

Olive Oil's Pizzeria

by Dan Kaczmariski



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Frank Funaro, owner of Olive Oil's Pizzeria at 930 Brookline Blvd., knows pizza. Born in Beechview, he started working at age 18 at the very first Pizza Outlet location (since renamed Vocelli's) and became a franchisee.

In 1998, in Dallas, TX, he opened the first Olive Oil's Pizzeria. It wasn't long before his product was being featured in The Dallas Morning News as "Pizza to Die For," impressive in a metropolitan area with over six million residents. He followed that in 2006 with another Olive Oil's in Richardson, TX.

Though he was doing well in the Lone Star State, he missed Pittsburgh, and in 2009 sold the two Texas shops to franchisees so he could return with his wife to the South Hills. In 2009, he opened the first Pittsburgh-area Olive Oil's in Canonsburg, followed by locations in Bethel Park in 2014 and Washington, PA in 2015.

In 2016, he began renovation of the old Isaly's on Brookline Blvd. to prepare for a Brookline location. That work took over a year, partly because of some unexpected structural issues he discovered along the way. The Brookline shop opened its doors on June 7 of this year.

The name Olive Oil's came from a stint Frank spent in New Orleans before opening the Texas locations. He was looking at a potential pizzeria site in the Big Easy when he came across the building that had housed the original Popeye's Chicken location. Although he didn't end up opening a shop

there, someone suggested he name his first pizza shop Olive Oyl's, as in Popeye's girlfriend. However, because Al Copeland, the Popeye's Chicken founder, already owned the rights to all the Popeye cartoon characters, Frank's shops became Olive Oil's with an "I".

To call Olive Oil's menu extensive is an understatement. There are over 22 varieties of pizza to choose from, 20 types of hoagies, 10 different pasta dishes, and 7 calzones. Plus 12 salad choices, homemade soups, appetizers, and desserts. Very impressive when you realize that virtually everything is freshly made from scratch.

"I make my own dough daily," says Frank. "I cut my own cheese. I make my own pizza sauce. I make my own spaghetti sauce--that recipe's my grandmother's. I make my own Alfredo sauce and pesto sauce. I make my own meatballs. I make my own balsamic vinegar dressing and Caesar dressing for the salads. I like making things from scratch because the quality's good. I wouldn't be in the food business if I couldn't do it from scratch. I'm into that Mom and Pop atmosphere."

This September, the Brookline location's "Meat Monster" pizza made radio station 100.7's list of 10-best pizzas in Pittsburgh. Asked to recommend a "must-try" Olive Oil's item, he suggests the meatball hoagie.

Frank says he wants to become more involved in the community, its programs, schools, and scouting programs. He's



Frank Funaro Owner of Olive Oil's Pizzeria

Olive Oil's Pizzeria from p. 1

coordinated successful fundraisers in Canonsburg and Bethel Park and invites interested groups to check out fundraising options. He offers a 50 percent discount to police, firefighters, and other city workers. Three nights a week, he brings live music to the Brookline location. Once some start-up loans are paid off by the end of this year, he'll be installing new signage on the shop.

"I love Brookline," he says. "It's awesome here. I'm doing this until I drop."

930 Brookline Blvd.

Pittsburgh, PA 15226

412-561-0999

oliveoilspizzeria@yahoo.com

www.oliveoilspizzeria.com

Facebook: Olive Oil's Pizzeria Brookline

Sunday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

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Vintage Eyewear from Linda Boss



Two Events
 Pgh Vintage Mixer,
 Sat. Nov. 4, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Teamsters Hall, 4701 Butler St. in
 Lawrenceville

Brookline Lights Up,
 Sat. Nov. 25, call for times
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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	412-531-0590
Meals-on-Wheels	412-531-2925
Dollar Energy/Columbia Gas Cap	412-344-4222

Community Crimes Zone 6

September		
Zone 6 Crimes	Total	Brookline
Aggravated Assault	8	3
Robbery	7	0
Burglary	10	4
Theft	17	4
Theft from Vehicle	9	1
Stolen Vehicle	8	3

NOVEMBER COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Monday, November 13

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

Tuesday, November 14

Brookline Block Watch, 7 p.m. at Magistrate Jim Motznik's office, 736 Brookline Blvd. November 14 meeting will be 25th Anniversary/Christmas Party. Main meal and cake will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring an appetizer to share. Starts at 6:30 p.m.

