

Letter from the Editor

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

If not me, who? You often hear this from emergency workers when they are asked why they risk their lives for complete strangers. The tenth anniversary of 9/11 revived the question and got us to thinking. Here are people, members of the human community, willing to risk their lives for other people.

In our community there are those who posit the same question. They are not at risk of losing their lives, only a few hours. If not me, who will volunteer at the food pantry? If not me, who will help deliver Meals on Wheels? If not me, who will pick up the litter? If not me, who will push for the Boulevard redevelopment? If not me, who will contact various officials to demand that Brookline be treated fairly? If not me, who?

Let's face it folks, we are the 99% in Brookline. However, there is a 1% here, too. The 1% tosses the cigarette packs, beverage cans and bottles, and other assorted trash on our streets. They have little to no regard for the community. They scoff at the idea of helping others. We can't allow their voices, their actions to speak for our community.

We suggest making 2012 the year of the question. If not me, who? Then ask yourself one more. Am I part of Brookline's 99% or 1%? We wish all our readers a Prosperous and Happy New Year!

BROOKLINE DELI

908 Brookline Blvd. Pittsburgh, PA 15226

412-572-3182 or Facebook at BrooklineDeli

Monday - Friday 7:00AM to 2:00PM

Saturday 10:00AM to 5:00PM Sunday -Closed



How long has it been since you've had a good fried bologna (or jumbo if you're from ah rahnd here) sandwich? Well wait no more, the **Brookline Deli** is here.

Owners **Maria** and **Roy Baldinger** are working to create a classic style deli, with fresh lunchmeats, cheeses and made to order sandwiches. Breakfast, specialty sandwiches and soups are available all day long. Try the "Libby" - fried bologna, egg, grilled peppers and onions and American, or the "Gavin" - corned beef smoked provolone, and coleslaw on marble rye. Breakfast boasts a delicious vanilla French toast.

The deli, which just opened in October, will also offer convenience items like milk, bread, lottery tickets, magazines and more.

"We are a work in progress. We want to find out what the community wants and likes and be able to respond to that," **Maria Baldinger** said.

The entrepreneurial couple has worked in and around Brookline for the last six years with their commercial cleaning business, CA Cleaning, and love the hometown feel the neighborhood provides. They noticed an opportunity for a new business on Brookline Boulevard.

business on Brookline Boulevard.

"We love the people here. A lot have come to welcome us and that was a really nice way to get here. The people that come in are all welcoming to each other and want to talk to you. No one gets left alone here," **Roy Baldinger** chuckles.

With six children between them, Maria and Roy know a thing or two about organization and creativity.

"We don't sleep much," Maria jokes. "Actually, we have it down to a science. Right now our hours are shorter because of school. We hope to be open a little later come summertime. We try to get the kids involved in what we are doing too."

Pop into **Brookline Deli** and you may meet some of Maria and Roy's kids. Some help out keeping the place up, while the youngest one offers greetings to guests. But if you don't run into them, you'll find a sandwich with their name on it. All of the deli's specialty subs are named after one of the kids in the family. The "winner of the week", whose name has sold the most sandwiches, is then honored.

"We have a lot of ideas for this place. We look forward to coming here every day and we're having a lot of fun," Roy said.

A comfortable, family friendly atmosphere, with good food at a good price, we wish the **Brookline Deli** much success with their new adventure. Catering and fundraising opportunities are also available by calling the shop.


-Megan Stearman Photos by Catia Fath



SUSTAINING FRIENDS

Your donations keep us in print. Please continue to support us. We can provide a donation box and make monthly collections. Become a sustaining friend of **The Brookline**. We will thank you in the newsletter.

Donations thru November 2011:

- Cannon Coffee - \$102.52
- Kribel's Bakery - \$607.05 
- A Boss - \$44.02
- Hideaway Mini Mart - \$20.75

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

- Brookline Christian Food Bank 412-344-8451
- Carnegie Library 412-561-1003
- Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak 412-255-2142
- Dollar Energy/Columbia Gas Caps
- Processed at St. Marks - Cathy 412-343-9575
- Meals-on-Wheels 412-343-8144
- Mini-Bus 412-344-4222
- Representative Chelsa Wagner 412-343-2094
- Senator Wayne Fontana 412-344-2551

*****ADVERTISING RATES*****

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! Contact **Pamela Grabowski** 412-343-2859 or mnp.grabowski@verizon.net for more information.

*****CLASSIFIED ADS*****

Price is \$4 per month. Payment required before publication. You can submit by snail mail, phone or email. See sample ad below.

