

BEACH TREATS GIFTS



Until 2012, **Peggy** and **Rick Lawrence** owned a business in Tidewater, VA, that was voted “best gift shop” in the area the previous three years. Last year, however, the couple decided it was time to move closer to family members in Pittsburgh in Mt. Washington and Brookline.

Thinking of leaving the store saddened them, so they decided to bring it with them. They stripped it to the walls, filled five U-Hauls, and transferred everything into a renovated Boulevard building across from the Cannon Memorial. This April, the Brookline edition of **Beach Treats Gifts** opened to the public.

The shop got its name not because it sells beach gear—though it does offer some decorative items with a marine-based theme—but because the sale of a beachfront property allowed the couple to leave behind their corporate careers

and go into business for themselves.

From the store’s attractive exterior, to the teal-themed interior, to the pleasing display of eye-catching merchandise, it’s apparent Peggy and Rick have good taste.

Inside, an eclectic variety of merchandise ranges from the ornamental, to the decoratively functional, to the collectible. But the couple’s business vision is to be more than just a clearinghouse for nice items. “Anyone can sell what we sell,” says Peggy, “but no one else can provide the same personalized service.”

It’s obvious they derive a real joy from meeting people and learning their needs. The storefront is just the most visible aspect of what Peggy describes as a triangle of services. The other two sides of the triangle are the handling of special events and what the couple calls “corporate solutions.”

A growing part of their business involves working with customers’ events to provide those artistic touches that make weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and other occasions even more special—such as favors, centerpieces, and gift bags.

They define corporate solutions as helping organizations--both commercial and not-for-profit--present a personal face to clients and members. “Various groups ask us to do things on their behalf,” says Peggy, “such as making baskets and favors, and choosing and sending gifts.”

One item that works well anywhere in the triangle is the gift basket. “All of our baskets are fully customized and hand-done, with hand-made ribbons,” says Peggy. “The items are chosen with loving care—either by us or the customer, or we recommend to the customer and work together. The front of each basket can be personalized, whether it’s a business name and logo, a meeting theme, a wedding or anniversary, or someone giving a birthday basket.”

Personalization is important for the couple. “If someone comes in and says ‘I’m just shopping’, that’s cool,” says Rick. “But if they’re interested in talking, we love talking with them. We always have out cookies and coffee.”

Each month, they host a thank-you at the store for customers and their guests. So far this year, they’ve celebrated “welcome to summer” with food and beverages, an ice cream social, and a football tailgate kickoff with homemade chili.

Peggy and Rick live in Brookline and are eager to immerse themselves even more in the area. For instance, says Rick, “Peggy works with the PTAs and schools and I work the business side, such as the **Chamber of Commerce**.”

“We want to do whatever it is we can do,” seconds Peggy. “We love this community.”

-Dan Kaczmariski

-Photo courtesy of *Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak’s* office



Letter from the Editor

September this year heralds the arrival of fall and the last few months of Boulevard Reconstruction. It has been a long, dirty, disruptive summer on the Boulevard, but the results are rewarding.

Unfortunately, rumors and complaints continue. In August, the rumor was **Moonlite Café** was closing down. Not true. They closed the dining room. They continue to serve food in the non-smoking bar with a new menu. Change is part of life and part of business. The change we do not want to see are businesses leaving Brookline. **SHOP LOCAL! DON'T WAIT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION TO BE COMPLETED.**

As for the complaints, most of the complaints we have heard are about the bump outs and fewer parking spots. Read **Lois McCafferty's** article on the next page. In fact, we only lost about six spots from Pioneer to Starkamp. There were many meetings before construction ever started to address concerns about parking and what the residents wanted. Initially, the plans called for parallel parking on the business side. Residents didn't want that so the plans were redrawn to leave the angle parking. As a result, there will be only one lane of traffic on the business side. Current codes require a designated lane for cars to safely pull out of an angled parking spot. Two lanes of traffic and parallel parking, or one lane of traffic and angled parking. Residents who attended the meetings made the choice. People have said that when they go to the mall and have to walk from a parking spot at least they don't have to pay to park. Well, you can park on a side street and walk to the Boulevard and you won't pay to park either.

