

### Letter from the Editor

Mother Nature has finally awoken from her long winter nap. Our tulips, hyacinths and primrose are dotting the brown winter flower beds with their green leaves. Now here's the plan. You picked up your seeds at Spring Fling in March. Now April is clean-up time. Clean the flower beds, your yard, the sidewalk in front of your house and the alley behind your house. Yes. Yes. We know you weren't responsible for the litter, but in the words of Boris Weinstein, Pittsburgh's

Mr. Redd-Up, "people have to buy into the concept that people who can, have to pick up for people who don't care."

If you can participate on April 18, join one of the Redd-Up teams on the boulevard, Brookline Memorial Park or Moore Park and help pick up litter. If not, walk up and down your street with a garbage bag and pick up trash. Imagine if everyone in Brookline, filled one small plastic bag with litter! While you're cleaning up, look for



graffiti. Report it to the Graffiti Task Force. The recent arrests for graffiti should make it clear that Brookline residents and the police are not going to tolerate graffiti in Brookline.

Remember this is the year we make Brookline bloom. As any gardener will tell you, to produce beautiful blooms, you have to get your hands dirty.

## TISHA'S SUNNY FARMS

**606 Brookline Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15226  
Hours: Daily 7:30AM to 3:00PM**

By Pamela Grabowski

"Why can't someone open a place for breakfast on the boulevard?" This was my husband's lament for years. Now Tisha Carricato has made him a happy man. A love of cooking motivated her to open Tisha's Sunny Farms. Her friendship with the owner of the building brought her to Brookline.

The menu is standard breakfast and lunch fare with some interesting additions. Besides the usual eggs and omelets, breakfast options include Eggs Benedict and a Belgium waffle. The golden waffle comes with optional fruit toppings of bananas, strawberries or peaches to offset the carbohydrates. Lunch features a grilled chipped ham and cheese sandwich.

Tisha says the response from the residents has been good. The prices certainly are inviting. The Belgium waffle is \$4.29 add the fruit for another \$1.29. The morning we visited

the special was four eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, toast, two pancakes or French toast for \$5.99. There's a kid-friendly menu, too.

Tisha does it all. On the Sunday we stopped, she was taking orders, cooking and serving until her helper arrived. In between she graciously answered our questions. The restaurant has four booths, two tables and counter seating. The booths and tables are a great place to enjoy your coffee and watch the boulevard traffic.

Tisha's is a perfect way to begin a weekend. Take a walk to the boulevard Saturday and start the day with breakfast. Or, leave a little later and stop for lunch. Saturday doesn't work for you? Then stop for a bite to eat after church services on Sunday.

On our visit, two firemen from Engine Company 26 stopped to place an order for take-out. If the firemen are stopping, you know it's "good eats."



Clockwise from left: Patty Quigley, Carolynn Steinhauser, Mary Ann Magliocca and Sandy Rouse enjoying breakfast. *Photo by Jessica Luffy.*



Tisha Carricato at her grill. *Photo by Jessica Luffy.*

# Readers Respond

I'm a long-time Brookline resident, and I appreciate reading about all matters involving this area. Having the Brookline newsletter is truly a great idea. That photo [Bryant Hardware in February's issue] has some personal significance for me as I'm the fellow in the shorts jogging down Brookline Blvd. (I'm curious as to the date of the photo. I'm also assuming that the person taking the picture was more interested in photographing me running in shorts than in taking a picture of the Bryant's Hardware sign...Can you date the photo, and provide some info on it, if any of that is available. PS. I'm guessing that the photo is from the late 70's or very early 80's. Regarding other old time business no longer to be found, allow me to mention: "Pullia's Italian Grocery & Deli" "United Dairy Farmers Coop" (Formerly located on the corner of Brookline Blvd. &

Queensboro.)

Thanks,  
*Tony Lintner*

I was reading the Brookline Paper that was put together and found it interesting. The information was good to see. One thing that was omitted by Joanne on the former markets in Brookline was my father and uncle's place. It was called Garrubba Bros. Meat Market, I'm surprised it was not listed. It was at 526 Brookline Blvd. from 1956 to 1990 and was one of the last to close. The store is now run by my sister Earlene Jo Garrubba as Jo's Salon. The market delivered orders to the surrounding areas as well as pizza shops and restaurants. (Sausage to Fiore's, Pasta, Pasta Factory, Piacquadio's, etc). One other store that was omitted was the Brookline Market which was where Melman's was. This

was the last grocery store to close in Brookline. Thank you.

