

West Liberty Cycles

by Dan Kaczmariski

Rob Riddell, owner of West Liberty Cycles, has a sense of history. He knew the former location of his business on West Liberty Avenue had housed a bicycle shop since the 1960s. But it got to the point where history was the only point in favor of staying there. He says inadequate traffic control made the road “a no-man’s land; scary and dangerous.”

So West Liberty Avenue’s loss became Brookline Boulevard’s gain. West Liberty Cycles opened its doors on the Boulevard in February. Rob says he’s very pleased with the move, that the shop’s existing customers are finding its new location just fine, and that the shop has already seen a spike in new business.



Rob Riddell, owner of West Liberty Cycles

Pawsburgh Photography

Rob’s passion for bicycles started early. By the time he was 11, he was racing mountain bikes. During his sophomore year at Pitt in mechanical engineering he realized what he really wanted to do was to own a bike shop. After working in the trade for a while, in 2009 he became owner of West Liberty Cycles.

He says the move to the Boulevard meshes perfectly with the shop’s vision. “West Liberty Cycles makes an effort to maintain itself as a neighborhood-oriented bike shop,” says Rob, “as opposed to some of our competitors who try to sell mostly road bikes or mostly mountain bikes or BMX bikes.

A painful amount of the bike industry really just ignores the neighborhood bike shop mentality at this point.”

While definitely being there for patrons interested in the pricier higher-performance bikes, West Liberty Cycles’ mission is to reach out to the whole spectrum of cyclists, from new to experienced. “Heck,” says Rob, “we were a neighborhood-focused bike shop down on West Liberty Avenue and it’s much nicer to actually be in a neighborhood.”



West Liberty Cycles

Pawsburgh Photography

If you’re interested in finding bike routes around the area, Rob is a good man to talk to. He grew up outside of Philadelphia, but fell in love with Western Pennsylvania when he came to Pitt. His special personal interest is mountain biking.

“This area has more places to go for a 15 to 20 mile ride than any other region in Pennsylvania. Within 1/2 hour of downtown Pittsburgh, there are probably a dozen places you can go. There’s so much park space—so many state parks, county parks, city parks.”

Rob is in his 30s and talking to him gives you a sense of energy and the feeling that his shop will be a tremendous asset to the Brookline community—not just in terms of sales but also in the vibrancy it will bring to the neighborhood.

“We already see a healthy amount of people riding around the neighborhood,” he says, “but we hope to see more.

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Continued from West Liberty Cycles on p.1

Brookline is big. It sprawls. You can live 10 or 12 blocks off the Boulevard. Cycling is about five times faster than walking, even for the average person. If we get people in the neighborhood thinking about just getting on their bike to come get coffee or a taco, hopefully it will be very positive for the other businesses around here.”

801 Brookline Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412-343-4230
bikes@westlibertycycles.com
<http://www.westlibertycycles.com>

Hours: Monday through Thursday 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Friday and Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm



West Liberty Cycles

Pawsburgh Photography

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 or bookkeepingbyp@gmail.com for more information.

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Deadlines for Submissions and Ads

April 7 for May’s Issue
May 7 for June’s Issue

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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

April 13 Monday

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

April 14 Tuesday

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

April 20 Monday

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



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Community Crimes Zone 6

February		
Zone 6 Crimes	Total	Brookline
Aggravated Assault	7	1
Robbery	3	0
Burglary	17	8
Theft	31	5
Theft from Vehicle	14	12
Stolen Vehicle	5	2

Theft Alert

The Pittsburgh Police indicated a dramatic increase in the number of theft-from-vehicle reports in Brookline this February and March—25 incidents between February 1 and March 22. According to the police, most of the thefts involved vehicles left unlocked with valuables in sight.

Of the 25 incidents, 16 were in the area roughly surrounded by Whited and Jacob Streets and the lower Brookline Boulevard.

To protect against such crimes, the police advise the following:

- Always park in a well-lit area;
- Lock all doors and close all windows;
- Remove valuables from the passenger compartment and items in plain sight, including GPS units, satellite radios, laptops, cell phones, briefcases, prescription medication, clothing, shoes, checkbooks, wallets, and purses;
- Lock your glove box and any internal compartments;
- Never leave any firearm inside the vehicle;
- Activate an alarm or have an alarm system installed by a professional.



