



ISIS' CAFE

Soon, Brookline's culinary motto will be, "Hometown cooking, no matter what your hometown." Since January, Brookliners have had the opportunity to enjoy cuisine from a cradle of civilization--Egypt.

Isis Café on Brookline Boulevard is a family-owned and -operated restaurant offering a varied menu of authentic Egyptian dining, ranging from a wide selection of vegetarian meals to those featuring beef, lamb, and chicken.

Brothers **Ahmed** and **Ash Fathi** are the out-front faces of the restaurant, while their mom, **Salwa Youssef**, does the cooking.

From left: **Ahmed Fathi, Salwa Youssef and Ash Fathi.**

The brothers, their mother, and their sister, who all live in the community, conceived the idea of opening a restaurant

last spring. They looked at properties in Dormont, Beechview, and Bellevue before choosing their location on the Boulevard.

"We really like Brookline as a neighborhood," says Ahmed. "The people here seem to be more open-minded and understanding than other people I've seen."

Most of their patrons so far have been from the area, but one group traveled from Cleveland to visit the restaurant. "One of them had been to Egypt and he missed the food so much. So he came and tried our food, loved it and said, 'omigosh, it's so much like Egypt!'"

As with any country, the number of possible dishes is great, and the **Isis** owners strive to offer Egyptian food that will satisfy the American community. Ahmed said his wish is for people to "give us a chance and to come try our food."

Judging from customer and publication reviews, they're succeeding. The "Pittsburgh City Paper" recently called **Isis** "warm and welcoming" and the décor "charming." It said the food offered "rich flavors and distinctive combinations" that bring "the tantalizing nuances of the Nile delta to the landscape of Pittsburgh's Middle Eastern dining, even as it further broadens the already surprisingly varied menu of Brookline Boulevard."

Sometime this year, the establishment will further distinguish itself by offering patrons the chance to partake of the hookah, which will be available in a room separate from the main dining area.

The restaurant is open Tuesday through Sunday. You can also do Sunday breakfast there, with items ranging from Tamiya (fava bean falafel with a side of tahini sauce) to feteer (Egyptian pie stuffed with either cheese, vegetables, meat, or fruits) and other dishes.

If you're looking for a romantic evening, on Saturday, July 27, **Isis** is offering a special four-course candlelight dinner planned by "**The Hovel**" and accompanied by acoustic music played by some local bands. Cost is \$30 per ticket.



-Dan Kaczmariski

Photos by **Dan Kaczmariski**



Letter from the Editor

It's hard to believe that we have been around for five years, and we will continue as long as our funds hold out. The difference between our print cost and our ad revenue plus donations is about \$300 a month. So at this rate, we have another year in print.

We recently heard a radio story on NPR about three types of theatre goers. The subscribers, average age 50, who expect a certain decorum. The consumers, average age 42, who paid good money and want their money's worth. The tech-savvy young audience who want to tweet their experience. Theatres are trying to figure out how to accommodate these three different audiences.

That made us think about Brookline residents. You might find you fit in one of these groups, or like us, you are a little of each.

There are the established Brookliners age 50 and up. They have lived in the community for decades, own property and volunteer/volunteered in the community.

There are the newer residents ages 35 to 50 who measure their residency in years, but not yet decades. They also own property, but are less likely to volunteer because they are raising a family and/or both are working and their time is already stretched thin.

Finally, there are the young Brookliners. They are single or childless couples ages 20 to 35. They purchased their first home in Brookline or are renting. Many of them volunteer in the community. They communicate electronically and are awake when older Brookline residents are turning out the lights.

We are all trying to find a way to live together in Brookline and create the community we want. The 50+ crowd has been criticized for shooting down ideas. From their view, the idea has been tried and didn't work. They know because they volunteered when the idea came through the first time, and frankly, they are getting tired. The 35-50 crowd would like to be more involved, but they can't find the time. The 20 to 35 crowd shops online at all hours. They are accustomed to having access to what they want, when they want it. Now they want businesses open at hours that suit their schedules.

(Continued on page 13)

*****CLASSIFIED ADS*****

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

SAMPLE CLASSIFIED AD

SAMPLE of a \$4 Ad - Item for sale. Apt for rent. House for sale. Lost pet. Put your ad in The Brookline.

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

*****ADVERTISING RATES*****

Standard ads are a width of 3.75 inches. We charge by the height of the ad at \$12.00 per inch. This is an example of a 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

Pamela Grabowski Editor
Jan Beiler Proofreader/Advertising
Amy Fisher Proofreader
Julie Salas Proofreader
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Ryan Askey Proofreader
Dan Kaczmariski Proofreader
Erika Hough Proofreader
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South Hills Printing - *The Brookline's official printer*

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

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



THE BROOKLINE PAST ISSUES

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

DEADLINES:

July 12 for August's Issue
August 12 for September'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

Kribel's Bakery did it again! We really appreciate Kribel's support and Kribel employee **Mary Zottoli**. *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 May 2013:

- Cannon Coffee - \$189.52
- Kribel's Bakery - \$1,215.40
- A Boss - \$103.09
- Hideaway Mini Mart - \$129.78
- Brookline Area Community Council - \$400.00

COMMUNITY CRIMES ZONE 6

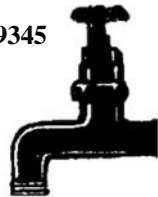
If you don't currently receive the crime reports by email and you want to receive the emails, contact us. If you want more information on the incidents below, please contact us at 412-343-2859. Or, you can email us at mnp.grabowski@verizon.net. Please put "Crime Report" in the subject line.

MAY

<u>CRIMES ZONE 6</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Brookline</u>
Aggravated Assault	15	0
Rape	2	1
Robbery	8	1
Burglary	20	5
Theft	49	21
Theft from Vehicle	26	7
Stolen Vehicle	5	2

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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



ADOPT-A-BLOCK MEET & GREET JULY 28 3:00PM AT CANNON COFFEE



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

As you read in last month's **The Brookline**, another phase has started, (Flatbush to Wedgemere (2A 1st Area) residential side and Stebbins to Queensboro (1B 2nd area, business side) During this phase there will also be a section of Brookline Boulevard and Pioneer (**MJ Automotive**) that will be worked on. This part of the construction time line is May 28 to July 30, 2013.