SAMPLE CLASSIFIED AD

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

Snail Mail: **The Brookline**,
PO Box 96136, Pittsburgh, PA 15226
Phone: 412-343-2859

**We have over
1,375 readers.**

THE BROOKLINE PAST ISSUES

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



*There Is Never Any Reason To Settle
For Inferior Funeral Service*

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



*The Finest In Funeral
Service And Facilities*

NOW WITH EXPANDED PARKING

1065 Brookline Boulevard
412-561-0380
www.deborfuneralhome.com

THE BROOKLINE

- The Brookline Staff**
Pamela Grabowski Editor
Jan Beiler Proofreader/Advertising
Amy Fisher Proofreader
Julie Salas Proofreader
Jennifer Askey Proofreader
Ryan Askey Proofreader
Catia Fath Photographer
Rosemarie Traficante Delivery
South Hills Printing - *The Brookline's official printer*



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

The Brookline by email is in **FULL COLOR!** **The Brookline** is also available by mail. A one year subscription is \$25 for non SPDC members & \$15 for members.

DEADLINES:
 January 12 for February's Issue
 February 12 for March's Issue

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.

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

Copyright 2008, South Pittsburgh Development Corporation - All Rights Reserved



COUNCILWOMAN NATALIA RUDIAK

Now that winter is here, it is important to plan ahead so you can keep your home warm throughout the season. If you haven't already had your furnace checked this year, you should do so soon. Maintaining your furnace properly, and changing the filters regularly, is the best way to make sure your home will be heated throughout the winter.

If you are having trouble paying your heating bill this winter, there are numerous resources available to assist so you can stay warm and avoid service interruptions.

One great program is LIHEAP—the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program—a program designed to help individuals pay their home heating bills during the long winter. To learn more about the program, call 1-866-8271281.

Dollar Energy provides assistance to those who need help paying their heating bills in the winter. They can be reached at (412) 431-2800, or you can visit their website at www.dollarenergy.com

Keystone Help provides low interest loans for heating equipment to struggling households. They can be reached by calling (888) 232-3477 or on the web at <http://www.keystonehelp.com/index.php>

Finally, your utility companies may also have a subsidized payment program for eligible customers, including maintenance support for elderly customers; call the customer service number on your most recent bill today to learn more.

Please don't go cold this winter! If you need assistance, don't hesitate to contact any of the programs above, and please don't hesitate to contact my office on this or any other issue at (412) 255-2131.



PARTY CAKE SHOP

E-Mail: partycake1@yahoo.com • www.partycakeshop.com

706 Brookline Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412-531-5322

297 Beverly Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15216
412-343-0101



A-Boss Opticians, Inc.

If we can't repair them..... no one can !
938 Brookline Blvd 412-561-0811

A-Boss repairs broken eyeglasses every day... glasses others consider not repairable. We take pride in our repair service with over 40 years of experience. All repairs and prices below are based on the wear and tear of the frame once inspected. Understand that our reason for repairs is to get you by till your next exam or purchase of new eyewear. Come to A-Boss, you'll see why so many people refer us regularly for expert repair services.

BROOKLINE BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Geometry and sidewalk improvements near **MJ Automotive** have been finalized.

Light pole locations have been finalized.

It has been determined which mast arms will be utilized to mount new light fixtures.

Meeting with Utilities has been done except for Equitable Gas. This still needs to be scheduled.

In progress:

Submission of Right-of-way plan to PennDot.

Scheduling of plan check with PennDot for right-of-way plan.

Approval for new traffic signal at Starkamp Street.

Schedule a meeting with Equitable Gas.

During construction, there will be access to all of the businesses on Brookline Boulevard, and there will be parking. Yes, you will still have to feed the meter.

There are NO insurance provisions for business loss because there will be access to all businesses.

You can see the progress yourself by visiting the website Pittsburghfederalprojects.com

-Lois McCafferty

[Editor's Note: Mark your calendar for the community meeting to be held in February or March 2012. This community has waited too long, and Lois has worked too hard to allow this project to fall by the wayside. Plan to attend and bring a neighbor. We need to show those in charge of this project that we are watching!]



REPRESENTATIVE CHELSA WAGNER

I am aware that there has been much discussion in the community—and a degree of confusion—about the process of state legislative redistricting currently taking place and what this means for Brookline. On December 12, the Redistricting Commission approved its final map of new state legislative districts for Pennsylvania, which is now subject to change only through potential challenges to the state Supreme Court.

