

THE VIOLET BOUQUET FLOWER SHOP



“It’s a crazy day,” **Kathy Saldutte** announces from her spot behind the counter. On the wall behind Kathy is a placard - “If friends were flowers, I’d pick you.” By crazy, she means crazy good. Recently delivered fresh flowers fill plastic pails scattered on the floor of **The Violet Bouquet Flower Shop**. The telephone rings incessantly. Flowers are the gift for all seasons and all reasons.

Dish gardens line a multi-tiered display near the front door, and pots of peace lilies crowd along a side wall. In front of a refrigerator a black pail holds white and deep pink carnations and wax flowers fill a white pail nearby.

Donna Jena, Kathy’s cousin and assistant, opens the refrigerator in search of statice for an arrangement. While she’s in the refrigerator, she decides on a bunch of rusty mums to complete the arrangement.

Kathy finishes her order and joins me out front. She opens a bag containing what has become a popular purchase for funerals. It’s a throw with a spiritual theme that’s hung on an easel. She’s been in business on Brookline Boulevard for 20 years. While Kathy says she is mostly self-taught, she spent three months looking over the shoulder of the former owner before buying the shop. After a career in the travel industry, Kathy found a new passion.

“You have to love this to keep doing it.” She does everything weddings, funerals, dish gardens and even prom corsages. Kathy says prom corsages are tedious work.

Valentine’s Day means late nights and last minute orders, including the man rushing in at the last minute looking for a gift for his wife! That’s when her husband will ask her, “Well, do you still love it?” “I tell him yes,” says Kathy.

Stop by **The Violet Bouquet Flower Shop** and meet **Kathy Saldutte**.

-*Pamela Grabowski*
-Photos by *Melissa Distel*

The Violet Bouquet Flower Shop is located at 931 Brookline Boulevard. Contact **Kathy Saldutte** at 412-341-5755 or 1-800-448-1774.



Letter from the Editor

Happy New Year Everyone! March 2013 is the target date for starting the Boulevard reconstruction. We anticipate the challenge. There are many changes coming in 2013.

Not only is the Boulevard getting a renovation, but **Pitaland** will close on January 7 and reopen on January 21 for renovations. We hear **Pitaland's** renovations will include café seating. One of our favorite stores is becoming even more alluring. We will be there on January 6 stocking up on hummus, pita bread and kalamata olives to carry us through the two week closing.

We are saying good-bye to **Jacqueline's Salon**. **Jacqueline Capatolla** will continue to write for The Brookline, but she will no longer have a shop on the Boulevard.

Our new state representative **Erin Molchany** has opened her office on the Boulevard. We anticipate running her monthly column starting in February.

Isis, the new Egyptian café, has not opened as we write this. We did visit their Facebook site, and the restaurant still expects a December opening. We liked what we saw in the pictures, and we hope Ful Medames will be on the menu.

There's sign on an empty storefront near Glenarm Avenue announcing the future home of Daree Salam, an African market. Brookline Boulevard is fast becoming a corridor of multi-ethnic stores and restaurants giving the Taste of Brookline new meaning. Make sure you mark your calendar for the 2013 Taste of Brookline [see page seven]. Last year many people missed out because they didn't buy their tickets early.

Believe it or not that's a good sign. For too long Brookline events drew the same crowd. *Why rush to buy a ticket? The only people who will come will be the regulars.* Well, times are changing. Word about Brookline is out, and you can see it from the taco line at Las Palmas to the people taking the "Burgh and Bites Tour."

The economy is tight, and shopping on the Boulevard is convenient. Brookline is our community, and for 2013 we need to band together to keep it clean and prosperous. We toast the New Year with these words from Oprah Winfrey, "Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right."

*****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.

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*****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 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

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THE BROOKLINE PAST ISSUES

Clint Burton has archived past issues of **The Brookline** at www.brooklineconnection.com.

