

THE BOULEVARD LOUNGE



1144 Brookline Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412-563-1850
Mon. thru Sun. 11:00AM to 2:00AM

Over the last several years, Brookline has seen its share of enthusiastic young (and young-minded) entrepreneurs and home owners. Six years ago the oldest standing pub in Brookline was lucky to find one such person in owner **Brian Wright**.

"I was investing in real estate and flipping houses when my sales agent brought me to this place. The former

owners were getting ready to retire and needed a buyer. And the building needed some repairs. I had worked in the food industry before, but never ran a bar," said **Brian Wright**.

"But I love this neighborhood and the people here so I took a chance. And it's paying off." Wright moved to Brookline ten years ago and started renovations on **The Boulevard Lounge** in 2006.

The building was nearly gutted and new electric, plumbing, kitchen and bathrooms were installed. A state of the art sound system allows patrons to enjoy conversation in one room, play pool in the next and even have a dance party in a third newly remodeled room.

Even with all the new, the place is still like home for long-time patrons. Customers from 21-91 years old enjoy the place and each other.

"We love to have fun. And we want everyone around us to have a good time, too," said **Megan Pastorius**, manager.

"This is one of those places you can come in alone, but you're never alone. It's like 'Cheers' that way." Pastorius has worked at **The Boulevard Lounge** for nearly a decade but her enthusiasm for the place –or Brookline - hasn't waned.

"I don't think I'll ever leave Brookline. It's a great community oriented neighborhood and a good place to raise a family."

A menu of sandwiches, pizza and appetizers will keep you satisfied. And if you like wings, **The Boulevard Lounge** boasts 21 sauce flavors. General Tso's is a favorite among the customers. Wright prefers the Black and Gold – a mustard barbeque flavor and Pastorius suggests the Mild Ranch.

Sunday and Thursday are karaoke nights. A video DJ plays all requests on Friday and Saturday nights. Of course the pool table is always open. And fun and good conversation is always free.

The Boulevard Lounge is open every day from 11am – 2am. Find them on Facebook at **Boulevard Lounge**.

-Megan Stearman

-Photo by Melissa Distel





Letter from the Editor

Summer has arrived. That means summer vacation and movies in the park. You may see us at the movies with our popcorn. There are some good movies coming. Check the schedule on page 6. Breeze Fest preparations are gearing up, too.

While we have a lot of exciting events coming, in this issue you will find reviews of last month's premier events including the Mother's Day Tea and Taste of Brookline. The Bar Crawl and the Pot Luck Supper were too late to make this issue so we will cover them next month.

Taste of Brookline was amazing. We heard through the grapevine that some residents missed out because they didn't buy their tickets early. They thought it was going to be another Brookline event where nobody comes. Boy were they surprised! This was a sold out event, and many residents missed a great evening!

Keith Knecht organized another successful Redd-Up in April. Those of us who pick up trash shudder at the sight of any litter, but the truth is that the Boulevard is looking cleaner. Between the Sunday Trash Walk and St. Mark's First Saturday Prayer Walk, we seem to be making a dent. But what's up with the McDonald's bags just dropped followed by the burger wrapper and a few steps further the drink cup?!? We can't help but wonder where these people live, and what their homes look like?!?

Check out the book review on page 15. This is the time of year when people are packing books with their bathing suits for a beach vacation. If you are looking for a good summer read, and especially if you are one of Brookline's many Italian-American residents, *Elizabeth Street* might be your beach book.

Finally, if you contacted us last month and didn't hear back, please try again. We had a death in the family and life was extremely hectic for several weeks. We tried to check the mail and messages and answer everyone as quickly as possible. If we missed you, please accept our apologies, and please contact us again.

Now, we are going to post the movie schedule on the refrigerator. Then we are going to see what we can donate to the Ressi Garage Sale!

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

****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.

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

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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:

June 12 for July's Issue

July 12 for August's Issue

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Mail: The Brookline, PO Box 96136, Pittsburgh, PA 15226.

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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 April 2012:

- Cannon Coffee - \$102.52** ★★
- Kribel's Bakery - \$844.30** ★★
- A Boss - \$62.52**
- Hideaway Mini Mart - \$46.52**

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

- Brookline Christian Food Bank** 412-344-8451
- Carnegie Library** 412-561-1003
- Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak** 412-255-2142
- Dollar Energy/Columbia Gas Cap**
- St. Mark's - Cathy** 412-343-9575
- Meals-on-Wheels** 412-343-8144
- Mini-Bus** 412-344-4222
- Senator Wayne Fontana** 412-344-2551

JOANNE'S CORNER

One of our readers has asked yours truly to dig up some memories of the "**Brookline Twirl-A-Tons**," a marching group popular in the 1970s. I made some phone calls and crossed paths with two former members. This was a male and female band group who was always asked to march in parades and perform at local community functions. The group leader was a **Mrs. Serule** (I know I'm killing that name) and met at the small church still standing at Pioneer Avenue and Dunster Street. I spoke to **Bob Owens**, a drummer, who was very knowledgeable about the group. It had 40 -50 in the group consisting of baton twisters, drummers and other instruments. It seems the group was in existence for 5 -10 years. I would very much like to hear from other members of the Twirl-A-Tons and perhaps see a few more pictures. Write me in care of the Brookline.