Brookline is a walkable community. That is one of the reasons people give for moving to Brookline. It is part of our brand. There have been meetings since June about branding the Boulevard looking at the future identity and vision of Brookline Boulevard. There is one more meeting on September 12 (see page 9). People have been giving their ideas about what they want to see in Brookline from a walking/running track around Brookline Park to a craft store and a cultural center. The people who have attended these meetings will be determining the future of Brookline.

If you did not attend the reconstruction meetings and are now unhappy with what you see, we suggest you show up on September 12. We all need to participate now, not complain later.

****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

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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:

September 12 for October's Issue
October 12 for November'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

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 July 2013:

- Cannon Coffee - \$189.52
- Kribel's Bakery - \$1,256.15 ★★ ★
- A Boss - \$112.09
- Hideaway Mini Mart - \$152.49
- 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.

JULY

CRIMES ZONE 6

	Total	Brookline
Homicide	1	0
Aggravated Assault	5	2
Robbery	7	0
Burglary	16	2
Theft	28	7
Theft from Vehicle	10	2
Stolen Vehicle	11	4
Criminal Mischief	12	3



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COMMUNITY CONTACTS

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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



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Cannon Memorial Park on the Brookline Boulevard and Queensboro side has been started; this area will take about 3 weeks.

Pioneer and Brookline Boulevard: This area next to **CVS** has begun and will be finished before school opens. When this area is finished, the project will move across the street to **MJ Automotive**.

The next two parts of the construction will be **Wedgemere to Pioneer** (residential side) and **Castlegate to Flatbush** (business side). These parts should start in the second or third

week of August.

A map of the finished Brookline Boulevard has been set up in **Cannon Coffee's** window for all to look at. If you have any questions, just look at the map. Benches, trees, bump outs, etc., are marked.

Bump outs: I have heard from many of you that bump outs have taken too many parking spaces. The bump outs at Flatbush and Glenarm are at the crossing lights, if you think back, there were never any parking spots at the traffic lights - people just pulled in and made a parking space. Brookline Boulevard is a shared business district for walkers, drivers and cyclists. The bump outs are a safer outlet for walkers, kids and elderly. So how many spaces have we lost? We have lost about 12 to 14 parking spaces, but gained about six to eight parking spaces in areas where we didn't have parking before. At **Memorial Park (Cannon Park)** we will gain parking spots next to the park on Brookline Boulevard side of the park. There were no legal parking spaces there before. On the business side there will be marked lines for parking. On the residential side of the Boulevard, there will be no parking lines. That will make the whole residential side parking. Don't forget we do have a parking garage as well.

Here is a thought: When you drive to a mall or another neighborhood, there are no personal parking spots. You take the best or first space available and walk. There were many Boulevard construction meetings where everyone was invited. The meetings were designed to solicit your input on the plans for this construction before it started. The construction started months ago and your input now is a little too late. In the future, when you're invited or hear about a meeting concerning Brookline, make it a point to attend.

-Lois McCafferty



SENATOR WAYNE FONTANA

With summer vacation travel in full swing and students throughout the state returning to school at month's end, hundreds of thousands of travelers will be utilizing Pennsylvania roadways. Residents and visitors alike deserve a safe and reliable transportation infrastructure system. We have a responsibility to prevent a catastrophic event from occurring, which is why a comprehensive transportation funding plan must be the priority when the Legislature returns to session this fall. Improvements to transportation infrastructure is an issue, where we can all agree, that needs to be addressed and allowing politics to get in the way of a sustainable transportation funding proposal is completely unacceptable.

