

## BETZ AUTO WORKS



**Steve Betz** claims he's not much of a people person, but as I stand and wait to speak to him I can tell he's a *good* person. He's taking the time to listen to a friend in need and then offers solutions of help.

"I grew up here. Everybody knows me. I have friends from here that I've known for 25 years," Betz says.

Betz, 41, has been the owner of **Betz Auto Works** for the past two years, but the gleaming white shop has been in Brookline since the 1970s.

"My uncle owned the shop first. When he was ready to retire he gave it to my dad. Then I took over when my

dad retired, but I've been working here since I was 15."

A brief stint at the Art Institute made him realize that the shop was where he was meant to be.

"I started this shop with only \$2,000 of my own money and worked hard to build up the business to where we are today."

Betz credits employee **Tim Vanselow** as a key to his success. "Tim's been with me since my dad owned the place. He's really a good kid, works very hard and helps me out a lot. Maybe one day when I'm ready to retire, he'll take things over."

**Betz Auto Works** specializes in truck and auto body repair and painting, as well as collision service, dings and dents and custom car painting – from a total allover paint job to detailed work dreamt up in your imagination. Betz's own car has a sleek three-toned paint job with bright green pinstripes.

"My daughter's already said she wants a lime green Mustang. She's 7." Attention to paint detail obviously runs in the family.

With a shop that's been in business as long as this one, it's hard to find someone who doesn't know the name. Its long-standing good reputation has helped Betz's gain a lot of insurance and used-car jobs.

"We want to take care of people here and we try to be quick about it."

The shop employs only four and still turns out around 30 cars a week.

"I keep only good people here. We work hard and we work a lot."

So what will Ashley need to do to earn her lime green mustang?

With a smile reserved for his daughter, Betz laughs and says, "Oh, when she turns 16, it will be waiting for her."

614 Brookline Boulevard.

Pittsburgh, PA 15226

412-561-1666

Monday thru Friday 8:00AM - 6:00PM

Saturday 8:00AM - 12:00 PM

*Megan Stearman*  
-Photo by *Melissa Distel*



## Letter from the Editor

What a summer this has been! We fear payment for this hot weather will come due this winter, but we are enjoying the weather while it lasts. The heat and humidity demand a languorous pace to our days. The Sunday Trash Walk is taking longer, and unfortunately, the quantity of trash is greater. This has been a perfect summer for the merchants who

have outdoor seating like **Cannon Coffee, Scoops, Vinny's Pizza, Brookline Pub, Hank's Hot Dog and Vinnie's Pretzel Shoppe**. We wonder if **Las Palmas** broke a most tacos sold record this year?

August is a showcase month for Brookline. We host the **Brookline Breeze 5K** followed by the **Breeze-Fest**. We find ourselves in a quandary. While we don't want to see the runners dropping from the heat, we do want a beautiful day for the **Breeze-Fest**. This year's **Breeze-Fest** promises to be better than last year. If you were one of the lucky people who attended the **Taste of Brookline**, you know we have great food in Brookline. The **Breeze-Fest** will have that great food as well as arts, crafts and live music.

Stop at the **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** table and learn about the *Shop the Line Program* sponsored by the Chamber. It will be important to keep the Boulevard vital during next year's redevelopment project. We will all have to make an effort, even go out of our way, to shop on the Boulevard. At times it may be a hassle or inconvenient, but by the end of next year we should be rewarded with a much-improved Boulevard. The *Shop the Line Program* is another way to reward you for making the extra effort.

As we begin to move from the languid days of summer to the cooler days of fall, dear readers, we ask that you review your calendars whether they be in a leather-bound case or tacked to the refrigerator door. Brookline needs your support now. We had occasion to drop off food at the **Brookline Christian Food Pantry** last month. What struck us was the age of the volunteers. Brookline survives and thrives as a direct result of the efforts of its residents. See if there isn't some time in your schedule to volunteer or to walk outside your door and clean the trash from the front of your property. If we all do a little, it will add up to a lot.

### \*\*\*\*\*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.

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 1 inch ad space. Remember ad graphics and artwork are free! Contact **Pamela Grabowski** 412-343-2859 or [mnp.grabowski@verizon.net](mailto:mnp.grabowski@verizon.net) for more information.

### We have over 1,400 readers.

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

**Snail Mail: The Brookline,**  
PO Box 96136, Pittsburgh, PA 15226  
**Phone:** 412-343-2859 **Email:** [mnp.grabowski@verizon.net](mailto:mnp.grabowski@verizon.net)

## THE BROOKLINE

### The Brookline Staff

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**Rosemarie Traficante** Delivery  
**South Hills Printing** - *The Brookline's official printer*



### THE BROOKLINE PAST ISSUES

**Clint Burton** has archived past issues of **The Brookline** at [www.brooklineconnection.com](http://www.brooklineconnection.com).

