

Looking for Group

by Dan Kaczmariski



Looking for Group

Dan Kaczmariski

The word “community” comes up a lot in Edd Batson’s speech. Edd is one of the co-owners of Looking for Group (LFG) located at 924 Brookline Blvd., along with John Lange, Brayton Batson, Brad Neu, and Justin Rothermel.

“Looking for group” is a term game-players use on the internet when they’re seeking to enter into an online multi-player game. The LFG owners chose the name because they too wanted to bring people together, but in person rather than just online. “We think it fits our location,” says Edd, “because it really emphasizes the concept of coming together. It’s what we want as a business. We want the community to be able to meet each other and play together in person.”

The idea for LFG sprang from the owners’ experiences at “LAN parties.” At a LAN party, people lug their own computers (or game consoles) to one location, where the devices are connected via a local area network (LAN) to allow everybody to join in the same game. “Every time we’d do a LAN party,” says Edd, “we’d say ‘we wish there was someplace that already had this all set up so we could just sit and play together.’ One day, instead of wishing, we said ‘let’s make one.’”

The LFG facility is divided into two areas—a gaming room

and a co-working space. The gaming area boasts an impressive array of state of the art equipment. There are 12 personal computers linked together and loaded with games, or you can use them to play games you own. In the center of the room is an enclave of game consoles, including Xbox One, PlayStation 4, Wii U, Nintendo Switch (as of March 3), and Steam Box.

And if you’ve ever wanted to give virtual reality a whirl, LFG is the place to go. You can try their ViVE, Oculus, and PlayStation VR systems.

While you can usually find someone to play with or against at LFG, you can also choose to play individually or with others online. LFG’s clientele ranges from 5-year-olds under parental supervision to players in their 60s.

There are weekly evening events specifically designed for group play. On Tuesdays, it’s “League of Legends”; Wednesdays are board game nights; Thursdays are for “Overwatch”. Each event runs from 7-10 p.m.

In the back of the building, separated from the gaming room by a wall, is an area dedicated primarily to co-working. It’s for people who may not own the necessary equipment or technology to carry out their work—including game creation—or who just want to get out of the house and meet other



Gaming at state-of-the-art consoles at LFG

Pawsburgh Photography

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people while working. Game creators enjoy the benefit of having interested players on-site. The area is equipped with work stations, cushy couches, a giant TV, a meeting room, and a kitchenette with microwave.

LFG holds special events, such as rock music shows in the basement, comedy nights, LAN parties, and tournaments. The facility recently hosted a Game Jam, where teams came together on a Friday and by Sunday were supposed to have created a brand new game from scratch. LFG also periodically offers classes on game making and other technology such as streaming. (You can check their website for an events calendar.)

Edd says it's gratifying for the owners to see their vision of creating community come to fruition. "We have a lot of members who've met people and made new friends. Some people found us because they didn't know anybody. Now they have a community they know and hang out with.

"They're meeting people rather than playing online with people they don't know. They're building communication and teamwork skills and creating bonds. We've been super-well received in Brookline. A ton of people say 'I've been wishing there would be a place like this.'"

Cost is \$5 an hour, \$12 for 3 hours, \$20 for the whole day, or you can get a 10-day pass for \$100. Memberships offering 24/7 access are available to people over 21. Special events have their own rates.

924 Brookline Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
774-482-1264
lfgpgh.com

facebook.com/lfgpgh
twitter.com/lfgpgh
twitch.tv/lfgpgh

Hours: Tuesday through Friday
Saturday
Sunday

2 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Noon to 10 p.m.
Noon to 8 p.m.



Group play at LFG's PCs

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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

January		
Zone 6 Crimes	Total	Brookline
Homicide	1	0
Aggravated Assault	9	1
Robbery	7	2
Burglary	12	3
Theft	17	1
Theft from Vehicle	14	5
Stolen Vehicle	10	2

MARCH COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Monday, March 13

Brookline Chamber of Commerce Meeting, 6 p.m. at Brookline Teen Outreach, American Legion Building, 520 Brookline Blvd.

Tuesday, March 14

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

Monday, March 20

South Pittsburgh Development Corporation, 7 p.m. at Brookline Teen Outreach, American Legion Building, 520 Brookline Blvd.

We have over 1,600 readers.

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The Brookline

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Deadlines for Submissions and Ads

March 7 for April's Issue

April 7 for May's Issue

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Keeping Memories Alive

by Dan Kaczmariski

Hundreds of kids and adults use the Brookline Memorial Recreation Center at the bottom of Oakridge Ave. Each time they run onto the playing fields, they pass the names of special people to whom the fields and other memorials are dedicated. The next time you're down there, stop and reflect for a moment on the individuals whose contributions and sacrifice moved our community to honor their memories.