The Pennsylvania Senate passed Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) with overwhelming bi-partisan support. However, several members of the majority in the House felt that the need for a significant allocation for public transportation was unnecessary. With so many residents relying on what's left of limited mass transit services for everyday activities like getting to and from work, the grocery store or doctor appointments, how can we leave this essential means of transportation out of a funding package?

As elected officials, we have a responsibility to provide residents with services to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people. In July, a Senate Transportation Committee hearing took place where the Secretary of Transportation announced that over the next several weeks, new weight restrictions will be placed on thousands of state and locally owned bridges across Pennsylvania to guarantee safety. In Allegheny County, 43 restrictions will be put in place on "structurally deficient" bridges resulting in longer commute times for residents due to these limitations. As a consequence, children will be riding buses even longer to get to and from school and emergency services could be received in a less efficient manner.

Secretary Schoch also stated that not passing a comprehensive transportation funding plan will have a significant economic impact on our state that will be felt for many months to come. For example, these weight restrictions will put Pennsylvania at a competitive disadvantage with other states because many trucks will be forced to choose an alternative route on our already burdensome roadways due to these weight limits. These vehicles may also not be able to carry the maximum quantity of product or material, thus making the commute not as profitable for both the trucking company and the business that will be receiving the product. This will result in creating additional demands for goods and services throughout the state.

Spin-off industries will also be negatively impacted by the trickledown effect with Pennsylvania's inability to pass a transportation plan. Industries that create road and bridge material as well as the money people such as construction workers would spend from their paychecks for everyday needs at the local grocery store, restaurants or other services like haircuts and car maintenance will be scaled back and not invested into local economies.

According to an analysis conducted by the American Roads and Transportation Builders Association, Pennsylvania could lose nearly \$1.25 billion annually in economic activity and almost 9,600 people would be unemployed if significant funding is not allocated towards a transportation plan. Furthermore, the Association cites that nearly 2,500 jobs in retail, administrative and health care industries could be at risk.

It's been two years now since the Transportation Funding Advisory Commission recommended raising \$2.5 billion for our aging bridges, miles of unsafe roadways and underfunded public transportation system. Passing a comprehensive transportation funding plan is not only essential for a safe and reliable means to travel throughout the state, but also an economic driver for so many industries located in the Commonwealth.

At a time where we are trying to rebuild our local market base, a new infusion of money will go directly back to our residents in the form of employment, improved access to goods and services and, most importantly, safe and reliable transportation systems. In the meantime, more and more essential services and the means to get to these places are quickly being cut or eliminated. Add to that the nearly \$9.4 billion annually it is costing our state's taxpayers in operating costs, congestion delays and traffic accidents. It's just too costly and irresponsible to continue to sit back and allow our transportation infrastructure to continue to crumble before our eyes.

SEPTEMBER BOOK DISCUSSIONS AT CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF BROOKLINE

Wednesday, September 11 at 1:00PM *The Secret Adversary* by Agatha Christie

Monday, September 16 at 6:00PM *Love and Other Impossible Pursuits* by Ayelet Waldman



Carnegie Library Book Buzz At Cannon Coffee
Thursday, September 26 at 6:00PM *The Year of Living Biblically*
by A J Jacobs



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 9:00am-9:00pm; Tue, Thu 1:00pm-9:00pm; Sat 8:00am-4:00pm. 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!



