

## GORDON'S BAR



**Raymond and Eileen Gordon** have been in Brookline for 42 years.

“We used to live in Bloomfield. But then once we starting having kids, the house got too small. We found a great house in Brookline and have been here ever since,” **Eileen Gordon** said.

The Gordons had six children in total and are now the lucky grandparents of 10. The family is still close – with all the kids and grandkids living in the South Hills and Brookline.

When Raymond and Eileen first decided to go into the bar business, a life-long dream of Raymond’s, their first place was called **Denmark’s** (where **Egghead’s** is now).

“We were there 11 years, but we wanted to own our own building. We came across the place we are in now, which used to be the **Brookline Men’s Shop**,” Eileen Gordon said.

**Gordon’s Bar** has been in its current location 22 years. It’s one of the few places where patrons can still smoke. But due to smoking laws, you must be 21 years old to enter.

When you walk into **Gordon’s**, you can tell that the people there all know one another. There’s a crowd of regulars, but newcomers need not be wary. The atmosphere is friendly and welcoming.

“With some of my customers, I’m on my third generation. A lot of them are like my family, we’ve known each other so many years.”

**Gordon’s** is a family run establishment, with Eileen, Raymond and their children and nieces running the bar. And family treatment is what you’ll get from Eileen, too.

Since she closed her kitchen following the smoking ban, Eileen personally provides munchies to her customers. On Saturdays she even has a free crockpot meal. For big games she provides pizza from **Antonio’s Pizza**.

Customers can enjoy a game of pool or music on the juke box. “It’s a place that you can come in and relax. It’s very friendly and comfortable here.”

Even though she rarely gets a break from the business, Eileen hasn’t even given retirement a second thought.

“I’m 71 and I still get up every morning and come to work here. I’m so used to doing this; I’d be lost without it.”

*.-Megan Stearman*

*-Photos by Melissa Distel*

**Gordon’s Bar** is located at 806 Brookline Boulevard. Hours are 10:00 am – 2:00 am Monday through Saturday and 11:00 am – 2:00 am on Sunday. Contact **Gordon’s** at 412-207-9413.



## Letter from the Editor

Another year is coming to a close, and Brookline is on the verge of realizing our long promised reconstruction. There will be inconvenience. There will be times when eight months will seem like eight years. And, like any project it could take more than the planned eight months. We have waited so long for this project that there are some in the community who refuse to believe it's going to happen until they see the construction equipment on the Boulevard. March remains the scheduled start date, and we owe a big THANK YOU to **Lois McCafferty** who hounded and cajoled the many government departments to get this project moving.

We have included gift suggestions throughout this newsletter from our many fine local merchants. Try shopping on the Boulevard and support a local merchant. Brookline is getting more and more press. As a result, we are seeing people from other communities shopping in our stores. Isn't it time you tried shopping on the Boulevard? The merchants will be depending on your support.

**Brookline Area Community Council** generously donated \$400 and received a gold star as well as a tribute on the front page of the December print edition. If you would like to make a year end donation to **The Brookline**, remember **SPDC** is a 501c3 organization making your donation a tax deduction. Please remember us when you are writing out gift checks this year.

While on the subject of money, you may be familiar with the words "fiscal cliff." Whether we are pulled back from the precipice or find ourselves tumbling over, the end result will mean that we as a community will have to find ways to accomplish more with less. Accomplishing more with less is the bailiwick of volunteers. Brookline needs more of those very special people. "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." It's a saying attributed to both Joseph P. Kennedy and Knute Rockne. The next year is going to be tough for Brookline between the economy and the reconstruction. It is time for Brookliners to show how tough we really are. We are looking forward to a new and improved Brookline Boulevard this time next year. Happy Holidays Everyone!

### \*\*\*\*\*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](mailto: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 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.

## THE BROOKLINE

### The Brookline Staff

**Pamela Grabowski** Editor

**Jan Beiler** Proofreader/Advertising

**Amy Fisher** Proofreader

**Julie Salas** Proofreader

**Jennifer Askey** Proofreader

**Ryan Askey** Proofreader

**Dan Kaczmarek** Proofreader

**Melissa Distel** Photographer

**Rosemarie Traficante** Delivery

**South Hills Printing** - The Brookline's official printer

Your \$10 annual membership in SPDC supports projects like Jacob-Whited, DogiPots and The Brookline. Join today.

The Brookline by email is in FULL COLOR! The Brookline is also available by mail. A one year subscription is \$25 for non SPDC members & \$15 for members.



### THE BROOKLINE PAST ISSUES

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

### DEADLINES:

**December 12 for January's Issue**

**January 12 for February'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

Thank you **Brookline Area Community Council** for the generous donation. We truly appreciate EVERY donation. *Larger issues are draining the bank balance.* 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 through October 2012:

- Cannon Coffee - \$167.52
- Kribel's Bakery - \$1,072.90 ★★
- A Boss - \$74.34
- Hideaway Mini Mart - \$80.29
- Kathy Bernard - \$25.00
- South Hills Printing - \$75.00
- Maureen DeBase - \$15.00
- Brookline Area Community Council - \$400.00 ★

## COMMUNITY CONTACTS

- Brookline Christian Food Bank 412-344-8451
- Carnegie Library 412-561-1003
- Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak 412-255-2142
- Dollar Energy/Columbia Gas 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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**Tim Reitmeyer**

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412-343-5372

treitmeyer@howardhanna.com

*Thank you for your continued  
trust and support!*



## 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.

### OCTOBER

#### CRIMES ZONE 6

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Brookline</u>
Aggravated Assault	6	0
Robbery	11	0
Burglary	25	7
Theft	57	12
Theft from Vehicle	16	2
Stolen Vehicle	8	0

## JOANNE'S CORNER

Merry Christmas to all! It was wonderful to hear our Brookline newspaper has expanded from four pages to 18 pages in just a few years. People in this community have always been happy to hear about all the local happenings. Back in the 1930s you had *The Shopper* and then the *Brookline Journal* for many years.

