

Parker's PGH

by Dan Kaczmariski



From left to right, Dom Parker, Chris Mills, Roseann Parker, Ken Palmer, Luke Parker (not pictured: Chris Grove and Kiley Parker)

Photo courtesy of Parker's PGH

Considering its strong fan base, it's hard to believe Parker's PGH started just a little over 3 years ago. The first Parker's sandwich shop opened on Glenmore Ave. in Dormont in 2014, expecting to be just an eat-in/take-out shop. Within 2 months, however, requests started coming in for catering, which today comprises a significant part of the business.

Between the robust business at the shop and the catering, it didn't take long for Parker's to outgrow the 500 square-foot Dormont location. The need for more space prompted their move to 600 Brookline Blvd., which has about five times the area as the Dormont site. "The Brookline location allows us to seat more, add to the menu, and do more catering from the kitchen downstairs," says owner/operator Luke Parker.

Although it's gradually adding to its menu, Parker's is synonymous with sandwiches. The lunch menu offers 26 different sandwich combinations, including vegetarian and vegan selections. Some of the sandwiches were suggested by Parker's patrons. The breakfast menu includes seven sandwich varieties and several classic breakfast plates.

Before they opened their Brookline location, the owners devoted a lot of attention to achieving the ambiance they wanted. "A couple of people asked, 'why did it take so long?'" says Luke. "We wanted to make it as comfortable, as warm, and as welcoming as we could for this community."

The interior has an airy, homey feel, with family photos hanging on a whitewashed wood wall. In one corner is an activity shelf, with books, games, and puzzles for patrons to use and even borrow. The interior walls of the restroom are worth a visit in themselves. Luke's cousin, Greg, a freelance artist in New York City, decorated them with free-hand drawings of iconic Pittsburgh sights and symbols.

The owners are very pleased with the shop's reception since its September 1 opening. "We are doing numbers above our expectations," says Luke. "It's been a blessing to see some of our regulars from Dormont follow us over here, as well as having so many new regulars from Brookline."

Parker's is a classic family business. Luke and his cousins Dave and Greg Laffey are owner/operators and Luke's parents play an integral role in keeping the business going. He says he couldn't do it without his mom and dad. "They're here every day. They've made this move possible, the business possible, everything possible. We have a small staff that does multi-tasking. Ken Palmer—our general manager—and Chris Grove—our creative director—are here every hour this place is open. They're incredible."

When Parker's moved to Brookline, it kept its 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. hours, but is planning in the near future to extend its hours and add dinner-style options. "We love to identify ourselves as a specialty sandwich shop," says Luke, "but we know that the tastes of different consumers are different, so we want to try



Parker's PGH

Photo courtesy of Parker's PGH

Continued on p. 2

Parker's PGH from p. 1

to please everybody in the neighborhood with a couple more options." Also on the horizon is an association with uberEATS and other types of delivery services.

Luke, born and raised in Brookline, says Parker's is eager to become an integral part of the community. "We want to be unique, but also a proud part of the different things this street has to offer. We get our pita from Pitaland and our bread from Party Cake every day, and certain produce from Las Palmas. Those are great businesses." Parker's now banks at Brookline's Community Bank and holds its weekly meetings at The Moonlite Café. "I've even started getting my pants altered at Rina's and now Sal Bondi cuts my hair," Luke adds laughing.

600 Brookline Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412-207-8099
parkerspgh@gmail.com
www.parkerspgh.com
Facebook: parker's pgh
Tuesday through Sunday
Monday

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Closed



Talk to TIM
Your Brookline Realtor

*Merry Christmas and a
Happy New "Home" Year!*

Tim Reitmeyer
412-559-8467
412-833-3600
treitmeyer@howardhanna.com
*Thank you for your continued
trust and support!*




Bloomfield
Liberty Avenue
(412) 687-1111

Brookline
Brookline Blvd.
(412) 561-9982

Mt. Lebanon
Beverly Road
(412) 561-1994

"Your neighborhood Ice Cream Parlor"
www.scoopspittsburgh.com



**SANTA GETS HIS
GLASSES HERE**
25% OFF
A Complete Pair of Eyeglasses
This Offer is Void With All Insurances or Other Discounts

Available At:
A-BOSS OPTICIANS
938 Brookline Blvd., Pittsburgh • (412) 561-0811
Serving the Pittsburgh area since 1971 • WE REPAIR

Mike T's Auto Sales
www.miketautosales.com
"NO GAMES NO GIMMICKS"



All Vehicles With Brand
New PA Inspection

2421 McNeilly Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15226

Mike "T" Trapolsi
Owner/Operator

Business: 412-561-3456
Cell: 412-758-5597

Pawsburgh Photography www.pawsburgh.com
Amy Fisher, Visual Artist 412-573-9424 amy@pawsburgh.com





Pets • Real Estate • Architecture • Events
Pittsburgh, PA



FARMERS
INSURANCE

Behr Insurance Agency, Inc.
Auto – Home – Life – Business
412-892-9553
801 Brookline Blvd Ste 201 Pittsburgh PA 15226

Call for Free Evaluation!



Phil Behr

Brookline Updates

The Newsletter is Taking a Break!

This will be the FINAL issue of The Brookline Newsletter until we can recruit a new content editor and a new layout editor. If you are interested in learning more about either of these volunteer positions, contact pdkaz@comcast.net or Dan at 412-531-1252. We hope to be back up and running as soon as possible.

Community Crimes Zone 6

October		
Zone 6 Crimes	Total	Brookline
Aggravated Assault	5	0
Robbery	2	2
Burglary	13	0
Theft	10	2
Theft from Vehicle	11	3
Stolen Vehicle	3	0

DECEMBER COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Tuesday, December 12

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

No December Meetings

Brookline Chamber of Commerce Meeting, at Brookline Teen Outreach, 520 Brookline Blvd. Next meeting will be Monday, January 8

South Pittsburgh Development Corporation, at Brookline Teen Outreach, 520 Brookline Blvd. Next meeting will be Monday, January 15

We have over 1,700 readers.

