

THE Brookline

A SOUTH PITTSBURGH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PUBLICATION

Thrive on Health

By Brock Boutwell

Kelly Bender, owner of Thrive on Health, is in the midst of building a unique business in Brookline. The D.C. native first came to Pittsburgh for college, where she studied writing at Pitt and worked at the Church Brew Works in Lawrenceville. After graduation, she spent a brief period working in Las Vegas, where she wrote for the entertainment industry and in the technical field, creating safety manuals for various products. While she enjoyed her work in the writing field and the service industry, she felt called to help people on a larger scale. She fell into massage therapy and found the advanced pain management work incredibly fulfilling. She graduated from the Pittsburgh School of Massage Therapy and obtained her license in summer 2017.

Kelly has spent the past year working to prepare her space at 730 Brookline Boulevard, and her plans for it are grand. The building, which has been home to political campaigns, medical offices, and a library, is in the final stages of transformation into a collaborative wellness center.

Walking in from the sidewalk, below a new sign and next to a long row of freshly-painted green windows, one is greeted by a welcoming lobby. The most striking feature may be the far wall, which is covered by an image from the Allegheny National Forest – one of Kelly's favorite places. In a corner is a hanging chair, framed on the left by the forest wall and on the right by the front windows which are lined with original paintings by Kelly's sister, Dawn Bender, and air purifying plants.

The interior lobby wall includes a traditional receptionist's window that leads to an office, as well as a door that leads into the heart of the building. Walking through this door, the rest of the floor comes into view along a hallway that runs the entire length of the building. This is where Kelly's vision really comes to life.



Kelly Bender in the lobby of Thrive on Health



Each room along the hall is unique. The first room, decorated in Thai-inspired wall graphics and floor pillows, gives off relaxing vibes of a massage or meditation environment. It is followed next door by an infrared sauna – the only one of its kind to be approved by the FDA and prescribed as a holistic treatment by doctors – which can detoxify, reduce blood pressure, improve circulation, relieve pain, and much more. Further down the hall is a room for table massage and other freshly-painted spaces. The full

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Thrive on Health

continued from front page

basement, which at one time functioned as a children's library, has been transformed into a multi-purpose room that can be used for exercise classes or community events. The space is set to undergo renovation this summer for Nick Venuti's food and fitness project, "The Healthy Yinzer". The entire building is colorful and inviting, reclaimed by Kelly to suit her multi-faceted new enterprise.

Kelly refers to her mission as "revolutionary self-care." To her, the act of caring for oneself is revolutionary, particularly in a hard-nosed city like Pittsburgh. For generations, people have pushed health and wellness aside, reacting to issues as they arise rather than taking preventative measures to avoid health problems altogether. This trend has never been more relevant than now, a time in which prescription drug use has ravaged society and called our most fundamental ideas of health into question.

Kelly points out that most prescription drugs begin with the prefix "anti," as in anti-inflammatory and anti-depressant – titles that imply the treatment of disorders that are already present. She believes that prevention should be emphasized in the culture instead, quoting a friend who once told her, "If you listen to your body when it whispers, you will never have to hear it scream." This, in a nutshell, is the driving force behind Thrive on Health.

The business is a cooperative effort among several professional wellness experts, each offering unique services. Kelly, a massage therapist and Reiki practitioner, leads the operation as owner. Alongside her is a group which she calls Thrive on Health's "original starting lineup." There is hypnosis practitioner Joseph Onesta; Gabriel Cantillo, a massage therapist who specializes in a form of massage known as CranioSacral Therapy, in which light pressure is used around the head to relieve tension and improve the functioning of the central nervous system; Francie Desmone, an acupuncturist, health coach, and speaker; David Rosenberg, a practitioner of awareness massage; and chef/personal trainer Nick Venuti, better known as the Healthy Yinzer. All services are available by appointment.