As always, there has been a tireless volunteer at the helm. You had **Dale Noah** as publisher of *The Brookline Journal*, **Rob Frank** and his Dad who delivered the paper by bus, and now **Pamela Grabowski** and her mother **Rosemarie Traficante** who deliver this paper on foot. We have been very fortunate to have these people.

Thank you Pamela and company.

*-Joanne Fantoni*

*[Thank you Joanne. As we always say, our readers' compliments are our paychecks. The Editor.]*

## READERS' RESPONSE

"Thank you for mailing my newsletter. I look forward to the exciting articles each month. Thanks."

*-Dottie Grant*

"I receive The Brookline every month online and realized I haven't made a contribution for membership for a long time.

I lived most of my life in Brookline and still belong to **Resurrection Church** even tho [thought] I now live in Scott Twp.

I really do enjoy reading the news so wanted to make a small contribution. Wish it could be more! So thanks, keep up the good work!

It gets passed on to other Brookliners in California, Maryland and elsewhere!"

*-Maureen DeMase*

*[Maureen, every donation counts not just the big ones.]*

# BROOKLINE'S 40 UNDER 40 WINNER



Nathan Mallory, co-owner of Cannon Coffee on Brookline Boulevard, was named one of Pittsburgh Magazine's and Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Project's 40 under 40, an award recognizing 40 people under the age of 40 who are committed to shaping the region and making it a better place for everyone.

The award ceremony was held on Friday, November 2 at the Wyndham Grand Hotel downtown. Congratulations again to Nate on a job well done!

-Stephanie Miller

Photo provided by Stephanie Miller

Pictured from left to right: Stephanie Miller, Ashleigh Deemer, Jennifer Askey, Jennifer Grab, Nathan Mallory, Benjamin Haake, Ryan Askey, and Alex Pazuchanics.

Give a Cannon Coffee Gift Certificate!	Salon Canova has gift certificates & Zum products from Indigo Wild. Eye on Natural Health is running specials, too.
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## CASTRIOTA METALS 412-431-1832

Corner of Crane Avenue & Saw Mill Run Blvd.

(In Back of Patio Enclosures)



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## GOOD NEWS - URGENT MESSAGE FROM PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The main goals of the **Pittsburgh Public Schools** are *to accelerate student achievement, eliminate racial achievement disparity, and become a district of first choice*. In 2012-2013, some of the structures that support the work that schools do to reach their goals have been reorganized to provide seamless K-12 educational opportunities for all students. For example, Pittsburgh Brashear High School now works more closely with the schools in the South Hills from which it draws its student population. What this means is that personnel from Pittsburgh Banksville K-5, Pittsburgh Beechwood Pre K-5, Pittsburgh Westwood K-5, Pittsburgh Whittier K-5, Pittsburgh Brookline Pre K-8, Pittsburgh Langley K-8, Pittsburgh Classical Academy 6-8, and Pittsburgh South Hills 6-8 are working in concert to maximize their efforts and provide a more effective Pre K-12 experience for the students of the area.

As part of that effort, each school on the Pittsburgh Brashear team has decided to distribute a "Good News/Urgent Messages" to inform parents and the community of performance on last year's PSSA and/or other important items of note at this time. The message is intended to share both the successes schools are experiencing and the most urgent needs they will be addressing this school year.

At **Pittsburgh Brashear High School**, the students and staff have warmly welcomed former students of Pittsburgh Langley High School. The evidence of unity is apparent through artwork that decorates the halls, as well as activities that have brought everyone together. Voices Against Violence, a community organization, has also made their presence known in the school, working with students and staff to handle any conflicts that arise.

In addition to the successful transition, **Pittsburgh Brashear** is celebrating a Star Student. Senior Kaitlyn Schmidt will be recognized as the first Riverset Credit Union Star Student for the 2012 – 13 school year. She will be recognized for her hard work and dedication with \$250 prize money, a plaque and recognition in front of KDKA cameras. Kaitlyn is receiving the award as a result of hard work and dedication in her education and community. This is the first of what will hopefully be many outstanding achievements at **Pittsburgh Brashear** this year!

**Pittsburgh Banksville K-5** met 12/13 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets on last year's PSSA and the school continues to exceed the standard for PA academic growth. The scores are highlighted by the fact that Pittsburgh Banksville ranks 469<sup>th</sup>/2133 in the state for academic growth - *exceeding 88% of all schools in the state*.

The urgent message at Pittsburgh Banksville is that although they are proud of efforts to improve student learning in Reading and Math, they missed meeting AYP by one target, the economically disadvantaged subgroup. There continues to be 33% (32) of students in Reading and 16% (22) of students in Math who are not yet proficient on the PSSA.

At **Pittsburgh Beechwood PreK-5**, the school met 11 out of 13 AYP targets, highlighted by the students in fourth and fifth grade who are making more than one year's growth as evidenced by their value-added assessment scores. The urgent message at Pittsburgh Beechwood is that the school is now in warning status because of its 2012 reading scores. It is also important to recognize that because benchmarks are increasing again this year (91% proficient in reading, 89% proficient in math) it will be more difficult to attain adequate yearly progress.

The good news at **Pittsburgh Westwood K-5** is that the school made all of the performance goals in Reading with the assistance of provisions allowed by the state. In Grade 4 Science, 84% of students were proficient /advanced. The school will continue to work hard to close the racial achievement gap between African American and White students in all subject areas.

Urgent news from Pittsburgh Westwood is that the school met 14 of 17 AYP targets in 2011-2012. The mathematics performance goal was 78% and scores fell short in 3 mathematics performance areas; All students (62%), African American students (56.3%), and Economically Disadvantaged (58.5%). The staff at Pittsburgh Westwood will continue to work to provide students with additional tools and strategies to show improvement for the 2012-2013 school year.

**Pittsburgh Whittier K-5** students scored above the 2011-2012 benchmark in Math with an overall proficiency score of

*(Continued on page 6)*

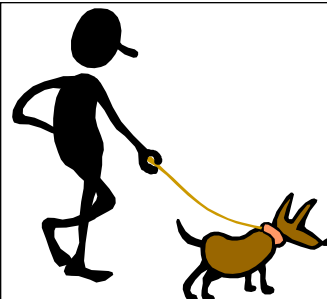
### TRASH DECOMPOSITION TEST

Do you know how long it takes for the following to decompose? The answers are on page 9.