Pick up The Brookline at a Boulevard merchant.

The Brookline

The Brookline Staff

Dan Kaczmarek	Features Editor
Victoria Cumer	Layout Editor
Joseph Samuel Rogers	Staff Writer
Amy Fisher	Photography
Dorothy Grant	Proofreading
Julie Salas	Proofreading
Deborah Brimmer	Distribution
Kathleen Keating	Treasurer

Contact Us

Email: thebrookline@gmail.com or
pdkaz@comcast.net
Phone: 412-531-1252

From One Neighbor to Another; Face to Face with Joe Negri

by Joseph Samuel Rogers



Photo courtesy of Joe Negri

It's always a beautiful day along Brookline Boulevard, but for one famous neighbor, Brookline was once called home. While many Pittsburghers associate jazz musician Joe Negri with his character, Handyman Negri, on the PBS television series *Mister Rogers Neighborhood*, which was filmed in Pittsburgh at WQED in Oakland, few

know that he grew up in Mount Washington and eventually moved his young family to Brookline.

"I wasn't making a lot of money at the time, so we were looking for something moderate that we could afford and handle," he said. He remembers finding the house on Linda Drive and thought that the price, location, and everything about it seemed ideal, common with many Brookliners who have lived here for decades.

He lived on Linda Drive with his wife Joni, and his older daughters, Lisa and Laurie. Famous Pittsburgh architect, Louis Astorino, designer of PNC Park as well as the memorial to Mr. Rogers on the North Shore, was his paper boy.

One of Negri's fondest memories in Brookline is shopping on Brookline Boulevard, and especially visiting the hardware store that was owned by Gordon Farbstein, his high school classmate at South Hills High School.

Now 91 years old, Joe Negri regularly reflects on his upbringing in music, which started as a child performer at four years old on children's radio shows playing a simple ukulele and eventually the six-string guitar.

"At around age eight, I started taking guitar lessons with a rather good teacher, and it continued to grow from there. By the time I was sixteen I was beginning to play ...[and] my first big break came when I joined the Shep Fields Orchestra and traveled the country playing many of the major cities."

Negri refers to his style of music as "Classic Jazz" and attributes it to his upbringing in the swing era. He moved into the avant-garde jazz style started by Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie called "bebop," and has written several guitar books based on his music style. He is also an admirer of the Great American Songbook, a collection of influential twentieth century classic jazz selections, and still utilizes them in his work today.

While working as the musical director at WTAE, Negri first encountered Fred Rogers and the two became friends. When Rogers began developing ideas for *Mister Rogers Neighborhood*, he offered Negri the role as the neighborhood handyman.

"I can remember us laughing about the whole idea, and I told him that I really wasn't much of a handy man. He said, 'don't worry, it will be all pretend,'" Negri remembers.

Although his handyman days in the Neighborhood of Make Believe ended in 2001, Negri remains active in the music field, writing music with the Jazz guitar, writing books and studying, and teaching guitar at the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne while performing occasional concerts.

Mr. Rogers once taught us that it is such a good feeling to be alive, and what a good feeling it is to know that one of his neighbors in the Neighborhood of Make Believe is in fact one of ours as well in Brookline.

Author's Note: What an incredible 3.5 years we have spent together here! I have interviewed restaurant owners, city council candidates, social justice advocates, the police chief, and the Mayor of Pittsburgh, among others, and I tried to ask questions that I think you would ask. I hope that I inspired you to ask tough questions because when it pertains to our quality of life, there is no shame in asking. Now, it's time for a new adventure, but wherever I go, I know that we will meet again, some sunny day! Thank you, take care, Amen. JSR



Fran Murray: Changing the System

by Eileen Papale

As I read *The Brookline* each month, I am proud of and amazed by our Brookline schools and teachers (including our Catholic school, St. John Bosco Academy).

For years, we had virtually no choice regarding where our children could attend school. Only a handful of students got into our “open space” magnet, Carmalt. There was no South Brook. West Liberty was a closed elementary school used for office space.

Brookline, Beechview, and Banksville had no middle school. Our local school, Brookline Elementary (at that time first grade through fifth grade only) was the most overcrowded elementary school in the city, due to the fact that we had a huge “feeder pattern” extending well beyond Brookline into several other neighborhoods.

Kindergarten children were relocated and warehoused in an abandoned Catholic school building on the other side of the community (rented at \$10,000 a month) and these students lost their gym, library, and music classes in the move and were isolated from the rest of the school population. The vast majority of Brookline’s sixth through eighth grade students were sent to Frick in Oakland, then to Millions and to an annex of Brashear High School, before finally having the chance to return to Brookline schools.

Parental involvement, so important a factor, was put to a test. Many parents felt powerless to change what they felt was not in the best interest of their children. They simply moved away (a mass exodus began of families moving outside of the city) or transferred their children to private/parochial schools. For those who stayed, it meant years of having their children in possibly three different schools across the city. An enormous amount of tax dollars that should have been spent on educating the children of Pittsburgh was spent on unnecessary transportation expenses.

Although there were several residents who worked tirelessly to bring about change, one person stands out in my mind—Frances “Fran” Murray, a long-time Brookline resident who has a bachelor’s degree in social work from the University of Pittsburgh and a master’s degree in sociology from Duquesne University. She spent hundreds of hours attending meetings, doing research, writing letters, speaking at board meetings, and even going to Harrisburg (all the while working and raising a family).

Fran is a truly remarkable person who gave up her free time year after year to make life better for not only her family but the entire community. The movement saw the opening of West Liberty as a neighborhood school. It saw Brookline Elementary

becoming a K-8. It saw Carmalt, a magnet school, get walker/neighborhood preference and sibling preference. It saw the building of a new middle school—South Brook—within the West Liberty complex. How fortunate new parents are, with the ability to easily participate in their children’s activities.

