

MICHAEL FACCHIANO CONTRACTING INC.



Back in 1956, **Michael Facchiano**, then 25-years-old and 5 years after immigrating from Italy, decided to stop working for other people and strike out on his own. He started a construction company out of his residence on Stewart Avenue in Carrick.

By 1982, the company had outgrown its space at the family home and expanded to property at the end of McNeilly Road near Route 88. Six years later, the administrative offices relocated to the corner of McNeilly and Pearce Road.

For the better part of its first 25 years, what eventually became **Michael Facchiano Contracting Inc.** specialized in residential work, much of it in the South Hills. Michael's children grew up pitching in. When they graduated from college and officially joined the business, the company expanded into more commercial, utility, and municipal projects, including the recent reconstruction of Brookline Boulevard.

Michael is the company's president/CEO and his wife **Antonietta** is secretary. Sons **John Facchiano Sr.** and **Michael Facchiano Jr.** serve as vice-presidents and daughter **Mary Jean Casamassa** is the office manager. The company's workforce can range from around 50 during the winter to 175 during the prime contracting season.

Michael Sr., now 83, is still active in the company on a daily basis. "He looks at work, does pricing," says Michael Jr. "If it turns out work needs to be done, he schedules workers and gets it done." Michael Jr. relates how his father ended up chatting with **Fr. Frank Mitolo**, pastor of



Resurrection Church, at the July ribbon cutting marking completion of the Boulevard reconstruction. From that conversation sprang an appointment for his father to work up an estimate for some repairs to the church property.

It looks like **Michael Facchiano Contracting, Inc.** will be a presence in the Brookline area for quite a while. Along with his sons and daughter, Michael Sr. has been joined in the company by grandchildren **John Facchiano Jr.**, **Vince** and **Joey Casamassa**, and **Michala**, **Giavanna** and **Alexi Facchiano**, and in-laws

(Continued on page 17)

801 McNeilly Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412-344-5503

Hours: Monday to Friday 6:00 AM to 6:00PM



Letter from the Editor

This month we will be unveiling our new Boulevard to visitors at Brookline Unveiled. After a long period of reconstruction it is now time to celebrate. There are many people who helped bring this project to fruition, and we thank everyone who played a part.

Now we need to work together to keep the Boulevard looking good. Of course there will be the everyday wear and tear. What we don't want to see are kids riding bikes on the benches, people and dogs walking through the landscaping and poles being used as bulletin boards. The community groups are being proactive about keeping the Boulevard looking good for as long as possible. **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** is actively working on a program to eliminate the numbers of cigarette butts on the street and in the landscaping. **Brookline Pub** installed two sand containers and a sign asking people to keep their butts off the Boulevard. **No Name Coffee Shop** has a container for butts they put out when they are open.

South Pittsburgh Development Corp. is sponsoring **Megan Zikel's Beautify Brookline Committee**. The aim of the committee is to keep not only the Boulevard, but all of Brookline free of litter by coordinating regular redd-ups. The first one was held the Friday before the **Brookline Breeze**. There will be another before **Brookline Unveiled**. The Sunday Trash Walkers will try to pick up in between the redd-ups, weather permitting. **Eileen Papale** picks up litter on the Boulevard as she walks to community meetings, and **Kim Sabol** picks up while walking her dogs on the Boulevard.

Some members of the committee are certified tree tenders. They will keep the trees trimmed of low branches that might interfere with walking or parking. **Keith Knecht**, a tree tender, has already done some trimming. In addition, some members are pulling weeds in the landscaped area. If you would like to participate in the **Beautify Brookline Committee** please let us know. We will put you in touch with Megan.

The last few times we have picked up litter along the Boulevard, we have noticed that there has been considerably less. We hope that means that the residents and merchants recognize the improved Boulevard free of litter will attract more customers. No one wants to shop on a trash-littered street.

Now invite your friends and family to join the celebration on Friday, September 5 and Saturday, September 6. Friday evening the festivities will be adult-oriented. Saturday is a family-focused event. After 18 months, it's finally done.

Here we go Brookline, here we go!

*****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
Dan Kaczmarek Writer/Proofreader
Joseph Samuel Rogers - Food & Lifestyle Correspondent
Jan Beiler Proofreader/Advertising
Amy Fisher Proofreader/Photographer
Julie Salas Proofreader
Jennifer Askey Proofreader
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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: mnp.grabowski@verizon.net
Telephone: 412-343-2859
Mail: The Brookline, PO Box 96136, Pittsburgh, PA 15226.




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SUSTAINING FRIENDS

Thank you to Alterations by Rina for putting a donation box in her shop. Eighteen page issues are quickly draining our bank account. We need your help. We remind the merchants that 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 2014:

- Cannon Coffee - \$196.52 
- Kribel's Bakery - \$1,484.20 
- A Boss - \$150.37
- Hideaway Mini Mart - \$238.12
- Brookline Area Community Council - \$400.00 
- Party Cake Shop - \$292.16
- Alterations by Rina - \$3.30

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.

