

Brookline Teen Outreach

by Dan Kaczmariski



Brookline Teen Outreach, 520 Brookline Blvd.

Photos courtesy of Brookline Teen Outreach

Are you between 10 and 18 years of age?

Do you like any of the following: Hiking in the woods, themed parties, watching movies, learning how to create a podcast, acting, writing, learning how to cook or sew or about science, or just hanging out with other kids?

How about games like air hockey, Foosball, Xbox, Wii, PlayStation, or Nintendo 64?

Or do you want help with your studies, access to a computer lab, a bunch of choices for doing community service, or just someone to bounce ideas off of in a non-threatening environment?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above, you're in luck! You can do all of them free of charge (except for the monthly guided hikes, which cost \$6 per hike) through Brookline Teen Outreach (BTO), located at 520 Brookline Blvd. BTO opened its doors in March 2016. Each week, about 120 young people take advantage of BTO's programming and services, and the organization's leaders are eager to see that number grow.

Caitlin McNulty and Diana Fischerkeller are the co-founders of BTO. When serving as coordinator of youth ministry for a local parish several years ago, Caitlin observed that some youth had needs that were difficult to meet within the parameters of a traditional program. She and others started arriving at the youth meetings hours early to help the young

people with their homework, be around to mentor, or just talk about things going on in the kids' lives. Sometimes those conversations led to referrals to counselors. "I kept seeing this need," says Caitlin, "and couldn't really ignore it anymore. So I said to myself 'stop waiting around; this just needs to happen.'"

Caitlin and Diana recognized the need for an organization that offered both fun activities and a counseling component for those who wanted to take advantage of that. "We saw that a lot of the kids have issues that we can't address in a just a social organization kind of setting and that counseling would be very important," says Caitlin. Diana is the lead counselor and all of the counselors are licensed professionals.

The counseling services are open to all members of the community, regardless of age. "A lot of our clients come for counseling for families," says Caitlin. "We also do a lot of couples counseling." The counselors take most major insurances and offer a sliding scale of fees based on the client's income.

BTO is committed to being a positive force in the community, both in the activities it offers youth and in service to Brookline. How many service projects a student takes part in depends on the individual, "but everybody sees the value in community service work," says Caitlin. "We talk about it a lot. Even if we're not saying it, they're seeing it in the things we do. They get that if you want to see changes in your community,



Diana Fischerkeller (l.)—BTO Lead Counselor and co-founder, and Caitlin McNulty—Executive Director and co-founder

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you have to be part of the change.”

Among the many services BTO has provided the community are: Litter pick-up on the Boulevard, helping with Brookline’s Halloween Parade and the Brookline Breeze, directing food to the food service charities in Brookline, and creating desserts for the Community 341 meal. The BTO facility is also planning to continue and expand its hosting of community events.

BTO is recognized as an Allegheny Partners for Out-of-School time (APOST) Quality Campaign member. To become a Quality Campaign member, an organization has to go through a rigorous application process to demonstrate that it meets over 50 key criteria for excellence. BTO stands out by having achieved that distinction in its first year of existence.

With an age range of 10 to 18, the BTO participants naturally differ in life skills and maturity. BTO tries as much as possible to do things as a group and to use the age differences as an asset. “We try to get our older kids to help out with the younger kids,” says Caitlin. “It’s a nice bridge. It gives each age group a kind of purpose. Peer-to-peer learning is very important.”

Caitlin says that students who take advantage of formal one-on-one tutoring show measurable improvement in their schoolwork. “But even when it’s informal homework help, their confidence grows,” she says. “Especially with the peer-to-peer, because they’re saying ‘that kid’s not that much older than me and he or she can do it, so I can do it.’” BTO is also about to get a computer lab up and running, which will allow its members to do and print out homework on site.

With all that BTO offers free of charge, where does the money come from? Ultimately, the goal is to receive significant grant monies from foundations and other funding sources. However, says Caitlin, BTO has found there’s an unwritten

Continued on p. 4

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Brookline Updates

Community Contacts

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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	412-531-2925
Dollar Energy/Columbia Gas Cap	412-344-4222

Community Crimes Zone 6

August		
Zone 6 Crimes	Total	Brookline
Aggravated Assault	4	0
Rape	1	0
Arson	1	0
Robbery	2	1
Burglary	7	1
Theft	20	3
Theft from Vehicle	6	2
Stolen Vehicle	1	1

OCTOBER COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Monday, October 9

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

Tuesday, October 10

Brookline Block Watch, 7 p.m. at Magistrate Jim Motznik's office, 736 Brookline Blvd. November 14 meeting will be 25th Anniversary/Christmas Party. Main meal and cake will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring an appetizer to share. Starts at 6:30 p.m.

Monday, October 16

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

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The Brookline

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rule in the funding community that grant monies flow more easily once an organization has a 3-year track record. In the meantime, dedicated volunteers, fund-raising events, and donors are making it happen. Caitlin says that regular staff members devote up to 50 hours or more of unpaid time weekly. Volunteers and monetary donations are always welcomed, as well as in-kind donations such as the computers donated by a local company. "If everyone who reads this article gave just \$5, that would be tremendous," she says.