“I was not going to move out of the neighborhood that I loved,” said Fran. “I was not going to spend money on a private school since I was already paying taxes for the public school system. The bottom line was that I didn’t have access to my children during their school day and that was not setting well with me. At the time, having only one vehicle meant that I could not volunteer at my children’s school without having to take public transportation.”

Additionally, Brookline Elementary had no Title I funding, even though it had more than a 50 percent poverty rate and other schools with equal numbers (but far fewer students) received tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars. This was also changed and fairness prevailed.

Fifty years of studies have shown that parental involvement is the most important factor in a child’s success at school. We can thank Fran Murray for her sacrifices so that families have a true choice. She never gave up!

901 BROOKLINE BLVD.
WEST LIBERTY
Cycles
PITTSBURGH, PA 15228

BIKES
ACCESSORIES
APPAREL
REPAIRS

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SHOP.

JAMIS HARO BIKES PIVOT CYCLES EASTERN BIKES
GIANT cannondale

75 Years of Being Prepared: Troop 6 Celebrates a Milestone

by Joseph Samuel Rogers

The Boy Scouts pride themselves on doing a good turn daily for others, but on October 29, Brookline's Troop 6, based at the Church of the Resurrection, reflected on their good turns over the past 75 years.

132 guests, including scouts past and present, 30 Eagle scouts, scoutmasters, adult leaders, family and friends crowded into the banquet hall at Camp Guyasuta in Sharpsburg to celebrate the Troop's successes in teaching boys how to love the outdoors and to serve God and country. According to Fred Metting, Troop 6's current scoutmaster, there was a Troop 6 scout in attendance from every decade of the troop's existence, as well as scoutmasters from each decade of the past 40 years.

In addition to reminiscing about camping trips and former scout leaders, the event was a homecoming for those who were part of Troop 6 from the very beginning. Mr. Kevin O'Toole, who was scoutmaster for eight years, was present with his father, Mr. King O'Toole, a former boy scout from the troop's early years and son of Anthony O'Toole, one of Troop 6's first leaders whose name is on its charter.

Perhaps the most moving tribute of Troop 6's contribution to the community came from Mrs. Linda Gildea, widow of Jim Gildea, a well-respected former leader from the 1960s who made scouting a central part of his life.

With 75 years under the troop's belt, Fred Metting shared that the vision for the next 75 years is to lead, follow or get out of the way!

"The young men of the troop are always our priority. We have almost 30 scouts, led by myself and no less than 6 trained Assistant Scoutmasters, one of whom also acts as our Eagle Scout Coordinator. We also have 15 Adult Committee Members, with many skills and talents to bring to the table," Metting said.



Photo courtesy of Fred Metting

Troop 6's Eagle Scout Honor Roll continues to expand, along with its impact on the community, and the troop is very proud to have produced over 90 Eagle Scouts in 75 years.

Metting shared that there are two scouts currently working on their Eagle Scout projects. Liam Yates is working on a Brookline community-based project with the new Brookline Teen Outreach Center and Jerry Metting is working outside the community

at the historic Oliver Miller Homestead located in South Park.

Are you at least age 10 1/2 or in the 5th grade? Consider joining the Boy Scouts or visit Troop 6's website at www.screamingeaglestr6.mytroop.us for more information. You're welcome to visit a meeting as well. Troop 6 meets each Thursday from 7-9 p.m. in the social hall at the Church of the Resurrection in Brookline.

Joseph Samuel Rogers is a 2014 Eagle Scout from Troop 6 in Brookline and attended the 75th anniversary celebration.

December 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 Rather Ripped Records

Live debut of A.R.K. (The Amazing Russ Kuintet). Four-piece featuring Ray Clark (guitar), Kevin J. (bassist and electronics), Mick Karolac (drum major), and vocalist Russ Ketter of RRR fame or infamy, depending on one's viewpoint. A.R.K. features originals by the band. Sun. Dec. 10, 2 p.m., 754 Brookline Blvd. Free

DR. GUY RESCHENTHALER
Chiropractor
723 Brookline Blvd. • Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412.343.2440
Serving the Brookline Community since 1983
Provider: Highmark, UPMC, Medicare
Most Insurances Accepted
Auto Injuries • Personal Injuries • Sports Injuries
NEURO MUSCULAR SKELETAL CONDITIONS

Safety for the Holidays

by Guy Reschenthaler, DC

With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, we sometimes forget about safety. While preparing for the holidays, we will be involved in lifting, bending, reaching and climbing. Nothing can ruin your celebration more than an injury. Consider these precautions to make your holiday safe and injury free.

Removing boxes full of decorations and wrapping gifts can be “hazardous duty”! Remember these techniques to prevent injury.

- Place the box you plan to lift in front of you and avoid overreaching.
- Stand with feet flat on the floor and shoulder width apart.
- Lift by squatting down, bending your knees, then straightening your legs.
- Hold the box close to your chest. Avoid twisting or turning while lifting.
- Always wrap gifts standing at a counter, never on the floor. Use a small foot stool to vary your standing. Alternate one foot on top of the stool, then the other foot, then standing with both feet on the floor.
- Keep tape, scissors, tags, pens and paper within reach so you won't have to overextend to retrieve items.

(Hint: if the boxes are too heavy, repack the decorations into smaller boxes when you put them away.)

Decorating the house often calls for a ladder. The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports 90,000 people receive emergency room treatment every year from ladder-related injuries. Whether using a step ladder or extension ladder, there are precautions one must consider.



- Beware of and avoid electric power lines.
- Set your ladder on level dry ground. Make sure your shoes are not covered with mud or ice which would cause you to slip.
- Always face the ladder when ascending / descending.
- Keep your hips between the ladder's rail, don't overreach.
- Only one person on the ladder at a time.