DEADLINES:

January 12 for February's Issue

February 12 for March's Issue

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: thebrookline@brookline-pgh.org or

mnp.grabowski@verizon.net

Telephone: 412-343-2859

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

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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 November 2012:

- Cannon Coffee - \$167.52
- Kribel's Bakery - \$1,095.90 ★★
- A Boss - \$84.34
- Hideaway Mini Mart - \$91.73
- Kathy Bernard - \$25.00
- South Hills Printing - \$75.00
- Maureen DeBase - \$15.00
- Brookline Area Community Council - \$400.00 ★
- Sali Magrini - \$20.00
- Mary Guckes - \$100.00

COMMUNITY CRIMES ZONE 6

If you don't currently receive the crime reports by email and you want to receive the emails, contact us. If you want more information on the incidents below, please contact us at 412-343-2859. Or, you can email us at mnp.grabowski@verizon.net. Please put "Crime Report" in the subject line.

NOVEMBER

CRIMES ZONE 6	Total	Brookline
Aggravated Assault	7	2
Arson	1	0
Rape	1	0
Robbery	6	1
Burglary	22	3
Theft	31	8
Theft from Vehicle	17	5
Stolen Vehicle	9	2

JOANNE'S CORNER

We are starting a New Year, and I thought we might try something new. Family and friends could send me information about Brookliners celebrating memorable occasions. Such as 50th anniversaries, 100th birthdays or any other memorable occasions that might be of interest to our readers. The names and dates and a short history of the person and the event can be sent to me through **The Brookline**, P. O. Box 96136, Pittsburgh, PA 15226 or email to mnp.grabowski@verizon.net. Put "Joanne's Corner" on the envelope or in the email subject line.

-Joanne Fantoni



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- 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

CONTEST WINNERS



Spiritual Angel
 Winner : Donna
 Reid



Food Winner:
 Jean Warren



Gift-Giving Winner:
 Rosemary Nulton



Hokey Winner:
 Nate Mallory



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“I really liked the article on **Mrs. Haley**. She is a wonderful person, and I've known her since I was a little boy. One thing I noticed was the location of **Brookline Pharmacy**. It was not located at the current **Fox Pizza**. That was **Stebbrook Pharmacy**. **Brookline Pharmacy** was located where the current **CVS Pharmacy** is. It was the last building on the block and was torn down in 2000 to make room for the **CVS**.”

“It was a double building with a big thermometer on one side and a clock on the other. You entered one

side and once inside walked in a horseshoe shape to the right around to the other side. It was a nice place to buy candy when we were little. It always seemed as if **Mr. Haley** was working one side of the store and **Mrs. Haley** was working the other.”

“The attached photo shows the pharmacy before it was torn down. It is the building with the white facade at the end of the boulevard.”

“Not sure if it really matters.”

-*Clint Burton*

[You bet it matters, Clint. Thank you for correcting us. Editor]

“The article about **Mrs. Haley** says that **Brookline Pharmacy** was where **Fox's Pizza** is now. I think that was **Stebbrook's** where **John Mussitch** moved to after **Mellon Bank** bought the place where it originally was. **Bryant's Hardware** was on the corner, and there was a childrens' clothing store next to it, and John expanded into both storefronts. I remember **Brookline Pharmacy** as being on the corner of the Boulevard and Pioneer where **CVS** is now. Not really important to the story just wanted to see if my memory is correct. See if you get any more emails questioning the location.”

-*Bob Daley*

[We definitely heard from others, Bob. We also want to thank Vince Mazza, Leo Hughes and Mary Anne Miller who called us. Editor]

BROOKLINE BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Safety of school children during the Brookline Boulevard improvement project.

The work on the sidewalk on the east side of Pioneer Avenue adjacent to **CVS Pharmacy** will not be started until after the school year is completed. There is a stipulation in the contract bid documents that requires the contractor to coordinate with the School District and not perform work on the sidewalk in this area until after school is completed. Therefore, during the school year, the sidewalk should be open for school children.

During construction, Brookline Boulevard businesses will be open and there will be access to the shops. Project was advertised November 21, 2012, with bid openings on December 20, 2012.