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412-531-5322

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

Call for Volunteers

- 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.angelsplacepgh.org
- BROOKLINE CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY call Pat Erny 412-344-8451
- CLOTHES CLOSET MINISTRY call Brookline United Presbyterian 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, blankets and bath towels.
- MEALS ON WHEELS sponsored by St. Mark's Lutheran Church call 412-343-8144
- 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.

Volunteer Fair

Do you have time and talent you'd like to share as a volunteer? A number of local organizations will be at the Brookline Branch of Carnegie Library to tell you more about the work they do, answer your questions, and help you register if you're interested. Saturday, April 18, 11 am – 1 pm.

The End of a Tradition

Message from the Brookline Chamber of Commerce

The days are gone when families would pack a picnic basket and enjoy a day at Kennywood with neighbors, schoolmates and teammates, and meet with community people. While children enjoyed the rides and games with friends, parents would sit on benches chatting with people they hadn't seen for a year.

The Brookline Chamber of Commerce has been sponsoring this event since the early 1950's, starting at West View Amusement Park. The ticket sales benefited community activities the Chamber sponsored, such as a Little League team, the Halloween Parade, Easter Egg Hunts, Christmas Lighting and the American Flags along the boulevard.

Regrettably, the Chamber has decided to no longer sponsor this event. Low ticket sales and attendance have resulted in minimal benefits to the community. Sad to see history gone.

Meet and Greet with Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak

On Thursday, April 16, the Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Project (PUMP) will hold a meet-and-greet with City Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak at Cannon Coffee from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This will be an opportunity to connect with your City Council representative in a casual atmosphere. The discussion will cover topics important to City District 4 and the greater Pittsburgh region. Time will be reserved for questions and answers.

PUMP's mission is to make Pittsburgh the most dynamic and diverse place by engaging, educating, and mobilizing all young people to effect change in our community. It envisions a Pittsburgh where young people have an active role in advocating and caring for our City, making Pittsburgh the first choice for everyone to live, work, and play. Visit www.pump.org to learn more.

Brookline Recreation Center

Weight Room and Fitness Center

Our FREE state-of-the-art weight room and fitness center includes 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.

Walk Fit Class

Beginners' class Mondays, 1:15 pm. A 1-mile indoor walk class ending with light weights and joint conditioning. Bring water and a towel!

Walk Fit Two-Mile Class

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 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.

Yoga

Relax on Tuesdays from 6:15 pm to 7:15 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!

New Restorative Yoga

For those who've been hesitant about trying yoga. Learn to use supported relaxation as a stress neutralizer. Experience deep mental and physical relaxation while using props to support the body in yoga postures. There will be two free introductory classes on Thursdays April 2 and 9. A new session will begin on Thursday, April 16 costing \$50 for 6 weeks or \$10 a class. A great opportunity for those with bad backs, hips, and knees to help find stress release.

Kid Yoga!

New program starting soon for children 4-9 years old. Dates and times to be announced. Please call for more info.

Martial Arts Classes

Ages 10 and up. 6:15 pm 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.

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 through May 16. 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.

Beginners Weight Lifting Class

Join Joe for a Beginners Weight Lifting Class running six consecutive Mondays starting April 13. Includes Circuit Training with and without weights. Learn to use all the machines, warrior ropes and kettle bells. Some Cross Training will also be taught. Free to city residents. For more information, call Coach Joe.

Basketball Clinic

Two clinics for kids 6-8 years old and 9-11 years old begin in April. Sign up now!

Kickball for Kids

Mondays starting April 6 for ages 4-6. Thursdays starting April 9 for ages 7-9. 4:30-5:30 pm. Tennis shoes are the only thing necessary to have fun with this free, all-inclusive program.

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

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BROOKLINE PLUMBER

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How Brookline Came to Be

by Clint Burton

From the initial South Hills land grants in the 1780s, the area that comprises the Community of Brookline has been part of four distinct municipalities.

