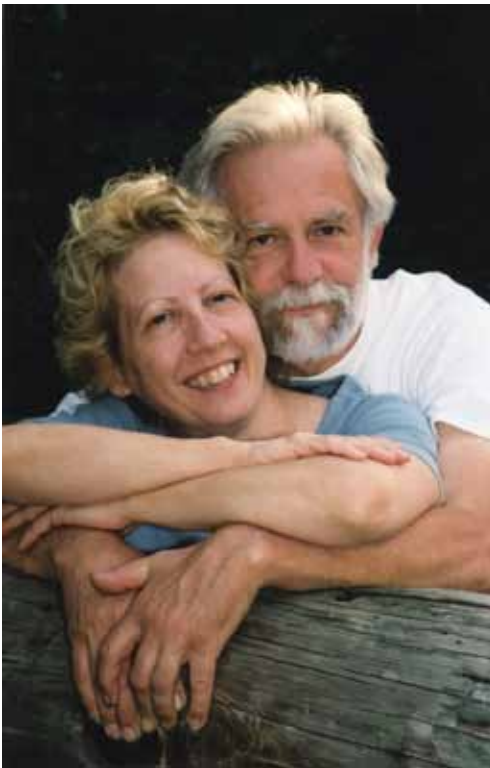


## Long Live the Newsletter

From the editors of *The Brookline*

Welcome back to the March 2015 issue of *The Brookline* newsletter!

Creating a neighborhood newsletter is hard work, and nothing makes that more clear than trying to continue the work of a long-standing editor. Pamela Grabowski was the editor of *The Brookline* for the last seven years and retired from the position this past fall.



*Pamela Grabowski and her husband Michael Grabowski.*

new appreciation for the merchants who chose to open in Brookline.” When asked what kept her motivated year after year, her response was, “the readers.” The newsletter doesn’t serve just current Brookliners, “Subscribers who were long time Brookline residents and had moved out of the area, but wanted to read

about Brookline. They made leaving hard because I knew how much they depended on the newsletter.”

With Pamela retiring, the South Pittsburgh Development Corporation put out a call for volunteers, and we had enthusiastic responses from both long-time readers and new faces looking to do something for their community. Pamela’s work for the past seven years was all volunteer work and SPDC does not have paid staff; the community would have to come together if they wanted their newsletter to survive.

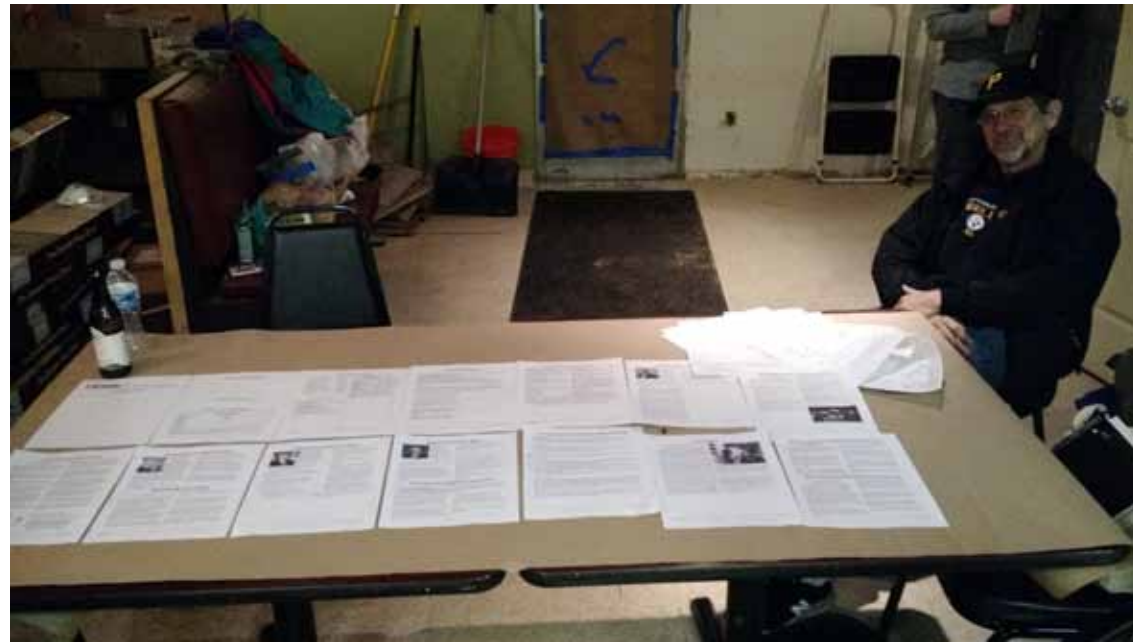
One thing was clear: the work would need to be divided up in order for the group to succeed. One person could not be expected to take on everything that the newsletter requires, so it took several meetings to figure out what people were most interested in. The group met several times over the winter to divide the tasks and put the newsletter back together. We created a new layout, took an inventory of our contributors, reviewed ad costs, and made a plan.