Still on track with a March 2013 start date. You can see the progress yourself by visiting the website Pittsburghfederal-projects.com

-*Lois McCafferty*

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BROOKLINE GIRL COMPETES



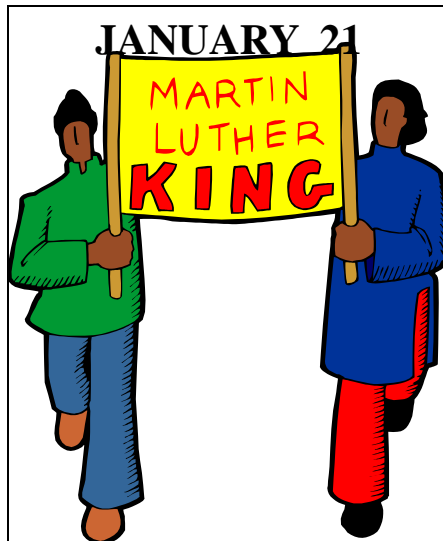
Erin Skiff of Pittsburgh (a Brookline resident) recently participated in the 2013 Miss Jr. Teen Pageant competition that took place on Sunday November 18, 2012. Erin submitted an application and took part in an interview session before being accepted into this year's competition where she was named the 2nd Runner-Up.

Erin competed in the Miss Jr. Teen division, one of four divisions that had young ladies of the ages of 7 to 19 competing in modeling routines of casual and formal wear. Most important, Erin displayed her personality and interviewing skills while interviewing with this year's judging panel. Personality is the number one aspect that each contestant is judged on during all phases of competition.

Erin will be taking part in the National Competition in Orlando, Florida in December 2013. Over \$30,000 in prizes and awards will be presented at the National Competition.

Community businesses, organizations and private individuals assisted Erin by becoming an official sponsor to her. Through sponsorship, each contestant received all the necessary training, rehearsals and financial support which allowed Erin to become a very confident and well-prepared contestant in this year's Pageant. Erin's sponsors include these local businesses: **Antonio's Pizzeria, Cuts & Styles Hair Salon, Suns of Intanity, Inc., Anna's Nails, Cannon Coffee, Skiff Custom Masonry, Dan & Karen Skiff, Lisa Rondinelli, Jess & Debbi Brust and Judy & Jim Doby.**

-Carolyn Skiff



At left: In addition to the pool table, **Eileen Gordon** wanted us to let you know there's a bowling machine at **Gordon's**, too.

-Photo by Melissa Distel

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HOLIDAYS ON THE BOULEVARD



Boulevard merchants displayed their creativity with holiday windows this year featuring everything from Christmas Trees to Nativity scenes. **Jo's Salon** featured a collection of snowmen. Unfortunately, when we tried to take photos, we had reflections from the opposite side of the Boulevard. We squeezed into **Rina's** entryway to get these photos of her Santa Claus collection. A BIG THANK YOU to all the merchants who gave the Boulevard a holiday glow.



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PIONEER A STAR AWARD WINNER



Pittsburgh Pioneer in Brookline was recently named a STAR Special School for making extraordinary gains in student achievement!! STAR stands for Students and Teachers Achieving Results. It is based on student growth using a school-based collaboration that recognizes and rewards hard work and extraordinary accomplishment leading to better outcomes for students. The District developed individualized STAR criteria based on unique student populations, such as **Pioneer**. District staff came to **Pioneer** and presented the school with a banner and

breakfast. Students received backpacks. Professional and paraprofessional staff received monetary rewards. See, hard work DOES pay off!


-Lisa DeRose



SAVE THE DATE

TASTE OF BROOKLINE 2013

Join South Pittsburgh Development Corporation (SPDC) on Sunday, April 28, 2013 for the 2nd Annual Taste of Brookline. Tickets will go fast. Stay tuned for more information on tickets and the event.



APRIL 28, 2013

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



Waxed Carton

Wool Sock





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 - **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
- 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**

“Snowflakes melt alone - but together they can be traffic stoppers!”