In addition to the regular weekly activities on the calendar, this month has on tap a nature hike on Saturday, October 14, a class on creating and broadcasting a podcast, and an acting workshop.

The hike is the October installment of a monthly hike that about 20 to 40 BTO participants—in partnership with the Audubon Society of Pennsylvania—take at Todd Nature Reserve near Sarver, PA. "Todd Nature Reserve is very wild," says Caitlin. "There are not really trails. We have a really wonderful guide. He kind of assesses the ability of each group and then decides what the hike will include and how rigorous it will be."

Starting October 4, Todd "Double D" DeFazio of the internet radio station, "Idiot Radio," will teach the kids how to create and edit a podcast, then record it in the studio and have it broadcast on internet radio.

The acting workshop is open to all levels of experience and talent, and will culminate in a performance of a play written by a member of the "Girls Write Pittsburgh" group, which meets at BTO. For a full listing of BTO events and programming, check out their website at www.brooklineteenoutreach.org.

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The Brookline Newsletter Needs Editors!

The South Pittsburgh Development Corporation has published the monthly Brookline Newsletter since 2008. The Newsletter keeps our neighborhood abreast of community events, organizations, and individuals. All of the Newsletter positions are filled by volunteers. After this year's December issue, the Newsletter's content editor and its design editor will be retiring to devote their time to other projects. To keep the Newsletter going, we need to fill each of those positions with individuals or a team of volunteers. If you'd like to learn more about this opportunity to give back to Brookline while learning what's happening in our community, contact Dan at pdkaz@comcast.net or 412-531-1252.

Cannon Update

The cannon, damaged in a July 8 bus accident is expected to be returned to Brookline's Veterans Memorial Park this month. A reinstallation ceremony is being planned.



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On The Issues: Face to Face with the City Council Candidates

by Joseph Samuel Rogers

Editor's note: With the 2017 general election on November 7 quickly approaching, The Brookline Staff Writer Joseph Samuel Rogers interviewed Cletus Cibrone-Abate (R- Overbrook) and Anthony Coghill (D-Beechview) to get their perspective on important issues facing District 4 and to ensure that voters are informed about the views of both candidates.



*Cletus Cibrone-Abate with daughter
Photo courtesy of Calliope Adelina Abate*

Cletus Cibrone-Abate

Cletus Cibrone-Abate, the Republican nominee, a lifelong resident of Overbrook who still lives in her childhood home, is running for city council to make a difference for the whole community, to fight for residents' wants and needs, and to give hope to the hopeless.

Attributing her interest in politics to her grandparents, Cletus has worked on several local

and national Republican and Democratic campaigns and also serves the city as a Republican committee woman. While a Republican has not served Brookline in City Council for many decades, Cletus believes that the district deserves a fresh start.

Cletus opposes the potential designation of Pittsburgh as a sanctuary city, wants to focus on improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods, and wants to allow voters to vote on projects that will require funding using taxpayer dollars. Furthermore, she intends to make neighborhood safety a priority by ensuring emergency personnel have necessary equipment and sufficient staffing.

To strengthen the business district of the community, Cletus wants to explore offering free parking one weekend a month to encourage local shopping and will meet with each merchant to discuss their needs.

In order to place emphasis on the 4th District, which she believes has been neglected, Cletus believes that "We need to strengthen our community centers and invest in Moore Park to be operational year round...[and] I would like to see the return of the once-strong boxing program to keep kids off the streets and adults active, and other community programs."

Cletus believes that investment in neighborhood facilities and roads is key to the growth and development of Brookline.

Anthony Coghill

Anthony Coghill, the Democratic nominee and life-long resident of Beechview, is very familiar with District 4's landscape, as he has worked in the neighborhoods as owner of Coghill Roofing Co. for 24 years.

Coghill pledged from the beginning of his campaign to return back to the basics by having a significant presence in the community and not sitting behind a desk all day. "I love our neighborhoods . . . my family lineage here goes back more than 100 years; I attended our public schools, started my business, and have lived here my entire life," he said during the primary campaign.

Previously serving as the 19th Ward Chairman, Coghill pledges to work towards ensuring safe neighborhoods, clean streets, and a fair share of public services. Acknowledging that Brookline is the anchor of District 4, Coghill plans on taking a hands-on approach when working with local merchants, a staple of the community. He plans to personally visit merchants to ensure that their concerns are being tended to and that they understand the resources available to them.

Brookline has experienced cuts in public transportation in recent years, and Coghill intends to work closely with County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, who oversees the Port Authority, as well as State Senator Wayne Fontana to ensure that the public transportation needs of constituents are being met. He also intends to work with Father Jim Bachner and the Diocese of Pittsburgh to ensure that parishioners at the local Catholic churches will have a ride to church each week following the 2018 Diocesan reorganization process.