-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.

APRIL

CRIMES ZONE 6	Total	Brookline
Aggravated Assault	6	0
Robbery	8	0
Burglary	22	1
Theft	30	11
Theft from Vehicle	9	0
Stolen Vehicle	6	0



Beth Darke and her sister **Mary Darke** as well as several girls from Overbrook, (just behind **Carmalt School**) were all members of the **Twirl-A-Tons**. Beth sent us these pictures from 1972.





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10 YEARS
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READERS' RESPONSE

I just wanted to say thank you for the article on "Taste of Brookline." The evening was wonderful; the food was wonderful; the people were wonderful. It was so nice to see so many people having a great time.

P.S. **Party Cake** is still the best bakery in the world!

Maria Casciato

Dorothy Evans called us to say she remembers Tryson's Shoe Store where she worked before it burned down. We are passing her information on to **Joanne Fantoni**. We are hoping she can track down some more information. Dorothy is now a resident at **Mazza Pavilion**.

BREEZE FEST COMING

The **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** is gearing up for the "**Boulevard Breeze Fest**" on Saturday, August 11, 2012 immediately following the Annual Breeze Race.

From 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, the **Boulevard Breeze Fest** will line Brookline Boulevard with art & craft vendors, food and fun for all.

Vendor space is available on first come first serve; Choice - \$35.00, General - \$25.00. Applications can be picked up at **A-Boss Opticians**, 938 Brookline Boulevard or **Cannon Coffee**, 802 Brookline Boulevard.

For more information email: Blvdbreezefest@hotmail.com or call **Lois McCafferty** at 412-341-5788.

-Linda Boss



WELCOME PARTY AT MAZZA HOSTED BY THE BCC



Debbie Holden from **Community Bank** serving treats to Mazza residents.

-Photo by *Lee Herbermann*

The presence of Brookline merchants at the **Mazza Pavilion** Welcome Party sponsored by the **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** exceeded all expectations. Sixteen individuals, that make Brookline the special place that it is, took time from their busy schedule to welcome the thirty seniors that now make **Mazza Pavilion** their new home. After the speakers, there were door prizes consisting of beauty kits, candy, gift certificates, and Boulevard Bucks, for the new residents of Mazza, contributed by the merchants. Next came the socializing along with cookie and coffee treats provided by **Kribel's** and **Party Cake Bakeries** and **Cannon Coffee**.

Goodie bags, always well received, were full of contributions from Brookliners. The special shopping bags were brimming with gifts from: **A-Boss Opticians**, **Beinhauer Family Funeral Home**, **Party Cake Bake Shop**, **Salon Canova**, **DeBor Funeral Home**, **Dr. Labriola & Dr. Miggantz**, **Brookline Senior Transportation**, **The Medicine Shoppe**, **District Justice James Motznik**, **Jacqueline's Salon**, **The Brookline Plumber**, **PNC Bank**, **Senator Wayne Fontana**, **Brookline Meals on Wheels**, **The Salvation Army**,

Hair by Conroy, **Community Bank**, **St. Marks Church**, **Kribel's Bakery**, **Garcia's Cut Offs**, **Cannon Coffee**, **Brookline Christian Food Bank**, **Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak**, **Erin Molchany**, **South Hills Printing** and of course the **Brookline Chamber of Commerce**.

The committee from the **Brookline Chamber of Commerce**, consisting of **Linda Boss**, **Patty Ruby**, **Mary Jo O'Toole**, and **Lee Herbermann**, were pleased to view the friendships that developed between businesses and the new residents.

-Lee Herbermann

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KENNYWOOD DAY BROOKLINE COMMUNITY DAY

MONDAY JUNE 25

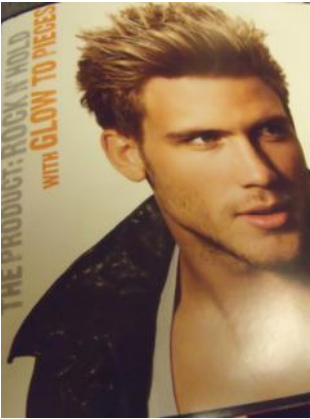
ALL DAY RIDE \$25.00

SENIORS (55 & UP) \$14.00



Stop in to rest or meet other Brookliners at the Brookline Pavilion # 3 between the Penny Arcade and Garfield's Nightmare.

Purchase your Kennywood tickets from any Chamber of Commerce merchant and enter to win prizes.



BEAUTY AND FASHION GLAM

Hello again. Are you ready for summer to be here? Is it time for vacation yet? I hope so!! We all need time to relax and take a break from our everyday work. As you prepare for the warmer weather and being outside remember to suit up, and I don't mean with that bikini. I mean that you need to protect yourself from the SUN! Get all your sun gear in order, from head to toe!! Your hair needs protection also. Yes, your HAIR. Leave-In hair treatments and sun protecting conditioners will help shield your hair and scalp from sun damage! Matrix Total Results Repair Break Fix Leave-In Elixir repairs damage caused by sun exposure. This treatment product will smooth, protect and repair from the inside out!

