

## South Pittsburgh Development Corporation

by Dan Kaczmariski

The Brookline Newsletter is sponsored by the South Pittsburgh Development Corporation (SPDC). So what is SPDC and why should you as a Brookliner care?

First of all--what SPDC is not. Despite its name, it has never been SPDC's mission to take on the entire South Pittsburgh. Its focus is solely on Brookline. If you are a Brookliner, we're working for you.

SPDC is a totally volunteer run, federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with no paid staffers, and is made up of your neighbors. It sponsors and hosts neighborhood development and upkeep projects to help keep Brookline a vibrant, growing and attractive community. Over SPDC's 20+ years, the projects it's taken on have responded to obvious needs or have been the result of its members envisioning things completely new to make Brookline better.

Volunteers are its lifeblood. Some donate hours every month, others help with special events as they arise, and some are dues-paying members who may not have extra time to devote to SPDC, but whose support and ideas are essential to the organization's vitality. At this time of the year, when it's traditional to make resolutions, we encourage you to join SPDC.

Some Brookliners say they'd like to get involved in community improvement projects but don't know what's out there



SPDC volunteers mulching the Boulevard

Photo Courtesy of SPDC



SPDC-initiated welcome sign at Jacob and Whited Sts.

Photo Courtesy of SPDC

or how to take part. Others, as is human nature, offer suggestions for how a neighborhood event should have been run after it's over. We're reaching out to Brookliners to become SPDC members and have a voice in what activities SPDC takes on and an active role in making them happen.

SPDC needs a whole spectrum of volunteers – practical people, visionaries, those familiar with making things happen through financial, networking, and paperwork skills; and those who just like getting their hands dirty working as a team for the community.

We recognize that people have different interests, aptitudes, and availability. Therefore, in the coming months, in The Brookline we'll provide specifics on current projects, what needs to happen to make those projects succeed, and the range of time commitments people are making for each project. We encourage you to consider whether there's a fit for you.

But even if you know your life is already full to overflowing, we encourage you to attend at least one meeting to see what's cooking in helping keep Brookline a great place to live.

SPDC meets the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the United Presbyterian Church, 1036 Brookline Blvd., across Queensboro Ave. from the Cannon. Visitors are always welcome, whether or not you're a member. The first SPDC meeting of the new year will be January 16, 2017. You can access the SPDC website at <http://www.brooklinespdc.org>.



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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

| October            |       |           |
|--------------------|-------|-----------|
| Zone 6 Crimes      | Total | Brookline |
| Homicide           | 1     | 1         |
| Aggravated Assault | 6     | 1         |
| Robbery            | 5     | 1         |
| Kidnapping         | 1     | 0         |
| Burglary           | 9     | 1         |
| Theft              | 13    | 2         |
| Theft from Vehicle | 21    | 5         |
| Stolen Vehicle     | 4     | 0         |

## DECEMBER COMMUNITY MEETINGS

### Tuesday, December 13

Brookline Block Watch Christmas Party, 6:30 p.m. at Magistrate Jim Motznik's office 736 Brookline Blvd. The meeting will be more informal than usual. Please bring a snack to share.

## We have over 1,600 readers.

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

## The Brookline

### The Brookline Staff

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Dan Kaczmarek        | Features Editor |
| Victoria Cumer       | Layout Editor   |
| Joseph Samuel Rogers | Staff Writer    |
| Amy Fisher           | Photography     |
| Dorothy Grant        | Proofreading    |
| Desiree Niccoli      | Proofreading    |
| Julie Salas          | Proofreading    |
| Deborah Brimmer      | Distribution    |
| Travis Sefzik        | Business        |
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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

December 7 for January's Issue  
January 7 for February's Issue

### Interested in Advertising with us?

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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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# Providing Work Opportunities in Brookline

by Dan Kaczmariski



Lorraine S., a Knoxville resident and program participant at Pittsburgh Mercy Intellectual Disabilities Services on Brookline Boulevard, assembles a hardware kit for a local business.

For over 24 years, Pittsburgh Mercy Intellectual Disabilities Services at 1160 Brookline Blvd. near Merrick Ave. and Whited St. has provided individuals one of the best opportunities they could be given—the ability to work and be compensated. At this location, Pittsburgh Mercy employs 29 adults whose employment options might otherwise be limited.

Pittsburgh Mercy is part of Trinity Health. “At Pittsburgh Mercy, we are guided by the tradition, mission, and values of the Sisters of Mercy,” says Curtis J. Constant, senior director of Pittsburgh Mercy Intellectual Disabilities Services. The Sisters of Mercy were founded in Dublin, Ireland in 1831 and brought caring services to Pittsburgh in 1843.

“The Sisters of Mercy legacy is one of help, hope, and healing,” says Curtis. “Our mission is to serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming, healing presence within our communities. We empower the individuals we serve to lead healthy, fulfilled lives—in body, mind, and spirit.”

