

HIDEAWAY MINI MART



Ernie Kayda has been a fixture in Brookline for 17 years. Spend a few minutes in his shop and you'll quickly realize why.

The **Hideaway Mini Mart**, located below **Parkside Manor**, is a full service convenience store. They have everything from coffee and cappuccino to lottery tickets and cell phone accessories. You can pay your bills, get a money order (for only 75 cents!) or pick up fresh deli meats and cheeses. Isaly's Chipped Ham, Land O'Lakes Yellow American and Snyder's Iced Tea are our local favorites. All types of currency are accepted, including EBT cards.

The **Hideaway** is also getting hot food service back up and running with a small menu to start. Pick up fresh hoagies and deli sandwiches, pizza, soup, chicken tenders, corn dogs and more when you need a quick meal on the go. A perfect stop on your way to **Brookline Park!**

Ernie began his career working with Eat n Park, where he did everything from wash dishes to manage restaurants and everything in between. He looks back with fondness remembering all he learned in the kitchen.

"The only problem was it was really loud there and as a result I don't hear as well," Ernie jokes. "But not being able to hear has made me funnier."

When the store originally opened 30 years ago it was an Open Pantry, then it became the Little General, then UniMart, then J&K Plus until Ernie purchased the store and gave it life as the **Hideaway Mini Mart**. Brookline is definitely a

special place for Ernie, given that he commutes 40 miles every day to work at the store, a promise he made to his wife in order to live close to her family.

"I've been here so long, I know everyone and everyone knows me," Ernie said. "It feels like family."

Lottery tickets of all kinds are popular at the **Hideaway** – and winners. Over the last two years two \$3 tickets hit big – one for \$33,000 and one for \$66,000.

Ernie's also a registered distributor for Zippo and boasts a healthy collection of lighters and Zippo accessories. He even had someone drive all the way from Uniontown to find a rare Zippo outdoor lighter.

If he wasn't running the **Hideaway**, Ernie would like to work with people with special needs.

"I so enjoy when they come in the store. I like to interact with them and get them to open up. There are a few guys that help let me know when my stock is low and what I need to order. We have fun."

Hideaway Mini Mart is open every day from 8:00AM – 8:00PM, except on Sundays (Ernie's day off) when the shop is open 9a.m. – 7p.m. They are located at 1306 Brookline Boulevard, below **Parkside Manor** residences. Call them at 412-344-6066.

*-Megan Stearman
Photos by Catia Fath*

**1306 Brookline Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412-344-6066**

**Monday to Saturday 8:00AM to 8:00PM
Sunday 9:00AM to 7:00PM**





Letter from the Editor

We thought a Spring make-over was in order so we moved. Plus it gives Megan more space to talk about our featured merchant and more room for pictures.

Now that we are shaking off the doldrums of winter, we encourage you to join us for a walk on the Boulevard. There will be a **Taste of Brookline** on April 29 featuring many of our local food establishments. Buy your tickets early. Get a group together and share a table.

Did you read Munch's January 19 column in the Post-Gazette? He went to **Mateo's**. He liked it. How can you not like **Mateo's**? We are partial to **Frank Gualtieri's** Pasta Carbonara which we think is the best in the city. What we especially liked about Munch's column was what he said about the change in Pittsburgh neighborhoods and specifically Brookline.

"Munch has been at this gig for more than 16 years, and in that time, the Gloomy Gourmand has seen a lot of Pittsburgh's neighborhoods change. Brookline is one of them, but it's not the type of rapid, neighborhood-shattering change that frightens the old-timers. Instead, what Brookline Boulevard offers is a traditional main street, with a few gradual wrinkles -- a Lebanese grocery, a Mexican butcher, a pretzel shop, a new deli and a coffee spot all coexist with the old bakeries, sports bars and tobacco shops."

Party Cake Bakery was the featured photo on post-gazette.com site on Valentine's Day. We can attest to the brisk business **Party Cake** did that day. When we stopped for a Valentine's treat, they were cleaned out!

