

Issue 45

<http://www.brookline-pgh.org>

April 2012

Enjoy Three Hours of Food, Drinks, Music, Community, and Fun! Join **South Pittsburgh Development Corporation** for the **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 on putting together a spectacular event that will feature cuisine samples from the following restaurants: **The Getaway Café, Moonlite Café, Kribel's Bakery, Vinnie's Pretzel Shop, Antonio's Pizza, Pitaland, Las Palmas, Party Cake Bakery, The Brookline Pub, Cannon Coffee, and Burgh Bees.** The event will be held at the **Ritz Banquet Hall** located at 736 Brookline Boulevard in Brookline and will also feature the music of **Jack Stanizzo and Paul Lowe.** Each participating restaurant will offer their signature dishes for event attendees to sample.

A "Chinese Auction" raffle will be held at the event and admission includes one free raffle ticket. Increase your chances – support your local businesses and receive one free additional raffle ticket. Simply bring a receipt dated from April 2012 to the door and receive an additional raffle ticket.

Current sponsors include the **Brookline Chamber of Commerce, Community Bank, Renew Pittsburgh, and the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh.**

Tickets to the event are \$25 and are on sale now - at **Kribel's Bakery, Cannon Coffee, and A-Boss Opticians** and online at www.tasteofbrookline.com.

Drinks are included in the admission fee.

Don't miss this great event!

-Stephanie Miller



Taste of Brookline

04.29.12



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Letter from the Editor

“April in Brookline, chestnuts in blossom, holiday tables under the trees, April in Brookline, this is a feeling...” If you are of a certain age you should be channeling Count Basie about now and mentally hearing the screaming trumpet of Thad Jones.

While we apologize to E.Y. Harburg for altering his lyrics, we do share the “feeling.” It’s the smells, sounds and sights that proclaim spring’s arrival. Sure the calendar arrival of spring was last month, but April brings the sweet fragrance of spring flowers, the first sounds of lawn mowers and tillers, and bus stop commuters who no longer resemble a Michelin man in their down coats.

We celebrate Earth Day in April with our annual Redd-Up (page 6). While we ask you to join us on the Sunday Trash Walk (page 6) and invite you to Adopt-A-Block (page 14), April’s Redd-Up is special because it’s Brookline’s spring cleaning. Before you say anything, we know you didn’t drop the trash. When you consider that we live in a society where a local church found it necessary to publish a “Mass Etiquette” column in the Sunday Bulletin, does it really surprise you to find there are people who drop their trash as they walk? People who can’t be bothered to walk a few feet to a trash can?

What we do know is if we don’t pick up the litter, it will breed more just as James Q. Wilson predicted. Mr. Wilson was a social scientist who co-invented the “broken window” theory. “Consider a building with a few broken windows. If the windows are not repaired, the tendency is for vandals to break a few more windows. Eventually, they may even break into the building, and if it’s unoccupied, perhaps become squatters or light fires inside. **Or consider a sidewalk. Some litter accumulates. Soon, more litter accumulates. Eventually, people even start leaving bags of trash from take-out restaurants there or breaking into cars.**”

We are picking up the “bags of trash from take-out restaurants” on our Sunday Trash Walks. Now is the time to reverse the trashing of Brookline. Remember - If not me, who? And, if not now, when? Grab your gloves and join us. You will be keeping Brookline clean and safe for your neighbors and yourself.



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

DEADLINES:
 April 12 for May’s Issue
 May 12 for June’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.



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 February 2012:

- Cannon Coffee - \$102.52**
- Kribel's Bakery - \$764.80** 
- A Boss - \$59.52**
- Hideaway Mini Mart - \$37.17**
- Jennifer Cooper - \$100.00**

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



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

JOANNE'S CORNER

Things that aren't here anymore - Part 34

Reading in last month's column titled "Do You Remember?", **Captain George Flower Shop** was as I recall at the end of the Boulevard around the old **Garrubba Meat Market**. Right? Wrong? Also, noticing the phone, it's LEHIGH & LOCUST. Can anyone tell me when that went to all numbers? Ours was **FIELDBROOK**. Also, when did we go to 15226? I'm glad to see our buses are back to our original 39 Brookline. Remember the streetcars 39 Brookline? What was the name of our other shoe store that was lost in the fire?

-Joanne Fantoni

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.

FEBRUARY

CRIMES ZONE 6	Total	Brookline
Aggravated Assault	3	0
Robbery	11	3
Burglary	22	3
Theft	32	6
Theft from Vehicle	11	2
Stolen Vehicle	5	1

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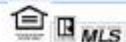
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PITTSBURGH BROOKLINE K-8

You walk or drive past it many times but how well do you know **Pittsburgh Brookline K-8 School**? It is much more than just a school; it is a partnership between students, teachers and parent volunteers working towards achieving a common goal: to ensure each student is "Promise-Ready".