### DEADLINES:

**August 12 for September's Issue**  
**September 12 for October's Issue**

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Email:** [thebrookline@brookline-pgh.org](mailto:thebrookline@brookline-pgh.org) or [mnp.grabowski@verizon.net](mailto:mnp.grabowski@verizon.net)  
**Telephone:** 412-343-2859  
**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 June 2012:

- Cannon Coffee - \$165.52** ★★
- Kribel's Bakery - \$915.05** ★★
- A Boss - \$66.84**
- Hideaway Mini Mart - \$50.49**

## 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



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## JOANNE'S CORNER

Well, this year the dog days of summer came a bit early. Usually those very hot and humid days pop up in August. They have been upon us since late June this year. To make matters worse, **Moore Pool** was closed and did not open until the 4th of July. In the '40s and '50s, **Moore Pool** was the place to be on those hot summer days. With our bathing suits and caps rolled in a towel we would walk to the pool and back every day. No waiting for someone to ride us there and pick us up. We had our money for the popsicle man rolled in a hanky or sock. No worries in those days about strangers approaching kids. What a wonderful carefree life we had. Childhood in Brookline back in those years was literally fun and games. It's amazing how clearly I remember it all.

This year our **Brookline '50s Picnic** will be held at South Park Home Economics Building on Sunday, September 16, 2012, starting at 1:00PM. Call 412-341-0968 for more information. This is our 24th year. Last year's attendance was 225. Hope it continues. You know most of our people are 75 and UP. God Bless!

*-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](mailto:mnp.grabowski@verizon.net), please put "Crime Report" in the subject line.

### JUNE

<u>CRIMES ZONE 6</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Brookline</u>
Homicide	1	0
Aggravated Assault	8	2
Arson	1	0
Rape	1	0
Robbery	8	3
Burglary	22	3
Theft	30	9
Theft from Vehicle	44	10
Stolen Vehicle	3	2

## READERS' RESPONSE

"My father remembers **Melman's Supermarket** on Brookline Boulevard as a general neighborhood market with friendly faces and a large selection. It was located next to Isaly's, which is near **Wayne Fontana's** office."

*Joseph Samuel Rogers, Brookline*

## Pittsburgh Baptist Church

3100 Pioneer Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15226

### 2012 Fall Discipleship Classes & Kidzone

- Ladies Bible Study -The Story* 9/4-12/18 · 10-11:30-am · \$12
- A Fragile Stone, Peter: Jesus' Friend* 9/5-10/24 · 7-8pm · \$6
- Building Teamwork in Your Marriage* 9/5-10/24 · 6:45-8pm
- Good & Evil -Youth Bible study* · 9/5-12/19 · 7-8:30pm
- Kidzone* · 9/5-10/24 · 6:45-8pm

More info and registration form on website at:

[www.pittsburghbaptist.org](http://www.pittsburghbaptist.org)

Or contact Kathleen at (412) 489-6435



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## BEAUTY AND FASHION GLAM

So, have you taken some time this summer for yourself? The DOG DAYS OF SUMMER are here and we need to have some fun!! It's HOTTTT, so get out and enjoy this weather. It will be snowing before we know it! Spend time with family and friends. Invite a few neighbors over for a barbecue. We all have stuff in our lives that can pull us down, make us want to give up and not enjoy things like we should. When hard times hit, you don't go down that path of depression and loneliness. Get back up and fight! Fight for yourself and continue to be an inspiration to others! Don't let this summer go by without doing something that makes you smile! Go to the pool. Take a DAY-CATION. Yes,

just for the day! Think of things that give you peace and happiness and spend AUGUST LIVING IN THE MOMENT!

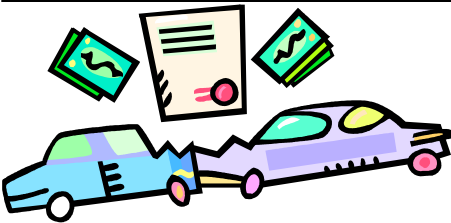
Put some SPA INTO YOUR DAY!! Relax this month with a stress relief treatment; calm your mind and body with a PAMPER ME DAY!! Did you know that a scalp treatment or manicure will rejuvenate your mind and refresh your mood by getting the circulation moving? Also this will help lift your spirits! Make time for YOU; live your life today! For some HOT summer tips, try some fun ponytails! Or, maybe, a body wave. Style support wave is perfect for this time of year: wash-and-go great for the humid weather. And don't forget a glossing treatment to add shine and vibrancy!! Keep makeup light-sheer; mineral tint is light and fluffy and never heavy on your face. Liquid shimmer is great for highlighting or to mix with foundation for a healthy glow! Also, the new conditioner for your eyelashes, yes for eyelashes—pre mascara conditions and moisturizers to promote growth!

Get beautiful during the DOG DAYS OF SUMMER!! Take time for yourself. You deserve a DAY-CATION!! HAPPY AUGUST!

Until next time ...live your dreams!

*Jacqueline Capatolla, Jacqueline's Salon*

[www.jacquelinesnews.com](http://www.jacquelinesnews.com)



## A DANGEROUS INTERSECTION

Brookline resident **Joann Simmons** emailed us with a request. "Is there any way you could put an article in our paper about the intersection of Pioneer [Avenue] and Brookline Boulevard going towards West Liberty? There is going to be a terrific accident there one day because people in the left-hand lane that should turn left to go down Pioneer towards West Liberty are making it two lanes

and going straight down the Boulevard. The signs are too far back, and the arrows painted on the street are way past gone. I live on the lower end of the Boulevard, and every day more than once I hear horns blasting and look out and see the two cars racing to get into one lane. Someone is going to get hurt bad."