Brookline is finally getting its due. When we interview merchants we always hear how the majority of their customers are not residents. The word is out. We have some great businesses on the Boulevard, and shoppers are seeking us out.

If not me, who will shop on the Boulevard? People from all over the area are coming and discovering Brookline. Maybe it's time you joined them.



****CLASSIFIED ADS****

****ADVERTISING RATES****

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 **Email:** mnp.grabowski@verizon.net

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.

We have over 1,375 readers.

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

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.

THE BROOKLINE PAST ISSUES Clint Burton has archived past issues of The Brookline at www.brooklineconnection.com .

DEADLINES:
March 12 for April's Issue
April 12 for May'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.



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 January 2012:

- Cannon Coffee - \$102.52**
- Kribel's Bakery - \$722.55** 
- A Boss - \$55.52**
- Hideaway Mini Mart - \$33.41**

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

JOANNE'S CORNER

Things that aren't here anymore - Part 34

Well "Hello" everybody! Glad to be back after a few months of recuperation due to a blown tendon in my foot. No weight bearing caused me to spend time in rehab and then my home since November.

Wouldn't you know in rehab I ran into an old Brookliner **Betty Hayden Fornear**. Isn't that the norm?

Did anyone read Munch's column in the Post Gazette about eating at **Mateo's** restaurant? How about a movie titled "A Night in Brookline" starring our (and I quote) "streetwise justice **Jim Motznik**." Everywhere I go I run into some reminder of Brookline. It's good to be back in town and happy to hear people are missing George.



ARRIVES MARCH 20

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.

JANUARY	Total	Brookline
CRIMES ZONE 6		
Aggravated Assault	1	0
Robbery	9	1
Burglary	28	7
Theft	34	11
Theft from Vehicle	21	11
Stolen Vehicle	5	4

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EVENTS THIS MONTH

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.

March 8 Thursday

Brookline Blvd. Improvement Project Community Meeting 6:00PM at **St. Mark's Church** corner of Brookline Blvd. & Glenarm Ave.

March 13 Tuesday

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

March 19

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

March 26

Brookline Area Community Council 7:00PM doors open. Meeting starts 7:30PM at **St. Mark's Church** corner of Brookline Blvd. & Glenarm Ave.

March 31

Lunch with the Bunny 12:00 Noon at the **Brookline Recreation Center** \$3.00 Donation per person. Please Pre Register 412- 571-3222



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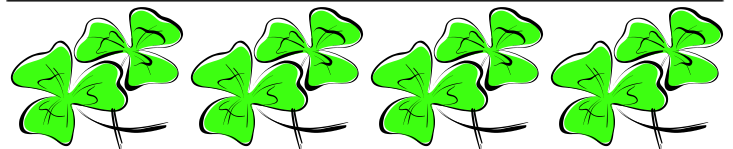
2600 Pioneer Avenue
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(412) 531-9909



10
YEARS
IN BUSINESS!

WANTED: 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. Final Deadline is March 20th. 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.



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BEAUTY AND FASHION GLAM

So, are you feeling LUCKY, and do you want that pot of GOLD at the end of the rainbow? Well get ready for March Madness! If luck has it, you will be filled with lots of exciting things to come! When is it luck or destiny? We all are in control of our destiny if you just believe in it...sometimes it's luck and other times it is meant to be!

That pot of gold is waiting for you, but what is all in that pot? Maybe it's just happiness, or maybe it's family, and friends... Gold can be whatever you want it to be! What if it's just having confidence in yourself to find your destiny, that rainbow is filled with lots and lots of beautiful colors for you to see, just keep looking and the colors of the rainbow will shine BRIGHT!

