

Letter from the Editor

We are halfway through winter, and January wasn't all that bad. Now if February and March follow suit...



Keith Knecht shared this, "Vaclav Havel, dissident playwright and former president of The Czech Republic who spent years in prison before leading the peaceful Velvet revolution in 1989 ending more than 40 years of communist rule said, 'Hope is a state of mind, not of the world. Hope, in this deep and powerful sense, is not the same as joy that things are going well, or willingness to invest in enterprises that are obviously heading for success, but rather an ability to work for something because it is good.'"

Last month we offered our thought for the year, "If not me, who?" Havel's words remind us that we participate in our community because it is right; it is good, not because we are guaranteed that every project will be a success or garner us accolades. Whether it's picking up litter, supporting our local merchants, helping with **Meals On Wheels** or donating to the food pantry, we agree with Vaclav Havel. "Work for something because it is good, not just because it stands a chance to succeed." How have you been answering "If not me, who?"

EYE ON NATURAL HEALTH

515 Brookline Blvd. Pittsburgh, PA 15226

Inside Salon Canova

412-315-8371 or www.eyeonnaturalhealth.com

By Appointment

If you're like me, you've made a New Year's resolution to get healthy in 2012. And also like me, you might not know where to start. Enter **Eye On Natural Health**.

Owner **Cheryl Colega** has a passion for helping people get healthy and feel good. Colega, a 20 year veteran in the medical field, believes that natural products and services can sometimes help more so than conventional medicine.

"By personal experience, I found how food, nutrition, exercise and spirituality are all connected and can make you feel good or bad each day," Cheryl said.

Eye on Natural Health provides health coaching services to help individuals change their lifestyles incrementally over time. A six month program will provide you with a road map to meet your optimal health goals. Twice monthly counseling sessions help keep you on track and make adjustments as you go. This one-on-one process tailors a specific health and wellness program based on body and blood type, health concerns and nutritional needs.

Assessments of nutritional needs and current health condition can be performed through a variety of additional services offered by **Eye On Natural Health**. Iridology, a detailed assessment of your iris shows genetic traits as well as current health conditions. A Zyto Compass assessment uses bio-communication with your body and a computer to determine your specific nutritional needs and is just super cool new technology. A blood work analysis can provide a report of organ function. In addition, nutritional counseling can help improve cell vitality and overall health.

"Sometimes small tweaks can make you feel like a new person. For example, some of the foods you are eating may not be compatible with your blood type, so you continue to feel run down."

Not quite sure what services make sense for you? Start by attending one of **Eye On Natural Health's** free monthly classes to learn a little more about natural health and wellness.

"Your body has the ability to heal itself if it has the right tools. That's where I always start. People think that genetics have to determine their life. That's not always so."

Eye on Natural Health is available by appointment. They are located at 515 Brookline Boulevard, inside **Salon Canova**. Call them at 412-315-8371 or find them online at www.eyeonnaturalhealth.com.

Salon Canova is a full-service spa and salon that offers nail and skin services, deep cleansing facials, eyebrow tinting and manicures and pedicures among other treatments.





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 December 2011:

Cannon Coffee - \$102.52
Kribel's Bakery - \$637.55

A Boss - \$52.02
Hideaway Mini Mart - \$26.95

Zippy's - \$.25 (Give them a chance.)

*****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.

COMMUNITY CRIMES ZONE 6

If you don't currently receive the crime reports by email and you want to receive the emails, contact us. If you want more information on the incidents below, please contact us at 412-343-2859. Or, you can email us at mnp.grabowski@verizon.net, please put "Crime Report" in the subject line.

DECEMBER

CRIMES ZONE 6	Total	Brookline
Aggravated Assault	10	1
Robbery	7	1
Burglary	26	2
Theft	43	8
Theft from Vehicle	7	3
Stolen Vehicle	5	1



PRESIDENTS' DAY

FEBRUARY
20



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
- Senator Wayne Fontana** 412-344-2551

THE BROOKLINE

The Brookline Staff
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DEADLINES:

February 12 for March's Issue
 March 12 for April'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.

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.