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

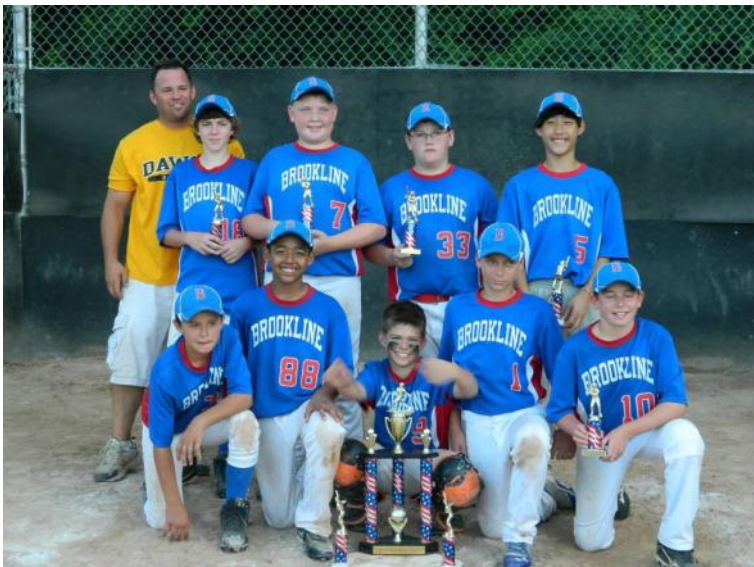
LABOR DAY SEPTEMBER 2

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.**

LITTLE LEAGUE ALL STARS 2013



Photos from *Matt Pilewski*



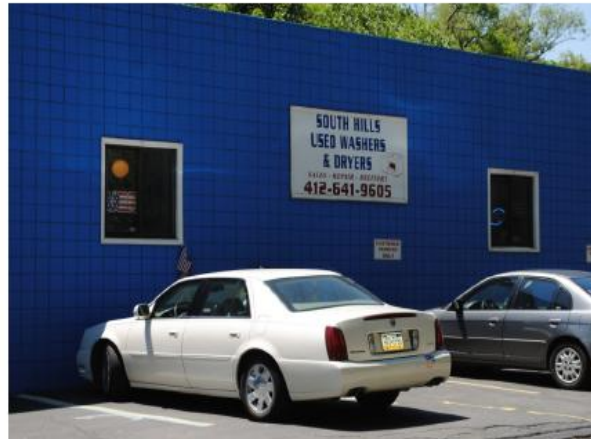


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Joanne's Corner

August 3, 2013 was expected to be a warm, sunny happy day in Brookline, but before it ended it was a cold, bleak sad day. Before it ended two of our born and raised in Brookline young men were gone. Both **Zack Sheridan** and **Paul King** died under tragic circumstances. Parents **Dee and Jim Sheridan**, and **Bernice and Jim King** are devastated and asking WHY MY SON? I don't have an answer for that, but it has to stop so that our children can live out their happy fully expected lives. God Bless!



On a happier note, Brookline children who were fortunate enough to live their lives in the '40s and '50s will be attending their 23rd Annual Picnic on Sunday, September 15, 2013 at South Park Home Economics Building from 1:00PM until ?. Come and see your old school pals. Information at 412-854-4812.



-Joanne Fantoni

FREE FREE FREE
RESURRECTION GARAGE SALE

Saturday September 14
Sunday September 15
10:00AM to 2:00PM
ALL ITEMS FREE



LITTER - 4 WAYS

Like most cities, Pittsburgh has litter problems. It comes in four ways:

- Everyday litter;
- Illegal dumpsites;
- Street front businesses that don't sweep sidewalks and gutters regularly;
- Homeowners/renters and building owners who break the law with overflowing, uncovered and insufficient garbage and waste containers.

What should be done about our litter problems?

The time has come for Pittsburgh to push beyond neighborhood Redd Ups. This is a challenge for our next mayor to start a whole new initiative -- not just tweak a hand-me-down version from Mayors Ravenstahl and O'Connor.

Our next mayor needs to make Zero Litter, with an emphasis on "enforcement," his priority. Pittsburgh needs an all-out fresh effort to dig out the roots of our litter problems. Please, though, not city-wide at first. Too much. Too fast. It won't work.

Start in one or a few neighborhoods with a focused, affordable one-year program that brings together a committed mayor who directs his staff, Public Works, Bureau of Building Inspection, Public Safety, Urban Renewal Authority, Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority, City Council, magistrates and concerned others to strictly enforce ordinances, enact new ordinances as needed, issue warnings, write citations and collect fines.

