

Mike T's Auto Sales

by Dan Kaczmariski



Mike T's Owner Mike Tripolsi

Pawsburgh Photography

If you're a dealer of previously owned vehicles, the customer's trust is paramount—for let's face it, buying a used car involves a certain amount of the unknown.

Talking with Mike Tripolsi, owner of Mike T's Auto Sales Inc. on McNeilly Rd., two qualities that clearly come across are honesty and caring.

Before opening his business in 2007, Mike spent over 20 years working for other dealers and was doing very well. But he reached a point where he wanted to ensure he could continue giving personal service and not be just an order taker. "I just thought, maybe I could do it on my own," he says. "I had enough experience and enough customers. I knew I could treat my customers better if I wasn't a salesman or a manager. So now I'm the owner."

Mike T's is located in a former Co-Go's—a boundary-line dog leg makes it one of the few businesses on his side of the road within Brookline borders. When he first saw the building, his reaction was "It's too big. All I need is an office, not a garage."

As it turned out, the location wasn't oversized. Mike estimates that over the past 8+ years, he's purchased around 5,000 vehicles. "A ton of cars come in and a ton go out." He says he's fortunate to have a good team of employees, including Finance and Sales Manager Rob Johnston and Inventory Manager and all-around utility employee Cory Dowdy.

He's clear about his market niche. "My cars are between

\$5,000 and \$11,000. They're 100 percent serviced, brand new stickers, CARFAX®, and a warranty. I make everything simple, compared to going back and forth. It's a fair price; I never lost a deal over a little bit of money."

Much of his inventory comes from trade-ins taken by new-car dealers, including high-end businesses. "I don't like buying at auction, because those vehicles are at the auction for a reason." He visits new-car dealers each week to replenish his stock and has developed a network of dealers who alert him when they get a good trade-in he might be interested in.

Once he makes a sale, if something unexpected comes up during a reasonable period of time, it's not uncommon for him to take care of the repair. He estimates that close to 60 percent of his sales come from referrals.

Mike is a Brookline guy through and through. He grew up on Merrick Ave., started boxing around the age of 10, and was part of local legend Chuck Senft's award-winning youth boxing teams. Mike estimates he had between over 50 matches during his career. For many years his sister, Mickey Underwood, was director of the Brookline Memorial Recreation Center.

"I love Brookline," he says. "It's a great community. Unlike some communities, it's stood the test of time. Brookline is up and coming." And when he says "I know everybody and all the people I know are my friends," you tend to believe him.

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Brookline Updates

Community Contacts

Pittsburgh Police, Zone 6	412-937-3051
Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak	412-255-2131
Brookline Recreation Center	412-571-3222
Carnegie Library	412-561-1003
State Senator Wayne Fontana	412-344-2551
State Representative Dan Deasy	412-928-9514
State Representative Dan Miller	412-343-3870
State Representative Harry Readshaw	412-881-4208
Brookline Christian Food Pantry	412-344-8451
Meals-on-Wheels	412-343-8144
Dollar Energy/Columbia Gas Cap	412-344-4222

Community Crimes Zone 6

August		
Zone 6 Crimes	Total	Brookline
Homicide	1	0
Aggravated Assault	8	1
Rape	1	0
Robbery	8	0
Burglary	10	1
Theft	29	11
Theft from Vehicle	12	5
Stolen Vehicle	1	0

You can now follow Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Zone 6 reports on Facebook.

OCTOBER COMMUNITY MEETINGS

October 6 Tuesday

Brookline Block Watch 7 p.m. at Magistrate Jim Motznik's office 736 Brookline Blvd.

October 12 Monday

Brookline Chamber of Commerce Meeting 6 p.m. at Carnegie Library 708 Brookline Blvd.

October 19 Monday

South Pittsburgh Development Corp. 7 p.m. at United Presbyterian Church 1036 Brookline Blvd.

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The Brookline

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Contact Us

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Deadlines for Submissions and Ads

October 7 for November's Issue
November 9 for December's Issue

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Call for Volunteers

- 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
- BROOKLINE CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY call Pat Erny at 412-344-8451
- BEGIN AGAIN CLOTHING MINISTRY To donate gently used or new clothing, call Brookline United Presbyterian Church at 412-531-0590
- DOGIPOT MAINTENANCE call Lisa at 412-304-3086
- 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.
- MEALS ON WHEELS sponsored by St. Mark's Lutheran Church call 412-343-8144
- OASIS: HELP CHILDREN READ Tutors (age 50+) needed in Pittsburgh Schools, including Brookline PreK-8 and West Liberty K-5. Call John D. Spehar at 412-232-2021. In partnership with Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council.
- 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 cutbacks 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.