Sam Bryen Baseball and Softball Fields



Dan Kaczmariski

Sam Bryen was synonymous with Brookline youth baseball. He was there for the founding of the Brookline Little League in 1951 and during his decades of service to the league served as umpire, coach, manager, scout, announcer, and scorekeeper. Clint Burton of *The Brookline Connection* recalls Sam's buying ice balls for kids who would retrieve home run balls hit out of the fields (and often down the hill into the "woods"). In 1959, Sam became president of the Brookline Little League and served until 1975.

In 1970, he was honored by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* Dapper Dan Club at its annual "Man of the Year" banquet. The fields were dedicated in 1982.

Officer Stephen J. Mayhle Memorial Field

On April 4, 2009, City of Pittsburgh police officers Stephen Mahyle, Eric Kelly, and Paul Sciuлло II responded to a domestic call in Stanton Heights.



Pawsburgh Photography

When they arrived, Richard Poplawski opened fire, first killing Officers Sciuлло and Mahyle, then Officer Kelly. He also shot and wounded two other officers who had arrived as back-up. Officer Mayhle, a Brookline resident, left behind a wife and two daughters, ages 3 and 6 at the time. Officer Kelly was married with three children, then 11, 16, and 22. Officer Sciuлло was engaged to be married.

The field's dedication ceremony was held in September 2010 and was attended by public officials, uniformed officers, Brookline Little League officers and players, neighbors, and the Mayhle family.

Danny McGibbeny Memorial Field



Pawsburgh Photography

Danny McGibbeny was a Brookline boy through and through. He was an All-Star in Brookline Little League and Senior League and a Senior League team manager.

In 1973, at the age of 22, he began a rocket ride up through the management of the Pittsburgh Triangles, Pittsburgh's then professional tennis team. Starting as public relations director, within three years, he took on the positions of assistant general manager, director of player personnel, general manager, and coach. At the zenith of his involvement with the Triangles, he was diagnosed with cancer and died in September 1977 at age 26. Even in his final months, he stayed active in community affairs, coaching a Brookline Senior Little League team. He is in the Western Pennsylvania Sports Hall of fame. The field was dedicated in 1977.

Memorial Plaque to Fallen Firefighters

On February 14, 1995, three City of Pittsburgh firefighters lost their lives while fighting a house fire on the city's East Side. Capt. Thomas Brooks, 52, and firefighters Patricia

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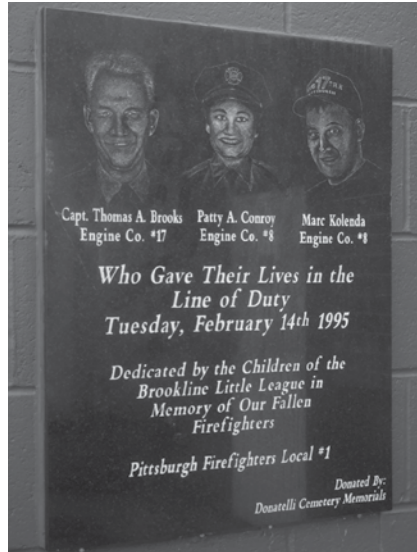
Conroy, 43, and Mark Kolenda, 27.

The firefighters had gone to a downstairs room when a burning stairway collapsed behind them, leaving them with no way to escape.

The tragedy was the Pittsburgh Fire Department's worst loss of life since seven firefighters were killed in a blaze in the 1920s. Ms. Conroy was the first female firefighter to die in the line of duty in the Department's 142-year history.

The dedication on the plaque reads: "Dedicated by the Children of the Brookline Little League in Memory of our Fallen Firefighters."

(Sources: *Clint Burton's Brookline Connection*, *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *The New York Times*).



Dan Kaczmarek

Heritage Players Theater News

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

2017 Season:

Sense and Sensibility. Adapted by Jon Jory, based on the novel by Jane Austen. May 12-14 and 19-21.

Winnie the Pooh. Lyrics by A.A. Milne. Music by Allan Friedman. Adapted by Kristin Sergel. August 4-6 and 11-13.

Lost in Yonkers by Neil Simon. September 8-10 and 15-17.

Into the Woods. Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Book by James Lapine. November 3-5 and 10-12.

Auditions:

Please visit www.bphp.org for upcoming details about auditions for *Sense and Sensibility* as they become available.

March Events on the Boulevard

At Brookline Teen Outreach/American Legion Bldg.

Attract Hummingbirds to Your Yard. Advice on feeders and flowers from Brookline residents who have hummingbirds visiting their yards. Sat. March 4 from 2-4 p.m. Free. 520 Brookline Blvd.

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

At 824: The Consignment Shop

LulaRoe Pop-In Boutique. Hundreds of LulaRoe fashions. Refreshments. Fri. March 3 from 5-8 p.m. Free. 908 Brookline Blvd. 412-440-8245

Ebru Art Workshop. Create water marbling art. Sat. March 18, 6-9 p.m. \$45. Materials and refreshments included.