*Michael Garrubba*



Brookline resident Rich Munizza patronizes Sal Bondi's shop.

By Pamela Grabowski

Sargeant Sean Duffy joined Commander Scott Schubert and Officer Ken Stevwing at the March Meeting. Sgt. Duffy is from narcotics, and like Commander Schubert and Officer Stevwing, he is a Brookline resident.

There has been a significant decrease in burglaries and robberies in Brookline since the rash of incidents that occurred in November, but resi-

## Brookline Block Watch

dents were encouraged to keep their property secured. That means doors and windows and cars locked.

Sgt. Duffy also urged residents to call 911 when they see something in their neighborhood that doesn't seem right. He recounted a personal experience of calling 911 because of a car parked in front of his home. Two men were in the car. As it turned out, the

men were waiting to do work for a neighbor who wasn't home yet. When asked if he felt bad calling 911 for a "non emergency," Sgt. Duffy answered with a firm "No." This time it was nothing, but until the police checked it out, there was no way to know that. The police are doing exactly what they are asking us to do-call 911.

## Volunteers Needed

**COMMUNITY DAY** in August needs volunteers. Call Linda Boss at 412-563-0759.

**MEALS ON WHEELS** call 412-343-8144

**SENIOR VAN TRANSPORTATION** call 412-344-4222

**BROOKLINE CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY** call Pat Erny 412-344-8451

**CLOTHES CLOSET MINISTRY** call Bernice at 412-343-0937

**EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP** on April 18. Meet at the United Presbyterian Church at 9:00AM. Supplies will be provided.

Are you unable to volunteer right now? You can still help many of these organizations. Clothes Closet Ministry is collecting used clothing for people who use the Food Pantry. They also need hangers and plastic bags.

Meals on Wheels accepts cash and donations of cookies, desserts and bread.

If you can buy just about anything you want at the grocery store, add a grocery store gift card at checkout. No matter how small it will help the Brookline Christian Food Pantry.

Lend a hand any way you can. That's what sustains a thriving community.

## South Pittsburgh Development Corp

By Pamela Grabowski

SPDC welcomed new board members Michael Whitlinger, Lois McCafferty, Tim Reitmeyer, Jack Stanizzo and Pamela Grabowski.

Spring Fling and Earth Day Clean-

Up were the main topics of the meeting. Both events will require volunteers. Keith Knecht pointed out that Brookline has held first place among Pittsburgh neighborhoods for the larg-

est turnout of volunteers for Earth Day Clean-Up. As a result, Brookline collects the most trash. To aid the trash cleaning effort, Brookline has ten new trash cans on the boulevard.

By Linda Boss

At the budget meeting of the Brookline Chamber of Commerce held recently, the annual contribution list and Chamber projects were reviewed. Again, as in past years, contributions will be made to many worthwhile Brookline organizations, among them are: Meals on Wheels, the Food Bank, Seton Center, Angels Place and the Boy Scouts.

The BCC will continue to maintain the US Flags displayed along the Boulevard on National Holidays and

## Chambers of Commerce

the Boulevard sidewalk lights. They will sponsor a Little League team and co-sponsor the Brookline Breeze. The Halloween parade, a presence in the Memorial Day Parade and Community Day at Kennywood are long time community projects that the Chamber will continue to sponsor in 2009.

Since there will be an Easter children's lunch at the Community Center, the Boulevard Easter Egg Hunt will be discontinued.

The Future Christmas Lighting fund committee is planning various fundraising projects in 2009. Their plans may include a Summer Boulevard Event.

Of course extra help will be needed, so if you would like to contribute some time to your community please call Linda Boss @ 412-563-0759.