SCARECROW COMPETITION WIN UP TO \$150



The Brookline Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the fourth annual "SCARECROW COMPETITION." Windows along Brookline Boulevard will be decorated with all types of scarecrows into November.

We are asking Brookline businesses, community organizations, schools, churches, senior centers and individuals to design their own homemade scarecrow with a theme. Winners will be announced at the Halloween Parade. Applications are available at A-Boss Opticians, Cannon Coffee, Party Cake, and the Medicine Shoppe.

HALLOWEEN PARADE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31 2:00 PM

The Brookline Chamber of Commerce Annual Halloween Parade will take place thanks to the support of Community Bank and the volunteers who make it happen. The parade starts at Cannon Park and parades down Brookline Boulevard (weather permitting). Judges will stroll through the crowd picking out the best of funny, original, scary, and pretty.

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New – Cize – Exercise class!

Join the Movement with “Cize” Live! This fun dance-style class will have you “bustin” out moves you can take anywhere! It’s so fun and exciting you’ll forget you’re working out! Classes will be held on Saturdays at 10 a.m. Cost is \$5 a class.

Restorative Yoga

Learn to use supported relaxation as a stress neutralizer. Come experience deep mental and physical relaxation while using props to support the body in yoga postures. New sessions will cost \$50 for 6 weeks or \$10 a class. A great opportunity for those with bad backs, hips and knees to help find stress release. Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Regular Yoga is also on Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m.

Kindersports

This fun activity is for children up to school age and their parents. This includes fun time in the gym, story time, a craft and snack. Kindersports is free but you will be asked to sign up for a snack. Program will begin on Wednesday, October 7, at 10 a.m.

Please be sure to wear your tennis shoes!

Family Game Night

Join the fun with Coach Milan every Friday 6-8 p.m. Play games like Jenga, Checkers, Sorry, Uno, and more.



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Quilting Class

Our regular scheduled quilting class will begin again on Mondays 6-9 p.m. You must know the basics of sewing and own your own sewing machine. If there is any interest, we will be scheduling a morning class Fridays 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Tae Kwon Do Martial Arts Class

Learn the fundamentals of Tae Kwon Do with our expert instructor. Mondays – 6:30-7:15 p.m. for beginners . Intermediate/Advanced 7:15-8:15 p.m. Advanced 8:15-8:45 p.m.

Fall/Winter Indoor Soccer

Sign-up for indoor soccer for 4-6 and 7-9 year-olds will begin on October 15. Space is limited and children will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis.

Daisy & Brownie Scouts

Girls Scouts in Brookline meet biweekly at Moore Park. There is still time to sign up, but space is limited. Contact Kristen for more info: 412-758-7909

Call the Center for more information: 412-571-3222.

A Note from Coach Joe

Coach Joe Szmanski has been transferred to Phillips Park in Carrick, but didn't want to leave without ***thanking everyone***



in Brookline! It is with a heavy heart that he leaves, but he plans on taking his skills and knowledge to share it with all the wonderful people up in Carrick. He wants to wish everyone here all the best in everything they do and remind you that he's still around if you need him—just stop in Phillips Park.

Fundraisers

Is your Brookline community church, school, or other non-profit holding a fundraiser? We'd like to list it in the Brookline. To have your event listed, contact thebrookline@gmail.com or pdkaz@comcast.net. Please include “Fundraiser” in the subject line.

Bingo. Every Monday, Church of the Resurrection. Doors open 5 p.m.; bingo begins 7 p.m. 412-563-4400.

Bingo: Every Saturday, American Legion Post 540. Doors open at 5 p.m. bingo begins 7 p.m. 412-561-9750.

Brookline Real Estate Update

by Tim Reitmeyer, Howard Hanna Real Estate

As a lifelong resident of Brookline and a realtor for 23 years, people often ask me, "Tim, what's going on with Brookline real estate?" Let me take this opportunity to bring you up-to-date. According to the West Penn Multi-list, the average sale price on a single-family home in Brookline has risen from roughly \$80,000 in 2013 to \$113,000 as of August, 2015. This is an astonishing increase of almost 30 percent. Seeing this now in our Brookline market is truly gratifying. After witnessing the boom of Lawrenceville and Bloomfield (I think mainly because of the new Children's Hospital), we are experiencing a version of that here. While surprising to many, I have known Brookline's value all along. Brookline has benefits over most all other city neighborhoods. Brookline is the city's gem of the South Hills!

