

## Brookline Area Community Council



Brookline owes its award-winning library building to BACC's efforts  
Dan Kaczmarek

*Editor's Note: Many invaluable Brookline assets that are sometimes taken for granted would not exist if it weren't for the Herculean efforts over the years of a volunteer community organization called the Brookline Area Community Council. The South Pittsburgh Development Corporation is deeply grateful for what the BACC has brought to our community. Here is a BACC overview of its history and accomplishments.*

Brookline Area Community Council (BACC) was founded in 1965 to help the community influence and keep in touch with elected officials for the purpose of keeping Brookline a viable, working, and up-to-date community.

BACC was influential in establishing Senior Centers in the community, and was a driving force behind construction of the Brookline Memorial Recreation Center, the expansion and improvement of the playing fields, and the installation of sports courts, playground equipment and other recreational opportunities. (For a complete history of this time, please go online and enter "Brookline Area Community Council," which will give you a more complete history as written by Brookline historian Clint Burton.)

Until four years ago, BACC met once a month at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church with the purpose of giving members of the community a chance to talk to local officials they needed to speak with. The school board was featured once a year, as were city and county officials. Other speakers were chosen on the basis of community interest.

We also had an annual Christmas party and now join South Pittsburgh Development Corporation and the Brookline Chamber of Commerce in putting together Light Up Night – Brookline.

A number of years ago, we contracted to have the Welcome Sign (The Wall) coming up to Pioneer Ave. from West Liberty Ave. painted. We are currently involved in sponsoring a redo of that Welcome Sign and looking into some other ones to be placed at other entrances to Brookline. Of course, they will be much smaller.

One our proudest moments was when the BACC Board, under the presidency of Marlene Curran, was able to put together the purchase and presentation to Carnegie Library systems of a building to house a permanent Library in Brookline. The agreement of the remodeling to be done by the Carnegie Library System, brought to Brookline one of the most innovative and the first green Library Building in the system at that time.

Today, we are working on the Welcome Sign and are supporting projects as they are presented to us; such as, The Brookline Breezefest, The Halloween Parade, Light up Night – Brookline, a Taste of Brookline, the Children's Anti-Litter Artwork Contest and various other projects.



BACC was a driving force behind the Brookline Memorial Recreation Center

**BACC from p. 1**

Attendance declined at the monthly meetings, so we have moved to an as-needed format. In the past, we have sponsored candidate debates. For the upcoming primary election, we will sponsor a meet-and-greet where you can talk with the candidates.

BACC is not recruiting new members at this time. We as a board feel that other organizations are now handling the community's interests and we are willing to be a part of their support system.

- BACC



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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 Pantry	412-344-8451
Meals-on-Wheels	412-343-8144
Dollar Energy/Columbia Gas Cap	412-344-4222

## Community Crimes Zone 6

February		
Zone 6 Crimes	Total	Brookline
Aggravated Assault	5	1
Robbery	7	1
Burglary	11	4
Theft	16	6
Theft from Vehicle	10	2
Stolen Vehicle	3	1

## APRIL COMMUNITY MEETINGS

### **Monday, April 10**

Brookline Chamber of Commerce Meeting, 6 p.m. at Brookline Teen Outreach, American Legion Building, 520 Brookline Blvd. Unveiling of Charlie McLaughlin Portrait. No regular meeting.

### **Tuesday, April 11**

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

### **Monday, April 17**

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

**We have over 1,600 readers.**

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

## The Brookline

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Phone: 412-531-1252

### Deadlines for Submissions and Ads

April 7 for May's Issue

June 7 for July's Issue

There will be no June Issue

### Interested in Advertising with us?

Contact us at [thebrookline@gmail.com](mailto:thebrookline@gmail.com) or [pdkaz@comcast.net](mailto:pdkaz@comcast.net) for rates and more information.

The Brookline is available free of charge by email. Go to <http://bit.do/brookline> to sign up. A one-year postal delivery subscription is \$25 for non-SPDC members and \$15 for SPDC members.

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# The Way to Good Health at your Doorstep

by Dr. Guy Reschenthaler

Humans' initial form of transportation is an excellent form of exercise. Consider the following facts about walking.



Adobe Stock

It's easy; just put one foot in front of the other. You can walk by yourself or with a friend. You can go at your own pace. It's free. You can walk around your neighborhood, a school track, or nature trail. If the weather is bad, walk indoors in a mall or community center.

Brookline is a perfect place for beginners and experienced walkers.

The Boulevard is a safe, flat, and smooth route. The hills in our community offer challenges to the experienced walker. Our parks have numerous nature trails for those who desire "off road" walking.

Walking has numerous health benefits. Studies have shown a walking exercise routine has the following effects:

- Strengthens the heart
- Lowers blood pressure
- Makes bones stronger
- Lowers cholesterol
- Lowers blood sugars
- Reduces weight
- Lowers stress
- Strengthens leg muscles
- When performed with a quick pace over 30 minutes, improved aerobic fitness can be accomplished

For health benefits, you must be consistent with walking. Try to walk at least five days a week. It is recognized that 10,000 steps daily is the standard for healthy results. A pedometer, iPhone, or Fitbit will accurately measure your steps. Researchers in Europe have found that 25 minutes of brisk walking a day can add up to seven years to your life. Walking is not a "get fit quick" solution. Consider walking as a path to a healthy lifestyle, and you will experience better results.