Monday, November 20

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

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The Brookline

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November 7 for December Issue

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On The Issues: The Port Authority in Brookline

by Joseph Samuel Rogers



Photo courtesy of Dan Kaczmarek

Public transportation is rooted deep in Brookline's heritage, and the neighborhood is currently served by two prominent bus routes in the Port

Authority's system, the new 39 Brookline and 41 Bower Hill. While practical issues including fare increases, overcrowding, and reduced service are often on the minds of travelers, both bus routes perform well in the Port Authority system, and this installment of "On The Issues" breaks down the numbers to learn about Brookliners' commuting habits.

According to Port Authority spokesman Adam Brandolph, an average of 1,434 riders travel on the 39 Brookline, a six-day per week route, on 42 daily roundtrips from Downtown, and 1,949 riders travel on the 41 Bower Hill on 38 roundtrips. Weekday ridership is steady on the 39 compared to last year, but additional trips and adjusted schedules attempted to ease overcrowding during peak morning and afternoon times. Ridership on the 41, however, increased 10 percent over last year.

The 39 has an on-time performance record of 81 percent and 75 percent on the 41, and both meet the Port Authority's on-time performance goal of 70 percent.

Brookline is Pittsburgh's third largest neighborhood, but ridership on these routes do not place them in the top 10 in the Port Authority system, suggesting that many Brookliners choose to drive to work instead. In comparison, Brandolph pointed to the 71-ABCD routes that serve the East End neighborhood, which see between 4,361 and 5,708 riders each weekday, and the P1, the most-ridden route that travels along the East Busway to Swissvale, sees an average 12,758 riders each weekday.

To make the 39 Brookline more efficient, the Port Authority this year created a one-way loop near the terminus in East Brookline to optimize in-service time.

"While riders may not notice this change, it will help the route maximize efficiency. We will continue to look to improve our efficiency on the Brookline routes as well as

every other route in the system," Brandolph said.

Brookline residents who commute to Oakland remember the 42 Mount Lebanon-Oakland (previously the 44U) which until 2011 connected the South Hills with the East End. When asked about the possibility of restoring previously eliminated routes, Brandolph shared information about the Port Authority's new system to collect service requests that was unveiled in 2016.

"After service requests are collected, they are scored based on their efficiency, equity and effectiveness, and ranked based on their final overall scores. Over the last two years, Port Authority has received more than 2,000 such requests. If the request does not reduce service or require peak vehicles, we recommend the request if the budget allows," he said.

Riders are also reminded that ConnectCards can be reloaded and purchased at Giant Eagle, Goodwill, and ticket vending machines located near major light rail stations, and although the free fare zone does not exist on buses anymore, rides on the "T" within the North Shore and Downtown remain free.

More information about Port Authority service requests can be found here: <http://www.portauthority.org/paac/RiderServices/ServiceRequests.aspx>

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What Is Your Communication Style?

by Jill Lutz

Humans have four distinct, different communication styles that they regularly exhibit in conversation. They are passive, aggressive, passive-aggressive, and assertive. People sometimes use different communication styles in different situations but tend to favor one style more than the others. Want to know which one you fall under?

Let's start with people with a passive communication type. How do they communicate and what is the impact of this communication? Passive communicators avoid expressing their opinions and/or feelings, fail to be assertive, speak softly or apologetically, have poor eye contact and a slumped posture, and allow others to infringe on their rights. This communication style often leads to depression, anxiety, and resentment since their needs are not being met. They often feel confused because they ignore their own feelings. These communicators would often be described as people pleasers.

Individuals that have an aggressive communication style tend to express their feelings and opinions in a way that violates others. They are verbally and/or physically abusive. They try to dominate others, use humiliation, speak in a loud demanding voice, interrupt frequently, and do not listen well. The impact of this communication is that this person alienates others, produces fear and hatred in others, and never owns up to their own issues. These individuals are a classic example of a bully.



Passive-aggressive communicators appear passive on the surface but are really acting out anger in subtle, indirect ways. These individuals use sarcasm, use facial expressions that don't match how they feel--i.e. smiling when angry, and appear cooperative when they are intentionally doing things to annoy and disrupt. As a result, the individuals alienate those around them, remain in a position of powerlessness, and release resentment, while their issues are never addressed. They are seen as spiteful and petty.

Finally, there is assertive communication. Assertive communicators state their needs respectfully and clearly, listen well without interrupting, have good eye contact, stand up for their rights, and do not allow others to manipulate them. This leads the assertive communicator to feel connected to others, feel in control of their lives, and create a respectful environment.

I'm sure you are able to think of examples of people in your own life that would match any of these styles, or maybe more than one. If you are interested in communicating in a more assertive style, a therapist at Compassionate Counseling, conveniently located on Brookline Blvd., can help you become more effective and comfortable with it.