Jobs currently completed at the site include promotional kit assembly, packaging, hanger recycling, and various facets of bulk mailings. Individuals employed at the site assist Pittsburgh Mercy staff in picking up and returning completed work to various local companies. Accompanied by program staff, participants also do various types of work in the community. To promote opportunities for inclusion, Pittsburgh Mercy is working to provide more community employment opportunities.

Program participants work alongside their peers and according to their individual strengths and abilities. “They develop a sense of connection and socialize with others in addition to expanding their skills and gaining personal satisfaction through work,” says Curtis.

Marla Pichora, program specialist and supervisor at the site, says the program learns of interested individuals in different ways. Referrals to Pittsburgh Mercy Intellectual Disabilities Services are usually made by individual supports coordinators. Other times a family member or a residential program will initiate contact. From there, the individual will be given a tour of the facility so he or she can consider whether it’s something they might want to do. Once an application is received, the individual completes a trial visit to see whether the program is a good fit for their interests and abilities.

Currently, there is no limit on how long an individual can remain in the program. “We have several individuals who have been involved with the program for many years,” says Marla. The Brookline facility employs men and women ranging in age from 26 to 64 years. The program is licensed and regulated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Public Welfare. The program’s hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Generally, an individual will attend six hours sometime during that timeframe.

“It’s a very fulfilling job for me,” says Marla. “I just love everyone who attends here. The participants come in the morning excited to be here, ready to work and to socialize with their friends. The Brookline community has been very positive and welcoming.”

Individuals at the Brookline facility have also demonstrated green thumbs by planting, nurturing, and tending to vegetable gardens in the back parking lot off Clippert Avenue. “They grow tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, cabbages, and carrots,” says Marla. “Incorporating nature into our programs is just a fun thing we do here to promote whole-person wellness. Our participants like going out and watering the garden. It’s been a good learning experience for all of us.”

Pittsburgh Mercy operates a second Facility-Based Vocational Rehabilitation (FBVR) program in Wexford, PA. That program employs 38 individuals. In addition to the two FBVR programs, Pittsburgh Mercy Intellectual Disabilities Services operates four adult training facilities in Baldwin, Beechview, Bloomfield, and Ross Township; two senior centers in Baldwin and Ross; and community employment programs throughout Allegheny County. Residential programs include community living arrangements, supported housing, and a Lifesharing program. Companions, habilitation, 24-hour respite, and therapeutic services are also available.

Pittsburgh Mercy is one of the largest health and human service nonprofit organizations and employers in Southwestern Pennsylvania with 1,700 colleagues providing services to more than 33,000 people annually at more than

60 locations. Its wide range of assistance includes help to those experiencing physical and behavioral health challenges, homelessness, abuse, and other forms of trauma.

For further information, contact Marla Pichora at 412-344-6481 or [MPichora@pittsburghmercy.org](mailto:MPichora@pittsburghmercy.org). For more information about Pittsburgh Mercy, please visit [www.pittsburghmercy.org](http://www.pittsburghmercy.org). You can also follow Pittsburgh Mercy on Facebook and other social media.

## City Unveils Burgh's Eye View

Last month, The Brookline reported on the City of Pittsburgh's "buildingeye," a public website online mapping tool that makes information about permits, licenses, and code enforcement actions in Brookline and around the rest of the City more accessible (<http://pittsburghpa.gov/pli/buildingeye>).

The City has now unveiled another website, called "Burgh's Eye View," that makes even more information available at the click of a mouse or swipe of a pad. According to a City press release, the mobile web application allows citizens to gain visual insight into a wide range of data including incidents of crime and other public safety data, building permits and code violations, and "311" service requests.

The City now makes available on a Burgh's Eye View map the following types of information regarding Brookline and the rest of the City. To ensure residents' privacy, certain types of data—such as the locations of arrests—are generalized to the block or neighborhood level:

### Public Safety

- Incidents of crime
- Arrests
- Non-traffic citations

### 311 Requests: All requests by type, including:

- Broken sidewalks
- Excessive noise
- Graffiti
- Potholes
- Snow/ice removal

### Building Information

- Permits
- Violations

### City Assets

Updates to the site are planned as the City continues to increase the amount and variety of data it publishes. To access the site, go to [analytics.pittsburghpa.gov/BurghsEyeView](http://analytics.pittsburghpa.gov/BurghsEyeView).



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### State Representative Harry Readshaw

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# Get Ready, It's Coming!

by Dr. Guy Reschenthaler



*Editor's note: If you're not a snow fan, last winter in Pittsburgh was wonderful. We had the least amount of snow in the past 14 years. Most forecasts for this winter, however, predict above-average snowfall, especially in January and March. Here, Dr. Guy Reschenthaler provides*

*some safe-shoveling tips.*

In 2004, the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission reported that 200,000 people suffered injuries from shoveling snow. Cold weather, exertion, and slipping become a dangerous combination resulting in possible neck, shoulder, and back injuries. Consider a few tips to help you avoid becoming a statistic this winter!