Streetlights: All of the 30' streetlights will be new and up to date; they will have outlets for the **Brookline Chamber** Christmas decorations. The new streetlights will be going up in the middle to end of July. Why so late? Well, the shipment for the poles (business side) is scheduled to come in the first week of July.

Landscaping: Depending on the progress and/or problems that may occur; planting will be in fall 2013 and/or spring 2014. If you would like to know what kind of plants and trees are going to be planted, go on the Internet for [Brookline Construction, City site](#).

Parking: As you can see when walking the Boulevard, the parking will stay the same. The change that will happen is that there will be a pull out lane leaving one driving lane on the south side of the Boulevard (business side).

A new wooden fence will be erected at 810/812 Brookline Boulevard.

Insurance: As I mentioned before, there is NO insurance for businesses from this construction. There will be access to the businesses during construction.

What you can do: **SHOP ON BROOKLINE BOULEVARD.**

One last thing...**PLEASE**...clean up after your pets. The new sidewalks with dog doo-doo just don't look pretty. Those of us who walk don't enjoy stepping into a mess. Please be considerate...thank you.

More updates to come next month.

-Lois McCafferty



SENATOR WAYNE FONTANA

With nearly 4,400 “structurally deficient” bridges - more than any other state in the nation – and hundreds of miles of state-owned roads considered to be in poor condition, Pennsylvania has a major transportation infrastructure funding dilemma. On June 5th, the Pennsylvania Senate took a first major step in attempting to solve this crisis by overwhelmingly passing [Senate Bill 1 \(SB 1\)](#), which is a comprehensive transportation funding bill. In particular, this legislation will devote \$2.5 billion in additional revenue for roads, bridges, public transit and many of the other means of transportation throughout the state.

By time the plan is fully implemented, it will raise each year:

\$1.9 billion for state and local highways and bridges;

\$510 million for mass transit;

\$130 million for multi-modal fund for railway, ports, airports, bicycle and pedestrian programs.

This new funding will build on the \$5 billion already spent annually for transportation needs so that Pennsylvania is no longer just fixing existing infrastructure but also creating and improving new transportation networks and programs.

A well-maintained transportation network is critical to bringing qualified employees and providing good paying jobs in the current competitive economy and SB 1 is also a job-creating plan. Estimates show that for every \$1 billion invested in transportation, 25,000 jobs will be created or saved. This includes construction jobs, creation of materials needed for these projects and other spin-off industries like delivery of the products.

A recent report by a national transportation group found that the poor state of Pennsylvania’s roads and bridges costs residents \$9.4 billion annually in vehicle operating costs, congestion delays and traffic accidents. It is essential for Pennsylvania to act now because the costs are too high to allow this problem to prolong.

Living in the Pittsburgh region, I supported SB 1 because it provides for a solid dedicated funding stream for roads and bridges as well as for public transportation systems like the Port Authority. Without a new immediate revenue source, Allegheny County mass transit would see further service cuts, causing not only the loss of the main mode of transportation for some residents, but also further stress and overload our roads and bridges. Furthermore, this bi-partisan supported legislation addresses public safety while at the same time invests greatly into Pennsylvania and our economy.

Passage of this transportation funding measure is far from the final product. The legislation now goes to the House of Representatives where additional work will take place, including discussions between the House and the Administration. My hopes are that a meaningful, long-term solution to our state’s aging transportation infrastructure will be the final product that will provide benefits for the Pittsburgh region and statewide for years to come.



PICK UP YOUR BUTTS & WALK THE EMPTY PACK TO A TRASH CAN! KEEP THE NEW SIDEWALKS CLEAN PLEASE!





BROOKLINE MEALS ON WHEELS
412 343-8144

*We serve people for a variety of reasons;
Can't shop / No interest in cooking / Elderly*
Meals prepared on site in Brookline and delivered to your home in Brookline and some parts of Overbrook.

Call between 8:00 & 11:00 any weekday morning
for two nutritious meals per day;
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JULY BOOK DISCUSSIONS AT CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF BROOKLINE

Wednesday, July 10 at 1:00PM *Too Many Cooks* by Rex Stout
Monday, July 15 at 6:00PM *Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok
Book Buzz At Cannon Coffee
Thursday, July 25 at 6:00PM *Ghost World* by Daniel Clowes



BROOKLINE RECREATION CENTER



Weight Room and Fitness Center

Our FREE state-of-the-art weight room and fitness center includes an assortment of weight-lifting and cardio workout equipment. Patrons ages 16-17 must be oriented and 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 is required. Weight and Fitness Center for city residents.



Pittsburgh Boxing Club

Workouts on Wednesday nights from 6:00-8:30pm. All participants must supply their own hand wraps and work-out clothing. Co-ed 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.

Yoga

Relax on 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!



Girls Run For Fun

A new "Girls Only" fitness program. Girls ages 9 -15 work together with adult guidance to optimize their wellness & fitness. Girls will meet every Monday & Thursday from 12:00pm—1:30pm. Bring a friend or come alone, don't forget a willing attitude and a pair of tennis shoes! Come get ready for the Brookline Breeze!

Adult Kickball

Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm—8:30pm. Coed fun for adults ages 18 and over. Bring a team or just come and play! Games will be played in the green space next to the playground. FREE program runs until July 31.

Burke's Extreme Speed Training

Improve your speed, agility and power. Get measurable results with our trained instructor. This **co-ed** hybrid workout for ages 12 - 18 is suitable for every sport. **Four week sessions: (July 9-August 3)**. Cost: \$30/session.



Summer Soccer Clinic

A summer soccer clinic will be held beginning in mid-June for children ages 4-5-6 and ages 7- 8-9. Clinic will be held on Mondays and Thursdays. Clinic times: Monday (4-5-6 from 11:00am - 12:00pm; 7-8-9 from 1:00pm - 2:00pm) and Thursday (4-5-6 from 1:00pm - 2:00pm; 7-8-9 from 2:00pm - 3:00pm). Cost: \$10/participant. Clinic runs through the beginning of August.