There are many steps we take to prepare our students for success after graduation (Promise-Ready). The work begins with a highly effective teacher in every classroom. The dedication of our teachers, reading and math coaches, support staff and paraprofessionals is evident throughout the day. Teachers donate their time before school, during recess, and after school to provide additional support or tutoring to students in reading and math. Every day over 20 middle school students donate their recess time as mentors to work with younger students in the primary classrooms.

As a result of this hard work and commitment, **Pittsburgh Brookline K-8** has attained Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) on the PSSAs for the last four (4) consecutive years: 2008 through 2011. AYP is a measurement of performance defined by the Federal "No Child Left Behind" guidelines. The school was honored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education as a Title I Distinguished School for academic growth in IEP reading. During the first two quarters of this school year, over 160 "Trifecta" awards were presented to students for achieving High Honor Roll and/or Honor Roll, Excellent Citizenship and Perfect Attendance. Four students achieved second place in the district's African American Challenge Bowl in February. Two students were nominated for the Carson Scholarship of \$1000 to be awarded toward their college tuition.

Our Arts Education teachers endlessly provide new opportunities for student expression through art and music. Original student art works are prominently displayed throughout the school. Chorus, theatre, and instrumental performances showcase the talents of our students and provide seasonal enjoyment to our community. Every spring, our Physical Education Department collaborates with the Pittsburgh Youth Golf Foundation to provide golf opportunities for students in 7th and 8th grade at local golf courses. In addition, middle school students compete in boys' baseball and girls' softball in the fall, boys' and girls' basketball during the winter and boys' and girls' soccer in the spring. Intramural sports are provided after school for students in the intermediate grades.

Our incredible Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) helps students balance academic vigor with fun! Each year families line up around the corner to attend the Haunted School. The Holiday Shoppe provides families with sparkling holiday activities, lunch, and raffles. Get your picture taken with your friends at the Middle School Costume or Semi-Formal dances. Coming soon are the Book Fair Carnival and the highly popular "Fun Day". Parents also support the educational efforts of our students by working in the classrooms every day and assisting students with their monthly science calendar assignments. Parent volunteers help to coordinate book distribution for the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) free book program and the Scholastic Book Fair.

The students and families of **Pittsburgh Brookline K-8** are engaged in their community as well. Last fall, over 1000 non-perishable food items were collected for the **Brookline Food Pantry** and in January, over 500 coats were collected for the Brookline Coat Drive.

Our school's success would not be possible without the endless dedication and commitment of the teachers, staff, parent volunteers, and students. To them, I extend my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude. I look forward to giving future updates on our school's activities, events and successes.

Valerie Lucas, Principal

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

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



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



South Hills and City of Pittsburgh specialist



BEAUTY AND FASHION GLAM

Welcome to SPRING...as we get ready to smell the fresh flowers, and hear the sounds of the birds in the morning, and feel that breeze as we take that walk in the park. Remember to take it all in, to enjoy the fresh new season. April may be the month of showers, but it can also mean a cleansing of your mind and body. Think of this as a time to get rid of all those toxins that have been weighing you down.

To cleanse your mind of heartbreak, insecurities, and hatred...use this time to re-focus your energy on simplifying your life and enjoying the things that make you happy! Take time to smell the roses, and really listen to those birds, and the children playing at the park. These are the moments that matter and make you feel like you are really living life.

Speaking of cleansing... Did you know that your face needs a good cleansing daily? You should remember to cleanse, tone and moisturize your skin every day to keep your skin vibrant and fresh. Why not try that facial to help get your skin in tip top shape? Yes it is time to pretty up those toes. It's pedicure time; flip flops are calling your name. SPRING is a time to brighten up that color...OMBRE color is what's hot now. This is a tone on tone color that goes from one tone to the other softly as it blends out. The color of the season...coral and mustard colors will be very popular along with the floral prints, so brighten up those outfits!!

Get your new spring style... Brighten up and CLEANSE your mind and body! Simplify, and take time to enjoy life!

Until next time ...live your dreams!

Jacqueline Capatolla, Jacqueline's Salon

www.jacquelinesnews.com



COUNCILWOMAN NATALIA RUDIAK

Although Veterans Day comes only once a year, we hear stories every day of veterans, young and old, searching for jobs, searching for healthcare, and searching for a place in their communities—the very communities they volunteered to protect. I'd like to take a moment to express my appreciation to our local veterans, and also to talk about programs designed to aid in the transition back to civilian life, as well as services for ongoing success and care.

If you are a veteran and an aspiring entrepreneur, the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration provide a wealth of information on how to start your own business (<http://va.gov/OSDBU>). If owning a business isn't for you, there are career training and placement opportunities through our local building trades. Apprenticeships are available with the Greater Pennsylvania Regional Council of Carpenters, the Iron Workers Local No. 3, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and more (<http://helmetstohardhats.org>).