## Proper Equipment

- Purchase an ergonomic snow shovel. Look for a shovel with a curved or bent handle.
- A light plastic blade with a metal front edge is best. A shovel full of snow can weigh 20 pounds!
- Customize your fit by finding a shovel with an adjustable handle.

## Warm Up Before the Attack

- Ten minutes of light exercise such as jogging in place will help prevent injuries.
- Stretch your neck and low back muscles by slowly bending forward, backwards, and side to side.
- Perform small arm circles forward and backwards to loosen up the shoulders.

## Prepare and Dress Properly

- Avoid eating or drinking caffeinated beverages before shoveling. This will stimulate your system by increasing heart rate and constricting blood vessels.
- Dress in layers wearing warm, light, water-repellent, vented, and insulated clothing.
- Wear boots with good tread to prevent slipping.
- Find warm gloves that will keep your hands dry, and prevent blisters.

- Warm socks and a hat are a must have.
- Wear a back support if you have experienced issues with your back.
- Keep hydrated by drinking liquids before and during shoveling.

## Technique

- If possible push the snow. Try not to lift.
- Fresh snow is lighter in weight than packed snow, so get an early start.
- Shovel snow in layers, piecemeal, instead of full depth.
- Beware of icy spots. Use salt or sand to improve footing and prevent slips and falls.
- Take breaks, usually 2 minutes for each 10 to 15 minutes of shoveling.


## Safe Lifting

If you must lift the snow, remember the following safety tips:

- Concentrate on good posture and maintain the curves of your spine.
- Move one hand close to the shovel's blade and the other hand along the handle for comfort and balance.
- Position yourself so your shoulders and hips face the blade of the shovel and the snow you are about to lift.
- Bend your knees in a modified squat, keep your back straight, and straighten your legs to lift the snow.

Carry the snow close to your center of gravity and walk to where you are dumping the snow. NEVER twist your spine, overreach, or toss the snow! This is a recipe for trouble.

The number one injury in snow shoveling is low back strain. The muscles suffer micro trauma resulting in inflammation, spasms, and pain. With 24 hours of rest the pain should subside. If not, consider seeing your chiropractor.



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## An Ideal Day for Ghosts and Goblins



Preparing for the Parade festivities at Brookline Teen Outreach  
Photo courtesy of Caitlin McNulty

by Heather Fulton

The weather was perfect, the children were dressed in their favorite costumes, and there were goodies to be had everywhere you turned. That is the best way to describe the Brookline Halloween Parade this year. The police and firemen led the way as we marched down the Boulevard. I was a little nervous having the Boulevard closed during the parade, but with all of our children running around having fun, I think it worked out well. After all, their safety is the top priority.

This year we also had teen volunteers handing out candy and other goodies to make it more of a “trick or treat” feel. Thank you Caitlyn McNulty from the Brookline Teen Outreach for getting us such eager and wonderful helpers. Enough can’t be said for all the businesses and community members that were involved; it is days like these that make me proud to be a part of Brookline!

We hope everyone enjoyed the parade. See you next year!

## Do You Want to Recieve the Brookline Online?

We at South Pittsburgh Development Corporation have been working hard to make important updates about Brookline easier for users to access online. If you’d like to have these updates emailed directly to your inbox, as well as the monthly issue of The Brookline Newsletter free of charge, just go to <http://bit.do/brookline> and request to be added to our update list. We’ll continue to distribute the usual number of printed Newsletters each month.

## December Events on the Boulevard

### At 824: The Consignment Shop

LuLaRoe Trunk Sale. Come shop the latest LuLaRoe fashions from Consultant Amanda Osterberger! Refreshments provided. Sat., Dec. 3, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free event. 824 Brookline Blvd., 412-440-8245.

Turkish Ebru Art Workshop. Learn this centuries-old water marbling art technique with Instructor Gulay Baltali. Refreshments provided. Sat., Dec. 10, 6-9 p.m. \$40 per person. Tickets available now!

### At Rather Ripped Records

Merry Musical Holiday Party and Benefit. Rather Ripped will kick off the holiday season with an afternoon soiree featuring WYEP’S Soul Show DJ Mike Canton, one of Pittsburgh’s best, spinning a mix of eclectic soul, Christmas, r&b, jazz, hip hop, African and world sounds. Sun., Dec. 4 (free parking), 3 p.m.

Enjoy homemade cookies and cupcakes, with a side sample of pizza from Jet Pizza, plus hot coffee courtesy of Caf e de Noir. A donation of any size for Children’s Hospital is requested at the door. 754 Brookline Blvd., 412-253-3445.