Due to shifts in population around the state, Allegheny County will have one fewer legislative district beginning in January. I have strongly advocated the position since the beginning of discussions on this topic that District 22 is the wrong district to eliminate. Seven other districts in the county lost more population than District 22, and the 19th Ward of the City of Pittsburgh—the City’s second largest—makes up the bulk of our district. Under the state Constitution, city wards are to be split into multiple districts only when “absolutely necessary.”

However, a deeply flawed process has taken place that it appears will result in an unfair outcome for our neighborhood. Common sense, fairness, and the law have been disregarded by the Redistricting Commission tasked with drawing the new lines.

I testified before the Redistricting Commission at a hearing at Duquesne University in September, as did community members **Mary Jo O’Toole** and **Nathan Mallory**. We each spoke about the need to maintain unified and dedicated representation for Brookline and neighboring communities. I also strongly advocated this position in my own private discussions with Commission members and other legislative leaders.


Despite this advocacy, the preliminary redistricting plan approved by the Commission on a partisan 3-2 vote on October 31 made clear that our common sense position had been ignored. At another hearing in Harrisburg in November, I expressed to the Commission my severe disappointment with a map that fragments communities seeking to work together and move forward. While the Commission did make changes to the preliminary map, the treatment of our communities is still terribly unfair.

Under the approved plan, the 19th Ward would be split into three separate legislative districts, with Brookline itself split into two. Representation in Brookline would be as follows:

- Voters at **Seton Center, St. Pius X, Brookline Elementary, United Presbyterian Church, Resurrection School** (Precincts 27 and 30), **St. Mark’s Church** (Precinct 32), and **Our Lady of Loreto** (Precinct 34) to District 42 (Rep. Matt Smith).
- Voters at **Moore Park, Resurrection School** (Precinct 37), **St. Mark’s Church** (Precinct 31), and **Our Lady of Loreto** (Precinct 33) to District 36 (Rep. Harry Readshaw).

While potential court challenges could still force changes, it currently appears that the new districts will take effect sometime in January. Constituents should expect to receive communications from their new representative shortly thereafter.

While I have no doubt that the incoming representatives will be dedicated advocates for our community, it will be a challenge for our neighborhood to ensure that they are familiar with and engaged on our issues. I have already begun discussions to this end and will continue to do all I can to assist.



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



OPEN MIC SERIES
Cannon Coffee 802 Brookline Blvd.
Wednesdays 7:00PM to 10:00PM

OVER 100 YEARS QUALITY SERVICE

- Plumbing
- Heating
- Air Conditioning
- Water Heaters
- Sewer & Drain Cleaning
- Gas, Water & Sewer Lines
- Emergency Service Available
- Residential & Commercial
- Fully Insured
- Free Estimates



PA Reg. # PA009345
BROOKLINE PLUMBER
412-531-0183
 613 Brookline Blvd., Pittsburgh
 Registered Master Plumber # HP 1611




Talk to TIM
Your Brookline Realtor
Happy New Year!
New Home? I will be Happy to help!

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



South Hills and City of Pittsburgh specialist

JOANNE'S CORNER

Things that aren't here anymore - Part 34



We send get well wishes to Joanne Fantoni who is laid up with an ankle injury. We hope she'll be back in February. If you would like to send get well wishes to Joanne, use our address (see page 2), email or snail mail. Mark

it attention Joanne. We will forward them to her.

LAST MONTH'S QUESTION: Do you remember the well-known Brookline family who lived next to the **Parkside Grill**?

Answer: Castriota We heard from **Lou Dallas** who described himself as a 1950 Brookline boy. He knew the answer was **Castriota**.



**2012 YEAR
OF THE DRAGON
JANUARY 23**



- Sales
- Service
- Delivery



155 McNeilly Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15226

www.southhillsusedwashersanddryers.com

READER RESPONSE

Thank you very much for the nice mention in the "Brookline". I am proud to be a Brookliner. I have to mention, however that my dad's name was Fred. The article has his name as Bob. [Our apologies. The Editor]

Question answer: Of course it's almost cheating since they were my next-door neighbors... **The Castriotas**, Al, Babe and Tony along with their mother. Randy and his sister, Chris, Al's children, lived there for a while as well. We played together as kids.

Funny story. **Mrs. Castriota** came from the tiny town of Regina, Italy. My dad's mother also came from Regina, Italy. What are the odds of two people connected to a little town in Calabria ending up as next-door neighbors?

-Bob Daley

People born under the Dragon (1904, 1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988 and 2000) are passionate, brave and self-assured. At their best they are pioneering spirits; at their worst, they epitomize the old adage: Fools rush in where angels fear to tread. They are smart, enterprising and have a wicked sense of humor. They have a natural flair for fashion and are the people to consult if you want to catch up on the latest trends.