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

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February Fare at Brookline Regional Catholic School

As February begins, we are in the middle of celebrating Catholic Schools Week with a Hometown Heroes Continental Breakfast for local police, firefighters and paramedics. On Friday, Feb. 4, we celebrate Junior Achievement Day. This exciting day allows students throughout the school to learn about personal finance, free enterprise, taxes, business and economics and how to plan for their futures. Participation in multiple years of JA programs allows 8th grade students to be eligible to compete for high school scholarships. The program is presented by volunteers in many business areas including investments, law, real estate and sales. It is a fun and educational way to bring CSW to an end.

Seventh and eighth grade history projects are on display this month before traveling to the Heinz History Center for the Regional History Day competition. The theme is: *Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in History*. Projects include exhibits, documentaries and websites. All are welcome to stop in to view the projects.

Congratulations to:

- Sixth grader **Allison Williams** who won the BRC Geography Bee and has now moved on to take the state test.
- The following students have been selected to perform in the Diocesan South District Honors Band. **Olivia Tiani, Carmen Wilson, Erin Milcarek, Katie Quigley, Katie Mith, Erin Skiff, Victoria Hudson, Zachary Folino and Leo Wilson**. The concert will be held on Sunday, February 13, 2012, at 3:00pm at **Seton LaSalle High School**.



- Eagle Scout **Brandon King O'Toole** who returned to **BRC** for the rededication of the school library. Brandon renovated the library, updated data and phone lines and established a meeting space as part of his Eagle Project. **Fr. Gary Krummert** blessed the library for the school community. Brandon first began to consider the library renovation project as a student in **Mr. Mike Galuska's** seventh grade class. [See photo at right]

We are proud of our students and graduates. They are the proof that Great Beginnings Last a Lifetime at **BRC**. Stop by to see our students in action.

-Janet Rackoczy

BROOKLINE BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Status report as of November 30, 2011

Site Investigations: All tasks complete

Preliminary design: All tasks complete

Final design:

- Submitted final right-of-way plan to City and Maguire for review on November 7, 2011
- Conducted utility coordination meeting
- Attended design coordination meeting with City on November 15, 2011
- Submitted final right-of-way plan to PennDOT on November 28, 2011 for use at plan check

Anticipated in December 2011:

- Conduct utility coordination meeting with Equitable Gas
- Attend a final right-of-way plan check with PennDot
- Make interim submission of traffic design plans to City Traffic Unit

Update as of December 27, 2011

Final Design:

- Met with owner of beer distributor on December 6 to discuss options for maintaining access to the business during construction.
- Submitted signing and pavement marking plans, signal plans, and traffic control plans to the City on December 20 for review.
- Completed inspections of existing vaults
- Added outline of existing vaults into background mapping.

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

COMMUNITY MEETING
MARCH 8 at 6:00 PM
ST MARK'S CHURCH
BROOKLINE BLVD & GLENARM AVE.
PLEASE ATTEND

-Lois McCafferty

[Editor's Note: There will be a community meeting on MARCH 8 at 6:00PM at ST MARK'S CHURCH. 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!]



COUNCILWOMAN NATALIA RUDIAK

Federal, state and local income taxes are due on April 17 this year, and the sooner you get your tax documents in the mail, the sooner those who qualify can get their refund! For those who may not be able to do their taxes on their own, the City of Pittsburgh is providing a free resource to help with tax preparation.

It's called Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, or VITA, an IRS program offered to the elderly, disabled individuals, or low and moderate income households (those earning less than \$49,000 a year) to offer free tax preparation services for federal and state taxes, as well as PACE, rent and property rebates. VITA services will be offered downtown on the second floor of the City County Building between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday until Monday, April 17.

VITA will only help prepare one tax return per person, and when you come in for help you must bring a social security card for every person listed on the tax return. Walk-ins are welcome for this service. For more information on this program, call my office at (412) 255-2131.

You can also make arrangements for free tax preparation through the United Way's Money In Your Pocket Coalition. If you are an individual who makes up to \$20,000, or a household that makes up to \$40,000, you can make an appointment for free assistance with your tax preparation. Last year, the United Way and its partner organizations helped to prepare more than 6,000 tax returns, helping to deliver \$9.7 million in tax refunds to Allegheny County residents.

To make an appointment with the United Way's tax preparation services, or to learn more, call (412) 255-1155.

