

DAREE SALAM

“Place of Peace.” That’s what **Daree Salam** means in English, and it’s an appropriate name for the market of African foods that opened on Brookline Boulevard this past February.

Proprietor **Sani Musah** and his wife are warm and welcoming, with engaging smiles and a willingness to explain the shop’s products and purpose.

That purpose is one any transplanted Pittsburgher can relate to—to provide something familiar to those far from home. During the years my wife and I were away from Western Pennsylvania, we looked forward to trips home, both to see the folks and to enjoy special foods, such as chipped-chopped ham, home-made kielbassi, paczki, and nutrolls.

We were lucky to be within driving distance. Imagine living an ocean away, looking for special ingredients to create the dishes you grew up with. That, according to Sani, was the genesis of **Daree Salam**.

Sani, a Pittsburgh resident for seven years, noticed that the city’s growing population of transplanted Africans was looking for some connection to their home background. “The people of different parts of Africa—West, North, East—have different tastes and I was trying to come up with something that would connect everybody to their home.”

The majority of the shop’s products are imported ingredients that go into many traditional African meals. “We do a lot of soups and stews,” says Sani, “so we offer a lot of cereals and tubers.” Basics include, in one form or another, yams, plantains, corn flour, cassava, sweet potatoes, melon seed, rice, millet, and palm fruit.

What distinguishes recipes from different parts of Africa from each other, says Sani, are the ways those products are cooked and the spices and other savory ingredients--also sold at the shop--that are added. Many of the soups and stews described by Sani are a vegetarian’s delight, such as peanut butter soup, and some are supplemented by fish or meats.

Sani and his wife are from Ghana, on the West Coast of Africa. The red, yellow, and green Ghanaian flag joins the U.S. flag in the shop’s window. In addition to foodstuffs, the store has a selection of casual African dresses, and beaded earrings, necklaces, and bracelets from Ghana. (My wife used our visit as an opportunity to buy two pairs of earrings.) International phone cards are also available.

Sani is happy to be in Brookline. “I was looking for a location that’s convenient and easy to locate. Everybody knows Brookline, so I was fortunate to get here.”

The owners of **Daree Salam** will add to their product line as customers’ wants and needs indicate. They hope to offer eggs and milk soon and are looking at the possibility of cooked dishes somewhere down the line.

-Dan Kaczmariski
Photos by *Melissa Distel*



944 Brookline Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412-343-2012

Hours: Monday to Friday 9:30 AM to 7:30 PM
Saturday and Sunday 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM
EBT payments to be accepted soon



Letter from the Editor

We are writing this during the July heat wave. Since we don't have air conditioning, we move at a snail's pace and spend a lot of time meditating rather than moving. The cake we were going to bake doesn't get made because we are NOT turning on the oven. A slow walk to **Party Cake** or **Kribel's** will provide dessert. Our Sunday Trash Walk took longer because we moved slower. We adjusted; we adapted to living in 90+ degree temperatures. People all over the country, the world, have to adapt to a change in their environment. Our heat wave is temporary. The cake will get made - just not this week.

The Boulevard construction is temporary, too. On the rare occasion that we drive to the Boulevard, we end up parking a block or more from our destination, but it's temporary. Our morning walk around the Boulevard has been rerouted due to construction on the residential side, but it's temporary. We come home from our walk covered with a fine layer of grit raised from the equipment excavating the area, but it's temporary. In March, we envisioned a nightmare. Six months later, after 15 years of waiting, we are beginning to see a dream come true .

Attitude is everything. We were on the 39 bus and heard a man countering the negative comments from a fellow rider.

- "Parking is impossible." "You can park at the garage in **Mazza Pavilion**."
- "It's so dirty up on the Boulevard." "Yes, but it is going to look great when it's done."

When you support a cause, whether your support is active or passive, you contribute to the optimism that fuels all affirmative change. Optimistic thoughts energize people, giving them hope and inspiring them to work diligently on behalf of what they believe in. Being for something creates a positive shift in the universe, which means that neither you nor those who share your vision will have any trouble believing that transformation on a grand scale is indeed possible. To be against something is typically easy, as you need only speak out in opposition to it. ([DailyOm June 7, 2013](#))

Brookline is on the cusp of change. We need all the residents to be a part of what Brookline can be. It's not just about new sidewalks. It's about where Brookline's future lies. You can be positive and offer support. Or, you can be the Negative Nelly who gripes, but chooses not to participate. It IS a choice, your choice. Choose wisely!