Anonymous



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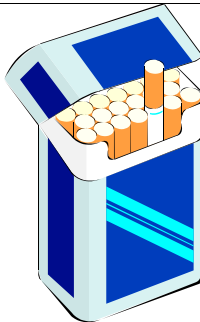


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MARCH STRATEGY

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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Kennywood Picnic Halloween Parade
 Christmas Lighting Flag Program
 Little League Team

Co-Sponsor of Brookline Breeze Race and other community programs

Please Support Your Local Brookline Businesses

A HAPPY
 NEW YEAR

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 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*

11/11/12 We filled 1/3 of a 35-gallon trash bag.

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

Norwich Ave. - *Michael & Pamela Grabowski*

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

11/22/12 Mary Anne: Picked up trash on Woodbourne/Stebbins/Harex Way/Queensboro. One large tall kitchen bag.

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*

800 Fordham Ave. - *Erika Hough*

TRASH DECOMPOSITION TEST ANSWERS:

Waxed Carton: 3 months

Wool Sock: 1-5 years

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

Erika & her family just moved back to Brookline. Thank you Erika. We welcome new residents who care.



What's Going on at Pittsburgh West Liberty K-5?

Greetings and Happy New Year! Hoping this article finds you enjoying the conclusion of the holiday season with fond memories. **Pittsburgh West Liberty** has been busy during the past two months with holiday events as well. On December 13, we had our annual Winter Musical Celebration. The children were led by **Mrs. Daller**, our new voice instructor, and **Mrs. Wall**, our new instrumental instructor. The families packed the gymnasium to see their stars perform and show off their talents.

We had a visit on Wednesday, November 28, from Channel 4's meteorologist Mike Harvey and were featured on the 5:30 news during the weather segment. The children in the primary grades wore decorated hats created by **Lisa** and **Stephen Kancel**, the first grade literacy teacher and her husband. Also, Mr. Harvey was joined by Lamont, from the Carnegie Science Center, who entertained students by creating experiments that represented what happens during various weather situations. A great time was had by all.

During the first week in December, we held our annual Sparkle Shop sponsored by the PTO. The children were able to purchase gifts for their loved ones to get ready for the holiday season. Our fifth graders went to Duquesne University to see the campus. While they were there, they were able to watch a basketball game and cheer on the girls' basketball team. All of the children had a great time and it



was a great way for them to start thinking about how to use their Pittsburgh Promise money when they graduate from high school in seven years. We also had a select group of fifth graders, who presented the play "Scrooge" to their peers and families, take a trip to the Bynum Theater to watch the CLO version of the same play. They also did performances at **Pittsburgh Banksville K-5** and at the **Seton Center** for the senior citizens. It was a great way for the students to share their talents and to warm the hearts of others during the holiday season. The West Liberty's chapter of the "Girls on the Run" participated in the "Jingle Bell Run" on the North Shore, Saturday, December 8, at 10:00. Our first graders went on a field trip to the National Aviary. The trip was funded by a PNC grant and the children were able to learn about birds of prey. The information the students learned during the trip gave them background knowledge for their reading stories about birds. A



note of special thanks to PNC for having this grant available to our children. Last, but not least, our Ballroom Dance Team competed in the Colors of the Rainbow Semi-Finals on Saturday, December 15, at 10:00. Stay tuned for the results and some pictures of that event.

We are just about at the close of the second report card period. We thought you might like to see which students made honor roll first report card period at West Liberty. In order to make honor roll a student must have a 3.0 grade point average or higher.

First Grade: **Nathaniel Akam, Landon Bauer, Hannah Black, Brayden Carcia, Justin Carder, Gage Derrick, Onya Goodwin, Kylee Grippo, Kaden Hudson, Jayonna Johnson Dunwell, Riley Joyce, Isabelle Junaidi, Logan Keady, Anthony Ketter, Danielle Kohr, Mason Maxwell, Brianna Oneil, Aubrey Panella, Laila Panella, Alexa Philistine, Alex Rowser, Kylie Schanck, Alexis Stowe, Danielle Swearingen, McKayla Vietmeier, Aric White, Leah Black, Joshua Garcia Gomez, Celena Hodge, Connor Jozwiak, Arionna Oechslein, and Justin Shipman.**