Your face should not be left out. SPF 15 or above should be used to give your skin the best protection from the sun. Moisturize your face daily for defense against the environment using VITAMIN C COMPLEX. Fluhme serums are filled with antioxidants and also have anti-aging ingredients to repair skin and brighten complexion.

DID YOU KNOW...that what you eat can help your hair and skin? Eating healthy is so important for hair growth and glowing skin. Fish has omega 3s, beans are rich in biotin, and whole grains contain Vitamin B. Greens are full of vitamin C to boost iron and calcium. So go on, eat healthier to promote great hair and skin!

June is the month to celebrate the MEN IN OUR LIFE!! So here are some tips for all you guys out there. MEN'S HAIRSTYLING 101- cuts for 2012 - slicked-back undercuts are very popular right now. How to do it? Work a styling gel like GELEE by Matrix and comb back in place to give a smooth look, then spray with light finishing spray for extra hold.

Short and curly...do you have some curl or wave? If you do, give your style a nice MESSY LOOK, define those curls with defining cream for the perfect wash and wear style!

Did you know that men's hair grows a little faster than women's? So get styling MEN THIS SEASON with the new you!

Well let's recap ... you need to get your SPF products, eat healthy for great hair and skin, and remember to repair damage from exposure to the environment. You can get all these products at the salon! I hope you have a safe and healthy June!!



HAPPY FATHERS DAY TO ALL YOU WONDERFUL DADS !

Until next time ...live your dreams!

Jacqueline Capatolla, Jacqueline's Salon

www.jacquelinesnews.com

BROOKLINE BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Brookline Blvd. Improvement Project, the meeting of April 19, 2012.

Right-of-way

Conditional right-of-way plan approval received on April 16. A couple of very minor comments are being addressed.

Roadway

Cross-slopes of bumpouts required to meet existing doorway elevations. This would be at Castlegate. The high graded sidewalks at the block of 906 also was being addressed.

Traffic

Locations of traffic signal poles/mast arms have been adjusted to replace parking meters where possible.

Lighting

Light pole locations have been adjusted to avoid conflicts with ADA ramps and proposed landscaping. Lighting report comments from Central Office are currently being addressed.

Utilities

Meeting with Duquesne Light conducted on April 9 to discuss overhead fiber optics and required power drops. Existing Duquesne Light poles along Pioneer Avenue adjacent to **CVS Pharmacy** will remain in their current location.

Meters

2 headed meters? Meters on light post? Paystations? Our best choice would be paystations, but at this point of the project it is not certain what they will install yet.

Start date is early spring 2013...finish date November 2013.

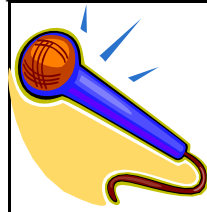
You can see the progress yourself by visiting the website Pittsburghfederalprojects.com

Lois McCafferty



TRASH WALK

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



OPEN MIC SERIES

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

EVENTS THIS MONTH

June 2 Saturday

Vacant Lot (next to A-Boss Opticians) Work Day - Help clean-up an eyesore.

June 2 Saturday

Friends of the Library 10:00AM - 11:00AM Carnegie Library
708 Brookline Blvd.

June 11 Monday

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

June 12 Tuesday

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

June 18 Monday

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

Brookline Year Round Farm Stand



Seton Center
1900 Pioneer Ave
Wednesday
11:00AM - 6:00PM



BROOKLINE MEMORIAL PARK JUNE MOVIE SCHEDULE

Start at Dusk

- June 14 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2
- June 21 Puss in Boots
- June 28 Zookeeper
- July 5 Hugo



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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1100 Chelton Avenue
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FATHER'S DAY JUNE 17

Happy Hour @ Moonlite Café
Come and Celebrate
Moonlite Café's

NEW NON-SMOKING
STATUS

Tuesday June 26



The Taste of Brookline Committee from left to right: Jennifer Askey, Ryan Askey, Paul Lowe, Jack Stanizzo, Stephanie Miller, Keith Knecht. Congratulations on a marvelous event!

-Photo by *Melissa Distal*

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
- **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**

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

-*Marian Wright Edelman*, President and founder of the Children's Defense Fund



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(In Back of Patio Enclosures)



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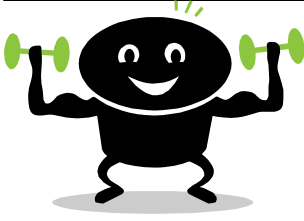
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2nd Location—McKees Rocks (Near McKees Rocks Bridge) 412-331-9000



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.

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.

Weight Loss & Fitness Program

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

Burke's Extreme Speed Training

Improve your speed, agility and power. Get measurable results with our trained instructor. This coed hybrid workout for ages 12 - 18 is suitable for every sport. Three-week sessions: (May 22 - June 9), (June 12 - June 30), (July 3 - July 21). Cost \$20/session.