Beginners should start slowly and work up to the standard 10,000 steps. Concentrate on the amount of time, not distance, when beginning exercise walking. Set a predetermined amount of time for your walk. An inactive beginner should start with a two- to five-minute walk each day and then gradually increase time by adding a minute each week. Make a goal of walking for ten minutes. Walk at the same time each day for consistency.

Start a walking exercise routine by following these tips:

1. Begin on a flat and smooth path with safe traffic patterns.
2. Wear comfortable shoes with arch support and a slightly elevated heel.
3. Clothing should be loose and comfortable. Dress according to the weather; if it's cold, wear a hat!
4. Choose alternate walking routes and change up to prevent boredom.
5. Keep a record of your walks to monitor progress. Include weather conditions and interesting encounters in the log.
6. Set reasonable goals; start slow with shorter distances.
7. Hydrate: drink 8-16 ounces of water an hour before your walk.

Experienced walkers can "kick it up a notch" by walking for extended times. Add challenges by including hills and declines. Vary your speed by increasing your pace for one to two minutes, then returning to your normal pace for a few minutes before increasing again. Each day add an interval of increased pace. Always listen to your body and increase time and speed in accordance to your tolerance.

Remember, walking should be a stress-free and enjoyable experience! Wherever you decide to walk, don't forget to stop and smell the daffodils!

*Guy Reschenthaler D.C., has a Chiropractic practice on Brookline Boulevard.*

## No Newsletter in June

In order to give our all-volunteer staff some time off, there will be no June issue of The Brookline. After the May issue, the next issue will be in July.

# Help Wanted to Beautify Brookline

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*A spring clean-up day on the Boulevard*

Brookliners are generous with their time. It's one of the strengths of our great community. The "call for volunteers" listings in this newsletter represent just the tip of the iceberg of the many ways people in Brookline sacrifice their time to help others.

Posts on Brookline social media, however, indicate many more people would like to pitch in but aren't sure what opportunities are out there. Here's one suggestion. If you're a person who is interested in keeping Brookline beautiful, has a couple of free hours several weekends during the year, and enjoys hands-on work, the South Pittsburgh Development Corporation's beautification committee can use your help.

SPDC, an all-volunteer organization, coordinates a number of beautification projects throughout the year. The next of these clean-up days is Saturday April 22, Earth Day. These events succeed only because volunteers show up to make them happen. Typically, SPDC holds two main clean-up events annually—one in the fall (to coincide with Pitt "Make a

Difference Day") and one in the spring to prepare Brookline Blvd. and its environs for the spring and summer.

The more volunteers we have, the more successful these days are. Clean-up ranges from picking up trash to weeding and mulching tree pits and planters along the Boulevard. Hiring someone to maintain the pits and planters alone would cost between \$3,000 and \$4,000 annually—over half of SPDC's operating budget—which is why it is important when people come forward to volunteer their time. This year, we are also working with Tree Pittsburgh to oversee the pruning of trees along the Boulevard.

We also hold smaller clean-up days before major community events such as parades and Breezefest. Additionally, dedicated individuals and families go out on a regular basis to pick up litter on the Boulevard and around their home as part of the "Adopt-a-Block" program. Our goal is to expand the number of those volunteers until every block in Brookline has been adopted. (Contact [pdkaz@comcast.net](mailto:pdkaz@comcast.net) to learn more about Adopt-a-Block.)

If you'd like to help with clean-up efforts but aren't up to the bending and stretching involved in manual labor, we can use your help with other critical tasks, such as promoting clean-up events on Facebook, emailing reminders to volunteers, and gathering names/emails at events to curate a list of volunteers. Also, we are always in need of gloves, old tools (such as rakes, trowels, and weed pullers), and other clean-up equipment.

If you'd like to be part of the clean-up effort on April 22 (or just want information about other Brookline beautification projects), you can either contact [spdc.brookline@gmail.com](mailto:spdc.brookline@gmail.com) or just show up at Café de Noir at 802 Brookline Blvd at 10 a.m.

## Call for Volunteers

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- 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).
  - BROOKLINE CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY Call Pat Erny at 412-344-8451.
  - BEGIN AGAIN CLOTHING MINISTRY To donate gently used or new clothing, call Tree of Life Open Bible Church at 412-531-0590.
  - DOGIPOT MAINTENANCE Call Lisa at 412-304-3086.
  - FOREVER HOME BEAGLE RESCUE Call 412-304-4034 or [BeagleHQ@msn.com](mailto:BeagleHQ@msn.com). Foster homes needed as well as donations of dog food, funds and Amazon gift cards.
  - MEALS ON WHEELS Sponsored by St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Call 412-343-8144.
  - OASIS: HELP CHILDREN READ Tutors (age 50+) needed in Pittsburgh Schools, including Brookline PreK-8 and West Liberty K-5. Call John D. Spehar at 412-393-7648. In partnership with Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council.
  - OPEN YOUR HEART TO A SENIOR Volunteers needed to assist senior citizens. Call Family Services at 412-661-1670.
- Other ways to help: Meals on Wheels can use donations of cash, cookies, desserts and bread. The Brookline Christian Food Pantry can use grocery store gift cards (send to Pat Erny, 2918 Pioneer Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15226).