We took Ms. Simmons' concerns to the July **Block Watch Meeting** where Zone 6 **Commander Scott Schubert** told us he has previously reported the problem to the appropriate officials and will do so again. As Commander Schubert says in his emails, "By working together we can help make all of our communities a better place to live, work and visit." Ms. Simmons with her request is doing her part.

-*Pamela Grabowski*

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# COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THIS MONTH

### August 4 Saturday

**Flea Market** 8:00AM to 2:00PM at **Brookline Community Center** Bring your own table and make some money with a small investment of time.

### August 7 Tuesday

**29th Annual National Night Out** 7:00PM to 10:00PM Turn on your porch light and sit on your porch. Meet your neighbors.

### August 10 Friday

**Breeze Week Car Cruise** 5:30PM to Dark at **Brookline Community Center** [See photo page 7]

### August 11 Saturday

**Brookline Breeze & Breeze-Fest** See page 9 for details.

### August 13 Monday

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

### August 14 Tuesday

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



## OPEN MIC SERIES

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



## Brookline Year-Round Farm Stand

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



## 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.

### Let's Have a Rockin' Good Time!!

Please join Resurrection Church for a dinner dance with *Johnny Angel & The Halos* for an evening of nostalgia, dancing, food and just plain old fellowship and fun! **Saturday, October 20, 2012**

The Resurrection Church old school Gym  
1000 Creedmoor Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15226

Tickets will be made available by **September 1** and can be purchased by contacting the **Resurrection Church Rectory** at 412-563-4400

**Doors open at 7 PM** BYOB and set ups will be provided **7 to 8:30PM** A buffet will be served **Music and dancing till 11 PM**

Spread the word! Let's make for a memorable event. Proceeds will benefit the much-needed repaving of the parking lot. Please see the bulletin, and [www.ernessi.com](http://www.ernessi.com) for updates and further information.



**CVS on Brookline Boulevard** accepts food donations for the **Brookline Christian Food Pantry**

**BACC** will start up again the last Monday in September. If anyone has any suggestions for meetings please call Annette at 412-341-9863. See you on Monday, September 24 at 7:00PM at St. Mark's Church.

## BROOKLINE BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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

You can see the progress yourself by visiting the website [Pittsburghfederalprojects.com](http://Pittsburghfederalprojects.com)

-Lois McCafferty

### GracePointe Church, "Family & Friend Day" on Sunday, August 12

YOU'RE INVITED to join us for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "Family & Friend" service and cookout on August 12. You'll experience a meaningful worship service and afterward enjoy the following: Moonbounce, Balloon Artist, Face Painting, Snow Cones, Games, and a variety of delicious food--all FREE of charge.

Everything kicks off at 10:30 a.m.

We look forward to seeing you there!

GracePointe Church is located at [1462 Brookline Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15226](http://1462 Brookline Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15226). For more information please visit our website [www.gracepointepgh.net](http://www.gracepointepgh.net) OR call [412-319-9842](http://412-319-9842).



## BROOKLINE MEMORIAL PARK

Oakridge Street

## AUGUST MOVIE SCHEDULE

Movies start at dusk

**August 2** **Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom**  
**August 9** **The Princess and the Frog**  
**August 16** **Happy Feet Two**  
**August 23** **The Smurfs**  
**August 30** **The Adventures of Tintin**

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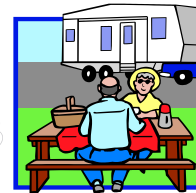
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## Call for Volunteers

- **FOREVER HOME BEAGLE RESCUE** call 412-304-4034 or [BeagleHQ@msn.com](mailto: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.angelsplacepgh.org](http://www.angelsplacepgh.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**

“Teamwork allows common people to attain uncommon results.”

- Anonymous



## 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.

### 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](http://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. Two weeks until the Breeze! Meet with us every Monday at 6:00pm. We'll help with stretching and exercises to help you get into top form before the Brookline Breeze later this month.

### 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.

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Above: Mickey Underwood in a Shelby.

The **Community Center Breeze Week Car Cruise**, Friday, August 10 from 5:30pm-dark at **Brookline Park**. Bring your classic vehicle to **Brookline Park** for a night of good times. Food, music, prizes and plenty of cool cars!

*-Clint Burton*



## SENATOR WAYNE FONTANA

Over the last several months, I have heard from hundreds of my constituents about what programs are important to them in the state's budget. Although the Senate Democrats' voices were heard with some funding restoration for these key programs, there were also many losers in this year's 2012-13 budget, Senate Bill 1466 (SB 1466).

The new fiscal plan was signed by Governor Corbett on June 30 with the Senate voting 32-17 the previous day. I voted no. The \$27.7 billion spending plan represents an increase of \$370 million over 2011-12 spending, and an increase of \$517 million over what was proposed by the Governor in February. Although I think the final fiscal plan is an improvement over last year's budget as well as what the Governor proposed, I believe this budget does not do enough for those who need assistance the most.

### Health and Human Services

Perhaps the biggest loser in the 2012-13 budget is health and human services programs. During Pennsylvania's most recent recession, our economy was often compared to the Great Depression of the 1930s. One successful program from the Great Depression will be completely eliminated: **General Assistance**. Now, nearly 70,000 low-income people including the temporarily or permanently disabled, victims of domestic abuse, the elderly and recovering addicts, who receive a monthly payment of \$205, will no longer receive this stipend that helps pay essential bills. The Governor proposed having General Assistance cut off on July 1, 2012. However, after many advocates stated this is too soon, an extension of one month was granted to ensure that recipients are properly notified of the elimination of General Assistance. It is believed that this move will save the state approximately \$149 million.