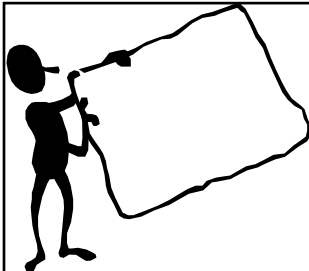
JULY

CRIMES ZONE 6

	Total	Brookline
Homicide	1	1
Aggravated Assault	3	3
Arson	2	0
Robbery	5	1
Burglary	20	1
Theft	43	14
Theft from Vehicle	16	5
Stolen Vehicle	7	4
Rape	2	0

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

- Brookline Christian Food Bank 412-344-8451
- Carnegie Library 412-561-1003
- Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak 412-255-2131
- 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
- Brookline Recreation Center 412-571-3222
- Representative Dan Miller 412-343-3870



PLEASE DO NOT POST ANY SIGNAGE IN LANDSCAPED AREAS ON THE BOULEVARD OR ON THE POLES. IT WILL BE REMOVED. CONTACT PROP-

ERTY OR SHOP OWNERS TO SEEK PERMISSION TO POST ON PRIVATE PROPERTY!

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Tips for Reducing Your Chances of Being a Victim of Street Robberies

Always be aware of your surroundings, vigilant of activity around you and attentive to individuals approaching, walking purposely and with confidence. **Do not** allow yourself to be distracted by activity such as talking on your cell phone, listening to music or reading. **Try** to travel with others, walk in well-traveled areas, and at night in well-lighted areas. **Protect** your electronics by not displaying them. **Resist** the urge to multi-task while walking; wait to make phone calls, check your email and listen to music at your destination. **If you** purchase an electronic device check on the availability of a tracking system for the device (usually free at time of purchase). **Do not** use ATMs that are located in remote areas, use ATMs during the daylight hours in well-populated areas. **Do not** display large amounts of cash when paying for items, and **do not** display excessive jewelry. **Men:** if you carry [a] wallet, place the wallet in your front hip pocket or inside jacket pocket- do not carry in your back pant pocket. **Women:** when you will be walking in public spaces carry a small handbag or purse that you can grasp with a hand.

www.mpdc.dc.gov/safety

[Commander Scott Schubert posted this on the Community Safety website.]



Leo at **Brookline Pub** got a smoker and is serving ribs and pulled pork at very, very reasonable prices. They are delicious and the coleslaw is awesome if you like bbq!

-Jen Anglin

OPEN MIC SERIES
Cannon Coffee
802 Brookline Blvd.

Wednesdays
6:00PM to 10:00PM



CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF BROOKLINE SEPTEMBER BOOK DISCUSSIONS



Wednesday, September 10 at 1:00PM *Strong Poison* by Dorothy L. Sayers
 Monday, September 15 at 6:00PM *Between, Georgia* by Joshilyn Jackson



Carnegie Library Book Buzz

Thursday, September 28 at 6:00PM *We Need to Talk About Kevin* by Lionel Shriver
 (Book Buzz location to be determined)

BROOKLINE GETS GRANT

In an August 11, 2014 news release, **Mayor Peduto** announced this year's **serve-Pgh Love Your Block** grants. Number nine on the list was **South Pittsburgh Development Corp.** The grant is to support "volunteers [who] will beautify Brookline Boulevard by planting flowers and landscaping in an adjacent park." The grant will allow Megan Zirkel's Beautify Brookline Committee to purchase supplies to keep the new Boulevard landscaping clean and neat. Of course smokers using the butt containers in front of businesses and on the trash cans will make the committee's job easier!

-Pamela Grabowski



KELLY'S IS BIGGER AND BETTER

Keep **Kelly's Kollection Boutique** in mind for homecoming and other fall formals. Kelly has a wide selection of formal gowns from which to choose. She is also selling her posters now. Kelly said she originally had many of her wall hangings as store decorations, but people kept asking to buy them. So you can now get Marilyn Monroe posters at the Boutique, too. Kelly said the posters are a popular dorm room decoration. Kelly continues to sell jewelry and purses and carries a local handmade soap and lotion line. Stop in and see what Kelly has done in the expanded space.

-Pamela Grabowski



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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 orientated and accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:15 am to 8:45 pm. Tuesday and Thursday 1:15 pm to 8:45 pm; Saturday 8:15am-3:45pm. Membership card is required.



Pittsburgh Boxing Club

Workouts on Wednesday nights from 6:00pm-8:30pm will begin again in October. 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 6:30pm -7:45pm with our certified instructor. Program runs in six-week sessions. Cost per session: \$50 for 6 classes or \$10 a class. Bring your own mat!