### At Fox’s Pizza Den

Vendor Show. 11 vendors, including Avon, LulaRoe, Tupperware, Pink Zebra, Perfectly Posh, USBORNE Books and More, and T.C. Candy & Chocolate Art. A great opportunity to shop local and get gifts for the holiday season. Sun., Dec. 11 (free parking), noon-4 p.m. Event is free. 902 Brookline Blvd., 412-892-9130.

Lunch with Santa. Sun., Dec. 18 (free parking), noon to 2 p.m. Includes story time with Santa, a treat from Santa, two slices of pizza, and a drink. \$6 per child. Seats are limited and fill up fast. To make reservations (no payment due until day of), call 412-892-9130 and ask for Katie or Matt.

### At Brookline Teen Outreach/American Legion Bldg.

Brookline Community Open Mic., Wednesdays from 8-10:30 p.m. For all ages. 520 Brookline Blvd.

## Free Meals for Kids

GrubUp Pittsburgh offers free afterschool meals each weekday at the Brookline Recreation Center for those 18 and under. Snacks: 3-4 p.m. Hot meal: 5-6:30 p.m.

# Brookline Teen Outreach News

by Caitlin McNulty

Are you looking for ways to give back during the holidays? Well, mark your calendar for Friday, December 9th! Brookline Teen Outreach, in conjunction with the Central Blood Bank, will host a blood drive from 10 a.m.-4p.m. Not only does your blood donation provide vital blood products, it also earns scholarship money for our students.

We will also have several raffle baskets that would make great gifts for the upcoming holidays. Tickets will be available for purchase December 5-10. Winners will be drawn on December 10.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for "The Stories they Carry: A Veterans Legacy" on November 19. This event was jointly sponsored by American Legion Post 540 and Brookline Teen Outreach. The event included stories from veterans and their experiences in the armed forces.

We are currently seeking a few dedicated volunteers to help with check-in and office projects on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. If you are interested, or would like additional information, please contact Caitlin McNulty at 412-302-9394 or [cmcnulty@brooklineteenoutreach.org](mailto:cmcnulty@brooklineteenoutreach.org).

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## Old Notes By Old People

by Chip Gorski



Seasons Greetings on a snowy Brookline Boulevard

Photo courtesy of Clint Burton and Brookline Connection

"City sidewalks, busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style. In the air there's a feeling of Christmas." You know that lyric. It's from the song "Silver Bells," first recorded by Bing Crosby in the '50s. The song has been around a long time and, judging by where we are on the calendar, you've no doubt heard it a several

times performed by a multitude of artists. It's not my favorite Christmas carol, but it's one that always put visions in my head from my childhood.

When I hear that song, I go back decades in my mind's eye. It's where I see those metal Christmas lights that used to line the lamp posts along Brookline Boulevard. I can clearly see the sign at Pioneer Avenue, fashioned out of lighted garland, spelling out "Season's Greetings" I remember the excitement of our

Christmas Play in school and our party that, when over, began our two-week break from school. Our Christmas tree didn't go up at home until a week before the actual day. I remember it decorated in gold satin ornaments and gold garland.

We didn't have a fireplace, but we had a cardboard facsimile that was put up each year and gave us a place to hang our stockings. We never questioned how Santa would come into the house through a piece of cardboard. I remember the countdown to Christmas. I also remember how easy it was to fall asleep any night other than Christmas Eve.

Those are the things I think about when I hear that song. I've read that the inspiration for "Silver Bells" came from the bells used by Santa Clauses and Salvation Army people in New York City. I believe I will continue to think that it came from events and things in a community such as Brookline.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season.



Magic beneath the Christmas tree

Photo courtesy of Ray Bowden

# It Suddenly Looked a Lot Like Christmas

by Dan Kaczmarek



*Photo courtesy of Brookline Connection*

I wouldn't call it a warm memory. There was nothing cozy about stepping off the 39 Brookline at Fifth and Smithfield in December into biting cold air and foot-chilling murky slush. But it's a fond memory, because disembarking there meant you'd arrived at the holiday wonderland that was Kaufmann's department store.

All of the downtown Department stores were festive that time of year, but Kaufmann's, the largest at 750,000 square feet, was something special. Longtime Brookline resident Jack Stanizzo has vivid memories of those days from an insider's perspective. For 7 years, as an interior designer for Kaufmann's, he was part of the blitzkrieg that each Thanksgiving evening decorated the entire store literally overnight.

First, there were the street-level display windows, each with a whimsical scene and colorfully costumed characters, including mechanized ones that twirled, skated, and played hide-and-seek. The animated display in the showpiece window at the corner of Fifth and Smithfield would be one that the previous year had decorated Macy's department store in New York City. After its stint in the Big Apple, it would be shipped to Pittsburgh, reconfigured for the Kaufmann's windows, and installed that night. "For weeks afterward, people would gather under the clock, bring the children, and just stare at everything in there," says Jack.