Recreation Center Summer Basketball Leagues 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.

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

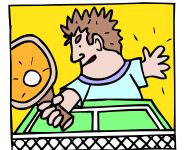
Gym is available for public use from 1:15pm -8:45pm depending on Recreation Center program use.

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

BROOKLINE BREEZE 5K RUN/WALK



The Brookline Breeze 5K Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, August 11, 2012 at Brookline Park. There is also a one-mile fun run for the kids and a one-mile dog walk. Registration is available online at www.brooklinebreeze.com and printable registration forms are now available. The Breeze festivities will be followed by the Brookline Boulevard BreezeFest, a community celebration including merchant sales, games, prizes, inflatable rides and much more. Mark your calendars. Come celebrate physical fitness, healthy living and the Community of Brookline on Saturday, August 11, 2012.



CARNEGIE LIBRARY HOSTS MOTHER'S DAY TEA



On Saturday, May 12, the Friends of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Brookline hosted a Mother's Day Tea. Kids up to age 12 were invited to bring their moms to the library for tea service including sandwiches, cookies and scones with clotted cream. Children had a storytime with

Miss Erin and decorated tissue paper hats to give to mom for her special day. The tea was generously provided by Cannon Coffee.

The Friends are a group dedicated to supporting one of our community's greatest assets - your public library! We are looking for active community members and leaders to get involved and "Friend" the Library. Call or stop by the Library to find out how or plan to join us for one of our regular meetings on the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM. We will be planning a lot of exciting programs for the community. Next up is a large book sale as part of the annual Brookline Breeze 5K Run and Fitness Walk Breezefest sidewalk sales.

-Jessica Clark



A TASTE OF BROOKLINE WAS OUTSTANDING!

If you missed the **Taste of Brookline** on Sunday, April 29, then you missed a great fundraiser hosted by **South Pittsburgh Development Corporation**. The **Taste of Brookline** showcased the flavors of Brookline and sold out a few days before the event took place. Approximately 250 people packed the **Ritz Banquet Hall** located at 736 Brookline Boulevard for a sampling of what Brookline has to offer. Attendees from all over the Pittsburgh area enjoyed tasting local food and drinks, talking to the local business owners, and listening to great music from **Jack Stanizzo** and **Paul Lowe**.

The success of the event was due largely to the food establishments that we are so lucky to have in Brookline. Participants in this year's event were the **Moonlite Café**, **Kribel's Bakery**, **Vinnie's Pretzel Shop**, **Antonio's Pizza**, **Pitaland**, **Las Palmas**, **Party Cake Shop**, **The Brookline Pub**, **Cannon Coffee**, **Ritz Banquet Hall**, and **Burgh Bees**.

The event would not have been possible without support from our sponsors: Brookline Chamber of Commerce, **Community Bank**, **Renew Pittsburgh**, and the **Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh**. In addition to sponsorship support, goods and services were also donated to the **Taste of Brookline**. The committee would like to thank the following businesses and friends: **A-Boss Opticians**, **Beinhauer's Funeral Home**, **Brookline Area Community Council**, **Brookline Block Watch**, **Brookline Chamber of Commerce**, **Brookline-Dormont Patch**, **Cannon Coffee**, **Garcia's Cut Off**, **Kribel's Bakery**, **Party Cake Shop**, **Phyllis DiDiano**, **Trust-Franklin Press**, and **Wyld Chyld Tattoo**.

A special thanks goes out to the committee members of **Taste of Brookline**: **Jennifer Askey**, **Ryan Askey**, **Keith Knecht**, **Paul Lowe**, **Lois McCafferty**, **Stephanie Miller**, and **Jack Stanizzo**. A special thanks to **Annette Ferrieri** who facilitated the raffle and **Melissa Distel** for the event photography.

The money raised from the event will be used toward neighborhood revitalization projects in Brookline and future community events.

If you didn't get tickets to this year's event, we hope that we see you at future **SPDC** events! Our next monthly meeting is Monday, June 18 at 7:00 PM at the **Brookline United Presbyterian Church**.

*-Stephanie Miller
-Jennifer Askey*

A TASTE OF BROOKLINE IN PICTURES!





SENATOR WAYNE FONTANA

As I write this, the budget process is underway and the 2012-13 state budget is beginning to take shape. I have stood with my colleagues in the Senate Democratic Caucus and demanded restoration of funding in many of the state's essential programs that saw drastic cuts in last year's budget. We have made it clear what our priorities are and have stood up to the Administration to make it known that these deep cuts will not be tolerated. Our voices have made a difference.

On May 9, the Senate passed a revised version of the state's fiscal 2012-13 spending plan that was first introduced by the Governor in February. While **not** the final budget, Senate Bill 1466 (SB 1466) is a step in the right direction as it represents a positive shift in the priorities. In the weeks to come, many negotiations will take place and SB 1466 will be used as a base to shape what the final budget will look like in the end. This bill is simply a starting point that all members can work with to reach a compromise.