Zumba

On Saturdays from 8:30AM - 9:30AM. Join our certified instructor **Caitlin Houk** and dance away the pounds. Cost: \$5 per session. Ages 10 and up.

Martial Arts Classes

Ages 10 and up. Class starts at 6:15pm and runs to 6:45pm. Call center for days.

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

The Brookline Recreation Center hours will be changing to Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:15 am to 8:45 pm. Tuesday and Thursday 1:15 pm to 8:45 pm. Saturday 8:15am to 3:45pm. The Junior Great Race is on September 21 at Noon. For information call 412-255-2493 or www.rungreatrace.com

The Great Race is September 29 at 9:30 am. It is a 10k Race and a 5 K Race. Call 412-255-2493 or <http://www.rungreatrace.com/>.

BROOKLINE CHAMBER ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** is happy to announce its 2015 officers and board of directors. Congratulations to:

Nathan Mallory - President

Lois McCafferty - Vice President

Lee Herbermann - Treasurer

Annette Ferrieri - Board member

Tom Snair - Board member

Patricia Moroney - Board member



We would also like to thank our past President, **Linda Boss**, for her many years of service to the community.

-Nicki Wood

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 **412-304-3086 NEW PHONE NUMBER!**
- **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 Stephanie 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. Due to cut backs to the food stamp program, more people are depending on the food pantry. If you are able, please consider helping those who are less fortunate.**



SENATOR WAYNE FONTANA

On Tuesday, September 30 I will be hosting my annual Flu/Pneumonia Shot & Senior Clinic from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. in **Fr. Quinn Hall** at the **Church of the Resurrection** in Brookline. Light refreshments will be provided.

American HealthCare Group will be providing the free flu and pneumonia vaccinations to any senior with the Medicare Part B health insurance card. Make sure to bring your card with you.

There will also be several organizations from around the region in attendance, providing seniors with important information on available services and resources. Past participants have included:

- Duquesne University School of Pharmacy
- AARP
- LifeSpan
- Allegheny County Department of Human Services
- Pennsylvania Office of the Consumer Advocate
- Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
- **Seton Center**
- Pennsylvania APPRISE

Additional information on the Flu/Pneumonia Shot & Senior Clinic will be updated throughout September through my weekly News & Views. Sign up to receive the weekly News & Views by visiting www.senatorfontana.com. For more information on the Flu/Pneumonia Shot & Senior Clinic, please call my Brookline office at 412-344-2551.

If you need a flu or pneumonia shot heading into the winter months, please consider attending on September 30. If you don't, there is still plenty of good information to receive from participating organizations. I hope to see you there!

2014 BROOKLINE BREEZE



This year's **Brookline Breeze** drew a total attendance of 812, with 519 in the 5K run, 152 walkers, 46 in the mini-breeze and 18 in the dog walk.

Declan Moffatt, 14, won the Mini-Breeze

In the 5K **Tim Wu**, 33 (pictured above), was the overall top male, **Natalie Finnerty** (pictured above), 25, was the overall top female. Both are from Pittsburgh.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to another successful year.

- *Clint Burton*

READER RESPONSE: TICKS IN BROOKLINE

"I love **"The Brookline"** and look forward to each issue. I live on Seaton Street, and this year I've already been bitten by 6 ticks. Last year I was bitten once. Years before, despite hundreds of hours in the yard, I never had a tick bite. I called the Allegheny County Health Department to see if anyone else was reporting ticks. A man I spoke with said that a certain kind of tick had been moving eastward across the state and has now reached us. He said that there were some people who got Lyme's disease from it. It might be a good idea to let people know about this with an article in **"The Brookline."**

-Helen Ortmann

[**Editor:** Thank you Helen. This is what we found. On July 22, 2014, the Allegheny County Health Department issued this statement,

In response to a recent increase in the number of reported cases, the Allegheny County Health Department is offering advice on how to reduce the risk of Lyme disease, which can be contracted in wooded areas as well as yards and neighborhoods with low bushes or tall grass, from which ticks that spread the disease can most easily attach to a person.

In 2013, 145 cases of Lyme disease were reported in county residents, up sharply from several years ago. From 2004 through 2008, the number of cases fluctuated between 16 and 35 per year.

Lyme disease, transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected tick, may be acquired not only on trips outside the area but also increasingly so locally, because the tick that transmits Lyme disease, Ixodes scapularis, also known as the deer tick, is the most commonly found tick on people and pets in Allegheny County.

In 2013, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection tested 56 deer ticks found in Allegheny County for Borrelia burgdorferi, the bacteria that cause Lyme disease, and found that 19 or 34% of the ticks were infected.