In 2010, I voted to pass a city ordinance which set an annual goal of not less than five percent participation by veteran-owned small businesses in all contracts. The participation goal applies to the overall dollar amount expended on contracts. All prospective contractors are required to demonstrate good faith efforts to obtain the participation of veteran-owned small businesses in work to be performed under contracts. For contracts under \$100,000, veteran-owned small businesses are also exempt from all bonding requirements.

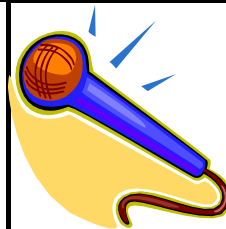
Of course, finding work is not the only issue that returning soldiers and older vets face. Going to war is a life-changing experience. Not only can the return to civilian life come with physical wounds, there may be other health issues that aren't immediately recognized. We must not forget our ex-servicemen and women in need. Sadly, approximately 33% of Pittsburgh's homeless are veterans. Organizations like Shepherd's Heart Fellowship (www.shepheart.org) work to restore honor and dignity to those who have served our country by offering spiritual nourishment and programs to offer medical treatment, transitional housing, and employment assistance.

Make the Connection is another useful resource offered by the VA that provides personal testimonials and information to help veterans discover ways to overcome challenges. Their website, <http://maketheconnection.net> is an incredibly useful tool that veterans, friends and family can privately explore to learn more about physical and mental health symptoms and difficult life events. The combination of personal stories and helpful resources makes it easy to find help and perspective.

I could go on and on. If you are a veteran in need of assistance, I encourage you to research these programs. Need more information? Call our office at 412-255-2131. We are greatly appreciative of your service and the sacrifices you have made for our community, and would be glad to help in any way we can.



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



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

EVENTS THIS MONTH

April 9 Monday
Chamber of Commerce 5:45PM at Carnegie Library 708 Brookline Blvd.

April 10 Tuesday
Brookline Block Watch 7:00PM at Magistrate Jim Motznik's office 736 Brookline Blvd.

April 16 Monday
South Pittsburgh Development Corp. 7:00PM at Brookline Blvd. United Presbyterian Church 1036 Brookline Blvd.

April 21 Saturday
Pittsburgh Redd-Up Join one of the organized groups or just clean your block.

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



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

APRIL 21 EARTH DAY CLEAN UP



In cooperation with Citiparks, SPDC and the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful program, the **Recreation Center** will celebrate Earth Day by hosting a cleanup of **Brookline Park** and the surrounding area. This community initiative is part of the Great American Cleanup and everyone is encouraged to participate. We will be meeting on Saturday, April 21, 9:00am, at **Brookline Park**. Project runs until noon. Refreshments will be provided. Come and help us keep our park safe and clean. Please bring gloves and wear sturdy clothing.



SAVE THE DATE

Not sure what to do with the items from your Spring cleaning? Well, put them aside and sell them at the **Pittsburgh Brookline K-8 PTO Garage Sale**. The sale will be held on May 19 at the school grounds. Don't have anything to sell, then come have a look and shop. You never know what treasures you'll find! Food and drinks will also be available for purchase. All proceeds directly benefit the students. Price per spot is \$10. For more information and/or to reserve a spot, please contact us at brooklinepto@live.com.

-Michele Metting

NEIGHBOR TO THE RESCUE

Do you want to plant a garden, but you rent or don't have an area to garden? Our neighbors in Beechview can help out. For \$30 a growing season you can rent a raised bed plot. Check out <http://www.cleanupbeechview.blogspot.com/> or email prettyupbeechview@gmail.com

BROOKLINE REDD-UP

South Pittsburgh Development Corporation is having their 8th Annual Brookline Earth Day Clean-up on Saturday April 21. Volunteers will meet at **Cannon Coffee** (802 Brookline Blvd.) at 9:00 am to sign up. Free delicious coffee and pastries will be provided to get our volunteers revved up for a day of litter picking fun. The clean-up will last from 10:00am to 1:00pm, afterward there will be a complimentary lunch of tasty items from **Antonio's Pizza**.

To continue our Earth Day celebration, Phipps Master Gardener **Lorrie Eusades** will conduct a free gardening seminar, "Bringing Color to a Shade Garden" at 2:00 pm at Cannon Coffee. Watch for our event posters in the window of your favorite local business or contact Keith Knecht at KEK33@verizon.net or 412-561-4482 for further information.

-Keith Knecht



CVS COLLECTS FOR FOOD PANTRY
Did you know that CVS on Brookline Boulevard accepts food donations for the Brookline Christian Food Pantry?



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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 412-531-059
- **ANGELS' PLACE** Volunteers needed at **Angels' Place, Inc.** Help us work with children, arts and crafts, organizing and more. If interested please call Andrea at 412-531-6667. www.angelsplaceph.org

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**

"In American society today, we need to have volunteerism. I truly believe that it is the glue that will hold us together and it will be the energy that will take us into the 21st century."