*Anthony Coghill
Photo courtesy of Anthony Coghill Campaign*

Changing Eyesores into Showplaces

by Dan Kaczmarek



*Kitchen of Pioneer Ave property rehabbed by Alpha Homes Group LLC
Photo courtesy of Alpha Homes Group*

Those who follow Brookline real estate sales can pretty much tell when houses in our neighborhood have been “flipped.” Those are the properties that were bought in the past year at a price lower than the value of surrounding properties, then resold at a hefty markup.

To some people, the term “flipping” carries vaguely negative connotations, suggesting some sort of get rich quick scheme. That’s due to how the term was used in the early 2000s. At that time, housing values in many communities nationwide were skyrocketing and the real estate bubble hadn’t yet burst. Many investors bought properties at the going market price, put minimal improvements into them, then resold them at a tidy profit simply by cashing in on the soaring overinflated market.

Today, flipping more accurately refers to investors’ buying a property that’s considered “the ugly house on the block” in need of significant repairs and updates, rehabbing it to match or exceed the quality of other houses in the community, then reselling it at a profit.

Finding a good deal, securing financing, managing the renovations, and selling the property requires a great deal of time, energy, effort, and sometimes risk. But in the right area and with the right house, flipping can pay off. A March 2017 report by Attom Data Solutions, a property data warehouse, shows that among 117 metro areas analyzed for percentage return on flipping investments, Pittsburgh was second highest nationally at 130 percent. (East Stroudsburg, PA, topped the list at 241.5 percent.)

To be successful reselling rehabbed houses, you need both a desirable neighborhood and a property that hasn’t been given

as much care as its neighbors. “Flippers find solid, older homes that haven’t been updated in years,” says Tim Reitmeyer, Howard Hanna Realtor.

What makes Brookline an enticing community for rehabbing ventures is that it combines a robust stock of high quality older houses with a hot real estate market. Over the past three or four years, says Tim, home prices in Brookline have increased close to 30 percent. In a February interview with *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Howard “Hoddy” Hanna III, chairman of Howard Hanna Real Estate Services, said that “right now, houses in Brookline are selling faster than any place...in the city, maybe in the suburbs, too.”

“Brookline certainly is a current favorite,” says Tim. “It offers location, affordability, a sense of community, amenities, and much more. Young professionals recognize the value of Brookline compared to some of the other desired city areas, such as Lawrenceville or Squirrel Hill.”

In January of this year, Alpha Homes Group LLC, owned by Jeramy and Zeidy Sluciak, sold a house on Pioneer Ave. on the Brookline/Dormont border for \$219,000, just three days after putting it on the market. They had bought the property seven months earlier for \$95,000. It was, however, far from a get-rich-quick venture. They sold the house after investing 6 months and about \$60,000 in renovations, turning the 1921 structure into a stunning showplace. “All the wood is solid oak,” says Jeramy. “The banisters are hand carved. We had to get in there with dental tools. It took at least 100 man hours just sanding the wood.”

The building is a good example of the type of older house that has “good bones and character,” qualities that have led Jeramy and Zeidy to fall in love with the houses in our area. “Good bones’ means a solidly built, well planned home,” says Tim Reitmeyer. “Most Brookline homes were built at a time when builders didn’t take short cuts, but had pride in their workmanship. ‘Character’ goes to style and quality. Brookline has very few “cookie-cutter” homes like some places. Again, this goes back to when the area’s homes were built. Each was built one-at-a-time, and each home had its own unique style or charm.”

“In Brookline, the houses are very sound,” says Zeidy. “We love the brick and we try to refinish the wood, to return the old glory to these houses, along with modern touches.” One such touch is usually to give the interiors a more airy ambience. “With these old houses, they loved dividing up every room that they could,” says Jeramy. “We try to open it up while bringing out the old charm.”

Both Jeramy and Zeidy grew up far from Brookline in areas

that give them a special appreciation for quality older homes. Jeremy was born and raised in Alaska, where he says most of the structures older than 1964 were destroyed that year by a catastrophic earthquake. "There's none of the brick, the plaster work, the stained glass that you see here." Zeidy is from Guatemala. "The construction here is totally different from where I grew up," she says. "I had never seen all of the detail work you have here."

They are also impressed by the fact that houses here have yards and in many cases, garages. Brookline's proximity to downtown is also an attraction.

They're currently rehabbing a house at 518 Berkshire Ave. They bought the house--built in 1905--for \$47,500 at auction. The house had been on the market for over five years and had been uninhabited for much of that time. "That was our first auction and that was the first house up for bid," says Jeremy. "When we got it, we were like, "did we pay too much?" But it turned out to be great." After putting in about \$70,000 in renovations, they plan to market the property for at least \$220,000.

Again, however, it's been labor intensive. They have a crew of four workers. Jeremy—who is an electrician with additional experience in drywall--works alongside them, usually 7 days a week. "I'm definitely doing all aspects of it," he says. "We're trying to get away from my doing everything." "As we get more houses, he'll have to become more of just a manager," adds Zeidy.