(From www.infoplease.com)

**Gary Henry
412-641-9605**



BEAUTY AND FASHION GLAM



Wow! Is it really 2012... Here we are into another year! This is a time to REJUVENATE, RE INVENT and EXPLORE a whole new you! Move forward with new fresh ideas. We should all value our time, our fashion, and ourselves! When you look to the New Year, open yourself up to new challenges and change. Give yourself the credit you deserve for all you have already accomplished, all the goals you have already met! Give yourself a pat on the back.

As you explore new adventures remember who you are where you are from and where you are headed...life is like a road map, we just need the right directions. Your past is what shapes you and makes you the person you are today. Just don't live in the past learn from it and move on. Value who you are now and continue to look at a brighter future!

So now it is time to bring on a NEW YOU! NEW YEAR! NEW YOU...all shapes and sizes, this is what makes the world go round. Curvy women... wear that silky blouse and let the beautiful fabric contour your curves! Fuller top...why not go strapless or a one shoulder shirt or dress? Platform heels to give you that height you have always wanted!

Get the volume... Do you wish you could get extra body at the top of your head? Well all you need to do is gently back comb small sections of your hair to create this volume. Use a teasing brush 4 to 5 strokes at the root, smooth over ends to soften the finished look.

Camouflage those tired eyes... Refresh your make up instantly, Fluhme concealer and padded brush will energize your eye area leaving you looking wide awake and ready to go. With a pop of champagne colored shadows you will have an instant eye opener.

Coming attractions... Latest trends in cuts and colors! Welcome back 50s and 60s inspired by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis this CLASSIC BOB is back on the radar, new and updated with full strong lines and lots of movement! Hair color 2012 ...it's all about the monochromatic tones with lots of shine and high gloss! Nails... continue down the path of feminine yet sporty with a retro feel and bright neon colors. Also look for corals, and yellow mustard tones!

Well do you like wash and wear hair then this is your year... WET LOOKS will be in spring 2012, so get ready for easy styling and less time in the morning to get styled! Stock up on sculpting gels, fixative and serums to create the perfect wet look.

Trend setter! That you are! Be playful, escape into soft neutrals and earthy tones...explore your vibrant wilder side, get your more creative edge! Re invent the new you... Try something off the wall, something you have been wanting. Be that trend setter!

SO COME ON ... It's a new year what do you have to lose? Be unique, and do what makes you happy this New Year. Each year you get to know yourself a little more, enjoy life and make this year better than the last.

EXPLORE! REFRESH! And RENEW for the New Year!! Happy 2012!

Until next time ...live your dreams!

Jacqueline Capatolla, Jacqueline's Salon

www.jacquelinesnews.com



 <p>Pleasant Hills 412-653-1717</p>	<p>Kribel's Bakery Inc. Specializing in Cakes for All Occasions Brookline 412-531-1942 Open 7 Days</p> <p>Great Southern Shopping Ctr. 412-220-9548</p> 	<p>MJ AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE CENTER LLC</p> <p>Excellence In Service, Our Motto Your Guarantee</p> <p>2600 Pioneer Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15226 (412) 531-9909</p>   <p>Approved Automotive Care</p> <p>10 YEARS IN BUSINESS!</p>
---	--	---

THIS MONTH

January 10 Tuesday

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

January 16

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



TRASH WALK
SUNDAYS AT 2:00PM AT CANNON COFFEE. ONE HOUR TRASH WALK FOLLOWED BY COFFEE AND CAMARADERIE. BRING GLOVES! WINTER WEATHER MAY FORCE US TO CANCEL UNTIL SPRING.

WHERE'S GEORGE?



People have been asking about **George Gilfoyle**, our "fire alarm inspector." Anybody have an update on George that we can share with our readers. Please contact us. George we miss you!



SNOW ANGELS

The Mayor's Snow Angel program connects volunteers with elderly and disabled people who need assistance with snow removal during the winter months. There are 7 applicants from Brookline that need to be matched up with volunteers. Please spread the word about the need for volunteers in our neighborhood. It would be greatly appreciated. The city is continually taking applications for those who need assistance with snow removal and those who volunteer to help. Go online at <http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/snowangels/> or call 311 for volunteer applications or to request an angel.

BROOKLINE RECREATION CENTER

Weight Room and Fitness Center

Our new FREE weight room and fitness center includes an assortment of weight-lifting and cardio workout equipment. Ages 16-up are welcome. 16-17 year olds must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Hours: Mon-Fri 1:15-8:45pm; Sat 10:15am-3:45pm. Registration Required.