"If caught early, Lyme disease can almost always be successfully treated with antibiotics. When it goes undiagnosed and untreated, serious complications may develop such as chronic arthritis and neurologic problems. Some people may remain untreated because early symptoms are usually mild and flu-like and don't always include a telltale 'bull's-eye rash' that can appear 3 to 30 days after the bite," said Health Director Dr. Karen Hacker.

For additional information about tick control and tickborne disease prevention, please call the Allegheny County Health Department at 412-687-ACHD.

You can also read more about preventing tick bites at the Allegheny County Health Department website http://www.achd.net/pr/pubs/2014release/072214_lyme.html.]

STOP BY AND ENTER TO WIN A TV

The **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** welcomes you to join us at the **Brookline Unveiled** as we celebrate the completion of Brookline Boulevard. We encourage you to stroll up and down the Boulevard on Saturday, September 6 from 10:00am to 6:00pm to enjoy and capture all that the businesses have to offer.

Stop by the Brookline Chamber of Commerce booth:

- Enter to WIN a 40"/50" TV and more just for strolling the new Boulevard.
- The first 300 people to visit the booth will receive a free Brookline cloth shopping bag.
- Pick up a copy or two of the newly designed **Brookline Business/Community 2014/2015 Directory**.

Look for the large colorful insert in the August 28 issue of the *Pennysaver* with the **Brookline Unveiled** advertising specials from businesses and an entry form to deposit at the Chamber/SPDC booth.

-Brookline Chamber of Commerce



ENTRY BLANK FOR 40"/50" TV



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Address: _____

Phone#: _____

Email: _____

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| • Lead | • Pools | • Wire | • Catalytic Converters |
| • Rotors | • Transmissions | • Car Motors | |

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A NEW CREATION IS EVERYTHING (Galatians 6:15)

If you want to travel fast, travel alone. If you want to travel far, go together.

It began with a dream borne out of a concern...two partner congregations meeting the daily needs of the community we serve while struggling with declining resources and increased needs. **Brookline Boulevard United Presbyterian Church** and **St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church** are living into the challenges for church ministry and emergent church trends which lead to new worshipping communities. We are exploring the benefits of cooperative ministry.

This new ministry builds upon a long tradition of service to the community of providing food, clothing, child care, pre-school education, mentoring, worship, prayer, and bible study to young adults, families, and those on the fringes.

Our vision is of a nonprofit, Christian community center and worship space to meet our neighbors' needs; providing the least of these with the resources, support and prayer they need. Community, hospitality, and the Gospel rooted in the strength of our traditions but offered in an emergent setting is our vision for the future. It is the right opportunity for our congregations, and we realize if we want to go far on this journey we need to go together.

"Always being made new"; the changing community and the changing congregation give us hope and a new call to better serve our community.

-Jennifer Bacvinskas



BROOKLINE WALL

Brookline Area Community Council has been receiving requests for an update of the **Brookline Wall**. We have been presented with many different ideas and would like to hear what everyone has to say. Join us on September 29 at 7:00pm at **St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church** (Corner of Glenarm Avenue and Brookline Boulevard) for a roundtable discussion of what is needed and wanted. Please check out the wall. "What do you want to see there?"

-Annette Ferrieri

COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS MONTH

September 5 & 6

Brookline Unveiled See ad on page 15.

September 8 Monday

Brookline History Buffs 6:30PM at **Carnegie Library** 708 Brookline Blvd.

September 8 Monday

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

September 9 Tuesday

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

September 15 Monday

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

September 29 Monday

Brookline Area Community Council See article on page 8.



CVS accepts food donations for Brookline Christian Food Pantry.

THE HERITAGE PLAYERS



The Heritage Players are offering eight-week sessions of acting classes for all age groups beginning on September 17 at the **Seton Center**, 1900 Pioneer Avenue, Brookline 15226. A recital will be presented on

November 14. Course descriptions and registration are available online at www.bphp.org. Please register by September 15.

The Heritage Players will present the musical, "Little Women" on October 17, 18, 24, and 25 at 8:00 PM and October 19 and 26 at 2:00 PM at the **Seton Center**, 1900 Pioneer Avenue, Brookline 15226. Tickets are \$15.00 at the door or online. Purchase tickets in advance online and save \$2.00! Box office opens one half hour before curtain. For more information visit www.bphp.org or phone 412-254-4633.

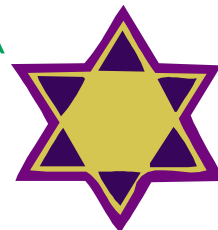
The Heritage Players will be at the **Brookline Unveiled** celebration on Saturday, September 6 and invite you to stop by!



STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Written by
Francis Scott Key
September 14, 1814

Rosh Hashanah



Begins September 24

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN

If you missed Cub Scout Pack 601's annual sign-up night on September 2, it is not too late to join. Meetings are held every Tuesday night at 7:00pm in **Fr. Quinn Hall** at **Resurrection Church**. The program is designed for boys who are in first through fifth grades. For more details about Pack 601, please visit our website: <https://sites.google.com/site/pack601brookline2/home> or contact us at master.pack601@gmail.com or chair.pack601@gmail.com. If you enjoying camping and the outdoors, check us out!!



-Michele Metting
Treasurer, Pack 601



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.



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

600 Woodbourne Ave. Wayne Grassel

900 Woodbourne Ave. - Diane Walkowski & Mary Anne Miller

Mary Anne: 7/1 - Quarter kitchen bag of trash

Mary Anne: 7/15 - Quarter kitchen bag of trash

Mary Anne: 7/30 - Picked up 1/2 kitchen garbage bag of trash

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 Ave. - 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

Whited from Marloff down to the PATway on both sides.- Michael Pilewski

Waddington & Kenilworth down Pioneer to Brookline Blvd. - Kim Sabol

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

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

Eben St. - Kutschbach Family, Smooches to Pooches

1200 block of Berkshire Ave & Freedom Ave/Pioneer Ave. fr. Southcrest Dr. to Cadet Ave - Marie & Becky Vater

Fortuna & Cadet - Dom Maggs

1800-1900 Pioneer Ave. - Dennis & Valarie Rew Family

Roswin Drive - Carol, Oliver & Silas Ingold

Milan bet. Witt & Bellaire Pl. - Christian Jester & Joseph



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Amy Fisher, Visual Artist



COUNCILWOMAN NATALIA RUDIAK

We pay taxes to keep our city, state and country running smoothly. But where does it all go? And who decides what our priorities are for spending those dollars? We do that (and more!) with our City of Pittsburgh Operating and Capital budgets. The budgets outline, in clear detail for all to see, how we plan to spend tax dollars the following year.

Each year around this time, we begin to craft the budget for the next year. While this may sound about as exciting as getting vaccinated, it is deeply important for Pittsburgh's future financial health. In addition, my office uses our annual budgets to hold the Mayor, City Departments, and ourselves accountable to our budgetary commitments. How do we hold ourselves accountable? We get citizens engaged and active in the process. We solicit input from residents to determine the city's financial priorities AND help us stick to them.

Since I was first elected to Council in 2009, I have been focused on getting citizens and government on the same page and working from the same information to build a better city together. In 2010, I passed a bill called the Neighborhoods First Capital Budget Reform Act. Simply put, I wanted to see clarity and transparency in how we spend our tax revenue. I felt that since my constituents work hard and pay their fair share, it was high time they have a say in where their tax dollars are spent. This law also created the Capital Program Facilitation Committee (CPFC), with the goals of finding efficiencies, increasing transparency, and finding ways to save money.

Our city budget is split into two categories; Operating and Capital Budgets. The Operating Budget is what keeps the city running on a day-to-day basis. This portion of our budget is spent on overhead costs like rent, utilities, and salaries. This is how we pay to clean the streets, to pay employees, and to keep the lights on. The Capital Budget refers to investing in infrastructure, like paving, parks maintenance and community development. With good planning, our Capital investments make the city a better, more livable place for all. But how does the City ensure that this money is spent on true priorities? We can only do that with plenty of input from our neighbors!

The Capital Budget Hearings are our chance as Pittsburghers to weigh in on our budget. This is our opportunity to share our fiscal priorities, thoughts, concerns. These hearings will be held this fall; at the end of September at the Ammon Rec Center (2217 Bedford Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15226 412-255-2501) and at the end of October at the Morning-side Rec Center (6944 President Way Pittsburgh, PA 15206-1134). The dates have not yet been announced, but you can follow our office on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/PghDistrict4>), Twitter (<https://twitter.com/nataliarudiak>), or subscribe to the South Pittsburgh e-mail newsletter, so you are aware of all the important community meetings: <http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/myppgh/signup.htm?mode=f&f=45>. You can also call our office: 412-255-2131 for the dates and times of these meetings.

The only way to ensure that our voices are heard is to pay attention and get involved! We need you to tell us how you want your tax dollars spent. As elected officials our goal is to truly represent all of Pittsburgh. Please take a moment to submit your priorities to us online <http://pittsburghpa.gov/district4/contact> or mail a letter to our office: The Office of Councilmember Natalia Rudiak, 510 City County Building, 414 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

Labor Day



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REPRESENTATIVE ERIN MOLCHANY



Coming up: a big day for Equal Pay! This month the House Labor and Industry Committee will meet to hear testimony on HB 1890—the Workplace Opportunity Act. Last fall, I introduced this bill to provide greater protections, not just for women, but for all workers. In addition to permitting more substantial legal recourse for wage discrimination, my bill also narrows the definitions for factors determining pay and promotion to education, experience, training, and merit. This hearing is a huge leap in this conversation about inequity in Pennsylvania.