*****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

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Jan Beiler Proofreader/Advertising
Amy Fisher Proofreader
Julie Salas Proofreader
Jennifer Askey Proofreader
Ryan Askey Proofreader
Dan Kaczmarek Proofreader
Erika Hough 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.

DEADLINES:

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

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.

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SUSTAINING FRIENDS

Our bank balance will last one year at our current print quantity. **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 June 2013:

- Cannon Coffee - \$189.52
- Kribel's Bakery - \$1,225.15 ★★ ★
- A Boss - \$111.09
- Hideaway Mini Mart - \$138.78
- 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 mp.grabowski@verizon.net. Please put "Crime Report" in the subject line.

JUNE

<u>CRIMES ZONE 6</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Brookline</u>
Aggravated Assault	9	1
Arson	2	0
Robbery	3	0
Burglary	20	5
Theft	41	8
Theft from Vehicle	13	3
Stolen Vehicle	5	2



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; (One hot & one cold) for a donation of \$5.00 per day

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



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AUGUST 6



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



2A Castlegate to Wedgemere: The drainage is 75% done, power will be finished the third week of July and curbs will begin to go in. Mid July, the contractors will move down from Castlegate to Flatbush.

1B Stebbins to Queensboro (business side): Vault doors have been shipped. Most of the sidewalks are done and all of the tree boxes are in. The barriers will be removed the first week of August. Memorial Park (Cannon Park) is slated to begin the week of July 22.

Pioneer and Brookline Boulevard: Plans on how to direct traffic during construction have been on the table for a few weeks. Trying to keep **MJ Automotive** open and making sure traffic is directed so contractors can do their job and you can safely get to where you're going.

Tracks under street: The milling and paving may not be in play right now, but all involved are talking about what is best to do when the time arrives to start this part of the project.

The contractors have been working four 10-hour days, now you will see them five days a week. Their hours have changed to five 8-hour days. Why you ask? Well, the heat has been an issue.

So, you want to see what the Boulevard will look like when finished? A map is set up in the window of **Cannon Coffee** for all to examine. If you have any questions, just look at the map. Benches, trees, bump outs, etc. are marked.

A reminder to the businesses and residents on Brookline Boulevard - as we may know when new concrete is laid NO salt can be used. This winter, remember not to salt. It will damage the sidewalks.

-Lois McCafferty



SENATOR WAYNE FONTANA

If you have never attended FontanaFest before, then what are you waiting for? Mark your calendars now and plan to join me on Saturday, September 7, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at South Side's Riverfront Park (bottom of 18th Street at the river) for the 9th Annual event! Best of all, it's FREE!

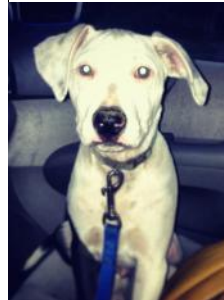
I began this event shortly after my election as a way to celebrate our rivers and riverfront parks and to highlight all the things that children and families can do on and near the rivers, and in our region, as a family. Thanks to the Pittsburgh Water Limo, FontanaFest will include boat rides on our three rivers between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. You can also visit with the PA Fish & Boat Commission and take a canoe or kayak out on the Monongahela. Games and inflatables will be available for kids and free food and drink will be provided.

These are just a few highlights of the family-friendly event. Several participating organizations in attendance will have an activity geared towards children as part of the day's festivities. Come out and see what these wonderful organizations in our community have to offer. You can get updates on the day's events and schedules by logging onto www.fontanafest.com. I hope to see you there!

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 and the 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 crafts vendors and much more. Vendor applications can be found at Cannon Coffee and A-Boss Optician.. Look for more information in next month's issue or email Blvdbreezefest@hotmail.com

ROCKLIN NEEDS A HOME



Rocklin is a four-month-old pit bull mix looking for a home. He is a Fur Kid Rescue currently being fostered by **Amanda Kutschbach**. If you read our profile of Amanda in the July issue, you know that Rocklin is successfully living with a lab, two mastiffs, two cats and three kids. If you can give Rocklin a home, contact Fur Kid Rescue online at www.furkidrescue.org.



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



AUGUST BOOK DISCUSSIONS AT CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF BROOKLINE

Wednesday, August 14 at 1:00PM *The Murder Room* by Michael Capuzzo

Monday, August 19 at 6:00PM *The Historian* by Elizabeth Kostova

Book Buzz At Cannon Coffee

Thursday, August 22 at 6:00PM *Super Sad True Love Story* by Gary Shteyngart



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 Room and Fitness Center for city residents only.