# On The Issues: Face to Face with the Mayoral Candidates

by Joseph Samuel Rogers

*Editor's note: In addition to electing a new City of Pittsburgh District 4 Councilperson, Brookliners will cast their votes for Mayor. The Brookline staff writer Joseph Samuel Rogers' continues coverage of the election in anticipation of the May 16 primary with brief profiles of two of the three candidates in the Democratic primary. Councilwoman Darlene Harris (District 1, North Side) did not respond to our interview request. Each candidate received similar questionnaires that were tailored to their current occupation.*



Mayor Bill Peduto

People for Peduto

Mayor Bill Peduto was elected as Pittsburgh's 60th mayor in 2013 and is running for a second term in office. Mayor Peduto believes that Brookline is a representation of Pittsburgh as a whole, and is very proud of the progress made in Brookline during his first term. "We have families moving into the neighborhood, a bustling Boulevard, and some of the greatest recreational

opportunities in the entire county. That's why housing values have gone up thousands of dollars—8 percent from 2015 to 2016—and properties in Brookline are selling faster than any place in the city," he said.

Peduto believes that neighborhoods like Brookline are what gives Pittsburgh its identity, and he wants to ensure that the city focuses on safety and upgrading neighborhood infrastructure. He says he intends to work with leaders in the community to continue to deliver the resources that Brookline needs, such as the recent \$5.5 million renovation of Brookline Boulevard and the \$250,000 allocated this year to provide improvements to Moore Park.

Mayor Peduto is also proud of the progress made throughout the city including economic growth, doubling the amount of street paving since 2014, and hiring the highest numbers of police officers, firefighters, and building inspectors in over a decade.

Reverend John Welch is a resident of Homewood and dean of students at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He is a graduate of Central Catholic High School and Carnegie Mellon University in Oakland. While Rev. Welch has not spent extensive time in Brookline, he looks forward to meeting the residents and business leaders.

Rev. Welch describes himself as not only a reverend and



Reverend John Welch

Photo courtesy of Rev. Welch

professor, but also a community organizer and an engineer. "As a reverend/chaplain, I have compassion for those who struggle and have dealt with pain regardless of faith tradition or ethnicity; as a professor I'm a good communicator; as a community organizer and engineer, I can see a problem, develop a process for addressing it, and organize the resources to resolve it."

His campaign is centered on revitalizing city neighborhoods, focusing on public health and police/community relations, officer safety and gun violence reduction, affordable housing, quality public education, and economic development through family sustaining wages. He believes that the voices of residents should be heard and that "our communities be given the tools to enable them to do their own community planning, but within a framework of a comprehensive citywide community development strategy that wards against gentrification and... increases home ownership."

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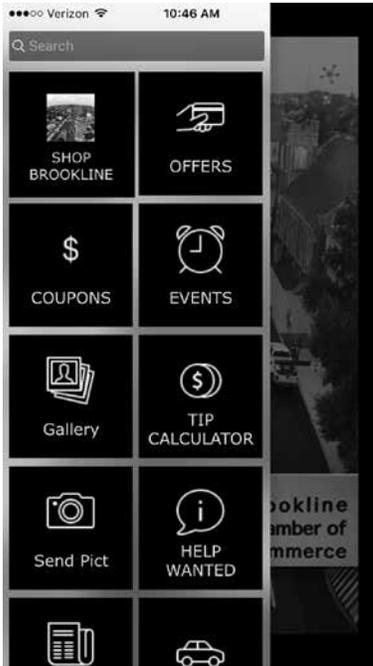
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# Brookline App Growing Fast

by Matt Luciani



Matt Luciani

Now with 75 businesses, the Brookline App is showing no signs of slowing down development. While we are still in the process of reaching out to businesses and uploading descriptions, one click on the free app and you will see how far it has come. Simple things such as changing the layout colors to sport our love for the black and gold and using store front photos instead of generic logos really brings the interface to life. I admit, this project started off rather slow, and I even heard the word “dormant” being thrown around on various social media platforms to describe it.

So, as opposed to throwing in the towel, the Brookline Chamber of Commerce has been actively working with the developer, Jireh Mobile, to come up with ways to make the app better for you, the user. With that being said, I am happy to announce that the Brookline App will be able to offer “online ordering” directly from the app with the popularity of apps such as Grubhub, Eat24, Slice, etc. We felt this would be one of the first steps into making the Brookline App more versatile. You can order food, get your news, shop the Boulevard there, and hopefully in the future pay for your parking on the app.