## Joanne's Corner

### Things that aren't here anymore - Part Two

By Joanne Fantoni

I heard from a Brookline old-timer, Norb Mechenbier from Greenville, PA. He told me that in 1927 his father managed an A&P in the Isaly Building on the boulevard. His parents and nine siblings lived upstairs. At that time there were four A&P's on the boulevard. Most people did not have cars so the four stores were convenient for family shopping. Also, we had a Donohue's on the boulevard. Do you remember when the Sabbatini family owned Melmans in the 1970s? In my first installment I gave you the names of grocery stores on the boulevard. Now we would be thankful to have

ONE.

Does anyone remember the Married Men's Field located in the woods around Rossmore? A man was swinging on a Tarzan-like rope and suffered a fatal fall.

I'm working on more news for next month.

Question of the month: What was located many years ago where the Boulevard Lounge is today?

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**P.O. Box 9606  
Pittsburgh, PA 15226**

**Funding for newsletter by Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development**



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## From Senator Wayne Fontana

A few weeks ago, I announced a proposal to provide a \$100 tax credit for users of mass transit (trains, buses and trolleys). An estimated 298,000

(based on past usage) PA taxpayers would be eligible for the credit administered by the Revenue Department.

Although this is a difficult budget year, I believe that we need to be looking at solutions that help our economy in both the short and long-term. This tax credit is an effort to look at long-term solutions. Mass transit use eases traffic congestion, diminishes highway and bridge wear and tear, reduces pollution and helps keep gas prices down. According to the most recent Texas Transportation Institute report, public transportation saved travelers \$541 million hours in travel time and 340 million gallons of fuel. Without public transportation, congestion costs would have been an additional \$10.2 billion.

Mass transit use also boosts the economy and creates jobs. Every \$1.25 billion investment in the nation's

transportation infrastructure supports approximately 35,000 jobs. Every \$10 million in capital investment in public transportation can return up to \$30 million in business sales alone. Mass transit continues to show higher ridership numbers than have been seen in 50 years.

Mass transit use also helps individuals keep their own costs down. A person riding public transportation can achieve an average annual savings of \$8,481 per year by taking public transportation instead of driving. In comparison, the average family spends \$6,111 on food each year.

Our community, in particular, can benefit from such a tax credit and already utilizes mass transit at a much higher rate than other communities. Pennsylvania has two of the top 20 cities with the highest transit ridership in the country - Philadelphia is # 5 on the list. Pittsburgh is # 20 with riders saving an average of \$626 monthly or \$7,517 annually.

As always, I look forward to communication with you on this and other issues that are of interest and importance to you.

## From Councilman Jim Motznik

As I have mentioned on numerous occasions it is a tremendous pleasure and honor to serve the people of Brookline and all of District 4 as your Councilman. Many of you have seen me at community events, City Council meetings, television and radio interviews and even walking the streets of our District to hear your concerns directly. But there are also people behind the scenes that do so much for our neighborhoods and I felt it was time to recognize them.

Joe Day – Chief of Staff Joe has been with me since late 2006 and has served as my Chief of Staff since early this year. He is a Graduate Student at Carnegie Mellon University and went to Pitt for his Bachelor's degree. Joe was appointed by Mayor Ravenstahl to serve on the Propel Pittsburgh Commission. Joe also serves as Finance Director for the PA College Dems.

Barb Kass – Executive Assistant Barb has worked in the District 4 office for almost two years. She is an active member of her community, serving as a committee woman in the 29th ward. Barb and her husband Ken have two children and two grandchildren.

Jim Sheppard – Deputy Chief of Staff Jim started to work for my office as an

PLEASE SEE

**COUNCILMAN, PAGE 5**



**COUNCILMAN:**

Continued from Page 4

intern from Pitt and was hired as Joe's Deputy earlier this year. He is currently pursuing his degree in Political Science. Jim is also the Western Vice-President for the PA College Dems.

These are the people who handle constituent requests, help me write

legislation that will make our City a better place, and so much more and it is my pleasure to introduce them to you. Chances are the next time you call my office one of these fine people will help me assist you.

**From State Representative Chelsa Wagner**



When I chose a location for my District Office, I wanted to be sure that it would be inviting and accessible to my constituents. Choosing 900 Brookline Boulevard continued the tradition of Brookline residents heading to the corner of Brookline and Stebbins for help.