Over the next few months, you will see changes come across the pages of the newsletter. Some you can see in this new issue, like our new two-column format. More will come in the issues after this as we find the rhythm that keeps us moving forward.

We are still dedicated to showcasing the best of Brookline and our love for our neighborhood will keep filling this newsletter with the stories you want to read. If you are interested in getting involved in the rebirth of *The Brookline* newsletter, please email the editorial team at [thebrookline@gmail.com](mailto:thebrookline@gmail.com). Advertising is what allows us to print each issue; if you are interested in advertising in the newsletter, please get in touch with us and tell our over 1,400 readers about your business.

Thanks for your patience while we worked to bring *The Brookline* back to you. Long live *The Brookline*!

# The creation of The Brookline



## Advertising Rates

1/8-page horizontal or vertical, \$30 • 1/4-page horizontal or vertical, \$55 • 1/2-page, \$100 • full-page, \$175. Purchase six months of advertising in advance and receive a 15% discount. Contact [thebrookline@gmail.com](mailto:thebrookline@gmail.com) or [bookkeepingbyp@gmail.com](mailto:bookkeepingbyp@gmail.com) for more information.

We have over 1,400 readers.

Pick up The Brookline at a Boulevard merchant. Look for "The Brookline Available Here" sign in the window.

## The Brookline

**The Brookline Staff**  
 Ryan Askey  
 Jan Beiler  
 Victoria Cumer  
 Amy Fisher  
 Tony Griffith  
 Ericka Hough  
 Dan Kaczmarek  
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 Phone: 412-531-1252

**Deadlines for Submissions and Ads**  
 March 12 for April's Issue  
 April 7 for May's Issue

The Brookline By email is in Full Color! The Brookline is also available by mail. A one year subscription is \$25 for non SPDC members and \$15 for SPDC Members

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# Brookline Updates

## Community Contacts

Pittsburgh Police, Zone 6	412-937-3051
Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak	412-255-2131
Brookline Recreation Center	412-571-3222
Carnegie Library	412-561-1003
State Senator Wayne Fontana	412-344-2551
State Representative Dan Deasy	412-928-9514
State Representative Dan Miller	412-343-3870
State Representative Harry Readshaw	412-881-4208
Brookline Christian Food Bank	412-344-8451
Meals-on-Wheels	412-343-8144
Dollar Energy/Columbia Gas Cap	412-344-4222

## MARCH COMMUNITY MEETINGS

### March 9 Monday

Chamber of Commerce Meeting 6:00PM at Carnegie Library 708 Brookline Blvd.

### March 10 Tuesday

Brookline Block Watch 7:00PM at Magistrate Jim Motznik's office 736 Brookline Blvd.

### March 16 Monday

South Pittsburgh Development Corp. 7:00PM at Brookline Blvd. United Presbyterian Church 1036 Brookline Blvd.



## Community Crimes Zone 6

January	Total	Brookline
Zone 6 Crimes		
Aggravated Assault	6	0
Sexual Assault	1	0
Robbery	7	0
Burglary	15	2
Theft	36	7
Theft from Vehicle	7	1
Stolen Vehicle	2	0

## Fresh Snow on Brookline Boulevard



Photos by Pawsburgh Photography

# Call for Volunteers

- FOREVER HOME BEAGLE RESCUE call 412-304-4034 or BeagleHQ@msn.com Foster homes needed as well as donations of dog food, blankets and bath towels.
- DOGIPOT MAINTENANCE call Lisa at 412-304-3086
- MEALS ON WHEELS sponsored by St. Mark's Lutheran Church call 412-343-8144
- BROOKLINE CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY call Pat Erny 412-344-8451
- CLOTHES CLOSET MINISTRY call Brookline United Presbyterian Church at 412-531-0590
- ANGELS' PLACE Volunteers needed at Angels' Place, Inc. Help us work with children, arts and crafts, organizing and more. If interested please call Stephanie at 412-531-6667. [www.angelsplaceph.org](http://www.angelsplaceph.org)
- OPEN YOUR HEART TO A SENIOR Volunteers needed to assist senior citizens. Call Family Services at 412-661-1670.

