

Letter from the Editor



Finally! It's March. We were getting worried that we wouldn't make it this year! This was a long winter. It started early in December and never let up. In order to get this newsletter to you by the first of the month, we have to finish it midway through the previous month. We are writing this on February 13. The sun is shining and the thermometer is reading 49 degrees. We took a walk today. For the first time in months, we were able to look around the Boulevard and notice some new stores. Usually we look like turtles scrunching our heads down into our mufflers and hunching up our shoulders to avoid the cold.

The commercial Boulevard runs from West Liberty Avenue to **Brookline Recreation Center**, but often we concentrate on the portion from Pioneer Avenue to Stebbins Avenue. In upcoming issues, we are going to introduce you to some of the merchants beyond Stebbins. There's quite a bit going on down there. The Mazza Pavillion is moving right along. It looks like we might be getting a thrift shop on the Boulevard, and we love thrift shops. They are great places to browse.

Now that spring is knocking at the door, it's time to get up and out. Start walking the Boulevard again if you took a winter break. If you've been walking, then get your head out of your muffler. Check out the new stores. Consider some of the volunteer opportunities. **Meals on Wheels** has been operating for seniors by seniors. They need some young people to step up, and by young we mean under 60! Many of the volunteers in this organization are in their 70s and 80s. **Cannon Coffee** is now serving a savory torta for lunch, and **Pitaland** now carries Porzios pierogies. That's just what we discovered on today's walk!



FOX'S PIZZA DEN

902 Brookline Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412-561-3697

Hours: Open 7 Days a Week
11:00AM to 9:00PM
Dine In - Pick Up - Delivery

We all have our favorite pizza place. It's a 'Burgh thing. While loyalty is good, it's also good to try something new occasionally. Do yourself a favor and try **Fox's Pizza**. While Fox's has been on the Boulevard for some time, it is now under new ownership. Wouldn't you know that ownership has a Brookline connection! **Richard Petro** is married to **Sally Reisacher Petro**. That's right. Sally's grandparents owned **Reisacher's Meat Market**.

Richard bought Fox's in April 2010, and he has been trying to find the key to the Brookline pizza lover's heart. Not an easy task when everyone has a pizza bias. Richard uses fresh dough for his pizza, not frozen shells. Frozen shells are used exclusively for wedgies, "The Big One," a 52-cut pizza that you have to order a day in advance, and flatbread pizza. Fox's is the only local shop with this pizza. For those who remember the old Vermont Flatbread Pizza Company in the Strip District, this is a treat. Your favorite toppings are baked on a crisp crust rather than a doughy crust. It's pizza-lite. A salad and flatbread is an easy meal to share.

If you love garlic as much as I do, I recommend the white pizza. It has a nice garlic bite and features fresh tomatoes, too. The white pizza is one of eleven gourmet pizzas on the menu. In addition to the pizza choices, there are wedgies, hoagies, pasta, wings, salads and stromboli. A stromboli is like a Hot Pocket® made fresh, a pizza to eat on the run. Richard is considering a pulled pork pizza for a Father's Day special, and I've already marked my calendar for that one.

Fox's features booth seating, free WiFi and a flat screen TV so you won't miss those important games. Richard has created a comfortable local pizza restaurant for families. "My wife and her family were here for Brookline's glory years, and I want to be part of the comeback." Now he wants to know how to convince you to stop by, and we can't figure out why you haven't stopped yet.



-Pamela Grabowski with photos by Catia Alencar



NEWSLETTER SUSTAINING FRIENDS

If you are a merchant who would like a donation box, either call us at 412-343-2859 or ask Rosemarie when she delivers your next month's newsletters. We will happily provide a donation box and make monthly collections. Become a sustaining friend of **The Brookline**.

Donations thru January 2011:
Cannon Coffee - \$ 91.25
Kribel's Bakery - \$186.45

Request a box and add your name to the list. Or send a donation to the address below, and we will list your name.



