

## Waterfall Catering

by Dan Kaczmariski



Dan and Renee Vichie

*Pawsburgh Photography*

Waterfall Catering is a new Boulevard business that's not all that new. Although Waterfall just opened its Brookline office in December 2015, it's an experienced and thriving operation that's brought delicious home-made food to thousands for a decade.

Waterfall began as a small café/catering business in Robinson. Owners Dan and Renee Vichie initially conducted the catering business out of the café, but soon needed more space. "We got very busy very fast," says Renee. As word spread of the quality of Waterfall's food, Dan received a fortuitous offer from the nearby Carpenters Training Center. "Two administrators came for lunch a couple of times, then called me and said, 'we're looking for someone who can do this quality of food for us. Why don't you come and take a look?'"

That not only led to Waterfall becoming the caterer for the Carpenters' functions, but also allowed the Vichies to close the café and move their catering operation to the large, well-equipped kitchen at the Carpenters Center. "They fell in love with us and our food and invited us to move in with them," says Renee. "We've been with them almost 6 years now."

The couple are longtime Brookline residents who've raised their daughters, Rachel and Jessie, here. Dan has lived here all his life and Renee has been here 25 years. Dan's dad and uncle were once owners of the Boulevard Lounge and his uncle owned the former Larry's Roadhouse on Whited St.

"We really wanted to bring a piece of the business we love to the neighborhood we love, so our friends and neighbors could identify with who we are and what we're doing," says Renee. "Our Boulevard office gives our company a local face, where you can meet us, see photos, taste food, and place orders."

Waterfall specializes in drop-off catering, meaning they bring the party to you—whether at home, church, pavilion, hall, office, or school. "Our goal is to take the stress off you," says Renee.

Per-person groups range from 10 guests to 1,000, or you can order individual items a la carte—such as a pan of pasta, a specified amount of chicken, or a cheese or fruit tray. Waterfall caters a wide variety of events, including corporate, office and school functions; graduations and religious celebration parties; baby and bridal showers; retirements; funeral wakes, and more.

"Dan's specialty is chicken piccata," says Renee. "It's tender boneless chicken breast, sautéed in a delicious white wine and lemon butter sauce, served with capers. Everything is made fresh and you can taste the difference." Renee says two must-try items are chocolate-dipped dessert trays and Dan's homemade potato chips. She laughs as she tells of one client who said "I don't care what you send, just send extra chips."

The Vichies say the Brookline office has received an excellent response from the community and has generated orders from local families, schools, and groups. Not to mention compliments for their festively decorated windows. "I want people to think when they look in the window, 'oh, it's a party,'" says Renee. "Because that's what we do. We create delicious events."

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*Cheese and fresh fruit display*

*Photo courtesy of Waterfall Catering*

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**Waterfall Catering**

# 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

| February           | Total | Brookline |
|--------------------|-------|-----------|
| Zone 6 Crimes      |       |           |
| Aggravated Assault | 4     | 0         |
| Robbery            | 4     | 0         |
| Burglary           | 5     | 0         |
| Theft              | 14    | 7         |
| Stolen Vehicle     | 1     | 0         |

### Teddy Bear Drive

The City of Pittsburgh Police are collecting stuffed animals (new and no bigger than 12") to console kids during emergencies. You can drop the off at Zone 6 Police Station, 312 S. Main St., West End (412-937-3051)

## MARCH COMMUNITY MEETINGS

### **April 11 Monday**

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

### **April 12 Tuesday**

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

### **April 18 Monday**

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

We have over 1,500 readers.

Pick up The Brookline at a Boulevard merchant. Look for "The Brookline Available Here" sign in the window.

## The Brookline

### The Brookline Staff

|                      |                 |
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| Victoria Cumer       | Layout Editor   |
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| Julie Salas          | Proofreading    |
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### Contact Us

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[pdkaz@comcast.net](mailto:pdkaz@comcast.net)  
Phone: 412-531-1252

### Deadlines for Submissions and Ads

April 7 for May's Issue

May 7 for June's Issue

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The Brookline is available free of charge by email. Go to <http://bit.do/brookline> to sign up. A one-year postal delivery subscription is \$25 for non-SPDC members and \$15 for SPDC members.