The cuts don't stop there. The following programs will receive less funding in this budget, harming our state's most vulnerable in the process: **cash assistance funding** (\$5.7 million cut); **county human services funding** (\$84 million cut), which proves to be one of the deepest cuts in decades; **state support for veterans homes** (\$7.6 million cut); **mental health services funding** (\$54.9 million cut); **community intellectual disability base service funding** (\$15.3 million cut); **behavioral health services** (\$4.8 million cut); **homeless assistance funding** (\$2 million cut); **Human Services Development Fund** (\$1.5 million cut); **Supplemental grants for the aging, blind and disabled** (\$436,000 less than Governor's original proposal); **Medical Assistance outpatient services** (\$285 million or 44 percent cut, \$146 million in additional cuts from Governor's original proposal); **Medical Assistance inpatient services** (\$121 million or 37 percent cut, \$70.5 million in additional cuts from Governor's original proposal); **Child care services** (\$12.9 million cut, \$4 million in additional cuts from Governor's original proposal). Although the allocation wasn't cut, **nursing facilities** were flat funded in this year's budget. Nationally, Pennsylvania ranks fourth in the percentage of senior residents and this population is expected to continue growing. We cannot let services for these individuals be underfunded.

### Education

Touted as "good news," funding for public schools and colleges was maintained under the 2012-13 budget. However, most of the extra money for classroom operations will be destined for financially struggling schools. The Governor as well as the General Assembly must get out of the mindset of just providing schools the bare essentials when it comes to funding. Democrats have spent the last several months advocating doing more to restore the severe education cuts in the 2011-12 budget and the Governor's failure to impose new revenue sources. I will continue to demand the need rebuild our commitment to public education. School districts across the state have already sacrificed enough with teacher layoffs, increases in classroom sizes, eliminating extracurricular activities while at the same time raising taxes at the local level. How can this all be seen as good news?

### Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Earlier this year, Pennsylvania passed a law that dealt with many aspects of the Marcellus Shale industry. I had, and still have, a lot of concerns for the land and people who will be affected by legislation for years to come. One thing is for sure, we must continue to make sure safeguards are in place for future generations and one way is to properly fund programs under DEP. Since 2006, the General Assembly has cut funding for DEP by over \$65 million. This year is no different. Once again DEP will see a \$10 million reduction which will have consequences like a reduction of environmental protection and programs.

In closing, Governor Corbett's administration projected a year-end deficit of \$719 million in February. At the end of the 2011-12 fiscal year, the economy has rebounded some and the deficit number remains around \$300 million. What this means is that the Commonwealth has more money to spend on essential programs than previously estimated. Instead, this extra money was put in a reserve fund. What are we reserving money for? Aren't schools and human services struggling enough already?

There was one major winner under the 2012-13 budget and it is businesses across the Commonwealth. Governor Corbett mustered an allocation of an estimated \$288 million in tax breaks for businesses. The proposal clearly reflects what are the Administration's misplaced priorities: new and continuing tax breaks for the business sector, while slicing tens of millions of dollars in funding for the needy. I understand that tax breaks are an essential part of making economic recovery, however, how much recovery can really take place when individual taxpayers are being punished because their local communities have to raise taxes while these large corporations are thriving?

There are clear winners and losers in this year's budget. I have stood up for my constituents and demanded that we will not tolerate these extreme cuts with a no vote on this year's fiscal plan. The Governor and Republicans have continued voicing that the budgets in the coming years will be a "shared pain" and we all must sacrifice to benefit the whole state. However, shared pain is considerably one-sided in this budget.

**It is with great sadness we announce the death of Jim Mongelli long time owner of Brookline Jewelry. He died Tuesday, July 10, 2012.**

# DO YOU REMEMBER?

PERSONAL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

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Now here is a test for you. 820 Brookline Boulevard is currently the location of PNC Bank. Can you name all of the banks that have shared that location over the years? We will scrounge around for some prizes for the winners.



**BREEZE-FEST August 11**

Stop at the Chamber of Commerce Booth

- Get your chance to win a iPad and accessories
- Get your new copy of the Brookline Business and Community Directory
- Get more informed on the "Walk The Line" Promotion to shop local.

Bring this ad to Chamber Booth for chance to WIN \$100

HAPPY BELATED  
FOURTH ANNIVERSARY  
TO THE BROOKLINE!  
Our first issue was July 2008



**Talk to TIM**  
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August is the "hot" time to plan for the fall market!

**Tim Reitmeyer**  
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South Hills and City of Pittsburgh specialist

### BROOKLINE BREEZE 5K RUN/WALK



The 31st annual Brookline Breeze 5K Fitness Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, August 11, 2012 at the Brookline Community Center, located at 1399 Oakridge Street, along the 1400 block of

Brookline Boulevard. The event features the 5K race and fitness walk, a one-mile Mini-Breeze for the little ones and a one-mile Dog Walk. All participants receive a commemorative shirt and a race pack. Registered dogs receive a Breeze Bandana.