When using an extension ladder, follow these recommendations:

- Determine the correct wall angle by standing up straight; facing the ladder. Place your toes against the feet of the ladder. Extend your arms straight from your chest. Your palms should reach the ladder's rung.
- Put both hands on the rungs when ascending / descending. Never put hands on the ladder rails.
- Always keep both feet on the ladder rungs; don't lean on one foot.
- Manufacturers recommend never to stand higher than the fourth rung from the top of the ladder.

Using a step ladder, remember the following to be safe:

- Always fully open the step ladder and lock the metal braces.
- Never sit or stand on the very top step.

Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a healthy happy New Year! Don't let pain ruin your holidays; see your chiropractor!

Dr. Reschenthaler is a Doctor of Chiropractic with an office at 723 Brookline Blvd.

Why is there a Billboard on the Boulevard?

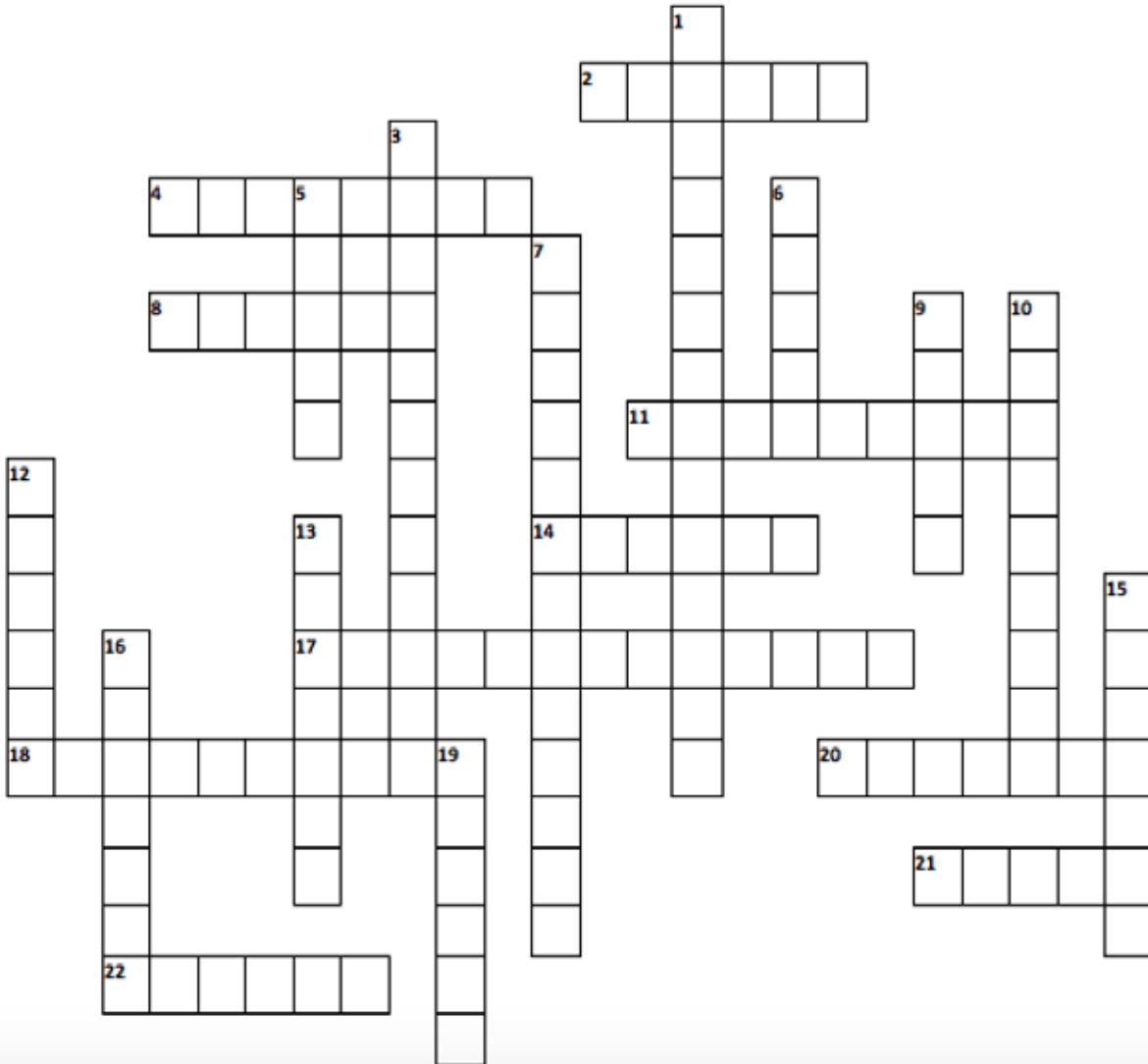
Across from the Cannon, between Tong Garden and Armond's Frame Shop, is an open space. The gap has been home to a billboard at least since the 1930s. Advertisers have come and gone but the billboard abides.

The reason for lack of development other than a billboard is that a natural spring emerges in this lot and the constant flow of groundwater makes it impractical to build on the spot.

Until the mid-1980s, the Boulevard walkway in front of the sign was made of wood and was known locally as “the boardwalk.” When the boardwalk was replaced with a concrete sidewalk, a large drainage pipe was placed underneath so that the seepage could drain down the hillside toward the alleyway.

(Information courtesy of “The Brookline Connection”)

Brookline



Across

- 2. NFL Hall of Fame quarterback from Brookline
- 4. Brookline manufacturer of bronze plaques for MLB Hall of Fame
- 8. Chuck Senft taught this sport to his “Charlie’s Angels”
- 11. Another name for Brookline’s trolley
- 14. Landmark that’s had a rough year
- 17. Affectionate nickname for Brookline’s unofficial goodwill ambassador (2 words)
- 18. Church that houses Meals on Wheels and Casa San Jose (2 words)
- 20. Oldest main road through Brookline
- 21. Will soon celebrate 50 years on the Blvd.
- 22. Natural water source below big billboard on Blvd.