Getting more houses is a job in itself. It sometimes involves literally cruising the streets to identify the "ugly house on the block." Both Zeidy and Jeremy are licensed Realtors with access to MLS, a multiple listing service for agents. They look for properties that appear not to be been updated for years. Sometimes that leads to making a cold call regarding the property. "It could be as simple as a letter saying "Hey, we're fixing up a house in the neighborhood; would you consider selling?" says Zeidy.

They encourage readers of this article who know of a property that's been vacant for months to let them know. "If there's a house you're tired of looking at," says Jeremy, "you can send us the address and we'll do the research to see if the owner is interested in selling." They can be contacted at 724-749-8358 or at info@alphahomesgroup.com.

When rehabbers take on a house that's been neglected and improve and sell it, they win and the neighborhood wins. The presence of a good-looking house in place of what used to be an eyesore helps the value of neighboring houses, and as Tim Reitmeyer says, "any increase in a home's market value is good for the surrounding properties, be they good, bad, or ugly."

A Half Century of Tomatoes and Counting



Tomato Master Blase Toffolo
Photo by Dan Kaczmariski

So with Halloween and a dismal Pittsburgh winter on the horizon, who's thinking these days about next year's garden?

Well, Blase Toffolo for one. For the past 50 years, this time of year for Blase has meant putting mushroom manure mixed with Miracle Gro® into his background garden not far from Moore Park. You can't argue with the results. His tomatoes have been prizewinners. This year, one of his plants produced a 1-1/2 pound Beefsteak tomato, about twice as big as the largest tomato available at the Giant Eagle.

Blase, 84, brought what he knew about gardening to Pennsylvania when he emigrated from Italy at 17 in 1950. Over the years, his Brookline garden has included tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, lettuce, red beets, onions, basil, parsley, sage, oregano, rosemary, and more. Until recently, he was picking a couple of hundred figs each year from the tree in his backyard.

On the wall in his sunroom hang awards for First Ripe Tomato, a contest sponsored by Kenny's Bar in Brookline in the 1980s, which led to his being featured in *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. After working 45 years as a bricklayer, he likes to keep moving. In addition to his gardening, he volunteers as a Meals on Wheels delivery person and strives to work out three days a week at the Seton Center exercise program for seniors.

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October Events on the Boulevard

At Brookline Teen Outreach

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

At 824: The Consignment Shop

Agnes & Dora Pop-up Boutique. Sat. Oct. 7 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Consultant Jen McGlothlin returns with another Agnes & Dora Pop-up Boutique featuring fabulous fashions sized XXS to XXL. Sip wine while shopping! Free event. 908 Brookline Blvd. 412-440-8245

Ebru Art Workshop. Sat. Oct. 21 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Artist Gulay Baltali will instruct how to create beautiful art using this ancient technique! Tickets are \$45 per person in advance. Refreshments provided.

Tarot & Medium Readings. Fri. Oct. 27 from 7 to 10 p.m. Psychic Mary Petrella returns for another reading event. Book early to reserve your spot! Advance tickets are \$45 per person. Refreshments provided.

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.

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.

The Seton Center is selling Raffle Lottery Tickets. Winners will be based on the Pennsylvania, 7 p.m., 4 digit lottery drawing. On October 30 the winner will receive \$1,000 and on October 31 the winner will receive \$1,500. Tickets cost \$10 and you get four numbers on each ticket. For every ten tickets sold, you get one free. The seller of the winning ticket will also receive \$50. You can come and get your tickets at Seton Center at 1900 Pioneer Ave. Ticket payment must be submitted to the Seton Center by Friday, October 27. For more information, call 412-561-8400 or email Cheryl@setoncenter.com

Brookline Teen Outreach News

by Caitlin McNulty

There are always new and exciting things happening at Brookline Teen Outreach. As of August 30, we've been offering a snack and dinner program to students daily during our open hours. This program is made possible through a collaboration with 412 Food Rescue. This organization addresses the disconnect in distribution--in supply and access--by rescuing food about to go to waste and directly distributing to organizations that serve communities in need. They redirect unsellable yet fresh, healthy viable food to those who are food insecure. Brookline Teen Outreach isn't the only organization that benefits from this collaboration. We also help to source food for Meals on Wheels, the Food Bank, and the Wednesday Dinner Program at St. Mark's.

Building renovations were in full swing in September and the main hall has been painted and new fans and light fixtures have been installed. This was made possible by the many volunteers who donated their time, talents, and resources. We also have to thank Busy Beaver for donating paint and for continuing to support us and many other non-profits and individuals in the community. This newly transformed space is the perfect backdrop for the 6-week acting classes that began in late September. Students will be showcasing their skills on stage in mid-November.

In September, we were also able to finish our computer lab. Members of the community generously donated all computers. In addition to six laptops, we also have printers, hard to find software and workshops available. This space will also allow us to host a podcasting workshop led by Todd ("Double D") DeFazio of Idiot Radio. These free sessions will take place every Wednesday, October 4 to November 15 from 5-6 p.m. Students will learn to create, host, produce, edit and promote their own podcast. To register call 412-254-4590 or go to: <https://goo.gl/forms/5ny1D538BgF7bWVg2>

Lastly, we would like to say thank you to everyone who joined us for the 2nd Annual Night at the Races and the Old World, New World Heritage Festival in September! If you missed them this year, be sure to mark your calendar for next year.