Stebbrook Pharmacy was located in this building for many years. Since its establishment in the early 1970s, it was a stable neighborhood business that frequently sponsored a team in the Brookline Little League. Before Stebbrooks, Alms Pharmacy served the Brookline neighborhood. After Stebbrooks, the pharmacy was run by Revco

and then CVS Pharmacy, which eventually moved to the corner of Brookline and Pioneer.

I believe that my office continues to represent the strength of our community and the importance of helping our neighbors, as those businesses did. My office can provide information on a number of state services including low-income heating and medical assistance, and can help seniors complete property tax and rent rebate forms. We can provide PennDot forms and send them to Harrisburg for faster processing. We are happy to hear your concerns about the neighborhoods in our district, and even if they do not involve state government issues we

will contact the proper person to address your problem. My office also provides free notary service.

My staff and I hope you will visit us at 900 Brookline Boulevard soon, or contact us at 412-343-2094.

**We want to hear from you. If you have questions about Brookline, maybe we can help you get answers. We welcome your comments. Send your questions or comments by email, phone or mail.**

**Email: [mnp.grabowski@verizon.net](mailto:mnp.grabowski@verizon.net)**

**Telephone: 412-343-2859**

**Mail: The Brookline c/o SPDC, PO Box 9606, Pittsburgh, PA 15226.**

**Get The Brookline in COLOR! Send your email address to [mnp.grabowski@verizon.net](mailto:mnp.grabowski@verizon.net). Put "The Brookline" in the subject line.**

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



Sal Bondi from Sal's Barber shop having lunch with his nephew Joe Fiori at It's Greek to Me.

*Photo by Catia Alencar*

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**THIS MONTH****April 4**

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny  
11:00AM \$2.00 per person. Everyone eats. Brookline Recreation Center

**April 6**

Chamber of Commerce Meeting 6:00PM at Magistrate Charles McLaughlin's office 736 Brookline Blvd.

**April 13**

Contest deadline for "Six Burgh Reasons Why I ♥ My Neighborhood" Check the website for contest rules [www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us](http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us)

**April 14**

Brookline Block Watch Meeting 7:00PM at Magistrate Charles McLaughlin's office 736

Brookline Blvd.

**April 18**

Brookline and Moore Park Earth Day Cleanup 9:00AM through noon. Children ages 6 and over are encouraged to participate. We will be cleaning the grounds around Brookline Park and Moore Park. Refreshments will be provided. Come help us keep our parks clean and free of trash. Meet at Brookline Park at 9:00am. See you there!

**April 18**

Brookline Boulevard Area Earth Day Clean Up participants should meet at the Brookline Blvd United Presbyterian Church Chelton Avenue entrance at 9:00AM. Supplies provided. Pizza lunch for volunteers.

**April 21**

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

**April 27**

Brookline Area Community Council "Candidates Night for the Primary Races" 7:30 PM St Mark's Church Corner of Brookline Blvd. & Glenarm Ave.

**April 1-30**

Sign ups for the Brookline Summer Basketball Leagues will be held at the Recreation Center. Roster positions limited. See Recreation Calendar.

**BROOKLINE REC CENTER - 412-571-3222****YOUTH PROGRAMS:**

**Boys & Girls Indoor Soccer**  
\$15.00 Fee

**Kinder Sports**

Free program of sports and crafts with Mickey and Milan. 11:00AM to Noon. Age 6 and under

**Girls Fast Pitch Softball**

Sat. 2:00PM to 3:00 PM Free

**Mr. Joe's Fitness Program**

Come and receive personal in class training and nutritional from Joe Szymanski. Ages 13 to 17

**Boxing**

Get ready for Golden Gloves. Mon. Tues. Wed. 6:00PM to 9:00PM. Ages 8 to 36. Subnovis, novis and open divisions are trained by Mike and Carlos.

**Boys & Girls Summer Basketball**

League Ages 9-14 \$25.00 per player. Season runs mid-June through first week of August.

**ADULT PROGRAMS:****Joe's Fitness Club**

Come and receive personal in class training and nutritional from Joe Szymanski. Men &

Women age 18 and over

**Boxing**

Get ready for Golden Gloves. Mon. Tues. Wed. 6:00PM to 9:00PM. Ages 8 to 36. Subnovis, novis and open divisions are trained by Mike and Carlos.

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