Number one is affordability. When compared to neighborhoods like Squirrel Hill, Greenfield, and Greentree City, our pricing is fantastic for homes of similar age and size. Brookline is becoming more diverse, with younger people realizing that they will get so much more for their money here than in other parts of the city. Instead of spending \$150,000+ for a row house in Lawrenceville, a person can buy a more spacious Brookline home. In turn, this has helped to push our prices upward. Until this past year, Brookline has always been a steady market with marginal growth. Now, we see higher prices and faster sales—what we realtors call a "Sellers' Market." Naturally, to realize these higher prices, the property must be in excellent condition.

Secondly, Brookline has a true sense of community. Very few city neighborhoods have a walkable business district or community programs for all ages. Brookline has both! We offer sports programs and excellent facilities for our children, an active community center with programs for all ages, the vibrant Boulevard featuring desired eateries, a beautiful library, and a business community and development group that promotes our neighborhood to the rest of the city.

Number three is location. Brookline is convenient to downtown, as well as the Parkway West and the south and

west suburbs. In addition, our local public schools outperform the average Pittsburgh Public Schools, recently cited as a premier urban school district. The Pittsburgh Promise offers college tuition assistance to its graduates. This is another great reason buyers want to live here.

Tips for Sellers

As circumstances change, you may be thinking about selling your home. Follow these tips to get the best price for your


home. First impression is very important, and this begins with curb appeal. A few plants or flowers go a long way. A trimmed, uncluttered yard invites the buyer in. Once inside, the home must be clean and fresh. A little paint, shampooed carpets, sparkling kitchens and baths, and uncluttered, clean living spaces make a huge difference. The shag carpet from the '60s has to go! Finally, pricing is the key. Sellers should understand the local inventory of homes and current market conditions, then price accordingly.

I am a Brookline lifer, born and raised in Brookline. My wife Sheryl and I bought our home here 37 years ago and raised our children as Brookliners. Now, they are also homeowners in Brookline. I enjoy listing and selling homes throughout the South Hills however, Brookline is my main market because I not only know it well, but I love it. If you would like to talk further about the Brookline real estate market, please give me a call.



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Tapping Into the Past and Future

The Pub & Pourhouse

by Dan Kaczmariski

What's in a name?

For the Pub & Pourhouse at 734 Brookline Boulevard, formerly known as the Brookline Pub, it signals a new emphasis that melds history with an expanded vision and identity.

Uncovering History

If you walked into the Brookline Pub this past spring, you would have entered a one-story bar/dining area with a conventional suspended ceiling. According to Taylor Hughes, bar manager and the daughter of owners Leo and Dana Hughes, she and her father had often joked about pulling the ceiling out, but Leo had always concluded it would be too difficult.

When a broken furnace forced them to poke around above the ceiling, they found an outline of a mural over a white painted wall. They knew the building had once been a theater, but weren't familiar with its details. Taylor posted a public inquiry about the building's past on Facebook and says the feedback was incredible. In particular, Brian Fornear supplied a "boatload" of information about the theater.

They learned that the building had housed a movie and vaudeville theater, called The Brookline Theatre, from 1921 until 1938. The theater ceased having shows shortly after the Boulevard Theatre opened in 1937 several doors down the street (in the building currently occupied by Compulink).

The information got Leo's creative juices flowing and the more he thought about it, the more convinced he became that removing the first-floor ceiling was very doable. In May, he began an ambitious two-month restoration and renovation project. A former contractor, he did virtually all the work himself with the help of a Pub employee.

They removed the suspended ceiling, exposing the original arched barrel ceiling high above, ornately plated in tin, for the first time in decades. They built a timbered staircase and an

upstairs bar and dining area.

The building continued to reveal its theatrical past. The painted wall with the mural outline had been the movie screen area. Across the room, where the projection windows would have been, burlap had covered the wall for years.

When the burlap was removed, it brought to light a wall-

to-wall color mural, for the most part still in good condition. The mural depicts buildings in a snowy pastoral setting. The projection openings had been incorporated as windows in the mural's buildings.

The Hughes have retained other parts of the old theater where possible. Tin plates discovered in the basement now decorate the front of the upstairs bar. Original outside windows were kept exposed as far



Pawsburgh Photography

down the wall as possible.