Are you unable to volunteer your time right now? You can still help many of these organizations. Meals on Wheels accepts cash and donations of cookies, desserts and bread. Add a grocery store gift card to your shopping cart and send it to the Brookline Christian Food Pantry, c/o Pat Erny, 2918 Pioneer Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15226-2038. Due to cut backs to the food stamp program, more people are depending on the food pantry. If you are able, please consider helping those who are less fortunate.

## OASIS Intergenerational Tutoring

An hour a week helping a child read can change a life! Become an OASIS tutor. Help a child in your neighborhood learn to read. Oasis places volunteers in Brookline PreK-8 and West Liberty K-5.

No teaching experience is necessary. Free training will be given to adults 50 and over. All materials, books, and supplies are provided by OASIS. Ongoing education is offered at no charge.

Training sessions will be on Tuesday, March 10th and Thursday March 12th from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. The training will be located at Macy's Downtown in the Forbes room on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor. If you cannot make it to the trainings on these dates, please call for more information.

To learn more, call John D. Spehar, Pittsburgh OASIS Tutoring Director, at 412-232-2021. This program is operated in partnership with the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council

## Your Winning Retirement Game Plan

by Tom Winschel  
Social Security District Manager, Pittsburgh

To win the retirement game, you need commitment and a plan. Whether you're new to the workforce or getting ready to cross your own career finish line, you'll want to open a "my Social Security" account to see how your hard work is paying off. You can create or access your account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). You can use it to verify your earnings history, get estimates of your future Social Security benefits, and more. It's the place to get the information you need to put together your own winning game plan.

A good NASCAR pit crew keeps its driver on the track, and our "Retirement Estimator" can do the same for your retirement plan. The Estimator offers an instant and tailored estimate of your future Social Security benefits based on your earnings record. You can plug in different anticipated

yearly earnings to discover different retirement options and learn how your benefits could increase if you work longer. Give the Retirement Estimator a test drive today at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator).

Once you've come of age to retire—or if you're just in the planning phase—our quick and convenient online services are in place at [www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline). In as little as 15 minutes, you can speed through our online application. In most cases, once your application is submitted electronically, you're done. There are no forms to sign and usually no documentation is required.

Fine-tune your game plan. Take advantage of our services and resources at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) to optimize your retirement.

# Brookline Recreation Center

## Weight Room and Fitness Center

Our FREE 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. Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:15 am to 8:45 pm. Tuesday and Thursday 1:15 pm to 8:45 pm; Saturday 8:15 am-3:45 pm. Membership card is required.

## Pittsburgh Boxing Club

Workouts Wednesday nights 6:00 pm-8:30 pm. Participants must supply their own hand wraps and work-out clothing. Co-ed program is affiliated with the Pittsburgh Boxing Club. If you wish to join the club for further training, the cost is \$50/year. Fee is paid to the club. Ages 8-over are welcome.

## Yoga

Relax on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 pm -7:45 pm with our certified instructor. Program runs in six-week sessions. Cost per session: \$50 for 6 classes or \$10 a class. Bring your own mat!

## Martial Arts Classes

Ages 10 and up. Class starts at 6:15 pm and runs to 6:45 pm. Call Center for days.

## Kinder Sports

A free program for children ages birth to school age on Wednesday mornings starting at 10:00 am. This program includes fun time in the gym, crafts and storytime! Parents sign up to bring a snack and drink to share. Come join the fun interacting with your child and get to know other adults with small children in the neighborhood.

## Walk Fit Class

Monday's beginners class on Mondays at 1:15 pm. This is a 1-mile indoor walk class ending with light weights and joint conditioning. Bring water and a towel!

## Walk Fit Two-Mile Class

Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning at 5:45 pm. Please remember your light weights for the second part of class. Bring water and a towel. Call the Center for more information.

## Midnight Madness Basketball

An all-night basketball tournament and skills competition for ages 12 and under will be held at Magee Recreation Center on March 20. Children will meet at Brookline Recreation Center at 8:00 pm, travel by van to Magee Recreation Center and be returned to Brookline Rec Center the following morning approximately 7:15 am. It is required that a parent drop off and pick up the children at Brookline Rec Center. Tournament will be limited to 15 participants on a first-come first-served basis. Cost: \$15 per child. Food and drinks will be provided. Call for more information.