Boxing Fundamentals

Wednesday nights from 6:00-8:00pm. All participants must supply their own hand wraps and work-out clothing. This program is affiliated with the Pittsburgh Boxing Club. If you wish to join the club for further training, the cost is \$50/year. Fee is paid to the club. Ages 8-up are welcome.

Futsal Fundamentals

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00-8:30pm. Futsal is a new and fast-growing variant of indoor soccer. Learn Futsal fundamentals with our trained instructor. Boys and Girls ages 7-18 welcome. FREE.

Yoga

Tuesdays from 6:15-7:30pm. Trained Instructor. Ongoing enrollment. Ages 18-over. Cost: \$50 per six-week session. Fee paid to instructor. Pro-rated for new enrollees.

Kindersports/Storytime

Wednesdays from 11:00-12:30pm. Ages 0-5 welcome. FREE.

Martial Arts

Mondays from 6:00-8:45pm. Boys and Girls ages 8-up. Learn Tae Kwon Do fundamentals. Trained Instructor. Cost: \$15/year.

Body Sculpting

Mondays and Thursdays from 6:15-7:30pm. Trained Instructor. Ongoing enrollment. Ages 18-over. Cost: \$30 per five-week session. Fee paid to the instructor. Pro-rated for new enrollees.

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



THE BROOKLINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SINCERELY THANKS ALL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES WHO DONATED TO KEEP THE LIGHTS BURNING BRIGHT DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASONS.

WISHING ALL HAPPINESS, GOOD HEALTH AND PROSPERITY IN THE NEW YEAR.



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

Sponsor of:

- Kennywood Picnic
- Halloween Parade
- Christmas Lighting
- Flag Program
- Little League Team

Co-Sponsor of Brookline Breeze Race and other community programs

Please Support Your Local Brookline Businesses

SOCIAL SECURITY HELPS THE HOMELESS

More than half a million Americans experience homelessness on any given night. Nearly 20 percent of them are “chronically homeless,” meaning they are on the streets regularly.

Social Security has several programs that pay benefits to qualified individuals, including those who are homeless. These programs include retirement, disability, and survivors benefits, as well as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which is a needs-based program for people who are blind, disabled, or age 65 or older. If you know someone who is homeless, and you want to learn more about how Social Security might help, a good place to get information is at www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness.

That page includes a link to the Spotlight on Homelessness - a website designed to help the homeless apply for SSI. It's available at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-homeless.htm.

The homelessness page also includes links to information on health care for the homeless, institutionalization, advocacy groups, reports on homeless outreach, and even links to other websites like the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and HUD.

You'll find other information helpful to the homeless on www.socialsecurity.gov. For example, there is a link to our Benefit Eligibility Screening Tool, or BEST. Based on answers to various questions, this tool helps determine the benefits someone might be eligible for and gives information about how to qualify and apply. Go directly to www.socialsecurity.gov/best.

Tell anyone you know who is homeless or threatened with homelessness to use the Benefit Eligibility Screening Tool and to check out the different types of benefits and assistance they may be eligible to receive. Spread the word about the help available to the homeless.

Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness to learn more.

-Patricia Thibault
Social Security District Manager



A big thank you to the Prayer Walk group from St. Mark's Lutheran Church including **Mercy Faust, Bea Allemang, Patty Levandowski and Kathy Rosengarth**. On December 3 they added litter red-d-up to their Prayer Walk. We thought the Boulevard looked remarkably clean when we did our Sunday Trash Walk on December 4. Now if we could only get more residents involved we could clean side streets!



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 Lisa at 412-343-1319
- **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**

“I was taught that the world had a lot of problems; that I could struggle and change them; that intellectual and material gifts brought the privilege and responsibility of sharing with others less fortunate; and that service is the rent each of us pays for living, the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time or after you have reached your personal goals.”

- Marian Wright Edelman
Founder of the Children's Defense Fund

BROOKLINE COMMUNITY EVACUATION CENTER

When disaster strikes, the American Red Cross is there to help. Whether it's a hurricane in Louisiana or a flood in Pittsburgh, Red Cross volunteers offer disaster victims help with their most essential needs such as food, clothing and shelter.

Now, the organization is asking the help of the local residents to increase the disaster preparedness of the communities within **The Brookline's** coverage area.

The American Red Cross Southwestern Pennsylvania Region has developed a cutting edge disaster response program – its Community Evacuation Center Teams – which increases disaster response capacity within specific communities. Now, the Red Cross is in the process of bringing this program to Brookline and the surrounding communities.