-U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski



Happy Easter



BROOKLINE BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

On Thursday, March 8 at 6:00 PM there was a public meeting at **St. Mark's Church** showing the final design of Brookline Blvd. Present were about 150 Merchants and residents to view the new design of Brookline Blvd. The construction timeline is slated for early Spring of 2013 and will be finished in November 2013. When construction starts they will work block by block. This will be less inconvenient for the businesses and shoppers on Brookline Blvd. while the work is progressing. The pull in parking will stay the same, but we will now have a pull out lane. Bump outs will be installed at the corner cross walks for pedestrian safety. The new street lighting, streetscape planting and benches were shown. Presentation and plans were shown by **City of Pittsburgh** (Pat Hassett, Fred Fischer, Lisa Ceoffee), **Michael Baker Jr., Inc.** (John Tricini, Joe Hall, Giuseppe Mammana), **Maguire Group** (Geoff Egnitz).

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

-Lois McCafferty

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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 and Wed 10:15am-8:45pm; Tue, Thu, Fri 1:15pm-8:45pm; Sat 8:15am-3:45pm. Membership card and registration required.

Pittsburgh Boxing Club

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.

Instructional Basketball Clinic

Boys and girls ages 6 to 8 are welcome at this six-week clinic. Learn basketball fundamentals on Saturdays from April 21 through June 9. The clinic runs from 12:00pm-2:00pm. Cost \$10/participant. Come practice the basics with Coach Milan Tyler.

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-1:00pm. Have fun, play games and read books with Coach Joe and Mrs. Mickey. There's basketball, kickball, bowling and much more. Ages 0-5 welcome. FREE.

Martial Arts

Learn the fundamentals of Tae Kwon Do with our trained instructor. Beginner and Intermediate classes for students age 8 and up. Beginner class: Mondays from 6:15pm-6:45pm; Intermediate class: 6:45pm-7:30pm; Advanced 7:30pm-8:45pm. Cost: \$15/year For more information, visit www.sejongtkd.org.

Body Sculpting

Mondays and Thursdays from 6:15-7:30pm. Trained Instructor. Ages 18-over. Cost: \$30 session—10 workouts, pro-rated for late enrollees. Session runs for five weeks. Bring your own mat.

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 6:15pm.

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.

Summer Basketball Leagues

Sign-ups for the Recreation Center Summer Basketball Leagues begin in April. Instructional League (boys and girls ages 9-11) and 14-Under League (boys and girls ages 12-14). Programs run from mid-June through first week of August. Cost: \$25 per player. Deadline for registration is May 15. Roster positions are limited. Program begins after Little League baseball ends. Sign up now!

Gamerroom Activities

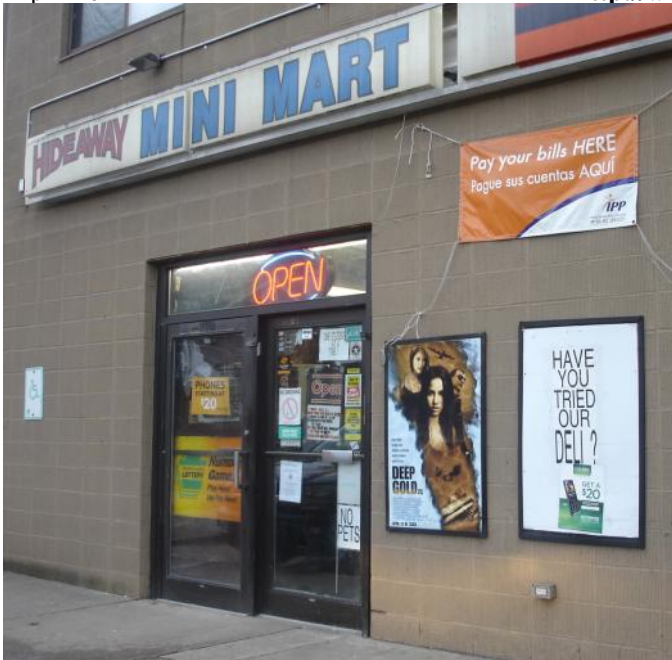
Ping-pong, bumper pool, air hockey and board games available for public use. Open from 1:15pm – 8:45pm weekdays. Gamerroom use is subject to availability, depending on programming.

Basketball-Open Gym

Gym is available for public use from 1:15pm –8:45pm depending on Recreation Center program use.



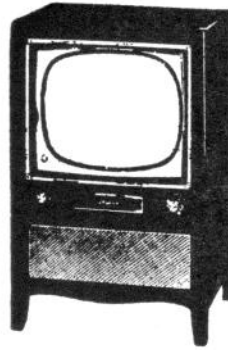
Call the center for more information
412-571-3222.



Have you checked out **Hideaway Mini Mart**? We have had several readers tell us they didn't know this business existed. It's down by the **Brookline Recreation Center**. A spot to stop before the game to get your munchies.
 Photo by *Catia Fath*

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C. E. Anderson, Proprietor
 718-720-722 BROOKLINE BLVD.
 PITTSBURGH 26, PA.