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## Jan Beiler

by Pamela Grabowski

Brookline lost a champion of the community when Jan Beiler died on February 18, 2016. Mary Helen Hutchins on Facebook said it best: "This is a lady you mean when you say 'class act'." The line of mourners who came to pay their respects to Jan's husband Bob at DeBor Funeral Home showed how deeply everyone felt her loss.

From the moment the Beilers moved to Brookline, Jan became an energetic supporter of community projects. "Everyone would refer to us as Bob and Jan, but it was really Jan and Bob," said Bob. With her notepad and pen, Jan kept projects on track. While the initial idea may not have been Jan's, the planning and execution of the project reflected Jan's skill at organization.



Jan Beiler

When it came to promoting something she believed in, Jan was a one-woman media campaign, and Brookline was one of her projects. It was Jan's smiling face who greeted volunteers signing up for Brookline's Earth Day Clean-Up, or encouraging people to join SPDC at their BreezeFest table. She worked with SPDC, Brookline Chamber of Commerce and Brookline Block Watch. She was one of the founding members of SPDC, and served on the boards of both SPDC and the Chamber. When Block Watch scheduled their annual Christmas Pot Luck, it was Jan who reminded Mary Ann Miller that Mary Ann was to bring her famous egg salad. Then everyone would remind Jan to bring her famous macaroni and cheese.

While others her age fumbled with new technology, Jan embraced it. She not only kept up with what was new, she defied the adage that "older people don't understand" new technology by becoming the "go to" person for others on how a program worked or how to get it to work!

When The Brookline was initially launched, Jan became a proofreader. In addition, she maintained the email list of subscribers and distributed the online edition of the newsletter through Google Groups. Later, she added ad invoicing to her list of duties.

While the list of Jan's accomplishments and contributions is long, most will remember Jan as a friend. Jan had a nickname for everyone. Lois McCafferty was "Loie," Wayne Dutzik was "Wayne-O," and Amy Fisher was "Ames." To have a nickname meant you had crossed paths with Jan. She always made you feel like you were her best friend. Jan

Photo courtesy of Bob Beiler

would patiently listen to your rants and commiserate with your pain, then gently offer advice or guidance.

Amy Fisher related how she first met Jan. "I was home alone with a baby, and I was looking for volunteer opportunities when I first contacted Jan. She made me feel like I was her daughter. For a long time I thought I was her favorite daughter, then come to learn I was one of many!"

That's why losing Jan is so devastating to so many. She made each one she touched feel special –her favorite.

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Church of the Advent, Anglican  
3010 Pioneer Avenue

Chip Gorski is taking a month off from "Old Notes by Old People" and will return in May.

# Brookline Memorial Recreation Center

## Spring Programs

### Fishing at North Park

Ages 10-15. Saturdays starting April 2, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Fishing equipment will be provided. \$5 per Saturday. Cost will cover lunch and bait.

### Co-Ed Kickball League

Ages 12-15. Friday evenings 5 p.m. Registration fee, \$15

### Milan's Basketball Clinic

Co-Ed, ages 6-8 and 9-12. Tuesday and Thursday nights starting April 5 and 7. Ages 6-8 @ 6-6:45 p.m. Ages 9-12 @ 7-7:45 p.m. Registration fee, \$10

### Kinder Kick Ball

Ages 4 through 6. Thursday afternoons starting April 7. 4-5 p.m. FREE

## Ongoing

### Weight Room and Fitness Center

Patrons ages 16-17 must be orientated and accompanied by a parent or guardian. Membership card is required. \$5 monthly fee for use of weight room and fitness center.

### 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. Program runs throughout the school year on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. FREE. Please be sure to wear your tennis shoes.