He was part of a crew of 15 to 20 people responsible for the overnight interior makeover. For the first 4 hours, everyone focused on the block-long first floor. Scaffolding went up and huge garlands were strung from the 14-foot tall mirrored columns and intertwined with decorative lights. Then as many as 1,000 glass Christmas bulbs of varying sizes were attached to each garland. Finally, huge ribbons of fine fabric were arranged and hung.

Once the first floor was done, designers were dispersed to decorate the remainder of the store as the clock ticked toward dawn. At the top and bottom of each escalator flight, there was a 25 to 35 square foot landing with a stage area for displays.

"Except for the outside windows, those allowed for the most creativity," says Jack, who attended the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, "because they were done by one person responsible for creating the entire display. It might have a winter scene, a tree, dark lighting. I might do a woman and a child mannequin and outfit them with something from that floor so they'd match or contrast each other. It was fun."

When choosing what to include in the holiday displays, as well as those he created the rest of the year, Jack was given *carte blanche* to select fine merchandise from throughout the store. "It was amazing the freedom I had," he says. "The first thing I might do is go to the rug department for an oriental carpet worth \$3,000. I'd just have to sign for it. Then I might go to the furniture department, see a neat table, sign for it and put the table on the rug. Then to the fashion department to pull their dresses and shoes and scarves."

Jack says the store's Christmas decorating budget was amazing. "Each year they spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on it and had decorations coming from Europe 2 or 3 weeks before."

As dawn broke the morning after Thanksgiving, the crew would head home bleary eyed. When they returned to the store later that day, even they were awed by the transformation.

"You'd go home completely buzzed after working all night," says Jack. "You didn't have to come back until about noon and you'd walk in off the street and see what you and everybody else had done. To think of the wonder of it – the exterior, the windows, 12 interior floors – transformed in 12 hours of one night from nothing to Christmas. It was a wonderful store."



*Hermey the Dentist and Rudolph gaze at passersby on Smithfield Street*

*Photo courtesy of Dan Moore*

## Representative Harry Readshaw



Last year, Gov. Wolf signed Act 26 which made cyberbullying a crime.

Bullies have been around forever, but newer technologies have made bullying even more dangerous. Social media posts can reach thousands of people within minutes. Embarrassing photos

can be impossible to erase from the internet and cellphone technology can mean a bully can always contact and harass his or her victim. Numerous victims have turned to suicide to escape their tormentors.

That's why I voted for the law.

Adults who are convicted of cyberbullying can face prison time and fines. Juveniles charged with cyber harassment may be given the opportunity to participate in a diversionary program in an effort to keep their lives on track, as well as end the bullying.

I also encourage all parents and guardians to know what your children are doing online.

For help dealing with bullying, call the Bullying Prevention Hotline at 1-866-716-0424. For more on the state's bullying law, visit <http://bit.ly/stopbullyingPA>.

## Representative Dan Miller



Be sure to mark your calendars for our signature event!

Our 4th Annual Children & Youth Disability and Mental Health Summit will be held March 22, 23 and 24 at the Beth El Congregation on Cochran Road – and we are already working hard to make it a big success. Last year's event had over 1,000 people

attend with over 160 participating organizations and 26 sessions on a variety of related topics – and we think we can beat that!

Thanks to our terrific partners at Beth El, we have now expanded the event to include a third day of programming. This will allow even more opportunities for people to attend and give us even more flexibility in what typically is a jammed-packed schedule. I am also very excited to announce that our keynote speaker on day two will be the Secretary of Human Services, Ted Dallas.

Our Summit has become the preeminent event for disability and mental health resources in Western PA, so we hope you will join us. For more information, be sure to visit [facebook.com/RepDanMiller](https://www.facebook.com/RepDanMiller) or [DisabilitySummit.com](http://DisabilitySummit.com) in the coming months.

## Representative Dan Deasy



In a July 2016 report, the Allegheny County Department of Human Services reported 422 opiate-related overdose deaths in 2015 in Allegheny County.

Opiate- and heroin-related overdose deaths are on the rise locally and nationally—3,500 opiate

and heroin-related deaths were reported in Pennsylvania last year. It has become increasingly clear that public awareness initiatives must take place nationwide if we are going to reduce drug usage and drug-related overdoses.

To that end, I am partnering with State Senator Wayne Fontana and the State Attorney General's Office to host Opiate & Heroin Community Awareness Town Hall meetings on December 5 and 14. The events will provide an opportunity for the attorney general, law enforcement, treatment experts and others to inform and update the community on this public health crisis and to enable residents to ask questions.

The Allegheny County Sheriff's Office also will participate with its Project DUMP program. Sheriff's deputies will be on hand to take back unneeded or unwanted prescription medications from the public at both of the events.

Please attend one of these two important Town Hall meetings.

Monday, December 5, we will be at Crafton Elementary School, 1873 Crafton Blvd., Crafton, PA 15205.

Wednesday, December 14, we will be in Beechview at St. Catherine of Siena Hall, 1810 Belasco Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15216.