Ballroom Dance Classes

A six-week introduction to ballroom dancing, including foxtrot, salsa, waltz and swing. Cost: \$15/ couple. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7:00pm - 8:00pm. Please pre-register; class size is limited.



Five Weeks Until the Breeze



Meet with nutrition and fitness experts to get free advice and instruction to get yourself into top form for the 32nd annual **Brookline Breeze 5K Fitness Run and Walk, which will be held on Saturday, August 10, 2013**. Group meetings will be held at the Recreation Center on Tuesdays at 6:00pm. Start getting into shape now.

Understanding Tax Basics

A must take class for all teenagers and young people entering the workforce! This **FREE** class will explain the basics of a 1040 form. Tuesday, July 16 at 7:30pm.

Dance Class—Ballet, Tap and Tumbling

Tuesdays and Wednesdays - ten classes - cost \$30/participant payable to the instructor. Registration fee due at first class.

Ages 3-4 have ballet, tap and tumbling from 10:30am to 11:15am


Ages 5-7 have acrobatics, ballet and jazz from 11:30am to 12:15pm

Ages 8-12 have jazz, hip hop and combination from 12:30pm to 1:15pm

Adult and basic tap, shuffles, flaps and combinations from 1:30pm to 2:15pm

Classes begin Tuesday, July 9. Please stop in to register.

Flute Lessons

Coat: \$24/5 Group Lessons (Class size limit 5); \$15/private lessons. Payment is due to instructor  on the first day of class.

Classes will begin in July. Stop in to register.

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



FREE LUNCH/SNACK PROGRAM AT RECREATION CENTER

Program runs through August 16. Lunch served from 11:30am –2:00pm. Snack served from 3:00pm-4:00pm. Must be 18 or younger.



DERELICT PROPERTIES



967 Berkshire Avenue



967 Berkshire Avenue



802 Fordham Avenue



967 Berkshire Avenue

The Fordham Avenue property has been reported by the neighbors to 311 repeatedly. The Brookline Boulevard property was also reported to 311.

The Berkshire Avenue property after many, many months of 311 reports is now scheduled for demolition. It took a while, but this eyesore is going to be removed.

If you have a derelict property in your neighborhood, report it to 311 either by phone or online at the City of Pittsburgh site. If nothing happens, let us know, and we will bring it to Brookline Block Watch and Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak's office.

We welcome new property owners to Brookline, and we are pleased that we have become a popular neighborhood. A house-hunting friend informed us that the word among buyers is that houses in Brookline sell quickly.

What we don't welcome are absentee property owners who do not take care of their property. Remember the "broken window" theory. When properties are not kept clean and lawns and hedges trimmed, it's the equivalent of inviting drugs and crime into the neighborhood because it looks like no one cares.

Are there properties on your street where no one cares? Call 311, contact us or come to Brookline Block Watch. You can remain anonymous.

-Pamela Grabowski



619-621 Brookline Blvd.



A-Boss Opticians, Inc.

**If we can't repair them..... no one can !
938 Brookline Blvd 412-561-0811**

To our loyal customers during construction we are offering.

1. House calls for seniors & handicapped
2. Special appointments in Bethel location
3. In store Construction Specials



Life on the Street

Saw a paper on the ground
 Wind was blowing it round and round
 Picked it up to put the trash
 Turned it over and in a flash
 An angel appeared looked just like me
 Who are you I said please answer my plea
 I am the God of life for all to see
 Just like the God that lives in the tree
 Have heart people on the ground
 When you find trash blowing round and round
 It is the mystery of life you have found.

-Will Luffy

[Mr. Luffy is a Brookline merchant who shared this poem with the Sunday Trash Walkers.]

WHO'S GOING TO LET THE DOG OUT????



The hotel reservations have been confirmed, and the post office will hold the mail. But who is going to watch Fido or Fluffy? **Amanda Kutschbach** of [Smooches to Pooches, LLC](http://www.smoochestopooches.com) will take care of your dog, cat, rabbit, hamster, etc. She started her business in May 2012, but she's been petsitting for friends and family for years.

Her senior project was creating a petsitting business, but marriage and a family kept her from initially pursuing the business. With her husband's encouragement and her three children in school, Amanda jumped right in. She is bonded, insured and Pet Tech Certified®. The trifecta for someone who is coming into your home to care for your pet. Amanda will not only take care of your pet, she will water the plants, bring in the mail and turn lights on and off while you are gone. She services a 10-mile area around Brookline including Mount Lebanon, Dormont, Carrick and West Mifflin.

She charges \$15 a visit and usually makes two visits a day. The bulk of her business is for working people who want their pet walked during the day. If you want someone to stay overnight while you are away, it's \$60 a night.

Amanda is quite petite so I asked if she had any restrictions on the size of an animal. I was remembering a personal experience walking between two English Mastiffs. Well, the mastiffs walked, and they carried me with them.

"That's not a problem. I have two mastiffs and a lab. I just don't take care of farm animals," she said. Not only does she have three dogs and two cats, but she volunteers for Furkid Rescue (www.furkidrescue.org). So, at any given time she might be fostering a dog. Amanda can take care of your pet large or small. Call her at 412-327-8495 or email amanda@smoochestopooches.com to make arrangements.

-Pamela Grabowski



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Castriota Metals on corner of Crane Ave & Saw Mill Run Blvd (In back of Patio Enclosures)

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No Contracts, No Hidden Fees, Friendly and Reliable Service

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NEW STATE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING LAW TO TAKE EFFECT
 “Due to a mandatory state law, beginning January 1, 2013, the **City is no longer legally permitted to collect TVs, computers and computer parts at the curb.** This new law seeks to keep harmful metals such as cadmium, lead and mercury out of the waste stream.”