There are new businesses coming the Boulevard as we speak! Download the app to keep up with the business district and the various coupons/offers made available on your phone.

If you are a business who is on the app and would like to make your page better, or if you are not on the app and would like info on how to be, email [brooklineapp@gmail.com](mailto:brooklineapp@gmail.com).

*(Matt Luciani is a Brookline Chamber of Commerce board member, as well as co-owner of Fox's Pizza, Realtor for Coldwell Banker, and owner of Luciani Enterprises, LLC on the Boulevard.)*

# Judge McLaughlin to be Honored with Portrait Unveiling

On Tuesday, April 11, District Judge James Motznik and the Brookline Block Watch will honor former District Judge Charles (“Charlie”) McLaughlin and his family by hosting the unveiling of a portrait of Charlie painted by Brookline artist Bob Daley.

Charlie McLaughlin was first elected district judge on January 6, 1986, and served as a senior judge until the day of his death on August 19, 2015. Charlie was a huge part of Brookline and was the founding member of the Brookline Block Watch, which still meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the District Magistrate’s office at 736 Brookline Blvd.

“This is just a way of remembering him for all his years of dedication to Brookline and all the neighborhoods he served,” said Judge Motznik. The portrait will be unveiled at 7 p.m. in the waiting room of the Magistrate’s office with the McLaughlin family and friends present.

Please feel free to stop by to remember Charlie McLaughlin and say hello to his family.

## Heritage Players Theater News

The Heritage Players perform in the Seton Center auditorium at 1900 Pioneer Ave. The group draws actors, directors, and crew from throughout the Pittsburgh area. Brookliners are encouraged to share their talents with the all-volunteer group.

### Coming in May:

*Sense and Sensibility*. Adapted by Jon Jory, based on the novel by Jane Austen. May 12-14 and 19-21 at the Seton Center. Friday and Saturday performances, 8 p.m. Sunday matinees, 2 p.m. \$12. Box office opens one-half hour before curtain. For more information visit [www.bphp.org](http://www.bphp.org).

### Also this Season:

*Winnie the Pooh*. Lyrics by A.A. Milne. Music by Allan Friedman. Adapted by Kristin Sergel. August 4-6 and 11-13.

*Lost in Yonkers* by Neil Simon. September 8-10 and 15-17.

*Into the Woods*. Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Book by James Lapine. November 3-5 and 10-12.

Season tickets are now on sale for \$25, good for one admission to each production. For more information, email [heritageplayers@yahoo.com](mailto:heritageplayers@yahoo.com).

# Brookline Teen Outreach News

by Caitlin McNulty

Taste of Brookline is right around the corner! This one-afternoon social event, co-produced by South Pittsburgh Development Corporation and Brookline Teen Outreach, will be held on Saturday, April 29 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Brookline Teen Outreach, 520 Brookline Blvd., and features live entertainment and food and drink samples from local restaurants. The event has expanded significantly since its hiatus, and tickets are going fast! Tickets are \$30 and a limited quantity are still available at Brookline Teen Outreach and online at <http://events.eventzilla.net/e/taste-of-brookline--2138886995>. No tickets will be available at the door.

Come support the businesses that make our neighborhood a great place to live. We hope to see you there!

Student Sarah Miller has been a part of the Brookline Teen Outreach since



Sarah Miller

we opened our doors. She is a smart, hard-working City Charter High School student with endless talents. Last fall, she designed, coordinated, and acted in our first annual haunted house. Now, she has even bigger aspirations. Sarah is currently gathering donations from businesses to create outdoor seating, a garden, and an apiary on the teen center property.

Not only will this work hand-in-hand with our life skills and community service pillars, but will provide produce for our weekly cooking class.

Miss Miller is also planning instructional workshops for the benefit of the community that range from seminars hosted by Burgh Bees to ways to attract butterflies to your garden with plants. The latter will include a plant sale. Sarah is a shining example of the change we hope to create in our youth and in the community.

Brookline Teen Outreach

## Old Notes By Old People

by Chip Gorski

I was struck by something I saw a few weeks ago in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. The article, written by Tim Grant, carried the headline "Up-and-coming neighborhoods saw home prices explode in 2016." Guess which neighborhood was among the "up and coming?" You guessed it, Brookline.

What sells houses? Location, location, location. According to Howard "Hoddy" Hanna III, chairman of O'Hara-based Howard Hanna Real Estate Services, people want to move into Brookline because the community has nice houses, is on a transit line, and most houses were built after the 1950s. Hanna goes on to say in the article that Brookline is attracting young professionals who are looking to upgrade existing homes, joining traditional Brookline mainstays such as city police officers, firefighters, and teachers. That's good news and it's a long time in coming. But it begs a question – "why did you move to Brookline?"

It's a question I can't answer myself. I grew up in Brookline because it's the place my parents chose for me, but it was a good choice. My memories of the move into the house are vague. I was probably only three or four at the time. When they were looking for a home, I recall touring the house in Brookline when my parents were "in the market." I remember the Tonka trucks

lined up in the basement. They were owned by the boy who lived there before us.