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Gathering for Physical and Spiritual Sustenance

by Dan Kaczmariski

Brookline is blessed with organizations and volunteers who provide meals for people in our community. For the past several years, Community 341 has invited all comers to come together once a week to share in food, fellowship, and spiritual sustenance.

Community 341 assembles at St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church at the corner of Brookline Blvd. and Glenarm Ave. each Wednesday. Those who choose can attend a 15-minute interdenominational worship service and communion at 5 p.m., which is followed by a free home-cooked meal in the church's hall at 5:30 p.m.

Community 341 is recognized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and the Presbyterian Church. It's been spearheaded by Rev. Marsha Sebastian, pastor of the Presbyterian congregation in Brookline and Pastor Karen Battle, interim pastor of St. Marks.

"It's a worshipping community that came into being as a new entity," says Pastor Karen, "a baby all in itself, birthed from the Presbyterian congregation up the street and the Lutheran congregation here."

The number "3" in the community's name represents the Lutheran Church, the Presbyterian Church, and the Brookline neighborhood. The number "4" stands for "For," and the number "1" denotes "Christ for Everyone."

The focus of the Community is the Wednesday meal, along with the worship service and a communion. However, the meal is open to anyone looking for good food and fellowship, whether or not they choose to attend the worship service.

"It was started because we discerned there was a need in Brookline for people to eat together," says Rev. Marsha. "It's open to everyone. We have all denominations. It's a really nice mix of people. Some of the folks who attend come from the Mazza Pavilion and other apartment buildings where they don't normally eat together." Pastor Karen estimates about 50 people, ranging in age from 5-year-olds to seniors, share in the meal each week, depending on the weather.

The meals are provided by a diverse mix of organizations,

faith communities, and individuals. In addition to Lutheran and Presbyterian congregations, Catholic parishes of Brookline prepare and serve, along with groups such as Boy Scouts Troop 6, members of Brookline Teen Outreach, students from Seton-LaSalle High School, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and others. "We had a group of three men who had been touched by the work of a man who was very active in the community and is now deceased, and they wanted to do a meal in his honor," says Rev. Marsha.

The free meal is entirely on a drop-in basis. Because no advance notice is necessary, there's no guarantee how many people will show up each week. Asked how the Community

determines how much food to prepare, Pastor Karen says with a laugh, "that is truly the work of the Holy Spirit. There have been times when it's gotten kind of low, but the Lord seems to multiply. It's really the wisdom of our cooks who guesstimate how much to make, then the Holy Spirit gives the increase."

She emphasizes that a dessert is a part of "ev-v-ery meal." Anyone interested in providing desserts, preparing or serving meals, or making donations of any sort—from drink mixes to cups—can contact Pastor Karen at 412-531-9575.

Though it's hard to believe from talking with them, both Rev. Karen and Rev. Marsha say they are introverts, so they understand that some people might at first have trepidation about just showing up. "They feel called to do something," says Rev. Marsha, "but it can be daunting to sit next to a stranger and have a meal. So we try to make it as hospitable and painless as possible."

"Pastor Karen is a wonderful prayer and preacher," says Rev. Marsha. "We also offer a chance for people to lift up prayer requests, so they can feel they are heard and prayed for in another context. People don't feel reticent about that, so we're glad they feel comfortable to ask for prayer."

"We extend an invitation to the residents of Brookline to come join us for a meal," says Pastor Karen. "Our doors are always open. Our arms are always welcoming, so the more the merrier. We would love to see other people from the community come and be a part."



Council Woman Natalia Rudiak



Halloween is fun for everyone, as long as basic safety guidelines are followed. The City of Pittsburgh normally holds trick-or-treating hours from 5:30-7:30 p.m. city-wide. Look for the time to be announced soon for this year. Be sure to check pittsburghpa.gov for official trick-or-treat times.

While you'll have your costume and candy bucket (or pillowcase!), remember to follow some simple guidelines to keep you and your children safe this year.

1. Be visible. Wear reflective clothing so that drivers can clearly see you as the sun sets and it gets darker. Reflective tape can be incorporated into just about any costume.
2. Don't go alone. Make sure to bring a buddy, neighbor, or friend tag along.
3. Obey traffic rules while walking. Only cross streets at designated cross walks. Use sidewalks where possible. Put your phone down while walking! Make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of their vehicle.
4. Send children with an adult.
5. Give kids glowsticks or flashlights to use while walking around.
6. Knock on doors you know. Visit your neighbors and don't feel the need to stop at houses you are not familiar with.
7. Check the candy. Parents or guardians should check the candy kids have collected before the kids dig in.

