

## TASTE OF BROOKLINE



South Pittsburgh Development Corporation's second annual Taste of Brookline is right around the corner! This one-afternoon social event will be held on Sunday, April 28, from 2:00 to 5:00 at the Church of the Resurrection Gymnasium, and features



live entertainment along with food and drink samples from local restaurants. Come enjoy local food and the music of **Jack Stanizzo** of The Contrails with guitarist **Paul Lowe**. The event has expanded significantly in its second year. Tickets are going fast! Tickets are \$30. A limited quantity is still available at **Kribel's Bakery**, **Cannon Coffee**, **A-Boss Opticians**, and online at [www.tasteofbrookline.com](http://www.tasteofbrookline.com). No tickets will be available at the door.

Many of your favorite vendors from last year will be at the event, along with some newcomers to the neighborhood.

The current list of participating restaurants includes **Antonio's Pizza**, **Brookline Pub**, **Burgh Bees**, **Cannon Coffee**, **IKEA**, **Isis Café**, **Italian Specialties**, **Kribel's Bakery**, **Las Palmas**, **Le Cupcake Shoppe**, **Party Cake**, **Pitaland**, **Scoops on the Boulevard**, and **Vinnie's Pretzel Shoppe**. The committee is pleased to announce that **IKEA** is our premier sponsor for this year! Other



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

With Brookline Boulevard under construction, it's more important than ever to support the businesses that make our neighborhood a great place to live. We hope to see you there!



Brookline Area  
Community Council

-Jennifer Bubnash Askey  
-Photos by Melissa Distel



BUILDING PITTSBURGH WITH





## Letter from the Editor

*Here we go Brookline, here we go! Here we go Brookline, here we go!*

We are well into reconstruction. The amount of complaints and griping would lead us to believe Brookline residents have never done any home remodeling. Or, if they did, they just moved out until it was done. Nice way to deal with it, but we don't have that kind of

money. When we do home remodeling, we drag dust through the house and live with the clutter until the job is done. **HAVE PATIENCE PLEASE!**

We encourage you to read **Jason Vey's** opinion piece on page 14. While he reiterates what we have been saying about supporting local businesses, we want to give our readers the merchants' view of longer hours. We discussed Jason's article with **Nathan Mallory** of **Cannon Coffee**. When **Cannon Coffee** initially opened, Nathan stayed open until 8:00PM. He closed an hour earlier when the only person in the coffee shop from 7:00PM to 8:00PM was the person behind the counter. If there's no money coming in, that hour is a loss.

One merchant told us it costs roughly \$25 an hour for his business to break even. That covers utilities, his employee, the employer taxes and insurance. That's \$25 a day, \$175 a week, \$700 a month and \$8,400 a year. Unlike a big box store that can absorb one location's loss with another location's profit, a small business owner can't hide the red ink. Asking small businesses to extend their hours requires us to show up. While small businesses can risk longer hours for a short period, they can't just wait for customers to show up. Since we can't spend every hour in **Cannon Coffee** or any of the businesses on the Boulevard, we encourage our family and friends to patronize the Boulevard businesses. If we want longer business hours, we need to show up - often!

When people buy a house or rent an apartment, they consider more than the price. They also look at the community. Livable communities don't just happen. The residents create them. They create those communities by showing up. They show up for community meetings, to shop and to volunteer. They recognize that they not only bought a house or rented an apartment, they bought into a community and living in a community means showing up.

Is Brookline still waiting for you to show up?

### \*\*\*\*CLASSIFIED ADS\*\*\*\*

### \*\*\*\*ADVERTISING RATES\*\*\*\*

Price is \$4 per month. Payment required before publication. You can submit by snail mail, phone or email. See sample ad below.

<b>SAMPLE CLASSIFIED AD</b>
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)

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 Kaczmariski* Proofreader  
*Melissa Distel* Photographer  
*Rosemarie Traficante* Delivery  
*South Hills Printing* - *The Brookline's official printer*



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

**DEADLINES:**  
**April 12 for May's Issue**  
**May 12 for June'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.

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

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



### SUSTAINING FRIENDS

**Kribel's Bakery** is well on their way to another gold star. We really appreciate their support. *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 February 2013:

- Cannon Coffee - \$167.52
- Kribel's Bakery - \$1,177.40 ★★
- A Boss - \$94.09
- Hideaway Mini Mart - \$102.92
- Brookline Area Community Council - \$400.00 ★

### 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](mailto:mnp.grabowski@verizon.net). Please put "Crime Report" in the subject line.

#### FEBRUARY

#### CRIMES ZONE 6

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Brookline</u>
Aggravated Assault	9	2
Robbery	4	0
Burglary	19	4
Theft	26	7
Theft from Vehicle	6	0
Stolen Vehicle	1	0



**SALON CANOVA**  
 515 Brookline Boulevard  
 412-344-0779  
*CELEBRATING 13 YEARS IN 2013*

**"THINK SPRING"**  
*\$5.00 Off Any  
 Service of \$60.00 or more*



### 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 412-344-4222
- Meals-on-Wheels 412-343-8144
- Senator Wayne Fontana 412-344-2551
- Representative Erin Molchany 412-343-2094



## LINDA BOSS RECIPIENT OF AWARD FROM SETON-LASALLE

Congratulations to **Linda Boss** who has been named as a recipient of the Hall of Fame Award at **Seton-LaSalle High School**. A graduate of **Elizabeth Seton High School** in 1966, Linda is receiving this award for her outstanding volunteer service in third-world countries and her community. Since 1995, Linda travels yearly to Guatemala and Haiti with a VOSH chapter to use her expertise in opticianry providing services to the less fortunate and helping to establish sustainable eye clinics. During each visit, Linda, along with the other medical professionals, provide services to over 800 people in need of eye care, from basic eyeglasses to cataract surgery.