The Mini-Breeze begins at 8:35am, dog walk at 8:38am, and the 5K event begins at 9:00am. There will be awards, door prizes and refreshments. The 5K race is sanctioned by the USATF. Last year's event had over 600 registered participants.

The Breeze is a community tradition that celebrates physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle, as well as the neighborhood of Brookline itself. Mark your calendars and join us on Saturday, August 11 at Brookline Park for the Breeze.

Registration forms can be obtained at the Brookline Recreation Center. Online registration available until August 7. More race information is available at the official Breeze website: [www.brooklinebreeze.com](http://www.brooklinebreeze.com).

-Clint Burton



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

I hope this article finds you relaxing and enjoying the beautiful summer weather. As the heat continues to rise, so does **West Liberty's** work. We're currently busy getting ready for the students to return to school on Thursday, August 30. Before we discuss the upcoming school year, we should wrap up some items from the 2011-2012 school year. The students had a wonderful day at Fun Day with plenty of activities. We were fortunate to have great weather. The kindergarten had a beautiful promotion for which **Mrs. Eberz** and **Mrs. Bauman** made a beautiful PowerPoint that captured the key days of the first year of the children's education. There wasn't a dry eye in the room. The fifth grade promotion was a wonderful experience as well. Our first Fifth Grade Awards Dinner was a fantastic experience. We had a great turnout of students with their families. The dinner was catered by the Waterfall Cafe, owned by the **Vitchie Family**. There were three different types of pasta, meatballs, bread, salad, cake and beverages. The students were very proud, and it was a great experience for everyone. As a first grade teacher, I found it to be personally rewarding because it allowed me the opportunity to see my former first graders as they were promoted to middle school. It touched my heart. Good luck to all of you; you will be missed and please keep in touch.

Also I would like to mention our honor roll students and high honor roll students for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the 2011-2012 school year. They include the first grade students: **Esam Abisse, Carly Ayers, Rylee Blake, Bella Crapis, Chase Cyphers, Michele Defide, Delaney Devault, Sarah Dugan, Lindsey Greb, Christopher Grosse, Jacob Grosse, Jayson High, Katelynn Joyce, Ireland Kennedy, Emma Kozelnik, Shi Quon Lane, Ashley Lippold, Shane McCalla, Gabriella Stanizzo, Destiny Stone, Mateo Woodson, Cheyenne Burgos, Brenna Clegg, Alexis Davis, Simone Felder, Benjamin Fishman, Liam Gorsuch, Jayelle Hancock, Dawnae Littlejohn, Meliki Manley, Nikko Valdisera, Lynsee Wehring and Drake White.**

The second grade students include **Gary Alspach, Adrianna Artzberger, Kevin Ayers, Ashlyn Bushmen, Evan Carter, Carter Czegán, Elizabeth Dugan, Nolan Dunn, Shane Foster, Christian Hutchison, Allison Krapp, Hanna Kuchnicki, Maura Lenkner, Leslie Manson, Ashley Michel, Cole Morrison, Giselle Pennix, Casey Price, Leandra Reed, Anthony Romano, Cody Wadlow, Isabella Walsh, Damor Williams, Milena Yochus, Aaron Anthony, Timothy Bateman, Mitchell Collinworth, Tanazia Johnson, Isaiah McCrommon, Kayleigh McDermott, Bayleigh Meade, Avah Tisdale, Jackalynn Welsh and Angel Wright.**

The third grade students include **Aiden Anderson, Mac Anderson, Christopher Andrews, Nicholas Ault, Julia Blake, Kaylin Bradley, Adam Chandler, Hannah Coleman, Cameron Colwell, Sethan-Jai Doan, Dominick Feldman, Madison Kyle, Jennifer Lippold, Alexander Loeffert, Nicholas Mohan, Ariyana Moore, Tyler Palmer, Visawn Pennix, Walker Rud, Daniel Stangrecki, Emily Synowiec, Savannah White, Tyler Andrews, Michael Brooks, Hannah Casto, Alexander Collinworth, James Defide, Alana Fant, Alaysha Fant, Da'Shon Freeman, Madison Heid, Autumn Hurst, Lynasia Lane, Briona Martin, Sager McDill, Zachary Mincin, Emily Pham, David Ray, Roland Rhyne, Richard Stowe, Kayla Sunder and Elijah Williams.**

The fourth grade students include **Christopher Bittner, Isabella Bondi, Sara Bushmen, Dynasti Dickerson, Alexandria Fulton, Angelina Fulton, Devon Gammage, Jonathan Grabowski, Timothy Green, Isabelle Klein, Torrie Komoroski, Hannah Lacek, Nicholas Lippold, Alexis McElravy, Liam O'Neil, Ryan Recker, Tatiana Romanelli, Julian Satria, Richard Shulik, Jai'Lyr Smith, Delanie Staab, Noah Synowiec, Aaliyah Thomas, Kelsey Waite, Aiden Walsh, Jarrett Connelly, Kya Gage, Alvin Minor III, Brenton Morefield, Ian Mullen and Jaclyn Salla.**