## Fishing at North Park

Boys and girls ages 10-14 are invited to join Jon for Fishing at North Park on Saturdays starting April 25<sup>th</sup> through May 16<sup>th</sup>. We'll meet at the Brookline Rec Center at 9:00 am and be back at 12:30 pm. Cost: One-time fee of \$5. Fishing equipment will be provided. You are also welcome to bring your own equipment and be responsible for it. Limited to 10 children on a first-come first-served basis. Children are encouraged to bring a lunch or snack.

Call the Center for more information: 412-571-3222



## St. Patrick's Day

March 17, 2015

## First Day of Spring

March 20, 2015



# Early Pioneers Who Settled

by Clint Burton

Editor's note: Clint Burton developed and maintains The Brookline Connection ([www.brooklineconnection.com](http://www.brooklineconnection.com)) a wonderful website of Brookline history in word and image. What follows is the first in a series tracing the genesis and growth of the Brookline area.

During formation of the Pittsburgh area in the 1760s, most settlement occurred along the Three Rivers near Fort Pitt. A few hardy traders ventured beyond the fort's safety.

An old Indian trail led to a small farm and trading post--called Chimney Town--near present-day McNeilly Road and Midland Street.

In 1769, John Penn ordered the surveying of a 5,000-acre tract around Fort Pitt, including a portion of the South Hills along Saw Mill Run Creek. This tract was known as Penn's Manor and included the projected boundaries of the Town of Pittsburgh.

After the American Revolution, vast tracts of land in Southwestern Pennsylvania were made available to Militiamen of the Commonwealth as payment for their wartime service. These men fought under General George Washington and their grants varied in size, determined by rank and length of service.

By 1787, several warrants had been filed in Philadelphia. Other claims followed as late as the 1830s. Official surveys led to the [first recorded maps of the South Hills area](#).

These maps identify the landowner, dates when the parcel was warranted and surveyed, property dimensions, patent information and the title that was given the claim by the deed holder.

The principal owners of Brookline real estate were **Joseph McDermutt, Joseph McDowell, Robert Shawhen, David Kennedy, Nathaniel Plumer** and **John Hughey**.



Joseph McDermutt's deed to Hermit's Cell

McDermutt's 240-acre claim, which comprises much of the original 19th Ward, was called "The Hermits Cell." To the west was Shawhen's 50-acre parcel called "Shawhen's Square." Plumer's 24 acres and Hughey's 10 acres were unnamed. Plumer's legacy survives in the naming of the creek that runs along West Liberty Avenue--Plumer's Run.

McDowell's 388-acre "Milltown" covered the land between Edgebrook and Whited Streets, along with the area east of Witt Street. To the south of Milltown was Kennedy's 190-acre "Kennedon," which covered the remainder of East Brookline and the land south to McNeilly Road.

Penn Manor's southernmost east-west boundary was known as the Manor Line. It ran along present-day LaMarido Street. Individual landowners north of the line are not covered by the available warrantee records. Maps from 1876 list the majority of that 600-plus acre tract as the property of **Elizabeth Paul**.

When the veterans filed their warrants in Philadelphia, they were issued a property deed showing the claim boundaries and detailing terms of the agreement. The warrant was dated and signed by the President of Pennsylvania's Supreme Executive Council.

On June 1, 1787, when Joseph McDermutt staked his claim to "The Hermits Cell," his deed was signed and sealed by none other than Benjamin Franklin, Esquire.

These were the hardy settlers, veterans of the War of Independence, whose land claims formed the nucleus of what would one day become the Community of Brookline.

# Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak



The Departments of Public Works and Innovation and Performance are in the midst of several projects to improve the way we treat City streets during snow events and communicate with residents about our snow treatment progress. On January 16th, the City launched a website ([pittsburghpa.gov/snow](http://pittsburghpa.gov/snow)) that provides the public with

comprehensive information about the City's snow treatment efforts. One of the features of this website is a snow plow tracker that allows users to see the current location of all Public Works plows and view the movement history of those vehicles as they treat City streets during the storm.

Additionally, Public Works is in the process of using advanced optimization software to create updated snow routes for

each maintenance division. With these new routes in place, the City will be able to better target resources depending on storm intensity and maximize the efficiency of our snow treatment efforts.