Along with the visits, the long-term goal is creating sustainable eye clinics within the countries - clinics where in country doctors combine private and social services. Vision for the Poor, International Eye Foundation and Desert Foundation are among the NGOs [non-governmental organizations] making this happen. If you ask Linda she will tell you that these visits have changed her outlook on life and increased her faith in God. In 1997, the Vincent Pescatore Eye clinic was established, the first eye clinic developed in the Peten region of Guatemala. Today there are three full-service clinics in Guatemala. Last year the optical department at Visualiza in Guatemala City, was dedicated in her honor.

This May, Dr. Guerline Roney, a Haitian ophthalmologist, will open the first eye clinic in Cap Haitian, Haiti with the efforts of Vision for the Poor and other NGO's.

Linda, mother of two, grandma of three, is a Board member of Vision for the Poor, President of **Brookline Chamber of Commerce**, active member of St. Mary of the Mount, Secretary of Whitehall Lions Club, and part owner of **A-Boss Opticians**.

*-Lois McCafferty & Sr. Barbara Boss*

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



Third grader **Bayleigh Meade** dressed for Freaky Friday.

-Photo by **Pittsburgh West Liberty K-5**

We hope everyone is enjoying the extra daylight hours as the result of Daylight Saving Time. We are busy preparing for our yearly spring events. Currently our students are rehearsing for their upcoming final ballroom competition in May. The **West Liberty Dance Team** and the principal have been practicing during recess. Good luck **West Liberty!**

**Ms. Wroniak**, our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science Teacher, is in charge of our Science Fair. Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be making and displaying their science projects. The fathers who attend Bring Your Dad to School Day on Friday, May 17, will help judge the projects and select the winner. Good luck to all of our hardworking students. Speaking of hardworking students, I'm very pleased to write about our next student.

**Alexandria Fulton**, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at **Pittsburgh West Liberty**, has been awarded the Carson Scholarship. In order to receive this award, she had to have excellent academic grades, perform volunteer work and participate in curricular activities. As Lexi's former 1st grade teacher, I'm not surprised because she was an excellent student and always offered to help students when she was in my 1st grade class. We're all very proud of you, Lexi. Congratulations!

During Read Across America week, our school was prepared to have some fun with wacky activities for Wacky Wednesday. Little did we know Mother Nature would turn the cards and we'd have a snow day instead. As a result, Wacky Wednesday for this year has turned into Freaky Friday on March 22. Our awesome PTO president, **Heather Fulton**, is at it again with our wonderful parents planning some great activities. Activities for this day include Hop on Pop (enjoying fresh popcorn), Wocket in My Pocket (mini stuffed pita shells), Cat in the Hat (make a hat with mini marshmallows and strawberries) and story stations.

The students are busy preparing for their tests. In 3rd, 4th and 5th grade, the students will be taking the PSSA tests (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment). While the intermediate grades will be busy with those tests, Kindergarten through 2nd grade will be taking TerraNova tests to help ensure our children are reaching the appropriate milestones. We will be having a continental breakfast and testing tips for intermediate grades on Tuesday, April 2. A similar breakfast is planned for the parents of the primary grades on Tuesday, April 16.

Stay tuned for next month when our honor roll and high honor students for the 3rd report card period are announced. Enjoy the beautiful spring weather. Remember, **Pittsburgh West Liberty** is "Where Learners Excel and Character Counts."

*Kathy Moran*, Principal

*Teresa Grusong-Adams*, First Grade Teacher

## BOULEVARD RECONSTRUCTION CONTEST WIN A \$20 CANNON COFFEE GIFT CARD

**The Brookline** will be sponsoring a monthly contest throughout the reconstruction. You can enter by dropping your name and telephone number in the contest box at **Cannon Coffee**, by emailing us at [mpn.grabowski@verizon.net](mailto:mpn.grabowski@verizon.net) with your name and telephone number putting "Contest Entry" in the subject line, or by snail mail at **The Brookline**, P.O. Box 96136, Pittsburgh, PA 15226. This month's entry is due by April 20. We will announce the April winner in the May newsletter.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_



## SENATOR WAYNE FONTANA

Skills for Success: The Fontana Series is returning to Brookline in April! These free workshops will run each Wednesday during April at the Brookline branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, 708 Brookline Boulevard. If you are currently looking for a job, or are interested in boosting your skills that will help you land a desired position, these free workshops will serve as a great resource for you.

I was proud to partner with CLP in 2011, providing grant funding for this free series aimed at building skills and creating excellent resumes and applications that aid job seekers in achieving the positions they desire. Whether you have already built a resume and are looking to fine-tune it, are starting from scratch and need help with organizing your work history, need assistance with searching for positions online, or require help in improving your interviewing skills, this free workshop will benefit you.

Attendees of past workshops have spoken of the benefits from attending:

*"Skills for Success is a great workshop and I received some very helpful tools that I plan to incorporate in my job search!"* – Kathleen Hawk, Pittsburgh, January 2013

*"I'm calling to celebrate a success. I moved a mountain – a big mountain – in a couple of days because I was so motivated when I left that class!"* – Jerae Palmer, Pittsburgh, October 2011

*"I chose to be open-minded and attend the program for any tips to gain employment and it changed my life. The program has a lot of tools and helped me prepare and utilize my skills to pursue a future career."* – Joyce McGuire, Green Tree, October 2011

Rachel Masilamani and Richard Brzustowicz will again lead the Skills for Success: The Fontana Series, bringing over 10 years combined experience assisting library visitors with job hunting, online applications and resume writing. The series features two separate workshops: one focused on resumes and cover letters, and the other dedicated to interviews and networking. The series also contains a career lab where attendees can work on online applications and explore library resources that can assist them in the job searching process.