The fifth grade students include **Alexandra Arnold, Taylor Blake, Imani Clement, Makenzie Czegán, Kara Devers, Maria Geryer, Sean Ignasky, Devonn Kyles, Alexandra Maxwell, Troy Neely, Kevin Schwerin, Megan Shay, Nicholas Terlecki, Daniel Anthony, Nathan Ault, Robert Bradley, Savannah Brooks, Kaleb Cabana, Ashlyn Darden, Alexa Diven, Dominick Emma, Brandon Gable, Gabrielle Garrubba, Damien Griffiths, Leena Henry, Joelynn Jones, Brylie McQuillan, Jenna Moretti, Candace Moses, Evyn Pack, Mary Pham, Janaye Poslik, Andrai Russell, Abigail Umstead, Brianna Waleko, Nina Wells and Peyton White.**

School starts for students in grades 1-5 on Thursday, August 30 at 9:10 am. Our kindergarten students start on Wednesday, September 5 at 9:10 am. If you are new to **West Liberty**, you may want to consider sending the following items with your child for the first day of school: a book bag, a folder for important papers and 2 pencils. If you would like to send a small box of crayons, that is fine; otherwise, one will be provided by the school. Please **do not** send the 64-count boxes because the boxes become destroyed and the crayons spill everywhere. Scissors and glue are provided by the school. One of our upcoming events includes our famous "Welcome Back to School" Social on Thursday, August 30 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. All students and their parents are welcome. This gives the students and their parents an opportunity to meet with the staff and the principal. We will have snow cones, pizza and many raffle baskets for this social. We are also getting ready for our Hero Recognition Ceremony which will be held on Tuesday, September 11 at 9:30 am.

### WEST LIBERTY K-8 (Cont.)

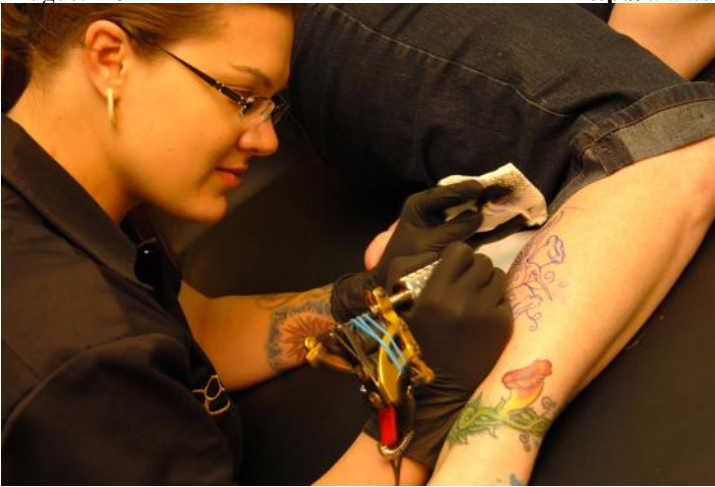
(Continued from page 10)

Since our students were not born during the tragedy of 9/11, we dedicate this time to acknowledge and to show our appreciation to all our local heroes, the public-service workers who help our community on a daily basis; police, firefighters, emergency medical staff, nurses, doctors and members of the armed forces.

That's all for now, try to stay cool and we look forward to seeing you on August 30. Remember **Pittsburgh West Liberty** is the place "Where Learners Excel and Character Counts."

-Kathy Moran, Principal

-Teresa Grusong-Adams, First Grade Teacher



Artist **Sarah Miller** is creating another masterpiece on **Valerie Boyle Nelson's** leg. Have you checked out the artwork at **Wyld Chyld**?

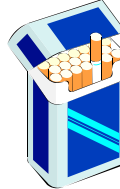
-Photo by *Melissa Distel*

### TRASH DECOMPOSITION TEST

Do you know how long it takes for the following to decompose? The answers are on page 13.



**PICK UP YOUR BUTTS & WALK THE EMPTY PACK TO A TRASH CAN!**



Glass bottle  
Plastic beverage bottle



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## COUNCILWOMAN NATALIA RUDIAK

Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. once quipped: “I like paying taxes. With them I buy civilization.” While I’m not sure how many people actually enjoy paying taxes, they are very important to this city. Property owners pay local property taxes directly, and renters pay them through their rent. These taxes go to providing critical public safety services, upkeep of our parks and recreation centers, and much needed maintenance to our roads and bridges.

And yet our 300,000 residents, with their income and property taxes, support a city whose daytime population swells to 450,000 with commuters. And that number doesn’t even include the visitors, patients, and more than 85,000 students, many of whom live on campuses and do not pay property or income tax.

Moreover, almost 20% of land in Pittsburgh is tax-exempt and owned primarily by large non-profit corporations. Allegheny County Controller Chelsa Wagner calculated that these properties had an assessed value of well over \$4 billion. This means we are still losing up to \$46 million in property tax revenue every year. To put that number in context, it is more than the 2012 budgets of Public Works, Parks & Recreation, Animal Control, and Building Inspection combined. Imagine the service we could provide with \$46 million more in revenue.

On June 26, I hosted a televised post-agenda hearing on our city’s largest institutional non-profits, with a focus on the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC). UPMC is a gigantic non-profit; it owns approximately 5% of the total assessed property in the city. We talked about what their tax exempt status means and how this impacts our neighbors and neighborhoods. We had representatives from both the County Controller’s office and City Controller Michael Lamb, as well as researchers and current UPMC employees. We invited CEO Jeffrey Romoff to speak, but he declined. We hope to be able to continue the conversation with him in the future.