Second Grade: **Michele Defide, Delaney Devault, Sarah Dugan, Lindsey Greb, Christopher Grosse, Jacob Grosse, Katelynn Joyce, Ireland Kennedy, ShiQuon Lane, Ashley Lippold, Shane McCalla, Carly Ayers, Allison Berlin, Dorian Bilkerdijk, Rylee Blake, Cheyenne Burgos, Brenna Clegg, Bella Crapis, Chase Cyphers, Samarra Laur, Gabriella Stanizzo, Destiny Stone and Mateo Woodson.**

Third Grade: **Aaron Anthony, Adrianna Artzberger, Timothy Bateman, Mitchell Collinsworth, Emerson Davis-**



(Continued on page 11)



SENATOR WAYNE FONTANA

As we enter a New Year, a new legislative session is beginning in Harrisburg. After two years of a primary unilateral approach towards governing in the Commonwealth, the time is now for a bi-partisan approach in tackling the truly important issues that are before us. With the majority party controlling both chambers of the General Assembly and the Governor's mansion, Democrats have on many occasions been left out of the legislative process. That approach needs to change this session as both parties need to work together in order to solve problems for all citizens in the Commonwealth.

One of the biggest disappointments from the last legislative session was the inaction by the majority on addressing our state's transportation crisis. It has been nearly a year and a half since the Governor's own Transportation Advisory Commission issued a set of recommendations to help solve the funding issues we face today and to date, no action has been taken. We need to begin considering these recommendations and finding solutions for a sustainable and dedicated funding source for mass transit. While I am happy a deal was struck to stave off proposed service cuts to the Port Authority in 2013, the solution was a one-time fix. There needs to be a commitment to find a long-term funding stream to our region's mass transit. We also need to address our deteriorating infrastructure as our Commonwealth has more deficient bridges than any state in the country. A commitment towards restoring our infrastructure will not only improve our transportation system and keep our residents safe, it will also create jobs.

While the national unemployment rate has slowly declined over the last several months, Pennsylvania's rate has trended upward, reaching 8.1% in October, a figure higher than the national average. Senate Democrats have put forth a comprehensive jobs plan, PA Works, that has been largely ignored by the majority. The PA Works Now investment strategy would create more than 80,000 new jobs. These jobs would provide an immediate economic stimulus. PA Works Now would make use of state resources, leverage private resources and make critical long term capital investments that would create new opportunities for future growth and development.

I will also continue fighting on behalf of children in the Commonwealth urging passage of legislation I authored that would require school employees to report suspected child abuse to both school authorities and law enforcement immediately so that the discretion of the school is removed. During last session, my legislation had over 35 co-sponsors and clearly shows bi-partisan support, yet never made it out of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Action is long overdue and the time has come to better protect our children from abuse. My legislation helps do that.

With the 2012 Election behind us, voters have made it clear they want their elected officials to end partisan bickering and start working together to solve problems at all levels of government. I stand ready and willing to work with anyone, regardless of party affiliation, who is interested in finding solutions to the problems facing this Commonwealth. The time for action is now.

What's Going on at Pittsburgh West Liberty K-5?

(Continued from page 10)

Martin, Keegan Derrick, Nolan Dunn, Shyllynn Hancock, Christian Hutchison, Draven Kennedy, Kayleigh McDermott, Bayleigh Meade, Cole Morrison, Day-Jour Pack, Anthony Romano, Caleb Simmons, Avaah Tisdale, Isabella Walsh, Damor Williams, Gary Alspach, Kevin Ayers, Mohammed Baled, Ashlyn Bushmen, Evan Carter, Carter Czegán, Elizabeth Dugan, Allison Krapp, Hanna Kuchnicki, Maura Lenkner, Madison Lohner, Leslie Manson, Ashley Michel, Giselle Pennix, Casey Price, Sela Rectenwald, Cody Wadlow, and Milena Yochus.

Fourth Grade: Mac Anderson, Julia Blake, Finnegan Davis-Martin, Zoe Deline, Dominick Feldman, Madison Heid, Lynasia Lane, Ariyana Moore, Visawn Pennix, Roland Rhyne, Daniel Stangrecki, Emily Synowiec, Savannah White, Elijah William, Tyler Andrews, Nicholas Ault, Kaylin Bradley, Adam Chandler, Cameron Colwell, Madison Kyle, Jennifer Lippold, Alexander Loeffert, Nicholas Mohan, and Tyler Palmer.