Public Works will be piloting new optimized snow routes during the first quarter of 2015 with the goal to have updated routes city-wide by the end of 2015. In parallel, Public Works will be working with researchers at Carnegie Mellon University to complement our snow route optimization efforts. As part of this project, Carnegie Mellon will help the City develop in-cab turn-by-turn directions based on our new routes using mobile technology.

Carnegie Mellon will also help Public Works identify how the baseline snow treatment plans can be adjusted to better address real world conditions such as storm intensity and equipment availability to ensure the most efficient treatment plan for each unique storm event.

# Old Notes By Old People

by Cliff Gorski

I think we are all ready for spring to start. I am. When this was written, we had a few mild snow blasts but nothing that would amount to the snowfall totals dumped on the Northeast this winter. With snow brings car cleaning, cautious driving and sidewalk shoveling. I'm fortunate now to have a son who takes care of the "shoveling" and its summer cousin "grass cutting", but in the 70's I would pray for snow to shovel. It's how I earned my bubble gum money in the winter. As we moved into January and February, I would sit each night by the television hoping Joe DeNardo would call for two to three inches or more. His accuracy was my bread and butter. If we got a good dump of the white stuff and school was cancelled, I would hit pavement.

However, the house rule was that I had to shovel our walk first. If my father came home from work and saw that I cleared everyone's walk but his, my shoveling days would be over. He also had an unspoken rule. He would say, "You're not getting paid for cleaning our walk, you live here."

There was also a third rule. I was never allowed to accept money from an elderly lady who lived two doors away. She tried, I refused and she found another way. She would fill a bag up with candy and give it to me as I finished her walk. I was just happy with that.

On a good day, I could hit at least ten houses. Usually, somebody would see me shoveling a walk and ask me to do theirs next. I charged \$2 a pavement. So, at the end of the day, I would walk home with about \$20. Most of that would be gladly exchanged for candy, comic books and other items at Newsies or Bickertons.

Last winter, we were a little late in clearing our walk. In the early evening, a woman came to the door and told me she would shovel it for \$20. I offered her a bag of candy. She was not amused.

# Representative Harry Readshaw



Here are two programs that will hopefully keep you and your family safer as you travel. If you have any questions, please check the websites listed or call my office at (412) 881-4208 or visit us at 1917 Brownsville Road.

**Yellow Dot Program**  
Pennsylvania's Yellow Dot Program allows an accident

victim to provide necessary information to first responders, even if unable to speak.

Placing a yellow dot in your vehicle's rear window alerts first responders to check your glove compartment for vital information to ensure you receive the medical attention you need.

To participate, you must complete a personal information form with your name, contact information, emergency contact information, medical history and medications, allergies and your doctors' names.

Forms are available by calling or visiting my office, or at [www.yellowdot.pa.gov](http://www.yellowdot.pa.gov).

**Pennsylvania's seat belt law requires:**

Children younger than 4 must be secured properly in an approved safety seat, in either the front or back seat of a

vehicle.  
Children 4 to 7 must be in an approved booster seat.

Children 8 to 17 must use seat belts.

Police can stop you if they believe children are not properly secured. You can be fined even if you have not broken any other traffic regulation.

The law applies to all drivers, even out-of-state motorists.

Limited exceptions can be made for medical reasons or because of a child's size.

Here are some guidelines to ensure correct sizing and maximum protection:

Infants should be in rear-facing child safety seats until they weigh at least 20 pounds AND are at least 1 year old.

Toddlers older than 1 year and between 20 pounds and 40 pounds can be in forward-facing child safety seats, or in rear-facing convertible seats, if the child has not reached the maximum rear-facing weight.

Children 4 to 7, or about 40 pounds to 80 pounds, should be in a booster seat and restrained with lap and shoulder belts every time they ride. Adult safety belts alone do not adequately protect children this size from injury in a crash.

Children weighing more than 80 pounds and at least 8 years old can usually fit correctly in lap/shoulder belts. When the child is sitting all the way back against the vehicle seat, the lap belt should fit across the hips, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should cross the center of the shoulder.

For more information, including how to find a location to properly fit and secure your car seat or to borrow a seat, visit [www.pakidstravelsafe.org](http://www.pakidstravelsafe.org).