The mission of Thrive on Health extends to all members of the community. In addition to their base services, they plan to offer community acupuncture, Reiki, and chair massage events that are open to anyone. They also bring in visiting experts to participate in discussions such as their upcoming panel on opiate addiction recovery, which will be led by local journalist Sven Hosford and a diverse panel of local experts including a physician, a holistic health and



nutrition practitioner, and a shamanic healer. Outside of the business itself, Kelly is an active member of the Brookline Chamber of Commerce.

Thrive on Health provides an opportunity for Brookliners to take their health into their own hands. Regardless of age or condition, there is something to be gained by anyone who wants to focus on their own wellness. Kelly Bender's vision of revolutionary self-care has only just begun to take root, and for this revolution, the possibilities seem endless.

730 Brookline Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412-714-6620

Website: www.thriveonhealth.com

Facebook: [thriveonhealthPGH](https://www.facebook.com/thriveonhealthPGH)

Email: thriveonhealthPGH@gmail.com

We have over 1,700 readers.

Pick up The Brookline at a Boulevard merchant.

THE Brookline South Pittsburgh Development Corporation

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Honoring Chuck Senft

By Clint Burton

On Saturday, May 5, friends and neighbors gathered to honor a man who, for forty-six years, was the City Recreation Director here in Brookline. Charles E. “Chuck” Senft began in 1958 at Moore Park, and in 1971 transferred over to the Brookline Park on Oakridge Street. He retired in 2003. A short ceremony was held in the Recreation Center gymnasium and afterwards a bronze memorial plaque was dedicated in the lobby.

On hand were several special guests, including Chuck’s wife Rosella and his daughter Terri, both of whom live on the North Side. In addition, there were several of Chuck’s former fighters from his legendary Brookline Boxing Club, most of them donning their old iconic “Charlie’s Angels” t-shirts.



Speakers included Clint Burton, Mike Bayens, Michelle Trapolsi-Underwood, Mike Radley, Bobby Mazzeo, Bob “Muscles” Healy, Mike Bersick and Councilman Anthony Coghill, who presented a proclamation to Chuck’s wife Rosella declaring May 5, 2018 “Chuck Senft Day” in the City of Pittsburgh.

The boxing club, with its 50-some team titles and hundreds of individual championships, was definitely Chuck’s signature achievement, but boxing was only a part of his contributions to Brookline. He organized and coached many different sports, including basketball, football, track and field, street hockey, swimming, gymnastics, marble shooting and kite flying to name just a few.

He brought multi-ethnic dance troupes and musicians to the community and pioneered opportunities for women in sports. Aside from athletics, Chuck organized summer camps, field trips and a variety of other activities to keep

kids involved and off the streets. Most importantly, Chuck was devoted to the safety and well-being of both the adults and children of Brookline. He went out of his way to tirelessly encourage people from around the community to remain healthy and active, and it was this selfless dedication that endeared him to generations of Brookliners and made him a friend and mentor to so many.

Special thanks to Donald Dorsey, Congressman Mike Doyle, Senator Wayne Fontana, Representative Harry Readshaw, Councilman Anthony Coghill, Clint Burton, Mike Radley, Michelle Trapolsi-Underwood, Kathy Rudolph, Bob Healy III and Joe Szymanski for their fund-raising help. Thanks also to Doug Brendel for his design work and the City of Pittsburgh for allowing us to place the plaque in the Recreation Center.

Finally, thanks and everlasting appreciation to Rosella and Terri Senft, who were gracious over the years in sharing their husband and father with us. Their sacrifice made it possible for all of us to become Chuck’s second family and Brookline his home away from home.

CLP Brookline: June Programs for Children, Teens and Adults

KIDS, TWEENS & TEENS

Snack Break at the Library

Monday - Friday • 3 pm

Stop by the Library every weekday for hands-on activities, crafts and games with friends! A snack will be provided during this program while supplies last each day. Snack and activities are for youth ages 18 and younger, and for persons with disabilities up to age 21. This program will begin on Tuesday, June 12 and end on Friday, August 17, and is being offered in collaboration with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Celebrate: Summer Reading Kick-Off

Thursday, June 7 • 3 pm

Kids, tweens, and teens: Get ready for Summer Reading by joining us for snacks, karaoke, color-your-own tote, and of course, summer reading sign-ups.