Jill Lutz, M.S.Ed, NCC is a nationally certified therapist at Compassionate Counseling located at the Brookline Teen Outreach building at 520 Brookline Blvd. Compassionate Counseling provides services for adults, teens, children, families, and couples. Phone 412-841-0315, e-mail jilllutz0320@gmail.com

November Events on the Boulevard

At Brookline Teen Outreach

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

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. Please include "Fundraiser" in the subject line.

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

Yard Debris Pick-Up Day

On Saturday, November 18, the City of Pittsburgh will pick up yard debris from your curb, including leaves, grass, plants, tree trimmings, branches (4"-diameter or less), and shrubs. Items must be in paper bags weighing less than 35 pounds. No plastic bags allowed! Bundle all branches with fiber twine or natural rope in lengths of 5-feet or less. Set items out at your regular collection spot before 6 a.m. on the morning of the collection day. The pick-up will not accept stones, dirt, rocks, manure, garbage, lumber, or food waste.

Through the Years, the Eyes Have It

by Dan Kaczmariski



Part of Linda Boss's vintage eyewear collection

Photo courtesy of Linda Boss

For centuries, people have relied on eyeglasses to bring the world into focus. But until the late 1800s, glasses signaled age or infirmity and many people, particularly women, avoided wearing them in public. Today, eyewear is a trendy fashion accessory, with designers cranking out style variations every year for a \$100 billion global industry.

As with all fashion, you can identify a particular period by which eyeglasses were “in” at the time. Linda Boss, owner of A-Boss Opticians on Brookline Blvd. has a collection of over a thousand pairs of eyeglasses spanning

styles from the early 1900s to the present day. Her collection includes antique stemless pince-nez eyewear, gold-filled and tortoiseshell frames popular in the first half of the last century, women’s cat’s-eye frames from the 1950s and 1960s, oversized frames from the 1970s and 1980s, and “schoolboy” style frames from the 1990s.

When her father, Albert Boss, bought the Rodnor Optical business in 1963, the former owners left behind some eyeglasses that today are antiques. Linda and her brother took over the family business—and the leftover eyeglasses—in 1984 and she’s added to her collection over the years.

“Now we have so many, we have to get rid of some,” she says, laughing. She’s discovering there’s a robust market for vintage eyewear. Several months ago, she was invited to set up a “pop-up boutique” of vintage pieces at a jewelry store in Braddock. The shop was filled for the event. At one point the line went out the door.

She had expected the older gold-filled frames to be the best sellers, but the hottest items were oversized plastic frames from the late 1970s and early 1980s, particularly among buyers in their 30s and 40s. Also in demand were women’s

cat’s eye frames-- some adorned with designer stones-- popular through the 1950s and into the 1960s.

One of the attendees was an organizer of a “Vintage Mixer” event to be held in Lawrenceville early this month, who enticed Linda to take part. Later this month, Linda will also put some of her vintage collection—most of which have not previously been used--on sale at her shop for Brookline Lights Up on November 25.

She doesn’t even try to predict what the next big style will be, but says it doesn’t hurt for a celebrity to be seen wearing a certain design or color. She says when talk-show host Sally Jessy Raphael chose red-framed glasses in the 1990s, “everybody” wanted red. On the men’s side, there was a surge in the sale of 1960s-style retro frames when Johnny Depp wore a pair in the 2004 film *Secret Window*.

November 11 is Veterans Day

We honor our veterans on November 11, Veterans Day, and every day. Thank you to all who have served or are serving and your families.

★ THANK YOU ★
Veterans
NOV.11



Thanks BACC

We want to thank the Brookline Area Community Council for providing the needed funding and navigating the morass of legal paperwork necessary to have the “Brookline” wall sign by Pioneer Avenue refurbished.

Brighten Your Day at *Brookline Lights Up*

Kick off the holiday season with fun events without even leaving your neighborhood. On Saturday, November 25 (the weekend after Thanksgiving), the Brookline Chamber of Commerce, along with community volunteers, sponsors “Brookline Lights Up” festivities for all ages from 2 to 8 p.m.