Job seekers today face fierce competition in securing employment. The Skills for Success: The Fontana Series aims to equip job seekers with the tools they need to improve their chances at landing a desired position. Due to limited space, registration is required for workshops; however, walk-ins are welcome for the career labs. The schedule for the next round of workshops in the Skills for Success: The Fontana Series, being held in Brookline, is listed below. To register for a workshop please call 412-281-7141, ext. 2012 or email [careerworkshops@carnegielibrary.org](mailto:careerworkshops@carnegielibrary.org).

CLP – Brookline  
708 Brookline Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15226

Wednesday, April 3 – Resumes & Cover Letters  
Wednesday, April 10 – Interviewing & Networking  
Wednesday, April 17 – Resumes & Cover Letters  
Wednesday, April 24 – Interviewing & Networking  
*Workshops: 3-5 p.m., Career Labs: 5-7 p.m.*

## SCHOOL POSTER CONTEST TO COMBAT LITTER

As winter wound down, Brookline-area students took up drawing materials in a campaign against littering. Instructors at five local elementary and middle schools led over 1,000 students in crafting art with an anti-litter message. The artwork was done in conjunction with a Brookline anti-littering art contest sponsored by the **South Pittsburgh Development Corporation**.

On Saturday, April 27, all artwork created by the students will be on display at the **Brookline Recreation Center**, where **SPDC** will present awards to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners in participating grades in each school (**Brookline K-8**, **Brookline Regional Catholic**, **Carmalt Academy**, **South Brook 6-8**, and **West Liberty K-5**). Additionally, one overall winner will be named from each school and a "best-in-show" award, donated by **Sarah Miller** of **Wyld Chyld Tattoo**, will be presented.

Judging is being conducted by a panel of local artists, including **Robert Daley**, **Melissa Distel**, **Lynne Cannoy Knecht**, **Bob McCullough**, **Sarah Miller**, **Ash**, **Rosemary Nulton**, and **Lois Walsh**,

All students and their families are invited to stop by the **Recreation Center** on April 27 to see the art and pick up some eco-friendly giveaways from **ALCOSAN**, **Allegheny CleanWays**, **Pennsylvania Resources Council**, and others from 12:30pm to 3:00pm. An awards ceremony will start at 2:00pm. Light refreshments will be provided. Please do not wear high heels, boots or hard shoes. They are not allowed on the gym floor.

After April 27, all winning pieces will be displayed in establishments along Brookline Boulevard .

*-Dan Kaczmariski*



## REPRESENTATIVE ERIN MOLCHANY

On February 20, I was pleased to host a hearing of the House Democratic Policy Committee at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel on the vital issue of transportation funding. Fourteen of my colleagues from around the state visited our district to hear regional leaders on the issue speak and answer questions on funding needs and the future of Pittsburgh's and the state's transportation network.

I requested a hearing on this topic because every Pennsylvania resident needs reliable transportation, and safe, modern infrastructure is crucial to attracting jobs and investment to our region.

Our transportation issues are statewide problems, on urban mass transit and rural routes alike, and we are in this situation because of decades of underinvestment. Though the proposal outlined by Governor Corbett is a step in the right direction, it is just not enough to keep us from falling farther and farther behind.

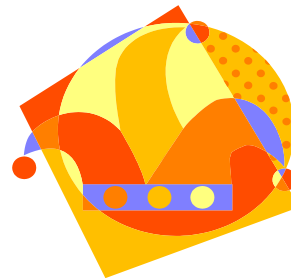
It is estimated that with each passing day, the cost to repair aging roads and bridges grows by about \$1 million, and our regional public transit system has been in perennial crisis for far too many years. Now is the time for the Commonwealth to offer reliable and sustainable support.

But the governor's proposal falls far short of what an expert, non-partisan commission – a commission that he convened – has said Pennsylvania needs. It is the job of Governor Corbett and the legislature to capitalize on the abundance of political will and broad-based support for a long-term solution.

Testifiers at my hearing told us that 38 percent of the roads in our district are rated in poor condition, that reliable mass transit is among the foremost factors young people are considering when deciding where to live, and that investments in new technologies can reduce long-term costs. All of what we heard reinforced my belief that we need to make these investments now, and I will continue to seek to move us toward a solution which truly addresses these pressing needs.



**EARTH  
DAY  
APRIL 22**



**APRIL  
FOOL'S DAY  
APRIL 1**

### Call for Volunteers

- **SOUTH HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL** is interested in having community members come into our school at 595 Crane Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15210 and assist on a volunteer basis. We are interested in having parents and community members help with monitoring our halls and cafeteria, assisting students in the classroom and with teacher clerical duties. Every person working directly with children will have to have clearances which can be obtained by writing **Carol Senft** at [csenft1@pghboe.net](mailto:csenft1@pghboe.net) and will be paid for through our parent/teacher organization.
- **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
- **BROOKLINE CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY** call **Pat Erny** 412-344-8451
- **CLOTHES CLOSET MINISTRY** call **Brookline United Presbyterian Church** at 412-531-0590
- **ANGELS' PLACE** Volunteers needed at **Angels' Place, Inc.** Help us work with children, arts and crafts, organizing and more. If interested please call Andrea at 412-531-6667. [www.angelsplaceph.org](http://www.angelsplaceph.org)

Are you unable to volunteer your time right now? You can still help many of these organizations. **Meals on Wheels** accepts cash and donations of cookies, desserts and bread. Add a grocery store gift card to your shopping cart and send it to the **Brookline Christian Food Pantry, c/o Pat Erny, 2918 Pioneer Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15226-2038**

“You can't leave footprints in the sands of time if you're sitting on your butt - and who wants to leave butt prints in the sands of time?”