When Allegheny County was erected in 1788, the largest municipality was St. Clair Township, named in honor of General Arthur St. Clair. The northern border of the township ran along the Monongahela River, stretching from the mouths of Chartiers and Streets Run Creeks. The eastern and western boundary followed the course of these waterways 15 miles to the south.

St. Clair Township encompassed over 100 square miles. This made road maintenance and travel difficult. In 1805, Brookline's Nathaniel Plummer was elected one of the three township commissioners. The following year, residents voted to divide into two separate entities, Upper and Lower St. Clair.

Within the boundaries of Lower St. Clair Township were the present-day communities of West End, Mount Washington, South Side, Beechview, Brookline, Banksville, Beltzhoover, Mount Oliver, Bon Air, Knoxville, Allentown, Carrick, Overbrook and St. Clair Village.

In the 1830s, the main population centers were along the Monongahela River, where factory production and coal mining were booming in the areas of Temperanceville, South Pittsburgh, Birmingham and East Birmingham.

These heavily populated and industrialized areas soon left the township to form their own boroughs. Another large parcel of territory was ceded in 1844, when Baldwin Township was chartered.

To the south of Coal Hill, the rolling terrain of West Liberty and the other nearby communities along Saw Mill Run were all that remained of Lower St. Clair Township.

By 1860, this terrain was still a sparsely populated farming region. In the Brookline area, the largest of the farms were operated by John and Elizabeth Paul, Richard Knowlson and

Philip Fischer. These families lived off the land and sold their surplus crops at the markets in Pittsburgh.

The coal mining industry moved into the South Hills in the mid-1860s, leading to the first real migration of workers and families. As the region's population and wealth increased, the emerging communities in Lower St. Clair began the process of forming separate municipalities.

West Liberty Borough was chartered on March 7, 1876. Bon Air, Allentown, Knoxville, Mount Oliver and Carrick soon followed, leaving St. Clair Village as the last vestige of Lower St. Clair Township.

The 1880 census lists the population of West Liberty Borough at 865, the majority of which lived along Saw Mill Run near the mining centers. Several homes and businesses were also located along West Liberty Avenue, which ran through the center of the borough.

At the turn of the century, the installation of streetcar service brought a large population surge to West Liberty. Land development firms began laying out the town of Brookline in 1905.

Although originally envisioned as a distinct municipality, Brookline was never incorporated. West Liberty Borough was annexed into the City of Pittsburgh on January 4, 1908. The new 19th Ward was then divided, along the line of West Liberty Avenue, into the neighborhoods of Beechview and Brookline.



Lower St. Clair and surroundings in the early 1800's

City Council in a Nutshell

From the Office of Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak



Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am, the nine members of City Council meet to discuss the business of our City and pass legislation. These meetings are where the rubber meets the road in American democracy!

A public comment session starts each meeting.

Neighbors speak for three minutes on subjects relevant to the work of Council. To sign up, call the City Clerk's Office: 412-255-2138 or go to <http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/cityclerk/schedule>.

At Tuesday's regular meetings of Council, Members can present proclamations to recognize those making a positive impact in our City. Afterwards, new bills are introduced or voted on. Each member's vote becomes part of the public record. It takes five votes out of nine to pass. The Mayor has veto power, but Council can override with a two-thirds vote (six members out of nine). If the mayor takes no

action on a bill, it becomes law after 10 days.

Bills are discussed at "Standing Committee" meetings on Wednesdays where Councilmembers, experts, or department directors discuss benefits and disadvantages. This meeting is a series of meetings of each Council committee. I chair the Finance and Law Committee, which oversees how Council spends money. For a list of the committees, see <http://pittsburghpa.gov/council/committees>. Councilmembers can amend legislation, vote for preliminary approval, hold the bill, or table it for a later date. Some of our Wednesday meetings have lasted for eight hours!

Meetings are streamed (www.pittsburghpa.gov/lic) and broadcast live on Comcast channel 13 and Verizon channel 44, with a 7:00 pm re-play. Each weekend, meetings repeat at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm for the Tuesday (aired Saturdays) and Wednesday meetings (aired Sundays).