Representative Dan Deasy



Pennsylvania's new DUI law makes ignition interlock on vehicles mandatory for first-time DUI offenders with a blood alcohol content of 0.10 or higher, and for people who refuse testing. This new requirement mandates the use of the ignition interlock devices for at least 12 months.

The law also establishes what's called an Ignition Interlock Limited License. Individuals who meet certain requirements will be able to operate a vehicle equipped with an ignition interlock system during part or all of their suspension.

PennDOT has begun issuing the Ignition Interlock Limited Licenses and will contact Pennsylvanians who may be eligible for one. In 2015, more than 5,400 interlock systems were installed in Pennsylvania vehicles. It is estimated that in 2016, over 7,000 DUI's were prevented because of ignition interlock devices. Clearly, these devices save lives.

The law will protect others on the road by requiring more drivers to use the ignition interlocking devices while also permitting limited driving opportunities, such as maintaining jobs, continuing education and other occasions.

In 2016, there were 10,256 alcohol-related crashes in Pennsylvania that unfortunately resulted in 297 deaths. With Act 33, Pennsylvania joins 48 other states across the nation in expanding ignition interlock to most first-time DUI offenders with the premise of reducing alcohol-related crashes and deaths.

For more information on this new law, review the fact sheet online at: <http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Public/DVSPubsForms/BDL/BDL%20Fact%20Sheets/fs-iill.pdf>, or call my office at 412-928-9514.

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and the gang at Fox's

Senator Wayne Fontana



I want to remind anyone who has not applied for the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue's 2016 Property Tax/Rent Rebate program to do so before the end of the year. If you need an application or need assistance with completing it, stop by my district office, located at 932 Brookline Boulevard, and my staff would be happy to assist. Applications are also available at www.revenue.pa.gov.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and over; widows and widowers age 50 and over; and people with disabilities age 18 and over. Homeowners with a maximum yearly income of \$35,000 and renters with a maximum yearly income of \$15,000 are eligible for a rebate. Keep in mind half of Social Security income is excluded. Some applicants who

previously received rebates may continue to qualify despite Social Security cost-of-living adjustments that may have pushed their income past eligibility limits.

For any questions about this program or any other state-related issue please contact my office Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 412-344-2551.

Representative Dan Miller



As a member of the House Human Services Committee and the HOPE (Heroin, Opioid prevention, and Education) Caucus, one of my top priorities as your state representative has been to work to address the struggles we are facing as a state and a nation—in regards to our opioid epidemic and addiction

as a whole. Addiction of course isn't new, and most of us are keenly aware of the impact thus far from the abuse of opioids, which has led to record overdose numbers and drug-related deaths. However, what is less familiar to many of us is exactly where the practical hurdles in our system are that make sobriety even more elusive.

Accordingly, we will be hosting a Substance Abuse forum on November 29, entitled "Challenges to Recovery." This is not an awareness level event. We all know we have a problem. Instead, we will be asking questions and seeking answers to the specific hurdles in the criminal justice system, the workplace, the impact on families and children, and the access to treatment. We also will have a resource fair full of information and opportunities for support and assistance in our area.

The event will run on November 29 from approximately 1-6 p.m. Special thanks to our hosts at St. Paul's Episcopal (1066 Washington Road, 15528) for helping us to bring this important conversation to the community. For more information, please call my office at 412-343-3870.

Representative Harry Readshaw



If you are concerned about lead in your home, Allegheny County has established the Lead-Safe Homes Program. The program will identify and control lead-based paint hazards in eligible units in Allegheny County.

You may be eligible if you rent or own a home in Allegheny County built before 1978, have a child younger than

6 years old or there is a pregnant person living in the home, and your pre-tax income falls below the following:

Family Size	Pre-Tax Income
2	\$45,600
3	\$51,300
4	\$56,950
5	\$61,550
6	\$66,100

If lead is found in your home, a state-certified lead abatement contractor will repair the hazards. Please call the Allegheny Lead-Safe Homes Hotline at 412-227-5700 to learn more.

For more information about lead, call the Allegheny County Health Department, Housing and Community Environment, at 412-350-4046 or visit it online at www.ACHD.net. You can also learn about lead from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead or the EPA at www.epa.gov/lead.

Carnegie Library of Brookline

October Events

For Kids

- *Storytime: Toddler & Preschool Tales* – Mondays • 6:30 p.m.
Get up and get moving with interactive stories, songs and rhymes
- *Kids Club: Wacky Wednesdays* • 3:30 p.m. Meet new friends, hang out with old friends and try something new
- *Family PlayShop* – Thursdays • 11 a.m. Children learn and grow through play! Laugh, play, discover and explore with your child at Family Playshop. Play together with toys and activities that encourage creativity and healthy development

For Teens

- *Pokémon Club* – Thursdays • 3:30 p.m. Compete with other teens in drop-in battle leagues for both the video and card games
- *Teen Time* – Tuesdays • 3:30 p.m. Cool art projects, epic games, music, movies and just chilling out