Tin Can



Apple Core



**A BIG THANK YOU  
TO BROOKLINE AREA  
COMMUNITY COUN-  
CIL FOR THEIR \$300  
DONATION TO THE  
DOGI-POT PROGRAM!**

## GOOD NEWS - URGENT MESSAGE FROM PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(Continued from page 5)

83%. They are continuing to narrow the disparity within the African-American subgroup. Their scores improved by 8% points in Math this past year. In addition, the majority of students have shown more than a year's worth of growth on both reading and math PSSA scores.

The urgent message at Whittier begins with last year being the first year that the school did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Although the school did reach 16 out of 17 benchmarks overall, it fell short in Reading proficiency for its African American subgroup. Because of the increase in this year's proficiency scores (91% in reading and 89% in math), the school is seeking everyone's support to ensure future success on all tested areas.

At **Pittsburgh Brookline PreK-8**, students in grades 3-8 made 15 of 17 AYP targets in 2012, with 84.1% of all students meeting or exceeding proficiency in Mathematics, and 70.2% meeting or exceeding proficiency in Reading.

In addition, 71.2% of Fourth and Eighth grade students met or exceeded proficiency in Science, and 60.9% of Fifth and Eighth Grade students met or exceeded proficiency in Writing.

The school is proud to announce that 91 students achieved the Principal's Award, also known as the Trifecta-Perfect Attendance, Citizenship, Honor Roll during the fourth quarter of 2011-12. In addition, 20 students were presented with a trophy for achieving the Principal's Award all four quarters of the 2011-2012 school year.

**Pittsburgh Langley K-8** is celebrating a very successful opening to a brand new school for approximately 700 students who attended several schools that were either closed or restructured after last year. The staff is excited to continue building on this great start and to find creative and effective ways to partner with parents and community organizations to best serve its students.

The urgent message at Pittsburgh Langley rests in PSSA scores that showed current students as 37.1% proficient in reading and 43.3% proficient in math last year. There is also significant achievement disparity between the African-American and white students that now attend Pittsburgh Langley. There is much work to do, but students, staff, and parents at Pittsburgh Langley are working together to address these issues and continue building a culture of high expectations for ALL students.

**Pittsburgh Classical Academy (PCA) 6-8** has met 17 of 20 targets on the PSSA. The school is proud that the 8<sup>th</sup> graders were 81% proficient in math for all students. The school has had a fantastic beginning of the year with a new PCA PRIDE program, an anti-bullying program, a new student council and a new National Junior Honor Society. The students are working hard on a new leadership program (PRIDE Patrol) as well.

The urgent message at Pittsburgh Classical is that the teachers are working hard in both reading and math so that we are on track to meet all targets for 2012/2013.

**Pittsburgh South Hills 6-8** is celebrating new family members from Pittsburgh Westwood, Pittsburgh Stevens, and Pittsburgh Phillips. The welcome-back-to-school family picnic was a huge success with over 200 participants. Currently, Pittsburgh South Hills is the largest comprehensive middle school with over 600 students from the South and West sides of Pittsburgh. The school welcomes and embraces an English Language Learners (ELL) population of nearly 100. The majority of the ELL students are of Nepalese descent. The ELL students made AYP by safe harbor and confidence interval in both Reading and Mathematics. Pittsburgh South Hills faculty and staff are committed to ensuring that all students show academic growth. They are committed to making Pittsburgh South Hills a first choice school in a first choice district.

The urgent message at Pittsburgh South Hills centers on a need to close the achievement gap between African American and White students in Reading and Mathematics while continuing to grow all students. In Mathematics, for example, White students scored 79.2% on their PSSAs while African Americans scored 61.6%. In Reading, White students scored 75.1% while African American students scored 45.2%. The school as a whole made AYP in 22 categories out of 30. They recognize the challenges; parents, community partners, students, staff and faculty are determined to improve academic achievement for all of our students.

All Pittsburgh Public Schools are dedicated to working with every stakeholder to ensure that children are safe, learning environments are productive for all learners and the goals of the Pittsburgh Public Schools are achieved. Parents are encouraged to call their child's school or refer to the district website ([www.pghboe.net](http://www.pghboe.net)) to address any questions or concerns.

-Rodney Necciai, Principal  
Pittsburgh Langley K-8

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BEGINS  
DECEMBER 21

# SCARECROWS CONTEST RESULTS

If you are a reader of *The Brookline* you are probably aware that the **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** held a Scarecrow contest during the month of October. In all there were 12 home-made Scarecrows, no store-bought crows permitted, on display.

We were happy to see that many Brookliners took time to stroll and look into the business windows to view and vote for the crow of their choice. When the votes were counted and the judges made their decision the following were the results:

- 1st place was a tie between **Brookline Meals on Wheels** with "Chef MOW" and **Seton Center's** "Generations of Giving".
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to **Dina Jamison** and **Jasmine Castaneda** and their "Cookie Monster"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to the **Wyld Chyld's** "Tattoo Duo"

The winners and other participants showed exceptional creativeness in their entries. Others participating were: **Bosco the Optician**, **Ray Ghoul – Walter Lee Staples II**, **Gold Tin Man – Bill, Ben and Helen Luffy**, **Scarekid – Melissa Kilmer**, **Setons' Friends**, **The Pittsburgh Fantom – Pat and Dan Kaczmariski** and **Dolly – Jacqueline's Salon**.

Our thanks to the following merchants for permitting the crows in their windows: **A-Boss Optician**, **Armond's Frame Shop**, **Wayne Fontana**, **Luffy's**, **Melissa Distel Photography**, **Community Bank**, **Wyld Chyld**, **Cannon Coffee**, **Kribel's Bakery** and **Jacqueline's Salon**.

Now is a good time to start collecting ideas for next year's contest.

*-Lee Herbermann*



## BROOKLINE'S CHRISTMAS MEMORY TREE

The **Brookline Chamber of Commerce Annual Memory Tree** will once again be lit in memory or honor of all loved ones. Your donation will reflect the memory of a friend or loved one. The tree will be displayed in **Cannon Coffee's** window starting Saturday, November 24 during Brookline's Christmas Lighting Social. All names will be hung on the tree.