TEENS

Teen Gaming

Mondays • 3 pm

Get your game on! Relax, connect with friends and show off your mad gaming skills! Compete against other teens with great video games, tabletop, Pokémon and more. A teen led drop-in program for ages 10-18.

Teen Time

Tuesdays • 3 pm

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

Pittsburgh Police Chess Club

Mondays, June 11, 18, & 25 • 3 pm

Join Zone 6 officers for weekly community chess classes! Children and teens are invited to develop their minds and practice problem-solving skills that apply on and off the chessboard.

Free Meals for Kids

GrubUp Pittsburgh offers free after school 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.



ADULTS

Mystery & More Book Discussion

Wednesday, June 13 • 1 pm

To Brew or Not to Brew by Joyce Tremel

Join us in discussing an all-new mystery series set in a Pittsburgh craft brew pub, featuring a brewmaster with a head for sleuthing. The Allegheny Brew House is a dream come true for Maxine "Max" O'Hara, but before she can start pouring stouts and lagers to thirsty throngs, there's trouble on tap.

Between the Lines Book Discussion

Monday, June 18 • 6 pm

The Martian by Andy Weir

Join us as we discuss Mark Watney, who, six days ago, became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now, abandoned by the crew who believe him dead, he's sure he'll be the first person to die there.

Curious Selections Book Discussion

Tuesday, June 26 • 6 pm

The Fifth Petal by Brunonia Barry

Join us as we discuss a teenage boy who dies suspiciously on Halloween night, and Salem's chief of police, John Rafferty, wonders if there is a connection between his death and Salem's most notorious cold case, a triple homicide dubbed "The Goddess Murders," in which three young women, all descended from accused Salem witches, were slashed on Halloween night in 1989.

Community Contacts

Pittsburgh Police, Zone 6	412-937-3051
Councilman Anthony Coghill	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

Brookline Teen Outreach

By Caitlin McNulty

Summer is upon us and we have been busy beautifying our outdoor spaces, tie-dying, hiking, and adding many new opportunities as a result.

In May, Brookline Teen Outreach collaborated with the Rec. Center to build bluebird houses. On June 16th you will find us at the Rec., installing the birdhouses and creating secure habitats for the bluebirds of the neighborhood.

Our free acting workshop begins June 6th and takes place every Wednesday at 6pm through June 27th.



Camp Little Yogi

Practice Yoga
Picture Journaling
Kit friendly activities
Free Lunch!

Provided by
Brookline Teen Outreach with the support of
412 Food Rescue

**JULY 9-13, 2018
CAMP LITTLE YOGI**
8:30am - 4:00pm
(Open to Elementary age children)

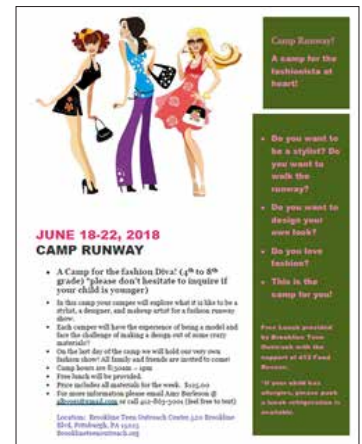
In this camp your camper will experience the practice of yoga, meditation and all things Zen. They will learn different poses and practice putting together their own sequence. They may even create their own pose! We will make homemade yoga, essential oil a terrarium. We will do various art projects, painting and journaling.

Camper will need a yoga mat for this camp. Free lunch is provided.

All materials for the camp are included in the price for the week. \$140/week

For more information and to register please contact Amy Redburn at aredburn@brooklineteenoutreach.org or 412-682-2705 (text line to text)

BROOKLINE TEEN OUTREACH
830 BROOKLINE BLVD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15226
412-754-4390
www.brooklineteenoutreach.org



Camp Runway!
A camp for the fashionista of hearts!