Do you remember this business? This was a large store running from 718 to 722 Brookline Blvd. **Mateo's Restaurant**, **Joseph Antar's Hairstyling** and the **State Liquor Store** are now in that location. Share your memories with us.



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SENATOR WAYNE FONTANA

The housing industry is one of particular importance and interest to me because I am a real estate sales associate and broker by trade. Although I have put this profession to the side while I serve my constituents in the state Senate, I participate in continuing education for real estate licensing and bi-yearly education requirements to retain my broker's license.

When the housing market crashed a few years ago, I was appalled to learn that mortgage lenders were engaging in deceptive lending practices on a massive scale. Fortunately, the country is working to remedy the lending crisis, which has had a pervasive impact on Americans.

Earlier this month, the attorneys general of 49 states and the federal government reached a \$25 billion agreement with five of the nation's biggest lenders – Ally Financial, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Citigroup, and Bank of America – to end mortgage-servicing and home-foreclosure abuses stemming from robo-signing practices. Robo-signing refers to people signing documents and swearing to their accuracy without verifying any of the information.

Pennsylvania's share of the settlement totals \$266 million which will be divided up and given to eligible citizens in our state for such things as loan modifications, refinancing of mortgages and direct relief through cash payments. The remaining money, \$69 million, is allocated for direct payments to Pennsylvania for local foreclosure initiatives.

Being Minority Chair of the Senate Community and Economic Development Committee, I reached out to my fellow Democratic Senators and asked them to join me in sending a letter to Pennsylvania Attorney General Linda Kelly asking her to earmark the \$69 million to fund a state program to prevent foreclosures.

The Homeowners Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP) provides loans to cover mortgage payments for homeowners who are in default for at least two months. Homeowners apply through state-approved nonprofit housing counselors, and they can obtain assistance on payments for up to two years. Loan approvals are based on whether borrowers are likely to be employed in the future and can pay off the loans with interest.

HEMAP was created in 1983 with the urging of faith-based organizations, civic leaders and union workers to assist families in possible home foreclosures resulting from a recession and the collapse of the steel industry. Since its inception, 46,000 Pennsylvania homeowners — including 10,800 from the Pittsburgh region — have used this assistance program since it was founded. It is estimated that HEMAP prevented between 6,100 and 8,800 foreclosures in our state from 2008-2010 alone. Furthermore, a report by The Reinvestment Fund released this month showed that the state investment of \$38 million saved taxpayers, neighbors, communities and financial services institutions \$481 million.

The Homeowners Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program is supported by state government, however, became a victim of state budget cuts and was closed down on July 1, 2011. Currently, there remains no allocation for this program in Governor Corbett's proposed 2012-13 budget. Because HEMAP is already law, the program could be re-started almost immediately, delivering additional resources to families in danger of losing their homes and communities struggling with the effects of the difficult economic times.

We are already seeing the repercussions of losing HEMAP. At a time when most U.S. housing foreclosures are decreasing, Pennsylvania saw a nearly 24 percent increase during January 2012. One in every 1,219 houses in our state was in foreclosure during that month. Allegheny County has the second largest number of foreclosure filings in January in the state, with 744 filings.

An increase in foreclosures in Pennsylvania trickles down to individuals who are trying to buy and sell their homes. This level is significant enough to raise the inventory of homes available for sale, which essentially draws potential buyers away from the construction of new homes, resulting in a decrease of jobs available in construction industry and home building business. In addition, these high levels create a negative atmosphere that suppresses consumer confidence.

At a time when services and budgets are being reduced or eliminated completely and unemployment still remains an issue, people need these assistance programs that will allow them to hold onto their homes while the economy recovers. I believe it is absolutely necessary to take this settlement allocation and reestablish HEMAP and help individuals and their families get back on their feet again.



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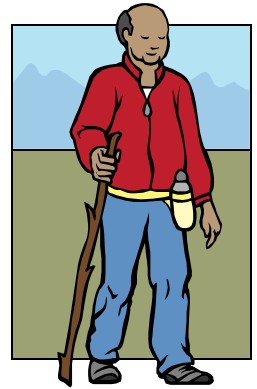
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UPHILL BOTH WAYS - WALKING AND CYCLING IN BROOKLINE



Walking and cycling are easy and enjoyable activities in which all ages can participate. When I moved to Brookline, being a walker/cyclist I was concerned about the steep geography and asymmetrical, narrow roads. It took years to fully canvass Brookline and the surrounding neighborhoods, and I grew strong huffing and puffing along. Now I look forward to 45° hills (sort of). Here are a couple of favorite short courses:



- **Brookline to Chelton to Freedom to Berkshire to Pioneer Ave. (1.5 miles, Easy)**

This is a loop on relatively level streets with just enough hills to get your heart beating. Berkshire is a beautiful old avenue with a number of architecturally interesting homes. This walk/ride can be lengthened by adding in the parallel streets of Bayridge, Fordham and Norwich. If cycling, ride all the streets and alleys in weave pattern to acquire six mile course.