*Bob Moawad, writer*



# South Hills Used Washers & Dryers

We have a large selection of like-new Whirlpool and Kenmore washers and dryers

Gary Henry  
412-641-9605

- Sales
- Service
- Delivery



155 McNeilly Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15226

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



## READER'S RESPONSE



Joanne's Corner's March memories about sledding in Brookline whisked me back to a pre-dawn paper route my brother and I walked while in grade school. One morning, after a blizzard, we stepped out into the darkness and a foot of snow. No cars were out, so we piled onto a sled at Creedmoor and Freedom and pushed off downhill. We accelerated in the semi-light, hurtling through the pristine snow around bends and over crests. At the final bend at the bottom—a half-mile from our start—we jettisoned ourselves from the sled to avoid being mashed on McNeilly. Not too smart, but unforgettable.

-Dan Kaczmarkski

**Tim Reitmeyer**  
412-833-3600  
412-343-5372  
treitmeyer@howardhanna.com

**Howard Hanna**  
Real Estate Services

*South Hills and City of Pittsburgh specialist*

*Talk to TIM*  
*Your Brookline Realtor*  
*It may be Spring,*  
*but the market is already HOT!*



Have you stopped by Egghead's? Photo by Melissa Distel

## FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

I am committed to keeping you informed on important agency issues. I know sequestration is on all of our minds. As advocates for the Social Security Administration, I wanted to provide you with timely information about how these unfortunate budget cuts affect us.

As you are aware, due to the failure of Congress to reach a deal on balanced deficit reduction to avoid sequestration, on March 1 the President was required by law to issue a sequestration order canceling approximately \$85 billion in budgetary resources across the Federal Government for the remainder of the Federal fiscal year.

As a result of sequestration, visitors in our field offices will wait significantly longer, and callers to our 800-number will wait almost 10 minutes for us to answer. We also estimate that pending levels of initial disability claims will rise by over 140,000, and, on average, applicants will have to wait about two weeks longer for a decision on an initial disability claim and nearly a month longer for a disability hearing decision. At this time, we are taking every step to mitigate the effects of these cuts on our service delivery to the American public. We will try to prioritize our reductions to avoid furloughs that would further harm services and program integrity efforts; however, the possibility of furloughs remains uncertain at this time.

I hope this information is helpful to you as you assist your clients in accessing services. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we work to manage these unfortunate circumstances and do our best to serve the public.

*-Carolyn W. Colvin*  
Acting Commissioner

## Brookline's Food Mood Girl Publishes Second Book



Food Mood Girl **Lindsey Smith** of Brookline has published a second book.

"Bliss Cleanse: Your Two-Week Mind—Body—Spirit Guide to Greater Health and Happiness" is available through the [Bliss Cleanse website](#), and also through [Smith's website](#), "The Real You."

Like her first book, "[Junk Foods and Junk Moods](#)," Smith's new book is a guided diary that allows the reader to keep track of progress while following a healthy food program.

"This one is a little different than 'Junk Foods' because this one is more of a program," Smith said. "It's broken into seasonal cleanses, and we focus on seasonal eating."

The book is broken into four parts, one for each season, and includes recipes, daily inspirational messages and guidance for eating well and keeping a healthy mindset.

"We wanted this to be a really complete guide for healthy eating and living," Smith said. "There are 101 seasonal recipes, 14 daily inspirations, 4 weekly meal guides, and general guidelines for a healthy life in this book."

Smith co-wrote the book with fellow health coach Lorraine Miller of New York. She said that they were proud of the outcome, but were even more pleased when the reviews started coming in.

"[Bernie Siegel](#) reviewed it, which is huge. That's a big deal for us," Smith said.

"He's really sought after in the community of integrated medicine. He was the first to really bring meditation and alternate healthy living options into hospitals."

Smith said a kick-off party was March 13 at [Embody Natural Health](#) in Lawrenceville. Copies of "Bliss Cleanse" and healthy food and drink options were available.

"Bliss Cleanse" is available to the public through all major-market outlets.

*-Erin Faulk*

[This article and photo originally appeared in the [Dormont-Brookline Patch](#) on February 4, 2013]



### APRIL BOOK DISCUSSIONS

At Carnegie Library of Brookline

Monday April 15 at 6:00PM *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks

Wednesday April 10 at 1:00PM *The Spellman Files* by Lisa Lutz

# 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, Wed, Fri 9:15am-8:45pm; Tue, Thu 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).

## 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. This is open to all students, especially home-schooled children. Come join the fun!



## 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.

**SPRING KICKBALL Tuesdays – 4-6 year olds Thursdays – 7-9 year olds 4:30pm to 5:30pm Starting the week of April 9 & 11 through the month of May** This program ensures that all children will be involved in the game. **Please sign up as soon as possible – this is a free program & space is limited. Call the center for more information 412-571-3222.**

**Kribel's is offering FREE DELIVERY to Brookline, Beechview & Dormont while they are behind the barrier. There is a \$10.00 minimum. The order must be pre-paid by debit/credit card or food stamps. Deadline is 3:00pm the day before.**

**OVER 100 YEARS QUALITY SERVICE** PA Reg. #PA009345 HP #3599

Plumbing  
Heating  
Air Conditioning  
Water Heaters  
Sewer & Drain Cleaning  
Gas, Water & Sewer Lines  
Emergency Service Available  
Residential & Commercial  
Fully Insured  
Free Estimates