# Senator Wayne Fontana



On January 6th, I was proud to be joined at the Capitol by my family and friends as I took the oath of office to start another term in the State Senate. I am extremely grateful for the support given to me by my constituents in the 42nd Senatorial District, including the great neighborhood of Brookline, and the faith and

confidence you have bestowed in me to continue representing you. Also, I am looking forward to serving as Chairman of the Senate Democratic Caucus and am excited to serve as the Democratic Chair of the Urban Affairs and Housing Committee.

The voters in November were very clear – they are tired of political gamesmanship and want bipartisan solutions to our state's most pressing problems. Even though the previous administration saddled us with a daunting budget deficit, I am confident our new governor can help us find common ground and craft the best possible solutions to our most serious problems.

While our region as a whole has made significant progress over the past decade, there are still some glaring issues that need to be addressed. One of the biggest issues is the

lopsided tax burden that property owners continue to face. I have again authored legislation that would require large non-profits to pay their fair share of the local burden that currently sits square on the backs of individual homeowners.

The start of a new legislative session, with a new governor, hopefully allows us to have a genuine and serious conversation about the issue of tax fairness along with other important issues. I will continue advocating for investments in economic development, investments that help put people to work, and help rebuild struggling neighborhoods, as well as equipping job seekers with the training they need to succeed in today's economy. Improving tax fairness should also allow us to properly and more adequately fund our schools.

I encourage all my constituents to contact me to discuss legislative issues and express opinions and suggestions on matters before the General Assembly by either contacting my office or emailing me directly at [Fontana@pasenate.com](mailto:Fontana@pasenate.com). My News & Views will continue to be distributed on a weekly basis and my Special Edition JOBS on a monthly basis. Anyone wishing to receive these editions can sign up on my website at [www.senatorfontana.com](http://www.senatorfontana.com). Additionally, the front window at my Brookline office will continue to list job openings available throughout our region.

Thank you again for the confidence you have placed in me and I look forward to continuing to serve you!

# Representative Dan Miller



As your state Representative, I am committed to helping individuals with disabilities or mental health issues increase their independence and opportunities. This effort continues to be one of my key legislative priorities and I promise to continue to push Harrisburg for progress on all fronts.

I also want to make sure that local families are informed and aware of services and information that can help them and their loved ones on a daily basis.

Accordingly I am very proud to hold our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Children & Youth Disability and Mental Health Summit on March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at Beth El Congregation at 1900 Cochran Road. This free event will offer a massive resource fair on day one and workshops throughout both days. These sessions will cover a wide array of relevant issues for individuals, parents, family members, service providers, and professionals (including continuing education credits) alike.

Below is our tentative list of workshops. Additional information and registration can be found on my webpage at [www.pahouse.com/miller](http://www.pahouse.com/miller). You can also visit RepDanMiller on facebook to keep updated!

**Wednesday, March 11**

10 a.m.: Stand up Advocacy

1 p.m.: Navigating Early Intervention **OR** Special Needs in Court

2 p.m.: Warning Signs of Suicide & the Stigma of Talking About Them **OR** Transportation Assistance

3 p.m.: Family Stress: Parenting a Special Needs Child Together **OR** Post-Secondary Education Supports

4 p.m.: Financial Planning & the ABLE Act **OR** K-12 Education: The 4-1-1 on IEPs and SAP

5 p.m.: Bullying: The Impact on Kids with Special Needs **OR** Waivers & Insurance: Financial Reality of Adulthood

6 p.m.: Survival Guide to Life After High School

**Thursday, March 12**

10 a.m.: Federal Mental Health Overhaul

11 a.m.: Local Families in the News

12 p.m.: Legislative Panel: State Policies on Disability & Mental Health

# Community Events & Announcements

## Carnegie Library of Brookline March Events

### Book Discussions

- Monday, March 16th, 6:00-7:00 pm. The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon.
- Wednesday, March 11th, 1:00-2:00 pm. Haunted Ground by Erin Hart.
- Thursday, March 26th, 6:00-7:00 pm at Cannon Coffee. A comic book party with a theme of "Wonder Woman" month. Come read an assortment of different Wonder Woman comics!

### Kids Programs

- Wacky Wednesdays. 3:30-4:30 pm. Ages 5-11. Explore super science kits, do crafts, and play games.
- Super Science. A special program, Saturday March 14th, 2:00 pm. Children grades K-5 can learn about robot basics through exploration of a Super Science kit featuring Beebots.