Please call my office at 412-928-9514 for more information or for assistance in any state-related matter.

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## Council Woman Natalia Rudiak



Costumes have been put away, leaves are being raked, and the time for holiday shopping is upon us! As we gear up to celebrate our traditions with friends and family this year, let us remember to also show some love to our local businesses. In honor of the holidays, to encourage folks to shop locally, the Parking Authority board of directors has authorized free parking days leading up to the December holidays to encourage people to shop in the City.

Free parking will be limited to Parking Authority owned garages and street parking, and only on certain days. So grab your calendar and schedule, schedule a local shopping day, and get out there with the whole family to enjoy our city.

Parking is FREE in Authority-owned garages the first four Saturdays in December (December 3, 10, 17, and 24).

Here are the eligible garages:

- Third Avenue, Downtown
- Ninth & Penn, Downtown
- Smithfield & Liberty, Downtown
- Oliver, Downtown
- Ft. Duquesne & Sixth, Downtown
- Wood Street and Blvd. of the Allies, Downtown
- Mellon Square, Downtown
- Grant Street Transportation Center, Downtown
- First Avenue Garage & T Station, Downtown
- Forbes and Semple, Oakland
- Shadyside Garage, Shadyside

I hope you and yours have a wonderful and blessed holiday season! And remember, shop local!

## 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 [pdkaz@comcast.net](mailto:pdkaz@comcast.net). Please include "Fundraiser" in the subject line.

Bingo. Mondays, Church of the Resurrection. Doors open 5 p.m.; bingo begins 7 p.m.

Bingo. Sundays, sponsored by Brookline American Legion; American Legion Bldg., 520 Brookline Blvd. Doors open at 4 p.m.; bingo begins at 6 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast with Santa. Benefiting Brookline Little League Association and St. John Bosco Academy Athletic Association Saturday, December 10, 8 a.m. to noon. at St. Pius Church, 3040 Pioneer Ave., Cullen Hall (Cafeteria). \$6 Tickets sold at door.

## Senator Wayne Fontana



Starting November 1, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services began accepting applications for this season's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The program helps low income families pay their heating bills. You can apply and check the status of your application on the state's COMPASS website ([www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us)).

You can also pick up an application in my Brookline office. Completed paper applications should be returned to the Allegheny County Assistance Office, located at 5947 Penn Avenue, 4th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA, 15206.

Funding for LIHEAP is provided by the federal government and eligibility is based on the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. The income limits for this season are as follows:

| Household Size Income Limit |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1                           | \$17,820 |
| 2                           | \$24,030 |
| 3                           | \$30,240 |
| 4                           | \$36,450 |
| 5                           | \$42,660 |
| 6                           | \$48,870 |
| 7                           | \$55,095 |
| 8                           | \$61,335 |
| 9                           | \$67,575 |
| 10                          | \$73,815 |

After your application is received you will receive a written notice explaining your eligibility and the amount of assistance you will receive. Payments are generally sent directly to a utility company or fuel provider and will be credited to your heating account. Crisis grants may also be available if you have an emergency situation and are in jeopardy of losing your heat. For more information, please contact the LIHEAP hotline at 1-866-857-7095.



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# Carnegie Library of Brookline December Events

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## For Kids

- Kara Kernan presents *Kids Yoga* - Monday, December 12 • 6:30 p.m. & Thursday, December 15 • 11 a.m. - Play, dance, move, breathe, and connect with other kids through yoga.
- *Storytime: Winter Special* - Monday, December 19 • 6:30 p.m. & Thursday, December 22 • 11 a.m. - Sing songs, share action rhymes, and meet new friends.
- Kids Create - Wednesdays, December 14, 21, & 28 • 3:30 p.m. - Kids will explore artistic mediums with their hands, minds, and imaginations.

## For Teens

- *Anime Club* - Monday, December 5 • 3 p.m. - Hang out, explore Japanese culture, showcase cosplay, and enjoy anime.
- *Pokémon Club* – Mondays, December 12, 19, & 26 • 3 p.m. – compete with other teens in drop-in battle leagues for both video and card games.
- *Teen Time* – Thursdays • 3 p.m. – If you're into cool art projects, epic games, music, movies, and just chilling out, come kick it at Teen Time.

## For Adults

- *Power Yoga with Amy* – Wednesdays, December 7, 14, & 21 • 6:30 p.m. – Bring your own mat, towel and water for free, fun, fitness-based yoga. All skill levels welcome.
- *Monthly Movie Showdown* – December 13 • 6 p.m. – Fun, relaxed conversation over movie-inspired treats.
- *Book Discussions*
  - *Mystery & More* – Wednesday, December 14 • 1 p.m. – Contemporary and classic mysteries, and nonfiction. This month: *Jane and the 12 Days of Christmas* by Stephanie Barron.
  - *Between the Lines* – Monday, December 19 • 6 p.m. – Contemporary, classic fiction and nonfiction. This month: *The Sugar Queen* by Sarah Addison Allen.
  - *The Buzz* – Thursday, December 15 • 6 p.m. – Unconventional fiction, nonfiction and graphic novels. This month: *The Legend of Holly Claus* by Brittney Ryan.
- *Game Night* – Tuesday, December 20 • 5:45 p.m. – Looking to get away? Take the night off for friendly competition. Traditional board games and quest-based adventure games.