Community Evacuation Center Teams are composed of individuals from within specific communities who are trained by the Red Cross and equipped with the necessary equipment to open evacuation centers and emergency shelters when disasters strike. The result is a community that is able to help its own residents very quickly rather than waiting for relief to come from outside sources.

“The Red Cross will respond anytime we are needed, but when there are widespread disasters, our resources can be stretched thin,” said Victor Roosen, who manages the program at the local Red Cross. “If a disaster is really big or if there are environmental factors such as the massive snowfall we experienced a couple of years ago, it can take hours to get volunteers and resources from across the region and the country in place to open multiple evacuation centers.

“However, with our Community Evacuation Center Teams, we equip community groups with all the necessary sheltering equipment and then train them to operate Red Cross shelters. These teams become vital parts of the Red Cross, and the result is, during disasters, they are able to open evacuation centers directly in their own communities as soon as an emergency occurs. The response time can be just minutes.”

The Red Cross is recruiting members for Community Evacuation Center Team to serve Brookline.

“Anyone interested is welcome to contact me, but we have found that existing groups – such as men’s clubs, ladies auxiliaries, church groups and so on – make great Community Evacuation Center Teams,” said Roosen.

Those interested in becoming part of the team are invited to attend an informational meeting on January 17 at 7:00pm at the **Saint Mark’s Lutheran Church**, 933 Brookline Blvd. Those not able to attend the meeting are invited to contact Victor Roosen at 412-263-3144 or RoosenV@usa.redcross.org.

-Brian Knavish

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Remember **Sunny Farms**? It was a deli/restaurant. They had homemade meatloaf they would slice thin for sandwiches. That’s what we called lunchmeat. Now it’s **Tisha’s Sunny Farms** with great soups and breakfast. Stop in and see the “New” Sunny Farms.

Home Baked Hams — Any Amount — Any Time

A TREAT TO EAT
HOT
BAR-B-QUE CHICKEN
TO TAKE OUT

Sunny Farms Poultry & Eggs Are Better Because . . .
WE SELL ONLY THE BEST QUALITY
“DIRECT FROM FARM TO YOU”

Sunny Farms
Quality
FI-1 POULTRY · EGGS
9228 600 BROOKLINE Blvd. Will Axmacher, Owner
NEAR PIONEER



TASTEFULLY SIMPLE

The food you love, the time you deserve.
Mary Ann Grubb - Call 412-461-7561 or
www.tastefullysimple.com/web/mgrubb1

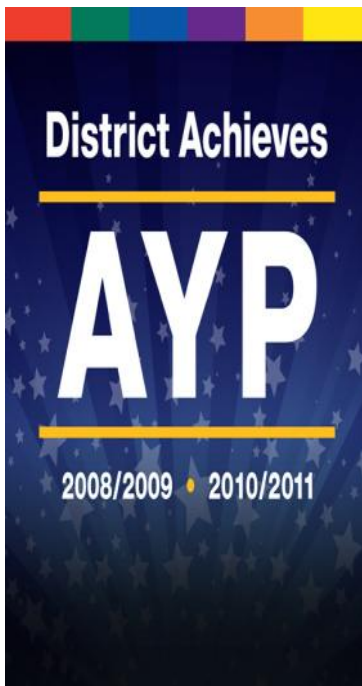


Faith. Academics. Service.

Catholic Schools

We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!
Brookline Regional Catholic School
Come celebrate Catholic Schools Week with us.
Visit us to see all that our students can do!
January 29 - February 5, 2012
412-563-0858

What's Going On At Pittsburgh West Liberty K-5?



2010-2011 Pennsylvania Target Benchmark: Reading 72%, Math 67% Proficient

Students at Pittsburgh West Liberty K-5 are achieving in Reading and Math!
Our fifth grade math scores are among the highest achievement scores in the entire district.

We are very proud of this achievement and this is a great reason to celebrate!

Instructional Focus

All students at Pittsburgh West Liberty K-5 will show measurable growth in comprehension through implementation of instructional strategies in all content areas as measured by state, district and grade level assessments.

- 76% of our students were Proficient or Advanced in Reading.
- 79% of our students were Proficient and Advanced in Math.
- 95% of our students attend school every day and they are on time. We are 5% higher than the state requirement of 90%.

PITTSBURGH WEST LIBERTY'S URGENT MESSAGE!

At Pittsburgh West Liberty K-5, we need to maintain the commitment of all stakeholders (parents, students, staff and community) to work together to increase the achievement of all of our students. Our goal is to continue to provide all students a running start on their educational pathway to the Pittsburgh Promise.