Fifth Grade: Jarrett Connelly, Devon Gammage, Donald Horne, Samuel Korinko, Anthony Liscio, Alvin Minor III, Brenton Morefield, Ian Mullen, Liam O'Neil, Tayvon Reed, Jaelyn Salla, Elizabeth Schaller, Alliyah Thomas, Aiden Walsh, Tyler Yochus, Christopher Bittner, Isabella Bondi, Sara Bushmen, Alyssa Darden, Dynasti Dickerson, Alexandria Fulton, Angelina Fulton, Kya Gage, Jonathan Grabowski, Timothy Green, Torrie Komoroski, Hannah Lacek, Nicholas Lippold, Alexis McElravy, Ryan Recker, Tatiana Romanelli, Julian Satria, Richard Shulik, Jai'lyr Smith, Delanie Staab, Noah Synowiec, and Kelsey Waite.

That's all of the news for now from Pittsburgh West Liberty K-5. Hoping you and your families have had a wonderful, safe and warm holiday season. Remember Pittsburgh West Liberty K-5 is the place "Where Learners Excel and Character Counts".

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

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.

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.

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 Class

For ages 10 - adults. Expand your horizons with this six-week course to learn conversational Spanish. Classes are held on Saturdays from noon to 1:00pm. Cost: \$30/student. Classes beginning on January 19 through March 23.



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



Report Mailbox Graffiti

Pittsburgh Postmaster Joseph Meimann urges citizens to be proactive and call the Postal Service directly at 412-359-7845 to report mailbox tagging or boxes in need of repair. Help the postal service by giving them specific information of locations and crossing streets.

-Shadyside Newslitter™

December 2, 2012



COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS MONTH

January 7 Monday

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

January 8 Tuesday

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

January 21 Monday

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

January 28 Monday

Brookline Area Community Council 7:00PM doors open. Meeting starts at 7:30PM at **St. Mark's Church** corner of Brookline Blvd. & Glenarm Ave. Please join us. Speakers from United Way and OPT will be with us to explain the systems that are available to replace the services of the "Red Bus."



OPEN MIC SERIES

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



CVS accepts food donations for the
Brookline Christian Food
Pantry



SNOW ANGELS To request a snow angel or volunteer call 412-255-2280 or go to <http://pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/snowangels/volunteer>.

TAKING A FOOD TOUR IN BROOKLINE

In early November, I took Sylvia McCoy's Burgh Bits and Bites Food Tour (www.burghfoodtour.com) of Brookline. Does it seem strange for a Brookline resident to take a food tour of the Boulevard? Perhaps, but it turned out to be enlightening. I joined Renee & Brian Gilpatrick who recently moved to Pittsburgh from Boston. Corinne Bechtel was our guide for the two hour tour that began at **Pitaland**.

Did you know that **Joe Chahine** taught French in Tripoli before coming to Brookline where he now supplies the tri-state area with pita bread? He showed us how the machine he ordered from Beirut punches out puck size rounds of dough. Rollers then press the rounds paper thin which are then conveyed to the oven where 1200 degree heat raises the rounds into small balloons. You can see part of this process from the window in **Pitaland**. The cooled pitas are then hand-packed into plastic bags. Before we left **Pitaland** we feasted on hummus, olives, warm pita bread, cheese and olive oil with oregano, sesame seeds and summer savory.

After some solid food, it was time for a little sweet so we continued to **Kribel's**. Have you noticed the cookie jars along the wall in **Kribel's**? These are only part of **Maxine Kaminski's** collection of cookie jars. There are more jars in the basement, and customers will send her unique jars when they find them. We left **Kribel's** with a small bag of cookies after sampling a new cake.

We continued our snacking at **Las Palmas** by trying Garbanzos Con Chile (fried chickpeas with chili) washed down by pineapple soda. I had not considered buying snack food from **Las Palmas**. Tacos, my favorite tomato paste, fresh chilies and jalapenos, but not snacks. I have now discovered an alternative to chips. These chickpeas are the Mexican version of the Italian dried ceci and fave I remember my grandmother serving at Christmas.