At the end of July, my office kicked off our Mobile Enrollment event series! We visited the Mount Washington Senior Center and Beechview Manor. At these events, we were able to fill out Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications, screen people for SNAP eligibility, search for unclaimed property, and provide applications for Handicap Parking Placards and Plates, as well as provide many more services. We will be hosting a series of these events in Brookline and the surrounding neighborhoods in the coming months—so be on the lookout for more information!

Since the beginning of summer, I have been working hard on addressing the myriad transportation problems facing Brookline and our region. On August 28, the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission (PUC) held a public hearing regarding transportation needs in Pittsburgh. Based on feedback from constituents like you and your neighbors, I submitted comments supporting the ridesharing services Lyft and Uber. I urged the PUC to consider the impact technology has, and will continue to have, in creating easier access around the city and reducing incidents of drunk driving. I'd like to give a special thanks to Sen. Fontana for introducing Senate Bill 1457, which would allow ridesharing services to operate permanently in Pittsburgh. We have been making great strides in improving transportation around the South Hills, but there is still much more to be done.



OLD NOTES BY OLD PEOPLE

I guess by now, the thoughts of summer, or what passed for one this year, are now behind us. Students of all ages return to school and very soon we will be noticing a crisp chill in the air and turning leaves. When we were younger, school didn't start until the day after Jerry Lewis announced the total number of dollars he raised on his annual telethon. At least that's how I remember it. Now it seems to start earlier and finish later.

As I think back, I liked school. I hated math, but overall, I liked school. Because of where we lived in Brookline, we started at **Carmalt School**. It's funny what you remember from those early, formative school years. My kindergarten teacher at **Carmalt** was **Mrs. Luchinno**. Everyone should have had **Mrs. Luchinno**. She was patient and sweet. We would play games, learn our ABC's, and sing songs. There is one song I can't get out of my head and find myself humming occasionally. Do you remember the song that asked us to "go tell Aunt Rhody the old grey goose is dead"? What an awful little song for a bunch of five year olds.

I was happy at **Carmalt** even though we were subjected to many educational experiments. We learned how to read through a system called ITA. I have no idea what that means – but you should have seen the alphabet we used. Our second and third grades were combined. Second graders sat in the first three rows and third graders in the last three rows. Then there was the big change. Word came that the **Pittsburgh Public School District** was going to renovate **Carmalt** by adding on a pile of new classrooms and amenities. It meant students would have to transfer to **Brookline School** until construction was finished.

You all know how far **Brookline School** is from **Carmalt**. One afternoon, near the end of the year, our third grade class went on a field trip. We walked from **Carmalt** to **Brookline** to meet the teacher we would have in the fall for fourth grade. It was **Miss Pat Colangelo**. And, while I'm sure she wouldn't remember me, she instantly became my new favorite. She made us welcome and I was excited about the change coming that fall. On the walk back to **Carmalt**, our teacher, **Mrs. Trapp**, took us all into Isaly's for an ice cream cone. What a bonus!

We only stayed at **Brookline School** for one year. After that, construction was completed and we returned to **Carmalt** for fifth grade. Then it was back to **Brookline** for sixth, seventh, and eighth. Even though the walk to and from home to **Brookline** was longer, it afforded us many great opportunities along the boulevard. We learned how to collect glass pop bottles and turn them in for change to purchase penny candy at Newsie's or Bickerton's. That was among the best lessons of all!

-Cliff Gorski



REPRESENTATIVE DAN MILLER

I was very saddened about the recent loss of Theodore "Dutch" Van Kirk. Dutch's passing was in the news as he was the last remaining crew member of the Enola Gay, the aircraft that dropped the world's first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. While not originally from our area, Dutch's family lives in our district and they have a long history of supporting local causes. I had the honor of meeting Dutch at a fundraiser for the new veterans' memorial in Mt. Lebanon. Dutch attended the event at his own expense where he captivated the audience with his first-hand account of that great and terrible mission. His presence and reflections made an impact on all who attended and helped push the momentum for the memorial that now sits along Cedar Blvd. In appreciation of his life and service,

Rep. Lynda Culver (who represents Dutch's hometown of Northumberland, PA) and I have sponsored a condolence Resolution which will be introduced when we return to session in the fall. This bipartisan resolution already has dozens of co-sponsors.

Dutch's passing is a reminder to me that we have to continue to support our veterans of all ages from all conflicts upon their return from service. Obviously our Federal Department of Veterans Affairs has been in the news recently for its failures to meet those needs. However, one local group that does a great job of serving veterans and creating a support network is the South Hills Veterans Breakfast Club. This group meets regularly to a packed house where stories are told, friends are remembered, and company is shared. For more information on the group you can go to veteransbreakfastclub.com.