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!

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.



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. 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.



ROVING ART CART BROOKLINE RECREATION CENTER AUGUST 1 10:00AM to 1:00PM






Every Wednesday Carnegie Library at the Recreation Center for Story time and Craft from 12:00PM to 1:00PM



OPEN MIC IN BROOKLINE PARK AUGUST 7 7:00PM to 9:00PM



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Heritage Players Community Theater



August 3 and 4 at 7:00 PM

Auditions for "Oliver!" at the Schoolhouse Arts Center, 2nd floor, 2600 South Park Road, Bethel Park. Seeking actors/actresses ages 10 and up. Prepare a song of your choice. Cold readings from the script. Performances October 11-13 and 18-20 at the **Seton Center**, 1900 Pioneer Avenue, Brookline. For more information visit www.heritageplayers.org or call 412-254-4633.

August 14 and 15 at 7:00 PM

"Summer Broadway Revue" featuring music from beloved musicals old and new at the Castle Shannon Municipal Center, 3310 McRoberts Road, Castle Shannon. Admission: \$5.00. For more information call 412-254-4633 or visit www.heritageplayers.org.

August 2013

Offering fall classes in acting, dance, and musical theater. Visit www.heritageplayers.org for course listings and descriptions and online registration.

In all affairs it's a healthy thing now and then to hang a question mark on the things you have long taken for granted.

-Bertrand Russell

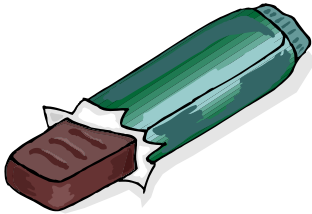
READER RESPONSE

I just would like to share my excitement as far as your newsletter that I ran across on my daughter's table that lives in Brookline when I seen my granddaughter's picture in the "What's Going On At Pittsburgh West Liberty K-5?" On page 12, in Issue 60, she's the second student from the left. Her name is **Tylah Jones**. When I seen her in this newsletter I just smiled and cried at the day that I came to the event from the first time and how I finally got to meet Mike Tomlin for the very first time (I call him my Husband) although I am happy married. This was a great chance for me to blend in with people from different areas. I normally get nervous around a lot of people. But this day was perfect. The children was very professional and the ladies looked flawless as the gentlemen looked polished and everywhere I looked there was a smile on everyone's face that attended. I just want to share the beautiful time that I had at this wonderful event, and I hope that I can come to the next one as well. I am just a very proud grandmother, and thank you for reading this letter.

-Rochell Preston



CANDY BAR PRICE GOING UP



The sale of Sarris Candy as a fundraiser for the **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** in the past few years has been very successful. Recently, Sarris Candy, due to cost of cocoa beans, sugar and milk had to make a difficult decision: discontinue the fundraising program, increase the price or decrease the quality. So to keep the quality up they have increased the size to two ounces and the price to \$2.00.

Consider this when you see the price increase. The money is raised for a cause. The cause is **BROOKLINE COMMUNITY PROJECTS**. The cause is important, and we are asking our customers for a donation. The chocolate bar is a token of appreciation for the donation. So the profit is not going into a retailer's pocket, but into your community.

Sarris Candy can be purchased at **Party Cake Shop, Hair by Conroy, Salon Canova, Jo's Salon, A-Boss Opticians, Cannon Coffee and Community Bank**. The **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** wishes to thank all residents who support our fundraiser and also appreciates your support in shopping local.

-Linda Boss



Beach Treats Gifts

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1-412-561-2356








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TAKE THE LITTER QUIZ

The following appeared in Boris Weinstein's *Shadyside Newslitter*[™] in July 2013. We thought it would make a good quiz. Which one are you?

ACTIVE OR PASSIVE LITTERERS

There are two kinds of litterers.

_____ *Active litterers throw stuff out windows and drop stuff on streets, gutters, and grassy places.*

_____ *Passive litterers walk out their front door and refuse to bend to pick up litter that is on and around their property.*

ACTIVE OR PASSIVE ANTI-LITTERERS

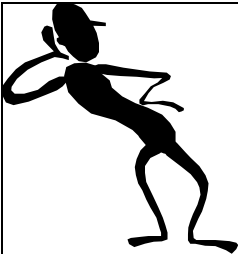
There are two kinds of anti-litterers.