### Quilting Class

Quilting class has expanded from Monday evenings 6 p.m.-8:45 p.m. to now include Friday mornings! Friday morning class will run from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Class is open to everyone who has some sewing experience and a sewing machine. This class is ongoing and everyone is welcome! FREE

Center hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 9:15 a.m.-8:45 p.m.; Tues., Thur., 1:15 p.m.-8:45 p.m.; Sat. 8:15 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

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## State Representative

### Harry Readshaw

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# Brookline Teen Outreach News

by Caitlin McNulty

Thank you to everyone who came out to see the Teen Center on March 19. It was a great chance to meet new faces in our community and share our mission. If you weren't able to make it, stop by and visit us Thursday or Friday from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. or Saturday from noon to 9 p.m. We are in the former American Legion building at 520 Brookline Boulevard.

There are many ways to help Brookline Teen Outreach grow to serve your community. You can volunteer your time, make a financial contribution, or supply one of the much needed items on the list provided below and on our website: [www.brooklineteenoutreach.org](http://www.brooklineteenoutreach.org).

Have an idea for the Teen Center? Please share it with us: [info@brooklineteenoutreach.org](mailto:info@brooklineteenoutreach.org)

## Needed Items

*Practical:* Copy paper; business-sized envelopes; large mailing envelopes; file folders; security cameras; pens; folder labels; mini fridge; cleaning supplies.

*Fun:* Children's toys and indoor play equipment for babysitting room; video games - new or gently used; video game consoles - new or used and in working order; computers; TV; DVD player; wireless projector; Ceiling-mount projector screen; bean bag chairs; art supplies; film cameras and film; camcorder; sound equipment; instruments; books; board games; arcade game.

## Free Meals for Kids

GrubUP Pittsburgh offers free afterschool meals for those under 18 at the Brookline Rec Center.  
Snacks: 3-4 p.m. Hot meal: Starts 5 p.m.

# What's Hot in Brookline: Getaway Café

by Joseph Samuel Rogers

When I was a child growing up on Woodward Avenue, one of our weekly traditions was eating "all you can eat prime rib" at the Getaway Café on Tuesday evenings. While those days have long passed, I seized at the opportunity this past January to return to the Getaway Café after many years. I was especially intrigued by the sign advertising new ownership and wanted to check out all of the exciting changes occurring along the outskirts of Brookline.

Owner and Baldwin resident Mike McCullough had never been in the restaurant business before, but he kicked the idea around for years. Since assuming control of the restaurant on August 1, he has experienced pretty good business. When asked why he purchased the restaurant, McCullough said that there "really is not a place to listen to good music in the South Hills. I like music and I think everyone else likes it, so I want the Getaway Café to be a place to do that."

McCullough is infusing new and fresh ideas into the Brookline staple, including inviting local bands and live entertainment on weekends and karaoke night. McCullough plans to monitor special events and activities to gauge customer interest. The weekends are typically the busiest for the restaurant, but activities are scattered throughout the week. At the time of my visit, the menu advertised a "Name that Tune" night on Saturdays, Karaoke on Wednesday's, and even a Saturday night Dart League!

The Getaway Café boasts a new menu with upgraded and high quality menu items and ingredients. The menu includes daily

dinner specials that correspond with the day of the week and "Chef's Features." During my visit, I enjoyed a delicious crab cake sandwich that included the classic Getaway chips. How delicious to have a lump crab cake for lunch at a reasonable price! While the menu has changed, it still includes classic Getaway favorites, including the Reuben sandwich and the signature salad with cranberries and walnuts, and the same chefs were retained from previous ownership.

There's no doubt that Brookline is a changing neighborhood, and our local businesses are also changing, but it is refreshing and exciting to see such a dynamic spin put on a Brookline staple. I hope Brookline residents will embrace and reciprocate Mike McCullough's enthusiasm for the new Getaway Café. So stop in for a music event or activity, enjoy one of their rotating specials, and see for yourself why the Getaway Café is another reason why it is mighty fine to dine in Brookline!

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# Crossing Into Retirement

by Dan Kaczmarek



Francine Fontana

*Pawburgh Photography*

Since the day Francine Fontana started her first crossing guard job in 1988, she, like the other guards in Brookline, has been one of the most important people in our community. In their self-effacing way, their job is to make every school day an ordinary one--helping thousands of students get to and from school with no tragic or newsworthy incidents.