Event Schedule	
Time (p.m.)	Event
2:00 - 4:00	Children’s crafts at Brookline Library
3:30 - 6:00	Photos with Santa at Melissa Distel’s Photo Studio (free 5” x 7” photo; additional photos are available for purchase)
3:30 - 6:00	Children’s face painting at Fox’s Pizza
4:00 - 4:30	Girl Scouts caroling by Melissa Distel’s Photo Studio
4:00 - 6:00	Live Nativity scene at Cannon
4:00 - 8:00	Holiday movies at Brookline Teen Outreach
5:00 - 7:00	Pick-up tickets purchased online at A-Boss Optical
5:00 - 7:00	Outdoor S’mores fire barrels
6:00 - 8:00	Retro Red strolling carolers
6:00 - 8:00	Ugly Christmas-sweater event at Hair by Conroy
6:00 - 8:00	Tastings and holiday tree/wreath viewings and raffle entries. Tickets for this portion of the event are \$15 in advance at A-Boss Optical or 824:The Consignment Shop, or online (see below). Want just raffle tickets to win a holiday tree or wreath--or additional ones? They’re available at 3 for \$5.
6:00 - 8:00	Babysitting available at Brookline Teen Outreach provided at no additional cost for ticket holders. No children less than 2 yrs. old, please!
7:30	Volunteer strolling carolers (meet by Cannon)

Brookline Lights Up is a free event, with the exception of the tastings and raffle entries. Online tickets for tastings and raffle entries can be purchased at <https://www.facebook.com/events/940030909480799/> or <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/light-up-night-tasting-event-tickets-38097177684?aff=efbeventtix> through Saturday, November 18. Note that tax applies to online purchases. Raffle tickets can be purchased at A-Boss Optical and 824:The Consignment Shop from 6-8 p.m. during the event.

For more information, visit Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/940030909480799/>

Welcome Back!



The Brookline Newsletter Needs Editors!

The South Pittsburgh Development Corporation has published the monthly Brookline Newsletter since 2008. The Newsletter keeps our neighborhood abreast of community events, organizations, and individuals. All of the Newsletter positions are filled by volunteers. After this year’s December issue, the Newsletter’s content editor and its design editor will be retiring to devote their time to other projects. To keep the Newsletter going, we need to fill each of those positions with individuals or a team of volunteers. If you’d like to learn more about this opportunity to give back to Brookline while learning what’s happening in our community, contact Dan at pdkaz@comcast.net or 412-531-1252.

December Blood Drive

Brookline Teen Outreach will host a Blood Drive on Friday, December 8, from 1-6 p.m. at the BTO building at 520 Brookline Blvd. To make an appointment, visit centralbloodbank.org, click “Make an Appointment” and search with group code HS010222. Or contact Terri at Central Blood Bank at 412-354-8846 or tward@itxm.org.



Getting Virtually Real on the Boulevard

by Dan Kaczmariski

I've always been intrigued by the TV commercials that tout virtual reality visual systems. The ones where people wearing goggles seem dumbstruck by what they're experiencing. I knew I wasn't going to spend hundreds of dollars for a system and wished I knew someone who owned one so I could be the first geezer on my block to sample VR.

It recently dawned on me that I could sate my curiosity just by taking a quick walk up the street and plunking down \$5 for an hour of VR time at Looking for Group (LFG) Pittsburgh at 924 Brookline Blvd. I'm here to say it was worth every penny and that I'll be back.

Since I didn't feel particularly attracted to the simulated destruction of many video games, I asked Edd Batson at LFG to set me up with something more sedate that would still give me an immersive experience. I chose to sample Google Earth VR.

Google Earth is something you can access on your home computer flat screen in 2D form. Even without the VR, it's enthralling. The Google Earth photo images can give you a long-range or close-up aerial view of virtually any spot on earth, including your own home. Many of the locations also allow you to switch to a street view. If there's a street view in front of your house, you can alight there and spin the image around so that you get a 360° panorama of what would be all around you if you were foolish enough to stand in the middle of your street. It's fascinating, but with 2D you're always aware you're looking at a computer screen.

Google Earth VR takes you well beyond that. You wear a helmet-type device and stand at a certain spot on LFG's carpeting with a remote-control device in each hand. Once Edd helpfully sets you up, the room visually disappears around you and you seem to be surrounded by a lighted cage. Except that your body has disappeared. Where your arms and legs used to be, there's just open space. Images of the remotes you're holding float in front of you and move according to your hand movements.

When the actual Google Earth menu starts up, you choose where you want to go by pointing and clicking on a lighted screen in front of where your body would be if you had one. My recommendation if you're a first-timer is to choose one of the destinations prepackaged by Google Earth. I chose Manhattan.



You can sample 'virtual reality' at Looking for Group, 924 Brookline Blvd.