Make check payable to the  
**Brookline Chamber of Commerce** and mail to:  
**Brookline Chamber of Commerce,**  
c/o 938 Brookline Blvd. Pittsburgh, PA 15226

If you choose to remember a loved one with a Memory Tree donation, please print clearly the name of the person(s) you want remembered.

**The cost is \$10.00 per person.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL MEMORY TREE DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_



Give a food basket for a Christmas gift by visiting **Kribel's**, **PitaLand**, **Las Palmas**, **Party Cake**, **Vinnie's Pretzels**, **Scoops** and **LeCupcake Shoppe**.



## 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**

**"Some people want it to happen, some wish it to happen, others make it happen."**

*Anonymous*



Is the thought of another winter getting you down? Make a stop at **Suns of Intanity** and get your glow on. We are willing to bet you could get a gift certificate here for a friend who dreads the winter white complexion, too.

- Photo by *Melissa Distel*

## BROOKLINE BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Still on track with a March 2013 start date. You can see the progress yourself by visiting the website [Pittsburghfederalprojects.com](http://Pittsburghfederalprojects.com)

-Lois McCafferty

## MARCH STRATEGY

The **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** is strategizing for the long-term reconstruction of Brookline Boulevard.

Your input will be valued. We are looking for ways in helping both Businesses and Community to join in keeping Brookline Boulevard a working district during the reconstruction.

Patience and support = a working joint effort between the community and business district.

Three meetings are being worked on for your input. [Exact dates will be coming.]

1. Merchant meeting: January
  - Parking loss during reconstruction of that block.
  - Walking
  - Deliveries
2. Community meeting: February
  - Supporting the businesses
3. Joint meeting: March
  - Putting together all thoughts.

-Lois McCafferty



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**WE REPAIR**

## FALL REDD-UP

Brookline's fall clean-up was given a turbo-charger of youthful enthusiasm through the Pitt Make a Difference Day in which 40 college students and ten community volunteers teamed up and picked up 45 large bags of trash, 3 huge blue bags of recyclables and about a dozen tires.

The students were very enthusiastic, friendly and worked hard. They really loved the free coffee and pastries and after the clean-up relaxed for half an hour in the coffee shop and wolfed down some awesome pie from Brookline's own **Antonio's Pizza**.

Special thanks to our fine boulevard businesses: **Cannon Coffee, Party Cake Bakery** and **Antonio's Pizza** for supplying the

troops with caffeine, pastries and pizza! Thanks to the University of Pittsburgh and our stalwart community volunteers.

Attached are pictures of Volunteers **Daryl Wood** (left) and **Travis Sefzik** (right) posing with our bounty of trash. Natalia Rudiak's office had a professional photographer take a picture of everyone together, but you will have to contact her office if you would like a copy.

-Keith Knecht



## HERE IS THE LATEST SCOOP ON GEORGE!



George had a slight stroke this past year, and while he is doing okay, he has been very reluctant to venture out much. He loves when people ask about him. He is going to be 68 years old.

His mother Delores, who has and continues to be his chief caretaker, is 92 years old and suffered a stroke a few months ago. Her daughter Sharon who resides in Arizona has been here since September helping out, but will be going back at the end of November. George also has another sister who lives away and a brother who resides locally in Baldwin.

George and his Mom are going to need assistance in getting to doctor appointments within the local area. Would you be able to volunteer to help get them to these appointments? We would know the appointment dates about a week in advance. George's brother who lives in Baldwin works full time, and the appointments are in the day. If you can help out, contact **Deacon Rich Longo** at 412-951-6384. If you would like to send George and Delores a card or a note, send them to **The Brookline**, P.O. Box 96136, Pittsburgh, PA 15226. Please write "Attn. **George Gilfoyle**" on the envelope. You can also email to [mnp.grabowski@verizon.net](mailto:mnp.grabowski@verizon.net). Put **George Gilfoyle** in the subject

line. We will forward the correspondence to George and Delores.

-Deacon Richard Longo



## 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**

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

*10/21/12 We filled 1/2 of a 45-gallon trash bag. Those dirtying Brookline were well-hydrated: Litter included three beer bottles, five iced-tea containers, four water bottles, and one each of Snapple, root beer, Gatorade, and Dr. Pepper.*

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

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

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

*11/4/12 Mary Anne: Had more plastic huggie bottles than regular trash*

**600 Mayville - Peg Sherwood & Mac**

**500 Berkshire - Sarah McCalla**

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

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

**Plainview Ave. from Jillson to Capital - Jim Sheppard**

**Merrick Ave. Bet Eben St. & Brookline Blvd. - Eileen Papale**

## TRASH DECOMPOSITION TEST ANSWERS:

**Apple Core: 2 months**

**Tin Can: 50 years**

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





# SENATOR WAYNE FONTANA

## Heating Assistance Available

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) opened on November 1<sup>st</sup> and the PA Department of Public Welfare (DPW) is now accepting applications. The program helps low-income families pay their heating bills. If you need an application, you can pick one up at my office at 932 Brookline Boulevard, or call the office at 412-344-2551 and my staff will mail you the application and answer any questions you may have. Applications are also available on the DPW website at

[www.dpw.state.pa.us](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us).

Funding for LIHEAP is provided by the federal government and eligibility is based on Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. The income limits this season are as follows:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Income Limit</u>
1	\$16,755
2	\$22,695
3	\$28,635
4	\$34,575
5	\$40,515
6	\$46,455
7	\$52,395
8	\$58,335
9	\$64,275
10	\$70,215

After your application is reviewed, you will receive a written notice explaining your eligibility and the amount of assistance you will receive. Payments are generally sent directly to a utility company or fuel provider and are credited to your account. Crisis grants are also available to those who have an emergency situation and are in jeopardy of losing their heat. Crisis assistance is available 24 hours a day by calling the Allegheny County Department of Human Services at 1-800-851-3838. For additional home heating assistance, you may also want to contact your utility company. You may also call the LIHEAP hotline at 1-866-857-7095 with any questions about the program.

