Nulton's** jewelry? Surprise a kid with a **Las Palmas** piñata filled with small trinkets or candy, favorite cookies or a gift certificate to **Scoops**. Who said a piñata HAS to be for a birthday? Check out the **Geek-a-drome** for an older child.

This is the season of family. Brookline is a family, and you are an important member of this family. We want to see your face at the family table. Sounds a lot like what your mother said—right? And we all know Mom knew what she was talking about. Now get yourself to the table!



Moonlite Café

530 Brookline Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412-531-2811

Hours: Mon.— Thur. 11:00AM to 10:00PM
Fri. & Sat. 11:00AM to 11:00PM
Sun. 4:00PM to 9:00PM

Interviewing **Luciano DeFelice** and his wife **Toni**, owners of **Moonlite Café** was really difficult because my eyes kept straying to the daily special board - pork loin with mashed potatoes, penne with shrimp, hot bacon chicken salad, caramel apple walnut cake. Breakfast was less than an hour ago and my mouth was watering.

After talking to Louie and Toni, it's easy to understand why comments online describe their restaurant as a hidden gem. First, there's quality. Louie, who attended cooking school in Italy, does all of the preparation, and I do mean all. He comes in every morning and with an assistant prepares the sauces and soups for the day.

The daily specials are determined after he talks to his suppliers. There's always something on the special board that makes it hard for me to decide between a special or my favorite chicken romano. This entree easily feeds two people. I usually doggie bag half to slice over a salad the next day. Recently I tried the prime rib special which highlighted one of Louie's cooking credos—simplicity. The prime rib covered the dinner plate and was simply au jus. When the meat is this good, it can stand on its own. I almost made the mistake of ordering a baked potato instead of the featured side—beans and greens. Unlike some restaurants, **Moonlite Café's** beans and greens is not a soup. It's also a little spicy.

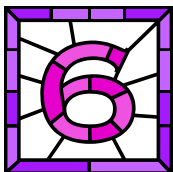
While Louie prepares the food that keeps the restaurant busy, **Toni DeFelice** handles the business end. Toni describes the restaurant as a family operating a business within the community family of Brookline where they reside as well. You can see their concern for the community reflected in the restaurant. One of the first morning chores is to not only sweep the sidewalk, but also to pick up the debris rather than sweeping it into the street. In the winter, this is one of the first sidewalks shoveled and salted. That concern extends to their employees too. There's very little staff turnover. In fact, some students have asked to keep a one night a week shift after they graduate. When the staff enjoys coming to work, they treat the customers well.

Consider **Moonlite Café** for your next special event too. The banquet room accommodates approximately 100. You already know the food will be excellent and reasonably priced. In the meantime, check out tonight's specials.

-**Pamela Grabowski**

-Photos by **Catia Alencar**





NEWSLETTER UPDATE

You will see some changes in the December issue. After talking to the printer and reviewing the bank balance, we have decided to go with changes that will extend the number of months we can put out a print edition. That six you see in the corner represents how long we can continue if we print in color.

We want to thank **Cannon Coffee** and **Kribel's Bakery** for their support. **Cannon Coffee** houses our donation box, and **Kribel's Bakery** created their own donation box for **The Brookline**. How nice was that? Any merchant can put out a donation box for **The Brookline**. We would appreciate the help. Just let us know you have a donation box, and **Rosemarie Traficante** will pick up the donations when she delivers the newsletters.



WHAT'S NEW ON THE BOULEVARD?

Brookline Produce has opened at 815 Brookline Boulevard. A bit of The Strip has come to the residents of Brookline. Besides produce **Brookline Produce** has Breadworks bread.

-Photo by *Michael Grabowski*

THE BROOKLINE PAST ISSUES

Clint Burton has archived past issues of **The Brookline** at www.brooklineconnection.com.

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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 or call 412-343-2859 for more information. We now have over 1,300 readers.

The Brookline by email is in FULL COLOR!

The Brookline is also available by mail. A one year subscription is \$15 with your \$10 membership to SPDC.

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.

Funding for newsletter by Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development

All ads purchased after July 1, 2010 will be a standard width of 3.75 inches. We charge by the height of the ad at \$12.00 per inch. This is an example of a one inch ad space.

Remember ad graphics and artwork are free! Call us to place your ad in **The Brookline**.