Old Notes By Old People

by Cliff Gorski

I was talking with somebody the other day about jury duty. They were lamenting the fact that they had been called for service. This person could not figure out why they had been called for jury duty, because they "just served within the last five years." I laughed and mocked this person. I told him the salary for jury duty didn't even cover parking or lunch. I told him I didn't envy him one bit.

It's funny how things go. My summons came in the mail about a week later.

As I write this, I am scheduled to report to my courthouse in the morning to get my juror's badge and wait. I have embraced my summons and will perform my civic duty even though I suspect that I will never sit in a jury box. It isn't that I wouldn't make a fine and impartial juror. It is because over the years in my broadcast journalism career, I have come to know lawyers,

prosecutors, judges, police officers and people who have actually been convicted of crimes. But the thing most likely to keep me out of the jury box is the fact that I anchor news on an all-news radio station and I may have reported on a potential case or an alleged crime called before the court.

All of the above is wishful thinking on my part. Despite what I told you, I was picked for a jury trial about 15 years ago. And despite what I told you above, I did not know any of the people involved or any of the particulars of the case. I enjoyed the experience and found it very interesting. It wasn't like "Law and Order" but the case was fascinating and our jury did our job diligently.

By the time you read this, my service as a juror will be over. If by some chance you don't hear from me in May, assume that I was chosen and I am being sequestered. And, hope for my sake, that at least they fed us well.

Senator Wayne Fontana



In February, I introduced legislation that would regulate Transportation Network Companies (TNC) in Pennsylvania. I first introduced similar legislation last July after hearing from many constituents who wanted more access to alternative transportation options.

TNCs use a software platform that enables riders to connect with drivers using Smartphone technology. The driver and rider connect through an app and after a ride is complete, a donation-based payment is offered by credit card through the same app. Senate Bill 447 (SB 447) is similar to my legislation from last session, only now I have put into place greater insurance standards as well as included additional suggestions from the PA Public Utility Commission (PUC) and other major stakeholders in the industry.

Transportation Network Companies started operating in the Pittsburgh region between February and March 2014. Since then, Uber and Lyft have been met with open arms by many consumers in western Pennsylvania looking for an alternative to the often unreliable taxi systems. However, after the Investigation and Enforcement Bureau of the PUC started

issuing citations and tickets to these TNCs for operating without state approval, Uber and Lyft submitted applications and recently received two-year experimental licenses that allows them to operate everywhere in the state except Philadelphia with hopes that a more permanent solution will pass the General Assembly in the meantime.

Insurance coverage has been a point of contention over the past few months between TNCs and the insurance industry. Under SB 447, a TNC driver would have to prove motor vehicle insurance and also notify their personal insurance company of their participation in these services. A TNC must also maintain specific levels of insurance for liability, medical payments, comprehensive, collision and uninsured/underinsured coverage, which are the same requirements that TNCs are subject to currently under the PUC's regulations. In addition, SB 447 would prohibit a TNC from requiring a driver or passenger to sign a waiver of potential liability for losses of personal property or injury.

I am hopeful that a permanent solution to this issue can be reached during the current legislative session, so that TNC services are made available in a way that is safe and convenient to consumers. I have been working diligently with stakeholders to make sure all safety concerns are addressed and have also expressed to Governor Wolf that this will be one of my priorities going forward. To read more about my legislation please visit www.senatorfontana.com.

Representative Dan Deasy



On January 6th, I was humbled to be sworn in as your State Representative for the 2015-16 Legislative Term. 2015 marks the beginning of my 7th year serving the residents of the 27th State House District. I am happy to now have part of Brookline in my legislative district. My constituent office is located at 436 S. Main St., Suite 100, in Pittsburgh's West

End community. Please call my office at 412-928-9514 if I can be of service in any state-related matter.

I am happy to report that Democratic Leader Frank Dermody appointed me to serve on the following committees during the 2015-16 session. I was appointed to serve on the Gaming

Oversight; Labor and Industry; Professional Licensure; Tourism and Recreational Development; and the Urban Affairs Committees.