Photo courtesy of Dan Kaczmariski

Suddenly, you're gliding along far above the Manhattan skyline. At this point, you're not looking down on actual photograph images but on what are obviously computer simulations of New York City. That's a bit of a letdown but it's compensated for by the fact that you are now literally in a 360° environment. Look forward and you see Manhattan Island, turn yourself around and there's the New York harbor. To your right is Brooklyn and to your left lovely New Jersey.

By clicking on the remotes, you can move through the air above Manhattan. When you find a spot that interests you, you can zoom in and ask Google Earth to set you down in a street view setting. The image changes and now you're in the middle of a street with actual photographic images all around you, including above and below you. When you look down where your feet should be, you notice you're hovering dreamlike in space about 10 feet above the asphalt of the street.

In addition to selected cities, Google Earth allows you to visit landmarks and natural wonders worldwide. Once you get adept at pushing the proper control buttons in the proper order (which I'm still working on), you can also choose your own destinations from a huge lighted Planet Earth. Your first time out, I'd recommend having one of the LFG members nearby in case you need assistance.

While at LFG, I also sampled some non-violent VR games. The first thing I learned is that I need remedial work on hand-eye coordination. But it's amazing how objects in the simulated world react to your grasps and nudgings as they would in the real world. For now, though, I'm going to stick to international travels via Google Earth VR. For \$5, there's a whole lot of world to explore in an hour. I recommend you give it a try.

Council Woman Natalia Rudiak



On Saturday, July 8, I got the call that the Brookline Cannon was struck by a Port Authority bus and damaged. I immediately reached out to other City officials and the Port Authority. The Model 1917 Schneider 155mm howitzer cannon was cracked, and the wheels were damaged beyond repair. Thankfully, despite this damage it was determined that the cannon could be fixed, but

it would need new wheels. The Allegheny County Port Authority announced they would pay for all repairs; a promise they made good on.

To start work, Port Authority needed approval from the U.S. Department of Defense, then began a search for someone with knowledge of historical cannons. This proved harder than they had anticipated.

After their search for a contractor to repair the cannon came up empty, Port Authority employees made the repairs themselves. Since they ordinarily repair busses, not historical artillery, they used their own time to research the cannon to restore it as accurately as possible. After reaching out to the U.S. Department of Interior to try and locate proper wheels and leaving empty-handed, amazingly, they found and purchased wheels online, and then located historically accurate tires to put on those wheels. They also stripped the gray lead paint and repainted the cannon in a traditional army green.

In the wee hours of October 5, workers returned the cannon to the park. Eighty-three years after it first arrived, it came back home to Brookline.

Representative Dan Deasy



The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will begin taking applications on Nov. 1. This program helps low-income families pay their heating bills. LIHEAP is a grant. You do not have to repay it.

To receive assistance under this program, you must apply between Nov. 1, 2017, and April 6, 2018. LIHEAP

offers both heating assistance cash grants and crisis grants. The cash grants help families by sending a one-time payment directly to your utility company or fuel provider, which will get credited to your account. Cash grants range from \$200 to \$1,000 and are based on household size, income and fuel type.

Crisis grants may be available if you have an emergency situation and are in jeopardy of losing your heat. Crisis situations include: broken heating equipment or leaking lines that must be repaired or replaced, lack of fuel, termination of utility service, or danger of being without fuel or having a utility termination notice. You can receive more than one crisis grant during the season until a maximum benefit of \$500 is reached.

To apply for LIHEAP or learn about the income guidelines, visit www.compass.state.pa.us. You will need the names, birthdates, Social Security numbers and proof of income for all people in your household to apply. In addition, you will need a copy of a recent heating bill.

If you don't have access to the internet and would like an application for LIHEAP, please call my office at 412-928-9514.

Representative Harry Readshaw



Pennsylvanians will not face access issues when entering federal facilities through Jan. 22, 2018, because of an extended REAL ID grace period on enforcement announced by the federal Department of Homeland Security. The enforcement grace period applies only to entrance to federal facilities. The enforcement extension was set to expire October 10. There is no enforcement on commercial air travel until January 22, 2018.

Under the federal REAL ID Act, beginning January 22, 2018, residents in states that have not come into compliance with federal requirements or obtained an extension will need to show an alternative form of identification such as a passport at airports and when accessing federal buildings and military bases.

PennDOT will continue to request extensions from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security until REAL ID products are available for residents. Under Act 3, no Pennsylvania resident will be required to get a REAL ID-compliant driver license or identification card, but residents who choose to do so will be able to use those forms of identification when the new federal requirements go into effect.