### Tween Programs

- Tween Workshop Tuesdays. 3:00-4:30 pm. Tweens ages 7 to 11. Programs will vary weekly, with a focus on Minecraft, crafts, writing groups, and science fun.

### Teen Programs

- Teen Time. Thursdays, 3:00-5:00 pm. Art, games, movies and more, including the National Stem Video Game Challenge: A workshop that will allow teens to gain access to Gamestar Mechanic Premium and learn how to create their own games to be entered into the National competition.
- Electronics Club. Saturday, March 28th, 2:00-4:00 pm. Teens can try hands-on electronics projects at the new electronics club, taught by two professional engineers!

### Adult Programs

- Let's Speak English. Tuesdays, 6:45-7:45 pm. Is English not your native language? Take part in casual and fun conversations to practice your skills!
- Adult Game Night. Tuesdays, 5:45-7:45 pm. Take the night off for friendly board game competition.
- Power Yoga with Amy. Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm. Free, no registration required!
- Movie SHOWdown. Tuesday, March 10th, 6:00-7:00 pm. Will focus on the original vs. the remake of Clash of the Titans
- Crochet and Knitting Fun! March 7, 1:00-3:00 pm. (March 21st is cancelled.)

CLP - Brookline  
708 Brookline Blvd. • 412-561-1003

## The Heritage Players

Brookline is one of the few Pittsburgh neighborhoods that can boast a robust community theatre. Two years ago, after 16 successful years in Bethel Park, the Heritage Players took up residence at the Seton Center at 1900 Pioneer Avenue.

Since 1997, the group has staged over 90 productions, including comedies, dramas, musicals, cabaret performances, variety shows, and dinner theatre.

Funding is always an issue for non-profit community theatre. To continue to perform, the Heritage Players need community support.

A \$25 season pass gets you a ticket to three main stage productions. Per performance, that's about the cost of a movie.

For \$30, you can become an annual member. In addition to a ticket to each main stage performance, it gives you a say in decisions made by the company and 10 percent off any classes taken. Board meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Seton Center and are open to the public.

For \$50 and up, you can be a patron. Patrons receive at least one ticket per production and their tax-deductible support receives recognition in production programs.



Heritage Players production of Little Women from the 2014 season

Continued on p.11

# What's Hot in Brookline: Pitaland

by Joseph Samuel Rodgers

The weather outside may be cold but our topics are hotter than ever. To celebrate the return of The Brookline, we found it fitting to return to one of 2014's hottest topics, the newly renovated **Pitaland**. Fellow Brookline resident and Central Catholic student Lance Robertson joined me for dinner with **Pitaland** owner Joe Chahine to talk about **Pitaland's** new chapter as a bakery café.

"Since our coffee shop opened and the sidewalks were finished, we've been busier than ever," Mr. Chahine told us. Normally I order a gyro with extra sauce, but Mr. Chahine encouraged me to try a chicken schwarma sandwich made with hormone free chicken and a special garlic sauce. My father's favorite saying at home, "try it, you'll like it", was actually true! Lance ordered fresh-cut French fries with a mayo aioli dipping sauce. For our post-dinner interview, the three of us snacked on cheese and meat flatbread, made with a special house blend of cheese, ground meat, and spices. We certainly didn't leave hungry.

The coffee shop addition wasn't **Pitaland's** first major expansion. Chahine came to the United States from Lebanon in 1974 and helped his brother run the store. In 1980, Mr. Chahine took over the business and moved it to their current location ten years later. The best selling product remains their bread. Pitaland ships bread to fourteen states on Monday's. Lance was curious to know how people around the country found out about a grocery store in Brookline. "They found our website and they love the way our bread tastes," Mr. Chahine responded. **Pitaland** also supplied 400 trays of baklava for Oakmont's Greek Food Festival and 125 for Holy Cross.

**Pitaland** also has a large market share in the Pittsburgh

Continued from p.10

## The Heritage Players 2015 Season

**Electra** March 13-15 and 20-22. Adapted by Jay Breckenridge from "Electra" by Jean Giraudoux. Based on the classical Greek original by Sophocles, this is a modernized, more whimsical version. A young woman with real "issues" with her mother seeks the truth regarding her father's death and works to bring the perpetrators to justice. Friday and Saturday performances: 8:00 pm. Sunday matinees: 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$12.00 at the door.