At Looking for Group

Brookline is a destination for comedy lovers, thanks to Looking for Laughs. Live comedy. Fri. March 3, 10 p.m. \$10. 924 Brookline Blvd. 774-482-1264 or owners@lfgpgh.com

All-Night Board Games. From Sat. March 18, 7 p.m. to Sun. March 19 8 a.m. All ages. \$15 per person, but \$5 off for Community Members and Board Game Patrons.

At Rather Ripped Records

John Kerr and Baby Rocket present an afternoon of Merseybeat, i.e., Beatles, Searchers, and the cream of the British Invasion. Sun., March 26, 2-4 p.m. 754 Brookline Blvd. 412-253-3445. Free. All ages

Coming in April: At District Judge James Motznik's Office

Portrait unveiling to remember District Judge Charles McLaughlin and honor his family. Tues. April 11, 7 p.m. Reception to follow. Free. All are invited. 736 Brookline Blvd.

Bob Grieco

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Joseph "Bob" Grieco. Bob served as Democratic Committee Board Chairman of the 32nd District and as president of the Brookline Memorial Recreation Center advisory council. Bob was founder of the yearly Car Cruise events held at the Recreation Center.

On The Issues: Face to Face with City Council Candidates

by Joseph Samuel Rogers



District 4 candidate Anthony Coghill

Anthony Coghill Campaign

Editor's note: City of Pittsburgh District 4 Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak has chosen not to run for re-election this year for the seat, which represents Brookline, Beechview, Bon Air, Carrick, and Overbrook. The Brookline staff writer Joseph Samuel Rogers' continues coverage of the election in anticipation of the May 16 primary with a profile of candidate Anthony Coghill. For this series, each candidate received an identical questionnaire.

As a lifelong Beechview resident and owner of Coghill Roofing Co., Anthony Coghill is very familiar with District 4's landscape, as he has spent most of his days over the past 24 years working in our neighborhoods, since his company does most of its business here.

When asked why he is running for City Council, Anthony responded, "I love our neighborhoods...my family lineage here goes back more than 100 years; I attended our public schools, started my business here, and have lived in this district my entire life."

Coghill wants to bring his business skills and experience as the 19th Ward Chairman to the district and pledges to return "back to the basics" by ensuring safe neighborhoods, clean streets, and a fair share of public services. He considers Brookline to be the anchor of District 4 and pledges that it will get the attention it deserves from City Hall.

Regarding education, Coghill believes that having a safe environment where kids can learn and grow is the most

important factor in their education. "I will be working closely with School Board Director Moira Kaleida [his campaign chair]... a real champion for our schools."

Coghill is a parishioner of Saint Catherine of Sienna parish and understands the importance of Saint John Bosco Academy to parents in South Pittsburgh. Mr. Coghill promises he will certainly be supportive of every constituent in the district. He says "all schools, public or private, fall under the umbrella of public safety," which is his number one priority.

When advocating for neighborhood merchants, Coghill plans on taking a hands on approach. He plans to personally visit merchants to ensure that their concerns are being tended to.

"By encouraging our residents to purchase goods and services locally, we can help our merchants and business districts thrive. Above all, our business districts must be safe. I look forward to working with Chief Scott Schubert, a Brookline resident, to ensure that our neighborhoods remain some of the safest in the city."

Coghill says he intends to be in the streets and very present in our neighborhoods and does not want to be behind a desk all day.

Transportation is very personal to Coghill. He says he knows firsthand how a lack of transportation can take a toll on a family. When growing up in the Shadycrest area, their bus was discontinued and his mother had to walk over a mile to their local grocery store.

If elected, Coghill plans to work closely with County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, who oversees the Port Authority, to ensure that all constituents have access to quality public transportation. He also plans to work with State Senator Wayne Fontana, who has worked towards public transportation improvements.

His transportation accessibility efforts will include discussions with Father Jim Bachner, who oversees the Brookline Roman Catholic parishes, to ensure that parishioners have a ride to church each week.

Coghill leaves this interview with a hand clap and a resounding "Now Let's Get Back to Basics" -- the slogan he has built his campaign around.

Note: The writer is a proud graduate of Brookline Regional Catholic, now Saint John Bosco Academy, and a lifelong parishioner of Our Lady of Loreto Catholic Church.

Brookline's Contribution to the City of Steps

by Ben Haake



It's a long way up the Jacob St. steps. And there's another set on the other side of the ravine.

Dan Kaczmariski
Information Systems
at the University of

Pittsburgh and author of *The Steps of Pittsburgh: Portrait of a City*), there are over 700 sets of steps in all. That is more than the cities of San Francisco and Cincinnati combined! Climbing all 30,000 vertical feet of our town's public stairways is something like climbing Mt. Everest!

Three years back, after reading Mr. Regan's lovely book, I got inspired; I wanted to climb Pittsburgh's Mt. Everest. I wondered if anyone had ever attempted it before. I set my mind to it and decided to make it my new hobby; finding and hiking the steps one set at a time and keeping track of my progress via my blog. To date, I have hiked over 500 different sets. I hope to be done with my climb at the end of this summer.