### Senior Flu/Pneumonia Shot Clinic a Success!

On October 24, I hosted a Senior Flu/Pneumonia Shot Clinic at Church of the Resurrection. We had a great turnout and were able to provide flu and pneumonia shots to many of our neighborhood seniors. Thanks to American HealthCare Group for providing the flu and pneumonia shots and special thanks also to Janet Cuneen and Larene Walsh for volunteering their time to assist with the event. I also want to thank all the organizations who attended and distributed important materials, resource guides and consumer information to our seniors, with special thanks to Concordia- South Hills, who offered blood pressure screenings and the Duquesne University Mylan School of Pharmacy, who provided pharmacists on-site to answer questions about medications and prescriptions.

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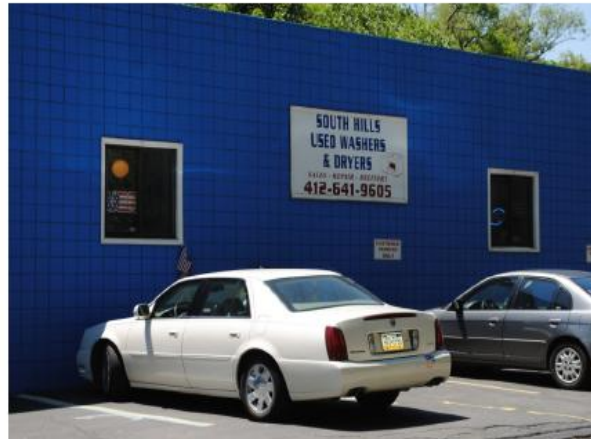


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## BEAUTY AND FASHION GLAM

Are we feeling festive yet? Well, if not it's time to get a move on ...the thing is we should all simplify and enjoy the holidays, not feel like we are getting pulled in 50 directions. Try and take time to really live in the moment of the season, you never know if you will have this time with friends and family again so have fun, BE FESTIVE, and get out and enjoy all those holiday memories!

Go all out this year ...don't just dress up your table with all the glitz and glam, dress yourself up as well. When we take time to look good we then feel good about ourselves. Add a little SPARKLE; wear that new black dress or an old one. You can always accent with some crystal jewelry and/or a pretty fashion scarf to dress up any outfit. You don't have to worry about buying new; reinvent a fashion piece in your closet ...mix and match.

GLAMOROUS up styles for the holidays are a great way to enter any party...you will make a statement with a beautiful polished BUN or loose and romantic waves. Fantasy hair can be just that - creative and edgy. The season of winter wonderland with a snow bunny effect with lots of pretty pastels and furry white hats is here so get excited and be ready to shine.



Keep it COOL AND CLASSIC or go more PIXIE AND FUN ...so come on and put on the glitz with hair and makeup for the holidays and get ready to sparkle! Makeup trends ...eye sparkle with Bitter Berry, glitter glam in gold or snow white and luscious liquid BLUSH to brighten anyone's cheeks! Makeup will help you feel more awake and energized, if you don't usually wear makeup just try a little blush and a dab of gloss!

Get out and enjoy the holiday bliss and make time for yourself. Get plenty of rest; you will need it as the holiday approaches.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OF YOU AND MANY BLESSINGS.

Until next time ...live your dreams!

Jacqueline Capatolla, Jacqueline's Salon [www.jacquelinesnews.com](http://www.jacquelinesnews.com)

# BROOKLINE RECREATION CENTER



## Weight Room and Fitness Center

Our new FREE weight room and fitness center includes an assortment of weight-lifting and cardio work-out 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 6:00-8:30pm. 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-over are welcome.

### Martial Arts

Learn the fundamentals of Tae Kwon Do with our trained instructor Adrian Scarpari of Se Jong Tae Kwon Do. Beginner and Intermediate classes for students ages 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).

### Yoga

Relax your mind, body and spirit Tuesday evenings from 6:15pm -7:30pm with our certified instructor. Program runs in six-week sessions. Cost per session: \$50. Cost is pro-rated for late enrollees. Bring your own mat!



### Body Sculpting

Work out Monday and Thursday evenings from 6:15pm -7:30pm with our trained instructor, Roxanne Eibeck. Sessions run for five weeks (twice a week). Cost: \$30/session (10 workouts). Cost prorated for late enrollees. Bring your own mat.

### Cadet Colorguard and Twirling Team

Boys and girls ages 5-11 learn to swing a flag, twirl a baton and do basic dance moves. Train to compete in TOB/TIA competitions. Weekly practices will be held Thursdays from 6:30pm - 7:30pm. Cost:

\$25/student. Limited spots available. Visit website at [www.exquisiteperformance.org](http://www.exquisiteperformance.org).

### Women's Discussion Group

Group meets Tuesdays from 7:30pm - 8:45pm. Meet with guest speakers, work on crafts, learn new healthy ways to prepare good food and have fun. Group meets until December 18.

### Writing Club

Club will meet the first and third Tuesday of each month from 1:30pm—3:00pm. FREE to all kids ages first through twelfth grade. Join our instructor as she provides a supportive place for kids to share their creative work.



### Kindersports/Storytime

Boys and girls ages 0-5 are invited to come and play games and read books on Wednesday mornings from 11:00am - noon. Play basketball, kickball, bowling and more. FREE.



### Spanish Introduction

Boys and girls ages 10 - up are invited to this six-week course to learn conversational Spanish. Classes held on Saturday from noon to 1:00pm. Cost: \$30/student.

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

Give a gift certificate from one of Brookline's beauty salons.