_____ *Active anti-litterers pick up litter regularly.*

_____ *Passive anti-litterers talk, talk, talk about how disgusting litter is, but don't pick up a piece of paper.*

How did you do? Are you active or passive? Are you participating in cleaning up Brookline or passively supporting litter in our community?

-Pamela Grabowski



RUMOR BUSTING

Rumor: Streetlights have been delayed

False: A portion of the streetlights are being shipped as I write this. The manager (Fred) of this project will be there to inspect the streetlights as they come in.

Rumor: Loading zone 15 minutes. We cannot park at the 15 minute loading zone at the post office.

False: The 15 minute loading zone is there for you to run in to the post office. Remember it is only 15 minutes. You are not permitted to park there and stay; that's why it states 15 minutes.

-Lois McCafferty

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 August 20. We will announce the August winner in the September newsletter. **JULY CONTEST WINNER WAS LYNN WEIHAUS**

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

ONE ENTRY PER PERSON

ONE ENTRY PER PERSON

COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS MONTH

August 10 Saturday

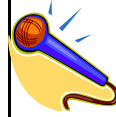
Brookline Breeze Festivities begin at 8:00AM. See page 10 for more information.

AUGUST BLOCK WATCH MEETING IS CANCELLED!



FLEA MARKET/CRAFT SHOW

There will be an open flea market/craft show from 8:00am - 2:00pm at Brookline Park on Saturday, August 3. Free spots available. Bring your own table.



OPEN MIC SERIES

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



CVS accepts food donations for the Brookline Christian Food Pantry



BACKPACK PROGRAM

Saturday, August 17

The Salvation Army

1060 McNeilly Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15226
This PROGRAM is offered to children living in the South Hills from Mt. Washington to Library

Please Call Mary Anne McFeely,
Social Service Director,
at 412-207-2127 ext 101 to apply

Deadline is August 9

Free back to school haircuts available

This event is sponsored by South Hills Beauty Academy, The Salvation Army Pittsburgh Temple & its Advisory Council.



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.



CAR CRUISE FRIDAY, AUGUST 9 5:00PM to Dusk

Bring your classic vehicle for a night of fun with friends and neighbors. Enjoy music, refreshments and awards.
PORKY CHEDWICK IS COMING!!



MOVIES IN THE PARK

Brookline Memorial Park
Oakdale Street
Movies start at dusk



8/1 Paranorman (PG)

8/8 Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG)

8/15 Jumanji (PG)

8/22 Jack The Giant Slayer (PG-13)
KD Kids will set up before the movie

8/29 Chimpanzee (G)

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Try Isis Café for Egyptian food.

Photo by **Melissa Distel**

After August 1, while our Brookline store is behind the barrier, we will offer a delivery service on orders above \$25.00 to a limited delivery area. Please contact the store for details.

Paczki will be available August 6 thru September 7



PARTY CAKE SHOP

E-Mail: partycake1@yahoo.com • www.partycakeshop.com

706 Brookline Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412-531-5322

297 Beverly Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15216
412-343-0101



Register online at www.brooklinebreeze.com or stop by the **Recreation Center** for a paper application. Registrations will be accepted up to 1/2 hour before the race. The Roving Art Cart will be on site as well as live music by "The Wurms." Refreshments will be provided and all event participants can register for the post-race raffle with \$1000 in prizes available. The Breeze is a Brookline tradition that celebrates fitness and healthy living for young and old alike. Come join us at the **32nd Annual Brookline Breeze 5K Run and Fitness Walk**. Remember that the event also includes a One-mile Mini-Breeze and One-Mile Dog Walk. Come to **Brookline Park** the morning of Saturday, August 10, 2013. The Mini-Breeze and Dog Walk start at 8:35am. The 5K Run/Walk begins at 9:00am.

-Clint Burton



Cub Scout Pack 601 annual sign-up night will be held on Tuesday, September 3 at 7:00 pm in **Fr. Quinn Hall at Resurrection Church**. The program is designed for boys that are in first through fifth grades. For more details about Pack 601, please visit our website: <https://sites.google.com/site/pack601brookline2/home>.

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
- **OPEN YOUR HEART TO A SENIOR** Volunteers needed to assist senior citizens. Call Family Services at 412-661-1670.

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.