Down

- 1. Their opening in 1924 boosted Brookline’s population (2 words)
- 3. Car rattling road surface; sometimes called cobblestone (2 words)
- 5. Brookline’s rank among Pittsburgh neighborhoods in population
- 6. Local park named after Brookline educator
- 7. Daddio of the Raddio Brookline native who played doo-wop (2 words)
- 9. Street where Brookline Blvd. ends; connects with Whited St.
- 10. Built in 1910 to protect Brookline; still in service
- 12. This funeral home is the only remaining original Brookline Little League sponsor
- 13. Book repository that won national 2005 Building of the Year
- 15. Brookline’s long-time community newspaper
- 16. Brookline youth football team
- 19. Brookline’s rank among Pittsburgh neighborhoods in area

Answers on page 14

The Tale of a Wall

by Dan Kaczmariski

If you've gone up Brookline Blvd. from West Liberty Ave. recently, you've probably noticed that the large "Brookline" wall sign has been refurbished. What you may not know is the tangle of regulations and legalities a Brookline volunteer group had to navigate to get the wall rehabbed. It's been popular sport among some Brookliners—particularly online on social media—to question the length of time for the renewal and why the illustration hasn't been changed from its original design. To answer that, let's backtrack.

The wall is owned by the City of Pittsburgh, which years ago gave the Brookline Area Community Council (BACC)—a volunteer organization—responsibility for painting and repainting the sign. In recent years, the sign began to badly flake and crumble.

Recognizing the need for repairs, about four years ago BACC requested neighborhood involvement in replacing the artwork. A town hall meeting was held, open to the entire community and attended by representatives of the Pittsburgh Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) and the City's then Public Art Manager, Morton Brown. When some attendees questioned the structural soundness of the wall, Mr. Brown advised BACC to request that the City examine it.

Three months later, City engineers had completed their inspection and reported to BACC that, overall, the wall was sound. Given that go-ahead, BACC held a second town hall meeting and attendees presented ideas for a new mural.

Annette Ferrieri, BACC president, took those recommendations and began researching costs, coming back with estimates of \$30,000 or more. That was well above what BACC could afford by itself, and because the group was not at that time registered as a 501(c)(3) organization, it could not directly apply for grants to help with funding.

To open the door for grants, BACC approached the South Pittsburgh Development Corporation (SPDC)—another volunteer community development group and one registered as 501(c)(3)—to see if SPDC would enter into a memorandum of understanding to allow mural funds to go through that group. SPDC agreed to the request in concept. By the time the actual MOU had been drafted, discussed, reviewed by attorneys, and signed by both organizations, over 1-1/2 years had elapsed since BACC's initial public meeting.

Just when things seemed on track, BACC received unexpected news from the URA. The City had concluded that the existing wall illustration was not technically a mural, but

rather a "Welcome to Brookline" sign. The distinction had implications for how BACC could proceed, because murals and signage are governed by different sets of regulations. Designation as a welcome sign eliminated the need for BACC to get approval from the Pittsburgh Art Commission, but significantly restricted the options for a new design.

When BACC investigated what it needed to do for approval, the URA suggested the group research the paperwork governing the original illustration—painted 20 years before—to ensure there were no existing legal stipulations associated with that sign. What BACC found was that the original artist retained copyright protection of her design. For BACC to strip the wall and paint a completely new sign would require that the artist release her copyright. If she did, BACC would need to go back to square-one of the City's review and approval process for a new design. Because the original painting was done so long ago, it took time for BACC to track down the artist. Meanwhile, the existing sign continued to flake and crumble.

To eliminate the red tape and the need for funding that restarting from scratch would entail, BACC and the artist agreed on refurbishing the existing design, with some minor updating. The wall is now finished, except for possible application of some anti-graffiti coating next spring.

Annette and the other BACC volunteers are relieved the project is completed, but carry the sting of public criticism by some vocal members of the community—especially on social media—who were unaware of the hurdles the group had to overcome to bring the project to fruition. "It's been hateful," says Annette. "I'm so glad it's done." BACC is not opposed to other interested Brookliners assuming responsibility for initiating any future renovations to the wall.

Says Annette, "The BACC Board is happy to have helped the community, and as president I am sending a special thank you to the board members."



Photo Dan Kaczmariski

Representative Harry Readshaw



HB 1737 has been introduced that will provide for an exemption to allow chiropractic interns and students to perform chiropractic activities under the supervision of a licensee, instructor, or supervisor.

As the Democratic Chairman of the Professional Licensure Committee, this consideration was brought to my attention by a constituent, Dr. Nicole Olechowicz, DC, who attended Palmer Chiropractic College in Davenport, Iowa. At the time of Dr. Olechowicz's internship, she was informed that Pennsylvania did not allow chiropractic interns to practice under the supervision of a licensed chiropractor.

Currently, a chiropractic intern cannot obtain experience with the Commonwealth, which lessens the chance of that student becoming a practitioner and remaining in the Commonwealth. There are no chiropractic educational programs in the State of Pennsylvania, partly because this exemption does not exist. There is interest in establishing these programs and this exemption will provide a great incentive.

The Pennsylvania Chiropractic Association supports this legislation. The University of Pittsburgh is also interested in the passage of this legislation because they are interested in creating a school of chiropractic for their curriculum.

On a seasonal note, I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Representative Dan Deasy



Time is running out to collect a nice chunk of money based on rent or property taxes paid last year. New Year's Eve is Sunday, December 31, and it's the last day to apply for rebates of rent or property taxes paid in 2016 through the state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. The maximum standard rebate is \$650, so we're not talking chump change.

My offices can help! Just call us at 412-928-9514. Applying for the program is absolutely free. If anyone offers to file forms for you for a fee, tell them "no." My staff has filed literally thousands of rebate applications for constituents and wants to make sure nobody misses out. Applications also are available online at www.revenue.pa.gov or by calling 1-888-222-9190 toll free.

The program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters. Half of Social Security income is excluded.