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



THIS MONTH

February 1 & 2 Wednesday & Thursday

March 5, 6 & 7 Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

The Salvation Army Community Center Open House
3:00PM to 8:00PM each day at 1060 McNeilly Road. You are invited to visit the Community Center and meet the staff.

February 4 Saturday

Friends of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Brookline
9:30AM - 10:30AM at Carnegie Library 708 Brookline Blvd.

February 14 Tuesday

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

February 20

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

February 27

Brookline Area Community Council 7:00PM doors open. Meeting starts 7:30PM at **St. Mark's Church** corner of Brookline Blvd. & Glenarm Ave. Topic: Changes in the School System - What they mean to Brookline.

BROOKLINE BUSINESSES

The **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** will be updating the **BROOKLINE BUSINESS & COMMUNITY DIRECTORY** for the 2012-2014 years. This directory is used by many residents and businesses for easy access to local businesses, churches, government, and community groups.

If your business is not listed in the present directory and you would like to be included in the next directory, all you need to do is become a member of the **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** in good standing. Annual membership is \$50. Deadline is February 20. There will also be a limited amount of space to members for ads.

You can pick up an application at **A-Boss Opticians**, 938 Brookline Blvd. or call Secretary **Annette Ferrieri** 412-341-0973 to have one sent out.



The Prayer Walk group from **St. Mark's Lutheran Church** including **Mercy Faust, Bea Allemang, Patty Levandowski** and **Kathy Rosengarth** continue to Redd-Up the Boulevard on Saturdays.

The Sunday Trash Walk on Sunday, January 8 yielded seven bags of trash and that was after The Prayer Walk cleaned the day before. On Sunday, January 15, **Nathan Mallory** from **Canon Coffee** joined us, and the Sunday Trash Walk yielded only three bags! Conclusion: frigid weather keeps the litter bugs inside or Nathan brought us luck!

Now if we could only get more residents involved we could clean side streets too! Consider joining us. [See page 8 for more details.]



JOANNE'S CORNER

Things that aren't here anymore - Part 34



Joanne Fantoni continues to recuperate from an ankle injury. We hope she'll be back soon. 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.

In the meantime we offer our contribution at right. This is from the

address book **Shirley Gruzewski** sent us. Please share any memories you have with us.



DO YOU REMEMBER?

Notice the telephone number and the address. Does anyone have any memories they can share about this business?

Eugene Y Martin Agency

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Pittsburgh, PA 15226



Gary Henry 412-641-9605

www.southhillsusedwashersanddryers.com



BEAUTY AND FASHION GLAM

Love is in the air...February is the month of LOVE! We all want to feel love and have someone to share life with! Well this is the time to do that, tell that someone special what you have been wanting to say, if you care for him or her show them. If you want him or her tell them!

Why are we sometimes afraid to let ourselves love? Maybe it's because we don't trust or we think we are better alone, everyone needs someone. People need people! We need each other to get us through the hard times and the good times!

February is a time to feel beautiful, a time to get pampered and a time to enjoy time with the one you love...why not plan a night away, or dinner and a movie? Why not curl your hair a little more and get that manicure? Oh and don't forget that Red Dress! Or, if you don't want to go out at all, just prepare a nice dinner at home!

Looks of romance...go soft and natural, lots of bouncy curls always looks romantic!

Fairy tale pretty...go a little happily ever after with a elegant up style!

Show stopping ... Yes you should wear your nails Red, stop traffic colors for Valentines Day!

What's Hot... Hats and hair accessories, so go all out and turn heads in that Fedora. You will look fabulous!

Pretty in PINK...that's you ,welcome your feminine side! So get going...FEEL THE LOVE! And tell that someone special just how you feel!

Yes, love is in the air, breathe in and out!!! Happy Valentine's Day!!

Until next time ...live your dreams!

Jacqueline Capatolla, Jacqueline's Salon

www.jacquelinesnews.com



A-Boss Opticians, Inc.

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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 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.

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OPEN MIC SERIES

**Cannon Coffee 802 Brookline Blvd.
Wednesdays 7:00PM to 10:00PM**



**Brookline Year Round Farm Stand
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Wednesday 11:00AM - 6:00PM**



Kribel's Bakery Inc.

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EARN (AND KEEP) MORE MONEY

You probably already know that there was an increase in Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) monthly payments at the beginning of the year. If you receive monthly Social Security or SSI payments, you received a 3.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment beginning with your payment for the month of January 2012.