The steps can be found on nearly every hillside in Pittsburgh, but Brookline with 25 sets holds third place for the neighborhood with the most. Beechview (39) is second and Southside Slopes (58) is first. While Brookline may not have the views that the Southside Slopes has, we certainly have the character and charm. Along Pioneer Ave., there are 4 sets with over 100 treads each: Templeton Ave. (189), Belle Isle Ave. (167), Ray Ave. (258), and Stetson St. (149). These stairways are well-maintained and meander listlessly through the backyards of our lovely community.

Ray Ave. is particularly enchanting. Walking these steps can feel like happening upon a secret passageway, thick with the

Editor's note: Remember those New Year's resolutions from 2 months ago? If one of yours was to get more exercise, here's a great way to accomplish that and see some hidden parts of Brookline at the same time.

It may be known to many Pittsburghers that our fair city is home to the nation's most extensive network of city steps. According to Bob Regan ([retired] Professor of Geographic

scent of honeysuckle and other wild flowers. I've spotted a variety of wildlife on this hillside. From gaggles of wild turkeys to woodchucks, deer, songbirds of all types, and of course the occasional friendly neighbor. But the steps are, in essence, practical. Their intended purpose has always been to access public transportation. As infrequent as the 39 bus runs these days, it's nice to know it's just a short jaunt to West Liberty Ave. to catch the 41. Conveniently, there is a bus stop at the base of each of these stairways.

The most intriguing Brookline steps, however, have to be the ones at the end of Brookline Blvd. at the intersection of Jacob St. They plunge almost straight down into thick woods to a path that leads to a tunnel. Through that tunnel is the south busway and blue trolley line. You could also follow the path in the other direction all the way to Brookline Memorial Park. Follow them straight and they go over a quaint little foot bridge and then straight up more steps into Overbrook.

Most of the city steps today were built in the 1940s and the city once had a specific public works crew that maintained them. Today, since the recession, the city unfortunately cannot afford the same attention. Many steps are closed or in poor shape. Many are structurally safe but are covered in poison ivy or otherwise impassible. The South Side Slopes and Fineview both have neighborhood steps advocacy groups to keep their steps in order. Citizens trim tree limbs and clean up litter, paint the rails occasionally, and even provide concrete repair. It's not a surprise that there is so much civic pride. The unique views from the steps are unparalleled. They are quirky and distinctively Pittsburgh. They provide intimate glimpses into our city's past. Along with providing walkable access to public transit, they are a great workout and surely they are worth the climb.



The Ray Ave. steps looking down to West Liberty Ave.

(This article was reprinted from an earlier issue of The Brookline Newsletter.)

Dan Kaczmariski

Brookline Teen Outreach News

by Caitlin McNulty

Brookline Teen Outreach has been a part of the community for one full year. In that time, we have become an APOST Quality Campaign Member, been named a 2016 top-rated nonprofit by Great Nonprofits, formed a counseling program and community service program that has greatly impacted the community for the better and created a safe space for youth and teens. We have also become host to South Pittsburgh Development Corporation (SPDC), the Brookline Chamber of Commerce, Brookline Open Mic, Casa San Jose youth programming, and much more. We have accomplished so much because of the support of the community we serve and we are excited to create more opportunities in our second year.

We are also excited to announce that Brookline Teen Outreach and SPDC are co-sponsoring Taste of Brookline. With a history of being one of THE events in Brookline, this year's Taste of Brookline will be held on Saturday, April 29 from 2-5 p.m. at the Brookline Teen Outreach Center (right on Brookline Boulevard). If you haven't attended in the past, it's a one-day social event that showcases the best of what our neighborhood has to offer in regards to food and entertainment. This event has not been up and running since 2014 when it SOLD-OUT with an attendance of 225 people. In fact, we are preparing for an even bigger and better crowd this year.

Look for more information on the SPDC and Brookline Teen Outreach Facebook pages, or go to www.brooklineteenoutreach.org/calendar-events

Old Notes By Old People

by Chip Gorski

I am usually pretty good with faces and names, but one recent incident kind of embarrassed me. A few weeks ago, I attended a work-related meeting at a hotel in Greentree. It was an on-site meeting, so we stayed at the hotel for a few nights. On the second day, after a morning session, I decided to stretch my legs and walk to the lobby of the hotel. As I was walking back to the meeting room, I passed a guy who was in painted, stained work clothes. As we passed in the hallway, we both exchanged "hello's" and just as I was to head into the meeting room, I heard my name being called from down the hallway. I turned and looked back up the hallway and found the guy in the work clothes coming towards me, calling my name. As he got closer, I immediately recognized him as a classmate from grade school and high school. "I knew it was you," he said, "you haven't changed a bit"!

We stood in the hallway talking about our families, former classmates and our current jobs. I only wished we had more time to talk, but he was on his way to clock out and I had to get back to my meeting. So, I gave him some contact information and friended him on Facebook so we could stay in touch. Since the Brashear 'Class of 82' hasn't had a reunion in 30 years, we might have actually seen each other sooner. So it was nice seeing him and nice to catch up quickly.