Last year, almost 600,000 seniors and people with disabilities benefited from the program. Since the program's inception in 1971, the program has provided over \$6.7 billion in property tax and rent relief. Please remind your family, friends and neighbors about this lottery-supported program. The holidays are almost upon us, so let's get this one done pronto.

Call for Volunteers

- BROOKLINE CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY at Tree of Life Open Bible Church at 412-531-0590
- 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 412-531-2925.
- 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, unopened foods with current dates, or checks made out to Brookline Christian Food Pantry.

Representative Dan Miller



Be sure to mark your calendars for our biggest event of the year!

Our 5th Annual Disability Summit will be held March 22 and 23 at the Beth El Congregation on Cochran Road—and we are already working hard to make it a big success! Last year’s event had almost 1,300

attendees with over 140 partnering organizations and 34 sessions on a variety of related topics. The Summit has truly become the largest collection of disability and mental health resources in western Pennsylvania.

To kick off both jam-packed days, I’m excited to announce DHS Secretary Teresa Miller and Education Secretary Pedro Rivera as our keynote speakers. On March 22, Secretary Miller will speak about how DHS continues to advance independence and opportunity for everyone with disabilities. Secretary Rivera, who was instrumental in the PA ESSA plan, will speak on March 23 about the Department of Education’s mission to give all students a high quality education.

As always, this is a free event. Whether you are looking for resources for a loved one, family supports, job opportunities, or you are new to a diagnosis—our event is meant to provide as much information as possible as a one-stop shop. As your state Representative, advocating for people with a disability or a diagnosis has been a major priority for me, and I look forward to bringing this key event back to our district.

For more information, you can visit [facebook.com/RepDanMiller](https://www.facebook.com/RepDanMiller) or DisabilitySummit.com.

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	412-531-0590
Meals-on-Wheels	412-531-2925
Dollar Energy/Columbia Gas Cap	412-344-4222

Senator Wayne Fontana



Starting November 1, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services began accepting applications for this season’s Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The program helps low income families pay their heating bills. You can apply and check the status of your application on the

state’s COMPASS website (www.compass.state.pa.us). You can also pick up an application in my Brookline office. Completed paper applications should be returned to the Allegheny County Assistance Office, located at 5947 Penn Avenue, 4th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA, 15206.

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

Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$18,090
2	\$24,360
3	\$30,630
4	\$36,900
5	\$43,170
6	\$49,440
7	\$55,710
8	\$61,980
9	\$68,250
10	\$74,520

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

(Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak’s office did not provide an article for this month’s The Brookline. We thank her for her consistent support of our community.)

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.

Carnegie Library of Brookline December Events

For Kids

- *Kids Club: Wacky Wednesdays* – December 6, 20, & 27 • 3:30 p.m. - meet new friends, hang out with old friends and try something new! Children can have fun, build social skills and use their imaginations.
- *Storytime: Toddler & Preschooler Tales* – Mondays, December 4 & 18 • 6:30 p.m.; Thursdays, December 7, 21, & 28 • 11 a.m. - get up and get moving with interactive stories, songs and rhymes. Children and adults will actively explore books that improve vocabulary and expand the imagination. Children 18 months to 5 years.

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. – if you're into cool art projects, epic games, music, movies and just chilling out, come kick it at Teen Time.

For Adults

- *Word Games* – Tuesday, December 5 • 6 p.m. - play popular word games like Scrabble, Upwords, and Boggle.
- *Color Your World* – Tuesday, December 12 • 6 p.m. - coloring is a great way to relax and unwind. Markers, crayons, and free coloring pages are provided.
- *Kids Play* – Tuesday, December 19 • 6 p.m. - adults get the chance to use some of our most popular toys like Magnatiles and Legos.
- *Book Discussions:*
 - *Mystery & More* – Wednesday, December 13 • 1 p.m. – join us for lively discussions of mysteries. This month: *Wreck the Halls* by Sarah Graves
 - *Between the Lines* – Monday, December 18 • 6 p.m. – take part in engaging conversations about contemporary and classic fiction and nonfiction. This month: *The Hundred Year Old Man...* by Jonas Jonasson
 - *Curious Selections* – Tuesday, December 19 • 6 p.m. – join us where hip meets lit to discuss unconventional fiction. This month: *Fluke* by Christopher Moore

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. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to noon. Ongoing. Just drop in. Free

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.

Fundraisers

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

Cold Cash Lottery Calendars to support St. John Bosco Academy. Can be purchased through Dec. 19. Each calendar costs \$10 and is good for month of January. Daily payout, \$50; Saturday payout, \$100; Jan. 31 payout, \$500. Available at school office or by calling 412-563-0858.

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. Brookliners are encouraged to share their talents with this friendly and welcoming group.

The Heritage Players are pleased to announce the lineup for their three main stage productions of the 2018 season:

- *The Great Gatsby*
- *Dracula*
- *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Also, coming in Summer 2018: The junior version of *The Wizard of Oz*

Email heritageplayers@yahoo.com, phone 412-254-4633, or visit Facebook page for upcoming details.

Old Notes By Old People

by Chip Gorski

I started writing this column at this time of year in 2014. This whole thing came about when Doug Brendel found a column that I used to write for the old *Brookline Journal* entitled “Little Notes by Little People.” I didn’t come up with that name.

The credit for that belongs to my mother. Each week, I would write something and C. Dale Noah would be kind enough to put it in the paper. Good writers always say that one should write about what they know. I wrote about things a ten-year-old growing up in the ‘70s would know about — salamanders, candy, being gone all day with friends.

When the opportunity to write for this publication presented itself, I wondered if I had anything to write about and if it would be any good. I wrote about memories of how Brookline looked at Christmas. I wrote about trick or treating and nearly setting the woods on fire roasting hot dogs. It was a time when terrorism happened someplace else and the major worry of the day was being home when the street lights came on.