- **Bellaire to Pioneer to Rossmore to Flatbush to Gallion (+/- 2 miles, moderate with killer hills)**

This is a weave of parallel, picturesque streets. The “foothills of the Alps” on Gallion and Rossmore offer a 70’ vertical climb to offer some cool neighborhood vistas.

- **Brookline to Breining to Eben to Seaton to Merrick to Brookline (+/- 2.75 miles, moderate)**

This eastern loop of Brookline features a blend of modest hills and gentle slopes. The back streets are pleasantly quiet. For cycling this loop can be extended by taking Breining to Parklyn and looping around on Sunbeam. Observe the large Ginkgo trees at the bottom of Seaton. The Ginkgo tree is a living fossil from 270 million years ago. Individual trees can live 3,000 years, and the seeds and leaves are used in herbal medicine.

Another thing to consider:

Everyone knows the tremendous personal benefit from a walking regimen, but did you know these activities also help your community in ways you might not have thought of?

Traveling under your own power is a slow motion endeavor. You see people; they see you. Maybe you meet neighbors on another street. Ambling down the Boulevard, residential streets and alleys you discover details you could never know about riding in a car. You observe people fixing their homes, taking pride in their gardens; you note fellow birds and animals going about their lives. You’ll also see that not everyone is concerned with their community. You become conscious of litter and other issues. Consciousness is the beginning of all things, including community. That’s why “walkable” communities are desirable; they slow things down and bring us into closer contact. Contact is what makes a neighborhood in the truest sense of the word.

-Keith Knecht

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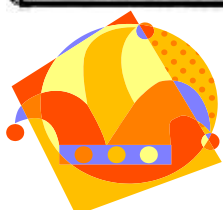
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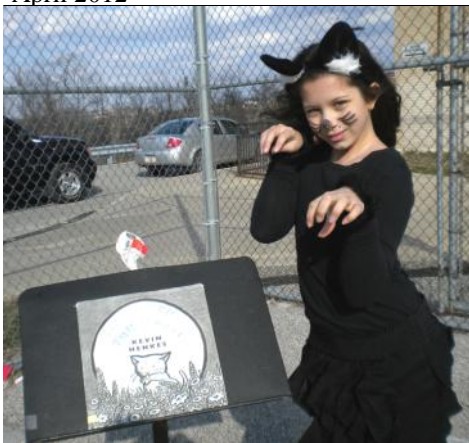


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What's Going On At Pittsburgh West Liberty K-5?



Jada Briggs is *Kitten's First Full Moon*

Our school has been buzzing with lots of good things. During the past month, our phenomenal librarian **Jody Smith** has taken on quite a task. **Mrs. Smith**, for National Literacy Week, had 5th grade students participate in a “living wax museum”. The students chose a book and had a script telling a part of the book which was activated when someone read the title of the book. The children were dressed up as a character from their book. As I walked through the exhibit with my first graders, they wanted to know more about the stories. Now, they have a selection to choose from when they go to the library or to the book store. What a great way to get children motivated to read. The actors included: **Alexandra Arnold, Nathan Ault, Taylor Blake, Bobby Bradley, Jada Briggs, Imani Clement, Makenzie Czegan, Ashlyn Darden, Kara Devers, Alexa Diven, Tyler Diven, Luke Ecker, Gabby Garrubba, Maria Geyer, Lenna Henry, Alexandra Maxwell, Brylie McQuillan, Chaelyn Miller, Candace Moses, Evynn Pack, Mary Pham, Cheyenne Pierce,**

Janaye Poslik, Alyssa Reep, Megan Shay, Jessie Vichie, Brianna Waleko and Nyla Whitley. In addition to the living wax museum, **Mrs. Smith** also headed up a family game night. The Thinking Cap in Butler came to our school where children could try different games with their families and purchase the games if they wished. A light dinner was provided. It was a great opportunity to meet with families and to get rid of the winter blahs. In addition to **Mrs. Smith's** activities, our wonderful PTO has done it again. **Mrs. Fulton**, President of the PTO, along with many helpful parent volunteers, had stations aligned with Dr. Seuss stories. There were crafts and food activities and a great time was had by all. The children enjoyed their goodies while listening to classic Dr. Seuss stories. In addition to Literacy week, we also had dinner at McDonald's on West Liberty Avenue which gave parents an opportunity to visit with other parents and teachers. The teachers worked behind the counters and served food to the families. Our 5th graders along with our PTO also had a food drive. The food was donated to the local **Brookline Food Pantry**. We had a great turnout with donations. Thank you to those who helped to make this successful for our school.



Our 5th grade ballroom dancers continue to rehearse and get ready for their final competition in May. We are presently having Kindergarten registration. If you're interested in stopping by for a visit please call 412-571-7420. We also will be scheduling an Open House in the coming months. Look for more details in the next edition.