A well-managed test of Zero Litter would work, providing there is a no-nonsense strategy of goals, studies, and best methods that holds agencies accountable, encourages neighborhood participation and provides for ongoing outside oversight. The key is commitment: The next mayor must make Zero Litter enforcement a top priority.

Support for Zero Litter

Referring to opinion piece in the *Post-Gazette* [The article above appeared in the *Post-Gazette*], Cano Cornus writes in:
"Great words Mr. Weinstein!

As someone who is deeply involved with the Redd Up program, I have to say, I would welcome any kind of increased positive, pro-active involvement by the city. They do a great job providing DPW (Public Works) haul-off services but litter is the end-product of a process and it is by treating the process, not the end product, that we get good 'bang for the buck.'

If there is one place the city could really help, it is dealing with the dreaded ABSENTEE LANDLORD.

These individuals are quite well-heeled, and come from the nicest Fox Chapel and Bethel Park neighborhoods. I don't believe for one minute these individuals would allow properties in their community to exist in the deteriorated condition of their lots and structures in the city.

Individuals who allow vacant lots or buildings they own to fall into disrepair or become trash-strewn need to be forced to either step up to take care of their property or else partner with the city/county/etc., perhaps allowing access to the property and making a donation to its maintenance rather than pay a fine.

This may involve holding people's foot to the fire, as it were, but these are the individuals who have the resources to make positive changes on their property, but choose not to. I don't think it will be very challenging to sort out the poor and elderly who own dilapidated properties because they have no choice, and the LLCs with anonymous names who hold dilapidated properties because they want to sell the land and pass the demo and rehab expenses onto the next owner.

Likewise, landlords who have their handymen come to do work on rental properties need to be held accountable for their handymen. Too frequently, they are from out of the area, and think that a local vacant lot is an ideal dumping site for brush or construction waste. If there is no accountability for this, the practice will never stop.

I think if we prioritize our effort -- targeting dumping by commercial actors and absentee landlords who are able but unwilling to maintain their properties -- we can lick the majority of the problem in a very short time. These individuals produce a vastly disproportionate amount of urban blight AND they have the resources to make pursuing them remunerative.

As someone else taking part in the fight, thank you again for all your efforts, Mr. Weinstein! Each of us does our little part, but together, I think we can make ZERO LITTER PITTSBURGH a reality."

-Boris Weinstein, Shadyside Newslitter™ July 2013

Read Brookline resident **Richard Lord's** article "My summer of hitting the bottles" in the Post-Gazette Saturday Diary feature on August 11, 2013. (<http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/opinion/perspectives/saturday-diary-my-summer-of-hitting-the-bottles-696160/>).



Rick & Peggy Lawrence

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DORMONT AARP

Dormont AARP will meet on Thursday, September 12 at 12 noon at Dormont Presbyterian Church, Espy & Potomac Avenues. After the meeting, a covered dish lunch, donated by attending members, will be served. If you have not signed up and plan to attend this event, contact Angelo at 412-885-5474 for more information.

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



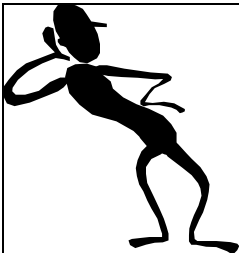
VINNIE'S PRETZEL SHOPPE

SORRY YOU HAD TO GO. WE WILL MISS YOU.



Due to a family illness, **Michael Vona** has had to close his pretzel shop on the Boulevard. "I always liked Mike, and I thought it was cool to have pretzels available at my doorstep. They were great on beer nights as a snack. He always supported **SPDC** events with enthusiasm and friendliness." said **Keith Knecht**. We agree Keith.

-The Brookline



RUMOR BUSTING

Rumor: The last issue of the Brookline News said: Streetlights have been delayed. This was reported to be **False:** A portion of the streetlights are being shipped as I write this.