Do you want to be a stylist? Do you want to make the runway?
Do you want to design your own look?
Do you love fashion?
This is the camp for you!

**JUNE 18-22, 2018
CAMP RUNWAY**

- A Camp for the Fashion Diva's (4th to 8th grade) *please don't hesitate to register if your child is younger!
- In this camp your camper will explore what it is like to be a artist, a designer, and modeling artist for a fashion runway show.
- Each camper will have the experience of being a model and face the challenge of making a design out of some crazy materials!
- On the last day of the camp we will hold our very own fashion show! All family and friends are invited to come! Camp hours are 8:30am - 4pm
- Free lunch will be provided.
- Price includes all materials for the week. \$140/week
- For more information please email Amy Redburn at aredburn@brooklineteenoutreach.org or call 412-682-2705 (text line to text)

Free Lunch provided by Brookline Teen Outreach with the support of 412 Food Rescue.

For more information and to register please contact Amy Redburn at aredburn@brooklineteenoutreach.org or 412-682-2705 (text line to text)

Location: Brookline Teen Outreach Center 830 Brookline Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15226
BrooklineTeenOutreach.org

Don't forget that we have two week-long day camps at the teen center, one in June and one in July.



Rep. Dan Miller & Brookline Teen Outreach present

Mental Health Fair

Saturday, June 2
1 p.m.

State Representative
Dan Miller's
MENTAL HEALTH Fair

Brookline Teen Outreach
520 Brookline Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15226

Resource Fair:
Collect information on programs and services for mental health care and advocacy.

Session 1: Dual Diagnosis
Explores the role of mental services agencies in providing coordinated care services with both substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health disorders.

Session 2: Trauma
Explores how trauma, substance use and the cumulative experience of adversity may contribute to mental health issues.

State Representative Dan Miller - 43rd Legislative District
2021 Westinghouse Road, Suite 502 - Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228 - 412-754-4390
www.brooklineteenoutreach.org | twitter: @brooklinebto

On June 2nd, please be sure to stop by Brookline Teen Outreach for A Mental Health Fair presented in conjunction with Rep. Dan Miller from 1-4pm. This event is free and open to the public. The session will offer numerous mental health resources and speakers focused on pertinent mental health topics. Our counseling staff will also be on site

offering free evaluations. For more info, please visit our website: www.brooklineteenoutreach.org/events

Want to stay informed on all of the things happening at BTO? Like our Facebook page and sign up for our e-newsletter.



Tie dying shirts



Birdhouse building

June Community Meetings

Monday, June 11

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

Tuesday, June 12

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

Monday, June 18

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



“Shipwrecked, Rescued by Jesus”

at Pittsburgh Baptist Church, 3100 Pioneer Avenue Pittsburgh, PA. 15226. June 25–29 (Monday-Friday) 6–8 p.m. Classes for all ages! Visit our website for details at www.pittsburghbaptist.org/

What's happening at Pittsburgh Brookline PreK-8

by Amy Cornelius Dembosky, Parent Volunteer

The end of the school year is upon us! We are looking back at our accomplishments over the last year and celebrating our successes. On June 5, the eighth grade class will have its Awards Breakfast. This student-only event is an opportunity for the eighth graders to get together and enjoy breakfast with their classmates before being recognized for their scholarly achievements. Certificates are given for math, Challenge 24, and language arts in addition to other academic areas. Eighth grade promotion will be held at Brashear High School at 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 7. Family members are invited to attend.

We are very proud of our eighth graders who received Scholar Awards from the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Brookline PreK-8 had 21 students who made the honor roll all four report periods in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. These students were recognized by PPS at a ceremony held at Carrick High School in May, along with students from six other middle schools. We wish all of the eighth graders the best of everything in high school!

Our fifth graders participated in our city's Dancing Classrooms program again this year. Students develop cooperation, perseverance, and teamwork as they learn the rumba, foxtrot, tango, polka, merengue, and swing. They do not have specific partners, so each student works with every other student in their class. Students showed off their skills to families in April. In a surprise twist, their

performance concluded with students inviting a family member to dance! This year at the citywide finals, with 10 other local schools participating, our team earned bronze medals! Congratulations to the fifth grade!