6/9 12 supermarket size bags of trash from the Boulevard from Pioneer to Queensboro

6/23 17 supermarket size bags of trash from the Boulevard from Pioneer to Queensboro and 7 cents



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

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

Norwich Ave. - Michael & Pamela Grabowski

900 Woodbourne Ave. - Diane Walkowski & Mary Anne Miller

6/10 **Diane:** A grocery bag of trash + a full blue bag. Found 3 cents, got a friendly beep and an exuberant thank you from another neighbor

6/17 **Mary Anne:** Less than a kitchen bag of trash

6/24 **Diane:** Picked up very little trash bag mostly broken glass + a full blue bag

600 Mayville - Peg Sherwood & Mac

500 Berkshire - Sarah McCalla

900 to 1100 Berkshire - Fred & Linda Smith Family

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

Plainview Ave. from Jillson to Capital - Jim Sheppard

Merrick Ave. bet Eben St. & Brookline Blvd. - Eileen Papale

800 Fordham Ave. - Erika Hough

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

6/11 Four grocery bags of litter



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

Summer Vacation



REPRESENTATIVE ERIN MOLCHANY

Early summer is a busy time in Harrisburg. With a deadline to pass the state budget by June 30 of each year set by the state Constitution, the whole month is busy with deliberations, meetings, and very important votes. Some of the budget passed on time. The rest was passed in late July.

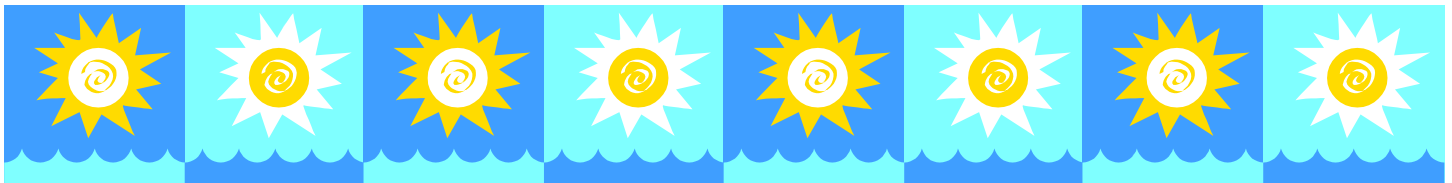
The significance of the budget cannot be understated. The decisions made through a final budget affect every aspect of our lives as Pennsylvanians. The votes that we take as legislators regarding the budget reflect the vision we believe in for Pennsylvania. I voted against this budget because it is full of the wrong priorities and hurts people in my district as well as millions of Pennsylvanians across our commonwealth. (You can watch my comments online at pahouse.com/Molchany.)

Despite incredibly minor increases to funding for certain programs, the overall budget fails to restore \$1 billion in previous cuts that leave our schools struggling; furloughing teachers, increasing class size, and closing schools—possibly as many as 12 in the Pittsburgh Public School district. I am deeply concerned that sustained underfunding of other programs will leave our seniors, the disabled community, and underprivileged children out in the cold.

The legislature had the opportunity to pass Medicaid expansion in the state and rejected it. Not only would that have secured \$37 billion of Pennsylvania taxpayer money from the Federal government over 10 years, but it would have insured over 700,000 additional people and created 41,000 new jobs.

The legislature also had the opportunity to pass a \$2.5 billion sustainable, comprehensive transportation bill. Although it passed the Senate with bipartisan support, it was gutted in the House. Nearly 60% of the money for public transit was stripped from the legislation and sustainable funding streams were replaced with short-term, band-aid fixes. It never came up for a vote, but you can be assured that I will only vote for a transportation bill that provides sustainable funding.

The legislature is in recess for the rest of the summer. I look forward to seeing all of you at community events and meetings. As always, if there is anything you need regarding state issues, please reach out to my office on Brookline Boulevard. Our phone number is 412.343.2094.



Jennifer Grab speaking at the June meeting.

BRANDING BROOKLINE

Have you been part of the conversation about Brookline? It started at **St. Mark's** on June 19, then continued on July 25. It's not too late to join in. Go to <http://www.ourbrookline.com/>. Set up your account then join in the conversation with your neighbors about what you want to see in Brookline. What's missing in Brookline? What is Brookline's current identity? What are Brookline's future challenges? Your neighbors have been responding to these questions.

Isn't it time that you joined the conversation? The results will be used to help shape the future of Brookline. The next meeting will be Thursday, September 12 at 7:00pm at **St. Mark's Lutheran Church** at the corner of Glenarm Avneue and Brookline Boulevard. In the meantime, get online and start talking. We need the entire community to be part of the discussion.