At the July 30 update meeting, we were informed that the streetlights have not been shipped. This means that this rumor is true. MFC is working on getting a shipping date from the Company.

-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 September 20. We will announce the September winner in the October newsletter. **AUGUST CONTEST WINNER WAS HOLLY CARDILLO**

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

ONE ENTRY PER PERSON

ONE ENTRY PER PERSON

COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS MONTH

September 9 Monday

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

September 10 Tuesday

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

September 12 Wednesday

Branding the Boulevard 7:00PM at St. Mark's Church at the corner of Glenarm Avenue & Brookline Boulevard

September 15 Sunday

23rd Annual Fifties Picnic 1:00PM until ? at South Park Home Economics Building. Information at 412-854-4812.

September 16 Monday

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

September 21 Saturday

Autumn Breeze-Fest 10:00AM to 4:00PM Brookline Boulevard

CAR CRUISE
FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 20
5:00PM to Dusk
Bring your classic



vehicle for a night of fun with friends and neighbors. Enjoy music, refreshments and awards.



The Heritage Players are offering classes in theater, acting, and dance for all ages at the **Seton Center** 1900 Pioneer Avenue. Classes begin

September 13. For course descriptions and online registration visit www.heritageplayers.org or call 412-254-4633.

Summer Talent Showcase: a lively evening of music, dance, and more! Saturday, September 14 at 7:00 PM at the **Seton Center** 1900 Pioneer Avenue. Admission is \$5.00 at the door. Box office opens one half hour before curtain. For more information visit www.heritageplayers.org or call 412-254-4633.

Coming in October: Lionel Bart's musical, "Oliver!" Visit www.heritageplayers.org for upcoming details or call 412-254-4633.

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

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

CVS accepts food donations for the Brookline Christian Food Pantry

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>.

FINAL MEETING

The final public meeting about Brookline's future identity and the vision of Brookline Boulevard is Thursday, September 12 at 7:00PM at St Mark's Church located at 933 Brookline Boulevard.

Brookline Area Community Council (BACC) has decided to suspend general meetings until a later date, but will be supporting the **Halloween Parade** and **Brookline Light Up Night**. We look forward to seeing everyone on the Boulevard.

AUTUMN BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 22

CLASSIFIED AD
Three (3) burial plots in Mt. Lebanon Cemetery \$3,000. Call 412-531-0289

*There Is Never Any Reason To Settle
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Now is the time to buy or sell in order to
be in your new home for the holidays!*

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412-833-3600
412-343-5372
treitmeyer@howardhanna.com




South Hills and City of Pittsburgh specialist




BROOKLINE MEALS ON WHEELS
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Can't shop / No interest in cooking / Elderly*
Meals prepared on site in Brookline and
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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

At left: **Daree Salam** is no longer “behind the barrier” so stop in . Try cooking an African dish for your next meal.

-Photo by *Melissa Distel*

GET YOUR BENEFIT VERIFICATION LETTER ONLINE

Do you need a letter from Social Security verifying your benefits? The fastest, easiest, most convenient way to get a benefit verification letter these days is to go online to www.socialsecurity.gov.

You may need a benefit verification letter for a number of reasons. Perhaps you need proof of income for a loan or to verify your monthly income for housing, or state or local benefits. You may need proof of your current Medicare health insurance status. In some cases, a person may need proof of retirement status, disability status, or age. For any of these situations, a benefit verification letter will provide the proof you need.

Sometimes a benefit verification letter is called a budget letter, benefits letter, proof of income letter, or proof of award letter. Don't let the different titles confuse you; they are all the same thing: a benefit verification letter. Whatever the reason you need your benefit verification letter, you can get yours immediately online for free.

To get your benefit verification letter, simply visit us online at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount and set up a *my Social Security* account. To create an account, you must provide some personal information about yourself and give us answers to some questions that only you are likely to know. They are the same types of questions you would encounter if you were trying to open an online account at a financial institution or obtain your credit report.