-City of Pittsburgh Recycle Flyer, Winter 2013

**SOUTH HILLS USED WASHERS & DRYERS
 IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE A NEW
 E-WASTE PROGRAM (Electronic Waste).**

For a small fee, we will come to your location and pick up your electronic waste including:

- **Computers**
- **Televisions**
- **Computer peripherals including modems, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers and external drives**
- **Anything with an electrical cord**

CALL 412-641-9605



BROOKLINE BREEZE-FEST RESCHEDULED



Due to the Brookline construction the Brookline Chamber of Commerce annual Brookline Breeze-fest has been put on hold this year. You don't have to wait until next year for a Breeze-fest, the Chamber is planning an Autumn Breeze-fest, the proposed date is set for September 21, 2013. Mark your calendar and join us! Most of the construction should be complete on the business side of Brookline Boulevard. The new Boulevard will be lined with food, balloon sculptures, arts and craft vendor's and much more. Vendor applications can be found at Cannon Coffee and A-Boss Optician. Look for more information in next month's issue.

-Brookline Chamber of Commerce

**BOULEVARD RECONSTRUCTION CONTEST
 WIN \$20 IN BROOKLINE CONSTRUCTION BUCKS**

The *Brookline* will sponsor a monthly contest throughout reconstruction. You can enter by dropping your name and telephone number in the contest box at **Cannon Coffee**, emailing us at mnp.grabowski@verizon.net with your name and telephone number and putting "Contest Entry" in the subject line, or snail mailing at **The Brookline**, P.O. Box 96136, Pittsburgh, PA 15226. This month's entry is due by July 20. We will announce the July winner in the August newsletter. **JUNE CONTEST WINNER WAS ALAINA KAISER**

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

ONE ENTRY PER PERSON

ONE ENTRY PER PERSON

COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS MONTH

July 8 Monday

Chamber of Commerce 6:00PM at Carnegie Library of Brookline 708 Brookline Blvd.

July 9 Tuesday

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



OPEN MIC SERIES

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

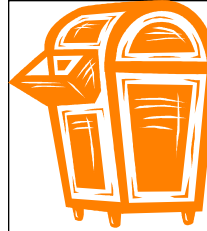


CVS accepts food donations for the Brookline Christian Food Pantry



FLEA MARKET/CRAFT SHOW

There will be an open flea market/craft show from 8:00am - 2:00pm at Brookline Park on Saturday, July 13. Free spots available. Bring your own table.



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

This is for the blue mailboxes. The post office is in the process of permanently removing the green boxes. [Editor]



FREE OUTDOOR YOGA

Take your downward dog to the park this summer. Every Saturday through August, there will be a 10:00AM yoga class at Brookline Memorial Park. The class is taught

by instructors from South Hills Power Yoga. In the event of rain, the class will move indoors. Must be over 18. Bring your own mat, towel & water. All levels.



MOVIES IN THE PARK

Brookline Memorial Park
Oakdale Street
Movies start at dusk

7/11 The Goonies (PG)

7/18 Rise of the Guardians (PG)

7/25 Finding Nemo (G)



SETON BROOKLINE FARM STAND

FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
Wholesome & affordable locally grown produce!

June 19th—November 20th, 2013
EVERY WEDNESDAY
11:00 am—6:00 pm
1900 Pioneer Avenue, Pgh 15226

Please scan or visit www.farmstandproject.org

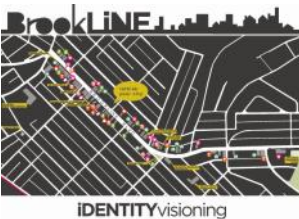
Everyone is welcome!
We accept Cash, EBT, WIC & Senior FMNP

For more information: (412) 460-3663, x216

A project of Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and Elizabeth Seton Center



A program of Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank



Join your neighbors for the second of three public meetings to generate ideas for the future identity and vision of Brookline Boulevard. The meeting will focus on the commercial district,

but also the identity of the neighborhood in order to promote business growth and community improvements.

July 25 7:00PM

St. Mark's Church 933 Brookline Blvd.



ROVING ART CART AT MOORE PARK

JULY 16
10:00AM to 1:00PM



THE BROOKLINE BREEZE

The 32nd annual **Brookline Breeze 5K Fitness Run/Walk** will be held on Saturday, August 10, 2013, at the **Brookline Community Center**, located at 1399 Oakridge Street, along the 1400 block of Brookline Boulevard. The event features the 5K race and fitness walk, a one-mile Mini-Breeze for the little ones and a one-mile Dog Walk. All participants receive a commemorative shirt and a race pack. Registered dogs receive a Breeze Bandana.

Despite the ongoing reconstruction project along Brookline Boulevard, race organizers have been assured that the route will be cleared and the race will go on! There will be some unique challenges, but nothing that can't be overcome.

The Mini-Breeze begins at 8:35am, dog walk at 8:38am, and the 5K event begins at 9:00am. There will be awards, door prizes and refreshments. The 5K race is sanctioned by the USATF. Last year's event had over 800 registered participants. We hope to see a good turnout again this year.

The race festivities at the **Community Center** will feature live music from Brookline's own "**The Wurms**," featuring **Mark and Jake Zucco, Joe Gordon** and **Jeff Fetterman**. The Roving Art Cart will be on site, as well as plenty of refreshments. There will be \$1,000 in gifts raffled off at the post-race awards presentation. **Brookline Park** will be alive with excitement!

We encourage families to take advantage of the family discount, where a family of five can enter in any of the race events for the low cost of \$40. Family application forms are available at the **Brookline Breeze** website.

The Breeze is a community tradition that celebrates physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle, as well as the neighborhood of Brookline itself. Mark your calendars and join us on Saturday, August 10 at **Brookline Park** for the Breeze.

Registration forms can be obtained at the **Brookline Recreation Center**. Online registration, downloadable applications, and more race information is available at the official Breeze website: www.brooklinebreeze.com.

(The **Brookline Breeze** wishes to thank our 2013 sponsorship team: Gold sponsors include **Moonlite Cafe, Brookline Medicine Shoppe, Antonio's Pizzeria, South Pittsburgh Development Corp.**, Dollar Bank, Pennsylvania American Water, Allegheny Sports Medicine, Highmark, Wise Snacks, Citiparks, Froggy and Elite Runners and Walkers. Additional community race sponsors include **A-Boss Opticians, DeBor Funeral Home, Knights of Columbus #491, Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak, State Senator Wayne Fontana, Brookline Chamber of Commerce, Howard Hanna - Tim Reitmeyer, Michael Poremski Plumbing, Scoops On The Boulevard, Vinnie's Pretzel Shoppe, Brookline Regional Catholic, Hideaway Mini-Mart** and **SPC Networks**.)