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

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SENATOR WAYNE FONTANA

Over the past few months, many of you have contacted me about the City of Pittsburgh’s proposal to lease its parking garages and related facilities and how that proposal ties into the pension system. There is a great deal of misinformation out there, including assertions that the state is forcing the city to pursue this option. That is simply not true, but in order to understand where we are – we have to also understand how we got to this point.

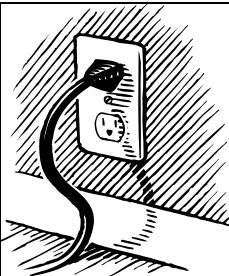
Today, Pittsburgh’s pension plan is the lowest funded pension plan in the country. Historically, Pittsburgh’s pension system has always had problems with full funding and previous attempts to address the unfunded liability have not worked. That being said, the PA Supreme Court has ruled that municipalities are liable for the promised pension payment to all retirees and all current employees. The pension fund covers not only cash benefits, but also contractual health benefits that retirees enjoy.

Knowing all of these things and recognizing that there were numerous municipalities throughout the Commonwealth which have severely distressed pension plans, in 2009 the General Assembly began work to provide comprehensive changes to municipal pension systems. Act 44 was passed to amend the state’s municipal pension recovery program with new actuarial tools to address severe market losses. The new system creates three levels of distress – minimal (70-89% funded); moderate (50-69% funded); and severe (less than 50% funded) – and provides remedies for each of those levels.

The legislation proposed that pension systems at the most severely distressed funding level, where Pittsburgh currently falls, would be administered by the PA Municipal Retirement System (PMRS). All new city employees would be put into a new pension plan within PMRS while current benefits would be frozen.

Mayor Ravenstahl lobbied the state to exclude Pittsburgh from an immediate takeover and negotiated a one-year time frame to be able to raise the city’s pension system to a level of 50% funding. He proposed selling or leasing the city’s parking assets to meet that commitment. In return, the state provided the city with additional tools – including the ability to continue to impose a 37.5% parking tax with a portion of the revenue (6.75% of the total) going directly to the pension system. If, as the Mayor proposed, the city leases or sells its parking facilities and deposits the net proceeds from that sale into its pension fund, the city can also impose an additional parking tax of 2.5%; again, with revenues going directly to the pension system. That one year expires on January 1, 2011.

The actions taken by my colleagues and I were intended to protect the benefits of thousands of current and future beneficiaries of the city’s pension system. Our goal was to put all of our pension plans on the right track by preserving the benefits that are in place now, properly funding the plans into perpetuity, and making them affordable for each municipality. Whether the city is able to meet its own deadline is still unknown. Regardless of the outcome and the city’s ultimate decision, the reforms we enacted protected beneficiaries, respected the value and needs of working people, and were appreciative of the budgetary constraints of struggling municipal budgets.



Many of us suffered losses during the April 21, 2010 power surge. Thanks to the efforts of **Bill Feinegle**, the PUC (Pennsylvania Utility Commission) has agreed to hold a hearing in Pittsburgh to review our complaints.

We need to hear from those who had damage, so we can compile a list to present at the hearing. Please contact **Mary Miller** 412-341-9103 or Bill 412-341-4207.

We are not giving up so please call ASAP. *-Mary Anne Miller*



Keystone Rehabilitation Systems
 968 Brookline Blvd
 Pittsburgh, PA 15226
 Phone: 412.563.1076
 Adrienne Zeiler, DPT

MENTORING PROGRAM

Strong Women, Strong Girls (SWSG) is a free mentoring program for girls in third, fourth and fifth grade. The program brings volunteer college women as mentors to the girls once a week for ninety minutes in Brookline (from 4:00 - 5:30pm) and Carrick (3:00 - 4:30pm) every Thursday in November. The girls will learn about other strong women through the reading of a biography, increase their self-esteem and develop their skills through interactive activities. To register your daughter, niece or granddaughter, please stop by the Carnegie Library in Carrick or **Carnegie Library** in Brookline or contact **Mila Yochum** at 412-736-4050 or myochum@swsg.org.

-Natalia Rudiak’s Office



Your \$10 annual membership in **SPDC** supports

projects like Jacob-Whited, DogiPots and **The Brookline**. Join today. See page two for mailing address.