Flash forward to the next morning. I knew I was leaving to go home that morning, so I packed my suitcase and put it in the trunk of my car. I did all of this before my first cup of coffee for the day so I was a little foggy. On my way back into the hotel, I saw a rather tall young man approaching me. He too knew my name and asked me what I was doing at the hotel. He was there for work as well.

Now I am sure this has happened to you. You know the face but you can't place how you know the person. So I try to fish to see how I might know this kid. "Did you stick with soccer?" I ask. I am convinced he's a former professional player I may have worked with when I was in that line of work. "I don't play soccer, I played football", he replied. I am now completely puzzled. "I'm so sorry – how do I know you?" I asked. "Uh, I used to come to your house all the time, I'm Brian, and I know Marysa and Brandon (my kids)." "Oh my gosh, yes you are!" I replied with profuse apologies. It was embarrassing. The minute he told me his name I felt horrible. You remember one, 24 hours later you can't remember another. I can only hope this isn't a habit --- have a good month!

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. 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.

March Madness Basketball Tournament, March 1-18, sponsored by St. John Bosco Academy Athletic Association. Girls JV & and Varsity and Girls and Boys 3rd & 4th Grade Developmental. Spectator admission, \$3 adults, \$1 students. Contact Sue Lucas: 412-736-5508, suebluc@gmail.com

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 Tree of Life Open Bible 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, funds and Amazon gift cards.
 - **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 412-393-7648. 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
- Other ways to help: Meals on Wheels can use donations of cash, cookies, desserts and bread. The Brookline Christian Food Pantry can use grocery store gift cards (send to Pat Erny, 2918 Pioneer Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15226).

Scout Week and Call for Alumni

by Michelle Metting

A Scout is Reverent: Every year, the Boy Scouts of America celebrates Scout Anniversary Week. This year, it was during the week of February 5. The week begins with Scout Sunday, when all Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts attend religious services, together if possible, to demonstrate faithfulness in their religious duties and respectfulness of the beliefs of others.

Along with Scout Sunday, Boy Scout Troop 6, sponsored by Church of the Resurrection, celebrated Scout Anniversary Week with a window display in the Medicine Shoppe on Brookline Boulevard. The window included scout-related items pertaining to camping and other scouting activities, along with the values of Boy Scouting: Scout Oath, Scout Law, Slogan and Motto. We hope you've had a chance to stop by to see the window.

February is a busy month for Troop 6. In addition to Scout Anniversary Week, we held a Court of Honor ceremony that recognized individuals for achieving rank advancements and earning merit badges and special awards such as the EQT Stem award and various wildlife conversation awards.

Scouts of Troop 6 participated in the Laurel Highlands Council Klondike Derby at Camp Twinon February 4. This is a patrol (team) competition of scout skills and knowledge to accomplish various activities. Our scouts working in two patrols achieved enough points to be awarded six new items of equipment for the Troop!

At the end of the year, the troop will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary with the same sponsor. We are in the process of planning a ceremony to celebrate. We are looking for Troop 6 alumni. If anyone was involved in Troop 6 or knows of anyone who was, please contact us at scoutmaster.troop6@gmail.com. Not only do we hope to hear your stories and memories of the Troop, we would also like contact information for invitations to the event.

OASIS Walk for Literacy

The OASIS Intergenerational Tutoring Program is a nationally acclaimed non-profit organization that promotes literacy with a proven approach to helping children in grades K-4 improve their reading, writing, and communication skills. OASIS has volunteers at Brookline PreK-8 and West Liberty K-5, as well as other area schools.

On Saturday, April 22, OASIS is sponsoring a Walk for Literacy to create awareness for the Program, advocacy for literacy, and an opportunity to bring all generations together for a day of fun, entertainment, and activities. The event will take place at the Schenley Plaza Tent in the heart of Oakland from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All activities are free!

The day starts with a comfortable walk around Schenley Plaza. Music and entertainment will be ongoing, as well as free rides on the Carousel. Under the tent there will be numerous art, craft and informational tables for seniors, kids and families of all ages. Free books for children will be available and anyone attending will be given tickets for door prizes and our Chinese Auction that will be drawn at the end of the event.

For more information on the event, please contact John D. Spehar, Program Director, at 412-393-7648 or by email at jdspehar@oasisnet.org. OASIS, an affiliate of Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council, recruits mature adults (50+) and provides training, materials, and clearances free of charge.

Council Woman Natalia Rudiak



BIG League Sports is now called Citisports. Why the change? Because BIG League focused on baseball and softball, and Citiparks wanted to offer more. By moving to the new Citisports model, there will be three times the number of sports options and Citisports will serve twice as many children!