At that age, I always marveled at the fact that I would be 36 years old in the year 2000. I was also afraid I would never see it. Remember those stupid Nostradamus shows that said the world would end in 1999? And then, as we moved closer to the new millennium, it seemed as though those kinds of shows ramped up, alleging that our demise would happen at the hands of people like Saddam Hussein and Muammar Gaddafi. It would be a few years before we would hear the names Osama Bin Laden and Kim Jong-un.

As we get ready to close the book on 2017, I wish you a happy and healthy New Year. I hope over the past few years, I have written about something that made you smile. I understand we will be going away for a while. This publication is created and put together by an awesome group of volunteers. They’ve done an outstanding job working hard to keep you updated on events in the community and they have proven to be a vital link to information that you need to know. To all of them we simply say –Thank you!

Brookline Teen Outreach News

by Caitlin McNulty

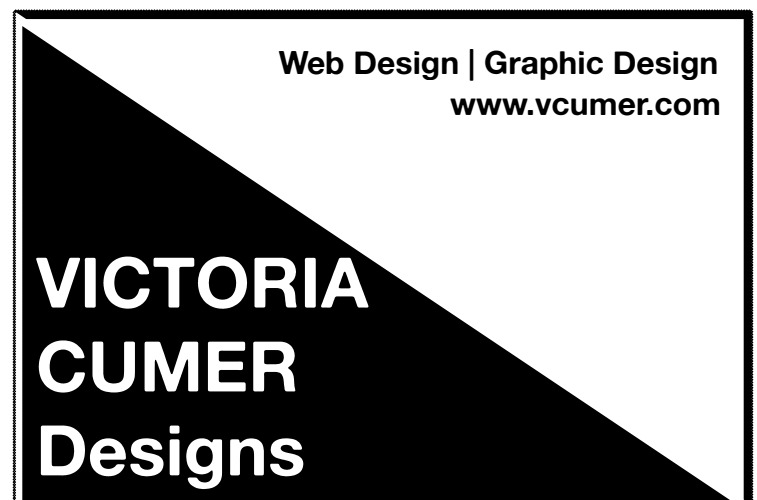
The cold weather has arrived and while the rest of Brookline is thinking about snuggling up inside, Brookline Teen Outreach is focusing on plans for the spring. Last year, we began implementing gardening and sustainability into our programming, with a vertical garden at the back of our property.

This spring we are taking those first efforts even further. We plan to have two beehives on our roof so that our students can see bees in action and learn about their importance within our ecosystem. Students will also learn to care for bees and how to extract honey. In addition, a partnership with Greenhouses 4 Everyone will allow us to put a small greenhouse on our property to continue to grow food for our cooking class program year-round. This model will also give students and clients access to a unique therapy resource and teach them about whole-body wellness in a concrete way.

We have been gifted a composting bin and supplies for nourishing plants through aquaponics, and are excited to get to use them. Furthermore, we hope to offer community classes on gardening with beneficial insects, the importance of

bees (this workshop will include meeting the BTO bees and a free, bee-friendly plant for your garden), and more.

If you are interested in assisting with this program as a volunteer, or would like more information about upcoming workshops, please contact Caitlin at cmcnulty@brooklineteenoutreach.org or 412-254-4590.



Adopt-A-Block

The numbers are growing! We salute those dedicated community volunteers who pick up litter that's selfishly left by others and encourage new Adopt-A-Block members. To add your name to the list, contact pdkaz@comcast.net.

Adopted Blocks

- Norwich & Boulevard:** Michael and Pamela Grabowski
- Merrick, btw. Eben. & Boulevard:** Eileen Papale
- Corner of Blvd. & Glenarm:** St. Mark parishioners
- Blvd. btw. Merrick & Starkamp:** Patty & Dan Kaczmarek
- 700 Block Woodbourne:** Mary Zottoli
- 900 Block Woodbourne:** Diane Walkowski & Mary Anne Miller
- Lynnbrook btw. Marloff & dead end:** Matt & Joey Pilewski
- Whited from Jacob to Gallupe:** Michael Pilewski
- Bellaire Ave. btw. Pioneer and Whited:** Denise Robinson
- Gallion:** Lisa Wilson
- 1800-1900 Pioneer:** Dennis and Valerie Rew family
- Rossmore at Flatbush & Oletha btw. Flatbush and Glenarm:** Zachary and Sarah Zelazny
- 900 Block Berkshire:** McGlothlin Family
- Eben., bottom of Creedmoor, Shire Place:** Jill Lutz
- Loop of Waddington, Pioneer, Brookline Blvd. and Kenilworth:** Kim Sabol

What's Happening at Brookline PreK-8

by Amy Cornelius Dembosky, Parent Volunteer

Even though the calendar year is coming to a close, we aren't winding down at Pittsburgh Brookline PreK-8. This month will be filled with lots of activities and learning. Our character focus this month is loyalty, which we are defining as "being a friend to someone all the time." Teachers will engage their students in exercises discussing loyalty and people who exemplify that trait, before voting for the Student of the Month.

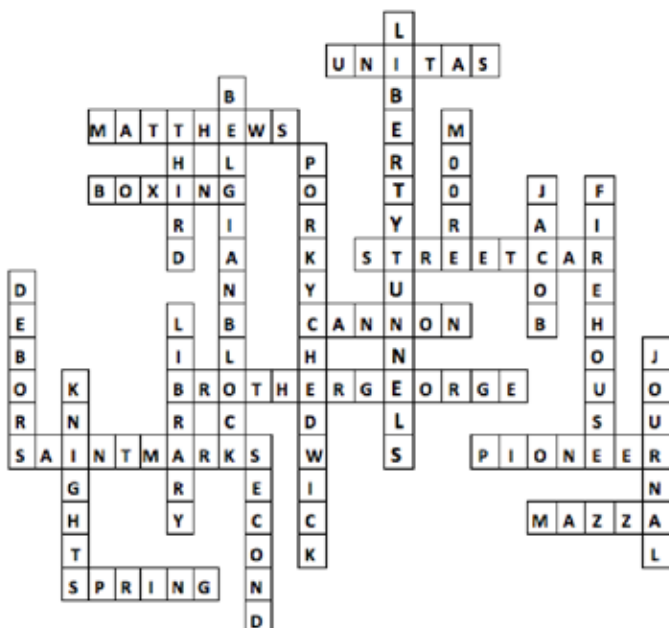
Our Parent Teacher Association has big plans for the month. Holiday Shoppe will be held December 6-8 during the day. Students can shop for gifts for their families and friends with the help of volunteers. PTA will also be visiting students in grades K-5 to do holiday games and make ornaments. If you would like to get involved, our PTA meets the third Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. Our meeting on December 20 will be a low-pressure potluck. Please attend and bring a dish—it doesn't have to be fancy! If you need more information, contact the PTA at ptabrookline@gmail.com.