JOANNE'S CORNER

Things that aren't here anymore - Part 21

Thanksgiving is approaching and I guess I'll soon be shopping for our frozen Butterball turkey. I remember back in the 40s it was done a lot differently. I would go with my parents to the home of **Flom and Joe Vichi** on Fiat Street, parents of **Larry Vichi** who owns **Larry's Roadhouse** on Whited Street and the late **John Vichi**. The one thing I remember is this [Larry and Flom Vichi] was where we got our turkey.

I don't know who readied it for the roaster. I assume **Flom Vichi**. At that time this wasn't really a farm area, but there were only two houses on the street. No Lynnbrook Avenue extension. I guess they were the good old days, but it's sure easier getting that bird ready for dinner today.

-Joanne Fantoni

Question of the Month: Who remembers what business was in the basement of **Smith Realty** accessed by the alley/steps between the bank and **Smith Realty**?

Last Month's Memory Teaser

Question of the Month: Does anyone remember what night was family night at the **Boulevard Theatre** and the cost per family in the 1940s?

Answer: Monday was family night and the whole family got in for 50 cents.

READERS' RESPONSE

Picked up a copy of **The Brookline** at the 50's picnic yesterday. Really enjoyed reading about the old neighborhood.

I commend you on this endeavor. It was very informative and interesting! Thanks for all your efforts. Too bad I didn't know you were editor until I came home from the picnic. I did see you walking through the crowd on Sunday.

-Claudia Stehle, SC

I am looking for pictures or other information about "Brookline Original Pizza." This was a pizza shop which existed around 1965 across the Blvd from **Newsys**. Also, does any one remember the soft ice cream shop down from **DeBor**?

-Email from our reader *domcom04*

SAFE WALKING

We want to thank **Pittsburgh Police Commander Scott Schubert** for emailing these tips for safe walking.

Safe Walking Rules (Compiled by the Mt. Lebanon Police Department)

1. Never step into the street from between parked cars
2. Watch for turning cars
3. Look all ways before crossing
4. Obey traffic signals
5. Walk! Don't run! Allow yourself plenty of time. (The average child crosses a street at the rate of three feet per second)
6. Cross only at corners
7. Face traffic when walking on streets without sidewalks
8. Be extra alert on snow and rain days
9. Go directly to and from school
10. Have a partner to walk with if possible

In the event a student is approached by a stranger when walking they should do the following:

1. Do not approach the car
2. Immediately run to a safe place
3. Inform parent or adult of the incident
4. Contact the police
5. Try to give a good description of the individual and the vehicle



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COUNCILWOMAN NATALIA RUDIAK

Just a few weeks ago I released the final report of the City Council Task Force on Emergency Operations and Snow Preparedness, the "Snow Task Force," and issued a set of recommendations to better respond to future snowstorms. The recommendations range far and wide, from investing more in our Public Works department and implementing a city-wide snow route system, to creating better emergency contracting procedures and communicating emergency information to the public more effectively.

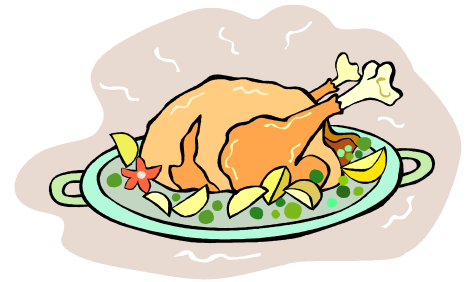
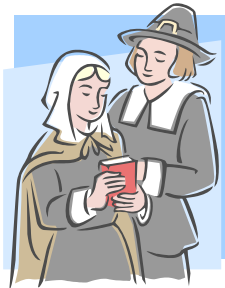
To view a copy of the final report and all of the recommendations, click over to snowtaskforce.pittsburghpa.gov or contact my office at (412) 255-2131.

There are important things you can do this winter that can help prepare for another big storm. First, always make sure that your prescription medications are up to date and that you have contact information for all of your doctors. If you see a forecast for heavy snowfall, don't forget to stock up on a few days worth of groceries, especially bottled water, infant formula, diapers, and even food for your pets. Make sure that you have a battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries available at all times. Also, you may want to consider speaking with your neighbors about putting together a plan to make sure sidewalks in the care of disabled individuals and/or senior citizens are shoveled in a timely manner. More information on preparing a home emergency kit can be found at the Department of Homeland Security web site, <http://www.ready.gov>.