The new upstairs area, open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., evokes the ambience of a bygone era. "Our goal was to have you feel like you're stepping back into the 1920s—a speakeasy saloon type of feel," says Taylor. A chandelier hangs over the bar and vintage mirrors appoint the wall behind it. Just off the upstairs dining area, a small lounge-type area is in the works, with chairs, coffee table, and fireplace. Silent movies will be projected on the former movie screen—except of course during Steelers games, when the Black & Gold will take precedence.

Looking to the Future

As the Pub & Pourhouse celebrates the past, it's also riding a tsunami trend of the modern beverage industry—the craft beer phenomenon.

"We want to be a craft beer destination," says Taylor. "I'll have 30 total drafts and I have over 80 bottled beers. Upstairs, I do strictly small locals."

The emphasis on craft brews was a catalyst behind the business's name change. The owners wanted to brand the establishment as a destination for patrons from around the

city as well as Brookline.

On the Pittsburgh Craft Beer Network blog (www.pghcbrn.com), Jason Cercone describes the Pub & Pourhouse as “the South Hills’ newest and greatest craft beer destination” and projects it will be “the place to be in the South Hills for all craft beer enthusiasts.”

Although Brookline Pub regulars continue to patronize the Pub & Pourhouse, the change has generated a robust influx of new faces. “I’ve met so many new people since we’ve opened the upstairs,” says Taylor. “It blows my mind. The response has been incredible—I have people coming from all over the city who are hearing about it. We’re getting a ‘mid-30’s, early 40’s, craft beer, sit-down-and-eat-dinner kind of people.”

“We want to be the place to go,” says Taylor. “We want people to say ‘why should we go to South Side when we can go to the Pub & Pourhouse?’”

Asked how she chooses beers to feature, Taylor laughs and says, “I taste a lot of beer. I’m a beer snob.” As she said in the PCBN blog. “I remember helping my dad home-brew when I was seven. Not that I was drinking it, but helping my dad brew brought my understanding of beer to a different level. I was able to use that knowledge as I got older and it helped me appreciate craft beer much more as I learned different flavor profiles and how they came together.”

The Pub & Pourhouse serves casual food, including appetizers, soups and salads, wings, hoagies, sandwiches, burgers, pizza and calzones. No smoking is allowed inside. Hours of operation are 11 a.m. - 2 a.m., 7 days a week.

The Begin Again Shop

by Dan Kaczmarek

Editor’s note: Brookliners have big hearts. This is another in a series of articles highlighting local volunteer organizations that give of their time and treasure to help their neighbors. If you are a Brookline-based charitable volunteer organization that would like to be profiled in The Brookline, contact us at pdkaz@comcast.net.

The Begin Again Shop, also known as the Brookline Clothes Room, is an inspiring example of big things springing from humble roots.

Nine years ago, a pre-school was started in the Brookline Boulevard United Presbyterian Church building. Mothers of the youngsters began bringing in clothing their kids had outgrown for other parents to take as needed. This simple exchange has grown into a free clothing program that serves well over 100 families each month.

The Begin Again Shop, which is entirely volunteer-run, is housed in a large room in the church’s building (across Queensboro Ave. from the Cannon Park). From children’s clothing, it has expanded to include clothes for all ages as well as other items. What and how much is available at any time depends on donations, but in addition to clothing it can include shoes, belts, purses, knick-knacks, towels, quilts, blankets, sheets, and other items.

Most of the clothing distribution occurs on days when the Brookline Christian Food Pantry—also housed at the church—is open. That occurs from 9-11:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month (except for August when it’s the first Saturday). However, if someone has a clothing need when a regular distribution isn’t scheduled, they can call the church (412-531-0590) to make arrangements.

Although the Food Pantry must follow eligibility guidelines provided by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, there are no eligibility requirements to be a Begin Again Shop client. The clothing program estimates the number of its clients based on Food Pantry numbers, which most recently included 150 families. That’s families, not individuals, so the number actually served is considerably higher. The clothing program says the number of families served can rise to around 200 during the holiday season.

The Begin Again Shop is gratified that what began as an exchange between some parents has blossomed into a cooperative effort among neighborhoods. Faith-based communities and other volunteer groups from within and outside of Brookline help with donations and service work. For instance, a group from Mt. Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian Church—as one of that congregation’s “Mission Possible” projects—walked into the exchange room when it consisted basically of just clothing on tables and transformed it into a well-organized facility reminiscent of a thrift shop, albeit one that doesn’t charge for its items. Girl Scout Troop 51915 Peters Township, made up of juniors and seniors at Peters Township High School, regularly gives assistance and donations to the project.