I recently stopped by the Breakfast Club's meeting and enjoyed the stories of those I met. I am always amazed by the humility with which service members speak about their experiences. As a service of my office in November we will bring Pennsylvania's mobile veterans service center to the district to assist veterans and their families with benefit inquiries. If you need assistance with state veteran services in the meantime, you can contact my office at 412-343-3870.

SEPTEMBER AT CLP BROOKLINE

Brookline History Buffs will meet on Monday, September 8 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Join us as we put our creative minds together in a collaborative Oral History project for all of Brookline residents.



Painting by *Dino Guarino*

Power Yoga with Amy will meet every Wednesday from 6:30pm to 7:30pm throughout the year with the exception of holidays and other closings. September dates are 3, 10, 17 & 24.



Movie SHOWdown will meet on Tuesday, September 9 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. This group will discuss comparisons of the original movies versus the re-make every 2nd Tuesday of the month. September will focus on the movies "True Grit" (1969 version vs 2010 version)



CLP-BROOKLINE
708 Brookline Boulevard
412-561-1003

LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON LABOR DAY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1.

Crochet and Knitting Fun! will meet on alternating Saturdays in the month of September. The meetings are September 6 and September 20 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. This group is open to all interested attendees, both new and experienced.



Senator Fontana is hosting his annual Flu/Pneumonia Shot & Senior Clinic on Tuesday, September 30 from 11:00am to 2:00pm at **Church of the Resurrection** in Brookline. **CLP-Brookline** will have a table with representatives to talk about what the library can offer for you.

For **Brookline Unveiled** on September 6, both **CLP-Brookline** and the **Brookline History Buffs** will have a table in front of the library to celebrate the event with the community!



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Kudos to everyone who made this happen after 15 years of waiting. A special thank you to **Lois McCafferty** who kept us informed, and took our questions and complaints to the construction meetings.
-Pamela Grabowski



SCARECROW COMPETITION
WIN UP TO \$150.00

The **Brookline Chamber** is sponsoring the third annual "SCARECROW COMPETITION". The windows along Brookline Boulevard will be decorated in all types of scarecrows for the fall months starting in September and running through November. Funny, scary, cute & unique are all part of the competition.

We are asking businesses, community organization, schools, Churches, senior centers and individuals to become creative and design your own scarecrow with a theme.

Examples: baker, barber, beautician, Boy Scout, school dress code, or neighborhood. Winner to be announced at Halloween Parade.

Application with rules and categories can be picked up at **A-Boss Opticians, Cannon Coffee and Party Cake Shoppe**.

-Brookline Chamber of Commerce

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PITTSBURGH CITIPARKS BIG LEAGUE MAYOR'S CUP CHAMPIONS



Congratulations to the **Brookline Little League Association's** 12-under girls softball team, which won the **Pittsburgh Citiparks BIG League Mayor's Cup** at PNC Park on July 12 by beating Elliott 9-4.

This was the third year in a row the Brookline team made it to the finals and their second Mayor's Cup win since 2012.

The members of the championship team are **Piper Algas, Ava Barrett, Hailey Clouse, Cameryn Davis, Haley Harper, Vanessa Hudson, Hannah Lacek, Kayleigh McDermott, Katie McHenry, Haley Parker, Cheyenne Pierce, Haley Schubert, Breanna Stock, Mikaela Vogel, and Grace Warner.** The coaches are **Tara Garrubba, Jill Vogel, Michelle Auge, and Jim Pierce.**

-Dan Kaczmariski



Have you tried **Bama's** corn muffins yet? They have to be one of the best corn muffins in the area. They are moist, but not greasy. If whatever you order does not include a corn muffin, then add one to your order.

*-Pamela Grabowski
-Photo by Amy Fsher*

MICHAEL FACCHIANO CONTRACTING INC. (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

Giuseppe Casamassa and **Rosario Mutarelli**. What Michael Sr. created in 1956 has become a legacy not only for his family, but also for the community, as Brookliners will enjoy the refurbished Boulevard for years to come.

Boulevard Reconstruction

Michael Facchiano Contracting, Inc. knew the Boulevard project was coming. “Plans for reconstruction had been in the works for years,” says **Michael Facchiano Jr.** “We knew it would be big and that it would be a good fit for us--not only for the type of work but also its proximity to our yard and office. When the job went to bid, we pursued it aggressively, gave a very competitive number and were fortunate to get the contract.”

The company entered the project knowing it would be challenging. “Any type of urban reconstruction project like this is difficult because you have to maintain pedestrian access to businesses,” says Michael Jr. “It was a task to keep everyone happy and keep the job moving. We were pleased the job was completed with minimum disruption to patrons. Granted, there were times people weren’t happy, but we tried our best to accommodate.”