- Cuts & Styles**
- Garcia's Cut Offs**
- Hair by Conroy**
- Jacqueline's Salon**
- Jo's Salon**
- Joseph Antar Hairstyling**
- Salon Cristianna**

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

**Hannukah**

# COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THIS MONTH

### December 10 Monday

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

### December 11 Tuesday

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

### December 17 Monday

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



CVS accepts food donations for the Brookline Christian Food Pantry

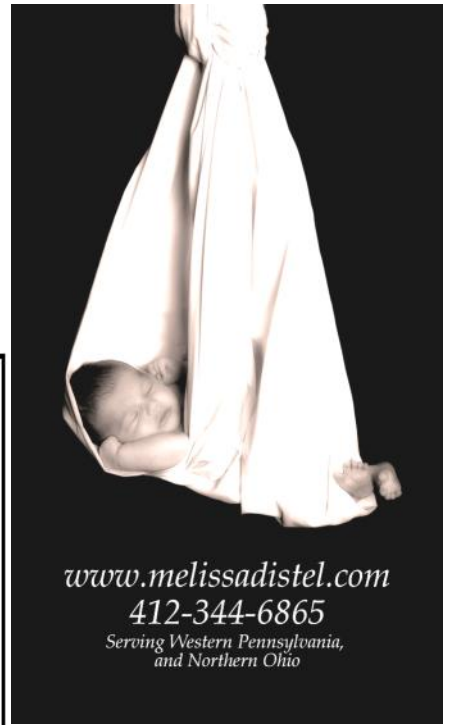


**1 HOUR TRASH WALK SUNDAYS AT 2:00PM. MEET AT CANNON COFFEE. HELP KEEP THE BOULEVARD CLEAN.**



**Give A Lovely  
Hands Gift  
Certificate**

**HALLOWEEN PARADE WINNERS**  
Boulevard Bucks were awarded to the first, second, third and fourth place finishers in the following classes: funniest, scariest group.  
*-Lee Herbermann*



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## LUNCH WITH SANTA AND RUDOLPH

We are having lunch with Santa and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Arts in the Park will be partnering with us to do special crafts and games. The Brookline Recreation Center will also provide lunch on Saturday, December 22 from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Donation of \$2 is requested per person. (Adults & Children both enjoy lunch). Pre-registration is requested. Call 412-571-3222.

Also please bring a \$5 wrapped gift with your child's name on it for Santa to give to your child. All ages are welcome. Reminder - Bring your own camera to take pictures with Santa.



## LOOKING BACK WITH LOIS HALEY



It was a sunny October afternoon when I met **Lois Haley**. We settled around her autumn-decorated dining room table. At 91, “I’m going to be 92,” Lois cares for her seven-room house, which was immaculate, by herself. Lois’s silver-gray hair was perfectly coiffed, and she was wearing a purple pants suit. My camera did not do justice to this elegant lady.

Lois was born and raised in McKeesport. It was her marriage to **Charles “Chuck” Haley** that brought her to Brookline. Chuck, who was also born and raised in McKeesport, had an uncle who owned the **Brookline Pharmacy** which was located where **Fox’s Pizza** is today. His uncle wanted someone to continue the business, and he convinced Chuck to become a pharmacist. Before Chuck was able to take over from his uncle, World War II intervened. He enlisted in the Marines.

“He took part in five invasions in the Pacific, including Iwo Jima. He was the only one out of the 22 men in his unit who made it back,” Lois recalled.

After his discharge, Chuck and Lois became a team running the pharmacy. While Chuck filled prescriptions, Lois ran the store. The building was two stories at that time with doctors’ and dentists’ offices on the second floor.

They did major remodeling in the 1950s and the store windows featured a pale gray ceramic clock in one corner and a thermometer telling the temperature in the other corner. It was Brookline’s version of the Kaufmann’s clock. Lois remembered the soda fountain, with booths in addition to counter seating, where ice cream cones were 5 cents, sodas 15 cents, a milkshake 15 cents and a sundae would set you back 20 cents.

By 1960 the soda fountain was gone, but there was still the penny candy. Lois’s future daughter-in-law lived in Dormont. When she met Lois for the first time she asked if Lois remembered that she came in to buy Twizzlers. Lois sold a variety of penny candy. It was a favorite place for the local children. It was candy that won Lois a trip to Philadelphia when she decorated the front windows with Whitman Candy boxes and won a contest Whitman’s was sponsoring.

“Our customers were like our family,” Lois said. And just like you help family whenever they need it, Chuck would get up at all hours to fill a prescription. There were no computers and no register to make the job easier.

Lois would prepare lunch for her and Chuck in the back of the store so a customer may have been greeted by the aroma of chili or soup simmering.

They closed the pharmacy in 1986. Chuck was getting sick by then. Chuck and Lois were married 46 years. As we talked, it was obvious she still misses him.

Lois is a firm supporter of Brookline. “Brookline will come back.” It might not have the six pharmacies, four hardware stores, four bakeries, three clothing stores or 11 beauty salons that Lois ticks off, but she is sure it will come back. She cites **Joe Daniels at The Medicine Shoppe** as a pharmacist exemplifying the caring style of her husband.

Lois uses a cane to get around. “My children got me one of those Medic Alert things since I fell a couple of times.”

She notices that I’m looking for her alert button. “It’s upstairs in the bedroom,” She waves her hand toward the stairs. Unfortunately days after I spoke to Lois, she fell while in her basement. She is currently recuperating at a local rehabilitation facility.

**Dottie Grant**, a friend, said Lois is frustrated by her slow recovery, and that sounds just like Lois. She is a nonagenarian powerhouse who doesn’t sit still for long and keeps her mind active by working crossword puzzles.

Before her accident, Lois volunteered one day a week at **Meals on Wheels**, and has received several awards for her volunteering efforts in the community. At **Seton Center** she assists in the kitchen washing dishes. They are likely all anxious to see Lois on her feet once again.

If you would like to send a card or note to cheer Lois, please send them to **Lois Haley**, c/o **The Brookline**, P.O. Box 96136, Pittsburgh, PA 15226. We will make sure she gets them.



-Pamela Grabowski

-Chuck Haley’s photo provided by Lois Haley



## COUNCILWOMAN NATALIA RUDIAK

It's a strange sight to drive down the street and come face to face with yourself. But that's exactly what happened a few weeks ago as I drove down Route 51 and saw workers plastering my face to a billboard. I am the target of a smear campaign regarding legislation I introduced.

\$42. That's how much just one of the billboards at the intersection of Route 51 and Route 88 pays in school and city taxes. Billboards that generate tens of thousands of dollars for an outdoor advertising company pay only a few pennies on the dollar in tax to the City.