Here’s How You Can Help

The Begin Again Shop is fortunate to currently be sufficiently staffed with volunteers, but is always in need of clean, gently used or new clothing. Right now, the special need is for seasonal clothing such as sweaters, sweatshirts, long-sleeved shirts, and coats. The program will also accept the types of miscellaneous items listed above. No furniture is needed. To donate, you can just show up on the second Saturday of a month from 9-11:30 a.m. or give Brookline Presbyterian Church a phone call.

Adopt -A-Block

From the Editor: I have to confess, I'm a backslider litter-picker-upper. For years, the former Brookline newsletter editor, Pamela Grabowski, included a list of neighborhood volunteers who pledged to adopt a block (or more) and periodically pick up trash other residents had been too lazy or uncaring to take home or to a wastebasket. Over time, the list grew. However, since the time the newsletter was resurrected in March, we haven't published the list in order to make room for other news.

While most, if not all, other volunteers continued to honor their pledge, I must admit that not having my name out there made it easier to let more weeks go by between litter pick-ups. Plus, the published list has obviously not grown since last October. That's why this month we're publishing the list of volunteers who've responded to our inquiries and are encouraging other community-minded Brookliners to contact us to adopt an area. You can reach us at pdkaz@comcast.net or 412-531-1252.

We won't publish the list every month, but often enough to acknowledge the volunteers and keep people like me out there (sigh) picking up after other people. And we ask everyone to make it easier on their good-hearted neighbors

by not littering to begin with. If you were on the previous list and are still picking up your area but aren't listed, we invite you to contact us so we can add your name again. And remember, safety first! Wear gloves and don't reach into bushes. You don't know what's there.

Adopted Blocks

Norwich Ave & Boulevard: Michael and Pamela Grabowski
Merrick Ave, btw. Eben St. & Boulevard: Eileen Papale
Corner of Blvd. & Glenarm: St. Mark parishioners
Bldv. btw. Merrick & Starkamp: Patty & Dan Kaczmarek
700 Woodbourne: Mary Zottoli
900 Woodbourne: Diane Walkowski & Mary Anne Miller
Plainview Ave from Jillson to Capital: Jim Sheppard
Lynnbrook btw. Marloff & dead end: Matt & Joey Pilewski
Whited from Jacob to Gallupe: Michael Pilewski
Bellaire Ave btw. Pioneer and Whited: Denise Robinson
Gallion Ave: Lisa Wilson
1800-1900 Pioneer Ave: Dennis and Valerie Rew family
Rossmore at Flatbush & Oletha btw. Flatbush and Glenarm: Zachary and Sarah Zelazny
500 Berkshire: Sarah McCalla

Council Woman Natalia Rudiak: Update on 2681 Waddington Avenue



The zoning hearing for the rehab facility at 2681 Waddington Ave. was held September 10, 2015. This hearing was "continued" from July so that our office could engage the community and have the property owner ("Applicant" in zoning jargon) directly address plans and concerns.

Community Engagement Process:

Meeting #1, July 1—Collecting community concerns: At this meeting, there were 120 attendees, including myself, trained mediators paid for by my office, and State Representatives or staffers.

Meeting #2, July 13—Presenting community concerns, reviewing plans, and requesting written responses: This meeting included myself, mediators, and the applicant and his attorneys.

Meeting #3, July 29—Community-wide meeting for additional questions and concerns: At this meeting, the Community heard a presentation on plans and the rationale behind the proposal. Attendees included myself and staff, mediators, Officer Julie

Ott (City of Pittsburgh Zone 6 Police), and the applicant and his attorneys.

September 10, 2015 Zoning Hearing

At the zoning hearing, the applicant and his lawyers presented his intentions to assist people in recovery from addiction. Neighbors, lawyers for the Pittsburgh Diocese, the applicant, and our office all testified.

My staff testified to two unresolved zoning issues. First, parking, because the facility will not share the parking at St. Pius, and their 3-4 parking spaces are "stacked" in the facility's own driveway. The second issue was property value. Our zoning code states that developments cannot negatively influence property values. We asked the Board to consider parking and property value in their decision.

Once the board receives all documentation of the hearing, it has 45 days to make a decision to approve or deny the special exception. If approved by the Zoning Board, the facility has to obtain a license from the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Prevention. We will keep the community informed of developments.