Season's Greetings to all! Hope you enjoyed your New Year celebrations. At Pittsburgh West Liberty we are celebrating our students who continue to work hard and

strive for academic excellence. The following students have scored a grade point average of 3.0 or higher for the first report card period and we wanted to acknowledge their hard work. Congratulations to all of our excellent students.

First Grade: Esam Abisse, Carly Ayers, Brenna Clegg, Chase Cyphers, Michele Defide, Liam Gorsuch, Jayson High, Katelynn Joyce, Shi'Quon Lane, Robert Layburn III, Ashley Lippold, Nikko Valdisera, Lynsee Wehring, Drake White, Alaya Wilkerson, Rylee Blake, Brandon Bova, Cheyenne Burgos, Bella Crapis, Delaney DeValult, Sara Dugan, Benjamin Fishman, Lindsey Greb, Christopher Grosse, Jacob Grosse, Jayelle Hancock, Ireland Kennedy, Emma Kozelnik, Jamie May, Shane McCalla, Gabriella Stanizzo, Mateo Woodson, and Kaitlyn Zieber

Second Grade: Gary Alspach, Aaron Anthony, Cheyenne Bopp, Ashlyn Bushmen, Carter Czegan, Elizabeth Dugan, Christian Hutchison, Alison Krapp, Hanna Kuchnicki, Casey Price, Leandra Reed, Anthony Romano, Avah Tisdale, Cody Wadlow, Da'Mor Williams, Milena Yochus, Adrianna Artzberger, Kevin Ayers, Nolan Dunn, Maura Lenkner, Leslie Manson, Cole Morrison, Giselle Pennix, and Isabella Walsh.

Third Grade: Nicholas Ault, Julia Blake, Hannah Coleman, Madison Kyle, Jennifer Lippold, Alex Loeffert, Sager McDill, Walker Rud, Cameron Colwell, Roland Rhyne, Tyler Andrews, Michael Brooks, Sethan-Jai Doan, Autumn Hurst, Visawn Pennix, Daniel Stangrecki, Aiden Anderson, Mac Anderson, C.J. Andrews, Kaylin Bradley, Hannah Casto, Dominick Feldman, Tyler Palmer, Emily Synowiec and Savannah White.

Fourth Grade: Isabella Bondi, Jonathan Grabowski, Isabella Klein, Torrie Komoroski, Hannah Lacek, Alexis McElravy, Ryan Recker, Julian Satria, Aaliyah Thomas, Jacob Casto, Gya Gage, Brenton Morefield, Tayvon Reed, Jaclyn Salla, Chris Bittner, Sara Bushmen, Alexandria Fulton, Dynasti Dickerson, Angelina Fulton, Timothy Green, Nicholas Lippold, Liam O'Neil, Richard Shulik, Noah Synowiec, and Aiden Walsh.

Fifth Grade: Alexandra Arnold, Nathan Ault, Bobby Bradley, Imani Clement, Devonn Kyles, Janaye Poslik, Andrai Russell, Daniel Anthony, Ashlyn Darden, Alexa Diven, Brandon Gable, Gabriella Garubba, Evynn Pack, Nicholas Terlecki, Taylor Blake, Makenzie Czegan, Kara Devers, Maria Geyer, Sean Ignasky, Troy Neely, Kevin Schwerin, Alexandra Maxwell, Dominick Emma, Leena Henry, Joelynn Jones, Jenna Moretti, Candace Moses, Mary Pham, Alyssa Reep and Megan Shay.

Great job to our students! Keep up the excellent work! Remember Pittsburgh West Liberty is the place "Where Learners Excel and Character Counts!"

Kathy Moran, Principal
Teresa Grusong-Adams, First Grade Teacher

SERVICE & CELEBRATION AT BROOKLINE REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Wishing you health and peace in 2012! We finished December with a pre-Christmas flurry of activities including the Christmas Band Concert featuring the combined bands of St. Anne, St. Gabriel, St. Sylvester and **Brookline Regional Catholic Schools**. Students in grades 5 and 6 presented the Living Jesse Tree; Culture Club members led students in Los Posadas, a reenactment of the journey of Mary & Joseph to find lodging in Bethlehem; and the entire school community gathered for a school-wide Carol Sing before Christmas vacation. Students once again completed "Christmas in Guatemala," a service project in partnership with our former school nurse, **Roberta Zolkoski**. Nurse Roberta makes an annual medical missionary trip to Guatemala over Christmas vacation. **BRC** students make a person to person connection with the children by sending Christmas cards and notes which Nurse Roberta delivers to individual children. We held a Pajama Day to raise money for a small Christmas party (a Christmas piñata and food). Students also sent children's toothbrushes.