Brookline Year Round Farm Stand
 Seton Center 1900 Pioneer Ave
Every Wednesday
11:00AM—6:00PM

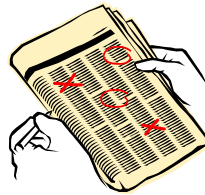


WE PRINT CLASSIFIED ADS

Ad copy must be RECEIVED by the 12th of the month BEFORE publication. For the April issue we must have the information by March 12. Price will be \$4.00 per month. Payment required before publication. You can submit by snail mail, phone or email. See sample ad below
Snail Mail: The Brookline, PO Box 96136, Pittsburgh, PA 15226
Phone: 412-343-2859
Email: mnp.grabowski@verizon.net

SAMPLE AD

SAMPLE of a \$4 Ad - Item for sale. Apt for rent. House for sale. Lost pet. Put your ad in **The Brookline**.



There Is Never Any Reason To Settle For Inferior Funeral Service

Complete Traditional Funeral Packages Including Casket Starting At \$3,995.00



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 NOW WITH EXPANDED PARKING
 1065 Brookline Boulevard
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THE BROOKLINE PAST ISSUES

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

CONTACT THE BROOKLINE

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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** , PO Box 96136, Pittsburgh, PA 15226.



Your \$10 annual membership in **SPDC** supports projects like Jacob-Whited, DogiPots and **The Brookline**. Join today. See mailing address below.

We want to hear from you. Send your questions or comments by email, phone or mail. April issue's deadline is March 12. May issue's deadline is April 12.

*****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.

Standard ads are a 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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IT'S THE SEASON. PLEASE CLEAN YOUR SIDE-WALK!

CALL 311 TO REPORT THE LOCATION OF SIDEWALKS NOT SHOVELED.

Seniors who need help shoveling can contact the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Southwestern PA at 412-345-7420 or email them at IVC@fswp.org. We want to thank Jan Beiler who found this information on Natalia Rudiak's



Facebook Page. **CUT THIS OUT FOR NEXT WINTER!**



As of Jan 21, 2011 Pittsburgh residents can get a 19% price cut on their Duquesne Light bills at home. Everyone who has Duquesne Light at their home or apartment can now save 19% on their electric bill.



Visit this web site and get a price of 7.17 instead of 8.89 that the utility is charging residential customers.

www.chrislynnenergy.com

WINTER 2011

The January 2011 weather bomb was followed by an ice storm, six more inches of snow, and then we entered the deep freeze. All this BEFORE January departed. February arrived with the threat of another ice storm that fortunately never materialized.

Punxsutawney Phil announced an early spring, but frankly we think he was coerced. February 2 was bright and sunny. There was no way Phil could have missed his shadow that morning! We suspect his handlers knew that Phil wouldn't be safe in his burrow if he even hinted at another six weeks of winter.



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



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Your Brookline Realtor

My experience will be your luck!

Tim Reitmeyer

412-833-3600
412-343-5372

reitmeyer@howardhanna.com



South Hills and City of Pittsburgh specialist

JOANNE'S CORNER

Things that aren't here anymore - Part 24

This month I am going to open the column up to our readers. There must be some stories that I have not even touched on. Some old timer who have been in Brookline longer than me (1943) share your memories with us while they are still fresh. I was thinking about **Amel's** on McNeilly Road. They must be here at least 60 years. Anybody have any tales about them?

You know our Brookline 50s Picnic attendees have had more members pass this year than in our history. Age 76 seems to be a big bump in the road to get over.

Let me hear from you. Mail your stories to our post office box or send them by email. They'll get to me.

-Joanne Fantoni

Send your stories for Joanne to:

Mail: **The Brookline**

P.O. Box 96136,

Pittsburgh, PA 15226

Attn: Joanne

Email: mnp.grabowski@verizon.net Put **The Brookline** in the subject line

Question of the Month: We have a new fruit market on the Boulevard. Tell me the names and where the other were over the past years?