After decades of crossing kids and getting them safely on buses, Francine retired from her position this month. In addition to time in Beechview, she's been at the corners of Pioneer Ave./Dunster St., Pioneer/Brookline Blvd., and Whited St./Blvd., where she worked since 2001.

She chokes up a little when she talks of not seeing the kids anymore, but she knew it was time to give up standing in the cold rain and sweltering sunshine, and is looking forward to new life adventures. "The kids are just great. They are really a joy. That's what I'm going to miss—and just talking to people, the passersby. I'm thankful for the people and the area. It's been very, very rewarding."

She and her fellow guards are often the first adults children interact with outside the home each day and they realize a smile and a friendly greeting can go a long way. My wife and I live near Francine's corner and we, like so many others in the area, are going to miss her. When we leave the house in the morning, we can usually hear her before we see her. Her voice is strong and clear and bubbly. She's good with names and sprinkles her instructions with "honeys" and "sweeties."

Each day, looking down Brookline Blvd., she had an unobstructed view of the sunrise. She never tired of the sight and tried to get the kids to appreciate the experience. Some did, she says. Others were more like "yeah, yeah, Francine, we know."

Crossing guards truly like and care for kids. "If you don't see someone for a couple of days, you just worry," Francine says. At the end of each winter, it was her custom to buy a stash of kids' gloves and hats on sale to save for the next winter, when inevitably some kids would forget theirs on frigid days. She bought about 14 pair for this winter and has 2 left.

Although protecting students from motorists is a guard's first job, they do much more. As Pittsburgh Police Chief McLay says, they are the eyes and ears of the community. "We see things other people don't," says Francine. "If there's a problem or kids have seen something, they might feel more comfortable coming to us as a familiar face than to a police officer."

She was at her job so long that she began crossing the children of people she had crossed when they themselves were kids. And in case you think youth today have never been worse, she tells of a boy who years ago tried to set fire to the back of her raincoat with a lighter. He's now a father of three who's since returned to apologize for his youthful misbehavior.

The City of Pittsburgh says there's a great need for crossing guards and encourages interested applicants. For more information, go to <https://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/employmentcenter/JobListings.aspx>. In addition to working at school crossings, guards can earn extra money at events such as Light Up Night, First Night, and Steelers and Pirates games

## A Word to Our Drivers

The Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code requires that drivers who meet or overtake a stopped school bus with its red signal lights flashing and side stop signal arms activated stop at least 10 feet from the bus. The Pennsylvania Code also authorizes school crossing guards to direct, control, and regulate traffic.

Unfortunately, crossing guards are seeing more and more dangerous behavior from drivers--people who may normally be friendly neighbors but get into their vehicle and turn angry or inattentive.

Asked what she'd like to tell motorists, Francine says "Be cautious. Watch out for those kids. I think the biggest problem is cell phones and texting." Plus drivers who think they're a law unto themselves. "You get some who just refuse to stop. I'm very good at reading lips now. They swear at me and give me the finger."

Motorists who illegally pass a school bus or ignore a crossing guard can end up getting a traffic ticket in the mail. Guards and school bus drivers are authorized to take down license plate numbers and report infractions to their supervisors, who then contact the police for issuance of a ticket.

## Senator Wayne Fontana



The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue is accepting applications for the 2015 Property Tax/Rent Rebate program. If you filed a paper rebate last year, you should have received a 2015 application by now. If you have not received an application, or did not apply last year and wish to apply this year, applications are available at

[www.revenue.pa.gov](http://www.revenue.pa.gov) or at my Brookline office, located at 932 Brookline Boulevard. My staff would be happy to assist you in preparing your application.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and over; widows and widowers age 50 and over; and people with disabilities age 18 and over. Homeowners with a maximum yearly income of \$35,000 and renters with a maximum yearly income of \$15,000 are eligible for a rebate. Keep in mind half of Social Security income is excluded. Some applicants who previously received rebates may continue to qualify despite Social Security cost-of-living adjustments that may have pushed their income past eligibility limits.

Applications are due to the Department of Revenue by June 30.