As your State Representative, I work to provide programs and services for residents of my legislative district. Part of that process is hosting events around the district to showcase those programs, etc. These events include, but are not limited to, meet-and-greet events at local high rises and senior centers, health fairs, shredding events, employment fairs and others. To that end, please visit my website at www.pahouse.com/deasy to sign up for my Email Alerts, which provide information on upcoming events as well as information on state-related issues.

In the meantime, mark your calendar for May 9th. I will be hosting a Free Paper Shredding Event at the St. Pamphilus Church parking lot from 10 am to 1 pm. The address is 1000 Tropical Avenue in Beechview.

Representative Harry Readshaw



Residents of Brookline are fortunate to have within their community an excellent branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. With the arrival of April, HR 162, that I sponsored, recognizes the week of April 12-18, 2015, as "National Library Week in Pennsylvania." I wish to encourage all residents to take advantage of our local

libraries and all the programs they offer.

National Library Week is the annual observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the country, celebrating the valuable contributions of all types of libraries, including school, public, academic and special libraries.

Libraries are more than repositories for books and have changed with the times to meet the demands of a technology-based society with such items as e-books, audio books, computer stations and other digital resources.

This recognition includes the librarians and library workers who promote services and resources to people of all ages. Many libraries are now solid resources for job seekers as well. Those in the job market can use computers to prepare resumes, check local and national employment websites and even apply online.

With the cooperation of the American Library Association and with help from the Advertising Council, the first "National Library Week" was observed in 1958 with the theme "Wake Up and Read!"

The 2015 theme, "Unlimited Possibilities @ your Library," illustrates that libraries open new worlds to children and adults alike, while acting as a place where people and families go to reconnect and engage with one another, both in person and online.

Libraries in Pennsylvania served more than 47 million visitors in 2012 and conducted more than 179,500 programs for children, parents, entrepreneurs, senior citizens and students.

Representative Dan Miller



Earlier this year, Senator Fontana hosted an open house at his Brookline office along with myself and Representatives Deasy and Readshaw. I really enjoyed the opportunity to speak with Brookline residents and business leaders. One common question I was asked involved what type of work

I was focusing on while in Harrisburg. I thought I would take this opportunity to provide a short update.

Each session, legislators are given committee assignments. This term I am honored to have been appointed to the following committees: Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness, Human Services, Children and Youth, and the very important Education and Judiciary committees. Additionally, I was recently appointed by the Education chairman to serve as the co-chair of the Sub-Committee on Special Education. Having five committees plus the leadership position will be very time consuming, but I look forward to having a larger role in addressing some of our key regional and state issues.

In addition to committees, legislators often volunteer on informal, typically bipartisan working groups called caucuses. This session I have signed up to continue my work in the following caucuses: Fire Service, Government Reform, At-Risk Children, Equality, and Steel. I have also worked with a colleague from across the aisle and across the state to form a new Disability Caucus. This caucus merges previous efforts in autism and intellectual disabilities to bring a broader and more united initiative with the goal of increasing independence and opportunity for everyone.

Committees and caucuses are where a great deal of legislative work and negotiation occurs. Given my background and the needs of our district, I am very excited to work in these areas and will provide more updates in the future.

Community Events & Announcements

Carnegie Library of Brookline April Events

For All Ages

- *Crochet and Knitting Fun*: Saturdays, April 4 & 18 @ 1:00 pm. Get new ideas, learn the basics, or receive one-on-one assistance.

For Kids

- *Storytime*: For children ages 18 months – 5 years with their caregivers. Mondays, April 6 & 13 @ 6:30 pm and Thursdays, April 2, 9, & 16 @ 11:00 am.
- *Tween Workshop Tuesdays*: For ages 7-11. Every Tuesday @ 3:30 pm.
- *Minecraft Challenge* (April 7); *Crafternoon* (April 14); *Writing Group* (April 21), *Mad Science* (April 28).