Before taking our next bite, we stopped at **Sal's Barber Shop**. **Sal Bondi** regaled us with stories as we examined his curio case and collection of shaving mugs.

Vinnie's Pretzel Shoppe was another eye-opener. Since we featured **Michael Vona** in our December 2010 issue, his business has grown. A new pretzel machine speeds the entire process. He now supplies schools and organizations with large quantities of pretzels. Of course we had a warm pretzel to go.

Just to round out our carbohydrate load, we stopped at **Antonio's Pizzeria**. **Antonio Casciato** joined us while we sampled a slice of pepperoni pizza and listened as he told us the history of **Antonio's Pizzeria**.

Our final stop was **Cannon Coffee** where we sampled coffee made by various methods. Here again we learned what was old is new again. Do you remember the hourglass shaped Chemex coffee pot that was the rage a couple of decades ago? Well it's back. Then there is the French press method of brewing. The coffee pot for the connoisseur or the coffee drinker who has the time and patience to wait before pressing the plunger. I preferred the taste of the French press coffee, but I doubt I would use this method at home. Just another reason to frequent **Cannon Coffee**.

The tour may have been over, but not the shopping. I had to bring home what I tasted. Burgh Bits and Bites features tours of Bloomfield, the Strip, Dormont, Lawrenceville and Mt. Washington, but start close to home. It was fascinating to peek behind the counters of some of our favorite stores and gave us new appreciation for merchants we have come to love.

-Pamela Grabowski



COUNCILWOMAN NATALIA RUDIAK

As an elected official, I serve as a representative for Brookliners and other residents of South Pittsburgh in Council. When residents have concerns and suggestions, they will always find a receptive ear in our office. But in addition to our regular meetings of council where we represent the public, there are two types of special meetings that council holds that are specifically designed to gather the public's input and provide information to residents.

Council often holds meetings called "post-agendas". Similar to hearings in Congress, post-agendas are opportunities to have a fuller, more robust discussion about a specific issue. Some post-agendas are about bills currently up for discussion in council. In that case, a post-agenda gives members the chance to talk in depth about a single issue, and bring experts to the table to inform their decisions. For example, I recently hosted a post-agenda on the billboard tax so that councilmembers and the public could learn more about the bill's specifics.

Post-agendas are also held for issues that councilmembers feel are important for the public to be aware of. For example, I hosted a post-agenda about UPMC's role in our community, including working conditions and the impact of tax exemption on the region. The post-agenda brought together academics, elected officials, lawyers, and workers in an effort to understand a complicated and multidimensional issue.

The other type of meeting council participates in is a public hearing. Public hearings are exactly that: an opportunity for members to hear from residents about particular issues. Anyone can call our City Clerk at 412-255-2138 to sign up to speak at a public hearing and get three minutes each; speakers who do not register in advance get one minute to speak at the podium.

Our city charter requires that some bills must have a public hearing, such as bills about taxes or zoning changes. City council members may request public hearings about issues. And most importantly, the public can require a hearing on any issue if the City Clerk's office receives a petition with the signatures of 25 voters who live in the city. These public hearings are an important part of our democratic process.

You can find out about when these public hearings and post-agendas are happening by calling the city clerk's office at 412-255-2138 or checking the council calendar at www.pittsburgh.legistar.com.

Public hearings and post-agendas are typically televised live on the city channel, and are available to watch online at www.pittsburgh.legistar.com. If you have any questions about these meetings, or any others, please call my office at 412-255-2131.

A "RAISE" FOR PEOPLE WHO GET SOCIAL SECURITY

As we ring in a new year, we can expect to see a number of changes. Social Security is no exception: in 2013, people who receive Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments will see their benefits increase.