When we moved in, I wanted to know where those trucks went. Apparently, I thought they were part of the sales transaction—they weren't. The choice of housing was between the house in Brookline and one in Brentwood. Close to 50 years ago, my parents chose Brookline, like many of you and apparently like many people now who want to become part of the fabric of the community. It's a great choice!

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# Looking for a Second Chance at Love

by Dan Kaczmariski

I was searching Craigslist online the other day for a used exercise bike when I noticed a category there called "Missed Connections." You can post a message on that page if you've had a brief encounter with an attractive stranger but failed to introduce yourself at the time and haven't been able to get that person out of your mind ever since. You're hoping she or he will recognize your description and feel moved to contact you.

What's interesting is that apparently about five times as many men missed their chance with a special someone (coded in Craigslist as "m4w") as vice versa. Most of the messages are from the male point of view. Many exude the subtle sensitivity you'd expect from a gender that considers it deep sharing to yell "Hey, sweet cheeks!" from a passing car.

Here are a couple of missed connection listings that actually appeared on Craigslist.

## Red-haired cashier at Giant Eagle Leechburg

*I saw you twice this week...the first register by the front desk and lottery...I cant stop looking at you.Your hair...your face.Your body. Such a beautiful smile. Such a sexy a--. I have a shaved head and long goatee. I hope you see this.*

## I-79 north Wexford car with pin stripe

*to the cute blonde that passed me on the highway tonight wow amazing blonde hair a tat on shoulder and a smile I'd like to hangout or even just chat that smile made me melt too bad I was in my car I drive the Mazda a lot tell me exactly what was the color of ur car and pin stripe and the gesture I made when we passed a few times so I know it's u*



In honor of this season of love and April Fool's Day, we present here a few m4w Brookline missed connections that may or may not have actually appeared on Craigslist.

## Gorgeous teller at the bank

*I saw you when I came in to pick up a free calendar.You totally caught me checking out your awesome curvaceous body and we made eye contact before you called security. Hope to hear from you.*

## Vision of loveliness

*U, the cute brunette who tosses Big Mac wrappers on the Boulevard from her Chevy Malibu. Me, the guy who drops empty pizza boxes by the big billboard.Would love to hook up to talk trash.*

## We met by the Rec Center

*You never go to the park no more or at least I dont see you. Its kinda funny cause I remember the time you were sitting on the swing and I honked and you fell off. Lol. Do you still get headaches?*

## 39 Brookline

*We get on the same bus by the Co-Go's. U have luscious dark hair and probably a delicious figure under the Steeler jacket and sweats. I'm the really funny guy in the back row. If you'd like to hang out, tell me what words I burped so I know it's u*

## Wednesday at the 7-11

*Almost 9 p.m. I was pumping gas and you pulled in. You went in to buy cigarettes and I came in after. You were talking with the cashier hoping that you didn't look 30. I said you definitely didn't and that with the wrinkles and gravelly voice it was at least 40. A shy guy with a giant crush.*

## Wendy's on West Liberty

*U have blonde hair and gorgeous blue eyes we were introduced by a mutual friend on the way to work we chatted but u were running late and said u had to leave but thought it was funny that I really talked like this and never took a breath then I hyperventilated and passed out let me know what color shirt the EMT was wearing so I know it's u*

## Council Woman Natalia Rudiak



We're hiring!

It takes a lot of people to make the City work. In fact, 3,000 people work to make the City function day to day. One of the great parts of working for the City is that no matter what kind of work you like to do—outdoors, indoors, whether or not you have a degree, if you like administrative work or physical

labor—there is a place for you here!

The City of Pittsburgh has a wide variety of job opportunities available, from school crossing guards to skating rink attendants to engineers, accountants and directors of departments! All City jobs are posted at [www.pghjobs.net](http://www.pghjobs.net). You must be a Pittsburgh resident to work for the City. Veterans are encouraged to apply and can call for information about Veteran's Preference at 412-255-2710.

The 30+ full-time jobs currently available are: Accountant, Mayor's 311 Response Line Representative, Bricklayer, Combined Electrical Inspector, Heavy Equipment Repair Specialist, HVAC Technician, Staff Engineer, Assistant Director of Public Works for Facilities Management, College Interns, Combined Construction Inspector, Community Center Director, Fiscal Audit Manager, Heavy Equipment Operator, Paramedic, Parks Maintenance Manager, Plumbing Maintenance Foreman, Police Officer, Recreation Leaders, Truck Drivers.

Part-Time Positions: Recreation Assistants, Rink Attendant, Zamboni Operator, School Crossing Guards, Van Drivers.

The City of Pittsburgh offers many rewarding careers where you can work to improve the City and the lives of its residents while working with your neighbors. Join us!

## Free Meals for Kids

GrubUp Pittsburgh offers free afterschool meals each weekday at the Brookline Recreation Center for those 18 and under.  
Snacks: 3-4 p.m. Hot meal: 5-6:30 p.m.