## Representative Dan Deasy



As part of my continuing efforts to promote awareness about the dangers of identity theft, I am partnering with state Sen. Wayne Fontana to host two free on-site paper-shredding events in my legislative district.

The first event, in partnership with Crafton Borough, will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 23 at Crafton Park, 167 W. Steuben St., Crafton. The second event, in partnership with Green Tree Borough, will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, May 14, at Green Tree Park, 895 Green Tree Road, Pittsburgh.

Residents are invited to bring old health records, financial documents, tax returns, and other sensitive information for secure disposal. Documents will be shredded on-site by a reputable and bonded company.

I am also partnering with Pittsburgh Musical Theater to again host the West End Spectator Zone Celebration for the Pittsburgh Marathon from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., Sunday, May 1.

For more information about all upcoming events, please contact my constituent service office at 412-928-9514 or visit my website at [www.pahouse.com/deasy](http://www.pahouse.com/deasy).

## Council Woman Natalia Rudiak



We get lots of calls asking how to navigate the zoning process or how to get connected to resources that can help rehab homes in our area. Sometimes, these are lengthy processes that can seem overwhelming. In order to help that problem, our office and Mayor Bill Peduto are bringing you the 2016 Renovation Fair!

Working to improve your home or property, but don't know where to get started? Our office and the Mayor's office have teamed up to bring you all the resources you need to either start or continue that project you've been putting off! The first Renovation Fair was held in 2014 and was a big success. This year we've teamed up with the Mayor's office to bring more resources.

On April 30, please join our office, the office of the Mayor, local businesses, government agencies, nonprofits, and community partners to get started on improving your home. Discover programs for seniors and veterans that could potentially defray the cost of home renovation projects. Put an end to putting off that project and get in the same room with all of the experts!

Learn how to meet with banks and work with a contractor to make your dream home a reality. Listen to speakers talk about landscaping, preserving historic elements, retaining walls, and other issues important to South Pittsburgh residents. And don't forget to stay for the demonstrations and raffles! This event is sure to be fun and useful.

What: Home Renovation Fair 2016

When: Saturday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Brashear High School Cafeteria, 590 Crane Avenue

Who: Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak, Mayor Bill Peduto



## Representative Harry Readshaw



State law requires smart meters to be installed by 2023 for customers of the largest electricity distribution companies, including Duquesne Light and West Penn Power. Opting out is not permitted.

I have received inquiries from constituents as to how smart electric meters will affect them.

Smart meters:

- Are being installed on new construction and on existing buildings upon request.
- Can communicate with the utility provider to help identify power outages, reduce meter-reading costs and identify electricity theft.
- Can help you save energy and money by identifying when you use electricity and what time of day so that you can move high-demand uses, like laundry or dishwashers, to lower-cost evening hours.

Electricity distributors are permitted to add a smart meter charge to your bill, showing up as a separate line. They may add the charge to your bill before the meter is installed to help cover the purchasing and installation cost.

For more information, contact my office staff at (412) 881-4208 or visit <http://bit.ly/PAsmartmeters>.

## Representative Dan Miller



Last year I hosted a meeting of dozens of our local fire departments to talk about the unique issues that they face when trying to keep people safe. One issue that we discussed is the incongruity between current Pennsylvania law and the modern light packages being used in many of our volunteer company or chief

vehicles. Current law mandates external light packages only-which can limit accessibility and damage resale value, and are not compatible with most of our new, high-visibility LED options. To have many of our local departments remove these lights would be costly and less safe. Accordingly I have teamed up with Rep. Jerry Knowles (R-Schuylkill) to introduce a bill that would update our law to permit newer and safer light packages on fire company or chief vehicles.

## April Events on the Boulevard

### At 824: The Consignment Shop

BYOB Acrylic Paint Workshop with Caroline Cratsley. Sat. April 10, 2 to 4 p.m., 824 Brookline Blvd. Fee: \$25. 412-440-8245

Tarot and Spiritual Readings with Healing by Autumn Matto. Sat. April 23, 6:30 to 10 p.m. Fee: \$30, with some proceeds donated to Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh.