-Clint Burton



**BROOKLINE
BREEZE**
5K RUN AND FITNESS WALK

Call for Volunteers

- **FOREVER HOME BEAGLE RESCUE** call 412-304-4034 or BeagleHQ@msn.com Foster homes needed as well as donations of dog food, blankets and bath towels.
- **DOGIPOT MAINTENANCE** call Lisa at 412-343-1319
- **MEALS ON WHEELS** sponsored by **St. Mark's Lutheran Church** call 412-343-8144
- **BROOKLINE CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY** call **Pat Erny** 412-344-8451
- **CLOTHES CLOSET MINISTRY** call **Brookline United Presbyterian Church** at 412-531-0590
- **ANGELS' PLACE** Volunteers needed at **Angels' Place, Inc.** Help us work with children, arts and crafts, organizing and more. If interested please call Andrea at 412-531-6667. www.angelsplaceph.org

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



SUNDAY TRASH WALK/TRASH TALK

Join us on Sunday to clean the Boulevard. We usually arrive at Cannon Coffee around 2:00PM, but don't wait for us. Bring your own bags, gloves and pickers. If no one shows, pick up on your own.

5/19 10 supermarket size bags of trash from the Boulevard from Pioneer to Queensboro and 18 cents

6/2 11 supermarket size bags of trash from the Boulevard from Pioneer to Queensboro and 1 cent

“Treat the Earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”

-Ancient Indian Proverb



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 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

4/7 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

5/13 **Diane:** Less than 1/3 a kitchen trash bag + a full blue bag

5/19 **Mary Anne:** One blue bag + less than 1/2 bag of trash

5/28 **Diane:** Half a kitchen trash bag mostly broken glass + a full blue bag

6/2 **Mary Anne:** Picked up half a kitchen bag of papers & cigarette butts - only 2 cans and one bottle. Street & alley were pretty clean except for the cigarette butts.

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

700 Woodbourne - Mary Zottoli

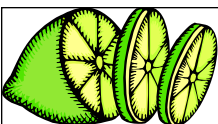
Corner of Brookline Blvd. & Glenarm - Parishoners of St. Mark

Whited - Betty Lauda

Waddington, Kenilworth & Pioneer bet. - Kim Sabol

Gallupe Drive - Tony Marcello, AST Roofing

Bellaire Ave. bet Pioneer Ave. & Whited - Denise Robinson



LIME WEDGES DO NOT NATURALLY COMPOST ON THE SIDEWALK. TAKE THEM HOME TO YOUR COMPOST OR PUT THEM IN THE TRASH CAN!!!!

STEPS, STEPS AND MORE STEPS

"If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden."

-Frances Hodgson Burnett, **The Secret Garden**

It may be known to many Pittsburghers that our fair city is home to the nation's most extensive network of city steps. According to Bob Regan (Professor of Geographic Information Systems at The University of Pittsburgh and author of *The Steps of Pittsburgh: Portrait of a City*) there are over 700 sets of steps in all. That is more than the cities of San Francisco and Cincinnati combined! Climbing all 30,000 vertical feet of our town's public stairways is something like climbing Mount Everest!



Belle Isle steps looking down from Plainview

Three years back, after reading Mr. Regan's lovely book, I got inspired; I wanted to climb Pittsburgh's Mount Everest. I wondered if anyone had ever attempted it before. I set my mind to it and decided to make it my new hobby; finding and hiking the steps one set at a time and keeping track of my progress via my blog. To date, I have hiked over 500 different sets. I hope to be done with my climb at the end of this summer.

The steps can be found on nearly every hillside in Pittsburgh but Brookline with 25 sets holds third place for the neighborhood with the most. Beechview (39) is second and Southside Slopes (58) is first. While Brookline may not have the views that the Southside Slopes has, we certainly have the character and charm. Along Pioneer Ave there are 4 sets with over 100 treads each: Templeton Ave (189), Belle Isle Ave (167), Ray Ave (258), and Stetson St. (149). These stairways are

well maintained and meander listlessly through the backyards of our lovely community. Ray Avenue is particularly enchanting. Walking these steps can feel like happening upon a secret passageway, thick with the scent of honeysuckle and other wild flowers. I've spotted a variety of wildlife on this hillside. From gaggles of wild turkeys to woodchucks, deer, songbirds of all types, and of course the occasional friendly neighbor. But the steps are, in essence, practical. Their intended purpose has always been to access public transportation. As infrequent as the 39 bus runs these days, it's nice to know it's just a short jaunt to West Liberty Avenue to catch the 41. Conveniently there is a bus stop right at the base of each of these stairways.

The most intriguing Brookline steps, however, have to be the ones at the end of Brookline Boulevard at the intersection of Jacob Street. They plunge almost straight down into thick woods to a path that leads to a tunnel. Through that tunnel is the south busway and blue trolley line. You could also follow the path in the other direction all the way to **Brookline Memorial Park**. Follow them straight and they go over a quaint little foot bridge and then straight back up more steps into Overbrook.

Most of the city steps today were built in the 1940s and the city once had a specific public works crew that maintained them. Today, since the recession, the city unfortunately cannot afford that same attention. Many steps are closed or in poor shape. Many are structurally safe but are covered in poison ivy or otherwise impassible. The South Side Slopes and Fineview both have neighborhood step advocacy groups to keep their sets in order. Citizens trim tree limbs and clean up litter, paint the railings occasionally, and even provide concrete repair. It's no surprise there is so much civic pride. The unique views from the steps are unparalleled. They are quirky and distinctively Pittsburgh. They provide intimate glimpses into our city's past. Along with providing walkable access to public transit, they are a great workout and surely they are worth the climb.

If you're interested in finding the steps near you for some urban exploration, stop in **Cannon Coffee**. I'd be more than happy to show you where they are.