Representative Harry Readshaw



I'd like to remind Brookline residents that October is "Domestic Violence Awareness Month."

One in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. We need to reduce the violence and especially murder at the hands of a partner. We also need to

understand that men can be victims as well.

In 2014, 59 women and 38 men died as the direct result of domestic violence in Pennsylvania. It is imperative that we break the cycle of abuse, as studies show that boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their partners when they become adults.

Wear purple in October to demonstrate that stopping domestic violence is important to you. More information can be obtained by contacting the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence at www.pcadv.org.

Representative Dan Deasy



In the first half of 2015, the state insurance Department recovered more than \$70 million in life Insurance benefits owed to almost 4,300 people. The recovery stems from a multistate probe of lax practices among some life insurance companies in tracking down heirs due benefits from policies.

Insurance companies must turn funds over to the state if a beneficiary cannot be located within three years.

Please remember that my office can help beneficiaries recover unpaid life insurance benefits that are turned over to the state Treasurer's Bureau of Unclaimed Property. We will guide residents through the process by determining if you have unclaimed property. If you do, we will assist you in obtaining, completing and submitting claim forms.

The state Treasurer's office is currently holding \$2.3 billion in unclaimed property. Unclaimed property includes life insurance benefits, closed bank accounts, uncashed checks, lost stocks and bonds, contents of safe deposit boxes, and unexpired gift certificates and gift cards. Call my office today at 412-928-9514 for assistance on this or any other state-related matter.

Senator Wayne Fontana



Last month, the Secretary of the Commonwealth and Governor Wolf announced that Pennsylvanians may now register to vote online. I have been a sponsor and co-sponsor and have supported a number of bills over the years that would make participation in our electoral process easier and applaud the

administration over this move.

The new site also allows current registered voters to more easily make updates to their voter record, such as a change of name, address or party affiliation. Additionally, registered voters may request assistance at the polling place on the website. Please understand that the new online system will not replace the traditional means of registering to vote at the county election bureau or through PennDOT, but instead will supplement it.

I am pleased by Governor Wolf's actions and strongly support measures that make voting more convenient and improve our citizens' access to the polls. I hope this new system brings greater participation in our local and presidential elections. Please remember if you wish to vote in the November 3 general election you must be registered by October 5. To learn more about online voter registration, please visit www.votesPA.com.

Representative Dan Miller



This fall, my office is hosting another set of events in our "Conversations that Matter" series. These roundtable discussions allow me to delve deeply into the nuances of an issue with a panel of experts who have different perspectives on a particular topic.

On October 14 at 7 p.m. I will be hosting my first Conversation in Brookline at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church on the topic "Women in the Workplace." This discussion will focus on issues of equality in the workplace, including pay equality, pregnancy discrimination, nursing accommodations, childcare and family leave policies, and sexual harassment.

These events are open to the public and time for Q & A and discussion will be held following the panel discussion. Please join us!

What's Hot in Brookline: Vinny's Pizza

by Joseph Samuel Rogers



The author at Vinny's Pizza

One of the many beautiful parts about living in Brookline is that one must go out of their way to go hungry. We are fortunate to have so many diverse food options on one street, many more than we are able to sample and spotlight in a monthly column. One of the many traditions in the Rogers household (we are creatures of habit)

was ordering a pizza every Thursday for dinner after I came home from Boy Scouts at Resurrection Church. Vinny's Pizza was always a favorite because they offer online ordering and delivery, two plusses in my book. Vinny's was last visited by The Brookline in July 2010, before I started high school, so I thought it would be fun to return for old time's sake.

Sean Cavanagh, owner of Vinny's Pizza, told The Brookline that Vincenzo, is Sean's father-in-law and the shop's namesake. Vinny's Pizza offers a wide selection of pizzas, salads, hoagies, calzones, burgers, and even gyros. Yes, this place has it all! I personally enjoy the Spinach and Feta pizza, but surely there is something on the menu for people of all tastes to enjoy.

While most items are priced below \$10, the restaurant also has a series of coupons and specials attached to their take-out menus. If you're looking to dine on a dime, a large cheese pizza is only \$6.99, and an extra-large is only a dollar more. Two gyros and an order of fries are only \$9.99. For NFL parties, two large pizzas, two dozen wings, two orders of breadsticks, and a two-liter Pepsi product is only \$35.99. These specials are perfect for families or anyone looking to eat out for less.