When talking about billboards, the most important thing to remember is: location, location, location. Companies set up billboards along the side of our roads and charge businesses for the use of the signs to advertise their products. The cost of renting a billboard varies based on its location and how many cars are likely to pass by on a given day. The only reason that the billboards are valuable to outdoor advertising companies is because they are alongside roads and streets that are paved, plowed, and policed by the City. They pay only a fraction of what you and I pay in city taxes.

Council President Darlene Harris and I were fed up with this situation and introduced legislation in September with the goal of closing this major tax loophole. The purpose of this legislation is to send outdoor advertisers the bill for the services they already use in this city but don't pay for--we do.

Philadelphia passed a similar ordinance several years ago, and last year collected \$2.3 million from it. The city was able to use this money to help limit the tax burden on residents. Like Philadelphia, we're simply asking that outdoor advertisers pay up like the rest of us.

This outdoor advertising legislation will hold the line on our property taxes while promoting a higher standard of living. The time for this tax is now. To continue leaving millions of dollars on the table is simply wrong.

Council President Harris and I held a public hearing and post agenda on this issue on November 14 which you can watch online at [www.pittsburgh.legistar.com](http://www.pittsburgh.legistar.com). If you have any questions or concerns about the tax, please feel free to reach out to me at 412-255-2131. Feel free to reach out to other members of council as well to voice your support of this bill and encourage them to vote to hold billboard companies accountable.



## TIME FOR SOME TRASH TALK

Perhaps our experience on the Sunday Trash Walk in early November had to do with the unusually balmy weather. In addition to the usual walkers and motorists who stopped to thank us, we had two incidents that stood out that day.

First we digress to inform the man who thought we were doing "community service" for a crime. *"What did you do? Drive drunk? Parking tickets?"* No and no. We did not commit a crime. We choose to pick up this litter. So yes, it is community service, but the crime was committed by those who can't walk a few more feet to the trash can.

That brings us to incident one. We were bending down to pick up litter in the vicinity of the library when we heard the following exchange. *"Don't do that. It's littering,"* a female voice said. *"It's okay. They'll pick it up,"* a male voice replied. NO IT IS NOT OKAY! It is not okay that you have no respect for our community and its residents. It is not okay that you think your trash is someone else's responsibility. In retrospect we were glad we didn't see them. Now they are just disembodied voices. If we had a face to go with the voices, it would color any future interaction we might have.

Incident two turned into a teachable moment. A couple of young teenagers came by with questions. *"Do you get paid for this?"* No. *"Do you want to do this?"* Not really, but if I don't, who will? I live here and someone is trashing my community. I don't like looking at it.

They pondered this while we continued on. We encountered them on the other side of the Boulevard where one of the teens threw a \$5.00 bill to the ground and said, *"Here, pick up that trash."* I ignored him and walked on. He called after me. *"Hey do you want this for cleaning up?"* And I seized the moment. I walked back and told him to keep his \$5.00, but I wanted him and his friend to do something else. Just keep the street in front of your house clean. They thought maybe they could do that. And, maybe they will.

If everyone just cleaned the street in front of their house or business, we wouldn't have to do the Sunday Trash Walk. We could read a book, watch a movie or take a nap. That Sunday we collected 12 grocery-size plastic bags of trash from Cannon Park to Pioneer Avenue.

We try to go out every Sunday except the first Sunday of each month. The first Saturday of the month St. Mark's Prayer Walk cleans the trash, and we use the first Sunday to clean our street.

*-Sunday Trash Walkers*

## THE MEDICARE AGE IS STILL 65

If you're in your sixties, you probably know that the age to receive full retirement benefits has changed. But it's important to remember that the age to begin receiving Medicare has not — it is still 65. Even if you have decided to wait until after you are age 65 to apply for retirement benefits, most people should start getting Medicare coverage at age 65.

If you would like to begin your Medicare coverage when you first become eligible, we suggest that you apply within three months of reaching age 65. You can do it online in as little as 10 minutes at [www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly).

At the website, you'll find more than just the online Medicare application. You'll also find information about Medicare, and have the opportunity to watch some short videos about applying for Medicare online. One is a family reunion for the cast of *The Patty Duke Show*. In another, Patty Duke and George Takei go boldly where *you* should be going — online.

Why go online to apply for Medicare? Because it's fast, easy, and secure. You don't need an appointment and you can avoid waiting in traffic or in line. As long as you have ten minutes to spare, you have time to complete and submit your online Medicare application.

People who started receiving Social Security retirement or disability benefits before age 65 do not need to apply; they will be automatically enrolled in Medicare.

There is no additional charge for Medicare hospital insurance (Part A) since you already paid for it by working and paying Medicare tax. However, there is a monthly premium for medical insurance (Part B). If you already have other health insurance when you become eligible for Medicare, you should consider whether you want to apply for the medical insurance. To learn more about Medicare and some options for choosing coverage, read the online publication, *Medicare*, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10043.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10043.html) or visit [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov).

To learn more about applying for Medicare Only using the online application, please visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly).

-Patricia Thibault  
Social Security Manager

## BROOKLINE RECEIVES GRANT

According to the Post-Gazette, the Design Center of Pittsburgh has awarded SPDC a grant of \$25,000.

I would like to thank **Stephanie Miller**, **Jen Askey**, and **Lois McCafferty** for really taking the lead on this, and doing a lot of the work. Without their hard work and dedication, there is no way we would have received this money. I would also like to thank those of you who wrote letters of support for this grant.

The full article can be found here: <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/neighborhoods-city/grants-to-boost-renewal-projects-in-pittsburgh-661827/>

Congratulations everyone!

-Jennifer Grab

Merry  
Christmas



Καλά  
Χριστούγεννα



Feliz  
Navidad





# CITY OF PITTSBURGH

"AMERICA'S MOST LIVABLE CITY"

*Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl*

Dear Neighbors,

With 2013 quickly approaching, I'd like to take this time to reflect on another successful year in the City of Pittsburgh. As our Third Renaissance reaches and revitalizes even more neighborhoods, I have never been more proud of the way our residents and neighbors have worked hand-in-hand with the City to clean up blight, remove litter and transform eye sores into beauty. We should all be proud of our neighborhoods, and of the work we've done – and continue to do – to ensure that they're a great place to live and do business. Across the City, many great things happened in 2012.