Everyone knows how vital reading is, especially our students. They each have a goal to read or be read 25 books every year. Students in the primary grades will take a walk to the park for a day of fun and games. In the intermediate and middle grades, students who met their goal will get to participate in a field trip to Looking for Group and the park.

Our students were excited to welcome over 171 mothers, grandmothers, and other important women to our new Muffins for Moms event on May 11. A week later, over 176 fathers, grandfathers, and other significant adults attended Take a Father to School Day, a district-wide event. Activities on both days included planting flowers around the front of the school and painting Kindness Rocks. Look for a special rock in our neighborhood! You'll know it when you see it. Thank you, everyone, for the excellent turnout!

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who volunteered, tutored, mentored, or in any way helped our students this year. Whether you came in to school, partnered with a local organization that served our students, or saw a child walking along the Boulevard and helped them tie their shoe, your act of kindness made a difference. Thank you!

The Heritage Players 2018 Season

The Wizard of Oz (Junior)
book by L. Frank Baum
August 3–5, 10–12

Dracula
by Bram Stoker
October 5–7, 12–14

Jesus Christ Superstar
by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice
November 30–December 2, December 7–9



one half hour before curtain. Tickets may be purchased online or at the door.

All performances are held at: The Seton Center (handicapped accessible) 1900 Pioneer Avenue, Brookline, 15226

Visit the newly revised website at www.heritageplayers.org or phone 412-254-4633 for more information.

Become a subscriber and save 30% off the ticket price of all four productions! Subscription price of \$35.00 will give you a seat at any one performance of your choice for each of the shows. Visit www.heritageplayers.org for more information, and to subscribe online.

Friday and Saturday performances are held at 8:00 pm, and Sunday matinees are at 2:00 pm. Box office opens

35 Years on the Boulevard

by Dan Kaczmariski

What were you doing in the spring of 1983, assuming you were already born?

Dr. Guy Reschenthaler remembers that time well. He was settling into his chiropractic practice at 723 Brookline Blvd. (two doors down from the ice cream shop), which he opened on April 2 of that year. 2018 marks his 35th year on the Boulevard.

He estimates he's treated thousands of people during his tenure in Brookline. His patients commonly come in with headaches or discomfort in the neck, upper back, shoulders, or arms. Another common complaint is pain in the lower back or legs.

Chiropractic is a philosophy of things natural. Its cornerstone is the identification and correction of misalignments in the spine that are exerting pressure on the nerves, thereby letting the body heal itself.

Dr. Reschenthaler started his working career as an educator rather than a chiropractor. He earned a degree in Health and Physical Education from Slippery Rock University, which led to a teaching stint at a high school in his home town of Elizabeth, PA and a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

At that point in his life, however, he decided he wanted a job where he had more control over his own career. Inspired by two practitioners in Elizabeth, he took a look at chiropractic.

"They were well-respected and helped a lot of people," he says. He had also personally benefited from chiropractic treatment, having wrestled in high school and played football in high school and college. So he took a career turn and earned a degree in chiropractic from Sherman College in South Carolina.

While he was interning at a chiropractor's office in Dravosburg, he asked his mentor: "If you were starting a new practice, where would you go?" The answer he received was "Brookline." When Dr. Reschenthaler checked out our neighborhood, he found it had everything on his wish list.

"I wanted a neighborhood that had some size, but that was a community," he says. "I was also looking for a location on a bus line and someplace people could walk to." It didn't



Dr. Guy Reschenthaler

hurt that he already had family connections here through relatives who owned the Brookline Men's Shop (located at the current location of Brookline and Sinker.)

He is happy with his choice. "I really like Brookline," he says. "People are very, very nice. When I came here, the health community was very receptive. Medical practitioners referred patients to me, and are still doing that. And of course, if a patient comes to see me with something that doesn't lend itself to chiropractic treatment, I refer them to other professionals."

Dr. Reschenthaler says one of the most important things people can do to avoid spinal misalignments is to be cautious when lifting. "We all know what we're supposed to do, but sometimes we're in a hurry and don't use the proper mechanics." He also recommends stretching – using a static stretch (held for 10 to 30 seconds), rather than a bouncing stretch.

And just as an aside, if you hear the name Guy Reschenthaler in political ads this year, that's not Dr. Reschenthaler, it's his son, who's running for a U.S. congressional seat.

Representative Harry Readshaw



Cut the Cord on Unwanted Telemarketing Telemarketing calls are annoying. In some cases, they can even be dangerous if they come from scammers seeking your personal information. Fortunately, there are things you can do to protect your privacy from these unwanted callers.

Registering for the national and state “Do Not Call” lists can dramatically cut down on the number of unwanted, unsolicited calls you receive. You can register for Pennsylvania’s “Do Not Call” List www.attorneygeneral.gov/protect-yourself/do-not-call-list/, and for the national Do Not Call Registry www.ftc.gov/faq/consumer-protection/list-number-national-do-not-call-registry.

Arming yourself with knowledge also goes a long way. The Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office offers some great pointers (www.attorneygeneral.gov/protect-yourself/consumer-advisories/telemarketing-information-you-need-to-know/) on protecting yourself from unwanted telemarketers and malicious robocalls. And the Federal Communications Commission also offers good tips (www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/stop-unwanted-calls-and-texts) for stopping unwanted calls.

By arming yourself with knowledge and the right tools, you can cut the cord on these unwanted callers.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other state government-related material, please feel free to contact my office.

Representative Dan Miller



As your state representative, one of the most important things I do is provide assistance to constituents with a variety of state matters. I would like to take this opportunity to revisit just a few of the programs and services that my office can help you with. We provide assistance with PennDOT forms, property tax/rent rebate forms, and unclaimed property.

We also help folks get information from state agencies on things like unemployment or professional licenses. We offer notary services for state-related documents at no charge, and we also can help seniors get Port Authority transit passes so they can ride PAT buses and the T for free. In addition to these services, we have a broad range of informational brochures about state services and local non-profits, as well as free maps of the state.

Our office also sends out email blasts with updates about what’s happening in Harrisburg and around the 42nd District. If you don’t already receive our e-blasts, you can sign up for them by visiting my website at www.pahouse.com/Miller/. You can also follow me on twitter @RepDanMiller.

We pride ourselves on our service to our constituents, so I invite you to contact my office any time, whether to share your opinions or to seek assistance with any state agency or service. We are here to serve you. You can reach us by phone 412-343-3870 or email repmiller@pahouse.net or visit us at our Mt. Lebanon office at 650 Washington Road, Suite 102.

Councilman Anthony Coghill



The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority is responsible for water treatment and sanitation in the City of Pittsburgh. While a few of our residents have water supplied through PWSA, most receive water through Pennsylvania American Water Co., a

private company with higher rates. Councilman Coghill is doing all he can to assure the PWSA continues to subsidize water prices in this district even through the changes facing the company in the future.

Councilman Coghill contributed resources for a plaque to be put up in the Brookline Recreational Center in

honor of Chuck Senft. Chuck was an important part of the community and ran a boxing program and the Brookline Rec Center. He was extremely dedicated to the neighborhood, and this memorial plaque will continue to inspire the youth, just as he did. Please stop by to see this amazing project put together by our community!

As reported previously, Brookline’s own famous hippopotamus has been found at last. Councilman Coghill is excited to see this figure of the neighborhood once again returned to the community. The hippo will be located at the front of the Brookline Rec Center for families to enjoy. As always, if there is anyway our office can assist you call us at 412.255.2131

Representative Dan Deasy



According to the Pennsylvania Attorney General, more than 10 million Americans have their personal information – including name, social security number, bank account or credit card number – stolen each year. Often times, thieves use this information to open phony credit card, bank or utility accounts. Occasionally, the perpetrator will use

the victim's identity to secure benefits such as healthcare or government assistance

Should you become a victim of identity theft or fraud, you will need to take action quickly. Notify the police, banks, and creditors immediately; obtain a copy of your police report (as evidence of the fraud having been perpetrated), cancel all existing credit cards, accounts, passwords and PINs, and replace them with entirely new ones; call the credit bureaus and ask each to attach a fraud alert and victim's statement to your report.