### At Brookline Pub and Pourhouse

Brookline Community Open Mic. All talent levels and performance types are welcome. Every Wed., 7-10:30 p.m. [brooklineopenmic@gmail.com](mailto:brooklineopenmic@gmail.com)

## Zillow Property Value Estimate

Each month, we're tracking changes to the Zillow market value estimate of the same Brookline home not currently on the market.

| Date             | Estimate  |
|------------------|-----------|
| January 24, 2016 | \$141,632 |
| February 28      | \$142,493 |
| March 25         | \$143,258 |

# Why Shop Brookline?



Shopping at your locally owned independent business returns dollars to the Brookline community. The Brookline Chamber of Commerce sponsors the annual Halloween Parade, BreezeFest, Christmas lighting and more.

Your local independent businesses and the Chamber of Commerce support your baseball, football, and other sports leagues, your churches, Breeze Run, and school programs.

**Coming Soon! The new 2016/2017 Business and Community Directory**

# Community Events & Announcements

## Carnegie Library of Brookline March Events

### For All Ages

- *Crochet & Knitting Fun* – Saturdays • April 2, 16 & 30 • 1 p.m. – one-on-one assistance and limited free supplies are available.

### For Kids

- *Storytime: Toddler and Preschooler Tales* – Mondays • 6:30 p.m., Thursdays • 11 a.m.
- *Tween Workshop* Tuesdays – Tuesdays • 3 p.m.
- *Kids Club: Wacky Wednesdays* – Wednesdays • 3:30 p.m.

### For Teens

- *Pokémon Club* – Mondays • 3 p.m. – drop-in battle leagues for the card and video games
- *Teen Time* – Thursdays • 3 p.m.

### 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 for free fitness-based yoga.

- *Monthly Movie Showdown* – Tuesday, April 12 • 6 p.m. – *I Am Legend* versus *Omega Man*
- *Résumé Assistance by Appointment* – Wednesdays • April 13 & 27 • 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.
- *Book Discussions*
  - *Mystery & More* – Wednesday, April 13 • 1 p.m. – The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio: *How My Mother Raised 10 Kids on 25 Words or Less* by Terry Ryan
  - *Between the Lines* – Monday, April 18 • 6 p.m. – The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio: *How My Mother Raised 10 Kids on 25 Words or Less* by Terry Ryan
  - *The Buzz* – Thursday, April 28 • 6 p.m. – *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein
- *Game Night* – Tuesday, April 19 • 5:45 p.m. – classic and adventure-based board games

Library Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visit [www.carnegielibrary.org/locations/brookline](http://www.carnegielibrary.org/locations/brookline) or call 412-561-1003 for more information.

## Heritage Players Theater News

The Heritage Players perform at the Seton Center on Pioneer Ave. and draw actors, directors, and crew from throughout the Pittsburgh area. Brookliners are encouraged to share their talents with the all-volunteer group.

The Heritage Players are offering theater classes for all age groups from age 5 to adult beginning April 4 at the Seton Center. An audition preparation class for ages 13 to adult will also be offered at the Schoolhouse Arts Center, Bethel Park. Visit [www.bphp.org](http://www.bphp.org) for course listings and descriptions, and ongoing registration. Members receive a 10% discount.

Auditions for the *Eighth Annual Summer Broadway Revue* will be held on Sat. April 16 from noon to 2 p.m. and Sun. April 17 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Schoolhouse Arts Center, Bethel Park. Seeking ages 13-19. Please prepare 32 bars of a musical theater song, and a one-minute monologue. Performance dates are Sat. July 16 at 7 p.m. and Sun. July 17 at 2 p.m. at the Seton Center.

Coming in May: William Inge's Pulitzer-prize-winning play, *Picnic*, on May 13-15 and 20-22 at the Seton Center. Fri. and Sat. performances are at 8 p.m. and Sun. matinees are at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 at the door and \$10 if purchased in advance online at [www.bphp.org/xu35a](http://www.bphp.org/xu35a). Box office opens one half hour before curtain.