For Teens

- *Teen Time*: Every Thursday @ 3:00 p.m. Art, Tech, Film, Games, Music, More!
- *Electronics Club*: LED Mini-Flashlights . Saturday, April 25, 2:00-4:00 pm. Take part in hands-on electronics projects taught by two bona fide engineers.
- *Pokémon League*: Mondays, 3:00-5:00 pm. Stop by for our drop-in battle leagues for both the card and video game

For Adults

- *Let's Speak English!* Every Tuesday @ 6:45 pm. Non-native English speakers practice their skills by taking part in fun conversation.
- *Versus; Monthly Movie SHOWdown: Cloverfield vs. 2012* Tuesday, April 14 @ 6:00 pm. Pick up the selected movies at the library; watch them on your own; join us to discuss.
- *FREE Power Yoga with Amy*: Every Wednesday @ 6:30 pm. For adults of all skill levels. Bring your own mat, towel and water.
- *Adult Game Night; "Don't Settle for Less"*: Monday, April 21 @ 5:45 pm. Settle new lands, defeat monsters, ride the rails and undertake other adventures.
- *Adult Book Discussions*
- April 8 @ 1:00 pm. *Mystery & More. Five Days at Memorial.*
- April 20 @ 6:00 pm. *Between the Lines. Five Days at Memorial.*
- April 23 @ 6:00 pm. *The Buzz at CANNON COFFEE. Brain on Fire*

Visit www.carnegielibrary.org/locations/brookline for more program information.

The Heritage Players

The Heritage Players, the area's community theater group, offers a series of eight-week theater classes for all age groups from child to adult beginning April 6 at the Seton Center, 1900 Pioneer Avenue, Brookline 15226. There will be a recital on June 6th at the end of the session. Reasonable rates. Visit www.bphp.org for course descriptions and online registration. Deadline is first week in April. Go to info@heritageplayers.org with any questions or phone 412-254-4633 to leave a message.

The Heritage Players will present the beloved *To Kill a Mockingbird* on May 22-24 and 29-31 at the Seton Center. Friday and Saturday performances are at 8:00 pm and Sunday matinees are at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$12.00 at the door. Discounted tickets are available if purchased in advance at www.bphp/xu35a. Box office opens one-half hour before curtain. Visit www.bphp.org for more information or phone 412-254-4633 to leave a message.

Coming up in May: Auditions for *Disney's Peter Pan* for performances in August!

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Amy Fisher, Visual Artist

Community Events & Announcements

Out and About

Looking for an activity that's close and convenient? Starting this month, the *Brookline* will list entertainment, social, and informative events in Brookline that are open to the public

To have your event listed, contact thebrookline@gmail.com or pdkaz@comcast.net by the 7th of the month preceding the month of publication (e.g., by May 7 for June publication). Please include "Out and About" in the subject line. Events submitted after the 7th of the month will be included only as space allows. However, for the May issue only, the deadline for submissions is April 12.

For more information on each event, contact the sponsor or location. Community fundraisers, Brookline Carnegie Library events, and Brookline Recreation Center programs are listed separately in this newsletter.

April Events

Open Mic. Wednesdays, 6:00 pm, Cannon Coffee, 412-563-0202.

Published poetry reading. Saturday, April 18, 2:00 pm, Cannon Coffee.

Story Slam at Cannon Coffee. Sponsored by Pittsburgh Story Syndicate (www.storystyndicate.org). Enjoy and share 5-minute stories. Mondays, 6:30-7:30 pm.

Social Signing Hour. Sponsored by Pressley Ridge School for the Deaf (www.pressleyridge.com) Learn and practice signing phrases. Thursdays, 6:30 pm.

Monday Paint Night. Mondays, 7:00-9:00 pm. Unleash your inner Picasso. Online registration required. Getaway Café. info@getawaycafe.com, 412-343-1333.

DJ Dia!!. Saturday, April 11, starting at 8:00 pm. Playing all your favorite dance tunes. Getaway Café.

Name that Tune. Saturday, April 18, starting at 8:00. Getaway Café.

John McCann, Irish Acoustic. Thursdays, starting at 7:00 pm. Getaway Café.

Out and About continued

DJ requests. Fridays, starting at 9:00 pm. Zippy's Saloon. 412-343-3574.