Vinny's Pizza, just another reason why it's mighty fine to dine in Brookline! Vinny's offers delivery and carry out. Order online at www.vinnys.us. A free order of breadsticks comes with any online order over \$10. A \$10 order is required for delivery.

Old Notes By Old People

by Cliff Gorski

With this being October, have you seen your first commercial for the Christmas season yet? I have not, but I always feel slightly distressed when I walk into a big box store and see trees, lights and other decorations mixed in with the Halloween costumes and candy. As kids, we took one holiday at a time. In fact, my trick was to make all of the Halloween candy last until Christmas when our stockings would be filled with new sweet treats.

In my current community, we celebrate Halloween on the Saturday before the actual holiday. Trick or Treaters, for safety reasons, are allowed to canvass the neighborhood from the hours of 3 to 5 p.m. I always feel sad for these kids because we did it the right way. Trick or treating was done in the evening and in the dark, and yes, sometimes it was done on a school night. There were unwritten rules to Trick or Treating. The major rule was that if you were past the eighth grade, you passed your prime. It was considered bad taste to be out on the streets for the annual candy grab. I broke that rule. It was free candy and who was going to recognize me in my costume?

We also had fantastic Halloween parties down at the Brookline Community Center. There were plenty of door prizes and prizes for the best costumes. It was a great time, especially the year that I won a certificate from Islay's for a package of six Klondikes! I should also mention the Halloween parade on the Boulevard. Always optimistic, I thought that my costume was the best and that I should be awarded a prize. I mean, why wouldn't somebody dressed up like a hobo beat out the family dressed as the Fruit of the Loom guys, right?

I guess the basic mechanics of Trick or Treating have not changed. In my current neighborhood, there is a parade and winners are picked from those in the parade. Everyone who participates gets a very nice treat bag with a couple of bucks thrown in. I always buy enough candy for about 200 kids. We wind up getting about a dozen, so I eat the rest. But the one thing that I think has changed is the age of the kids who trick or treat. For the past couple of years, we've had some grown adults come to the door in costume looking for candy. Is that the new norm? If so, I need to get my costume ready.

Community Events & Announcements

Carnegie Library of Brookline October Events

Spotlight Program: Family PlayShop

Thursdays @ 11 a.m.—Laugh, play, discover and explore! Babies, toddlers and preschoolers dive into quality play time with their parents and caregivers as they spend time together, make friends and use toys to learn about their world. Child development specialists will be available for one-on-one questions and discussion.

For All Ages

- *Crochet & Knitting Fun* – Saturdays, October 3, 17 & 31 @ 1 p.m.

For Kids

- *Storytime: Toddler and Preschooler Tales* – Mondays @ 6:30 p.m.
- *Tween Workshop Tuesdays* – Tuesdays @ 3 p.m.
- *Kids Club: Wacky Wednesdays* – Wednesdays @ 3:30 p.m.

For Teens

- *Pokémon days* – Mondays @ 3 p.m. – Card and video game drop-in battle leagues
- *Teen Time* – Thursdays @ 3 p.m.
- *Homework Club* – Thursdays @ 5 p.m.
- *Gaming Club* – Saturday, October 10 @ 12 p.m.

Heritage Players Present The Secret Garden

The Heritage Players will present the musical *The Secret Garden*, book and lyrics by Marsha Norman, music by Lucy Simon, at the Seton Center. October 16-18 and 23-25. *The Secret Garden* was named “Outstanding Musical” by Drama Desk Awards and was nominated for the “Best Musical” Tony award when it premiered in 1991. *The Chicago Tribune* calls the show’s score “gorgeous” with “lovely, emotional, accessible numbers,” that are “a family-friendly pleasure any time of the year.”

Friday and Saturday performances are at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online or at the door. The box office opens one-half hour before curtain. For more information visit www.bphp.org or phone 412-254-4633.

For Adults

- *Let’s Speak English!* – Tuesdays @ 6:45 p.m. – Non-native English speakers build comfort and confidence with the language through casual conversation.
- *Power Yoga with Amy* – Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m. – bring your own water, mat and towel.
- *Résumé Assistance by Appointment* – Thursdays, October 1 & 15 @ 6-8 p.m. – A qualified volunteer is available to review your existing résumé and cover letter to help make them stronger. Call 412-561-1003 to schedule a half-hour appointment.
- *Monthly Movie Showdown: Charlie Bartlett vs. Kiss Kiss Bang Bang* – Tuesday, October 13 @ 6 p.m.
- *Book Discussions*
 - *Mystery & More* – Wednesday, October 14 @ 1 p.m. – *Nail Biter*
 - *Between the Lines* – Monday, October 19 @ 6 p.m. – *Reconstructing Amelia*
 - *The Buzz at Cannon Coffee* – Thursday, October 22 @ 6 p.m. – *The Thirteenth Tale*
- *Game Night* – Tuesday, October 20 @ 5:45 p.m.
- *Electronics Club Vintage Computer Fest* – Saturday, October 24 @ 10 a.m. – See some vintage PCs and marvel at how far we’ve come since the early days of personal computing

Visit www.carnegielibrary.org/locations/brookline or call 412-561-1003 for more information.