**BROOKLINE PLUMBER**  
**412-531-0183**  
613 Brookline Blvd., Pittsburgh

**Kribel's Bakery Inc.**

Specializing in  
Cakes  
for All Occasions




Brookline 412-531-1942 Open 7 Days  
Pleasant Hills 412-653-1717

# COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THIS MONTH

**April 8 Monday**

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

**April 9 Tuesday**

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

**April 15 Monday**

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

**April 29 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. This month's topic is Meet the Candidates.

**April 27 Saturday**

**Litter Poster Award Ceremony** See page 5

**April 28 Sunday**

**Taste of Brookline** See page 1

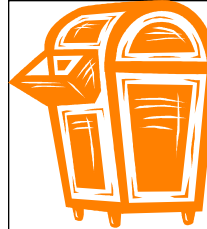


### OPEN MIC SERIES

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



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



**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



## COOKIES FOR POSTER CONTEST

We need volunteers to provide cookies for the poster contest awards ceremony [see page 5]. The cookies can be purchased or homemade. If you have been looking for a way to volunteer and like to bake, this is your opportunity. Call 412-343-2859.



## MAY FUNDRAISER

On Monday, April 1 Brookline's new theatre group **The Heritage Players** will begin taking online reservations for their May murder-mystery dinner theatre fundraiser, *Till Death Do Us Part*.

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

412-254-4633

Castle Shannon Borough Building, 3310 McRoberts Road, Castle Shannon



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



## A CALL FOR ARTISTS

The Hovel is currently looking to fill spaces at the "Art in the Alley" spring art show, held on Sunday April 21st at Cannon Coffee.

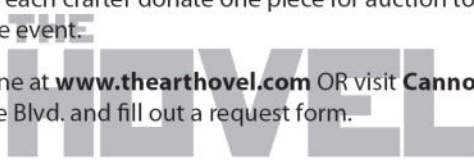
**What we will provide:**

- Stage and album area for musicians
- Gallery space for painters and gallery artist
- Table space for crafters.

**What We Ask:**

The Hovel will not request any money for any part of this even, what we do ask is that each crafter donate one piece for auction to help cover cost of hosting the event.

**ENTER:** On line at [www.thearthovel.com](http://www.thearthovel.com) OR visit Cannon Coffee -- 802 Brookline Blvd. and fill out a request form.



**ART IN THE ALLEY  
APRIL 21  
CANNON COFFEE**

### CLASSIFIED AD



**WANTED - CANNING JARS - PINT SIZE OR SMALLER. CALL 412-344-0504**



## COUNCILWOMAN NATALIA RUDIAK

Everyone has a right to fair housing in Pittsburgh and across the country, but sometimes living situations create impacts on the neighborhoods. Supportive Housing is one type of housing we frequently get questions about. Supportive Housing allows people to begin the process of integration with society, while still providing monitoring and support, as well as reducing the risk of a repeat offense or relapse. In Pittsburgh, there are two different kinds of supportive houses that serve two different populations.

The first is the “community home,” which aids more than eight people who are readjusting to society following a period of hospitalization or institutionalization treatment for a medical, psychiatric, developmental, emotional, or other disability or handicap. The residents of a community home are living there voluntarily.

For a house to be deemed a “community home,” a Special Exception must be approved by the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) in a public meeting. Once the owner of the property has applied for the special exception, a hearing is scheduled. Notification of the hearing is sent to the applicant and all abutting property owners, those property owners immediately across a street or way, and members of City Council. The applicant has to prove that their proposed use of the land complies with all requirements for a special exception. They must provide parking and maintain a limited occupancy.

The other major type of supportive living is “custodial care facility.” These facilities provide custodial care and treatment in a protective environment for persons residing or attending by court placement, persons on probation or parole, and persons leaving a correctional facility or placed there as a form of alternative sentencing.

Custodial care facilities must get a “Conditional Use” permit from the Planning Commission (which is different from the Zoning Board of Adjustment). Once the application for conditional use approval has been filed, a notice of a hearing will be sent to the applicant, and either posted or sent to all property owners within a 150 foot radius of the subject property, with no fewer than 25 notices being sent. Again, the owner must prove the development will not have detrimental impacts on the surrounding residents. There are restrictions as to the number of residents per building, and how many parking spaces must be provided. The conditional use application must then be approved by City Council. We have not had any applications during my time on Council.

Folks who receive care in a community home or custodial care are working hard to get their lives back on track. As with any other criminal activity that you witness in your neighborhood, call 911 if you see something illegal occurring. If you have any questions about supportive houses, you can reach out to our city planner Ashley Holloway at 412-393-0162. As always, my office is always accessible for calls or concerns you may have--please call 412-255-2131.

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RECONSTRUCTION READINESS MEETING

On Monday, March 10, **Michael Facchiano, Jr. of Facchiano Construction** was the featured speaker at the **Chamber of Commerce Reconstruction Readiness Meeting**. He answered questions and addressed concerns of residents and merchants. Each zone should take approximately six to eight weeks to complete. There are multiple steps involved in completing each zone.

- Removal of old sidewalk and curb. Install ramps to businesses.
- Install drainage to inlets.
- Install sub-surface drains.
- Install conduits/cast light pole foundations.
- Replace sidewalk.



Where vaults remain, the work is likely to take the eight weeks rather than six.

After all the sidewalks are completed, the Boulevard will be milled and repaved and lines painted.

The **Chamber** and **Mr. Facchiano** emphasized that pedestrians and drivers stay alert. Pedestrians should use the walks created between the fence and the jersey barriers and cross the Boulevard at the corner. Unfortunately, there are people parking on the residential side of the Boulevard then running across the boulevard only to discover their access to the sidewalk is blocked by a jersey barrier. The placement of the barriers is governed by the state due to liability issues. The construction company doesn't decide how to place those barriers. The speed limit on the Boulevard is 25 mph. Drivers, pay attention because the police are monitoring the traffic on the Boulevard.