Answer to Last Month's Question: What were the names of the waitresses and bartenders at **Joe's Tavern**?

Ann Balk, Toni, Betty Gorski McDonough, Maxie Al-masy, and Gil McDonough

READERS' RESPONSE

Nan Threnhauser worked at Joe's Tavern for 25 years. -
*a man called **The Brookline***



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\$89.00 Complete pair

S.V. or Bifocals lenses/frame

\$ 140.00 Complete pair

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(select frames and progressive lens. No other disc. or ins)

WITH THIS AD COUPON

Brookline Real Estate Update

As a lifelong resident of Brookline and a Realtor for 18 years, people often ask me, "Tim, what's going on with Brookline Real Estate?" Let me take this opportunity to bring you up-to-date. According to the West Penn Multi-list, Brookline had 155 single-family home sales in 2010 as compared to 190 in 2009. The average sale price last year was roughly \$78,000, very comparable to 2009. I interpret this as Brookline suffered the same housing slow down as most of the country, but remained stable in pricing while other markets had downturns.

This was generally true for the entire Pittsburgh market; however, Brookline has benefits over most other city neighborhoods. Number 1 is affordability. Brookline is the city's gem of the South Hills, and when compared to neighborhoods like Squirrel Hill, Shadyside, and Greentree City, our pricing is fantastic for homes of similar age and size. Secondly, Brookline has both an active business district and great community services. Very few city neighborhoods have a walkable business district or the many community programs for all ages. Brookline has both! Number 3 is location. Brookline is convenient to downtown, as well as the Parkway West and the south and west suburbs. In addition, our local public schools, **West Liberty K-5** and **South Brook Middle** on the campus near **Moore Park**, and **Brookline K-8**, all out-perform the average **Pittsburgh Public School**. I could go on and on about the benefits of Brookline.

However, as circumstances change, you may be thinking about selling your home. Follow these tips to get the best price for your home. First impression is very important, and this begins with curb appeal. A few plants or flowers go a long way. A trimmed, uncluttered yard invites the buyer in. Once inside, the home must be clean and fresh. A little paint, shampooed carpets, sparkling kitchens and baths, and uncluttered living spaces make a huge difference. The shag carpet from the 60's has to go! Finally, pricing is the key. Sellers should understand the local inventory of homes and current market conditions, then price accordingly.

Interest rates continue to be at historic lows. With the economy beginning to move ahead, we in the real estate industry feel that 2011 will see a recovering housing market as well. If you would like to talk further about the Brookline Real Estate market, please give me a call.

-Tim Reitmeyer

Howard Hanna Real Estate

[See Tim's ad on page 3]

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411on412.com



Have you ever wondered what a Segway tour was about? Or, what is disc golf? Brookline resident **Carlo Priore** created his website <http://www.411on412.com> to answer those queries and more.

Carlo's idea started as a result of his day, or rather, night job. He owns **3 Rivers Cleaning**, a commercial cleaning company. He works at night. That left little time to spend with his family. Carlo and his wife Melissa, would plan weekend adventures in and around the city using

Entertainment Book® coupons. With the help of coupons and a little preplanning, a weekend tour that might have cost \$225 was whittled down to around \$80.

While the book might have a coupon for a particular activity, there were always questions. Is it suitable for our family? Would young children enjoy the activity? Would girls and boys enjoy the activity? Carlo realized that if he had these questions, other people probably did too. He thought that divorced fathers who had their children on the weekends would find the information especially useful. And thus, a website was born in March 2010.

He used his promotion and marketing background from a previous job on B94 radio to create his cleverly named site to provide information for businesses in our area. The site has short video clips featuring Carlo at different venues. Videos include Segway in Paradise, Schenley Park Disc Golf, 10 Hour Pontoon Rental as well as videos on restaurants and party entertainment.