Beauty and Fashion Glam is also feeling the colors of the rainbow... With all the modern moments of fashion today one thing is for sure, classic, soft natural looks never go out of style! The trends go round and round, looks of the past with a new updated twist to a modern fresh finish! Like a teased crown with lots of volume and height, but the new modern twist would be the smooth and straightened ends, it's wearable and youthful! For the men, think back to Elvis ...the blown back style, with lots of height! Men's grooming is becoming high fashion, and the men mean business today! Men today are trying products, pomades, wax, and styling gels just to name a few! Men do like to keep it simple, clean cut, classic and current! But, what do women like well groomed or not??

So when you get to that pot of gold, and find that rainbow, remember it's all about what you make it, what you believe to be your pot of gold! Get ready to SHINE, and really see the colors of the rainbow!! Try that old, but new look, get that styling gel, tease up that crown, and FEEL LUCKY for St Patrick's day, lucky in your destiny !!

Happy St Patrick's day to all!

Until next time ...live your dreams!

Jacqueline Capatolla, Jacqueline's Salon

www.jacquelinesnews.com



The **South Pittsburgh Development Corporation** will be hosting **Taste of Brookline on Sunday, April 29, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** The event will showcase local cuisine and will help to raise funds for revitalization efforts in Brookline. The organizing committee is currently working with local dining establishments, breweries, and wineries to put together a spectacular event. Con-

firmed restaurants so far include **The Gateway Café, The Moonlite Café, Kribel's Bakery, Vinnie's Pretzel Shop, Antonio's Pizza, Burgh's Bees, and Cannon Coffee.** Each participating restaurant will offer two to three dishes for event attendees to sample. The goal of the event is to feature local establishments and raise funds to be used towards revitalization efforts in Brookline. Event organizers will hold a silent auction featuring great local items.

The committee is working to secure more restaurants. If restaurants are interested in participating, they should contact **Stephanie Miller** at 412-465-0790 or email spdc.brookline@gmail.com. The event will be held at the **Ritz Banquet Hall** located at 736 Brookline Boulevard and will feature the music of **Jack Stanizzo** and **Paul Lowe**. Current sponsors include the **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** and **Renew Pittsburgh**. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact **Stephanie Miller**. Tickets to the event are \$25 and are on sale now - at **Kribel's Bakery, Cannon Coffee, and ABoss Opticians** and online at www.tasteofbrookline.com. Drinks are included in the admission fee.

Don't miss this great event!

-Stephanie Miller

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BROOKLINE BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

- Status of supplement of SDC. Mailed (done).
- Landscaping: Phasing of planting operations. All the planting should be done all at once. Cut-off date in the Fall for planting operations is no later than the 2nd week of November. If planting cannot be done in the fall, it will be done first thing in Spring.
- A meeting with Equitable Gas still needs to be scheduled.
- Current City Project to install new street lighting along Brookline Blvd. This project is to install bulbs only. When the Boulevard project starts these bulbs need to be recycled and reused.

- Public meeting: Dates for Final design Public meeting. **Thursday March 8, 2012, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm** for public officials, **6:00 pm for Businesses, property owners and general public. Meeting place St. Marks Church at the corner of Brookline Boulevard & Glenarm Avenue.** This is a meeting to show the **Final Design Plans.**

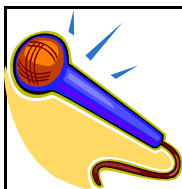
You can see the progress yourself by visiting the website Pittsburghfederalprojects.com

-Lois McCafferty



TRASH WALK

SUNDAYS AT 2:00PM. MEET AT CANNON COFFEE. ONE HOUR TRASH WALK FOLLOWED BY COFFEE & CAMARADERIE. BRING GLOVES! WATCH FOR OUR ADOPT A BLOCK PROGRAM NEXT MONTH!



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

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**

“Volunteering can be an exciting, growing, enjoyable experience. It is truly gratifying to serve a cause, practice one's ideals, work with people, solve problems, see benefits, and know one had a hand in them.”

-Harriet Naylor

A pioneer in the development of volunteer program management as an acknowledged field in the United States.