For people who receive Social Security retirement benefits, there's more good news. In addition to receiving a little more each month, you may now *earn* more income without offsetting your benefits because the "earnings test" numbers also have gone up.

If you have reached your full retirement age (age 66 for anyone born between 1943 and 1954), the earnings test does not apply and you may earn as much money as you can without any effect on your benefits. However, if you are younger than full retirement age, collecting benefits and still working, we do offset some of your benefit amount after a certain earnings limit is met. For people under full retirement age in 2012, the annual exempt amount is \$14,640, and if you do reach that limit, we withhold \$1 for every \$2 above that limit from your monthly benefit amount. For people who retired early, continue working and will obtain full retirement age in 2012, the annual exempt amount is \$38,880 and we will withhold \$1 for every \$3 you earn over the limit from your monthly benefits.

You can learn more about the earnings test and how benefits may be reduced by visiting our website, www.socialsecurity.gov, and searching on the topic "earnings test." Find out what your full retirement age is at our Retirement Age page, www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/ageincrease.htm. It's available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10069.html.

-Patricia Thibault
Social Security District Manager

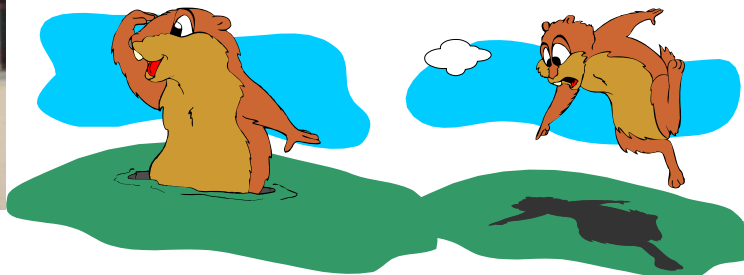


Photo by Catia Fath

Try the Vanilla French Toast at **The Brookline Deli**. They deliver to **Mazza Pavillion** and **Parkside Manor**.

SORRY!

In last month's issue we reported the wrong business hours for **Brookline Deli**. The correct hours are Monday through Friday from 7:00AM to 5:00PM. Saturday from 10:00AM to 5:00PM. They are closed on Sundays.



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**

"The question is not 'Can you make a difference?' You already do make a difference. It's just a matter of what kind of difference you want to make during your life on this planet."

- Julia Butterfly Hill
American Activist and Environmentalist



SENATOR WAYNE FONTANA

It has often been said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. That statement perfectly explains the ongoing, court-ordered, reassessment fiasco taking place in Allegheny County. The current process is unworkable, burdensome, expensive and inaccurate.

I have introduced legislation, [Senate Bill 1280 \(SB 1280\)](#), which would place a moratorium on all court-ordered property reassessments until the legislature can overhaul the current system or implement an alternative method for local governments and school districts to generate revenue. I will again be calling on leadership to move this bill forward so Allegheny County property owners are not treated unfairly.

In addition to a moratorium, I will be writing legislation that would change Pennsylvania's flawed reassessment system to one that is uniform, fair and predictable. I propose three alternatives to the current property assessment system. Of course, the details of any of these options need to be discussed and debated, but any of these are more uniform, predictable and certainly fairer than the current court-ordered reassessment taking place in Allegheny County.

- The first would simply adjust the current assessment process to allow local governments to continue to use a base year system and adjust their base year on a defined time schedule. The appeals process would remain in place to address any inequities.
- The second alternative would eliminate homeowner property taxes and allow counties, municipalities and school districts to shift to a sales and/or income tax. This option would require a change in Pennsylvania's constitution.
- The third option would use a model that taxes the property based on the combined square footage of property and home or building. This option would eliminate the need for an assessment process as each taxing body would determine the total square footage of all taxable property within its jurisdiction and divide that number into total real estate tax collections for the previous year to establish a rate per square foot.

While I continue to push my moratorium bill and work with my colleagues on creating a fairer system, please know that if you do not agree with the assessed value of your property, you can appeal to the Allegheny County Board of Property Assessment Appeals and Review. Whether it is an assessment appeal, notary services, PennDOT issues, tax forms, senior bus passes, or if you have opinions on legislation, I and my staff have been – and will continue to be – ready, willing and able to assist you. To read more about this and other issues and to register to receive my weekly ENews please visit www.senatorfontana.com.