Noodles for Nick

A pasta dinner is being planned as a fundraiser to help the family of **Nicholas Wittman**, an 11 year-old student who has recently had a relapse with his cancer. The dinner will be held at **St. Pius X Church** on January 13, 2012. Tickets are \$15. For more information, please call **Brenda White** (724) 344-3668. Thank you for your prayers and support for Nick and his family.

Catholic Schools Week 2012

Catholic Schools Week will be January 29-February 4, 2012. The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2012 is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Academics. Service." Catholic Schools Week gives us the opportunity to say thank you to those who help make **Brookline Regional Catholic School** a success: our teachers, staff, administrators, parents, and volunteers and community supporters. Through their dedication and commitment, our students are learning in a culture of faith, academics, and service that is preparing them for a full life. Many activities are being planned including liturgy, JA Day, a Science Fair and much more. A complete listing of events can be found on our website: <http://brcschool.com/>. Come see our students in action.



*Janet Salley Rakoczy, Principal
Angela Marvin, Grade 5 teacher*

50 WAYS TO SURVIVE



The problem is staying inside your house, she said to me
The answer is easy if you take it logically
I'd like to help you in your struggle to stay warm
There must be fifty ways to survive winter

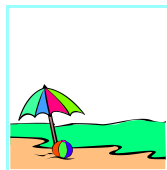
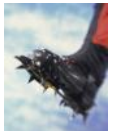
Get out the quilt, Milt
Stack wood on the fire, Meyer
Rub cream on your face, Grace
Ignore the snow
Curl up with the cat, Matt
Simmer some stew, Hugh
Button up your vest, West
Let the winds blow

Microwave your drawers, George
Wrap a scarf 'round your head, Fred
Avoid the winda, Linda
It's a dreary view
Take up Pilates, Dottie
Learn to play the guitar, Lars
Paint a tropical scene, Jean
Bid winter adieu

No need to sequester, Chester
Cuddle up with a friend, Glenn
Lock lips with your girl, Merle
You can stay warm
Roll around with the pooch, Hooch
Jitterbug on the rug, Doug
No need to get flabby, Gabby
Don't be forlorn

Hang up a wreath, Keith
Read a good thriller, Killer
In fingerless gloves, love
Brew up some tea
Use a hot water bottle, Hodl
Soak in the tub, Bub
Heat up a toddy, Maudie
Set yourself free

Wear shoes with traction, Jackson
Cover your ears, dears
Grow flowers inside, Clyde
Keep faith alive
Give the birds suit, Juit
Bake a parsnip pie, Di
Cross-country ski, Lee
We gotta survive



*-Lynne Cannoy Knecht
Reprint from January 2010*



South Pittsburgh Development Corporation

Who we are?

South Pittsburgh Development Corporation (SPDC) is an all-volunteer community development organization in Brookline and was established in 1992. The organization exists to serve the neighborhood and to ensure that Brookline is a great place to live, shop, worship, raise your children, and retire. The organization is made up of 10 board members and has a membership of 75 residents. Many of these members are your neighbors, your friends, and local business owners. The organization is working to promote positive energy and projects in our neighborhood so that we can remain the 2nd largest neighborhood in Pittsburgh and continue to support the 90+ businesses that support our community.

What we are CURRENTLY doing in the community?

Many things happen behind the scenes, but the **South Pittsburgh Development Corporation** is responsible for many one-time and on-going projects in Brookline:

- Lead organizer on the Brookline Redevelopment Project.
- Publisher and organizer of **The Brookline**, a monthly community newsletter and source for valuable information related to all things Brookline.
- Lead organizer on The Whited/Jacob Street Greenway Project.
- The lead organization for implementation of the Dogi-Pot Program and continues to provide volunteers to restock the Dogi-Pots located along Brookline Boulevard.
- The lead organization on establishing a full-time community development staff person.
- Partnering organization in many local events and fundraisers.
- Local business development and retention support.
- Installation and maintenance of street banners along Brookline Boulevard.

SPDC hosts several annual community events each year. Those events include:

- The Spring Fling, an annual membership drive and community showcase
- Earth Day Clean-Ups
- Neighborhood Clean-ups

Find more information out at: www.brookline-pgh.org or call (412) 465-0790

Email us: spdc.brookline@gmail.com

Or friend on Facebook at: South Pittsburgh Development Corporation



-Stephanie Miller



At left: Watch **Zippy's** message board for the daily specials.
-Photo by *Catia Fath*




SAVE

25%

on your

Duquesne Light bill

go to

www.chrislynnenergy.com

412-431-1553