What sports will be offered? Futsal (indoor soccer), soccer, baseball, softball, basketball, flag football, tennis, dek hockey, swimming, ultimate frisbee, track and field, volleyball, archery, biking, dodgeball, lacrosse, wiffle ball, fishing, pickleball AND summer camps, clinics, league play and coach training. Additionally, both old and new events will engage even more of our City's youth. Activities like the Easter Egg Dive, track and field days, the Great Race road series, Track and Treat Cycling Event, beach volleyball tournaments, Midnight Madness Basketball, and dodgeball tournaments.

Citisports aims to create programs that everyone can access, offer more sports than ever to introduce kids to as many activities as possible, and to encourage lifelong play and good sportsmanship. Citisports will also support competition and neighborhood recreation goals, and provide a safe and welcoming environment to connect with kids and adults through fun.

Citisports has a model which targets certain skills to different age groups.

- Level 1 (3-7 years old): Gross motor skills at each recreation center
- Level 2 (Grades 3-5): Clinics, camps, informal games
- Level 3 (Grades 6-8): Recreational leagues
- Level 4 (Grades 9-12): Recreational and differentiated play (tailored to unique needs of teams/players)
- Level 5 (Adults): Age appropriate recreational play.

Call 412-255-2539 or visit <http://pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks> to learn more.



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The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue is now accepting applications for the 2016 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. If you filed a paper rebate last year, you should have received an application in the mail. Applications are also available at my district office located at 932 Brookline Boulevard, online at www.revenue.pa.gov or by calling 1-888-222-9190. As always, my staff would be happy to assist you in preparing your application.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters. Please 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 the eligibility limits.

Applications are due to the Department of Revenue by June 30. The program is funded by the Pennsylvania Lottery and revenue from slots gaming.

Representative Harry Readshaw



I wanted to let you know that the Department of Environmental Protection spent the summer reviewing nearly 600 stores to ensure that lead solder is not being sold for plumbing purposes.

The review checked for compliance to the solder regulations at hardware stores and retailers that could sell soldering products, such as electronics suppliers, arts and crafts stores and auto parts merchants.

The Lead Ban Act of 1989 made it illegal to sell lead solder for plumbing purposes. Lead solder can leach into the water passing through pipes, leading to lead contamination, and, in high enough levels, to lead poisoning.

The recent store reviews showed that, of the 575 stores investigated, more than half of the 356 of the stores that sold solder, sold only lead-free solder.

Only 17 stores were not in compliance with the rules and notices were issued. DEP can issue fines of up to \$1,000 per violation.

As always, please contact me if I can be of assistance with any state-related issue.

Representative Dan Miller



Our signature event, the 4th Annual Disability & Mental Health Summit, is only weeks away! Be sure to join us on March 22, 23, and 24 at the Beth El Congregation on Cochran Road for the largest collection of disability and mental health resources in western PA.

This year, thanks to our terrific partners at Beth El, we are very excited to add a third day of programming to our event. This will allow more opportunities for people to attend at least some portion of the event and gives us a bit more flexibility in what typically is a jammed-packed schedule. In total, we will have over 30 sessions on a variety of related topics and over 150 participating organizations.

We are thrilled to once again be partnering with many nonprofits and school districts across the region. Besides from our key partnerships with the PEAL Center, 21 and Able, Pittsburgh Youth Leadership Taskforce, and Allegheny Family Network, we are very excited to have sessions on tap with DHS Secretary Ted Dallas, Congressman Murphy, Senator Casey's office, and a legislative panel full of senators and representatives from across our area.

Just like in past years, continuing education credits will be available for social workers, lawyers and teachers.

Don't forget that attendance is FREE! Whether you can come for one day or all three, we would love to see you there! For more information, visit [facebook.com/RepDanMiller](https://www.facebook.com/RepDanMiller) or DisabilitySummit.com.

Do You Want to Receive 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.

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.

Representative Dan Deasy



The House has organized its committees for the 2017-18 legislative session. The Committees function as the engine through which all legislation moves. Each assignment allows me to examine a variety of issues that impact our region and state. Here's a summary of some of the committees on which I am currently serving:

Rules -- Makes recommendations to improve and expedite the business and procedures of the PA State House and its committees.

Environmental Resources and Energy -- Works with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to establish regulations on environmental issues including air and water quality, and waste management.

Gaming Oversight-- Works with the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to evaluate bills that affect gaming in Pennsylvania. This includes the types of gaming allowed in the Commonwealth, as well as rules for casinos and using the proceeds of gaming in Pennsylvania.

Labor and Industry -- Reviews legislation on issues such as the state's minimum wage, unemployment compensation, workers' compensation, building and construction codes, and workplace health and safety.

Professional Licensure -- Reviews bills that pertain to commercial positions requiring licensing for qualified employees and businesses. The scope includes businesses as diverse as funeral homes and cemeteries to auctioneers, pharmacists and beauticians.