TRASH WALK

SUNDAYS AT 2:00PM. MEET AT CANNON COFFEE. ONE HOUR TRASH WALK FOLLOWED BY COFFEE & CAMARADERIE. BRING GLOVES! WINTER WEATHER MAY FORCE CANCELLATION SOME WEEKS. CHECK OUR SIGN IN CANNON COFFEE'S WINDOW FOR NOTICE OF ADVANCE CANCELLATIONS.



WHERE'S GEORGE?

We had several readers respond regarding **George Gilfoyle's** whereabouts. His neighbor **Georgeine Joseph** told us that George had a minor health problem which made him hesitant to venture too far from home. He still walks in his neighborhood, and occasionally Georgeine will drive him to the fire station for a visit with the firemen. Georgeine said he would enjoy hearing from you. Please send your cards or notes to **The Brookline**, PO Box 96136, Pittsburgh, PA 15226 or email mnp.grabowski@verizon.net. Put George on the envelope or in the subject line of the email, and we will make sure they reach George.



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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.

Fitness Center Fundamentals

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00-8:30pm. Learn proper fitness center workout fundamentals. Program runs from February 1 through April 28. Ages 16-up. Registration Required. FREE.

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.

Adult Crafts

Mondays from 1:00-2:30pm. Program runs from February 7 through March 28. FREE. Incidental costs may be associated with each individual craft.

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

Kids Crafts

Mondays from 3:00-4:00pm. Boys and Girls ages 7-12. Program runs from February 7 through March. 28 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.

Fitness Program (25/25)

Lose 25 pounds in 25 weeks with activities designed to increase your fitness levels through proper diet and exercise. Program runs February 17 through August 4 at 7:00pm. Blood pressure monitoring and fitness tracking provided at no charge. This program is associated with the annual Brookline Breeze 5K fitness run/walk.

The Ten Keys To Healthy Aging

Donna Kochirka RN, BA, MA, Community Health Ambassador will conduct a ten-week health and wellness seminar. Program runs February 17 through April 21 from 7:00-8:00pm. FREE.

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





Talk to **TIM**

Your Brookline Realtor

I LOVE selling or finding YOUR home!

Tim Reitmeyer

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

Howard
Hanna

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WEST LIBERTY ELEMENTARY GOES GOLD



On a cold January day our hearts were enlightened by another wonderful performance by the **Pittsburgh West Liberty Ballroom Dancers**. On January 7, 2012 they had a competition with other **Pittsburgh Public Schools** as well as some other local schools in the “Colors of the Rainbow” dancing classroom competition. The schools in the competition this year include: Lincoln, Weil, Miller, Spring Hill, Sunnyside, Montessori, **West Liberty** and several of the Catholic schools in our area – St. Benedict the Moor and Thea Bowman. **West Liberty** finished with Gold! We’ll be

in the finals in May. We’re so proud of our dedicated students and staff. We had a great attendance with principal, teachers, parents, students and student aids. The students who competed this year include: **Savanah Brooks, Lexie Nelson, Nyla Whitely, Brianna Waleko, Taylor Blake, Alyssa Reep, TaMarr Jones, Troy Neely, Robert Bradley, Tyler Divens, Evan Pack** and **Sean Ignasky**. The next exciting competition in our school is our basketball.

In the past we’ve had a mixed gender basketball team. This year we’ve separated our team and added a girls’ basketball team. Our Screaming Eagles boys’ team coached by our awesome **Mr. David Strothers** has announced the team. The boys’ team includes: **Kevin Schwerin, TaMarr Jones, Nathan Ault, Robert Bradley, Brenton Morefield, Andrai Russell, Caleb Ford, Tyler Newton, Anthony Liscio, Chris Bittner, Dominick Emma, Dylan Emma, Ian Mullen, Richie Shulik, Todd Akrie, Liam O’Neil** and **Shane Arlotta**. The girls’ team is being coached by **Ms. Sara Wingen**. The girls’ team includes: **Alex Arnold, Kara Devers, Ashlyn Darden, Alexa Diven, Tylah Jones, Torrie Komiroski, Hannah Lacek, Alex Maxwell, Cheyenne Pierce, Bridget Stehle, Abby Umstead, Brianna Waleko** and alternates include: **Sara Bushmen, Brylie McQuillan** and **Taylor Blake**. Along with the boys’ and girls’ basketball team we also have our wonderful cheerleaders including: **Kara Devers, Alex Maxwell, Alex Arnold, Brianna Waleko, and Alexa Diven**.