PennDOT has begun work on implementing REAL ID and it estimates that optional REAL ID compliant driver licenses and identification cards will be available in March 2019, providing time to obtain a REAL ID driver license or identification card before the final DHS effective date of October 1, 2020. More information on REAL ID in Pennsylvania, including frequently asked questions, is available at www.dmv.pa.gov.

Representative Dan Miller



The struggles we are facing as a state and a nation—in regards to our opioid epidemic and addiction as a whole—are not new to our district. An entire Brookline Block Watch meeting was recently dedicated to educating attendees about the opioid crisis, and City Police shared that Brookline has had the most

recorded Zone 6 overdoses in 2017. The South Pittsburgh Opioid Action Coalition meets monthly at Brookline Teen Outreach.

Our community is keenly aware of the impacts of opioid abuse, and it does no good to quote statistics when people are struggling to find the resources they need in their already-difficult journeys to sobriety.

In an effort to address these needs and put resources within reach for all our neighbors, my office will be hosting a Substance Abuse forum entitled “Challenges to Recovery.” This of course is a free event, and we will be exploring the specific hurdles in the criminal justice system and the workplace, the impact on the children of those struggling with substance use disorder, the support that families need as they try to help a loved one, and the challenges of accessing treatment. We also will have a resource fair full of information and opportunities for support and assistance in our area.

The event will run on Wednesday, November 29 from approximately 1-6 pm. Special thanks to our hosts at St. Paul’s Episcopal (1066 Washington Road, 15528) for helping us to bring this important conversation to the community. For more information, please visit www.MillerSubstanceAbuse.eventbrite.com or call my office 412-343-3870.

Senator Wayne Fontana



The Senate of Pennsylvania has organized a creative initiative to combat the growing heroin and opioid epidemic facing our commonwealth, while providing a chance for students to win money for college.

“Talk To Your State Senator” is a statewide video competition sponsored by the Senate of Pennsylvania with support from the members of the Drug and Alcohol Service Providers Organization of Pennsylvania (DASPOP).

Through December 10, students can submit a video, up to five minutes in length, explaining their approach to preventing teens from using drugs and alcohol. All entries must be submitted using the registration form available by visiting www.acommonwealthcrisis.com and clicking on the “Video Competition” tab.

DASPOP is providing \$10,000 that will be divided into six monetary prizes. The prizes will be \$2,500 for 1st, \$1,500 for 2nd, and \$1,000 for 3rd place in each of the two categories. Prize money will be awarded through the PA 529 College Savings Account Program and deposited into a college savings account in the winner(s)’ names.

The growing heroin and opioid epidemic is taking lives every day and does not discriminate. It affects communities all across Pennsylvania, and doesn’t care whether you’re rich, or poor, or somewhere in between. The video competition is a creative way to educate young people on the dangers associated with using drugs while offering a chance to win prize money to help pay for a post-secondary education. Please visit www.senatorfontana.com for more information.

Call for Volunteers

- BROOKLINE CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY at Tree of Life Open Bible Church at 412-531-0590
 - BEGIN AGAIN CLOTHING MINISTRY To donate gently used or new clothing, call Tree of Life Open Bible Church at 412-531-0590.
 - DOGIPOT MAINTENANCE Call Lisa at 412-304-3086.
 - FOREVER HOME BEAGLE RESCUE Call 412-304-4034 or BeagleHQ@msn.com. Foster homes needed as well as donations of dog food, funds and Amazon gift cards.
 - MEALS ON WHEELS Sponsored by St. Mark’s Lutheran Church. Call 412-531-2925.
 - OASIS: HELP CHILDREN READ Tutors (age 50+) needed in Pittsburgh Schools, including Brookline PreK-8 and West Liberty K-5. Call John D. Spehar at 412-393-7648. In partnership with Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council.
 - OPEN YOUR HEART TO A SENIOR Volunteers needed to assist senior citizens. Call Family Services at 412-661-1670.
- Other ways to help: Meals on Wheels can use donations of cash, cookies, desserts and bread. The Brookline Christian Food Pantry can use grocery store gift cards, unopened foods with current dates, or checks made out to Brookline Christian Food Pantry.

Carnegie Library of Brookline November Events

For Kids

- *Storytime: Sensory Discoveries* – Mondays, November 6, 13, & 20 • 6:30 p.m. - Children with developmental disabilities will build early literacy skills by interacting with stories, songs and activities that engage all the senses.
- *Kids Club: Wacky Wednesdays* • 3:30 p.m. - Meet new friends, hang out with old friends and try something new.
- *Storytime: Toddler & Preschooler Tales* – Thursdays, November 2, 9, 16, & 30 • 11 a.m. - Get up and get moving with interactive stories, songs and rhymes.