Next, you create a unique username and password that you will use to access your online account. This process protects you and keeps your personal Social Security information private.

Once you've established your account, it will be simple for you to come back and transact business with Social Security in the future. For example, in addition to getting another benefit verification letter in the next year or two, you can check your benefit and payment information as well as your earnings record. You also can change your address, phone number, and direct deposit information.

So remember: there's no need to fight traffic and visit a busy government office in order to obtain proof of your benefits. Simply visit www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount and establish a *my Social Security* account so you can obtain your benefit verification letter online in a matter of minutes.

-*Patricia Thibault*
Social Security District Manager



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.

7/14 15 supermarket size bags of trash from the Boulevard from Pioneer to Queensboro and 15 cents

7/28 11 supermarket size bags of trash from the Boulevard from Pioneer to Queensboro

- The fenced off gravel areas on the Boulevard are NOT dog parks. If your dog uses it as one, clean it up.
- Planters are for plants, not beer bottles and cups. Even if the planter has weeds do not use it for trash.



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

7/7 1/4 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

7/1 **Mary Anne:** A blue bag and a half of bottles & cans. 1/4 bag of papers, cigs, and one flip flop

7/8 **Diane:** Monday evening collected less than half a kitchen garbage bag plus a blue bag. The take was light....maybe people are picking up with the weather being nice.

7/14 **Mary Anne:** Trash picked up on Woodbourne & Harex Way - half a kitchen bag of papers, one glass bottle, 2 plastic water bottles, and one can.

7/24 **Diane:** Last nite I picked up a grocery bag full of cig butts mostly and a few recyclables. I wish people would pick up their trash prior to running over it with the lawn mower! Also found 2 cents.

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

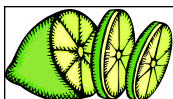
Waddington, Kenilworth & Pioneer bet. - Kim Sabol

Gallupe Drive - Tony Marcello, AST Roofing

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

6/11 Four grocery bags of litter

Rossmore at Flatbush & Glenarm & Oletha Alley bet. Flatbush & Glenarm - Zachary & Sarah Zelazny



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



REPRESENTATIVE ERIN MOLCHANY

Do you remember writing “How I spent my summer vacation” essays when you got back to school after the break? Well the General Assembly recess is no vacation, but not being in Harrisburg has given me a lot of opportunities to spend a lot of time visiting and talking to residents around the district!

Along with **Councilwoman Rudiak**, I have been visiting senior centers and assisted living communities throughout the South Hills doing a “Good Government Road Show.” In addition to providing constituent services such as rent rebates and transit cards, I discussed the impacts of the budget that the State Legislature passed in July. We talked about so many other important issues like Medicaid expansion, the lottery privatization scheme, and the transportation funding crisis.

I also have been talking with many of you at the countless fun-in-the-sun summer events happening around the district: from the Carrick and Overbrook Communities Against Crime event and Cornfest to National Night Out block parties in Mt Washington, Brookline and Beechview. I took a train trip - riding the T from end to end with representatives of Economic Development South to explore development possibilities along the route in Beechview, Overbrook, and Castle Shannon. I hosted my first annual Summer Shredfest at Caste Village in Whitehall to help residents safely, environmentally, and securely unclutter that unneeded paperwork in the house and around the office. In Brookline, I met with business owners at the **Chamber of Commerce** and worked to keep everyone up to date on the many construction projects improving our roads throughout the South hills.

Needless to say, it’s been a busy summer recess. And even though I’ll be going back to Harrisburg in September, you can still always reach out to me by phone and email. I try every week to schedule time for residents to meet with me at the office in Brookline. If you are interested, please call the office at 412-343-2094.

EACH OF US HAS A FIRE IN OUR HEARTS FOR SOMETHING. IT’S OUR GOAL IN LIFE TO FIND IT AND KEEP IT LIT.