While Carlo is featured in the videos, it's his friend **Jim Waskowiak** of jimwizard.com who brings the site alive with graphics and videos. Jim and Carlo are constantly working on new videos to add to the site. Their present goal is to have about fifty different videos.

Check out both of these websites. In addition, keep your eye out for a local reality show Jim is creating called Wizard's Workshop that he hopes to bring to The Discovery Network. You can find Carlo on the Boulevard or at neighborhood community meetings and events. Melissa says he's easy to spot. Carlo is the one wearing shorts even in the dead of winter!

-Pamela Grabowski

Carlo Priore on the left and **Jim Waskowiak** on the right. Photo from *Jim Waskowiak*



SENATOR WAYNE FONTANA

A few months ago, I shared that a "Job Corner" had been launched at my Brookline Office. The display in the front window of the office has frequent visitors and provides information on job postings and openings. Even more people have stopped in to get a list to take home with them.

I have frequent conversations with local companies about their employment needs. Just this past week, I had the opportunity to tour Quest Diagnostics' laboratory in Green Tree. This full-service regional laboratory provides clinical testing, early detection tools, pain management testing and also provides patient services units throughout Southwestern PA to make lab testing convenient for the patient. There are 1,507 current employees at the facility and it was named as one of the "Best Places to Work" in 2010.

Quest Diagnostics is just one of the many businesses in our region that is continuing to grow. In an economy that is still struggling to recover, nearly 50 available positions are listed on their website and they are looking to hold a job fair in the near future to try to address those needs. The health care industry is just one field in which growth continues and demand remains. As Democratic Chair of the Community, Recreational & Economic Development Committee, I remain focused upon supporting our region's and our Commonwealth's economy, creating jobs and continuing to improve our communities by working together with the many companies that already call the Pittsburgh area home. Won't you join me?

If you are looking for a job, please stop by the office to see the postings and check back, as they are updated as information is received. As opportunity permits, I'll also provide information to you regarding such opportunities through this newsletter and other means. As always, I look forward to working together with you on this and other issues that are of interest and importance to you.



REPRESENTATIVE CHELSA WAGNER

As most public transit riders are aware by now, the Port Authority will implement another round of bus service reductions on March 27. From what I have been told by PAT, the additional morning and evening trips I worked to see added to the 41D (to be renamed the 39 in March) last November will not be affected. Despite some rumors, inbound routing to Downtown will not be changed.

Unfortunately, Sunday service on the 39 will be eliminated, along with service to Ebenshire Village on all days. While it concerns me that some of my constituents will be negatively affected by these changes and I have expressed my concerns to PAT, neighborhoods all over Allegheny County are experiencing similar or greater cuts.

For those finding themselves in need of transportation due to these cuts, special programs are available for senior citizens, disabled individuals, and those receiving Medical Assistance. Please contact my office at (412) 343-2094 for more information about any of these programs.

I am aware that there are many questions as to why the PAT board chose to reduce service when \$45 million in emergency funding for the Authority was approved last December. While PAT could have chosen to maintain current service until July using these funds, the Authority claims that a devastating 50 percent cut would then have been necessary unless a funding solution were to be approved at the state level before this time. The 15 percent cut in March should allow this level of service to be maintained until July 2012, according to PAT.

While opinions differ on which choice is preferable, my view from Harrisburg is that it is difficult to envision a legislative solution in the near future. While I and many other legislators are fully aware of the value of public transit to our constituents and communities and advocate full funding, we have received no indication from our new governor or legislative leadership that this is a priority for them.

Despite the challenges, I am committed to continuing to advocate for a funding solution as soon as possible and to see transit service restored and expanded. I also believe strongly that PAT must reform its governance to restore the confidence of county residents and state officials. I am reintroducing legislation that would provide PAT board appointments to the governor, legislative leaders, and the City of Pittsburgh. Currently, all board appointments are made by the County Executive. The lack of a diversity of viewpoints on the board has been cited as a deficiency within PAT by multiple independent analyses, and I believe my proposal is essential to addressing this problem.