-Ben Haake

-Photos from http://www.frontiernet.net/~rochballparks2/towns/pgh_step.htm



Can't afford a new washer or dryer, consider buying a re-conditioned washer or dryer from **South Hills Used Washers & Dryers**.
Photo by *Melissa Distel*

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*Letter from
the Editor*

READER RESPONSE

Vince Mazza called us about our article on **Ebbitt Studio** in the June issue. Vince said he remembers having his kids' photos taken at the studio, which according to Vince was located at 627 Brookline Boulevard. *-Pamela Grabowski*

(Continued from page 2)
Brookline small business owners are trying to satisfy requests for longer hours, while trying to run profitable businesses and have time for their own families.

Just like the theatre owners, we have to find a common middle ground. Ideas can be revisited. Maybe what didn't work 20 years ago will work today, AND we need people to carry out those ideas.

Whatever we do, we will not be able to satisfy everyone. We will all have to find a way to leave our corners and come together in the middle. After all, don't we all share the same goal - a safe, clean, prosperous community.

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



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The Taste of Brookline

If you missed the second annual **Taste of Brookline** on April 28, then you missed a great community showcase hosted by **South Pittsburgh Development Corporation!** Over 300 people filled the **Church of the Resurrection Gymnasium** for an afternoon of food, music, and community. Attendees from the neighborhood and throughout the Pittsburgh region sampled food and drinks from local businesses, and enjoyed great music from **Jack Stanizzo** and **Paul Lowe**.

This year's event was made even more special by the honoring of longtime Brookline resident and honorary fireman **Battalion Chief George Gilfoyle**, who was presented with a plaque and a proclamation from the City of Pittsburgh declaring April 28, 2013, as "**George Gilfoyle Day**."

The great success of the event was due largely to the food establishments that we are so lucky to have in Brookline. The committee wishes to extend a special thank you to all of this year's food and drink participants: **Antonio's Pizzeria, Brookline Pub, Burgh Bees, Cannon Coffee, IKEA, Isis Café, Italian Specialty & Gourmet Catering, Kribel's Bakery, Las Palmas, Le Cupcake Shoppe, Party Cake Shop, Pitaland, Ritz Banquet Hall / Café Byblos Catering, Scoops on the Boulevard, T.R.A.S.H, and Vinnie's Pretzel Shoppe.** SPDC also extends a special thank you to premier event sponsor **IKEA** and event sponsors **Brookline Chamber of Commerce, Brookline Area Community Council,** the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, **Chuong's Cleaners, Community Bank, DeBor Funeral Home,** and photographer **Melissa Distel.** Money raised from the event will be used toward SPDC's neighborhood revitalization projects in Brookline and future community events.

If you weren't able to attend this year's **Taste of Brookline**, we hope to see you at future **SPDC** events!

-Jennifer Bubnash Askey





COUNCILWOMAN NATALIA RUDIAK

Do you think the streets in your neighborhood are in the worst shape they've been in a long time? Well, you're probably right.

The condition of our streets is a perennial problem, and my staff handles calls, emails, and site visits every day that have to do with road conditions. It seems that particularly terrible stretches of road may not get the repaving they need for a very long time. Unfortunately, every year, the City's paving program has to deal with rising costs and a growing pool of need--and every year, it gets bigger and bigger.

Pittsburgh has a lot of asphalt roads. Hundreds and hundreds of miles. Stretched end-to-end, they would reach from the Point all the way to Minneapolis! Because of weather and climate, weight and pressure, and various chemical exposures (like gasoline, oil, and salt), asphalt deterioration begins almost as soon as it's freshly laid down. An asphalt road is expected to last for a decade in Pittsburgh. Doing the math, that means we should pave about 86 miles of road every year so that no street is left unmaintained for more than ten years.

But since at least 2004, the City hasn't been able to keep up with that measure, paving much fewer than 86 miles every year. Last year the City took out a bond for \$80 million for the first time in over a decade, and one stated purpose for the money is necessary infrastructure projects, including resurfacing. For 2012 and 2013, approximately \$10 million has been spent on paving, and last year we were able to pave a record 61 miles--which is still short of the necessary amount of 86 miles to keep our streets up to date.

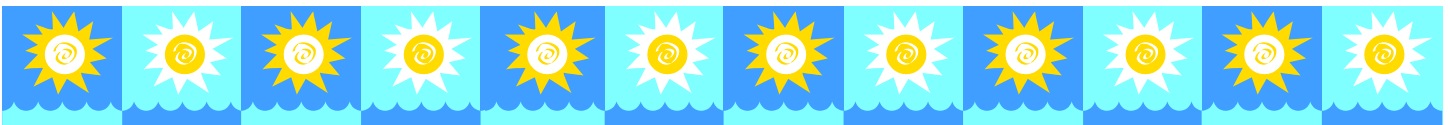
Add to this the fact that for every year that we pave fewer than 86 miles, we add streets to our paving deficit, meaning we start the next year already behind. For every street that enters its tenth year (meaning it's time to repave), there's a street entering its eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth...

An audit by the Controller's office in 2009 found that a mile of paving costs approximately \$315,000 (to read this audit and see our infographic about this information, check out <http://pittsburghpa.gov/district4/paving>). As revenue from the federal government, local non-profits, and City property taxes has remained steady or declined--not to mention the rising costs of crude oil globally--paving is becoming a more expensive proposition every year. And unforeseen problems like landslides, erosion, and structural issues can compound the cost of a simple paving job.

The total cost to repave all of the roads that are over a decade old would be approximately \$103 million, roughly ten times the amount that we can afford to budget this year. The cost to repave all the roads would actually be nearly double our total capital budget this year (which would mean no pools, parks, senior centers, fire trucks, ballfield lights, or dozens of other programs for the next two years).

Given all of these realities, we continue to listen to your suggestions, drive through the district to investigate, and submit our recommendations for street resurfacing to the Department of Public Works, which is tasked with making the final decision based on their own system. We do everything we can on our end to advocate for residents, including monitoring 311 requests, going out and taking pictures, submitting your letters and petitions, and working with you all to make sure your voices are heard in the process.

Please continue to call my office at 412-255-2142, or 311, or both to report potholes and other infrastructure issues that Public Works should look into.



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BROOKLINE MEALS ON WHEELS SAFE FROM CUT BACKS

You may have heard in the media that Home Delivered Meals Program (HDM) is cutting back on their delivery to three (3) days a week as of July 1.