Karaoke. Saturdays, starting at 9:00 pm. Zippy's Saloon.

Fundraisers

Is your Brookline community church, school, or other non-profit holding a fundraiser? We'd like to list it in the *Brookline*.

To have your fundraiser listed, use the submission guidelines included in this newsletter for "Out and About," except include "Fundraiser" in the subject line.

April Fundraisers

Bingo. Every Monday, Church of the Resurrection. Doors open 5:00 pm; Bingo begins 7:00 pm. 412-563-4400.

Pasta Dinner, Zachary Monsour's Eagle Scout project. Church of the Resurrection Garden Room. Proceeds go to remodeling of girls' locker room. Saturday, April 11, 4:00-7:00 pm. Adults, \$10; children \$5.



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What's Hot in Brookline: Tong Garden

by Joseph Samuel Rodgers

One of the many benefits of living in Brookline is that there really isn't any reason to travel for basic necessities, as Brookline Boulevard houses a variety of stores and restaurants within walking distance of home. I fondly recall walking along Brookline Boulevard to Boy Scout meetings at Resurrection Church on Thursdays and passing Tong Garden, a Chinese restaurant, on my way. I silently noted each trip how I must have dinner there one day. That day finally came on a cold midwinter evening when my craving for General Tso's chicken prompted me to visit this hot Brookline destination.

Pamela Grabowski last visited Tong Garden for The Brookline in February 2010, so we felt that an update visit was in order. Kwong Tong Chun opened his restaurant in 1998 when his son graduated high school, and has since been joined by his son and daughter-in law Yue Zhen Qin and Jian You, respectively. Although Kwong no longer handles the day-to-day operations of the restaurant, he continues to assist John (Yue), and even stopped in the dining room to say hello. I asked John to make me his signature entrees for me to try, and he didn't fail to impress me with his family's General Tso's chicken recipe. My meal came with a large portion of rice and I ordered an egg roll on the side.

As I ate dinner, I asked John about his recipes and menu items. Most items on the menu are family recipes and their sauces are made from scratch. Although Tong Garden's menu is packed with daily specials, appetizers, and entrees, John can make some items upon request if he has the necessary ingredients because he loves making what customers like. Amazing Chicken is a popular requested dish. For customers who do not have time to sit down to eat in the dining room,



John and his Family

Photo by Amy Fisher



Tong Garden located at 956 Brookline Blvd

Pawsburgh Photography

Tong Garden delivers. John told me that "most people like to take dinner home after work. We're very busy with takeout and delivery at dinner time". Business improved significantly when construction ended on Brookline Boulevard, and that was certainly evident during my visit. During our conversation, John periodically paused to write down a telephone order.

Despite being located at the very end of the Boulevard, John and his wife feel like they are part of the Brookline community. "We get along very well with other store owners, and they come and order lunch or dinner," he told me. I highly recommend Tong Garden for families who are either working all day or simply looking for something quick to eat for dinner. I was so impressed that I even had to box my dinner to take home. "What's Hot In Brookline" not only gives readers an insight on local restaurants, but also gives the writer a chance to learn more about his community. Tong Garden is just another reason why it's mighty fine to dine in Brookline!

Too Hot for Your Budget? Try one of Tong Garden's many lunch specials served during the lunch hour!

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2015 Brookline Breeze



Save the Date

After this past winter, it's great to have a special summer day to look forward to!

The 34th annual Brookline Breeze Fitness 5K Run/Walk will be held Saturday, August 8. The Breeze Committee is busy working on the details and, with the return of the Boulevard Breezefest, we hope this will be our best race yet. We are offering monthly incentives to encourage early online registration. During April, online registrants are eligible for a raffle of two complimentary entries into the Richard S. Caligiuri Great Race. Also look for the Dollar Bank Family Discount (up to five family members can be entered for just \$50). For more information, visit www.brooklinebreeze.com. Online registration is available at: <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Pittsburgh/BrooklineBreeze5K>.