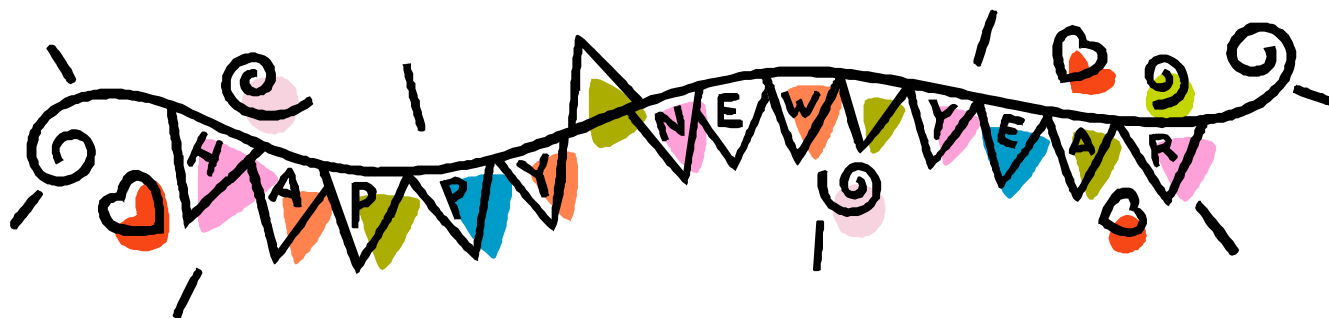
Beginning in 2013, a 1.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was applied to all Social Security and SSI payments. The average monthly Social Security benefit for a retired worker in 2013 is \$1,261 (up from \$1,240 in 2012) and the average monthly Social Security benefit for a disabled worker in 2013 is \$1,132 (up from \$1,113 in 2012). These changes were reflected in SSI payments dated December 31, 2012 and Social Security payments dated in January 2013.

For people who receive SSI, the maximum federal payment amount has risen to \$710 (up from \$698).

Other Social Security changes in 2013 are worth noting. For example, a worker now pays Social Security tax on up to \$113,700 of annual income (up from \$110,100 in 2012). A worker earns one credit after paying taxes on \$1,160 in earnings in 2013 (up from \$1,130). As always, a worker may earn a maximum of four credits each year and a person generally needs forty credits (or ten years of work) to be eligible for retirement benefits.

To learn more about these and other changes for 2013, visit the Social Security website at www.socialsecurity.gov, and read our fact sheet about the changes at www.socialsecurity.gov/pressoffice/factsheets/colafacts2013.htm.

-Patricia Thibault





CITY OF PITTSBURGH

"AMERICA'S MOST LIVABLE CITY"

Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

Dear Neighbors,

On the heels of a successful and impressive 2012, I'm proud of all we've accomplished and look forward to further fueling our City's rebirth and resurgence in 2013. Pittsburgh's Third Renaissance, marked by job creation and neighborhood development throughout the City, is in full swing. For the first time in decades, our population is growing. Crime is at a historic low, having decreased for six straight years. And, at over 1.2 million, there are more jobs in Pittsburgh today than ever before. While we worked hard to expand Pittsburgh's Third Renaissance into more neighborhoods last year, there is still work to be done.

Our 2013 budget is balanced, contains no new tax increases or layoffs, and enhances the City's commitment to investing in neighborhoods and infrastructure. Over \$16 million is dedicated to projects throughout the City – from spray parks and community projects, to recreation and senior centers, to playgrounds and ball fields. We'll continue to deploy innovative strategies to ensure that Pittsburgh's Third Renaissance reaches all of our City's 90 neighborhoods.

Whether it's capitalizing on the impact of dedicated volunteerism through servePGH, or investing in the future of our young people through The Pittsburgh Promise, we recognize that the greatest strength we have in Pittsburgh is our people. This year, I look forward to working with residents to transform more blocks through Green Up and Love Your Block, assist and impact residents through Mayor's Mentoring Initiative and Snow Angels, and foster more informed and effective civic leadership through Civic Leadership Academy and Civic LEAF Academy. Together, we'll write the next chapter in Pittsburgh's remarkable history.

I'm excited about the new projects and initiatives that will come your way this year. Advanced public safety efforts, greener programs and practices, volunteer opportunities with new servePGH initiatives, and more – Pittsburgh's Third Renaissance will have an even greater impact in 2013.

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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