For Teens

- *Pokémon Club* – Thursdays, November 2, 9, 16, & 30 • 3:30 p.m. – Compete with other teens in drop-in battle leagues.
- *Teen Time* – Tuesdays • 3:30 p.m. – Cool art projects, epic games, music, movies and just chilling out.

For Adults

- *Word Games* – Tuesday, November 7 • 6 p.m. - Play popular word games.
- *Color Your World* – Tuesday, November 14 • 6 p.m. - Coloring is a great way to relax and unwind.
- *Kids Play* – Tuesday, November 21 • 6 p.m. - Adults get the chance to use some of our most popular toys like Magnatiles and Legos.
- *Live & Learn* – Tuesday, November 28 • 6 p.m. - Explore something new like origami or calligraphy.
- *NaNoWriMo Write In* - Saturdays • 2 p.m. - Come create in a space for National Novel Writing Month. Come just to write or meet and share your ideas.
- *Book Discussions:*
 - *Mystery & More* – Wednesday, November 8 • 1 p.m. – Join us for lively discussions of mysteries. This month: *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion.
 - *Between the Lines* – Monday, November 13 • 6 p.m. – Take part in engaging conversations about contemporary and classic fiction and nonfiction. This month: *Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles.
 - *Curious Selections* – Tuesday, November 28 • 6 p.m. – Join us where hip meets lit to discuss unconventional fiction. This month: *Mad Love* by Paul Dini.

Visit http://www.carnegielibrary.org/clp_location/brookline/ or call 412-561-1003 for more information.

Brookline Memorial Recreation Center

Weight Room and Fitness Center

Our 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. Membership card is required. \$5 monthly fee.

Kinderclub

Ages 5 and under with adult. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to noon. Ongoing. Just drop in. Free

Kids Indoor Soccer League

Ages 4-6 & 7-9. Sign up now through November 13. Season starts in November. This league is designed to introduce new and build on old soccer skills. Kids will enjoy playing with new and old friends as they learn and compete in a non-threatening soccer environment. 4-6 year olds, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. 7-9 year olds, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Pre-registration is required. \$20

Fall and Winter Hours

Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, call 412-571-3222.

Heritage Players Theater News

The Heritage Players is a local theater group that performs in the Seton Center auditorium at 1900 Pioneer Ave. The group draws actors, directors, and crew from throughout the Pittsburgh area. Last month, The Heritage Players marked the 20th anniversary of their first production. Brookliners are encouraged to share their talents with this friendly and welcoming group.

The Heritage Players will present Stephen Sondheim's musical, *Into the Woods*, November 3-5 and 10-12 at the Seton Center. Friday and Saturday performances are at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person. The box office opens one-half-hour before curtain. For more information, email heritageplayers@yahoo.com or phone 412-254-4633.

Old Notes By Old People

by Chip Gorski

I don't know why I thought of this person the other day, but I did. Every neighborhood has somebody like this. They are the people who will keep the baseball that a kid accidentally hits in their yard. Or, they scream from their porches to children for a variety of supposed violations.

In our case, we had what we called the "crab on the corner." I even made up a song about her, which is sung to the music from the Guy Mitchell song "There's a Pawnshop on a Corner in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania." I can't give you the lyrics here because they would clearly identify this person. After all, this was 40 years ago and there is a possibility that this person could still be with us. However, let me tell you the reason for the song.

Our favorite pastime was riding bikes on the flattest street near our homes. Along this street was an equally perfect flat sidewalk. This was a city-owned sidewalk. I reiterate, this sidewalk was not privately owned. On occasion, we would ride on this sidewalk when cars would force us off the street. The minute a tire of a bicycle would touch the sidewalk, this individual would bolt from the house and travel up a large hill to stand on the sidewalk in protest. She would rant and rave about us riding on "her" sidewalk and tell us we were destroying her property. There would be threats that she would tell our parents. Wrong as it was, we all got a little

mouthy with her. She would threaten to hit us with her broom.

I got a little sick of her threats, so I did tell my parents what was going on, and that there was a potential that she might pay them a visit to complain about us. She did. That provoked us to sing the song as we road along "her" sidewalk. This irritated her more. Mission accomplished. That was not the way for us kids to behave. Soon, summer would be over and she would get her sidewalk back.