We assure you that **Brookline Meals on Wheels is not affected by this change** because **Brookline Meals on Wheels** is **not** connected with HDM in any way. The meals from the Brookline program are prepared **on site** at **St. Mark's Lutheran Church** on Brookline Boulevard each weekday and delivered to you by volunteers from our community, and we have no plans to change this any time soon.

Please do not be confused by the media concerning this matter. The news media is reporting on a **different program** than the **Brookline Meals on Wheels**.

We want to thank the clients of **Brookline Meals on Wheels**. We have been serving the Brookline/Overbrook community for over 40 years. Our clients are the focal point of all we do, and the people who prepare and deliver your meals love what we do and have no plans to cut back on the service.

If you know of anyone affected by the HDM cut back, please mention to them that you receive your meals from **Brookline Meals on Wheels**, and if they show interest in receiving the same regular service that you receive, give them our phone number and ask them to call 412-343-8144 between 9:00AM and 11:30AM any weekday morning, and they can enjoy the same nutritious meals that you do.

-Carol Ingold

Site Manager of **Brookline MOW**

REDISTRICTING BROOKLINE

As a volunteer with both businesses and community in Brookline (19th ward), I believe that legislative district maps need to be revised again, but with common sense.

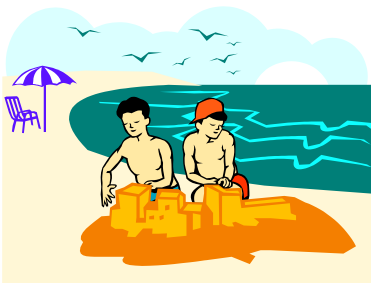
The State Supreme Court's decision to uphold the 2012 redistricting maps is disappointing. These maps split our community in three sections. When working on a project in our community we will have to visit (3) three Representatives, and they must all agree. This will take up time and money, and it causes confusion and more trouble than necessary. The Supreme Court's decision leaves us with a mess. The current map does neither our Representatives nor us any justice. Is this political? Maybe! These maps divide our communities and weaken our voices.

We understand that population shifts require redistricting for fair representation. We also understand that fair representation means keeping communities together. We the people need to have a bigger say in redistricting when no one seems to know how to map the redistricting correctly.

It is never to late to make corrections on a poor decision. We must all speak up and take a stand in correcting the errors made on this map and unite our community as one.

-Lois McCafferty

[This was originally printed as a Letter to the Editor in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on May 19, 2013.]



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERS



At right: **Lois McCafferty, Linda Boss, Mary Jo O'Toole, Danny O'Toole & Nathan Mallory** (not pictured) passed out flyers, directories and candy at the Memorial Day Parade. **Steve Ehrin & Lee Herbermann** (not pictured) did the driving.

-Lee Herbermann

RESSI FUN FLAIR GARAGE SALE HOURS

FINAL DROP OFFS FOR RESSI GARAGE SALE

Saturday - July 6 & Sunday - July 7 10:00AM to 2:00PM

Monday - July 8 5:30PM to 8:00PM **FINAL DROP OFF DAY**

RESSI FUN FLAIR GARAGE SALE

Wednesday - July 10 & Thursday - July 11 6:00PM to 10:15PM

\$1/2 Price Friday - July 12 6:00PM to 10:15PM

\$1/2 Price Saturday - July 13 6:00PM to 8:00PM

\$5:00 a garbage bag Saturday - July 13 8:00PM to 10:15PM

ADOPT-A-BLOCK ANTI-LITTER ARTWORK CONTEST



Brookline pride was evident in full-color this spring, as hundreds of local students emphatically told the world through artwork why littering their neighborhood is totally uncool.

And the feeling of pride was mutual, as we were totally blown away by the thought, time, and talent the kids put into their art. Five area schools—**Brookline PreK-8, Carmalt Academy, Brookline Regional Catholic, West Liberty K-5, and South Brook 6-8**—participated in an anti-litter artwork contest sponsored by the **South Pittsburgh Development Corporation**, with the generous support of donors that included the **Brookline Area Community Council** and the **Brookline Chamber of Commerce**.

Shown on this page is just a small sampling of the art. A hearty thank you to the students and their wonderful teachers! Brookline pride is on the rise!

-Dan Kaczmariski

[On behalf of The Brookline we would like to thank everyone who contributed money, gifts and cookies for the ceremony. A special thank you to our prize donors Wyld Chyld, Antonio's Pizza, Scoops and Vinnie's Pretzel Shoppe. Also, a thank you to the Brookline artists who donated their time to judge the contest for us. Robert Daley, Melissa Distel, Lynne Cannoy Knecht, Bob McCullough, Sarah Miller, Ash, Rosemary Nulton and Lois Walsh.—The Editor]



Mayoral Candidate **Bill Peduto** and Councilwoman **Natalia Rudiak** with our LitterBug **Marguerite Luvara**.

-Photo from *Pennsylvania Resources Council*



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FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Welcome to the workforce, new workers! Whether you're beginning the career of a lifetime or just earning some extra money for the school year to come, there is one question that is likely to hit you when you see your first pay stub: "What is the FICA, and why is my paycheck less because of it?"

Generally, employers are required to withhold Social Security and Medicare tax from a worker's paycheck. Your employer matches the amounts you pay in Social Security and Medicare taxes. Usually the money we withhold is referred to as "Social Security taxes" on the employee's payroll statement. Sometimes the deduction is labeled as "FICA taxes," which stands for Federal Insurance Contributions Act, and sometimes OASDI, or Old Age Survivor and Disability Insurance. Name aside, what's important is how that money is being used, and what's in it for you down the road.

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

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

Don't be tempted if you're offered a job "under the table" or "off the books." If you work for any employer who pays you cash, you're likely not getting Social Security credit for the work you're doing and potentially missing out on future benefits.

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

Here's another tip: open a *my Social Security* account so that you can access your *Social Security Statement*. That will allow you to make sure your earnings are recorded properly each year — and you can get estimates of what your future benefits may be. You can easily open a *my Social Security* account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

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

-Patricia Thibault, Social Security Manager



Joanne's Corner

Thought I would share the thoughts of a senior citizen on the latest technology.