Yes, it's dirty and it's inconvenient, but we have waited 14 years for this!

*-Pamela Grabowski*



Rick & Peggy Lawrence

*Beach Treats Gifts*

972 Brookline Blvd  
Cannon Park & Queensboro  
1-412-561-2356



**"Award Winning Tidewater Virginia Store Comes to Brookline"**

**Grand Opening Saturday April 6, 2013**

**"Gifts & Collectibles For All Occasions"**

**Spring Hours. Tues-Thurs 11-6, Fri-Sat 10-5!  
Group & Private Shopping Events Available!**

[www.BEACHTREATS.NET](http://www.BEACHTREATS.NET)

Facebook [Beachtreatsgiftsbrooklinepittsburgh](https://www.facebook.com/Beachtreatsgiftsbrooklinepittsburgh)



[www.melissadistel.com](http://www.melissadistel.com)  
412-344-6865  
Serving Western Pennsylvania,  
and Northern Ohio



## LITTER IN BROOKLINE

I grew up in Brookline, moved away for over three decades, then returned for retirement. Old-timers such as I have much to be nostalgic about regarding Brookline, but there's one local tradition I wish had changed for the better.

There's a culture among more than a few in Brookline that littering is OK. Now I recognize that most people here, and especially readers of this newsletter, don't litter. But the amount of litter thrown on the local sidewalks, and elsewhere in Pittsburgh, is way greater than many other places.

When I was young and--like many kids--pretty much concerned with myself, I didn't "see" litter. In fact, sometimes street trash seemed like a good thing--such as when searching for pop bottles for deposits or scavenging for Mallo Cup cards.

But somewhere along the line, it occurred to me that litter is ugly, damaging, and demeaning to a neighborhood. As "Keep America Beautiful" says, "Litter is unsightly, costly to remove, and damaging to [homeowners'] property values and commerce."

One of the positive changes I see in Brookline is that today there are some wonderful, dedicated volunteers who regularly sacrifice their own time to hit the streets to clean up other people's garbage. That is noble, admirable, and inspiring, but shouldn't be necessary.

The current Boulevard upgrading is like dressing Brookline in a fresh set of clothes. If people continue littering, it will be like wearing a new outfit smeared with food stains. And if people continue to not clean up when their dogs "relieve" themselves, it will be like putting on a new pair of Gucci's, then stepping in poop.

So what can we do? Well, let's create in Brookline a culture of zero tolerance for litter. Research has shown that most littering stems from a lack of awareness or sense of obligation. Obviously, we ourselves shouldn't litter. If we have friends who litter, politely call them on it. If we raise or teach kids, emphasize the need to keep our local environment clean.

Since I've been back in Brookline, I've sensed a palpable buzz of excitement, optimism, and vision about the future. I've heard people from other neighborhoods favorably compare Brookline to their own, where they say they sometimes feel that people are giving up. In Brookline, many people are working their tails off to make our community a better home for all of us.

I'm proud to be from Brookline and excited about its future. Let's all take the extra effort to stash the trash.

**-Dan Kaczmarek**

# News from Pittsburgh Brookline Pre K-8



Spring has sprung and at **Pittsburgh Brookline PreK-8** we are still hard at work! Our students are studying, doing their best to have perfect attendance, and practicing good citizenship to make sure that they are ready for the Pittsburgh Promise when they graduate from high school. Anyone who needs information about the Promise can visit [www.pittsburghpromise.org](http://www.pittsburghpromise.org).

In February, the Parent Teacher Organization sponsored Candygrams, which were a lot of fun! We would like to say a special and heartfelt “thank you” to **Melissa Distel** of **Melissa Distel Photography**. Ms. Distel donated all of the candy for the project, so all monies raised were profit! This fundraiser benefitted teachers’ classroom accounts for field trips and other necessities.

Our K-2 Autistic Support class celebrated Presidents' Day by learning about George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Barack Obama, and the White House. They explored the faces of coins and bills to find out which presidents were on our nation’s money. The students even made their own portraits on “dollar” bills. The class used the map of the United States to locate the cities where the White House and other American symbols like the Statue of Liberty are located. The students loved learning that the White House has a bowling alley and movie theater inside it. They wrote what they would do if they lived at the White House.

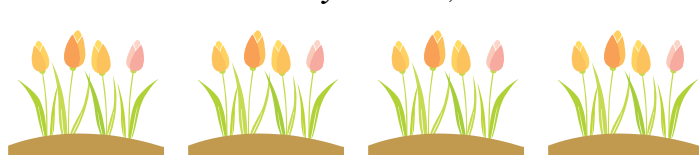
We are thrilled to once again be working with Strong Women, Strong Girls. Girls in third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade are able to participate in this excellent mentoring program. Girls at our school are matched with college women as mentors. Together they study female role models, complete academic activities, participate in service projects, and take field trips to explore our community. In future articles, we will share more of their exciting activities.

Under the direction of our wonderful art teacher, **Stacey Dodd**, all of our students are participating in the **South Pittsburgh Development Corporation’s Anti-Litter Artwork Contest**. Ms. Dodd has talked to the children in-depth about the impact of litter and graffiti on our community. She has discussed property values and how not taking care of our neighborhood negatively affects them. She has also talked about the long-term effects of litter; for example, how discarded cigarette butts eventually pollute our streams and rivers. The students are really interested in the Boulevard renovation now and can’t wait to see the results! Thanks to **SPDC** for sponsoring the contest. We are looking forward to seeing some great artwork on display in our neighborhood.