-Pamela Grabowski

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COUNCILWOMAN NATALIA RUDIAK

In May, my office received a call from a Brookliner about cars zooming past his house on Brookline Boulevard, past The Cannon and along the park, all the way down towards Jacob Street. With several children who like to ride their bikes and play in the park, he was concerned by the uptick in speeding happening right in front of him and his family. This call was just one out of many, many stories we've heard from all over District 4. The truth is that we have a problem in the City with our roads, and the recent pattern of pedestrian and bicyclist injuries and deaths is becoming clearer and clearer.

On July 3, I was joined by a group of senior citizens and representatives from various District 4 community groups, including the **South Pittsburgh Development Corporation**, for a press conference about traffic violence and the need for safe streets. It was an unprecedented show of unity around one issue, bringing together young and old, bicyclist, driver, and pedestrian, and residents from all over District 4 to show that we have a common concern and a collective goal: we need to make our streets safe for everyone. To do this, we need to work toward a model of what's called "complete streets," which is made up of the "three E's": engineering, education, and enforcement.

Engineering means that we need to design our infrastructure in a better way for all of us--drivers, motorcyclists, bicyclists, transit riders, children, adults, senior citizens, people who get around with a wheelchair or a walker--everybody. In Miami, artists are being commissioned to design crazy, cool, colorful crosswalks that grab the attention of drivers. In Lincoln, Nebraska, separated bike lanes are being installed so that drivers and cyclists are no longer jockeying for control of one shared road. Other cities like Lafayette, California or Hoboken, New Jersey are providing information and signage toolkits to residents who want to take control of their blocks and post their own "SLOW" signs or other temporary devices. We can and should be doing this here in Pittsburgh.

To find a complete streets-influenced project in Pittsburgh, we don't have to look farther than Brookline Boulevard. The long-awaited reconstruction will include bump-outs at street corners to improve visibility and allow folks to cross the street more easily, improved crosswalks, bicycle racks, benches, street lighting, and landscaping that actually can have a psychological effect on drivers, slowing down their speeds. A safe, attractive streetscape also means an economically strong neighborhood--a place where people want to eat, play, and live, and where businesses want to set up shop.

When's the last time you took a driver's test? For many of us, it's been years and years. In that time, some laws have changed or been added. For example, did you know that it is now state law that automobiles must keep a four-foot distance from bicycles on the road at all times? Education is the second component of a complete streets plan, encouraging people to be aware of their habits on the road and to be familiar with the laws--whether it's blowing through stop signs, texting while driving, or disobeying speed limits. Our laws are only as good as the enforcement behind them. And though we'll never be able to have a police officer on every corner, we can work to find ways to maximize our efforts, to have officers patrol key points at key times, to enforce the laws equally to drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians, and to keep open the lines of communication.

We're asking you to be a part of this solution. I'm excited to say that Economic Development South is forging ahead with a bike/pedestrian committee made up of volunteers who want to make our streets safer in South Pittsburgh. As fragile and precious as life is, making our streets safe is an utterly crucial task--as a representative from Bike Pittsburgh said, "It's easier to fix a road than a life." If you're interested in joining the bike/pedestrian committee, contact **Stephanie Miller** at 412-884-1400. As we push on, I look forward to working with you, with our neighborhoods, and with our next mayor to make sure our City streets are safe, thriving places.



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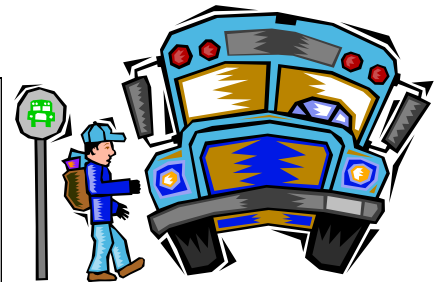
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It is that time of year again...



The

BACKPACK PROGRAM

Will take place on Saturday, August 17 at

The Salvation Army

1060 McNeilly Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15226

This PROGRAM is offered to children living in the South Hills

from Mt. Washington to Library

Please Call Mary Anne McFeely, Social Service Director,

at 412-207-2127 ext 101 to apply

Deadline is August 9

Free back to school haircuts available

This event is sponsored by South Hills Beauty Academy,

The Salvation Army Pittsburgh Temple & its Advisory Council.