As the region’s largest employer, UPMC has a broad influence over our local economy. Not only does UPMC operate hospitals, but it now controls many local doctors’ offices, which, due to their affiliation with UPMC, have become tax-exempt. We need to work with UPMC as a partner in all our neighborhoods.

It’s also important that we look at UPMC in the context of our economy’s transition from manufacturing to health care—how has this changed middle-class wages? Are parents still able to provide stability for themselves and their children like previous generations once did? Are staffing ratios in our hospitals and clinics adequate to provide the highest and safest services possible?

According to their web site, UPMC is a “\$10 billion global health enterprise” with operations all over the world. They are also our region’s largest employer and a massive institution with *excess revenue* of over \$400 million in 2011; imagine the model it could set by providing a fair wage to its employees and actually working with the city to offset the costs it imposes on city residents. UPMC and the other large entities may not enjoy paying taxes as much as Justice Holmes, but they should certainly do their part to make this region stronger for all of us.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 412-255-2131. All the materials from our hearing are also available at our website: [www.pittsburghpa.gov/district4](http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/district4).



## BROOKLINE WOMEN IN BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT

In an attempt to connect the many successful women in Brookline who either own or run a business, the **PNC Bank** Branch in Brookline is sponsoring a quarterly women’s networking event. The first event was held in June – with coffee from **Cannon Coffee** and goodies from **Kribel’s Bakery** and the **Party Cake Shop**. The highlight of the event was meeting some new friends and learning about their various businesses and non-profit organizations.

The second event is planned for Thursday, September 13 at noon. The plan is to mix the days and times of the events so that a wide variety of women can attend. Each quarterly event will include food, socializing and a presentation from a member of **PNC’s** team of cash-flow specialists or a member of the community. Some topics to be covered include identity theft, small business loans, leveraging online technology, stress management for women and more. **PNC Bank** employees have access to extensive resources to make running your business easier. If you would like to attend the next event, please contact Jennifer Cooper at 412-343-5522 or e-mail

[c.cooper@pnc.com](mailto:c.cooper@pnc.com).

*Jennifer Cooper*, Branch Manager  
PNC-Certified Women’s Business Advocate



# ADOPT A BLOCK

We have blocks available. Please call and add your name 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 cheap grabbers. 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 reaching 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.

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](mailto: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 & Edgebrook - Jennifer Grab**

**Gallion Ave. - Lisa Wilson & Pam Novak**

**Brookline Blvd. bet. Merrick & Starkamp - Patty & Dan Kaczmarwski**

6/30/12 - We filled more than 1/2 of a 39-gallon plastic lawn and leaf bag.

**Rossmore Ave. bet. Flatbush & Wedgemere - Mary Jo O'Toole**

**Norwich Ave. - Michael & Pamela Grabowski**

6/25/12 - Sunday Boulevard Trash Walk produced eight bags.

7/16/12 - The Boulevard was dirty. We collected eleven bags.

**900 Woodbourne Ave. - Diane Walkowski & Mary Anne Miller**

Week of June 11- Diane: Two gallons

6/18/12 - Mary Anne: One gallon trash bag - butts and 4 plastic bottles

6/26/12 - Diane: Besides the street, I also got Stebbins from Woodbourne to and including the 900 block of Lajoie. I did not get to Harex Way this week. Several people were appreciative of our efforts including a teenager and a gentleman warning me of a poison ivy location. I picked up 2 gallons of trash, mostly candy wrappers & one full blue bag of recyclables + 21 cents.

7/10/12 - Diane: Collected 5 gallons of trash + 1 blue bag of recycling along 900 block of Woodbourne, LaJoie, Harex and the connecting sections of Stebbins & Queensboro. Harex is always a mess.

**600 Mayville - Peg Sherwood & Mac**

**500 Berkshire - Sarah McCalla**

**1100 Berkshire - Fred & Linda Smith Family**

**Area bordered by Berwin, Birtley, Pioneer & Beaufort - Neal & Stewart Families**



**WE ARE PLANNING TO HAVE AN ADOPTER MEET & GREET IN SEPTEMBER.**

**TRASH DECOMPOSITION TEST ANSWERS:**

**Glass Bottle: 1 million years**

**Plastic beverage bottle: 450 years**

<http://www.greenlivingtips.com/articles/311/1/Waste-decomposition-rates.html>

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**AUGUST 25**

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**Everything from collectibles to tools. No clothes or linens.**



## Not So Hazy, Lazy Days Of Summer At Brookline Regional Catholic School

It is hard to believe that August is here! There are new projects beginning at **BRC**. The classrooms are ready, and we have begun working on installing the sensors to make us more “green” by reducing our electricity consumption. (A direct result of a grant received through the efforts of the sixth grade, **Mrs. Babcock** and **Fr. Gary**.) Smartboards are being mounted in several classrooms, and the equipment/locker rooms in the gym have been renovated. Things are falling into place for the school year. Our emphasis on service has not gone on summer vacation. As a sub-sponsor for the **Brookline Breeze**, BRC students, families and friends will help pack registration bags, man water stations and volunteer on Race day to help make the 5K event a success.