Many of the key areas that I have demanded restoration for are addressed in SB 1466. This legislation provides \$50 million for Accountability Block Grants which were zeroed out in the Governor's proposal. These block grants are used by school districts for kindergarten and pre-school programs, as well as after school tutoring programs. SB 1466 provides \$50 million for basic education and restores funding to Pre-K Counts Program and Head Start Supplemental Assistance at 2011-12 levels. This legislation also restores some major funding to human services programs, including hospitals and nursing homes and adds \$10 million for persons with disabilities. Almost a complete restoration of funding for state institutions of higher education will take place under the revision as well as an additional \$8 million that was allocated for Pennsylvania Higher Education Agency Assistance (PHEAA) grants for students.

As the General Assembly moves forward in the process, I will continue to fight for basic education, financial assistance through grants for students seeking higher education, job creation, as well as non-profits that desperately need funding. I also hope the final budget agreement will address the issues raised when combining the seven human services programs into a single block grant.

SB 1466 now heads to the House of Representatives, where further negotiations will take place between Representatives and the Governor. I encourage you to continue to reach out to the Governor and House members about your priorities. The fight is not over and much work remains but this revised budget shows that our voices have been heard and reflects a positive shift in priorities that citizens across our state have demanded.



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8TH ANNUAL EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP A SUCCESS

South Pittsburgh Development Corporation's 8th Annual Earth Day Clean-Up was another success! Two years in a row the event has taken place on a rainy day, but that didn't dampen the spirits of approximately 18 adult volunteers and 40 kids from **Brookline Memorial Park Recreation Center**. Coffee, pastries and lunch were provided for adult volunteers and the kids got a pizza party. Thanks to **Cannon Coffee, Antonio's Pizza, Party Cake** and **Kribel's Bakeries** for their years of support. Also a very special thank you to Myrna Newman at Allegheny Cleanways, who year after year makes sure we get bags and gloves.

The good news is that after eight years, we are collecting about half of the garbage we used to deal with. The park was so clean that **Clint Burton** had his kids clean the streets surrounding the park. There are a number of factors helping with the litter situation:

- The years of removing tons of "old litter" makes for less trash.
- A number of people are "Adopting a Block". Sunday's "Trash Walks" and continued guerrilla efforts by trash fighter **Eileen Papale** and others have helped enormously.
- People (at least the semi-decent) are less likely to litter when areas are clean. The unconscious message conveyed in a clean neighborhood is *Someone Cares*
- General community pride is growing. A lot of new faces have arrived, many of them are excited to be a part of the community.

This is wonderful news, but let's not rest on our laurels. Continuing to be strident in our quest to have a clean and conservation oriented approach to our community will make it shine as a place to be!

-Keith Knecht

WANTED!

We need someone with a truck or vehicle capable of hauling tires. Our Adopt-A-Block participants are finding tires and Eileen Papale has found a disposal site for us. If you want to help out, call us at 412-343-2859 or email mnp.grabowski@verizon.net.

Pittsburgh Baptist Church

Vacation Bible School



Dates: June 18th-21st Time: 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Ages 3 and up including Adults - Meal provided

Registration form at church or via website:

www.pittsburghbaptist.org

Registration deadline: June 11th

Celebration Block Party on June 22nd 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

For more info contact Kathleen at (412) 489-6435

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

Hard to believe the month of June has sprung upon us. It's time to break out the lemonade and get ready for a nice relaxing summer. Before we start relaxing here at West Liberty, we thought you should know how we will end our busy school year. On Tuesday, June 12, we'll be having our Kindergarten promotion at 9:30 am. A great time will be held by our families as they are treated with a year in review of their precious loved ones. That's not the only celebrating we'll be doing. On Wednesday, June 13, at 9:30 am, we'll be having our fifth grade promotion. New this year, we will celebrate the achievements of our fifth grade students at our Awards Banquet to be held on Monday, June 11, 2012 at 5:00 pm.

Speaking of those who go above and beyond, **Pittsburgh West Liberty K-5** acknowledged our fabulous volunteer team at a luncheon Wednesday, May 23. This is a small way for us to say thank those who give so much of their time and energy to help our school be the successful place for our students to have a wonderful grade school experience.

In May, we had our V.I.P. Day (Very Important Person). This was a day where students could invite their fathers or other significant people in their lives. During this day, our wonderful PTO president, **Mrs. Fulton**, helped coordinate a lot of fun activities for the participants. These activities included: planting in our flower beds, **Mr. McCafferty** sharing his musical talents with our school orchestra, watching our ballroom dancers rehearse for their final competition, a repeat performance of our librarian **Jody Smith's** Wax Museum, build your own Nacho Bar and a game of flag football between parents and students. Speaking of musical performance, **Mr. McCafferty's** violin players performed for the All City Elementary School Exhibit at the August Wilson Center. The performers included: **Alexis McElravy** (solo), **Hannah Lacek** (solo), **Evynn Pack**, **Julian Satria**, **Noah Synowiec**, **Maria Geyer** (duet) and **Alexandra Arnold** (duet).