For Adults

- *Word Games* – Tuesday, October 3 • 6 p.m. Play popular word games like Scrabble, Upwords and Boggle
- *Color Your World* – Tuesday, October 10 • 6 p.m. Coloring is a great way to relax and unwind. Markers, crayons and free coloring pages are provided
- *Kids Play* – Tuesday, October 17 • 6 p.m. Adults get the chance to use some of our most popular toys like Magnatiles and Legos
- *Live & Learn* – Tuesday, October 24 • 6 p.m. Explore something new like origami or calligraphy, using the instructions and free supplies provided
- **Book Discussions:**
 - *Mystery & More* – Wednesday, October 11 • 1 p.m. Join us for lively discussions of contemporary and classic mysteries. This month: *Why Didn't They Ask Evans?* by Agatha Christie
 - *Between the Lines* – Monday, October 16 • 6 p.m. – take part in engaging conversations about contemporary and classic fiction and nonfiction. This month: *Dead Wake* by Erik Larson
 - *Curious Selections* – Tuesday, October 24 • 6 p.m. – join us where hip meets lit to discuss unconventional fiction, nonfiction and graphic novels. This month: *Ghostland* by Colin Dickey

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

Brookline Memorial Recreation Center

Weight Room and Fitness Center

Our state-of-the-art weight room and fitness center includes an assortment of weight-lifting and cardio workout equipment. Patrons ages 16-17 must be orientated and accompanied by a parent or guardian. Membership card is required. \$5 monthly fee.

Kinderclub

Ages 5 and under with adult. Exercise, crafts and storytime. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to noon. Ongoing. Just drop in. Free

Kickball League

Ages 10-15. Fridays, 5 to 6 p.m. \$5

Nature Explorers

Ages 3-6. Thursdays, 5-6 p.m. \$10

Book Club

Ages 18+. Mondays, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Free (must purchase book)

Fall and Winter Hours

Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, call 412-571-3222.

Heritage Players Theater News

The Heritage Players is a local theater group that performs in the Seton Center auditorium at 1900 Pioneer Ave. The group draws actors, directors, and crew from throughout the Pittsburgh area. This month, The Heritage Players are marking the 20th anniversary of their first production. Brookliners are encouraged to share their talents with this friendly and welcoming group.

The Heritage Players will present Stephen Sondheim's musical, *Into the Woods*, directed by Lora Oxenreiter, November 3-5 and 10-12 at the Seton Center. Friday and Saturday performances are at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person. The box office opens one half-hour before curtain. For more information, visit heritageplayerstheatre.org or phone 412-254-4633.

Old Notes By Old People

by Chip Gorski

I know a lot of people love the season of fall. Out of the four, it's my second-to-least favorite, winter being the first. Fall to me is driving home in the dark. It means the days are getting colder. I don't like it cold. I am a summer person. I don't mind the heat and I love the sunshine. Fall and winter mean staying inside and dealing with the elements. I don't deal with the elements well.

We used to have all of these huge trees along our street. I am not sure what kind they were, but they lined the street for the most part half way to Brookline Boulevard. The leaves on these trees were huge and when they dropped and you walked on them, they made a loud crunch. We had no trees in front of our house, but somehow, those leaves would collect and we would have raking duty. At that point in time, you could rake all of your leaves into a pile and the city would come by and get rid of them. Unless of course, the leaves were raked into a pile and the neighborhood kids would jump through them or on them and spread them back around again.

Changing Children's Lives

The Pittsburgh OASIS Intergenerational Tutor Program is seeking volunteers (50+) to tutor in Pittsburgh and Woodland Hills School Districts in grades K-4. Share your love of reading as you help a child develop a positive self-image and a motivation to read and communicate. An hour a week can change a child's life!

OASIS has volunteers helping at Brookline PreK-8 and West Liberty K-5. A two-day training class will be conducted on Monday, November 6 and Thursday, November 9 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at 411 Seventh Ave., Suite 525 (Duquesne Light Building), downtown Pittsburgh. No teaching experience is required and all training, materials and clearances are provided free of charge.

For more information or to register, please contact John D. Spehar, OASIS Tutoring Program Director at 412-393-7648 or by email at jdspehar@oasisnet.org. OASIS is an affiliate of the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council.

Some people associate smells with seasons. Pumpkin and spice is big this time of year. The smell I associate fall most with is the school lunch. Not the kind the kids get now. The kind we used to bring in a brown back or a lunch box. Imagine if you will, sitting down in the school auditorium (we didn't have a cafeteria) and opening your Aquaman lunch box after it had been sitting in a cloakroom for about 4 hours. The combined smell of metal and Ho Ho's is what I remember most. It's a sweet smell and if your lunch box hadn't been cleaned the night before, the smell would be even more pungent.

And finally, I equate the smell of fall to that late October early November whiff of a pillow case. No, not one freshly laundered, but the one used for trick or treating. It's the one that sat hidden, sometimes until the Christmas season approached. It contained the treats collected that are now starting to get stale. It's the smell of a stale Clark Bar with a hint of Zagnut. I hope you enjoy the smells of fall.

A Grateful Thank You!