## Representative Dan Miller



Many people associate poverty and its related issues as something that is an inner-city problem. However, the reality is something quite different. No doubt far too many of our urban neighborhoods struggle for a variety of reasons to rise into the middle class—or to stay there. But as many local people and organizations will tell you, thinking of poverty solely as a city problem is an outdated stereotype that doesn't help the cause.

Since 2000, the greatest share of people living along the poverty line in our country live in the suburbs. In Allegheny County, it is estimated that 61 percent of people living in poverty live in the suburbs. In our district alone (Mt. Lebanon, Dormont, Castle Shannon, Baldwin Township, parts of Scott Township and part of Brookline), over 5,200 families receive SNAP benefits/food stamps.

Join us on Wednesday, May 3 at 7 p.m. at the Castle Shannon Library, as we talk about the face of suburban poverty in our area and how government can partner with non-profits and our business community to better help those in need. Experts on suburban poverty will be on hand to talk about the issue and what policies can be championed to lift all boats. Whether in education, access to medicine or transportation, or growing family-sustaining jobs, we have a lot of work to do.

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## Senator Wayne Fontana



Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro recently announced a settlement with the Western Union Company, requiring the company to install strong anti-fraud measures to protect consumers from being victimized by scams and to send money to third parties through Western Union.

As part of the settlement, Western Union has agreed to pay a total of \$5 million to the states for costs and fees. Pennsylvania will receive a portion of that total. In addition to this settlement with the states, Western Union also settled claims related to fraud-induced transfers with the Federal Trade Commission and U.S. Department of Justice. As part of those settlements, Western Union has agreed to pay \$586 million to a fund that the U.S. Department of Justice will administer to provide refunds to victims of fraud-induced wire transfers nationwide, including victims in Pennsylvania. Of the \$586 million, Pennsylvania consumers may be eligible for up to \$21.5 million in restitution.

If you were a victim of this type of scam and want to learn more about whether you are eligible for restitution, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/criminal-mlars/remission>. Individuals who believe they have been contacted by any scam artist are encouraged to call the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection at 1-800-441-2555 or visit [www.attorneygeneral.gov](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov) to file a complaint online.

## Representative Dan Deasy



As we face a heroin epidemic both locally and nationally, the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office has a program to collect unused prescription medications from local homes. The D.U.M.P. program, which stands for the Disposal of Unused Medications Properly, seeks to help county residents safely eliminate expired or no longer used narcotic medications,

by dispatching an evidence technician to visit their homes and take possession of the unwanted pharmaceuticals. In addition, the Sheriff's Office can attend local community events to collect all unwanted pharmaceuticals from those attending who are interested in getting rid of them.

If you have unused and unwanted medications and need assistance in their safe disposal, you can bring them to the Beechview Library on Wednesday, April 19, from noon to 2 p.m. If you cannot make it to the library on April 19, you can make an appointment for a sworn sheriff's evidence technician to pick up medication at your home. The telephone number for the Project D.U.M.P. Hotline is 412-459-5000.

As a continuing effort to raise awareness about the opiate and heroin epidemic that is plaguing our communities, I partnered with Sen. Wayne Fontana to host town hall meetings last winter in Beechview and Crafton on this important topic. The response was tremendous, and we have been asked to host additional events. We are planning town hall meetings in Mt. Washington and McKees Rocks for April. For information, please call my office at 412-928-9514.

## Representative Harry Readshaw



Pennsylvania 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember phone number and web resource that connects you to help for health and human services questions and emergencies. Over the next few months, I plan to use this space to show how 2-1-1 can help you.

You can dial 2-1-1 in about 85 percent of Pennsylvania and almost anywhere in the country to be connected to the local branch. Online, the local website is <http://PA211sw.org>.

PA 2-1-1 can offer referrals for those dealing with opiate or other drug addiction and can also offer referrals for family support.

When you contact PA 2-1-1, a trained resource navigator can discuss your issues and offer impartial and confidential advice and referrals throughout the state, both public and private. These contacts can include support groups, as well as treatment options. Among the patient referrals they can provide are detox centers, and inpatient and outpatient substance abuse treatment centers, as well as residential centers. Support service referrals include counseling, talk lines and support groups for addicts and their families.

Last year, PA 2-1-1 responded to more than 1,200 contacts dealing with opiate and other drug and alcohol issues. If opiate or other drug or alcohol addiction is affecting you or your family, and you don't know who to ask for help, I strongly encourage you to start by calling 2-1-1 or visiting the website <http://PA211sw.org>.

## April Events on the Boulevard

### At Brookline Teen Outreach/American Legion Bldg.

Brookline Community Open Mic., Wednesdays, 8-10:30 p.m.  
For all ages. 520 Brookline Blvd.

### At 824: The Consignment Shop

Chris Visgitis' Art Show Opening Reception. Check out this great Pittsburgh artist's work and enter a drawing for your choice of an original oil pastel! Sat., April 1, 7-9 p.m. Free event. Drawing entries, \$20. Refreshments. Chris' art will be displayed and for sale through April 22. Enter drawing through that date for more chances to win one of Chris' creations! 908 Brookline Blvd. 412-440-8245

Oil Pastel Workshop. Chris Visgitis returns to teach another art workshop! Sun., April 2, 4-6 p.m. One participant will win his/her choice of an original oil pastel by Chris! \$40. Refreshments.