We also have at our school each year a Carson Scholarship. All 5th graders who had a GPA of 3.75 or higher on first report were invited to participate in the first round. We had five students accept the invitation by writing an essay and reporting their history of community service. Their essays are in the process of being evaluated. The student with the highest score will be the contestant representing **West Liberty**. We’ll let you know who that lucky person is in our upcoming article. Those competing include: **Alex Arnold, Kara Devers, Maria Geyer, Alexandra Maxwell, and Kevin Schwerin**.

That’s all for this month. Try to think warm thoughts and enjoy what’s left of the winter season. Remember **Pittsburgh West Liberty** is the place “Where Learners Excel and Character Counts.”

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THIS MONTH AT CARNEGIE LIBRARY

EXPANDED HOURS BEGIN IN FEBRUARY!

Starting Monday, February 20, **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Brookline** will expand its hours of operation to: Monday-Wednesday, 10:00 AM - 8:00PM and Thursday-Saturday, 10:00 AM -5:00 PM.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month Read Aloud

Saturday, February 18 from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Celebrate the rich history and story-telling of African Americans through special readings. Readers of all ages are welcome to attend and participate. Light refreshments will be served.



Carver

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Pre-K Storytime

Tuesdays at 1:00 PM

Children ages 3-5 and their caregivers. Hear stories, sing songs and learn rhymes together.

After-school Craft Club for Tweens

Wednesdays at 3:30 PM

Kids ages 10-14. Relax after school by making a cool craft.



Toddler Storytime

Thursdays at 11:00 AM

Babies and toddlers up to age three and their caregivers. Hear stories, sing songs and try rhymes together

Strong Women, Strong Girls

Thursdays at 4:00 PM

Girls in grades 3-5. Learn about women role models, journal and take part in other fun activities. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**

ADULT PROGRAMS

Book Discussions

Adults 18 and older. Explore new ideas and perspectives through contemporary and classic fiction and nonfiction.

Monday Evening Book Club First Monday of each month at 6:00 PM

Wednesday Afternoon Book Club Second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM



Friends of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Brookline

Saturday, February 4 from 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM. Join an organization dedicated to supporting one of our community's greatest assets - your public Library!



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MEALS ON WHEELS

Lunch settings line the tables in **St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church** at 9:00 in the morning. Diners will not be coming to the church for this meal, instead five drivers with their assistants will be delivering these **Meal On Wheels**. **Carol Ingold** has been directing the delivery of approximately 60 meals for twenty years. The meals are delivered Monday through Friday including Thanksgiving Day. The only exception is Memorial Day because the parade impedes access to the church.

Back in the kitchen, **Lori Cardillo**, an eleven year volunteer, is preparing the hot portion of the meal. The aroma of homemade soup is enticing even at this early hour. **St. Mark's Meals On Wheel** is rightfully proud of their homemade lunches. This is not store bought canned soup or stew emptied into a pot and heated.



Clients receiving meals are generally over sixty and unable to cook for themselves. Carol and Lori handle calls between packing and cooking from seniors who want to sign up or family members who want to know that Mom or Dad are getting nutritious meals. Clients pay \$20 a week for a hot meal and a cold meal which they can eat in the order they choose. Everybody gets their choice of milk and bread. The place cards that line the table indicate any medical or health issues that dictate other substitutions. Today's dessert is cookies, but some settings have a small container of sugar-free pudding for diabetics. The pudding was homemade and donated by **Judy Herbermann**. Judy's husband **Lee Herbermann** is a volunteer route driver. Notice that word volunteer? It applies to everyone in the program.

The kitchen volunteers are busy wrapping sandwiches. Senior volunteer **Lois Haley** is preparing sandwiches for delivery to seniors who may be younger, but less able. In the summer, there are often teenagers home from school who will volunteer, but in the fall and winter, the program could use more help. You don't have to take a route for five days. You can also ask to be on the fill in list to help when a regular can't make it.