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THE START OF SPRING ON

SATURDAY

MARCH 19, 2011

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736 BROOKLINE BLVD.

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THIS MONTH

March 8 Tuesday

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

March 14 Monday

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

March 19 Saturday

Spring Fling 11:00AM to 2:00PM at Magistrate Jim Motznic's office 736 Brookline Blvd.

March 21 Monday

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

March 28 Monday

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



WEDNESDAYS
Open Mic Series Cannon Coffee
802 Brookline Blvd. 8:00PM to 10:00PM



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.

BROOKLINE RECREATION CENTER

- Boxing is back in Brookline Wednesdays 6:00PM to 8:00PM for ages 8 to adult.
- Breakfast with the Easter Bunny for families with children ages 7 and under. April 16 11:00AM. We request registration if able.
- Art class - Saturdays 11:00AM to 1:00PM for ages 12 through adult. Cost is \$3 plus materials.
- Kick ball for ages 4 through 9 - games to be played Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:30PM to 6:00PM. Cost will be \$10, and each child will receive a T-shirt.
- Spring Clean Up - Saturday April 23 starting at 9:00AM. We will be cleaning up Moore and Brookline Parks, all children and adults are encouraged to participate. All volunteers will end the day with a pizza party at Brookline Recreation Center. This is a great time for you to earn volunteer hours.
- Adult Craft Classes- Monday 1:00PM to 2:30PM and in the evening 7:00PM to 8:30PM.
- Yoga Class - Tuesday 6:15PM to 7:30PM - cost is \$50 for 6 weeks
- Body Sculpting Class Monday & Thursday 6:15PM to 7:30PM. Cost is \$30 for 5 weeks.
- Fitness Challenge - Thursdays 7:00PM to 8:00PM - We'll help you get ready to join us in the Brookline Breeze. This is a free program.
- Martial Arts - Mondays 6:00PM-8:45PM for ages 10 to adult. Learn Tae Kwon Do fundamentals with a trained instructor. Cost is \$15 a year.

Call the center for more information 412-571-3222.



ARRIVES
MARCH 20



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 Ron at 412-527-4354
- **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**

"It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference."

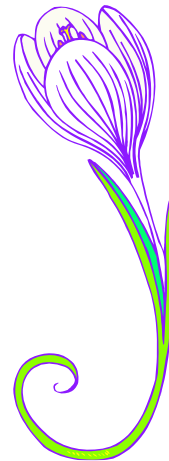

-Tom Brokaw

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Pittsburgh residents can
get a 19% price cut on
their Duquesne Light bills at home.
Everyone who has Duquesne Light at
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**Visit this web site and get a price of
7.17 instead of 8.89 that the utility is
charging residential customers.**

www.chrislynnenergy.com

**I will
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Keystone Rehabilitation Systems
968 Brookline Blvd
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Phone: 412.563.1076
Adrienne Zeiler, DPT

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As we rode by **Cuts & Styles** one Friday evening, we saw a group of people sitting around this table talking while **Linda Mierzwa** was working on a customer. Everyone was smiling and clearly enjoying themselves. Were you there?

Photo by *Catia Alencar*



**Mark your calendar for
APRIL 16**

The annual Earth Day event is expanding! A master gardener from Phipps Conservatory will be doing a demonstration on container gardening. Tree Vitalize will be there. And there will be a seed planting demonstration for kids. The demonstrations will happen after the clean-up. So even if you can't help with the clean-up, plan to come up to the Boulevard to attend the demonstrations.




P O Box 9610, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15226 412-563-0759

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IN

BROOKLINE

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE START OF
SPRING

ON

SATURDAY

MARCH 19, 2011

AT

THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE
736 BROOKLINE BLVD.

11:00AM UNTIL 2:00 PM



FREE
COOKIES
COFFEE
TEA
AND



THE TRADITIONAL FLOWER SEEDS

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