Chris Visgitis' Art Show Closing Reception. Sat., April 22, 7-9 p.m. Two original oil pastels will go to two more drawing winners. Free event. Drawing entries are \$20 each. Refreshments.

### At Geekadrome

Teaching "Magic the Gathering" with most anticipated cards. Open House. Sat., April 15, 1 p.m. 534 Brookline Blvd., 412-344-2494

Magic the Gathering, Card Pre-Release. Saturday, April 22, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Players get to play with cards from Amonkhet, which will not be officially released until April 28

### At Rather Ripped Records

46th Anniversary In-Store Concert, TBA. Sunday, April 30, 2 p.m. Free. 754 Brookline Blvd. 412-253-3445

# Carnegie Library of Brookline April Events

### For Kids

- Storytime: Toddler and Preschooler Tales - Mondays, April 3, 10, & 24 • 6:30 p.m. - interactive stories, songs and rhymes. 18 months - 5 years
- Tween Workshop Tuesdays • 3:30 p.m. - engaging activities like crafts, games or technology
- Kids Club: Wacky Wednesdays • 3:30 p.m. - meet new friends and try something new
- Family PlayShop - Thursdays • 11 a.m. - laugh, play, discover, and explore with your child. Birth - 5 years

### For Teens

- Pokémon Club - Mondays • 3 p.m. - drop-in battle leagues for both video and card games

### For Adults

- Power Yoga with Amy - Wednesdays • 6:30 p.m. - bring your own mat, towel and water for free yoga
- Crochet & Knitting Fun - Saturdays, April 1 & 15 • 2 p.m. - learn the basics, get help with an existing project or just drop in
- Word Games - Tuesday, April 4 • 6:30 p.m. - have fun with words playing classic board games. Adults 18+
- Monthly Movie Showdown - Tuesday, April 11 • 6 p.m. - pick up this month's films from the library, then drop in for conversation over movie-inspired treats
- Game Night - Tuesday, April 18 • 5:45 p.m. - traditional board and quest-based adventure games
- Color Your World - Tuesday, April 25 • 6 p.m. - coloring is a great way for adults to relieve stress and have fun. Adults 18+
- Book Discussions:
  - Mystery & More - Wednesday, April 12 • 1 p.m. - discuss contemporary and classic mysteries, and occasional nonfiction. This month: *The Curse of the Spellmans* by Lisa Lutz
  - Between the Lines - Monday, April 17 • 6 p.m. - come talk about contemporary and classic fiction and nonfiction. This month: *Avenue of Spies* by Alex Kershaw
  - The Buzz - Thursday, April 27 • 6 p.m. - come in to discuss unconventional fiction, nonfiction and graphic novels. This month: *What If?* by Randall Munroe

Visit [http://www.carnegielibrary.org/clp\\_location/brookline/](http://www.carnegielibrary.org/clp_location/brookline/) or call 412-561-1003 for more information.

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## 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 event listed, contact [pdkaz@comcast.net](mailto:pdkaz@comcast.net). Please include "Fundraiser" in the subject line.

The 10th annual Women of Seton Legacy Scholarship Fund Luncheon will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (across from South Hills Village) on Sunday, April 23 at 1 p.m. This fundraising event is supported by alumnae of Elizabeth Seton High School and Seton LaSalle High School to grant scholarships to a qualifying incoming female freshman student attending Seton LaSalle High School. Cost is \$32 and reservations are required by April 12. For additional information, contact Pat Clarke at 412-401-6709.

Night at the Races—Run for the Roses, sponsored by St. John Bosco Academy. Saturday, May 6. Doors open 6 p.m., food 6:30 p.m., races begin 7 p.m. St. Pius X Church, Cullen Hall, 3040 Pioneer Ave. Admission \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door, includes food, snacks, pop & beer. BYOB—set-ups provided. Must be 21 or older to attend. 412-563-0858.

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

Bingo. Sundays, sponsored by Brookline American Legion; Brookline Teen Outreach/American Legion Bldg., 520 Brookline Blvd. Doors open at 4 p.m.; bingo begins at 6 p.m.

## Brookline Memorial Recreation Center

### Kinderkids Club

Ages 5 and younger. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon. Very young boys and girls will have a blast with this ongoing program. Activities include gym time with games and sports, arts and crafts, story time, and snack. Drop in any time! FREE

### Spring Break Camp

Grades K-5. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., April 10-13. This camp over spring break will be jam-packed with fun-filled activities. Have a blast at the rec center with your friends. Breakfast and lunch included. \$10/week

### Fishing

Ages 15 & under. 9 a.m., Saturdays, beginning April 29. Learn the basics of fishing at North Park. \$5

### Knitting Club

All ages. Mondays, 9:30-11 a.m. Come meet new people, try new knitting patterns, and enjoy a community of knitters. This club is open to all levels and can provide beginner instruction. Please bring your own materials. Light refreshments provided. FREE

### Summer Camp Sign-Up

Sign-up begins April 1. Camps run June 13 to August 11. Contact the Center for more information.