As we near the holiday season, the Parkside Manor Residence Council once again wants to thank the generous members of the Brookline community who saved our residents' 2016 Christmas party. Last year, almost all of our fund money was stolen just before the holidays, leaving us with just \$14. Thanks to your generosity and donations, we were able to provide our residents with a wonderful Christmas party! We continue to thank you.

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Halloween Parade to Have Special Treats

by Heather Fulton

Why not start the upcoming holiday season with a Halloween parade that's sure to be an exciting experience for all children and adults alike? Brookline's 2017 Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 28, will undoubtedly be a fun-filled experience for the entire family!

Volunteers dressed in costumes will be handing out treats the entire length of the parade, alongside our spooky trick or treaters!

Participants will be able to "trick or treat" throughout the entire parade route; gathering candy and surprises from the many participating stores and businesses on the Boulevard. We are very excited to combine this exciting event with people from the community and many of our business owners who support Brookline. An extra special thanks in advance to Community Bank for donating the treat bags and goodies! Thanks Michael!

This year's costume contest will consist of five separate categories, including one for preschoolers. Prizes will be awarded for: funniest, scariest, group, pets, and under-age-5 costumes. Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category. So put your best and most creative costume together and strut your stuff in this year's spooktacular parade!

To ensure the safety of everyone, Brookline Blvd. will be temporarily closed from the Cannon to CVS during the parade. This year we will start at the Cannon Memorial park and make our way up Brookline Boulevard to the stage which will be set up in front of the Brookline Teen Outreach Center (520 Brookline Boulevard).

Watch out for our Happy Halloween posters on the Boulevard for more information regarding the parade, and mark your calendars for Saturday, October 28 at 2 p.m. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please feel free to contact Heather Fulton at Heatherfulton@gmail.com. Happy Halloween!!

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.

What's Happening at Brookline PreK-8

by Amy Cornelius Dembosky, Parent Volunteer

We've gotten our school year off to a great start at Pittsburgh Brookline PreK-8! This month, we will have Open House and conferences on Thursday, October 19, and Friday, October 20. There will be no school for students on the 20th. Watch for a note to come home with times. The PTA will be running the Scholastic Book Fair that week, too, October 18-20.

This year, the district is committed to spending more time on professional development for teachers, especially as new reading curriculum is being introduced in PreK through fifth grades. To make this possible, students will periodically have half days. The half day for October will be Friday, October 13.

There are many ways that you can contribute to our students' success. First, if you'd like to volunteer, you need to apply for the appropriate clearances. Call the school office at 412-529-7380 to get more information on how to get cleared. If volunteering won't work for you, perhaps you shop at Giant Eagle. It is easy to go to gianteagle.com and register your Advantage card for the Apples for the Students program. Our school code is 1433. Then each time you shop, our school earns cash! Next, collect those Boxtops for Education that you see on boxes of cereal, Ziploc bags, and other items. Send them in to school or even drop them in the mail! We get 10 cents for each one. Finally, if you use Amazon, sign up for Amazon Smile and select "Brookline PTA." Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase price to our PTA.

Carmalt News

by Joanne de Poutiloff

Pittsburgh Carmalt welcomes several new staff members and a therapeutic classroom this year. The middle school communications teachers are Ms. Dawson-Sarabia (seventh and eighth grade) and Mr. Jones (sixth and seventh grade). In addition, Ms. Knapp is excited to be teaching fourth grade.

Also supporting our students is Ms. Stromyer, teaching elementary Science, speech therapist Ms. DeWitt, and librarian Mrs. Bouzos. Finally, we welcome the therapeutic classroom staff Mrs. Schwartz, Mr. Jason, and Mr. Johnson.

There are many fun events planned for the 2017-2018 school year. Please volunteer to be a homeroom parent, lunch time helper, fundraiser assistant, or field trip chaperone. In order to volunteer, clearances are a MUST. Please see Mrs. Gaglardi in the office for the necessary forms. Join us monthly for the PSCC meetings and get involved. Expect great things at Pittsburgh Carmalt.



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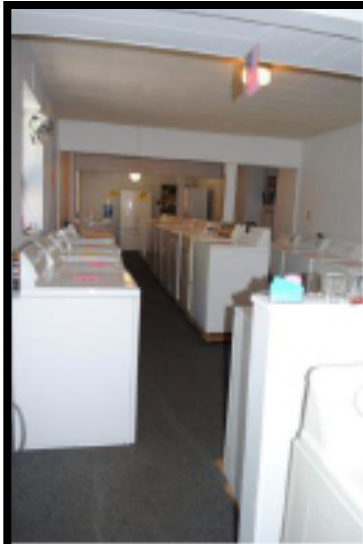
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HALLOWEEN PARADE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2 PM

The Brookline Chamber of Commerce Annual Halloween Parade will take place on Brookline Blvd., thanks to the support of Community Bank, our local merchants, and the volunteers who make it happen!

Volunteers in costumes will hand out treats the entire length of the parade!

Prizes for marchers' winning costumes!

For more info, contact

heatherafulton@gmail.com




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