Tourism and Recreational Development -- Oversees legislation that pertains to the state's tourism industry. The committee has jurisdiction over the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

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Kinderkids Club

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

Lil' Sport Sampler

Ages 3-6. Tuesdays, 5-5:45 p.m. March 7 to April 11. This class will introduce your child to a variety of sports such as T-ball, basketball and soccer. Children will work on developing skills and having fun, learning in an energetic and supportive environment. Parent participation is encouraged. \$10.

Fun Family Fitness Classes

Ages 3+. Discover the value of staying active as a whole family. Have fun exercising, learn new fitness tips, and create healthy habits together. 6-7 p.m. "Recess Fun," Friday, March 10; "Obstacle Course," Friday, April 7; "Circuit Training," Friday, April 14. FREE.

Game Night

All ages. Fridays, 7-8:15 p.m., March 3 to April 14. Board games and PS4 gameplay. FREE.

Pickleball

Ages 18+. Mondays, 10 a.m.-noon, starting March 6. A racquet sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis. Two, three, or four players use solid paddles to hit a perforated ball, similar to a wiffle ball, over a net. \$3.

3-on-3 Basketball League

Ages 13-15 and 16-18. Ages 13-15 meet Wednesdays, 5-6:15 p.m., March 8 through April 19. Ages 16-18 meet Fridays, 5-6:15 p.m., March 10 through April 21. A competitive league with in-house referees. Shirts will be provided upon sign-up and tournament winner will receive a trophy. Maximum 8 teams per age group. \$15.

Basketball Clinic

Ages 4-6, 7-9, and 10-13. Ages 4-6 meet Thursdays, 5-6 p.m. or 6-7 p.m. Ages 7-9 meet Tuesdays, 5-6 p.m. or 6-7 p.m. Ages 10-13 meet Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m. March 7 & 9 through April 25 & 27. Learn the fundamentals of basketball, such as dribbling, shooting, and passing. At the end of the session, the kids will use their new skills in a game against each other. Each age group will have one practice a week. \$10.

Speed & Agility

Ages 14-16. Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m., beginning March 15. This class will focus on the ability to quickly change body position or direction. \$5.

Spring Break Camp

Grades K-5. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., April 10-13. This camp over spring

break will be jam-packed with fun-filled activities. Have a blast at the rec with your friends. Breakfast and lunch included. \$10/week.

Fishing

Ages 15 & under. 9 a.m., Saturdays, beginning April 29. Learn the basics of fishing at North Park. \$5.

Tabata

Ages 18+. Thursdays, 6-6:45 p.m. March 2 to April 6. 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.

Total Body Conditioning

Ages 18+. Mondays, 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. March 6 to April 10. \$20.

Knitting Club

All ages. Mondays, 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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Carnegie Library of Brookline March Events

For Kids

- *Storytime: Toddler and Preschooler Tales* – Mondays • 6:30 p.m. & Thursdays • 11 a.m. - interactive stories, songs and rhymes. For children 18 months - 5 years
- *Tween Workshop* – Tuesdays • 3:30 p.m. - engaging activities like crafts, games or technology
- *Kids Club: Wacky Wednesdays* – Wednesdays • 3:30 p.m. - meet new friends and try something new

For Teens

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

For Adults

- *Power Yoga with Amy* - Wednesdays • 6:30 p.m. - bring your own mat, towel and water for free yoga. All levels welcome
- *Crochet & Knitting Fun* - Saturday, March 18 • 2 p.m. - learn the basics, get help with an existing project or just drop in
- *Word Games* – Tuesday, March 7 • 6:30 p.m. – have fun with words playing classic board games. Adults 18+
- *Monthly Movie Showdown* – Tuesday, March 14 • 6 p.m. – pick up this month's films from the library, then drop in for fun,

relaxed conversation over movie-inspired treats

- *Game Night* – Tuesday, March 21 • 5:45 p.m. – traditional board and quest-based adventure games
- *Color Your World* – Tuesday, March 28 • 6 p.m. - coloring is a great way for adults to relieve stress and have fun. Adults 18+
- **Book Discussions:**
 - *Mystery & More* – Wednesday, March 8 • 1 p.m. – join in to discuss contemporary and classic mysteries, and occasional nonfiction. This month: *An Irish Country Village* by Patrick Taylor
 - *Between the Lines* – Monday, March 20 • 6 p.m. – come talk about contemporary and classic fiction and nonfiction. This month: *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Alan Bradley
 - *The Buzz* – Thursday, March 23 • 6 p.m. – come in to discuss unconventional fiction, nonfiction and graphic novels. This month: *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes* by Caitlin Doughty

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

What's Happening at Brookline PreK-8

by Amy Cornelius Dembosky, Parent Volunteer

February was Black History Month, and our wonderful teachers planned so many excellent activities that they cannot all be listed here. Several grade levels incorporated research into their lessons. For example, first grade investigated African American mathematicians and inventors, especially George Washington Carver. Students created their own inventions from peanuts and then wrote about them. Writing is an important component of our curriculum. Fourth graders wrote poems describing attributes that they share with an African American whom they studied. Sixth graders created public-service announcement-type videos using iMovie on their classroom iPads.