The company invited community organizations and government representatives to weekly progress meetings. “We’d give them a 2-week look-ahead on what we were doing-- how the job was moving—and also provide them an opportunity to give us feedback, if there was something they had questions about or wanted to change.”

The project’s initial scheduled completion date was November 2013. As surprises were unearthed during construction, however, that date was pushed to this summer.

“The original design for the job was done years ago, based on a total reconstruct,” says Michael Jr.

“When the money for that wasn’t available, things were scaled back, but continued to use the original drawings, so changes had to be made as we moved along. Sometimes the drawing wasn’t representative of what was actually out there in the field. It’s nobody’s fault; all the information isn’t always available to the designer. If you tear up something that’s been there 50, 60, 70 years, you’re going to find things. It’s the nature of the job.”

As an example, a sub-sidewalk vault was revealed by the company’s pre-survey after the project had been bid. That meant a trip back to City planners for further instructions. A suspended sidewalk was designed, which required the company to build a containment structure under the sidewalk so that no utilities were damaged. When such issues were identified and addressed, the City granted the company an extension of the scheduled completion date.

Then came the polar vortex winter, bringing a frigid halt to the pouring of concrete until this spring.

“When everything was calculated and the extensions agreed upon,” says Michael Jr., “our contracted completion date ended up being this summer.

“It was a tough job, but we’re happy the way it all came out. If you look at the way everything’s finished--in terms of workmanship, the lines--I think for as large of a project as this, you can see a lot of time was put into detail work. We’re proud of that. It makes us really happy to see people walking or sitting out on the sidewalks, among the trees and the other work.

“I made it a habit to walk the job on Saturday. I’d take notes-- anything that needed to be addressed or I thought could be a problem. Then I’d go over to Resurrection Church for 5:00 Mass and pray that it all stayed in order. It looks like everything worked out, so my prayers were answered. “

-Dan Kaczmariski

-Photos by Amy Fisher, Michael Facchiano, the Firemen of Station 19, and City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works



HOT TOPICS: IT'S GREEK TO ME



Joseph Rogers, Maria Petrou, and Zachary Javorsky enjoy lunch together.

Eat, Live, Love. Those were the words that greeted us as we entered **It's Greek to Me** for the very first time on a hot summer day. **The Brookline** last visited **Mike, Dawn, and Maria Petrou** in February 2009, and being that I never ate there before, **It's Greek To Me** automatically found its way to the top of my list of hot topics for **The Brookline**. Enlisting the help of my high school classmate and friend Zachary Javorsky of Scott Township, we ventured to the far end of the Boulevard to catch up with **It's Greek To Me**, this month's Hot Topic.

Immediately upon sitting down, owner **Dawn Petrou** described her daily lunch specials and best selling items. Zach ordered the lunch special, a gyro with fresh cut fries. I was intrigued by the Souvlaki sandwich, which consists of marinated cubes of pork. We couldn't eat at a Greek restaurant without ordering hummus, and Dawn and Maria surprised us with meat stuffed grape leaves, with leaves imported from Greece, and freshly brewed Greek tea, great for sipping on the Boulevard's new park benches. What a feast! Zach and I pressed Dawn to tell us what the pink coloring in the tzatziki sauce was, but she was sworn to secrecy, as it is one of many family recipes passed down from Mike's grandmother. The pink sauce gave the gyro a unique taste, no wonder why customers always ask for it!

While eating our Grecian feast, Dawn and Maria talked to us about their business. Dawn's husband Mike, who came to America from Cyprus, opened

It's Greek To Me 15 years ago, although they had been in the food business for 35 years. Although he no longer handles the day to day operations of the restaurant, the passion he had for his dishes lives on through his wife and daughter. Dawn told us if she really needs him, he's only down the street! Everything is made fresh daily from natural ingredients. **It's Greek To Me** also has a loyal customer base, with customers coming from Brookline, Mount Lebanon, Monroeville, and even West Virginia. They certainly won two new customers over.

From Italy to Greece, or **Mateo's Cucina Italiana** [Editor: *Joseph Samuel Rogers is employed at Mateo's*] to **It's Greek To Me**, residents of Brookline can enjoy foods from around the world anytime on one street in a familial atmosphere. Stop in and pick up a menu, and ask about their daily specials. **It's Greek To Me** is just another reason why it's mighty fine to dine in Brookline!

It's Greek To Me is located at 1011 Brookline Boulevard and is open Monday through Friday from 11:00AM-9:00PM, Saturday from 12:00PM-10:00PM and Sunday from 1:00PM to 7:00PM. They can be reached at 412-531-0400.

To Follow Joe and Zach's adventures through Brookline, visit their Twitter page, www.twitter.com/hottopics39 or on Facebook, www.facebook.com/hottopics39

-Joseph Samuel Rogers
Food and Lifestyle Correspondent

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