### Earth Day Clean-Up of Recreation Center Grounds

Saturday, April 22. 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are needed. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information, call 412-571-3222.

## What's Happening at Brookline PreK-8

by Amy Cornelius Dembosky, Parent Volunteer

April showers will bring "generosity" at our school this spring! Generosity is the character trait for this month, and all classes will be discussing what it means and how we can practice it. Teachers and students will be on the lookout for students who demonstrate a generous spirit when they select their Students of the Month.

Our character education program is part of a larger plan for Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS). The acronym DREAM helps students to focus on the behavior qualities that make our school the positive learning environment that it is. DREAM stands for Dare to believe and achieve; Respect the learning environment; Exert extraordinary effort; Act responsibly; and Make the right decisions.

Students in grades K-2 are awarded compliment cards for demonstrating the DREAM behaviors. Cards can be earned by individuals as well as by entire classrooms. At the end of each month, the classroom with the most cards is awarded the compliment trophy!

Our intermediate and middle school students earn Bobcat Bucks when they contribute to a positive environment in our school using the DREAM qualities. They collect their bucks and can use them in our School Store for supplies and fun prizes.

If you would like to learn more about our school and all the wonderful things that are going on, consider attending one of our Parent School Community Council meetings. This group is open to parents and family members, staff, and members of our community. The meetings have a different topic each month. April's will focus on mathematics and will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19.

# Carmalt News

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by Sara Messiah and Joanne dePoutiloff

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Carmalt had an amazing science night; approximately 200 parents and children joined the staff for an evening filled with hands-on science. They embarked on a quest to fill their passport with stamps at every station before the night came to a close. The passport even included a refreshment station.

Throughout the evening, students got to experiment with dry ice, play the piano on celery, make slime, demonstrate the phases of the moon with Oreo cookies, build structures out of noodles and marshmallows to test their strength, plant a flower, diagram a food chain, experiment with colors, and create a marble maze utilizing paper towel tubes. Students from middle school also took a leadership role and ran some of the stations. Representatives from Alcosan, the University

of Pittsburgh, and CMU were on hand, as well. At the end of the evening, students submitted their completed passport into a drawing for an opportunity to win one of seven microscope kits. A good time was had by all participants.

March 2 was the first ever K-5 reading night. Over 140 people were in attendance. The program began with refreshments while Naomi York talked about the expectations at each grade level and reviewed the PSSA sampler and standards. The parents were given the opportunity to begin a text-dependent analysis writing. Afterwards, each grade level went to separate rooms where they received information about their specific grade level curriculum, had the opportunity to make take-home activities, and even created character trait webs in the third grade. The evening ended with each child selecting two books to take home, as well as a Dr. Seuss bookmark.

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## The Latest from St. John Bosco Academy

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by Holly Victor, Parent Volunteer

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March Madness not only applied to our annual basketball tournament; it was also the theme of Mrs. Schaefer's Mathletic competition. St. John Bosco's math program entered this contest to compete with other schools to win a \$500 prize for either a class trip or a class party. The algebra class competed in the Stock Market Game for the late spring competition. The children in the fifth grade are learning important banking and budgeting skills. The students own a checking account and they earn money by doing homework, tests and quizzes. With the money earned, they can purchase homework passes.

The second and third grade students hopped on the "T" in Dormont and rode it to Heinz Hall in the downtown Cultural district, where they had the pleasure of attending a concert by The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. These concerts are designed to introduce the symphony to young children.

Every year during Holy Week, the seventh graders host the sixth graders for a Seder Meal. Seventh grade students prepare a traditional Seder plate for all of the families to enjoy and the students read passages and sing songs from the Haggadah.

Happy Easter to all!

"The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name." –Luke 24:46-47

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## What's Going on at Pittsburgh West Liberty?

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by Deonne Arrington, Principal  
Teresa Grusong-Adams, First Grade Teacher

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You can see the end of the school year starting to peek around the corner. The schedule becomes busier planning end-of-year activities that will make the conclusion of the school year special for our students.

During the month of April, we have the return of the PSSAs. Spring Break is from April 10 through April 14 with classes resuming on Monday April 17. We will be celebrating Earth Day on April 21 by doing various activities that emphasize the importance of taking care of our Earth. April activities will conclude with Take Your Child to Work Day/ Career Day on April 27 when children can accompany their parents to work and start exploring possible career opportunities for their future.

We will be bringing you more news in future articles as another school year is ready to conclude. Enrollment is now available for Kindergarten and Pre-School. Call Mrs. Brunk at 412-529-7420 to enroll your child. Feel free to come and explore our wonderful school as you prepare to make decisions for your child's future. That's all for now. Remember, Pittsburgh West Liberty is "Where Learners Excel and Character Counts."



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