Mathematics was also integrated into the Black History Month activities. Second graders studied time and Benjamin Banneker, who in 1753 built a wooden clock that chimed on the hour. He was 22. Sixth graders used census data to study the percentage of different races in the total population in the United States between the years 1860 and 2000. Grades 7 and 8 studied the accomplishments of the mathematicians portrayed in the movie *Hidden Figures*. These mathematicians

who worked for NASA during the years of the space race are notable because they were both African American and women!

February's character education component was "pride in oneself," which we are defining as taking actions that promote a healthy body and mind. Students discussed this all month, and then at the end of the month, each homeroom selected the student who most embodies this value as student of the month. March's characteristic is "peace-seeking."



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Carmalt News

by Chyonna Blango-Symms and Sara Messiah

On January 20, all the girls in the sixth through eighth grades had the opportunity to view the movie *Hidden Figures*. After the movie the students came back to school where they socialized over pizza, participated in a student-led discussion, and created posters highlighting the messages they took from the movie. All the girls found the movie to be inspirational.

The movie was about three African-American women and how they worked at NASA. The main character, Katherine Johnson, was very good at math; one might even call her a genius. However, due to her color, her natural-born ability was not utilized to its fullest. Even when she was given the chance to work alongside some of the most brilliant people NASA employed, she was still treated differently and had to

keep proving herself again and again. Due to her resiliency, she proved herself to be a valuable member of the team responsible for sending an astronaut into space. Along the way, she also was instrumental in breaking down some of the barriers that segregation had erected.

This movie was very inspiring because it lets women and young girls know that they can do anything they set their minds to. Women are strong enough to accomplish any goal they set and with perseverance they can prove their opposition wrong. This movie was very empowering as it revealed the discrepancies between how the African-American women and Caucasian women were treated in the work place during the 1960s. Ultimately, the message that one should never let themselves be defined by how others view them was portrayed wonderfully.

The Latest from St. John Bosco Academy

by Holly Victor, Parent Volunteer

We are beginning the second half of the school year here at St. John Bosco Academy. Time flies when you're having fun!

Catholic Schools week was a success! The students enjoyed themed dress down days and a week full of fun activities. The primary department celebrated the 100th day of school by playing games and making crafts. The upper classes got a chance to exercise their STEM skills in the SJBA Thinking Cap challenge.

During this celebratory week, our fearless Principal, Mrs. Salley, without regard to her own safety, volunteered to test the theory of gravity and ask the question... "Will I stick?" To raise funds for additional access points to expand our computer network, duct tape was sold to the students, faculty and staff. And yes, you guessed it, that duct tape was used to stick Mrs. Salley to a wall! After the final piece of tape was placed, the step stool was removed and Mrs. Salley was indeed stuck to the wall.

Athletes in the eighth grade and their families were treated to dinner at the annual 8th sports banquet. A recognition ceremony was held in the gym immediately following. Congratulations to Maggie Wilson, who was awarded the Frank Debor scholarship for her outstanding involvement in athletics, school and community. Maggie will attend Seton La Salle high school in the fall.

"May your troubles be less and your blessings be more and nothing but happiness come through your door" – An Irish blessing.

What's Going on at Pittsburgh West Liberty?

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

It's been very busy here at West Liberty. It's hard to believe how quickly the school year is passing. During this month, we will continue with our second year of National Honor Society. Mrs. Amber Henderson (our fourth-grade Math Teacher) oversees this program. She has the proper children selected and has teachers complete surveys on those children. If the child meets the criteria, they are recommended for the National Honor Society. The induction for this year will be on March 15.

We will also be continuing from February our Dr. Seuss week activities. The children will learn more history about Dr. Seuss and will help contribute towards celebrating his birthday. Speaking of Dr. Seuss and all of his marvelous books, we have our own writing inspiration this month.

We have a tradition of having a Writer's Block Party. The children's work is displayed for parents to come and see. It is shown in all areas of our school. Their writings will also be exhibited for Math, Social Studies and other content areas, not just English and Language Arts. We encourage our parents to come and help celebrate "our future Dr. Seuss" at our Writer's Block Party on March 20 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

That's all for now. Stay tuned to learn more about West Liberty, "Where Learners Excel and Character Counts."

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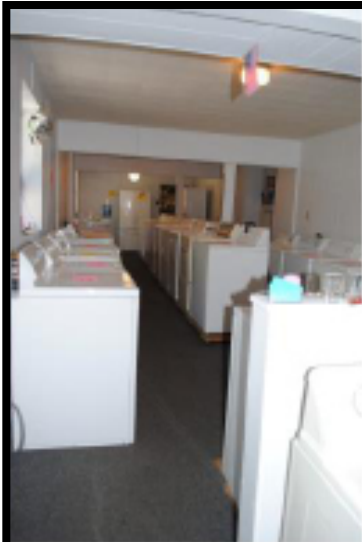
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