We also had a special celebration day for our students who read 25 or more books this year. This was in addition to the regular homework that is assigned daily. These students read 25 books at their reading level and completed book reports (or logs) and submitted them to their teachers. The students enjoyed an additional recess and had sno-cones, provided by our PTO.

And now what you have all been waiting for, the Honor Roll and High Honor Roll students for **Pittsburgh West Liberty K-5** during the 3rd reporting quarter: Honor Roll Students: **Mac Anderson, Tyler Andrews, Daniel Anthony, Kylee Arlotta, Nathan Ault, Carly Ayers, Timothy Bateman, Savannah Brooks, Ashlyn Darden, Michele Defide, Alexa Diven, Tyler Diven, Sethanjai Doan, Dominick Emma, Alana Fant, Alaysha Fant, Caleb Ford, Dorien Ford, Shane Foster, Da'Shon Freeman, Christian Gable, Kya Gage, Gabrielle Garrubba, Maria Geyer, Damien Griffiths, Shyllynn Hancock, Leena Henry, Joelynn Jones, Torrie Komoroski, Lynasia Lane, Jamie May, Kayleigh McDermott, Brylie McQuillan, Zachary Mincin, Alvin Minor III, Ariyana Moore, Brenton Morefield, Jenna Moretti, Visawn Pennix, Emily Pham, Mary Pham, Ryan Recker, Roland Rhyne, Andrai Russell, Jaclyn Salla, Zion Scott, Megan Shay, Delanie Staab, Daniel Stangrecki, Destiny Stone, Richard Stowe, Kayla Sunder, Aaliyah Thomas, Avah Tisdale, Brianna Waleko, Nina Wells, Peyton White, Elijah Williams, and Angel Wright.**

Students earning High Honor Roll (3.5 or higher) include: **Esam Abisse, Gary Alspach, Aiden Anderson, Christopher Andrews, Alexandra Arnold, Adrianna Artzberger, Nicholas Ault, Kevin Ayers, Christopher Bittner, Julia Blake, Rylee Blake, Taylor Blake, Isabela Bondi, Kaylin Bradley, Robert Bradley, Michael Brooks, Cheyenne Burgos, Ashlyn Bushmen, Sara Bushmen, Evan Carter, Hannah Casto, Adam Chandler, Brenna Clegg, Imani Clement, Hannah Coleman, Mitchell Collinsworth, Cameron Colwell, Bella Crapis, Chase Cyphers, Carter Czegan, Makenzie Czegan, Alexis Davis, Delany Devault, Kara Devers, Dynasti Dickerson, Elizabeth Dugan, Nolan Dunn, Dominick Feldman, Alexandria Fulton, Angelina Fulton, Devon Gammage, Jonathan Grabowski, Lindsey Greb, Timothy Green, Christopher Grosse, Jacob Grosse, Madison Heid, Jayson High, Christian Hutchison, Sean Ignasky, Katelynn Joyce, Ireland Kennedy, Isabelle Klein, Emma Kozelnik, Allison Krapp, Hanna Kuchnicki, Madison Kyle, Devonn Kyles, Hannah Lacek, Shi'Quon Lane, Maura Lenkner, Ashley Lippold, Jennifer Lippold, Nicholas Lippold, Alexandra Loeffert, Leslie Manson, Alexandra Maxwell, Shane McCalla, Sager McDill, Alexis McElravy, Ashley Michel, Nicholas Mohan, Cole Morrison, Troy Neely, Liam O'Neil, Evynn Pack, Tyler Palmer, Giselle Pennix, Casey Price, Leandra Reed, Tatiana Romanelli, Anthony Romano, Walker Rud, Julian Satria, Kevin Schwerin, Richard Shulik, Jai'lyr Smith, Gabriella Stanizzo, Emily Synowiec, Noah Synowiec, Nicholas Terlecki, Nikko Valdisera, Cody Wadlow, Aiden Walsh, Isabella Walsh, Lynsee Wehring, Savannah White, Mateo Woodson and Milena Yochus.**

As we get ready to end another academic year, please keep in mind we are getting ready for next year. If you are a retired person or a retired teacher we'd love to have you volunteer at our school and be one of our family. Please call 412-571-7420 if you are interested. Enjoy your summer. Next issue will feature the honor roll students for 4th quarter of the 2011-2012 academic year. Enjoy your summer break and remember Pittsburgh West Liberty is the place "Where Learners Excel and Character Counts."

-Kathy Moran, Principal

-Teresa Grusong-Adams, First Grade Teacher

A "STAR" SPANGLED YEAR'S END AT BROOKLINE REGIONAL CATHOLIC

As June begins we find much to celebrate at **BRC**. Our Art Odyssey was a great success. The artwork was inspiring, the food delicious and the company delightful. A huge thank you to **Angie Watson, Amy Russman, Julie Quigley** and their helpers who turned the **BRC** gym into a Circus Big Top!