SENATOR WAYNE FONTANA

Recently, legislation passed the General Assembly, and was signed into law by the Governor, that will increase prize limits for small games of chance for the first time in 23 years. Under [House Bill 169 \(HB 169\)](#), the maximum cash value for a daily game would increase from \$500 to \$1,000 and a weekly game from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Monthly raffle limits will also increase from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

During these hard economic times when most local organizations' budgets are being cut, the changes to the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act will help many of Pennsylvania's nonprofit organizations raise needed funding. Whether it be veterans' or fraternal organizations, religious groups, or civic or service associations, the new limits will help keep them afloat as most of the money will be returned to the community with an effect that can benefit us all.

[HB 169](#) will also allow a volunteer fire, ambulance or rescue organization that is not a club licensee to be eligible to receive 10 special permits. In addition to the \$100,000 yearly prize limit for special permits, these particular organizations will be able to award up to \$50,000 from raffles which will not be subjected to the total aggregate limit. The legislation does require that organizations use 70 percent of the proceeds for activities and operations and the remaining 30 percent to pay property taxes, utilities, mortgages or insurance. The proceeds cannot be used to pay wages or purchase food or alcohol.

You can stay informed about legislation, issues and other events throughout the district by signing up to receive my weekly News & Views. To receive the News & Views, please visit my website at www.senatorfontana.com and provide your email address on the home page.



Have you called **Eye On Natural Health** to make an appointment with **Cheryl Colega**? Spring is a great time to make improvements. Photo by *Catia Fath*

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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.

Weight Loss & Fitness Program

Come join our Weight Loss and Fitness Program. We meet weekly on Monday evenings at 7:00pm for weigh in and wellness discussions. After the meeting we share our favorite fitness tapes and do a workout. 20 Weeks until the Breeze! Meet with us every Monday at 6pm starting March 20. We'll help with stretching and exercises to help you get into top form before the Brookline Breeze in August. Following the meeting, consider joining our Body Sculpting class at 6:30pm.

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.

Dodge-Ball League

For high school age Co-Ed's. Bring your own team or get picked for a team. Cost is \$20 per person. Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

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



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

We're busy preparing for the PSSAs. Our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students will be taking the PSSAs from March 12 through March 23. Good luck to our students, we know you'll do us proud. We're also getting ready for celebrating Read Across America in celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Our fantastic librarian **Jody Smith** has a lot of great ideas in store and ready for the school. We'll be celebrating Wacky Wednesday during that week on Wednesday, February 28 where the children get to come to school dressed wacky like the characters in Dr. Seuss's book with the same name. Our PTO is also assisting with Wacky Wednesday. The children will participate in making food crafts like green eggs and ham. We will have guest readers at our school. On Thursday, March 1 we'll be dressing as our Dream Job Day. The children have been researching what they would be interested in doing in the future, and they will come to school dressed as their career choice for that day. Along with this, we've been talking about the Pittsburgh Promise and how the \$40,000 college grant will help the children reach their dreams.

Got Cabin Fever? We have a lot of fun evenings planned for the month of March. On March 2 from 5:15pm to 8:00pm, our school librarian is having Family Game Night at our school. On March 9 our wonderful PTO President, **Heather Fulton** and the PTO are sponsoring a Family Bingo Night from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The children always have a great time at the bingo. Prizes and snacks will be there and a great time will be had by all. Lastly, on March 28 we'll be having McDonald's Night at the West Liberty McDonalds. The teachers will be working behind the counter serving food to the families. It'll be a great chance to relax and not have to worry about cooking a meal for an evening. Along with social activities we have a teacher who has been busy creating her own social activities in her classroom.

Our Teacher **Mrs. Cindy Paal** has come up with an inspiring idea to help with the social skills of her students. Once a month our fourth and fifth grade students play a game or do a craft with her students. All students are having a good time enjoying what she has planned for them. It's been a great success. We'd also like to offer congratulations to 6th grader **Melina Bushmen**, alumnae of **Pittsburgh West Liberty**, she won the spelling bee contest at South Brook Middle School.

Along with all the busy activities that have been going on at **Pittsburgh West Liberty** next we'd like to acknowledge the following students who made honor roll and high honor roll for the 2nd report period. Those include:

First Grade: Esam Abisse, Rylee Blake, Cheyenne Burgos, Bella Crapis, Chase Cyphers, Alexis Davis, Michele Defide, Delaney Devault, Sarah Dugan, Liam Gorsuch, Lindsey Greb, Christopher Grosse, Jacob Grosse, Jayson High, Katelynn Joyce, Ireland Kennedy, Emma Kozelnik, Shi 'Quon Lane, Ashley Lippold, Shane McCalla, Destiny Stone, Lynsee Wehring, Mateo Woodson, Carly Ayers, Brandon Bova, Brenna Clegg, Benjamin Fishman, Jayelle Hancock, Meliki Manley, Jamie May, Gabriella Stanizzo and Nikko Valdisera.

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

Third Grade: Tyler Andrews, Nicholas Ault, Julia Blake, Hannah Coleman, Cameron Colwell, Alana Fant, Madison Kyle, Jennifer Lippold, Alexander Loeffert, Sager McDill, Nicholas Mohan, Tyler Palmer, Walker Rud, Emily Synowiec, Aiden Anderson, Christopher Andrews, Kylee Arlotta, Kaylin Bradley, Michael Brooks, Hannah Casto, Adam Chandler, Alaysha Fant, Dominick Feldman, Madison Heid, Lynasia Lane, Visawn Pennix, David Ray, Roland Rhyne, Daniel Stangrecki, Kayla Sunder, Savannah White, and Elijah Williams.

Fourth Grade: Christopher Bittner, Isabella Bondi, Sara Bushmen, Dynasti Dickerson, Emma Evans, Angelina Fulton, Devon Gammage, Jonathan Grabowski, Timothy Green, Torrie Komoroski, Hannah Laceck, Nicholas Lippold, Alexis McElravy, Ryan Recker, Tatiana Romanelli, Julian Satria, Jai'Lyr Smith, Noah Synowiec, Alexandria Fulton, Kya Gage, Isabelle Klein, Alvin Minor, Brenton Morefield, Liam O'Neil, Jaclyn Salla, Richard Shulik, Delanie Staab, Aaliyah Thomas, Aiden Walsh and Tyler Yochus.

Fifth Grade: Alexandria Arnold, Taylor Blake, Makenzie Czegan, Kara Devers, Alexa Diven, Leena Henry, Devonn Kyles, Alexandra Maxwell, Jenna Moretti, Troy Neely, Evynn Pack, Kevin Schwerin, Daniel Anthony, Nathan Ault, Robert Bradley, Savannah Brooks, Kaleb Cabana, Imani Clement, Ashlyn Darden, Dominick Emma, Dylan Emma, Caleb Ford, Gabrielle Garrubba, Maria Geyer, Damien Griffiths, Sean Ignasky, Joelynn Jones, Brylie McQuillan, Candace Moses, Mary Pham, Andrai Russell, Megan Shay, Nicholas Terlecki, Brianna Waleko and Peyton White.

As our students continue to work hard each day it's time to bring this month's article to a close. Keep up the good work. Remember **Pittsburgh West Liberty K-5** is the place "where learners excel and character counts."

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

DO YOU REMEMBER?

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748 BROOKLINE BOULEVARD Open Evenings Till 9 P.M.

Do you remember these Brookline businesses? **Johnson's Shoe Store** is now the location of **Antonio's Pizzeria**. Notice that the **Brookline Post Office** was next door. **Geekadrome** is now at the **Captaingorge Flower Shop** location. Do you have any memories of these old Brookline businesses? Please share them with us.



BROOKLINE BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT COMMUNITY MEETING

MARCH 8 6:00 PM
ST MARK'S CHURCH

BROOKLINE BLVD
& GLENARM AVENUE
PLEASE ATTEND

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Shooting from the Hip?