--Clint Burton

**The Brookline Breeze and
Breezefest 2015
Saturday, August 8th**

Breezefest 2015

After last year's successful Brookline Unveiled celebration, the South Pittsburgh Development Corporation and the Brookline Chamber of Commerce will be partnering with the Brookline Breeze 5K to bring you a new Breezefest celebration on August 8. We'll be shutting down the boulevard for a party with music, food, entertainment, and shopping. Read more about this event in future issues, but for now, make sure to save the date, after the Breeze race.

--Alex Pazuchanics

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824 The Consignment Shop, 824 Brookline Blvd. Sat-Mon 11 am-7 pm; Wed-Fri, 4:30-8:30 pm; closed Tue.

Out of the Closet Thrift Shop, 754 Brookline Blvd. Mon-Fri 11 am-7 pm; Sat 7 am-8 pm (50% off most items 7-8 am); Sun 11 am-8 pm



SMOQ PITT

Photo by Victoria Cumer



824 Consignment Shop

Photo courtesy of 824 Consignment Shop



Out of the Closet Thrift Shop

Photo by Dan Kaczmariski

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What's Happening at Pittsburgh Brookline PreK-8

by Amy Cornelius Dembosky
Parent Volunteer

We are so happy about the arrival of spring in Brookline! The weather-related delays and closings really kept everyone at Brookline PreK-8 on their toes. Thank you to everyone -- parents, staff, students, and neighbors -- for your flexibility!

February and March found our students engaged in lots of fun activities sponsored by Parent Teacher Association volunteers. First and second graders were able to create a valentine for someone special using recycled materials. This was one of the Pittsburgh Public Schools' science homework calendar activities. Third and fourth graders were treated to science bingo as a fun way to review the facts and terms that they have learned this year. Since bingo is so popular, first and second graders had their own day of fun when they played math bingo.

Our PTA also sponsored a Scholastic Book Fair in March. Scholastic offers a lot of popular titles for students of all ages. Students were able to browse and purchase books that they

liked. All students in the Pittsburgh Public Schools must read at least 25 books each year, so hopefully the book fair helped them on their way!

Middle school students had their own unique event, the semi-formal dance, in March. Sixth through eighth graders danced the evening away courtesy of the PTA.

Students in fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade with good behavior, attendance, grades and homework were able to spend a day at Fun Fest in Harmarville. Because of weather issues, the trip had to be rescheduled twice! Thank you to students for your patience, and we hope you enjoyed the bowling, laser tag, and other fun activities.

All of our teachers now have their own individual voice mail accounts and phone numbers. We hope that this will increase communication with parents and families. If you need to contact a teacher, please call the office at 412/529-7380 to get the correct extension. It's also time to begin enrolling kindergarten students for the 2015-2016 school year, so please call the school if you have any questions regarding that.

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

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

We have been very busy at Pittsburgh West Liberty. In March, we had our Family Math Night. There were several rooms with various math sections and opportunities for families to participate. The purpose was to show parents fun ways to practice math with their children.

We also had a basketball game between the teachers and the student basketball team. The idea was suggested by students who wanted to help a fellow student. Their friend's home caught fire and they lost everything. All proceeds were donated to the student's family. We raised a total of \$1,225.00 along with many material donations.

Our school has also been busy with the Girls on the Run Program. The girls practice running after school and learn the importance of incorporating exercise into their life. It also gives the girls an opportunity to work with adult mentors. The program is run by one of our parents and PTO Vice President Leah Synowiec.

While some girls are running, other girls (and boys) are dancing. Our rehearsals continue as we prepare for another dance competition. The final competition will be held at Allderdice High School on May 2nd. All of us wish our dance team well as they prepare for the finals.

Lastly, not only have we been busy with activities, but we have also been diligently working on our three-ninety program. For this program, students must have 90% homework completed, 90% attendance and 90% good behavior days. They were rewarded this time (if the criteria were met) to a whole school bingo. The older students partnered with younger students. They have fun working together and earning prizes.

That's all for now. We are looking forward to spring weather. If you are considering enrollment and would like to stop by and visit our school, please contact Mrs. Brunk at 412-529-7420. Remember Pittsburgh West Liberty is the place "Where Learners Excel and Character Counts."