The Diocesan Math 24 Tournament hosted by BRC had star-studded results. **J.T. Wheeler, Cullen Vereb** and **Zach Folino** received medals in their divisions.

Congratulations to the eighth grade students who received scholarships to Seton La-Salle High School:

- **Erin Milcarek** received the Elizabeth Ann Seton Legacy Scholarship
- **Katie Quigley** received the Bishop Donald W. Wuerl Scholarship
- **Erin Skiff** received the Mary Ann Gargani Scholarship
- **J. T. Wheeler** received the Gus Gillespie Scholarship
- **Leo Wilson** received the Edward Martin Ryan, Jr. Scholarship

These awards bring the total scholarships awarded to **BRC** students to \$204,000 in the last 13 years. Certainly a stellar accomplishment that continues to illuminate **BRC's** emphasis on academic excellence.

And, finally, we would like to recognize another All Star. **Mrs. Gloria Iovino** is retiring this year. She has touched the lives of hundreds of students and families. We wish her Godspeed and thank her for the great beginnings that have lasted many lifetimes.

Have a safe summer!

-Janet Salley Rakoczy, Principal



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CONSIDER TAKING *ELIZABETH STREET* ON VACATION

BOOK REVIEW



Elizabeth Street is an excellent, absorbing account of the life of Italian immigrants in America set in the 1900s. The central character is Giovanna, the dominant personality of the story. Those of us... you... who grew up in Italian immigrant families will not only identify with it, but will become emotionally enraptured with the characters. I'm not sure if the story by Ms. Laurie Fabiano is based on fact, or is fictional; but it is said the story is based on factual happenings and around her great-grandmother. It is the story of a young, love filled Italian girl who, with great anticipation and hope, is to follow her husband to America, only to be met with tragedy. The story takes place mainly around the lower east side of New York City, but bounces back and forth from the crowded, demoralizing tenements of "Elizabeth Street" to Giovanna's small home town in Sicilia, Italia. The story spins you around an emotional spectrum filling you with "i racconti" of love, family, death, tragedy, discrimination, and the intimidation, fear and extortion of the "Mano Nera" – the Black Hand (the precursor to the Mafia). It is a passionate story written by a passionate writer. A sad, heartbreaking story, yet there are issues of courage, toughness and small victories. There is an interesting array of sub-characters as part of the story, both good and evil, such as Lt. Petrosino, the cop, Signora Lucrezia, the mid-wife, and Lupo the Wolf, the chief Black Hand. All these added characters give depth and credence to the tough, back-breaking life of the Italian immigrant and their struggle for survival in a foreign land. The episode of the kidnapping of a little girl, and its outcome, are terrifying and tense. The book is a page turner. It is a realistic read, portraying the adversities of the early Italian immigrants in America. I thank Cornelious Rifugiato for recommending it to me; and now I recommend it to you.

-Tony Traficante



FLAG DAY JUNE 14



WHY YOUNG WORKERS SHOULD CARE ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY

Summer will be here before we know it. That means millions of high school and college students will be searching for jobs. Whether a new worker is beginning the career of a lifetime or just earning some extra money for the school year to come, there is one question that is likely to be on each new worker's mind when they see their first pay stub: Where's the rest of my money?

Generally, employers are required to withhold Social Security and Medicare tax from a worker's paycheck. The amounts you pay in Social Security and Medicare taxes are matched by your employer. Usually the money that is withheld is referred to as "Social Security taxes" on the employee's payroll statement. Sometimes the deduction is labeled as "FICA taxes," which stands for Federal Insurance Contributions Act. So let us tell you how that money is being used, and what's in it for you.

The taxes paid now translate to a lifetime of protection, when you eventually retire or if you become disabled. In the event that you die young, your dependent children and spouse may be able to receive survivors benefits based on your work. Today you probably have family members — grandparents, for example — who already enjoy Social Security benefits that your Social Security taxes help provide.

You may be a long way from retirement now, so you may find it hard to appreciate the value of benefits that could be 40 or 50 years away. But consider that your Social Security taxes could pay off sooner than you think. Social Security provides valuable disability benefits — and studies show that a 20-year-old has about a three in 10 chance of becoming disabled sometime before reaching retirement age.

Another bit of helpful advice for young workers: be wary if you're offered a job "under the table" or "off the books." If you work for any employer who pays you only in cash, understand that you're likely not getting Social Security credit for the work you're doing.

Want to learn more about Social Security and what it means to young workers? If so, we invite you to enjoy a webcast: *Social Security 101: What's In It For Me?* The webcast will fill you in on the details you should know to get the most out of Social Security. Check it out at www.socialsecurity.gov/webinars/social_security_101.html.

If you have questions about Social Security, the best place to go is online — to www.socialsecurity.gov.

-Patricia Thibault

Social Security District Manager



COUNCILWOMAN NATALIA RUDIAK

Last month, I had the pleasure of spending some time at the **Brookline Recreation Center** at **Brookline Memorial Park** during an instructional basketball clinic. Boys and girls aged six to eight were learning dribbling and passing skills, but I was equally impressed with the other skills they were learning: listening, sharing, and working together.