We will be having a fundraiser in December. Students will be selling Fox's Pizza coupons for \$8 each. The coupons are good for a large, one-topping pizza from the Brookline location, and best of all, they never expire! They would make good gifts for neighbors or mail carriers or just about anyone.

Important dates to remember for December are as follows: half-day, Dec. 8; daytime Winter Concert, Dec. 14; evening Winter Concert, Dec. 19; Winter break begins at 2:51 p.m. Dec. 22; and school resumes Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

Everyone at Brookline PreK-8 wishes you a safe and happy holiday season. Finally, best wishes to the current Brookline editorial staff as they embark on their retirement! We look forward to working with the new staff soon.

Crossword Puzzle Results from Page 8





No Name Cafe

Open Seven Days A Week
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Breakfast Served All Day

536 Brookline Blvd.
412-563-1813



PARTY CAKE SHOP

E-Mail: partycake1@yahoo.com • www.partycakeshop.com

706 Brookline Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412-531-5322

297 Beverly Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15216
412-343-0101

Martin Auto Sales
USED VEHICLES WITH MANY UNUSED MILES

2041 West Liberty Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
(412) 341-2211 Phone
(412) 341-8556 Fax

www.martinautosalesinc.com

RATHER RIPPED RECORDS

The new kid in town or at least Brookline is really 45 years old.



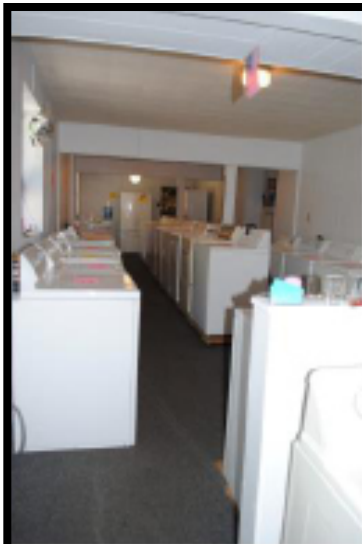
- * Over 10,000 used records already in stock starting at \$1.
- * New reissue, imports and rare live sealed lps (green dots) ON SALE AT 20% OFF regular price. Come see!!
- * CDS at \$2 each, 3 for \$5 for the

thousands we have in stock and constantly coming in. \$5 for most new (sealed) ones with some collectors begging for more.

* T Shirts new and Vintage for kids, adults and the rest of us.

RATHER RIPPED RECORDS is located at 754 Brookline Blvd. @Flatbush, Brookline, PA 15226, is open at 11 to 7 Tues thru Saturday, 11-4 Sun and closed Mondays. 412-253-3445

WE ACCEPT ALL CHARGE & DEBIT CARDS.



South Hills Used Washers & Dryers

We have a large selection of like-new Whirlpool and Kenmore washers and dryers

Gary Henry
412-641-9605



155 McNeilly Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15226



- Sales
- Service
- Delivery

www.southhillsusedwashersanddryers.com

Because there is a difference...



Quite simply...
better than the rest.

Call today to find out why
412-561-0380

Frank David DeBor, Supervisor
1065 Brookline Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15226-2291



The Brookline Chamber of Commerce
THANKS YOU
for continuing to support our merchants

OFFICE - 718 Brookline Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA
KITCHEN - 652 Ridge Rd, Pittsburgh, PA

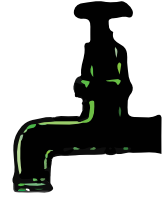
Dan & Renee Vickie

412-867-9196 or 412-445-8710
waterfallcatering@verizon.net
www.thewaterfallcafe.com

Waterfall Catering

**Over 100 Years
Quality Service**

- Plumbing
- Heating
- Air Conditioning
- Water Heaters
- Sewer & Drain Cleaning
- Gas, Water & Sewer Lines
- Emergency Service Available
- Residential & Commercial
- Fully Insured
- Free Estimates



Brookline Plumber
412-531-0183

613 Brookline Blvd, Pittsburgh

PA Reg. #PA00934 HP #3599

DEAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

HANDS-ON-TRAINING - SKILLS FOR LIFE

Accredited by the Accrediting Commission Of Career Schools And Colleges (ACCSC)
LICENSED BY PA Dept. Of Education, State Board of Private Licensed Schools



SINCE 1947
412-531-4433

Air Conditioning & Heating

RESIDENTIAL
COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL

Electrical

RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL
PROGRAMMABLE LOGIC CONTROL, NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE

Building Maintenance

WELDING, CARPENTRY, PAINTING
ELECTRICAL, SIDING, ROOFING & MASONRY

Welding

OXYACETYLENE, ARC, PIPE, TIG AND MIG
PREPARE FOR A.W.S. & A.S.M.E. CERTIFICATION

ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

(AST)

In Just 15 Months

Diploma Programs In Only 7 1/2 Months

New Classes Begin Every 3 Months

Financial Aid For Those Who Qualify

Approved For Veteran Training

Continuous Placement Assistance

Day And Evening Classes

EMAIL: info@deantech.edu

www.deantech.edu

Facebook: /deantechpittsburgh

1501 West Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA