

BROOKLINE NOW

POSH LOCAL

by Brock Boutwell

Brookline Boulevard is a truly unique street. It is home to a diverse array of businesses, ranging from multi-generational, well-established neighborhood institutions to new, energetic enterprises. Among the newer crowd is Posh Local, a boutique clothing shop specializing in women's clothing, shoes, and accessories.

The beating heart of Posh is its owner, Renee Kostas.

She is one of several energetic female entrepreneurs energizing Brookline's business district. Her shop is elaborately decorated and teeming with hand-picked merchandise tailored to customers of all ages and walks of life. From the vintage tin ceiling to the newly hung marble backdrop behind the counter, Posh Local's physical aesthetic is quintessentially today's Brookline – a blend of history and future, sweat and glamor, carefully prepared by a woman with big plans.

Renee's shop is a mirror image of her own spirit. She started working in retail at the age of 16, eventually earning a marketing degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with the hope of entering the cosmetic industry. As she left school, she soon realized that the traditional 9-5 employee lifestyle did not match her spirit, so she decided to become her own boss.

Throughout college, Renee earned extra money by selling her own clothes on the popular clothing site, Poshmark. It was through this hustle that she got the idea to give up wage work and start her own online boutique clothing shop, where she personally delivered local orders to customers within a



Above, owner, Renee Kostas. Top, street view of Posh Local from Brookline Boulevard. Photos for this article courtesy of Amy Fisher, Pawsburgh Photography.

10-mile radius of her HQ, which at the time, happened to be her father's sun porch. She called the business Posh Local, a nod to her origins at Poshmark with a "local" ode to her personal, same-day delivery niche – a delivery program that remains a part of the business to this day.

...continues page 2

BROOKLINE TOGETHER

BRIDGING BUSINESSES AND THE COMMUNITY

2020 OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS
2nd Monday of odd-numbered months. We hope to see you January 13th!

All meetings are held at 7pm at the Brookline Teen Outreach, 520 Brookline Blvd.

BROOKLINE TOGETHER BOARD
Caitlin McNulty, President
Bill Kim, Treasurer
Ally Bove, Secretary

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Tony Griffith, Beautification
Jason Tigano, Business Development
Heather Fulton, Community Events
Lois McCafferty, Membership
Brock Boutwell, Newsletter

FIND US!
facebook.com/brooklinetogether
www.brooklinetogether.org
brooklinetogether@gmail.com

OUR MISSION
To promote a vibrant and livable community through collaborative initiatives that unify Brookline's business and residential interests.

As time went by and her clientele grew, Renee made yet another leap by renting a brick-and-mortar showroom space on the Boulevard. She admits to feeling uncertain about the move at first, which added a new layer of overhead expense to her operation. Upon arriving at the shop, however, she was pleasantly surprised by the amount of support offered by fellow boutique owners. Women whom Renee assumed would be harsh competitors showered her with love, advice, and labor as she transformed the space and began a new phase of her professional life.

This newfound comradery, garnered by like-minded women in the same market, is both a testament to the beauty of American small businesses and to the strength of the bond which connects a vibrant new generation of female entrepreneurship. It provides much needed community for nascent businesses like Posh Local, and drives economic growth within our community. In this way, Renee Kostas and her store are the future of Brookline. Driven by a passion for her craft and a desire to live life on her own terms, she has established herself as a player in our ever-changing, ever-growing neighborhood. Be sure to check out her shop, both online and in person.

poshlocalpgh.com | poshlocalpgh@gmail.com
616 Brookline Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412.245.6675 (text only, for immediate needs)

Follow us on Instagram! @poshlocal Follow us on Facebook! @poshlocalpgh

Showroom hours vary; Facebook and Instagram stories are updated daily



THE BACKYARD ANGEL... FOR KIDS, BY KIDS

A unique sharing ministry of infant through teen clothing, shoes, toys, and baby equipment.

All goods are donated; operated by volunteers.

Donations accepted in good faith and distributed the same – no reselling.

ALL ARE WELCOME! We reserve the right to limit quantities of distribution. Follow us on Facebook for more information.

Open Saturdays 10-1
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 933 Brookline Blvd 15226



GET INVOLVED!

BROOKLINE NOW wants to hear from you! We welcome your articles, art work, ideas, referrals, and feedback, and would love to include as many Brookline voices as possible in future issues. If you would like to contribute to our newsletter, please email us at newsletter15226@gmail.com or leave us a comment on our Brookline Together page, www.brooklinetogether.org/newsletter.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM! @Brookline_Now

BROOKLINE NOW

To promote community and development in Brookline by illuminating people, places, and institutions that make the neighborhood a great place to live.

- Brock Boutwell Editor
- Dan Kaczmarek Editor Emeritus/Contributor
- Maureen Donahue Graphic Designer
- Amy Fisher Photographer
- Erin Skinner Social Media Lead/Distribution
- Jim Deller Ad Sales
- Lois McCafferty Contributor
- Pastor Lance Rhoades Contributor
- Ally Bove Contributor
- Beth Deller Contributor
- Tim Reitmeyer Contributor
- Nuela Zalak Contributor
- Heather Fulton Contributor



LOIS MCCAFFERTY Membership Committee

Happy New Year Brookline!

Can you believe that Brookline Together is one year old? While 2019 brought several changes for our community-based organization, one thing remains constant: YOU are Brookline's greatest asset. Our residents, business owners, civic leaders, and community patrons are the driving force behind positive growth in our neighborhood. By becoming a Brookline Together member in 2020, you can continue to elevate your community in the New Year alongside your neighbors and friends.

A membership in Brookline Together is not an obligation—it's an opportunity. An opportunity to strengthen your community, communicate your ideas, and meet new friends from across the neighborhood. Your membership dues are an investment in neighborhood beautification projects, annual community events like the Halloween parade, yard sale, and Breezefest, and in the local business district. Finally, your membership provides you with a voice to positively affect your community through leadership votes at public meetings.

As Chair of Brookline Together's Membership Committee, my new year's resolution is to double our membership in

2020. This is a team effort: our seven-member committee works to attract new community members and businesses to strengthen our organization. Information about memberships are promoted at all Brookline Together community events. In 2020, all members will receive a complimentary Brookline Together sticker to show-off their neighborhood pride!

We also value our business members, who receive free consultation for grants and funding, landlord mediation, support with city ordinances, and promotion. Our committee is currently working on the 2020-2021 Brookline Business and Community Directory to promote our neighborhood's terrific business district. New to the directory is a revised design and a tear-out coupon page for various Brookline businesses. Keep your eyes open in late spring for the new directory.

Are you convinced yet? There are several ways to apply for membership. Visit brooklinetogether.com/membership and submit the application. Attend the next Brookline Together community meeting on Monday, January 13 and complete the application form in person. Or, email brooklinetogether@gmail.com to request a paper copy of the full membership application.

We look forward to seeing you as a member of Brookline Together in 2020!

REAL ESTATE NEWS

by Tim Reitmeyer

Happy New Year! There is no better time to talk about the real estate market than right now. 2019 was a great year for home sale prices in Brookline, with the average sale price well over \$100,000. What will 2020 bring? Traditionally, a presidential election year turns out to be a good year for home sales. Will that be true this year? No one knows. One thing many realtors know is that if selling or buying a home is in your plans for 2020, NOW is the time to start preparing. It takes time and planning to properly buy or sell a house.

If you anticipate selling a home this year, the spring market—running from roughly March 15th to the beginning of June—is the best time of year to sell. So, January really is the time to start planning. Look objectively around your house. Can you declutter? Do you need to do some painting? Should you do some updating? Are there small repairs that should be done? I recommend you speak with a local realtor (there are several good Brookline agents) and determine what will help you to get the best price for your home. A local realtor will also be able to assist in finding your next residence, be it a home, apartment, or even relocation out of town.

If buying a home is in your plans, you also must prepare ahead of time. Before you can make an offer on a home, you will need to be preapproved if a mortgage is involved. Contact a realtor and work with them to get the preapproval, which will determine the price range you can afford. Mortgage representatives will approve buyers to their maximum price range; however, I recommend backing off that max number a bit to allow for some flexibility in your monthly spending. You

may be pleasantly surprised that the current low mortgage rates give your buying power a boost to being able to afford more than you expected. You may discover that your credit needs to improve before you qualify for a mortgage; and preparing now will give you time to straighten things out before you begin your search. Finally, if you are preapproved and ready to buy now, January is a great time to purchase a home because January is always considered a buyers' market.

The higher prices and low interest rates of 2019 favored both buyers and sellers. Interest rates are holding at almost historic lows. Hopefully, the prices of Brookline homes continue the upward trend. Armed with this information, you will be prepared for your new home in 2020!

BROOKLINE TEEN OUTREACH



- Serving youth ages 10-18
- Educational and social programming
- Tutoring and community service opps
- Counseling services to people of all ages!

FREE to all!

www.BrooklineTeenOutreach.org
520 Brookline Blvd., PGH, PA 15226 | 412.254.4590





MAYOR WILLIAM PEDUTO

The City of Pittsburgh has a Weather Resource Center on their website. Visit the weather resource center at: pittsburghpa.gov/weather

Here, you can find information on the severity of snow events on a scale from 0-4. You will also find the City's Snow Plow Tracker. The Snow Plow Tracker is a publicly available map that shows where plow and salt trucks are operating in real time, so residents can check to see if their street or route has been treated and/or plowed. DPW uses blue salt, so residents can also do a visual check to see if their street has been treated by salt. Residents can also use the Snow Plow Tracker to find out which roads are the responsibility of the State or County to treat and plow. During a snow event, the Department of Public Works deploys all available resources to make sure that the streets are as safe as possible for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

Property owners are responsible for clearing their sidewalks within 24 hours of a snow event. For some residents, this can be a difficult task. The City of Pittsburgh's Snow Angels program matches residents who are 60 years or older and/or have a disability that prevents them from being able to shovel snow with nearby volunteers who have signed up to help them salt and shovel their walkways and sidewalks. There are always more neighbors in need than volunteers, so please consider volunteering or spreading the word to make this winter a little less harsh. Sign up as a neighbor in need or volunteer at pittsburghpa.gov/snowangels or by calling 311.

The most effective way to report untreated roads or hazardous conditions is by calling 311. Reports will be directed to the Department of Public Works as they work to clear and treat the roads. Residents can also submit 311 requests by the MyBurgh app or through the City of Pittsburgh's website at <https://pittsburghpa.gov/311/form>.



COUNCILMAN ANTHONY COGHILL
City Council District 4

Responding to weather related incidents is one of Government's most important functions and in my office, we work diligently in coordinating with Public Works and other responsible departments any time there are inclement weather occurs.

For residents, we strongly encourage emergency planning. An emergency plan is essential for everyone, especially families. With a plan in place, family members can get in contact and meet in a single location. Plans should include a single point of contact for all family members to call, an out-of-state contact, and agreed upon meeting places.

Disaster supply kits are also very important. Basic kits should include water, food, flashlights, first aid kits, a can opener, back up cell phone batteries and more. Additional information on disaster preparedness can be found by visiting the following link: pittsburghpa.gov/publicsafety/ready-city

As we enter the winter season snow events will be on everyone's mind. The City of Pittsburgh has five classifications for snow events ranging from 0-4. All of the different snow level ratings have different responses. For example, a level 1 snow event occurs with a forecast of 0.5-3" of ice or snow. In an event of a level 1 snow event a standard deployment of snow removal resources occurs with salting and plowing as needed, large equipment assigned to primary routes, and small equipment assigned to secondary routes. Detailed information on snow level designations and responses can be found by visiting the following link: pittsburghpa.gov/weather/snow-levels

Additionally, if you want to report a street in need of ice or snow removal, please call 24 hours after the snowfall has ended if our trucks have not plowed or salted your street by contacting the 311 Response Center.



REPRESENTATIVE HARRY READSHAW

Emergencies and challenges can happen at any time, as we know all too well in Allegheny County.

In the last few years we've experienced historic rain and flooding, mudslides and unprecedented storms across the region.

As an elected official, one of my priorities is to ensure that as these challenges arise, impacted residents are prepared. That's why I advocate that in the event of emergencies, challenges and inclement weather incidents, we remember that each of us is part of the solution. That's right, each of us can be part of the solution when it comes to preparing for, responding to, and recovering from an emergency.

We know that we get rain, flooding, power outages, heat, cold and snow. We as individuals need to make conscious decision to get started now, to take simple steps to be prepared for these events before it's too late.

One way to do that is to visit www.ready.pa.gov to receive tips and information that can save a life. The website contains useful information and tips on how to prepare yourself and your family in case of emergencies.

With winter officially arriving, snowstorms and extreme cold are soon going to be upon us again. As we know, winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning and even heart attacks from overexertion. Storms during the winter months can bring a mix of cold, freezing rain, snow and ice. Winter storms can last from a few hours to several days, knocking out heat, power, and communication services. Older adults, young children, and sick individuals are at greater risk during weather emergencies. A good winter-specific resource is www.ready.gov/winter-weather, a page with information to help everyone better-prepare for potential winter storms.

If you would like additional information, feel free to reach out to me by calling 412-881-4208.



SENATOR WAYNE D. FONTANA
42nd Senatorial District
www.senatorfontana.com

How can public officials best respond to snow emergencies and inclement weather?

As storms of all seasons are becoming stronger and more difficult for experts to predict, it's more important than ever that officials are prepared and able to communicate effectively with the public.

At the state level, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) helps communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from all types of emergencies, including weather-related disasters. PEMA works with federal officials in responding to emergencies and coordinates with county officials who in turn work with municipal governments to keep citizens safe and informed.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is responsible for treating state roads during inclement weather. In recent years, PennDOT has created a website and mobile app, www.511PA.com, that allows citizens to view

road and traffic conditions on state-maintained roads, which is especially helpful during severe weather events. PennDOT's more than 2,200 plow trucks are equipped with Automated Vehicle Location systems, which use technology to log and share data in real-time for that truck, which is then available via www.511PA.com or the 511PA app.

Additionally, PEMA and PennDOT have coordinated with the Pennsylvania Department of Health to create the Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness Guide which can be viewed and/or downloaded by visiting www.readyPA.org. The Emergency Preparedness Guide provides information on how best to be prepared for all kinds of potential emergencies, including severe weather events. This resource provides checklists so you can be prepared for emergencies at home, in your vehicle, or where you work. It also offers planning suggestions for people with special needs.

I encourage everyone to utilize the resources that are in place through www.511PA.com and www.readyPA.org when preparing for and dealing with inclement weather and other emergency situations and remember to check on elderly residents and anyone who may not be able to easily access information.



REPRESENTATIVE DAN DEASY
412.928.9514

Snow emergencies and inclement weather can wreak havoc for commuters and communities. It is, therefore, vital that municipal and state agencies charged with the vast responsibility of maintaining roads and bridges have the personnel and equipment to respond when storms hit our region.

As a state representative, I believe my role is to advocate for adequate state funding for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, so that the department has the funding it needs to maintain state roads and bridges, not just during the winter months, but all year round.

It is important to note that the state Department of Transportation takes some of the burden from municipalities when they enter into municipal agreements. Without these agreements, some municipalities would not have the resources to purchase the equipment and supplies necessary to ensure the public's safety.

My legislative district is part of the Department of Transportation's District 11 region that covers Allegheny, Beaver and Lawrence counties. District 11 spent \$14.9 million for all winter expenditures last year, which includes winter municipal agreements, equipment, labor, material, etc. The District utilized 62,313 tons of salt; 9,020 tons of antiskid; and 537,590 gallons of brine.

The resources spent in District 11 keep the 2,569 miles of state-maintained roads, 1,796 bridges and four tunnels cleared during the winter, in addition to the municipal roads that are part of municipal agreements.

Both District 11 and the entire Department of Transportation do a tremendous job. Pennsylvania has over 40,000 miles of roads and roughly 25,400 bridges that are maintained by PennDOT. It is for these reasons that state officials must ensure that the Department has the resources it needs to do its job.



REPRESENTATIVE DAN MILLER

One of the best things that a public official can do in relation to weather emergencies is to meet with their public works employees and public safety responders. Many localities have built up response protocols

for different levels of need, each with certain personnel and equipment needs. Additionally, some localities will operate emergency response centers to streamline information collection and coordinate a more seamless and controlled response. For most public officials, knowing how these systems work, and listening to their professional staff in relation to implementation, is about as far as they should go. However, I also have found it useful to participate in "ride-alongs" during some weather emergencies. Participating in a "ride-along" with snow emergency response personnel, like fire vehicles or snowplows with offer firsthand experience of what it takes to respond to the particular scenarios and the challenges that are present in effectively doing so.

As a state legislature we are not typically directly involved with weather emergency response. However, I like to talk with our city and township officials about their response needs and how they can best be supported by the state. Additionally, there is no doubt that the state shoulders the burden of maintaining their roads and facilities safely. While legislators are not executives, ensuring supportive legal framework and proper state funding are issues for us to diligently analyze and advocate for.

MOVE OVER, FLOWERS AND CHOCOLATE

by Dan Kaczmariski

At 9:30 the morning of the first Valentine's Day for Le Cupcake Shoppe on Capital Avenue--seven years ago--owner Alex Hagen Corcarro looked out the window at a surprising sight. There, patiently waiting for the doors to open was a line of customers, mostly male.

"I had gotten a decent amount of advance orders, so I thought that was all I was going to get, plus my normal weekly walk-ins," say Alex. "But there was a line the whole day; it was just crazy."

The day that used to be the domain of flowers and chocolate candy has made room for the shoppe's specialty themed mini-cupcakes, dipped fruit, heart tarts, cookies with conversation hearts, and more.



One popular seller has been fresh strawberries hand-dipped in chocolate and decorated as special characters, such as unicorns and rosy-lipped retro movie stars.

Alex says many customers from those first Valentine's Days return each year. "When I first opened, a lot of my customers were just starting to date their girlfriend or boyfriend. Since then, some have gotten married and are now buying for their spouse and maybe their kids.

"A lot more cookie dough is going on for Valentine's Day," she says with a laugh. "Cookie dough frosting, cooking dough truffles."

Although in recent years, more customers have learned to order ahead, Alex still expects to find Valentine's Day lovers lined up outside her shoppe this year. She continues to encourage advance orders, but is once again gearing up to accommodate walk-ins. She'll start off Valentine's Day and the day before with four times the usual amount of specialty items.

"Always feel free to come as a walk-in," she says. "I know there are people like me out there who are juggling a million things and just forget to call."

Le Cupcake Shoppe, located at 109 Capital Ave is open year-round. You can check out its menu and Valentine's Day specialties online.

www.lecupcakeshoppegh.com | 412-254-4295
twitter and Instagram @lecupcakeshoppe
Facebook, le Cupcake Shoppe

HERITAGE PLAYERS



The Music Man, 2019. Photo courtesy of Nicole Zalak.

by Nuela Zalak

Community theater is alive and well in the South Hills of Pittsburgh and best of all, it has been thriving right here in Brookline! The Heritage Players were originally the brainchild of the Bethel Park Historical Society in the mid-1990s. A board of directors was formed and the theater group was called The Heritage Players to reflect its connection to the Historical Society. Their first performance was held at the Schoolhouse Arts Center in 1997. However, the group quickly outgrew its small theater space there. When the brand new Bethel Park Community Center opened its doors in 1999, The Heritage Players were asked to move their performances there. That same year they began their first season of scheduled shows and theater classes.

In 2011 The Heritage Players became an independent 501(c)3 certified non-profit organization and, two years later they began their 2013 season of performances at the Seton Center on Pioneer Avenue. The vibrant group is run completely by volunteers with a passion for theater, and who are always looking for ways to enhance the cultural enrichment of the local community. The theater season consists of a comedy or drama in the spring, a family-friendly summer musical with a cast of children, teens, and adults and, a fall musical.

Their mission is to appeal to a wide multi-generational audience. Some of their past productions include *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Their highly successful 2019 season featured *Fahrenheit 451*, *James and the Giant Peach* (musical) and, *The Music Man*. Cast members of all ages often return to perform in succeeding productions.

If you would like to attend a quality live theater performance for the mere cost of a movie ticket, check out The Heritage Players website at www.heritageplayers.org where you may reserve tickets, purchase a season pass, apply to audition, and so much more! You can also find them on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, or phone 412-254-4633.

The first production of the 2020 season will be *A Wrinkle in Time* which opens in May. More information and the complete slate of shows can be found in the next issue of BrooklineNOW.

BROOKLINE LIGHTS UP

by Ally Bove

Brookline Lights Up, our neighborhood's annual light-up night, was hosted by Brookline Together on November 30, 2019. Traditionally hosted by the Brookline Chamber of Commerce, 2019 was the first year the annual holiday festivities were hosted by Brookline Together (the merger of the former Brookline Chamber of Commerce and the former South Pittsburgh Development Corporation).

Although Brookline Lights Up occurs on one day in late November or early December, a remarkable amount of work goes into its planning to ensure a successful event. Earlier in 2019, Brookline Together worked with City of Pittsburgh officials, including Councilman Anthony Coghill and his staff, to obtain electrical connections in Cannon Memorial Park. Consequently, this was the first year that we were able to plan a tree lighting ceremony. Brookline Together Community Events Committee leaders Heather Fulton and Melissa Kilmer worked hard with a group of volunteers from across the neighborhood to decorate the large evergreen tree at the Cannon. Business owners from across Brookline donated money to Brookline Together to help fund the annual installation of lighted wreaths along Brookline Boulevard.

Brookline's business owners and community groups stepped up to host a variety of fun and family-friendly events at Brookline Lights Up. Highlights included free photos with Santa at Melissa Distel Photography, karate demonstrations at Three Rivers Martial Arts, crafts and a local toy drive at 802 Bean Company, and hot chocolate at both ends of the Boulevard - at Brookline Teen Outreach (co-hosted with the local Girl Scouts) and at Amarah Studio and Boutique. Additional kid-friendly events included face painting, glowsticks, and free balloons (handed out by a person dressed in a very large inflatable baseball costume). Businesses and organizations helping with those endeavors included Geekadrome, Fox's Pizza, the Medicine Shoppe, Moonlite Café, A-Boss Opticians, Party Cake Shop, Brookline PK-8 school, and the Brookline Little League Association.

826 Brookline Boulevard hosted a pop-up market. The property owners, Phase 2 Brookline, recently beautifully renovated the vacant property in preparation for attracting new business owners to Brookline's business district. This space hosted an eclectic mix of small businesses including a rescue dog organization, nail color, jerky, candles, jewelry, and vintage eyewear.



The tree at the cannon park glowing for the first time on light up night. Photo courtesy of Amy Fisher, Pawsburgh Photography.



Melissa Distel snaps a shot of a youngster with Santa. Photo courtesy of Heather Fulton.

As the sun set on November 30, a live band (provided by Tree of Life) provided the soundtrack to the ceremonial tree lighting taking place next to the Cannon. Pennsylvania State Representative Dan Miller was on hand to light the tree for the crowd. Actors and animals in a live nativity scene, sponsored by Brookline area churches, looked on as the tree was lit for the first time.

Brookline Lights Up is hosted annually on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

REMEMBERING RECIPES

by: Beth Deller

A recipe that reminds me of my Mt. Washington Grammie! Regardless of the weather outside, Chicken & Biscuits will warm any soul.

CHICKEN & BISCUITS

INGREDIENTS:

4 cups roasted, boneless chicken breasts
5 cups of chicken stock
2 chicken bouillon cubes
1-½ sticks unsalted butter
¼ cup heavy cream
2 cups medium diced carrots, into rounds
5 ounces frozen peas
½ cup minced parsley
Salt and pepper
Ready to eat or frozen biscuits

INSTRUCTIONS:

Bake the chicken and set aside to cool. Dice into bite-sized pieces.

Blanche diced carrots for 2 minutes in boiling water, then immediately rinse them in cold water until cool. Set aside. Heat 1 cup of stock and dissolve the bouillon cubes in the stock. Set aside.

Melt all of the butter in a large pot over medium heat, so it doesn't burn. Add the onions and cook until translucent (about 10 minutes). Stir in the flour and cook for 2 minutes, until it's almost bubbling. Slowly, add all of the stock, stirring constantly. Simmer 1-2 minutes until it thickens.

Add salt and pepper (to taste), peas, carrots, and parsley. Mix in the heavy cream, stirring well. Simmer on low heat until ready to serve.

Bake the biscuits according to the directions.

Serve over the biscuits or the biscuits can accompany the stew.

Please feel free to email us at rememberingrecipes@gmail.com with your favorite family recipes!

JANUARY PROGRAMS AT CLP

CHILDREN

Storytime: Toddler and Preschooler Tales

Mondays, January 6, 13, 27 at 6:30 pm • Thursdays at 11 am
Children and adults will actively explore books that improve vocabulary and expand the imagination. For children 18 months to 5 years and their caregivers.

Kids Club • Thursdays at 3:30 pm

Activities may include crafts, games or technology. For children grades K-5.

Tween Scene • Wednesdays, December 4, 11, & 18 at 3 pm
Looking to have fun and try something new? Especially for students in grades 4-8.

TEENS

Pittsburgh Police Chess Club

Mondays, January 6, 13 & 27 at 3 pm
Join Zone 6 officers for weekly community chess classes!

Game Time • Mondays, January 6, 13 & 27 at 3:30 pm
Compete against other teens with great video games, table top, Pokemon and more! A teen led drop-in program for ages 10-18.

Teen Time • Tuesdays at 3:30 pm
If you're into cool art projects, epic games, music, movies and just chilling out, come kick it at Teen Time!

ADULTS

Power Yoga with Amy 2.0

Wednesdays, January 8 & 22 at 6:30 pm
Wear comfortable clothing, and bring a yoga mat and water bottle. All levels welcome.

Mystery & More Book Discussion • Wed, January 8, 1 pm
Heartburn by Nora Ephron

Curious Selections Book Discussion • Tue, January 26, 6 pm
Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs? by Caitlin Doughty

For future programs and more info on CLP Brookline, visit carnegielibrary.org/clp_location/brookline/.

BROOKLINE'S HISTORY IS A CLICK AWAY

by Dan Kaczmariski

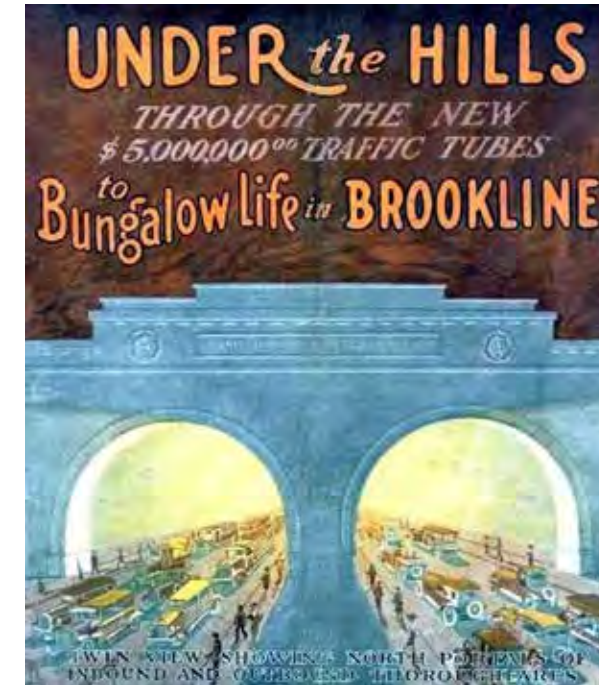
Recently, I was studying a photograph from 1910 on The Brookline Connection website. It showed where Brookline Boulevard splits with Chelton Avenue, which today is the site of the Veterans' Memorial Park and the cannon. In the picture, however, there is no park and no howitzer, because World War I—the "war to end all wars"—wouldn't begin for another four years. Looming on the hill in the background is the unfinished Resurrection Church/School.

Two mouse clicks later, I was watching the original cannon from the Veterans Park being hauled away for scrap metal in 1942 in the World War II effort.

A few clicks more and I was enjoying a Brookline chronological overview—a couple of centuries of historical highlights and photos. At that point, I had savored just a fraction of the marvelous **The Brookline Connection** website.

The website, developed and maintained by Brookline resident historian Clint Burton, is a gem. If you've seen it, you know what I mean. If you haven't, you need to check it out at brooklineconnection.com.

The website's home page has portals to scores of journeys through Brookline's history, including stories about Brookline's origin, local sports past and present, photos and write-ups about Brookline personalities, histories of local schools and



A Freehold Real Estate advertisement from 1924.

churches, trolleys in Brookline, and much more.

The number and quality of the photos is astounding. Clint estimates there are thousands of photos on the site. Woven among the pictorial histories are fascinating narratives that walk you through our community's past and present.

Clint began the website in 1998 at the request of the Brookline Area Community Council's Marlene Curran. He credits much of the site's vitality to contributions of photos and other information from Brookliners and their families. "A lot of Brookline's history is up in attics," says Clint.

If you're in a real hurry, you can take a lively 2-minute video jaunt on the website through Brookline history titled "Brookline Boulevard." And don't miss the real estate ads from the early 1900s, touting Brookline as a residential nirvana—

"A delightful blending of town and country," where "money and nature have gone into partnership to accomplish the founding of the most perfect suburb that could be desired."

Clint also administers the Brookline Connection Facebook page that is continually refreshed as historical photos and stories about Brookline are added. The Facebook page offers the added fun and insight of allowing readers to contribute their own memories and histories to the posts.

FLAG DROP BOX

Thanks to the efforts of Dan McKeever, a Brookline resident and Vietnam Era Veteran, the process of retiring old, worn, or tattered American flags is about to become easier. McKeever spearheaded a grassroots fundraising campaign that resulted in the purchase of a retired flag dropbox. The custom-designed box will serve as both as a repository for old flags and a donation box for the purchase of new American flags for the poles along Brookline Boulevard.

The graphics on the box were customized by McKeever. On the sides, a large eagle is featured. In the lower front, near the donation slot, the stars



and stripes provide a backdrop for the words "Flags should not be tossed in the garbage or shredded." Higher on the front, near the flag slot, is a black façade with the words "All gave some. Some gave all." The solid, colorful unit should be hard to miss once installed.

The box will be located in front of Brookline Teen Outreach Center (520 Brookline Boulevard) near the information sign. Old flags placed in the box will be collected by McKeever for proper ceremonial disposal. All monetary donations will be kept in a fund managed by Brookline Together marked for the purchase of new Brookline Boulevard flags.



Street paving in the early 1900s was often done using Belgian Blocks. This shows construction workers cutting stone blocks at the corner of West Liberty Avenue and Cape May in 1915.



Boring proceeds on the Liberty Tunnels in 1922, as seen from the South Portal entrance along West Liberty Avenue. All images courtesy of The Brookline Connection.

2020 FOOD PANTRY TREE OF LIFE OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

The word "community" comes from the Latin word communis, meaning "common." Tree of Life Open Bible Church has stepped up to create an opportunity so that everyone may participate in such an experience since their purchase of the historic church facility by the cannon just three years ago. Upon purchasing the facility, the congregation made the continuation of ministries like the Brookline Christian Food Pantry and the Clothing Room possible.

Each month, the food pantry distributes groceries to an average of 150 families. Food distribution takes place on the second Saturday of each month from 9-11am (except August—it's the first Saturday because of Brookline Breeze).

A lot of work is invested by many community members to ensure area families, our neighbors, have enough groceries for about 2 weeks. Families will receive nutritious items such as frozen chicken, beef, turkey, as well as bread, eggs, cheese and vegetables and they even get to choose from specialty items like spices, condiments, and more.



The process starts with volunteers like you—yes, you! Members of the community donate non-perishables to the site all month long. Donations are then organized and stored to be made available for the monthly distribution. The week of distribution is really exciting!

On Thursday and Friday before distribution, the Social Hall is a flurry with volunteers sorting and setting up for Saturday. Several pallets of food are delivered from The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank with roughly a ton of fresh, frozen and shelf-stable items two days before distribution. Once the truck comes, those items are sorted. Anything not being used that day will be stored for future distribution. On Saturday morning, volunteers start their day at 7:30am to pray and start packing bags to get a head start on the organized chaos that's about to happen.

At 9am, the doors open for check-in and registration and families wait for their number to be called. While they wait, folks wander over to the clothing room where they "shop" for everything wearable—clothes, shoes, hats, scarves, jewelry, purses. Everything in the clothing room out for distribution has been donated and are given away to those in need, free of charge.

Together, these programs at Tree of Life are able to distribute roughly 25,000 meals and over 500 clothing items on each monthly distribution day. This is all because of the generosity of those in its community and the hardworking volunteers that give in order to strengthen families and invest in the next generation of world changers. If you would like to be a part of this incredible branch of hope, you can call the church office Monday through Friday 10am-2pm for more information at 412-531-0590.



Talk to TIM
Your Brookline Realtor

Happy New-Home Year!
I will be happy to help!

Tim Reitmeyer
treitmeyer@howardhanna.com
412-559-8467
412-833-3600



South Hills and City of Pittsburgh Specialist



SCOOPS

ICE CREAM™

Your Friendly Neighborhood Ice Cream Parlor



DO YOU LOVE COMICS? GAMES? FUN?

THEN COME TO...



NEW COMICS EVERY WEDNESDAY

FRIENDLY, INCLUSIVE STORE AND STAFF

OPEN MON-FRIDAY 11AM-9PM
SATURDAYS 11AM-6PM

VISIT & START A COMIC SUBSCRIPTION TODAY!

534 BROOKLINE BLVD. PITTSBURGH, PA 15226
(412) 833-8300
GEEKADROME@GMAIL

WE HOST MAGIC GAMES, DND EVENTS, AND MORE!

SEE YOU THERE!



Samantha Melhorn
Real Estate Professional




NextHome PPM Realty
1308 Peermont Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15216

412.343.6206 x319 OFFICE
412.453.6289 CELL

smelhorn@ppmrealty.com
www.samanthasellpittsburgh.com

LIFE IN PROGRESS

Seton Center Adult Day Services



SAFE – ENLIVENING – AFFORDABLE

day care for adults with Alzheimer's, other neurodegenerative diagnoses, or other health conditions.

We offer clients:

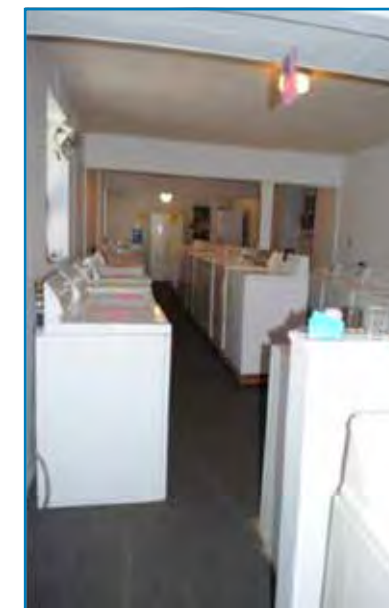
- Socialization with peers and staff
- Intergenerational activities with children from our childcare center
- Access to a registered nurse
 - Attention to each senior, adapting activities to his/her specific needs
 - Breakfast, lunch, snack, dinner

We provide caregivers:

- Time for work or needed household tasks
- Time to rest and recoup
- Collaboration with the nurse and staff on health and behavioral challenges
- Peace of mind, knowing that their loved one is safe and engaged

"Seton Center saved me during Gail's most turbulent months. Our doctor advised that for needed structure she should attend daily. She grew to love it. And I got the advice, support, and rest I needed to make our time together much better." Jim Ruck, Gail's husband

To see the smiles, call to arrange a visit:
412.344.4777 www.setoncenter.com
 1900 Pioneer Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15226
 Hours: M-F: 7 AM – 7 PM; Sat: 8 AM – 5 PM



Sales
Service
Delivery

www.SouthHillsUsedWashersAndDryers.com

South Hills Used Washers & Dryers

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



155 McNeilly Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15226

Gary Henry
412-641-9605




35th
 Anniversary
DR. GUY RESCIENTHALER
 Chiropractor
 Serving The Brookline Area Since 1983

Most Insurances Accepted 723 Brookline Blvd.
412.343.2440 Pittsburgh, PA 15226

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



Spaces
 Places
 Faces
 Pets

Focused on your Pittsburgh photography needs.




BIKES
ACCESSORIES
APPAREL
REPAIRS
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SHOP.



Have A Great Real Estate Day!



Denise Marasco
 Realtor®
 Serving the South Hills Area

412.561.7400 x508
 412.977.5673 (call or text)
Denise.Marasco@howardhanna.com



REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE
 TITLE INSURANCE

Mt Lebanon Office
 701 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228
www.howardhanna.com

No Name Cafe

Open Seven Days A Week
 8:00am-4:00pm

Breakfast Served All Day
 Lunch Served After 11:00am

536 Brookline Blvd.
 412.563.1813



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

Party Cake Shop

partycake1@yahoo.com | www.partycake.com
 706 Brookline Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15226 | 412.531.5322



Clearance
Frames



\$30 & Up

*This offer is void with all insurances or other discounts

A-BOSS
 OPTICIANS

938 Brookline Boulevard | 412-561-0811 | www.abossopticians.com
 SERVING THE SOUTH HILLS SINCE 1971 | WE REPAIR



LOCALLY OWNED
 Fathom Sauce's
THE PUB SAUCE
 HANDMADE IN SMALL BATCHES

TRY SOME TODAY @
THE MOONLITE CAFE!
GET SOME!
THEPUBSAUCE.COM

COLDWELL BANKER SOUTH HILLS
 1630 Washington Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15241-1217

Trust a local agent to sell your home.
 We know your neighborhood.




CARMELA VIVIANO,
 Realtor®
(412) 551-9513



(412) 551-9513 mobile | (412) 833-5405 x276 direct | carmela.viviano@pittsburghmoves.com

HARRY A. READSHAW
 STATE REPRESENTATIVE
 36TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE COMMITTEE
 DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN

1917 Brownsville Road
 Pittsburgh, PA 15210

412.881.4208
 hreadsha@pahouse.net



DONTE'S PIZZERIA

FEATURING HOMEMADE DOUGH & MEATBALLS
 CALZONES • SALADS • PASTA DINNERS • HOAGIES • SIDES


Book Your Event In Our Private Party Room
 Holds Up To 30 People • BYOB

Open 7 Days • Daily Specials • Lunch Deals 11-4

dontespizzeria.com
 6409 Brownsville Rd., South Park
 412-655-2004



Download on the App Store | Download on Google Play



CITY OF PITTSBURGH
 City Council – District 4

ANTHONY COGHILL

510 City County Building
 414 Grant Street Pittsburgh, PA 15219
 412-255-2131 Cell: 412-355-2903

anthonycoghill.pittsburghpa.gov



Why not invite us to your next event?

café | party trays | catering | wholesale

Pitaland Express NOW AVAILABLE:
 Pitaland Express Food Truck

620 BROOKLINE BLVD. PITTSBURGH, PA 15226
 (412) 531-5040 | PITALAND.COM

f t i

Compassionate Counseling
 Mind, Body & Spirit

520 BROOKLINE BLVD
 PGH, PA 15226
 412.447.1876

QUALITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR ADULTS, TEENS & CHILDREN



PROTECT THE THINGS YOU CHERISH THE MOST



- Contact me for a free coverage review
- Evening appointments
- Insurance you can tailor to fit your needs

Phil Behr
 Your Local Agent, located on Brookline Boulevard!
 PBEHR@FarmersAgent.com
 https://agents.farmers.com/pbehr

Call 412.892.9553 today!
 For Home, Auto, Life and Business



New Year, New Awning!

Let us create your vision in 2020! Pittsburgh's #1 Awning Company has got you covered!

WINTER SPECIAL!

CALL NOW TO RECEIVE
20% OFF*
 YOUR NEXT HOME PROJECT!



412.341.4500
 Fully licensed and insured.



The Department of Energy estimates that awnings can reduce solar heat gain in the summer by up to 77%



EverlastAwnings.com PA #140417

*Special expires April 30, 2020 and cannot be combined with any other discounts.



AMEL'S RESTAURANT
 LUNCH • DINNER • SMALL PLATES • WEEKEND BRUNCH • BAR

Brookline & Amel's: A Tradition Since 1958

Mediterranean eatery with a large menu of entrees, seafood & sandwiches, plus a bar and patio.

\$5 OFF a dinner entree with purchase of another of equal or greater value.
 Expires March 31, 2020.

"Best Restaurant (Family) Brookline"
 Trib Total Media

www.amelsrestaurantpgh.com
 435 McNeilly Road, Pittsburgh PA 15226
412-563-3466

f t i



FROM SONOGRAM TO SELFIE

For everything you and your baby need during your pregnancy and delivery, count on St. Clair Hospital to provide a full continuum of safe and family-centered care. Here you'll find some of the region's finest OB/GYN doctors, state-of-the-art technology, and warm and comfortable Labor, Delivery, Recovery and Postpartum suites. At St. Clair, our Level II NICU and specially trained pediatricians are available 24/7 to ensure both mom and baby are always in good hands. Every year, more than 1,500 babies are born to proud parents at St. Clair, consistently ranked as a national leader in quality, patient safety, patient satisfaction and value. To find one of our leading OB/GYN physicians, please visit stclair.org/delivering.



St. Clair Hospital

Delivering Family-Centered Care

Watson Health
100 TOP HOSPITALS
2019

 **MAYO CLINIC CARE NETWORK**
Member

1000 BOWER HILL ROAD • MT. LEBANON, PA 15243 • 412.942.4000 • STCLAIR.ORG