These are the kinds of skills and values that our community centers help instill in our children. In addition to serving as a space used by some of our finest community organizations like the **Brookline Knights** and the **Brookline Little League**. It hosts its own league in basketball in the summer for kids 9-14. It is starting up a new program, "Burke's Extreme Speed Training", which gets teens ages 12-18 involved in strength conditioning. These are dynamic programs that give our children things to do throughout the year. The staff does a great job of providing a nurturing environment for kids to have fun.

But the recreation center is not just for kids! There is a lot of programming for adults throughout the year. The center has a state of the art weight room and cardio center that is free to city residents, open until 8:45pm on weekdays and 3:45pm on Saturday. On Tuesday nights the Rec center has yoga classes for adults after work. Body sculpting classes are held Monday and Thursday evenings. And the Rec center hosts community events such as the monthly flea market/craft shows and car cruises.

The recreation center is a tremendously important asset to this community. The staff are passionate and really care about making this neighborhood a great place to be. I am constantly struck by how much fun they have helping people discover this gem.

If you haven't been to the Rec center recently, I really encourage you to take a trip and see your tax dollars at work. The center is at 1400 Oakridge Street, and there is plenty of free parking. Or give them a call at 412-571-3222 to find out how you can get involved in this fantastic community asset. Check out the **Citiparks** website citiparks.net to find out more about the wonderful programming across the City. If you have questions about this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 412-255-2131.



ADOPT A BLOCK

We are still collecting names, and we would like to add yours to the map. Remember safety first! 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. You can find grabbers for under \$5.00. We were able to find grabber tools for \$2.00 at Harbor Freight stores. This tool allows you to pick up without bending over and reach into bushes to grab debris. If you find a particularly appalling mess, contact us. We will try to find a way to get it cleaned up. We need a volunteer to haul the tires we find. **Eileen Papale** has a drop off; we need someone with a truck.

Keep in touch with us. Give us your weekly bag count. 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

ADOPTED BLOCKS

Bellaire Ave. bet. Whited & Edgebrooke - Jennifer Grab
Gallion Ave. - Lisa Wilson, Pam Novak & Dana Hackley
Brookline Blvd. bet. Merrick & Starkamp - Patty & Dan Kaczmariski
Rossmore Ave. bet. Flatbush & Wedgemere - Mary Jo O'Toole
Norwich Ave. - Michael & Pamela Grabowski

900 Woodbourne Ave. - Diane Walkowski & Mary Anne Miller

5/2/12 - Diane: After about an hour and a half, I collected enough to fill 3 small grocery bags plus one blue bag of recycling material along the even side of the 900 block then up Stebbins to & including LaJoie Way, the alley behind Woodbourne. Mostly cig butts but I did find a penny! Woo hoo...

5/7/12 - Mary Anne: 1/2 of a Shop & Save bag full of trash picked up on Woodbourne

Diane: Only one small bag, mostly cig butts & broken bottle glass. Oh, & I found another penny!

5/14/12 - Diane: Filled over 5 gallons of garbage & 1 blue bag of recycling

600 Mayville - Peg Sherwood & Mac

500 Berkshire - Sarah McCalla



PICK UP YOUR BUTTS





CITY OF PITTSBURGH

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Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

Dear Neighbors,

Summer is right around the corner and, for the City of Pittsburgh, it marks a season full of fun activities and events for residents and visitors. A number of activities are available at our City's parks and recreation centers, from water safety classes for kids to free lunch programs for youth and seniors. Many communities host farmer's markets and community festivals, and several large-scale events are enlivening our City, like the Three Rivers Art Festival and the International Jazz Festival.

You can create your own events, too. Team up with your neighbors to clean up nearby streets, plan a community gathering or attend local sporting events. Throughout the summer, be sure to pay attention to weather alerts and encourage each other to stay safe and cool during heat advisories.

This summer also marks a milestone in our City's commitment to educating our students. The first class of Pittsburgh Promise scholars graduates this year! Throughout the month of June, many events will take place to honor the students' achievement and encourage them to give back by participating in community service. To join in the celebrations, please visit www.celebratingthepromise.org to learn more about the exciting events taking place this month and how you can get involved. As a co-founder of the Pittsburgh Promise, I am extremely proud of our students and hope that we can continue to encourage Pittsburgh's young talent to pursue higher education.

I'm looking forward to a safe, fun and exciting summer, and I hope you will take advantage of the many family-friendly activities happening across our City.

Sincerely,

Luke Ravenstahl
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

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- Race Participant T-shirt
- One Day Pass to Fitness Center
- Post Race Food
- Sponsorship Gift Bag
- Door Prizes

Come by 1060 McNeilly Road to register for the Run/Walk on **Saturday, July 21st!** The registration is \$15 for both walkers and runners. After July 9th registration will be \$20 at the door. Look forward to Seeing You!

Register with
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@
(412) 207-2127
Ext. 102



**McNeilly Mile
5K Run/Walk**

Pittsburgh Temple Worship & Service Center

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