The three main credit bureau fraud alert phone numbers are: Equifax – 800-525-6285; Experian – 888-397-3742; TransUnion – 800-680-7289.

Additionally, you can protect yourself from unwanted phone calls, which are not only a nuisance, but can also lead to identity theft. In 2002, Pennsylvanians were first given the opportunity to avoid these calls by registering for the Do Not Call list. In fact, one million citizens registered in a single two-week period that year, and millions more have registered through the past few years.

You can enroll online as well as verify your enrollment, review details about the Do Not Call law or file a complaint if you have been receiving calls in violation of the law. Visit the online site at: www.attorneygeneral.gov/protect-yourself/do-not-call-list/dnc-enrollment/

If you prefer to enroll by telephone, call our Do Not Call hotline today, at 888-777-3406.

If you need assistance on these or any other state-related matter, please don't hesitate to call my office at 412-928-9514.

Senator Wayne D. Fontana



First-Time Homebuyers Savings Account Program In late April, my Senate Bill 1066 (SB 1066) unanimously passed the Urban Affairs and Housing Committee. This legislation would establish a First-Time Homebuyers Savings Account Program in Pennsylvania. If enacted into law, this program would provide incentives for first-time homebuyers to save for such things as down payments and closing costs.

Compared to where it was more than a decade ago, home ownership among young adults is low. Nationwide, adults who are 35 years old or younger accounted for a little more than one-third of all homeowners last year, compared with 43.6 percent, at this century's peak, in 2004. One of the biggest factors contributing to this decline is an increase in student loan debt and debt in general. In fact, a recent study ranked Pennsylvania as having the second highest average college debt per borrower at around \$35,000. As a result, many first-time homebuyers are struggling to find the money for a down payment and closing costs.

To help close the gap and allow residents to achieve homeownership, my SB 1066 would allow individuals and their families to open a First-Time Homebuyer Savings Account at a financial institution to put money aside for a future purchase. An account holder may save up to \$50,000 over 10 years with the savings qualifying as a tax deduction on state income tax returns. When taken out, the money can be used for such things as closing costs or a down payment. Individuals who do not use the account to buy a house or if they end up using the money for something other than a home purchase will be responsible for paying the taxes and a penalty on the money.

A recent study by the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors showed that this program could increase home purchases by up to 4,000 annually while also helping to spur additional economic activity, job creation and higher earnings for households. In fact, it is believed that the economic impact on Pennsylvania because of SB 1066 could reach as much as \$69 million.

More than 80 percent of commonwealth residents support this type of program that will help individuals and families overcome the financial hurdles of purchasing their first house. For more information about my legislation, please visit www.FirstHomePA.com.

www.senatorfontana.com

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

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.



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We Stand Corrected!

We would like to correct two mistakes made in the May issue. They are as follows:

The phone number published for *Studio Hustle and Flow & S.O. Chic Boutique* was incorrect. The correct number is 412-501-3193.

The link included in the Brookline article about *Brookline's most decorated soldier* does not load for digital readers. The correct link is

<http://www.brooklineconnection.com/history/Gallery/Cronin.html>



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BROOKLINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



BREEZEFEST

ON BROOKLINE BLVD.

WANTED – Arts & Craft Vendors, buskers and community organizations for our Annual Brookline Breeze Fest event on August 11, 2018, along Boulevard business district.

Application fee is \$45. For more information:
Call: Lois McCafferty at 412.341.5788
Email: BlvdBreezeFest@hotmail.com
Or download app. at www.BrooklineNow.com

Applications can be picked up at
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2018–2019 Business Directory will be available during Memorial Day Parade.



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