In April, our students will have some very special visitors: several members of the Brookline Class of 1961. They will be bringing books that they have collected for our school library. Alumni from near and far are generously contributing books, and we look forward to reading them!

Also in April, many of our students will be taking the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests. Specific subject area tests vary by grade level, but all students in grades 4-8 will be taking some part of the PSSA. Our students in grades K-2 will be taking the TerraNova achievement test. Parents and families, it is always important for students to come to school on time, but it is especially vital during the testing periods. A healthy breakfast eaten at home or school will also be helpful to your child’s performance. We know that all of our students will do their absolute best on these important assessments!

*Amy Cornelius Dembosky, Parent  
Patty Gardner, First Grade Teacher*



**A-Boss Opticians, Inc.**  
 If we can't repair them..... no one can !  
 938 Brookline Blvd 412-561-0811

A-Boss repairs broken eyeglasses every day... glasses others consider not repairable. Come to A-Boss, you'll see why so many people refer us regularly for expert repair services.



*There Is Never Any Reason To Settle  
For Inferior Funeral Service*

Complete Traditional Funeral Packages  
Including Casket Starting At \$3,995.00

**DeBOR**  
FUNERAL HOME, INC.

*The Finest In Funeral Service And Facilities*  
 NOW WITH EXPANDED PARKING  
 1065 Brookline Boulevard  
 412-561-0380  
[www.deborfuneralhome.com](http://www.deborfuneralhome.com)

## REVITALIZING BROOKLINE—MAJOR HURDLES

Brookline has a number of hurdles to overcome if it wants to see a true and lasting revitalization, and the most important blame falls squarely on the businesses and citizens of the neighborhood.

We could talk about parking and taxes and roads all we like, but let's face it--these are things that are really out of our hands as Brookline residents. We make our feelings known to the city council and to our state government, and we have to live with what they give us, until next election when, if they haven't given us enough, we can vote them out (though Western PA's Democratic choke hold for the past century plus makes it difficult to effect real change at the governmental level). So let's focus on what we can change.

I was out with my wife yesterday on our way to drop off some paperwork for her job. Along the way we stopped on the Boulevard to grab a cuppa at **Cannon Coffee**. We parked, as it happened, right outside of the new **Isis Cafe**, located where **Brookline Produce** once was. I looked at the business and my heart sank to see a brightly flashing "OPEN" sign in the window...but not a soul inside.

Seriously. Not a soul. Not a single person sitting at a table.

That's a near-death-sentence for a new business.

Now, one could argue that part of the issue is that the **Isis Cafe** still has the gigantic "**Brookline Produce**" sign hanging in front of it instead of a nice, big "**Isis Cafe**" sign, and I'm sure that's part of the issue. But it got me thinking that there are some bigger issues at hand in Brookline that absolutely have to be addressed before we can enjoy the revitalization that we'd all love to see.

Firstly, the businesses need to start taking responsibility for their own success. What I mean by this are things like advertizing, visible signage, and most importantly of all, real hours. The **Isis Cafe** needs to get rid of that **Brookline Produce** sign and replace it with a sign for their current business so people actually see they're there. And now many businesses along Brookline Boulevard are only open from 10-5, Monday through Friday? How do you expect to have a thriving retail or service business if your only hours of operation are while everyone in the city is at work and can't patronize you?

A shop or service business should be open until at least 7 or 8 PM--that's just rote and should be accepted as common knowledge. Some businesses should be open later. My friends and I would spend a great deal of time at **Cannon Coffee** if they were open until 10 instead of 8.

Advertizing is a trickier issue. Commercials on TV cost a lot of money, and advertizements in local newspapers are almost passé these days--it's arguable how much publicity that would generate. Yet even still, businesses absolutely must take the initiative to get the word. Flyers and menus are great options--Pizza establishments have been operating that way for years. But you need a "street team" of people willing to hit the bricks and deliver said flyers door to door. Stick them in mailboxes or roll them up and put them in the handles of screen doors. Sometimes old-school ways still work. Word of mouth is all well and good, but you need to attract an initial audience before you can get word of mouth. Did anyone know that **Isis Cafe** has a sampler special on Saturdays where you get to taste a large variety of things on their menu at a very affordable price? Probably not, because a lot of people don't even know they're there yet, let alone that great deal. I'm not giving details because I want people to contact **Isis** directly to ask about it.

And no, I have no affiliation with them. I'm just kind of picking on them and using them as an example, because they're the new kid on the block, and it was noticing their emptiness that inspired this blog. Also, I would really like to see a new business on the Boulevard succeed.

The use of these storefronts is another issue that springs to mind. It's great that we have a few of our city and state reps right up on the Boulevard with office space in our neighborhood, but really, how many people walk in there on a daily basis to talk to **Natalya [Natalia] Rudiak**, and how much space does she really need? Said space could be rented out to a new business that would actually improve the local economy. Now I'm not saying that our representatives should move out, but rather that they should really have MUCH smaller spaces, and leave the bigger spaces for actual businesses to fill.

So okay, I've put out what I see the big issues are with existing businesses, but how about a larger issue--people in Brookline don't seem to do anything to support new businesses. We all complain about how we need more new businesses to revitalize the area, but when one opens up...nobody goes there. This leads to vacant storefronts because said new businesses can't pay their bills, and potential new businesses see it as a bad risk because, well, nobody will patronize them if they open in Brookline. People in our community tend to be insular and creatures of habit. They've been going to the **Moonlite** or the **Brookline Pub** for decades, so that's where they go. As Sweet Brown might say, "ain't nobody got time for nothin' else."