- Do you know how much money you need to have saved when you reach retirement age so when you start drawing from it, you are comfortable you won't run out of money before life expectancy?
- Do you know how much money you would have to save each month to hit the goal that you don't know?
- Do you have any idea of what rate of return you may need on the amount of savings you need to reach this goal that you don't know?

May I offer to help you understand and answer these questions
and maximize your chances?

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MARCHING FORWARD AT BRC!



Modern day teaching now involves the use of technology which prepares students in a way that they become future engineers and doctors who will serve the world. At **BRC**, students use technology in a variety of ways. Students in Grades 6-7-8 use *Criterion* to improve literary skills. *Criterion* is a web-based instructional tool that allows students to submit essays for immediate evaluation, including feedback on their grammar, usage, mechanics, style, and organization and development. Students across all grade levels use Smartboard technology to enhance all subjects as they prepare powerpoint presentations and design websites and documentaries to present to audiences of all ages. The most exciting use of technology at **BRC** involves the use of videochat technology. Our students have been able to include a classmate who is hospitalized in New York in daily classes. He is able to join the class, sharing in assignments, discussions and tests through Skype. We love the opportunity to keep connected with him until he gets back to Pittsburgh!

Good Luck to:

- The 7th and 8th grade students who will be taking their History Day Projects to the Heinz History Center for the Regional History Day competition on March 3. Look for some of the projects at the **Carnegie Library** after the competition.
- The members of the **BRC Forensics Team** who will be competing in the Forensics Finals in early March.
- The **BRC Cheerleaders** as they compete at the St. Sebastian, St. Therese and St. Louise De Marillac Tournaments.

And finally, as we enter the Lenten season our junior high students are preparing their presentation of the Living Stations. Check our website and church bulletins for times and locations.

As always, you are invited to stop in to visit to see the great things that are happening at **Brookline Regional Catholic School**.

-Janet Rakoczy, Principal

MEDICARE PART B DEADLINE APPROACHING

If you didn't sign up for Medicare Part B medical insurance when you first became eligible for Medicare, you now have an opportunity to apply — but time is running out. The deadline for applying during the general enrollment period is March 31. If you miss the deadline, you may have to wait until 2013 to apply.

Medicare Part B covers some medical expenses not covered by Medicare Part A (hospital insurance), such as doctors' fees, outpatient hospital visits, and other medical supplies and services.

When you first become eligible for hospital insurance (Part A), you have a seven-month period in which to sign up for medical insurance (Part B). After that, you may have to pay a higher premium — unless you were covered through your current employer's group health plan or a group health plan based on a spouse's current employment. You are given another opportunity to enroll in Part B during the general enrollment period, from January 1 to March 31 of each year. But each 12-month period that you are eligible for Medicare Part B and do not sign up, the amount of your monthly premium increases by 10 percent.

There are special situations in which you can apply for Medicare Part B outside the general enrollment period. For example, you should contact Social Security about applying for Medicare if:

- you are a disabled widow or widower between age 50 and age 65, but have not applied for disability benefits because you are already getting another kind of Social Security benefit;
- you worked long enough in a government job where Medicare taxes were paid and you meet the requirements of the Social Security disability program and became disabled before age 65;
- you, your spouse, or your dependent child has permanent kidney failure;
- you had Medicare medical insurance (Part B) in the past but dropped the coverage; or you turned down Medicare medical insurance (Part B) when you became entitled to hospital insurance (Part A).

You can learn more about Medicare by reading our electronic booklet, *Medicare* at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10043.html. Or visit the Medicare website at www.medicare.gov. You may also call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048).

-Patricia Thibault
Social Security District Manager

WELCOME PITTSBURGH PIONEER



Pittsburgh Pioneer, located in Brookline, is a school for multiply disabled students in the **School District of Pittsburgh**. There are many exciting things happening at **Pioneer**, but don't be surprised if you happen to see our students out in the community! When you see them, they are working hard on the community-based instruction component of their transition plans to life following graduation.