Healing

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The Rev. Dr. Regis Turocy, OSL
Assisted by Mrs. Meg Kaufman
Sunday, October 18th–9:15 AM
Church of the Advent, Anglican
3010 Pioneer Avenue

What's Happening at Brookline PreK-8

by Amy Cornelius Dembosky, Parent Volunteer

Fall is in the air, and everyone at Pittsburgh Brookline PreK-8 is grateful for the cooler weather! Our staff and students have been working hard, reviewing material from last year and learning new things, too. Welcome to Bernadette Schanck, fourth grade communications teacher, and Mike McGuire, fifth grade communications teacher. We look forward to getting to know you better!

Our morning drop off seems to be running smoothly. Since students can now enter the school at 7:40 a.m. for breakfast, traffic is distributed over a longer time period. This seems to have helped with traffic issues. Remember that walking to school is a great way to get exercise and spend time with your child or children, and we encourage you to do so whenever possible.

School activities are off to a good start. Our wonderful music teacher Mrs. Spinnenweber has taken on the cross country team this fall. Interested students should see her for more

information. This sport is open to students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades.

Brookline PreK-8 continues to be a site for the Strong Women, Strong Girls after-school program. This mentoring program aims to improve and/or maintain positive self-esteem among young girls by pairing them with a mentor from a local college. Together they work through a curriculum that focuses on leadership skills and self-confidence. The college women are in turn mentored by local professional women. This program is open to girls in grades 3-5; please see Mrs. Rayzer or Mrs. Baum for more information.

Our Parent-School-Community Council will be meeting on the third Wednesday of the month this school year. Some of the meetings will be held at various locations in the neighborhood. If you are interested in attending, please call the school at 412-529-7380 for information. Our Parent Teacher Association is always looking for volunteers and supporters. If you would like to get in touch with them, send them an email at brooklinepta@live.com.

What's Going On at Pittsburgh West Liberty?

by Deonne Arrington, Principal
Teresa Grusong-Adams, First Grade Teacher

We're back and hoping everyone has enjoyed the summer. During the summer break, things were busy at West Liberty. Many staff changes have taken place. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following staff members: Ms. Candyce Wood-Wright, Science Teacher; Mrs. Danielle Kruth, Fifth Grade Literacy Teacher; Ms. Dorothy Walker, Aide; Ms. Mary Kyle, Substitute for Primary Learning Support; and last but certainly not least Ms. Raina Jackson, Substitute Social Worker for Mrs. Sumper. Mrs. Sumper is currently on leave because she had her baby over the summer. Congratulations to Mrs. Sumper.

In addition to staff changes, we've been busy with the beginning of our school year activities. We had an awesome attendance at our Back to School Night Celebration. During October, not only will the leaves be changing colors, but we will be sporting many different colors for different causes.

In October, we will be supporting Breast Cancer Awareness. The students will wear Pink on Friday, October 9 and donations will be accepted for the American Cancer Society. On October 15, two celebrations will be occurring. The first half of the day is our Pajama Day. Grab your favorite pajamas

and wear them to school. The other half of the day will be our Open House.

On Friday, October 16, the scheduled Parent Teacher conferences will take place. The celebration of Unity Day is on Wednesday, October 21. Students will wear orange to take a stand against bullying. In the final week of October, we will be participating in activities for Red Ribbon Week. On Monday, we will wear red to indicate our readiness to make the right choice. The significance of Red Ribbon week is teaching children to say "no" to drugs. Lastly, during this week, our Pumpkin Patch will occur in the morning on Friday, October 30, and later that afternoon is our Vocabulary Parade.

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Community Group ◦ 6:00 pm

I want to take this opportunity to invite you to join us for one of our times of worship and study on Sundays. Simply come and observe or share your thoughts and questions. We welcome you as you are.

- Pastor Dennis

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