-Mary Lou Retton, 5-Time Olympic Medalist, Gymnastics

THANK YOU

Catherine DelGreco of the **Resurrection Travel Club** wants to thank **Frank DeBor** and **St. Pius Church**. They are allowing the Travel Club to use their parking lots for their buses while the **Cannon Memorial** is under construction.

Leonard Stack wants us to acknowledge **Gordon’s Lounge**. Leonard is one of a group of residents who have been cleaning the litter on the sidewalk in the area near **Gordon’s**. Leonard would like to see more trash cans on the Boulevard, but in the meantime, **Gordon’s** has been accepting the trash his group has collected. This is the kind of cooperation that benefits everyone.

-Pamela Grabowski

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Brookline Area Community Council is proud to have been able to finance the remodel of the Bulletin Board outside of **CVS**. We hope all the Brookline groups and organizations will make full use of the two sides. Please submit two posters to the photo station inside **CVS**. We are thankful for **Kathy** and the staff of **CVS** for their assistance in this.

-Annette Ferrieri

Autumn Breeze-Fest
Saturday, September 21



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COUNCILWOMAN NATALIA RUDIAK

Coal and coal mining are a large part of Pittsburgh’s history, propelling our region to the forefront of industry for generations. First cropping up in the 1700s, coal mines were constructed all over South Pittsburgh in particular. In fact, what we know today as Mount Washington used to be called Coal Hill. By the beginning of the 19th century, coal became Pittsburgh’s primary fuel source. And because of the way that coal was traditionally extracted, in which long tunnels and tracks were dug deep into the ground, many of our neighborhoods, and towns all across the region, now sit atop former mines.

In July, a 91 year old coal mine on Frederick Street in Mount Oliver collapsed after heavy rains, and over a dozen families suddenly found that their homes’ foundations had moved beneath their feet, causing their homes to sink into the ground and crack. Utility companies stopped providing services like gas and electricity. At least five families were evacuated, and some have said that due to the severity of the damage done to their houses, they’re deciding whether or not to even return home.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection stepped in at that point, and they’ve contracted a company called Coastal Drilling East to fill the mine cavity with a mixture of sand and concrete--and this will take eight weeks and cost more than \$1.3 million. So who pays for this? As Mount Oliver borough engineer Ruthanne Omer said to the *Post-Gazette*, "The companies who built the mines are long gone. Although the state will stabilize the ground, without mine subsidence insurance, the money to fix this is coming out of our residents' pockets."

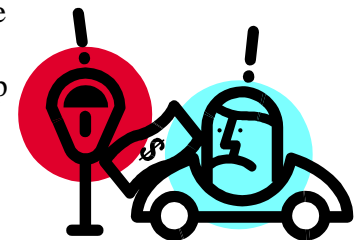
You may be asking yourself, am I at risk for a potential mine subsidence? To answer that question, check out this map that the DEP put together that shows where undermining occurred in District 4: http://www.dep.state.pa.us/MSIHomeowners/Municipality_Mine_Maps/Allegheny_County/pittsburgh_district_4.pdf (you can also see this map by going to my website at <http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/district4>).

As you can see, essentially all of District 4 was undermined, and so there will always be a potential risk for subsidence. It’s important for South Pittsburgh homeowners to consider acquiring mine subsidence insurance. For more information, log onto the state’s DEP mine subsidence website at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/msihomeowners>. You can also speak to a DEP expert to find out about your potential risk and available insurance coverage--call 1.800.922.1678, Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. To speak with my office about these, or any other, issues, call 412.255.2131 or send us a message through my website at <http://pittsburghpa.gov/district4/contact>.



WATCH WHERE YOU PARK

A reader called to advise us that people are getting \$55 tickets for illegal parking at the bump outs. When you park on the business side of the Boulevard, there should be a white line on either side of your vehicle. If you park at the bump out there will be only one white line and you will be ticketed.





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