"Stop The World"

Remember that old movie "Stop the World I Want to Get Off?" That's me.

The world I thought I lived in has now become incomprehensible. I'm an alien on my own planet. Blog, Twitter, Windows, Blu-Ray, Facebook, Skype, Dot Org - are we speaking the same language? I can't even make a telephone call with any degree of confidence, much less success.

I pick up my telephone to call my bank. It starts out fine. The person who picks up the phone on the other end says my call is very important to him. I begin to tell him I'm pleased to hear that because the balance on my bank statement seems to be incorrect. Before I can complete my sentence, he's gone. A loud noise comes through the receiver. I recognize this as today's music, although it doesn't sound very musical to me. Some woman is screaming at the top of her lungs that she's been dissed by her man, while in the background the so-called music sounds like a locomotive approaching the station.

*I'm about to hang up when the person comes back on the line repeating how important I am to him. I tell him I heard him the first time but he is interrupted by someone else who tells me to **push one** if I want to speak to Mr. Jones. Now, I have never heard of Mr. Jones, so I don't know if he can help me or not.*

While I'm trying to decide what to do, I've missed options 2, 3, and 4. He then asks if I want to be transferred to voice mail. "Voice mail"?? I ask him. Then he tells me to push the "pound key" or hang up. "Pound key"?? As I am trying to locate the "pound key" my phone goes dead. It has been 15 minutes from start to finish. See what I mean??

I should call my doctor and my dentist for appointments, but do I really want to go through all that again?

Nah, I'll sit here and watch television for awhile. On second thought, I'm quite exhausted. Maybe I'll just take a little nap.

-Joanne Fantoni

RUMOR BUSTING

We're working to get a blueprint of the finished Brookline Boulevard placed in one of the businesses for all of you to see. This should help with any questions that you may have. Information on where this blueprint will be placed will be published in **The Brookline** when the site is determined.

If you have walked on the Boulevard, you will notice from Stebbins to Queensboro portions of the sidewalks are being poured. Yes, I have seen the broken gas covers, and the gas company has been notified.

Rumor: The water lines were being dug up again. **False:** The water company was laying a permanent patch.

Rumor: Facchiano Construction was penalized for being behind schedule. **False:** Facchiano was not penalized.

Yes, they are behind schedule. They are doing their best to close the gap and get back on schedule.

-Lois McCafferty



Melina Bushmen's Best In Show winning artwork at the Brookline Adopt-A-Block Anti-Litter Artwork Contest Award Ceremony.



Below: Brookline Adopt-A-Block volunteers transformed a weeded area on Brookline Boulevard. To help, contact Dan at pdkaz@comcast.net. Please contact Dan if you are separating plants;



REPRESENTATIVE ERIN MOLCHANY

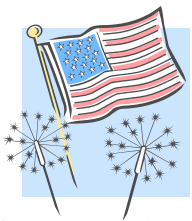
As I write this column, I am in the thick of my first budget debate. It has been exciting and frustrating. The Constitution requires that the legislature and the governor pass a budget to fund operations of the state by June 30 each year. We have missed that deadline before, but hopefully a good budget is passed by the time you are reading this.

I'll save the details of the budget and the ways it will affect our district and your lives until a later column, after the budget is passed. I will say now, however, that the current draft of the budget is woefully inadequate and full of the wrong priorities. These cuts to education mean fewer teachers, bigger class sizes, and threaten to force some local schools to close.

On the issues of transportation funding and the Governor's liquor privatization scheme, my positions remain the same. We must pass comprehensive transportation funding to fix roads and bridges that are failing and to invest in public transit to stop this perennial crisis of cutting routes. When it comes to liquor, I am not opposed to modernization that provides more choice and better hours at State Stores. However, I will not vote for full privatization that means 5,000 fewer jobs in Pennsylvania and a loss of \$500 million dollars in revenue that funds programs Pennsylvanians want and need.


As always, I welcome you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this budget or any other state matter at my Brookline Boulevard office or at 412-343-2094.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who came out to make my first annual Spring Open House a success! I had so much fun meeting and talking with all of you. We will have more events at my office and around the district in months to come.





INDEPENDENCE DAY JULY 4





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OPEN YOUR TO A SENIOR

On June 12 at **Cannon Coffee**, Jarrell Brackett, Karen Berry and Sarah Papperman met prospective volunteers for the Open Your Heart to A Senior program through Family Services of Western Pennsylvania.

Since **St. Mark's Red Bus** is no longer operating, seniors need rides to grocery stores and doctor appointments. If you would like to volunteer, the schedules are very flexible. There is no minimum hour requirement for a volunteer. The opportunities include, taking a senior shopping, assist making telephone calls, a friendly visit, mail assistance, handyperson, yard work, snow shoveler, respite assistance, a driver. There are also opportunities to do home visits to access safety concerns.

A volunteer has to pass an Act 33 clearance which is a criminal record check, have two references and an interview with an outreach specialist. Family Services wants to be certain that seniors are safe.

You can contact Jarrell, Sarah or Karen at Family Services 412-661-1670 to start the volunteer process. There will be another orientation session at the Mt. Lebanon Library on July 17 from 6:30 PM to 8:00PM if you want to speak to an outreach specialist.

Consider volunteering. You go grocery shopping for your family anyway. Why not bring a senior with you?

-Pamela Grabowski

SETON BROOKLINE FARM STAND



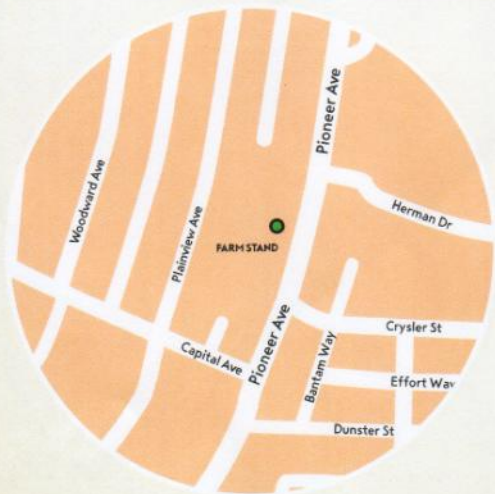
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 A program of Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank



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