At this point, you would think that the change in seasons would tamp down this inappropriate song singing – but it didn't. One day, a stray dog decided to use her pristine lawn as a toilet. The "crab" decided to get even. She collected the deposit, placed it in a brown paper bag, and decided to throw it on the porch of the person who she thought owned the dog. She chose our house and it was not a good choice on her part. See, we didn't own a dog at the time. When my father's shoe found this deposit, he returned it to the front porch of the person who made the delivery with some not-so-nice words.

Fast forward 20 or 30 years. I am reminiscing about these incidents with my parents. My mother proceeds to tell me that after we stopped singing that awful song and bicycles no longer held our interest, she and my father became friendly with the "crab." Maybe time heals all, or maybe this lady didn't realize it was us on the bicycles many years ago.

Brookline Teen Outreach News

by Caitlin McNulty

At Brookline Teen Outreach, we pride ourselves on always growing and changing with the community in mind. We have recently completed setting up a computer lab for student use. A Brookline resident generously donated all computers and equipment. Now, in addition to offering tutoring and homework help, we are able to provide a quiet space for students to work and print materials.

We are also excited to announce a new program for those in need. Our counselors have begun a "take what you need" pantry with food, household items, toiletries and other necessities for the clients and students we serve that are in emergency or ongoing need. If you would like to make a donation, we are accepting all sizes and brands of soap, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, toilet paper, non-perishable food items, and feminine hygiene products. Items can be dropped off during our open hours Wednesdays-

Fridays 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or by appointment. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Many people have come together to provide help and resources to renovate our main hall. We have freshly painted walls, new light fixtures and fans, a revamped stage, sound system, projector and screen. In the next few months Liam Yates, a local Troop 6 Eagle Scout will be refinishing our floors as his Eagle Scout Project. We host numerous community activities, events and meetings, and we now have a space that properly reflects all we have to offer.

The main hall is also available for party rentals and seats up to 150 people. For pricing and more details, please contact Caitlin McNulty at cmcnulty@brooklineteenoutreach.org or 412-302-9394.



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What's Happening at Brookline PreK-8

by Amy Cornelius Dembosky, Parent Volunteer

November brings Thanksgiving, and we have a lot to be thankful for at Pittsburgh Brookline. We have a successful backpack program that provides students who are food insecure with food for the weekend. Thank you to the families who support this vital program through food donations or monetary gifts. If you would like to help, please call the office at 412-529-7380.

We have wonderful students with good character! In October, they studied forgiveness, and November's character topic is understanding others. Students who exemplify these goals are recognized by their peers as Students of the Month.

We are fortunate to have an active Parent School Community Council. This group meets monthly to discuss important things like curriculum, school policies, and district initiatives. This month's meeting will be held Wednesday, November 15, at 5 p.m. All community members are welcome.

Our Parent Teacher Association is having a great year. In October, PTA sponsored a Halloween party for grades PreK-5. They have also helped with our successful fundraisers at Rita's Italian Ice and Chipotle. PTA meetings are the third Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. New members are gladly accepted, and you don't have to be an official member to attend!

There are many important dates for November, too. Tuesday, November 7, is a day off due to Election Day. There is no school Friday, November 10, in observance of Veterans Day. Friday, November 17, is a half-day; students will be dismissed at 11:51 a.m. Finally, students will be off Thursday, November 23, Friday, November 24, and Monday, November 27 to celebrate Thanksgiving. We hope that you have many things to be thankful for, too!

Carmalt News

by Joanne de Poutiloff

The school year is well under way, with trips to the pumpkin patch and the Panhandle Trail. Cross Country and Flag Football are over and the student athletes are gearing up for basketball.

On December 12, we will be holding our Holiday Extravaganza with games, crafts, snacks, seasonal songs, and a visitor from the North Pole. In addition, the Sarris Candy fundraiser takes place in December. There will be numerous volunteer opportunities this month, so please plan to support the school. Information on the necessary clearances can be obtained from Mrs. Gagliardi in the main office.



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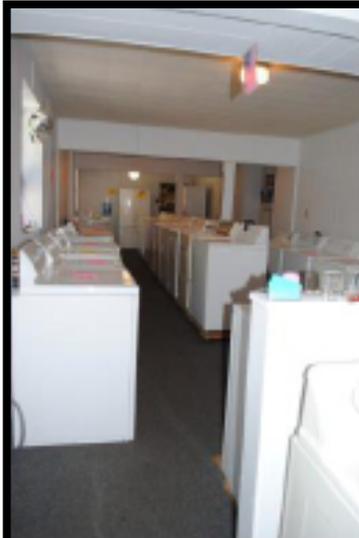
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More Information at: www.facebook.com/brooklinelightsup




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