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

# Brookline Memorial Recreation Center

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## Kinder Sports

Ages 5 and younger. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-Noon. Very young boys and girls will have a blast with our ongoing Kindersports program. Activities include gym time with games and sports, arts and crafts, storytime, and snack. Drop in any time! FREE

## Tabata

Ages 18+, Thursdays 5:45-6:30 p.m. and Fridays 5:30-6:15 p.m. Dec. 8 and 9 through Feb. 23 and 24. This high-intensity workout is designed with 20-second intervals of intense exercise followed by 10 seconds of rest, repeated 8 times. These bursts of intense work will burn calories and strengthen your entire body. Registration is limited. \$20 for 1 class per week; \$30 for 2 classes per week.

## Indoor Bocce

All ages, Mondays, 10 a.m.-Noon. Drop in anytime. FREE

## Family Game Nights

All ages. Wednesday and Friday evenings, 6-8 p.m. Enjoy a game night with our Center staff. Board games, card games, etc. FREE

## Quilting Class

Monday evenings, 6-8:45 p.m. and Friday mornings, 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.

## Men's Pick-Up Basketball

Ages 18+. Every Tuesday starting Dec. 6. \$3 per night.

## Winter Break Camp

Grades K-5. Dec. 27-30, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. This camp over the holiday break will be jam-packed with fun-filled activities throughout the entire week. Breakfast and lunch included. \$10 for the week.

## Total Body Conditioning for Women

Ages 18+, Mondays, Jan. 9-Feb. 27, 5-6 p.m. This class will focus on a variety of formats to keep you motivated while improving your overall fitness. Each class will focus on a total body workout using a variety of strength, cardio, and core exercises. Open to all levels. Registration is limited. \$20

## Knitting Club

Mondays, beginning Jan. 9, 9:30-11 a.m. Come meet new people, try new knitting patterns, and enjoy a community of knitters. This club is open to all levels and can provide beginner instruction. Please bring your own materials. Light refreshments provided. FREE

For more information, call 412-571-3222.




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| <b>Seton Center</b><br>1900 Pioneer Ave, 15226<br>Fri, Dec 16 at 7:00 pm<br>Sat, Dec 17 at 3:00 pm<br>Sat, Dec 17 at 7:00 pm<br>Sun, Dec 18 at 7:00 pm<br>\$15 Adults   \$10 Seniors | <b>Getaway Café</b><br>3049 Sussex Ave, 15226<br>Sun, Dec 18 at 3:00 pm<br>One day only<br>\$25 Adults   \$20 Seniors<br>Groups of 10 or more \$17 | 412 480 7454 or 412 341 9863<br><br>Purchase tickets on line at:<br><a href="http://www.retrored.net">www.retrored.net</a><br><br>Reserve tickets by email:<br><a href="mailto:retro.redpro@gmail.com">retro.redpro@gmail.com</a> |
| <small>TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE DOOR WITH CASH OR CREDIT CARD</small>                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                    | <small>RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED</small>                                                                                                                                                                                          |

## Scarecrow Contest Winners



1st place winner, Mr. Mic  
Photo courtesy of Mr. Mic

The Brookline Chamber of Commerce wants to thank all those who entered a scarecrow into this year's contest. They added Halloween pizzazz to the Boulevard and we invite you to start thinking about next year's scarecrows.

This year's winners are:

1st Place: *Mr. Mic*. Entered by Michael and Andrea Rath, Mr. Mic Designs. Displayed at The Medicine Shoppe.

2nd Place: *Sparky, Brookline's Fire Dog*. Entered by Engine &

Truck 26 (Jason Acter), Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire. Displayed at A-Boss Opticians.

3rd Place: *Sakushinbutsu*. Entered by Abbey Rose Kernick, Chez Vish. Displayed at Brookline & Sinker.

## Heritage Players Theater News

The Heritage Players will be holding "We All Need a Little Christmas Gala" on December 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Seton Center auditorium, 1900 Pioneer Avenue, Brookline, featuring a musical performance by Carolyn Smith. Admission for this reception is \$30 per person. The 2017 season will also be announced. For more information visit [www.bphp.org](http://www.bphp.org) or email [heritageplayers@yahoo.com](mailto:heritageplayers@yahoo.com).