As the Regional School serving **Brookline**, Beechview, Carrick, Mt. Washington, Mt. Oliver, Overbrook and the Southside, **BRC** continues the tradition of Catholic education for residents of the City of Pittsburgh. As such, we look forward to welcoming 45 new families to the **BRC** school community. We are also pleased to be one of the 17 schools identified as a partner school for the Crossroads Foundation. The Foundation helps provide access to Catholic education by providing qualifying students with “holistic scholarships” that include mentoring and tuition assistance among other programs.

**Brookline Regional Catholic School** is successful. Our students are excelling, and every day we’re making a difference in our community and in the world. We continue to emphasize academic excellence, faith development, extra-curricular activities and service to others—qualities that were always recognized as hallmarks of **BRC’s** “grandschools” - **Our Lady of Loreto, Resurrection** and **St. Pius X** – as well as in the Catholic schools in the neighborhoods of South Pittsburgh.

We remain a community of service whose parents and students are committed to showing compassion, justice, and generosity to others while they are encouraged to reach their highest academic potential.

“Back to School Night” is scheduled for August 22 at 7:00pm. Please continue to look for articles highlighting our students, teachers and programs. Feel free to stop in to visit. God bless you and keep you safe during your summer travels and activities. See you at the Breeze!!

*-Janet Rakoczy, Principal*

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### BASEBALL (AND SOCIAL SECURITY) NUMBERS TELL STORIES

Just as Social Security is an American cornerstone, baseball is America’s pastime.

Baseball is an annual rite of summer and a game that is known for its numbers. Joe DiMaggio’s 56-game hitting streak, Cal Ripken’s record 2,632 consecutive games played, and Hank Aaron’s 755 career home runs all tell stories greater than the numbers themselves. Mention any one of these numbers to a baseball fan and you’re sure to call to mind memories and stories.

Social Security’s numbers tell stories too. The first lump-sum Social Security payment of 17 cents was made to Ernest Ackerman in 1937. The first monthly Social Security check of \$22.54 went to Ida May Fuller in January of 1940. This year, about 55 million Americans will receive \$760 billion in Social Security benefits. The average monthly benefit for a retired worker in 2012 is \$1,229.

An estimated 159 million workers are covered under Social Security — that’s 94 percent of the workforce. Fifty percent of workers have no private pension coverage and 31 percent have no savings set aside specifically for retirement. These and other numbers make it easy to appreciate the value of Social Security.

Ninety percent of Americans age 65 and older receive Social Security benefits. And among the unmarried, 41 percent rely on Social Security benefits for 90 percent of their income.

Social Security is more than just retirement benefits. Disabled workers and their dependents account for 19 percent of the total benefits paid, while survivor’s benefits account for 12 percent. Almost one in four of today’s 20-year olds will become disabled before reaching age 67, and the majority of these workers have no long-term disability insurance besides their Social Security coverage. About one in eight of today’s 20-year olds will die before reaching age 67.

Baseball and Social Security: America’s pastime and America’s retirement program. Both have long and storied histories and associations with statistics.

Learn more about Social Security by visiting [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

*-Patricia Thibault, Social Security District Manager*

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# CITY OF PITTSBURGH

"AMERICA'S MOST LIVABLE CITY"

*Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl*

Dear Neighbors,

The start of the new school year is quickly approaching and, as the father of a young child, I'm looking forward to helping my young scholar prepare for a successful year. Many of you will take students into classrooms for the first time while others will watch their children begin their last year of high school. Regardless of where your child is in his or her journey, the destination is clear – and that's where the Pittsburgh Promise can help. Students who graduate from one of our City's Pittsburgh Public Schools and meet attendance and academic requirements can receive up to \$40,000 for college. Since 2008, the Pittsburgh Promise has awarded thousands of scholarships and has helped over 3,200 students reach their goal of higher education.

If you don't have any children in school, you can still play an important role in a child's life by signing up to be a mentor. Children with mentors are more likely to do better in school than those who don't have a positive role model in their life. You can learn more about how City employees are doing their part and also how you can sign up to help by visiting [pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/mentor](http://pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/mentor).

Finally, I ask you to pay special attention to school zones and traffic laws during this school year. Please, obey the laws and signs when traveling in a posted school zone and adhere to the flashing lights of a stopped school bus that may be loading or unloading students. We must all remain cognizant and continue to work together to safeguard our children as they travel to and from school and other related activities. I hope you all have a great and safe 2012-2013 school year.

Sincerely,

Luke Ravenstahl  
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

512 CITY-COUNTY BUILDING, 414 GRANT STREET, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15219

Phone: 412-255-2626 Fax: 412-255-2687



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## Let's Have a Rockin Good Time!!

Please join Resurrection Church for an evening  
with ***Johnnie Angel & The Halos***  
for an evening of nostalgia, dancing, food  
and just plain old fellowship



***Johnnie Angel & The Halos***

More information and how to purchase tickets will be forthcoming. Be on the lookout in the bulletin, [www.ernessi.com](http://www.ernessi.com) and the various community newsletters etc.

**Saturday, October 20, 2012**  
The Resurrection Church old school **Gym**  
1100 Creedmoor Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15226  
Stay tuned for where you  
will be able to purchase tickets

**Doors open at 7 PM**  
BYOB and set ups will be provided  
**7 to 8:30 PM**  
**A buffet will be served**  
**Music and dancing till 11 PM**

Spread the word! Let's make this a memorable event.

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Spread the word! Let's make this a memorable event.



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August 11, 2012

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