Finally, while the report is a serious effort to reform our

city's emergency management efforts, it is important to note that these recommendations are just that—recommendations. The report is in the Mayor's hands, and it is my hope that the recommendations will be taken seriously and implemented before the snow starts falling this winter.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact my office with this or any other issue at (412) 255-2131.



WHY SHOP BROOKLINE? SHOPPERS BE AWARE OF THE IMPACT OF YOUR SPENDING DOLLARS.

Shopping at your locally owned independent business brings back more dollars to the community. Local independent businesses and the Chamber of Commerce support your baseball, football and other sport leagues, Churches, Halloween Parade, Breeze Run, and school programs. The Brookline businesses add to the character of Brookline contributing more than just goods and services. They offer personalized attention and bring life to the Boulevard. Each time you choose to spend your dollars at a local business you are saying "Yes" for the continued strength and vitality of our community.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHELSA WAGNER

The LIHEAP Cash program, which provides grants to low-income individuals and families to heat their home, opened for applications November 1. Grants range from \$200 to \$1,000 and are based on household size, income, and main source of heat. You need not have an unpaid bill to receive home heating energy assistance, and you can receive this money without being in the Cash Assistance program.

Annual income limits for eligibility are \$16,245 for an individual, plus \$5,610 for each additional member of the household.

The fastest way to apply for a LIHEAP Cash grant (and to check the status of your application) is to apply at www.compass.state.pa.us. You may also contact the Allegheny County Assistance Office at 412-565-2146. To apply, you will need names of people in your household, dates of birth for all household members, Social Security Numbers for all household members, proof of income for all household members, and a recent heating bill.

Additional money may be available if you have an emergency situation and are in jeopardy of losing your heat. Emergency situations include:

- Broken heating equipment or leaking lines that must be fixed or replaced
- Lack of fuel
- Termination of utility service
- Danger of being without fuel or of having utility service terminated

Assistance with home heating crisis situations is available 24 hours a day by contacting the Allegheny County Department of Human Services at 1-800-851-3838.

I encourage all of my constituents who may find these programs of assistance to apply and to contact my office at (412) 343-2094 with any problems or concerns with accessing these or other services.

NOVEMBER AT THE LIBRARY

For Children:

Storytimes

Baby/Toddler: Stories, songs, rhymes and fingerplays. For children birth through age 3 with a parent or caregiver.

Thursdays, November 4, 11 & 18 at 11:00AM

Preschool: Stories, songs, games and a craft. For children ages 3-5 with parent or caregiver. Thursdays, November 4, 11 & 18 at 12:30PM

For Adults:

Tuesdays at 2:00PM – No Registration Required

November 2 Knit Knack

Join other knitters for conversation and inspiration. Experienced knitters will be on hand if you find yourself in a stitch.

November 9 Game Time

Challenge a friend to beat you at one of our classic board games. Bring your own friend or find a new one at the library.

November 16 Craft n' Chat

Work on your latest project in the company of other crafters. All types of crafts and crafters are welcome.

November 23 & 30 Moving Pictures

Check out new and classic films on the library's big screen TV. Bring your own snack and beverage.



Monday Evening Book Discussion – Monday, November 15 at 6:00 PM – Reading *A Redbird Christmas* by Fannie Flagg.

Wednesday Afternoon Book Discussion – Wednesday, November 10 at 1:00 PM – The group will discuss poetry.

Bring your favorite poem or poems to share with the group.

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



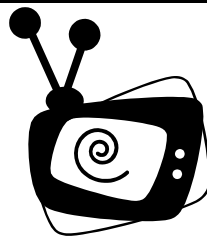
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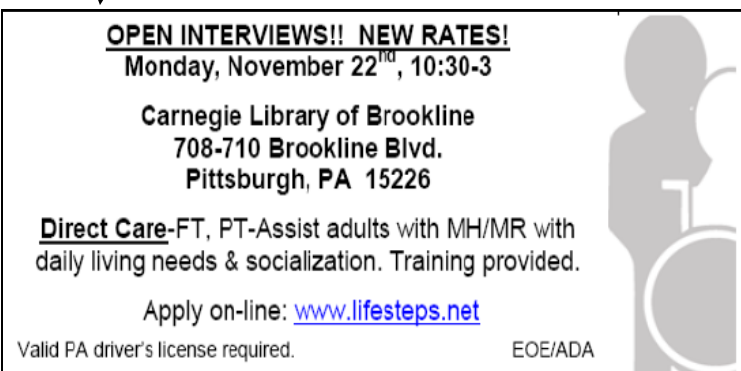
As many of you know, WQED is preparing a special presentation on Brookline. Tonia Caruso has been working

on the project for two months now, and we finally have an airdate.