### Do You Like to Write or Proofread?

The Brookline Newsletter, an all-volunteer publication, welcomes writers for articles and announcements, and also proofreaders. If you'd like to write, we can provide you with contacts and choices of topics and we welcome your article ideas as well. There's no obligation to write each month; we'll work with your schedule. If you're a writing student, this is a great way to get byline clippings for your portfolio. If you like detail work and grammar, we can always use proofreaders. It would involve an hour or two of your time once a month. For more information, contact Dan Kaczmariski at [pdkaz@comcast.net](mailto:pdkaz@comcast.net)

# What's Happening at Brookline PreK-8

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by Amy Cornelius Dembosky, Parent Volunteer

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December brings the start of winter and some important announcements regarding the weather. If school is delayed or cancelled, the Pittsburgh Public Schools will let you know through a robocall. If your number changes or has already changed, make sure you update the school office. You can also check the PPS website at [pps.k12.pa.us](http://pps.k12.pa.us) or watch local TV station listings. Delays are typically for two hours, meaning that students should arrive at 10:10 a.m. instead of the regular time of 8:10 a.m. Please be aware that a delay can be changed to a cancellation. It makes those winter mornings challenging, but please remember the ultimate goal is to keep our students safe.

Our citizenship focus for December is "responsibility." Responsibility means seeing something that needs to be done

and doing it. Teachers and students will be discussing how they can demonstrate responsibility at home and at school. Our Student of the Month awards are based on the character trait. Students nominate classmates whom they see representing the quality, and the class votes on a winner. We know that all of our students work hard to internalize our positive citizenship ideas. Keep up the good work!

We are excited to announce that our chorus for students in grades 3-8 has a record number of singers! Welcome to all of the new members. The chorus will perform at the Allegheny County Courthouse again this year for its lunchtime concert series. There will also be a holiday show at the school on the evening of December 15 which will also include students in the instrumental music program. Please watch the Bobcat Bulletin and the weekly event emails for more specific information; if you don't receive them, call the office at 412-529-7380.

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## The Latest from St. John Bosco Academy

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by Holly Victor, Parent Volunteer

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Please join me in congratulating the following students for their extraordinary efforts!

Sloane McCensky was named as a winner in the Homeless Children's Education Fund Poster Contest and will receive a \$250 tuition grant. Ennui Knapick's entry to the Lion's Club International Peace Poster Contest was selected to move on to the next level of competition and Samantha Chatham has been selected to receive the 2017 Prudential Spirit of Community Award for her volunteer work.

St. John Bosco students continuously strive to find ways to help others. Throughout the month of November, several events were held to give back to the community. A food drive was held in partnership with the Little Sisters of the Poor. The student leaders came up with creative ways to get the whole student body involved by exchanging dress down days for donations. Students were permitted to dress as their favorite super hero for a day as long as they brought in a toy for the Toys for Tots program. On November 23, "crazy socks" was the theme! In exchange for bringing in a book to donate to the Dyslexia Center, the children got to show off their fancy feet!

To all of our family, friends and fellow community members, we wish you a joyous and peaceful holiday season. And remember, Jesus is the reason for the season!

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." - Luke 2:11

## What's Going on at Pittsburgh West Liberty?

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

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It's so hard to believe December is already here. Here at West Liberty, we have several activities to warm us during this cold month. On December 7 and 8, we will have an Hour of Code, where children, kindergarten through fifth grade, participate in learning lessons on iPads. They look forward to using the iPads as they learn. December 12-16 is our annual Sparkle Shop. The children have an opportunity to shop for their loved ones and bring home presents for their families. We are having our Winter Concert on December 20, where the children showcase their singing talents, brought to us by the very talented Jules Daller, who always has a great program that covers all of the holidays.

During this time of year, I reflect on things for which I am grateful. For the past 4 months, we have been working in conjunction with Brashear High School. There have been several high school students at West Liberty as part of the Preservice Student Teaching experience. This has been an awesome opportunity for the high school students to ensure they want to pursue a career in education. In addition, our children have benefitted from tutoring and playground assistance. We are grateful to Ms. Hannah McCarthy for overseeing this program. This has been a great collaborative experience, and we hope to continue it in the future.

For now, keep warm and we at Pittsburgh West Liberty wish you and yours Happy Holidays. Remember, Pittsburgh West Liberty is "Where Learners Excel and Character Counts."



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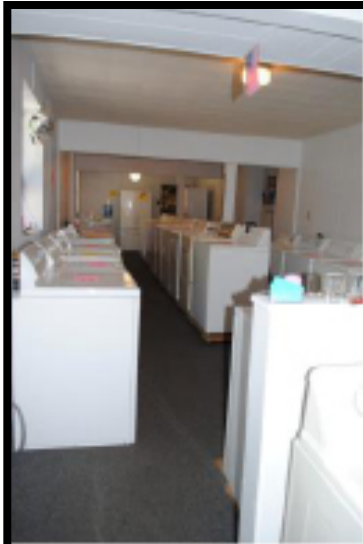
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