Auditions will be held for the musical, *Alice in Wonderland*, based on Lewis Carroll's novel, on Sun. May 22 and Mon. May 23 at 6 p.m. at the Seton Center. Both adult and children's roles are available. Seeking ages 6 and older. Prepare a song. Auditioners may be asked to read from the script. Performance dates are August 5-7 and 12-14 at the Seton Center.

Visit [www.bphp.org](http://www.bphp.org) for details or call 412-254-4633,

# What's Happening at Brookline PreK-8

by Amy Cornelius Dembosky, Parent Volunteer

We're all happy that spring has finally sprung at Pittsburgh Brookline PreK-8! The season started with the PTA Spring Carnival on March 11. There were games, prizes, raffles, a dance contest, food, and fun! Our second Scholastic book fair was open for the evening, too. Special thanks to all of the volunteers who made the night a success.

As part of our observance of Black History Month, Sean Gibson, the great-grandson of Negro League baseball player Josh Gibson, came to speak to students. The elder Gibson played for the Pittsburgh Crawfords and the Homestead Grays in addition to stints in the Mexican and Dominican baseball leagues. Josh Gibson is considered one of baseball's best hitters and catchers and was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1972. He was only the second African-American player to be honored in this way.

Our students studied the character trait "determination" in March. Each character trait that we focus on becomes the basis for selection of each homeroom's student of the month. The middle school students in our middle school PreK Book

Buddies club also exemplify determination. They work with their buddies each month to read together and also complete activities around what they read. The pairs worked together recently to read a favorite book and then discussed the beginning, middle, and end of the story, the characters, and the setting. They designed a poster for the book that was displayed during our PTA-sponsored Literary Arts Night. Our PreK students love their Book Buddies, and we thank the middle school students for their hard work and commitment.

During the month of April, students in grades 3-8 will take the PSSA tests in various subject areas. Please remember to send your student to school on time each day, as students who are late cannot join tests that have already started. Students should have a good breakfast in the morning, too! They are able to have breakfast at school if necessary, and can be dropped off as early as 7:40 a.m.

## The Latest from St. John Bosco Academy

by Holly Victor, Parent Volunteer

Every March, students from St. John Bosco Academy (formally Brookline Regional Catholic) participate in the annual National History Day competition. The first round of this national competition was held at the Heinz History Center in the Strip District and includes entries from schools in Allegheny, Washington, Greene, Fayette, Westmoreland and Somerset Counties. Social Studies teacher, Mrs. Shanafelt, extended the opportunity to submit an entry to all seventh and eighth grade students. Students had their choice of entering the contest under one of the five categories: documentary, exhibit, paper, website, or performance. Last October, the students enjoyed a field trip to the Heinz History Center where they attended informational breakout sessions to learn the rules and regulations of the competition. The students also had the pleasure of touring The History Center at their own pace after lunch.

March was also a busy month for the athletics department. St. John Bosco hosted its annual March Madness basketball tournament. For two weeks, our athletic director, Dave Hudson, assistant athletic director, Greg Kubick, and tournament director, Jeff Warner, worked relentlessly around the clock to ensure a successful and fun tournament for all. Countless parent volunteers also signed up to help out with the operations needed to run this annual fundraiser which is vital to the sustainability of the athletics department.

"Volunteers are love in motion!" ~Author Unknown



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# Special April Supplement

Because it's April, we at *The Brookline* were sorely tempted to include in this issue some "news" that wouldn't quite pass the truth test. You can judge for yourself on the next three pages whether we were able to resist the temptation.

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## Big Bottle Collection Up for Sale

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Fifty years after starting his collection, Harvey Brinkman of Bellaire Place has announced he's selling off his entire stash of 7,480 empty pop bottles.

Like most Brookline kids in the 1960s, Harvey regularly searched the weeds and bushes for empty bottles—at the time worth 2 cents each. But instead of immediately cashing them in for baseball cards and Sky Bars, he held on to his finds. "My grandfather advised me they could only go up in value and that I should consider them an investment, so I put them in the basement," he says. "Who could have predicted the big no-deposit-no-return crash of the '90s?"