The program is called Experience, and the episode is entitled "Have You Been to Brookline?" It will air on Monday, November 15 at 7:30pm on WQED. It is a half-hour special.

Please spread the word to as many people as you can. I know you all have access to many email addresses of our friends and neighbors who might be interested in seeing the show.

-Clint Burton



OPEN INTERVIEWS!! NEW RATES!
Monday, November 22nd, 10:30-3

Carnegie Library of Brookline
708-710 Brookline Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15226

Direct Care-FT, PT-Assist adults with MH/MR with daily living needs & socialization. Training provided.

Apply on-line: www.lifesteps.net

Valid PA driver's license required. EOE/ADA.

THIS MONTH

November 6 Saturday

Seton - La Salle High School Craft Show/Health Fair

10:00AM to 4:00PM at **Seton LaSalle High School**, first floor. Various hand-made crafts and free health screenings along with a Chinese Auction, food and 50/50 raffle. Any questions call Kim at 412-562-4441 or 412-343-7388.

November 7 Sunday

Pancake Breakfast 9:00AM to 1:00PM in Fr. Quinn Hall at **Resurrection Church**. The Parents of Cub Scout Pack 601 will be holding a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser including a Chinese Auction. \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids ages 3-10 and free for under 3 years old. The price includes pancakes, sausage, coffee and drinks for the kids. All proceeds will directly benefit the Cub Scouts.

November 8 Monday

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

November 9 Tuesday

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

November 15 Monday

"Have You Been to Brookline?" 7:30PM airing on the show Experience on WQED.

November 15 Monday

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

November 29 Monday

Brookline Area Community Council 7:30PM at St. Mark's Church corner of Brookline Blvd. & Glenarm Ave. Topic: Holiday Kick-Off



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



Brookline Farmers' Market
Seton Center Parking Lot 1900 Pioneer Avenue
Every Wednesday 11:00AM—6:00PM

BROOKLINE RECREATION CENTER

412-571-3222

Due to the condition of the building, these classes are now taking place at Moore Park but will move back to Brookline Park in November when construction is completed.

YOUTH PROGRAM

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

ADULT PROGRAMS:

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!

FALL/WINTER INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE Boys and girls ages 4-6 as of November 30. Games will be held on Saturdays from mid-November through February. Cost: \$20 per player. Registration form required.



Talk to TIM
Your Brookline Realtor

Happy Thanksgiving!

Tim Reitmeyer

412-833-3600

412-343-5372

treitmeyer@howardhanna.com



South Hills and City of Pittsburgh specialist

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.
- **DOGIPOT MAINTENANCE** call 412-343-2859
- **MEALS ON WHEELS** sponsored by **St. Mark's Lutheran Church** call 412-343-8144
- **MEALS ON WHEELS** sponsored by **Lutheran Service Society** call 412-366-9490
- **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**

A pessimist, they say, sees a glass of water as being half empty; an optimist sees the same glass as half full. But a giving person sees a glass of water and starts looking for someone who might be thirsty. - G. Thomas Gale



The family of **Officer Stephen J. Mayhle** at the dedication of the field at **Brookline Memorial Park**.

-Photo by **Bob Beiler**

Have you scheduled a massage at **Lovely Hands** yet? The price of a massage is about the same as the specialist co-pay on many health insurance plans.

-Photo by **Pamela Grabowski**



NIGHT AT THE RACES



SPDC held a successful fundraiser. Good food came from **The Getaway**. Clockwise from top left corner: **Kevin O'Toole** contemplating his next bet; placing bets; the baskets of cheer; **Race Night, Inc.** announcer; **SPDC President Jeremiah Dugan** selling chances for the baskets of cheer; **SPDC Vice President Keith Knecht** and **Lynn Knecht**; more bets; **Bob Beiler** or **Iron Chef Bobbo**.

-Photos by **Lois McCafferty**