Pioneer high school age students, ages 14 – 21, are of varying abilities and are working on using their abilities out in the community to strengthen confidence and learn work skills. This will enable them to be successful members of society after they leave **Pioneer**. Students are working at the **Brookline Library**, they can be seen in the Laundromat in Dormont, and even volunteer at **Brookline Regional Elementary** where they are learning valuable skills including navigating their environment and communicating outside of the school. If you see them out in the community, feel free to talk with them about what they're doing! They'll love to talk with you. You are also welcome to come and tour **Pioneer**. Contact the school at 412-571-7405.

-Lisa DeRose



WOMEN AND SOCIAL SECURITY

March is Women's History Month — a time to focus not just on the past, but on the challenges women continue to face in the 21st century.

Social Security plays a vital role in the lives of women. With longer life expectancies than men, women tend to live more years in retirement and have a greater chance of exhausting other sources of income. With the national average life expectancy for women in the United States rising, many women will have *decades* to enjoy retirement. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a girl born today can expect to live more than 80 years. As a result, experts generally agree that if women want to ensure that their retirement years are comfortable, they need to plan early and wisely.

What you can do

The best place to begin is by knowing what you can expect to receive from Social Security, and how much more you are likely to need.

You can start with a visit to Social Security's *Retirement Estimator*. There, in just a few minutes, you can get a personalized, instant estimate of your retirement benefits. You can find it at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

You should also visit Social Security's financial planning website at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners. It provides detailed information about how marriage, widowhood, divorce, self-employment, government service, and other life or career events can affect your Social Security.

If you want more information about the role of Social Security in women's lives today, Social Security also has a booklet that you may find useful. It is called *Social Security: What Every Woman Should Know*. You can find it online at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10127.html.

-Patricia Thibault

Social Security District Manager



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

"AMERICA'S MOST LIVABLE CITY"

Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

Dear Neighbors,

With last month being Black History Month and March being named Women's History Month, now is the time to remember and celebrate the brave men and women who have historically fought against societal adversity to become inspiring success stories. While there is still work to be done, it's encouraging to see how far we have come as a city to embrace and encourage diversity.

When I became Mayor, a top priority of mine was to increase diversity among City employees. In 2007, I launched the successful DiverseCity 365 program – a proactive approach to promoting the cultural core values that nurture diversity, eliminate barriers, increase awareness, provide opportunity and ensure inclusion as a deliberate part of daily operations.

Since the start of the program, the City has experienced unprecedented results. City of Pittsburgh job applications have increased by more than 500%, achieving the highest amount of applications ever in the City's history. This increase in applicants resulted in minority applicants increasing by 60%, female hires increasing by 40%, and minority hires increasing by 50% (more than any other period in history).

DiverseCity 365 has achieved community engagement and recruitment success thanks to a number of efforts, including:

- partnering with more than 500 community organizations,
- making the application process user-friendly,
- providing preparation resources and guidance,
- offering community assistance centers,
- eliminating fees and other obstacles to employment,
- providing opportunity to meet key City leaders,
- and by traveling to our neighborhoods to describe the dynamics of City employment.

Since its launch, the DiverseCity 365 program's tangible and intangible results have disrupted traditional and historical trends of inequity and exclusion. The program is not just about increasing applicants and the statistics of hires, it's also about impact – the change in perception, community and culture. I'm proud of this program's successes to date, and look forward to continuing to see results. I encourage other employers to adopt programs similar to DiverseCity 365 so that we as a city can continue to promote diversity and inclusion.

If you were unable to visit the City's exhibit "A City of Rhythm: A Tribute to African America Music in Pittsburgh" last month, I encourage you to visit the numerous events taking place this month throughout the City that celebrate the inspiring women that make up Pittsburgh's rich history.

Sincerely,

Luke Ravenstahl
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

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