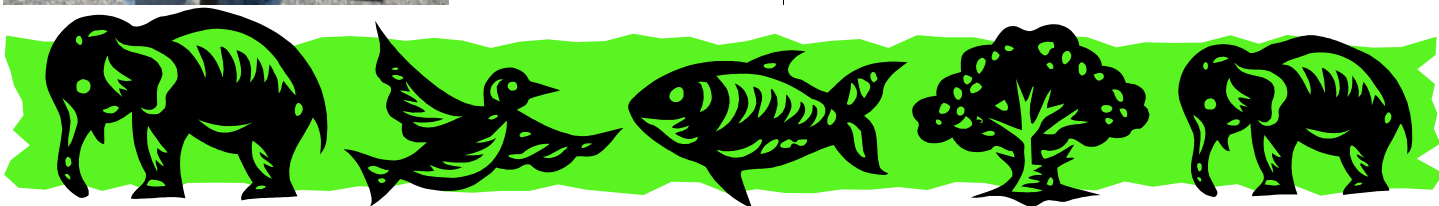
That's all for now. Hope everyone is enjoying the weather now that it's warming up. Remember **Pittsburgh West Liberty** is the place “Where Learners Excel and Character Counts.”


At left: **Janaye Poslik** represents *The True Story of The Three Little Pigs*.



Evynn Pack is *Harry Potter*.

Kathy Moran, Principal
Teresa Grusong-Adams, First grade teacher
Photos provided by *West Liberty K-8*





BROOKLINE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST


SPDC would like to feature your best neighborhood photographs!
 First Prize: Two tickets to Taste of Brookline on April 29th
 Second Prize: \$10 gift card to Cannon Coffee
 Selected photos will be displayed on SPDC's new website

To enter, send your photographs to

spdc.brookline@gmail.com

Deadline: Friday, April 13th

Any Brookline-centric photographs are accepted! Participants may submit multiple photographs.
 Submissions must include name of photographer and location of the photo.
 All photographs must have a resolution of 5 megapixels or higher.
 Submission of a photograph grants South Pittsburgh Development Corporation a royalty-free,
 non-exclusive right to use the photo on our website and in print materials.
 Any featured photographs will be credited with the photographer's name.



DO YOU MONGO?

My paternal grandmother was a scavenger. One of her finds was a rocking chair frame for which she hand-sewed new cushions. We still have the rocking chair.

So I figured I was following family tradition when I rescued items I found while picking up litter. Instead, according to Robin Nagle, an NYU professor, in a recent NPR story my finds are "mongo," sanitation lingo for "redeemed garbage." The word can also function as a verb as in, "Do you mongo?"

Trash Sundays have yielded a couple of high quality black T shirts, sweat pants, running shorts, a cobalt blue Coke glass, a small dinner platter, numerous scarves and winter hats, as well as gloves. Unfortunately it's usually just one glove and generally the right hand. I figure if stores sell mismatched socks for \$15 a pair, it's only a matter of time before mismatched gloves become the rage. Or, I can start a new fad.

Of course there is also the loose change around the parking meters. Who knew that picking up litter came with a material reward?

-Pamela Grabowski



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APRIL SHOWERS BRC WITH EXCITEMENT



March was certainly a busy time at **BRC** with so many people touring and shadowing in our school. Our junior high students prepared four prayerful presentations of the Living Stations for Brookline and Beechview parishes. As April begins we anticipate the Easter season with our 7th graders hosting a Seder Meal for invited guests.

The whole school was involved in the production of a video for a contest to win a commercial for local TV. Wish us luck! Look for our entry later this spring at brschool.com. Our Soccer and Robotics Teams are gearing up for the spring competitions. We are planning a Preschool Open House and Teddy Bear Tea Party on April 20 for families that are interested in enrolling for Fall preschool. And, of course, a sure sign of spring at **BRC** is the annual Kindergarten - 4th grade collaboration on the egg hatching project in conjunction with the Penn State Outreach program....we're looking forward to chicks and ducks!

This month we want to congratulate:

- **Leo Wilson** and **Katie Quigley**, the recipients of the **Frank DeBor, Sr. Scholar Athlete Award**. Each received a plaque and \$500 scholarship for high school from local businessman **Frank DeBor, Jr.** at the **BRC** 8th grade recognition.
- **Katie Smith** and **Olivia Tiani** who were selected to the All Star Forensics team at the Diocesan Competition.
- **Katie Quigley** who was chosen as a 2012 Carson Scholar. Pediatric surgeon Benjamin Carson established the Carson Scholarship to recognize students for academic excellence and service. Katie will receive a medal and \$1000 scholarship to be invested for college at a luncheon to be held in late April.
- **Mrs. Barb Dayieb** who is tirelessly attending to the details for the 13th Annual Grand Event & Silent Auction to be held April 13 at South Hills Country Club. Barb has obtained over 100 auction items including Disney World tickets, sports memorabilia, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade Grandstand Tickets as well as the fabulous Chinese Auction Baskets that have often been large enough to fill a wading pool! If you'd like to join us, call (412) 563-0858.