Harvey says he's also selling his portfolio of 2,314 Bazooka Bubble Gum miniature comics with the prize offers. "With hindsight, maybe I should have gotten the X-Ray glasses when I had the chance," he says. "Or the sea monkeys."



*Harvey Brinkman displays a rare 1963 Nehi pop bottle with the original mud still on it.*

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## Scientists Make Startling Discovery

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Archaeologists from the University of Pittsburgh have reported a stunning find on the 900 block of Brookline Blvd. Although investigation is continuing, scientists say all evidence indicates there appears to be a working parking garage next to the Mazza Pavilion with over 25 public parking spaces. If the find is confirmed, it would force a radical reconsideration of the widely held belief that there isn't enough parking on the Boulevard. Asked her reaction to the news, Mazza resident Sophie Hockersmith said she was withholding her opinion until she actually sees a car go into or out of the site.

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## Plug Pulled on 'Adopt-A-Block 2'

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The Brookline Adopt-A-Block 2 program has been discontinued. The program was started last year to raise monies for community projects. Hoping to tap into the popular Adopt-A-Block name, organizers encouraged donors to contribute \$1 to adopt one of the 3,583,467 Belgian blocks on Brookline roadways. The program had to be shut down because some donors didn't realize the adoption was symbolic and were removing their blocks and taking them home. Organizers are asking that all blocks be returned. No questions will be asked.



*Have you seen me?*



*Age progression*

# Ending a Century of Conflict

After 108 years of legal wrangling, the State of Massachusetts has abandoned its effort to force the City of Pittsburgh to rename its Brookline neighborhood. Massachusetts filed its complaint in 1908 when Pittsburgh incorporated our community, arguing that our name was already in use and that having two Brooklines just 576 miles apart would only cause confusion.

The dispute took many forms over the years, including a heated period in the 1950s when Massachusetts threatened to march its state militia into our neighborhood. That plan was abandoned when the Brookline Chamber of Commerce wired the Massachusetts governor with the terse message: "We have a cannon and we know how to use it."

Ironically, no real problems with the shared name were reported until recently, when some Massachusetts motorists using GPS to reach the Boston suburb inexplicably found themselves at the stoplight by Fiori's Pizza.



Massachusetts Solicitor General Kelly O'Reilly exchanges baseball caps and goodwill offerings with SPDC Treasurer Travis Sefzik. Travis gave Kelly a copy of "Images of America: Brookline" and received in return an autographed Tom Brady deflated football.

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## ACRES OF BROOKLINE REAL ESTATE TO GO ON SALE

If you're looking for privacy, quiet, and savings in the heart of Brookline, this is your lucky day. Pittsburgh Coal Co., owner of the extensive network of historic mines beneath our community, has announced they're putting all their abandoned passages up for sale.

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# Clerics Say Imminent End Unlikely

Local church leaders are seeking to calm congregations' fears that the end of the world is near. Rumors of an impending apocalypse were triggered March 20 when it was discovered not a single piece of litter was tossed on the Boulevard that day. Many churchgoers interpreted that as a miraculous sign presaging the final days.

Their fears were heightened by the testimony of long-time litterers like Elmer Fink, who each day for the past 22 years has tossed two empty Newport packs and a pizza box on the sidewalk five feet from a trash can. "For some reason that day I didn't," says Fink. "I can't explain it. It's not like I suddenly started caring or anything."

# Old Timer: Brookline Not the Same

Esther McKinney calls herself the nostalgia queen of Brookline. We got an earful when we caught up with the feisty Beaufort Ave. centenarian on her 101st birthday.

"Brookline just isn't what it used to be. Things were different in my generation. I have happy memories of growing up rolling hoops and staying out of horse manure on the Boulevard. Back then you could go out in the morning and not come home until the gaslights were lit, provided the coyotes didn't get you. But it's different now.

I blame it on the Liberty Tubes opening in 1924. I'm not narrow-minded, but what do you expect when you make it so easy for any-old-body to come here. And don't get me started about the business district. Sure there are lots of food choices and little shops now, but where do you go if you need a farrier?"

And I feel sorry for kids today. Things were different back when we still had the Brookline School garden. Just look at the photo—have you ever seen such happy children?



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