**To Kill a Mockingbird** May 22-24 and 29-31. Tickets: \$12 (Auditions: March 15-16)



From left: Lance Robertson, Joseph Samuel Rodgers, and Joe Chahine

region. Bread is baked six days a week from 5:00AM-3:00PM and is distributed to supermarkets throughout the region. Mr. Chahine checks in on his family who run the store daily, and he spends his afternoons visiting his customers. "Brookline Boulevard is my home," he remarked.

While **Pitaland** has expanded to include a full menu and sit-down dining experience, the same friendly atmosphere exists. "We all have gotten bigger, you and our store, but things haven't changed," he said. Stop in to **Pitaland** and try one of their menu items or daily rotating specials. Joe Chahine and his staff are living examples why it's mighty fine to dine in Brookline!

Hours of operation: Monday-Saturday, 8:00AM-7:00PM and Sunday 10:00-4:00PM 412-531-5040

**The Secret Garden** (Musical) October 16-18 and 23-25. Tickets: \$15

### Plus

**Peter Pan** (Disney) July 31-August 2 and August 7-9. Tickets: \$10; children under 18, \$7

**Annual Summer Broadway Revue** August 15-16. Tickets: \$10

Theatre classes for all age groups begin in April. All productions and classes are held at the Seton Center.

For more information visit [www.bphp.org](http://www.bphp.org) or email [heritageplayers@yahoo.com](mailto:heritageplayers@yahoo.com)

# What's Happening at Pittsburgh Brookline PreK-8

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by Amy Cornelius Dembosky  
Parent Volunteer

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Happy March from the students, faculty, and staff of Pittsburgh Brookline PreK-8! We hope that you are staying warm. We are also very glad that the *BrookLine* is back! Thank you to everyone who is working so hard to make that possible.

It has been a busy few months since our last article. Our students are participating in so many exciting activities! In the fall semester, eighth graders had the chance to work with the Dancing Classrooms instructor. A performance was held at the end of the experience for parents and families to come and see what the students learned. This year, our fifth graders have had the opportunity to try out ballroom dance! We can't wait to see what they learn by the end of the unit.

The New Year meant the restart of some of our sports activities, too, like girls' and boys' basketball, with games held twice a week with other Pittsburgh middle schools. This year, our middle school students have the opportunity to participate in clubs that meet once a month. Topics include online math games, Challenge 24, theater and drama, and buddy reading, where students read to our PreK children.

Thank you to all of our teachers and staff for working hard to make this possible.

Our Parent Teacher Association has been busy. In December, they held an evening activity for students in grades K-5 called Rockin' Around the Tree. Students were able to dance with Santa, have pictures taken in a photo booth, make crafts, shop at the holiday shop, and have a snack of milk and cookies. All who attended had a great time!

Upcoming PTA events will spotlight science for the spring semester. Kindergarten, first and second graders will be working together on science activities from the district's science calendars. Fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth graders will be able to participate in our second annual science fair.

Keep reading the *BrookLine* to hear more about how Pittsburgh Brookline PreK-8 students are growing and learning!

# What's Going on at Pittsburgh West Liberty K-5

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Deonne Arrington, Principal  
Julie Sumper, Social Worker  
Teresa Grusong-Adams, First Grade Teacher

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We've been very busy over here at Pittsburgh West Liberty. Once again, the talents of our students, who participated in the dance competition, were evidenced when they "cha cha'd" their way to gold status in the December competition at Allderdice High School. We are very proud of our students! They will be competing in May for the final competition. Our awesome physical education teacher, Ms. Kathleen Fitzgerald, is preparing our students for the Jump Rope for Heart Event. The students are collecting pledges to jump rope during a specific time while also raising money for heart awareness. The children are always excited to participate in this fundraiser. It's a great way to kick off the New Year!

In February we had another Family Bingo Night on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. We had an enjoyable time mingling with other students, families, and staff especially during the cold winter months. There were plenty of bingo games as well as treats to eat.

Reading is Fundamental joined us again. The children always enjoy when RIF visits. The presenter reads stories to the children and does an activity with them based on the story. The children are then given books of their choice at their reading levels to take home. It's a wonderful way to encourage reading both at school and at home.

In March we are having a math night for our parents and students. It is an opportunity for parents to see how children learn math by playing games. Parents will be given the opportunity to learn different ways to help their child at home while having fun.

Lastly, this month our students will be starting DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education). A Pittsburgh Police Officer will visit our fifth grade students and discuss with them the importance of making good choices.

That's all for now. Remember, Pittsburgh West Liberty is the place "Where Learners Excel and Character Counts."