Brookline residents need to spread the love a little. Don't abandon your favorite watering holes--by all means continue

*(Continued on page 16)*



## SUNDAY TRASH WALK/TRASH TALK

Join us on Sunday to clean the Boulevard. Meet at Cannon Coffee at 2:00PM. Bring your own bags, gloves and pickers. If no one shows, pick up on your own. **Richard Lord** and his sons joined us for the last February walk, and **David, Julie and Lucas Baldinger** joined us for the March 11 walk. We have some an observation after our March walks.

- To the individual(s) who had the chicken wings and left the pile of bones beside the apartment steps at 526 Brookline Boulevard, the trash can was 10 feet away. We measured the distance. In the future, walk your bones to the can!

2/25 10 supermarket size bags of trash from the Boulevard from Pioneer to Queensboro

3/11 20 supermarket size bags of trash from the Boulevard from Pioneer to Breining, Castlegate from the Boulevard to Norwich, Queensboro from the Boulevard to Norwich, block of Flatbush and Wedgemere.



## ADOPT-A-BLOCK

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. 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.

## ADOPTED BLOCKS

**Bellaire Ave. bet. Whited & Edgebrook - Jennifer Grab**

**Gallion Ave. - Lisa Wilson**

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

2/23 Between Merrick Avenue and Starkamp, 1/2 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**

**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**

**Eathan Avenue - Jody Krieger**

**Lynnbrook bet. Marloff & dead end - Matt & Joey Pilewski**

**Brookline Blvd. from the 1500 block to Breining - The Baldinger Family**

3/3 3 bags We got alot near the **Hideaway** convenience store & at the entrance of the **Brookline Rec Center**. We also found a Citipark scan tag that someone lost. I will be returning to the Rec Center.

**700 Woodbourne - Mary Zottoli**

**Corner of Brookline Blvd. & Glenarm - Parishoners of St. Mark**

**Whited - Betty Lauda**

**Waddington, Kenilworth & Pioneer bet. - Kim Sabol**



**BROOKLINE'S 2013 EARTH DAY REDD-UP POSTPONED UNTIL MAY DUE TO CONFLICT WITH TASTE OF BROOKLINE AND LITTER POSTER AWARD CEREMONY. WE WILL HAVE MORE DETAILS IN THE MAY ISSUE OF THE BROOKLINE. CONSIDER JOINING US. THIS COULD BE YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW UP.**

## BROOKLINE BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

We have waited many, many years for this project, and now it has finally begun. You don't need to read about the progress of the reconstruction of Brookline Boulevard; you can see the progress yourself by shopping on the Boulevard. Yes, parking may be an issue at times, but don't let that stop you from seeing the work in progress. Did you know that when walking you see a lot more than driving?

This may be my last update on the Brookline Boulevard Improvement Project. Please join me to watch the progress of this project while walking and shopping on the Boulevard.

*-Lois McCafferty*

## REVITALIZING BROOKLINE—MAJOR HURDLES

*(Continued from page 14)*

to patronize legacy businesses often. But give the new places a shot as well. Stop in, see what's going on, and drop a few bucks on a drink or a trinket. This will not only help new businesses, but it will continue to build Brookline as a community. Step out of your comfort zone and you will often discover something new and exciting that you never knew you'd enjoy, and you may make some entirely new friends to complement the ones you've had for a long time.

Now finally, let's turn to the landlords who own property on the Boulevard. I can't claim to know what rent is but I expect it varies wildly. One business owner who just has a hole-in-the-wall space told me it was because it was all he could afford. Then there's that huge and recently-failed new convenience store space down by the cannon which was advertised a couple years ago at \$500/month, which is *obnoxiously cheap* for a commercial space of that size. The problem here is twofold: rent control and lower rent for the more expensive properties would be an excellent idea, if landlords could be counted upon to put their own greed aside for the betterment of the community. Not likely, but we'll give them the benefit of the doubt for our purposes here.

A bigger issue, and one to which landlords should open their eyes, is the nature of the businesses opening. The aforementioned convenience store, for example. That place was filthy, disgusting, and poorly run from the moment it opened its doors. The owners, one got the sense, leapt into it without looking or thinking, banking on the low rent to give them success. Frankly, that place would've been far better run by the owners of **Cannon Coffee** or the **Geekadrome**, who could be in a space double their size for way cheaper.

What am I saying here and what does it have to do with the landlords? The answer is simple: landlords with commercial space should take some time to actually vet their prospective tenants. For example--got a business plan? Let's see it. If not, then you don't get to rent. Sure, this is asking landlords to take on more time and responsibility in getting tenants, but think about it. It's far better in the long run to have a tenant that's going to last, take care of the property, and pay you rent on a monthly basis for years to come, than it is to have one who opens shop for six months, destroys the property, then closes down and vanishes, leaving you holding the ball for the year-long cleanup and repair job while the property sits vacant, then forcing you to have to raise rent to recoup your costs.

Brookline is caught between an older generation who liked things the way they were and shudder at the thought of young upstarts coming in, and a younger generation--those young upstarts--who want the world but aren't taking responsibility for making it once their doors open. And hovering over it all are the landlords, who could do more to control rent and vet tenants, and the community at large, who don't support new startups as strongly as we should. If we want Brookline to once again be a vibrant community, we all need to work together to make it happen.

*-Jason Vey*

*[This article originally appeared in the [Dormont-Brookline Patch](#) on February 25, 2013]*

*[Isis Café is now open from 11:00am to 8:00pm]*

**BOULEVARD SPEED LIMIT 25 MPH STAY ALERT!!!!**



# PATIENCE



**THEY ARE REMODELING OUR COMMUNITY**

Brookline small businesses are counting on you during our facelift.

*The Brookline Chamber of Commerce*