As the regional Catholic school for the neighborhoods in South Pittsburgh we are proud of our school community and hope you will come see us in action. We wish you and your families the blessings of Easter.

-Janet Salley Rakoczy

ADOPT A BLOCK



Adopt A Block is our attempt to not just clean up Brookline, but keep it clean. It's really rather simple. You tell us which block you want to adopt. Then you keep your block free of litter. **Eileen Papale** has a big map of Brookline so we can keep track of adopted blocks.

We are working to fine tune our program, but for now we are starting with the basics. Call us, write us, or email us the street name and block number you are adopting. Make it a joint venture with some of your neighbors. If your group is large enough you could add the alleys behind the street or adopt the adjoining block.

Play it safe. Make sure you wear gloves. Don't lose sight of your hand. That means don't reach into bushes. You don't know what's there. If you find a particularly appalling mess, contact us.

We will try to find a way to get it cleaned up.

Keep in touch with us. Give us your weekly bag count. Like we said, this is a program in process. We don't have money, but we have enthusiasm and pride. We are going to try to find a place in the community where we can display our "Adopt A Block" map. Down the road we can consider "Adopt A Block" signs recognizing the adopters. "Adopt A Block of Brookline" T shirts? An annual "Adopt A Block" picnic? The possibilities are endless. The immediate reward is a cleaner Brookline.

We will be waiting to hear which block you are adopting so email us at mnp.grabowski@verizon.net and put Adopt A Block in the subject line, call us at 412-343-2859 or write to us at **The Brookline**, P.O. Box 96136, Pittsburgh, PA 15226

-Pamela Grabowski

Volunteers Needed!



Since 1984, Angels' Place has offered free child care and support services to low-income, single, full-time student parents and their children. We are committed to providing student parents with the help needed to complete their education, secure satisfying employment, establish careers and become self-sufficient. Angels' Place provides the loving, nurturing, safe and healthy environment.

Angels' Place
600 Fordham Avenue
Brookline
412-531-6667

We are currently in need of volunteers at our Brookline center. Duties would include working with children, organizing donations, cooking, and more.

If interested, Please contact: Andrea
412-531-6667
www.angelsplacepgh.org

Youth Groups Take the Teen Safe Driving Video Challenge! Win up to \$1, 000!

More teenagers die from vehicle crashes than from cancer, homicide and suicide combined. In an effort to curb that sobering stat, a new, stronger Graduated Driver's License (GDL) law took effective in Pennsylvania on December 27, 2011.

A new website www.padistracteddriving.org, a partnership between the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians and the Pennsylvania DUI Association, aims to educate teens and their parents about this new law.

Use your creativity to develop an original 30-second video public service announcement (PSA/commercial) to reach parents and teens on the importance of Pennsylvania's Graduated Driver's Licensing (GDL) law.

This statewide contest will award nine \$100 regional awards. Those regional winners will then have a chance to win the grand prize of \$1,000.

Entries must be received by April 27, 2012 at noon!

For more information go to <http://www.padistracteddriving.org/>

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Dear Neighbors,

Spring is coming, and Pittsburgh is blooming greener than ever.

Though it can be hard to stay motivated through the winter, we have worked on finding greener ways to improve the way we run our City.

Over the last few months, we have upgraded 3,700 business district streetlights to brighter, cleaner, cost-efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) streetlights - an improvement that is anticipated to reduce the City's energy usage by more than 60 percent and save taxpayers approximately \$110,000 per year; begun the development of "Green Central," a centralized space where residents and City employees will have easy access to information related to everything green; purchased new Compressed Natural Gas (CnG) waste haulers, set to run quieter, cleaner and more efficiently than ever on trash day; and assisted with the weatherization of 70 homes for City residents. And they are just a few recent accomplishments. There are many projects currently in the works that will keep Pittsburgh as a leader in sustainability, including increasing our recycling program and development of the Civic LEAF Academy.

This month, in honor of Earth Day, I invite you to celebrate the preservation of our planet all week with the City's first-ever Earth Market, April 23 - 27, in Market Square, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Not only will you learn about Pittsburgh's sustainability efforts, but you can stock up on resources to help your greening projects all year long. Also, don't miss this year's annual Earth Day celebration in Frick Park on Saturday, April 21.

If your green organization would like to participate in our Earth Market, or you would like more green-related information, please contact the City's Sustainability Coordinator at 412-255-2254. I also encourage you to sign up for an electronic copy of the Green Scene, the Office of Sustainability and Energy Efficiency's new newsletter that provides valuable resources and information about Pittsburgh's push toward a greener future. Go to pittsburghpa.gov/green and click on "Sign up for email updates" to subscribe to the Green Scene.


Creating a sustainable City is a collaborative effort that balances protection, preservation, maintenance and innovation. I am proud that Pittsburgh provides a great quality of life for our residents, and I look forward to working with residents, as well as the public and private sectors, to ensure a green, sustainable, most livable future for our City.


Sincerely,

Luke Ravenstahl
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

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