Carol's husband, **Howard Ingold**, maps out each route for efficiency and to ensure that meals arrive hot. Notice the repetition of couples who volunteer? There were two couples on routes this day. **Jean and Ray Prosser** as well as **Claudia and Ben Clark**. One drives while the other delivers the meals. Sometimes the deliveries end, but the volunteering continues. There are those who finish their two hour route then return to either visit or run other errands for clients whose only contact with the outside world may be their **Meals On Wheels** delivery team.



Carol Ingold signs up another **Meals on Wheels** recipient.

Photo by *Lois McCafferty*

In addition to the meals, clients sometimes receive little extras donated by community groups. When we visited in early December, there were packages of "Snowman Soup" put together by a **St. Mark's** youth group. "Snowman Soup" is a small plastic bag containing a package of hot chocolate mix, some marshmallows and chocolate chips! A winter time treat.

Brookline Meals On Wheels is one of **St. Mark's** outreach programs under the direction of **Pastor Christina Ingold**. The program survives on donations both monetary and material as well as City of Pittsburgh grants. They need your help. Donations of money and/or time are greatly appreciated. If you are between jobs, retiring or have some available time, give them a call at 412-343-8144.

-*Pamela Grabowski*



Lori Cardillo takes a call while the soup pot simmers.

Fitness Center | Open daily to members of all ages

FIT Seniors | Walking Group

FIT Youth | Fit Boot Camps

FIT MOMS | Home School Open Gym

Gymnasium | Intramurals & meetings scheduled daily

Walking Track | Open daily to the community from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Facility Rentals | Available from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Community Education Programs | TBA



Fitness Schedule



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[FREE]

RECREATION / GYM MEMBERSHIP FOR KO STUDENTS

The Salvation Army's new Worship and Service Center in Mount Lebanon also houses a Community Center, offering the students and families in your school district the following :

- *Open to local youth Grades Pre-K through 12*
- *Monday– Thursday from 3:00-5:00 p.m.*
- *After-school program with tutoring and mentoring*
- *Computer lab for homework, research & social networking with adult supervision*
- *“Steelers Fitness Center” offers adult & youth-sized fitness equipment*
- *Wii gaming stations for fitness & entertainment*
- *Regulation size basketball court & shuffle board with walking track*
- *Variety of sporting equipment available in gymnasium*
- *Children’s outreach and character-building programs starting this month!*
- *Music & Drama Classes coming soon!*
- *Specialized Dance & Fitness Classes coming soon!*

The Community Center is not a drop-in center. Parents or legal guardian must register their child(ren) and complete a “Parent Release Form.” Visit us on McNeilly Road to meet staff, review paperwork and tour the Community Center. Or stop in during “Open House”:

OPEN HOUSE DATES:	February 1 & 2	3:00 – 8:00 p.m.
	March 5, 6 & 7	3:00 – 8:00 p.m.

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Dear Neighbors,

Keeping our streets safe and adopting green technology to save taxpayer dollars remains a priority as we begin 2012 in the City of Pittsburgh. As you may have noticed, Pittsburgh's business districts are looking brighter, safer and cleaner this year.

In December, we began replacing streetlights in more than 40 business districts with improved, energy-efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) streetlights. This enhancement will make our business districts safer and better-lit as residents and visitors visit our local shops and restaurants. The new streetlights produce a brighter, cleaner light that improves visibility for drivers and pedestrians and have a longer life than standard bulbs. In addition, the City will reduce its energy usage by more than 60 percent, saving taxpayers approximately \$110,000 per year.

This is the latest in my efforts to restore, revive and reinvest in our business districts. Through the *Taking Care of Business Districts* program, crews responded to a list of action items delivered by 311 callers and businesses, including graffiti removal, painting road lines, problematic sidewalks and other property citations. The TCOB program also provides neighborhood businesses districts with clean sweeps, infrastructure improvements and long-term strategies to renew the neighborhood lifelines.

If we want to continue to grow and improve Pittsburgh, we have to keep our local businesses strong and vibrant. Keep an eye out for these improvements in your community and take this opportunity to walk through your local business district and visit some of our City's great businesses.

Sincerely,

Luke Ravenstahl
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

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