## **CREATING JOBS**

There are currently more than 1.2 million jobs available in Pittsburgh – that's more available jobs than ever before. This is a result of our vision to grow strong neighborhoods and business districts by remaining dedicated to impressive neighborhood investment, job creation and a thriving high-tech innovation economy. In 2012 alone, Downtown has seen \$5 billion in investment, which brought 30 new restaurants to Market Square and multi-million dollar investments like Gardens at Market, which will transform disapidated buildings at the Square's Fifth Street entrance into an 18-story mixed-use building, and the \$83 million Piatt Place development to include luxury condos and high-end restaurants. Looking forward, Downtown will become even more vibrant as the new PNC skyscraper – slated to be the world's greenest skyscraper – moves toward completion.

Pittsburgh's Third Renaissance expands beyond Downtown. Developments like Bakery Square 2.0 in East Liberty, South Shore Riverfront Park at SouthSide Works and the Garden Block Revitalization project on the Northside bring jobs and much-needed office space for Pittsburgh's growing and thriving economy.

## **ENSURING PUBLIC SAFETY**

As we celebrate Pittsburgh's sixth consecutive year of historic crime lows, the City's public safety officials continue their efforts to drive crime rates even lower in our neighborhoods with improvements in equipment and upgrades in police cars. Safety officials have received advanced training and over \$3 million was dedicated to the demolition of condemned homes in the area. From 2006 through 2011, the City's overall rate of reported crime dropped by 26 percent. The safety of Pittsburgh's residents and businesses has been and will remain the highest priority in the New Year.

## **BRINGING BACK PITTSBURGH'S PROMISE**

Since 2008, more than 3,000 students have pursued higher education thanks to The Pittsburgh Promise – a scholarship program that gives Pittsburgh Public Schools students up to \$40,000 to follow their dreams. This past June, the first Promise scholars graduated from college and the program will come full circle as local employers hire from a newly trained, local talent pool.

## **GREENING AND IMPROVING PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE**

We have taken many steps to reduce the City's energy usage and save taxpayers' money. Just this year, we upgraded 3,700 business district street lights to brighter, cleaner, cost-efficient LED lights; conducted energy-efficient improvements to the City-County Building; and are creating Green Central, the City's first one-stop-shop for green- and sustainability-related information.

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

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



[pittsburghpa.gov](http://pittsburghpa.gov)

[facebook.com/city.of.pittsburgh](https://www.facebook.com/city.of.pittsburgh)

[twitter.com/citypgh](https://twitter.com/citypgh)

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has made strides toward improving streets and cleaning up communities. This year, DPW paved almost 60 miles of City streets, installed 56 new handicap ramps, and – through the Mayor’s Redd Up and Green Up programs – cleaned up 43 lots, boarded up 102 abandoned buildings, cleared 466 tons of debris, created 12 new community gardens and opened two new dog parks.

#### **FROM SENIORS TO KIDS – IMPROVEMENTS FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY**

From renovated senior centers to community farmers markets to youth-friendly events, residents of all ages had the opportunity to enjoy Pittsburgh in 2012. The recent reopening of the historic South Side Market House marked the completion of the first of three renovation phases to bring the building to complete usability and restore quality-of-life programming for senior residents. The project, originally slated for almost \$1 million in repairs, cost under \$250,000 thanks to in-house work provided by the City’s Public Works department.

Safety repairs and improvements have recently been made to many of the City’s 130 parks and playgrounds, including safety surface installments, upgraded courts and lighting, and improved overall appearance. Farmers markets were held in neighborhoods across the City during the summer and fall to provide residents with locally grown food and handmade crafts. Among a variety of family- and youth-friendly events, the City held its first-ever “Wallflowers and Wildflowers: Alternative Homecoming” dance for teens who find it difficult or intimidating to attend their own school’s dance among their classmates.

#### **ENGAGING RESIDENTS IN CITIZEN-SERVICE**

By obtaining a Cities of Service grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies and Rockefeller Foundation, Mayor Ravenstahl launched servePGH in March 2011 to engage Pittsburgh’s citizens in service and to answer President Obama’s national call to volunteerism. Through eight new and innovative servePGH initiatives, the Mayor has engaged citizens in volunteer-fueled solutions to revitalize close to 200 City blocks, restore vulnerable residents’ homes, help middle-school youth navigate life’s challenges, clean up over 21,000 pounds of litter, and more. Over 3,000 volunteers have committed over 30,000 hours of service through servePGH to date.

#### **WORLD-RENOWNED RECOGNITION**

Despite the nation’s biggest downturn since the Great Depression, Pittsburgh has stayed on top. Accolades touting the City’s successes continue to come in. This year alone, we were named one of “20 Cities with the Happiest Young Professionals” and one of “25 Best Places to Retire in 2012” by *Forbes.com*, one of 20 “Best of the World” must-see places to visit in 2012 by *National Geographic Traveler*, a top 10 “American Comeback City” by *Forbes*, and America’s “Most Livable City” year after year by *The Economist* and *Forbes.com*. The list goes on, and the resounding message is clear – Pittsburgh is a growing city, a revitalized city, a thriving city. And people across the world are taking note.

As we look forward to another successful year in 2013, I anticipate even more milestones to be reached, neighborhoods to be improved and accolades to be received. And I look forward to working together with residents, community organizations and businesses to write the next chapter in Pittsburgh’s remarkable story. I wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy New 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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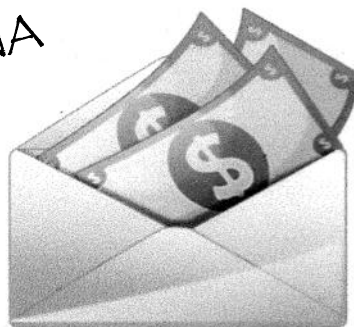
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*SALON CRISTIANNA*

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PAST AND FUTURE  
PATRONAGE**

**CHRISTINE ARDOLINO**