

Letter from the Editor

September 2009 in Pittsburgh a/k/a G-20 Summit month. Everyone is hustling to fix -up and redd-up for “company.” We certainly appreciate a cleaner Pittsburgh, and we find ourselves wondering. Why will we redd-up for company, but not for ourselves? Why do we spend large sums of money and time to impress people we don’t know? Are we so unworthy of the same attention?

Most of us have engaged in the practice at one time or another. The mad rush to “straighten up” and “pick up” before guests arrive. Often it’s just a matter of putting stuff away: the magazines tossed on the end table, the afghan balled up on the sofa, the coat slung over the banister. Or, in the larger “living room” we share, candy wrappers tossed on the sidewalk, a soda can left at the curb, cigarette butts decorating a doorway.

Instead of a redd-up campaign to impress strangers, we are suggesting that September 2009 be “Impress Yourself! You’re Worth It!” month in Brookline. **Eileen Papale**, a Brookline resident offered, “I guess I can get my rubber gloves out and hit the trenches. Maybe someone from the G-20 will get lost on the Liberty Bridge and wind up in Brookline where they would be warmly welcomed.” We say - who cares? We will redd-up Brookline because we take pride in our community. We will pick-up what we didn’t toss because we recognize that while we are all in this together, there are those who just don’t get it. So we will join Eileen because when we cross the Liberty Bridge we are not lost; we are on our way home.

KRAZY BROTHERS PIZZA AND PASTA

Krazy Brothers Pizza and Pasta saw that the good folks of Brookline had a need; so they decided to fill that need! As a resident, I am glad **Krazy Bros.** is here.

When asked why they chose Brookline, co-owner, **Rob Carrabbia** answered simply, “Brookline is a family oriented community with hard working, pizza loving folks.”

Rob co-owns **Krazy Bros.** with his wife, Wendy. The couple’s two sons, Sergio, 6 and Lorenzo, 11, are the restaurants’ namesakes. In addition to the two generations of Carrabbia’s mentioned, Mama Lena (Rob’s mother) is the special ingredient in the kitchen. Her secret recipe gives **Krazy Bros.** the delicious flavor that sets it apart from other shops.

I first became aware of **Krazy Bros.** when driving past their brightly colored building on the corner of Brookline Blvd. and West Liberty Ave. Soon after, my nephew celebrated his birthday and **Krazy Bros.** catered the event. The first thing I remember about that day was the promptness of **Krazy Bros.** With 30 hungry kids – prompt delivery of food earns an “A” in my book!

The first pizza was an *Image Pizza*, featuring a brightly colored “Happy Birthday” banner. We also had rigatoni. Everything was delicious and my personal favorite was the mini meatballs in the pasta sauce.

I asked Rob what *his* personal favorite item is on their menu. Without hesitation he replied, “White Pizza. Our World Famous White Pizza.”

And dear reader, he speaks the truth. **Krazy Bros.** (formerly Mama Lena’s) White Pizza has been voted the #1

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From left: **Rob Carrabbia, Sergio, Lorenzo and Wendy**
Photo by **HK Photo Studio**

pizza in Pittsburgh – five different years. That is just the tip of their celebrity iceberg which includes an appearance on Good Morning America and publication in many national and local magazines. It also included an invitation for Wendy to go on WifeSwap!

Krazy Bros. (Mama Lena’s) is also featured in the Guinness Book of World Records for the World’s Largest Pizza. This title was achieved on March 20, 2006.

Although all the media attention and awards are wonderful accomplishments for **Krazy Bros.**, as a thrifty consumer in these economic times, I need more.

Thankfully, **Krazy Bros.** meets my needs in that area

(Continued on page 3)



Do you and your neighbors decorate for Halloween? Perhaps you even greet the trick or treaters in costume? Please contact us. We'd like to put your neighborhood in our October issue.



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CORRECTIONS

In our August article about **Pitaland**, we misspelled **Moonlite Café**. We apologize for the error.

POST OFFICE CLOSING?



The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in the August 1 Business Section reported that the Postal Service has compiled a list of 13 local offices that could potentially close. Brookline is on the list.

The list is not final. It was compiled by local managers, and more study is needed before the final list is released. Mt. Lebanon is also on the list. That means the closest post office for Mt. Lebanon and Brookline would be Dormont on West Liberty Avenue.

According to the Post-Gazette article, when the final list is released, "the Postal Service will prepare a questionnaire for public input at the affected offices before making a final decision."

Why wait? If you are a regular patron of the Brookline Post Office, let Congressman Doyle know that you DO NOT want the Brookline Branch to close. The Post Office is pushing their online stamp ordering and package pick-up. Everyone is not online and a post office on the boulevard adds to the walkability factor of our community. Contact **Congressman Mike Doyle** at his Pittsburgh office 412-261-5091, fax him at 412-261-1983 or send him a letter at

Congressman Mike Doyle
 401 Cannon HOB
 Washington, DC 20515

Now is the time to register a resounding NO to closing the Brookline Post Office. Don't wait for the final list.

-Pamela Grabowski

THE BROOKLINE CONNECTIONS

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We want to hear from you. Send your questions or comments by email, phone or mail. October issue's deadline is September 10. November issue's deadline is October 10.

The Brookline by email is in FULL COLOR!
 The Brookline is available by mail.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: thebrookline@brookline-pgh.org or mnp.grabowski@verizon.net
 Telephone: 412-343-2859
 Mail: The Brookline c/o SPDC, PO Box 9606, Pittsburgh, PA 15226.

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

ADVERTISING RATES

Contact Pamela Grabowski at mnp.grabowski@verizon.net or call 412-343-2859 for more information. We now have over 1,100 readers.

Year
 SPDC Members \$280
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Six Months
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Three Months
 SPDC Members \$100
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ASK ABOUT OUR SPECIAL ONE MONTH RATE!

Annual SPDC membership dues are \$5.00. Do the math!

Funding for newsletter by Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development

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JOANNE'S CORNER

Things that aren't here anymore - Part Eight

I remember back in the 50s **Brookline Savings & Trust Co.** (now **National City Bank**) was a popular bank all over the City of Pittsburgh. Do you recall the radio jingle? "It's easy to save the Brookline way." It [**Brookline Savings and Trust Co.**] was open on Thursday night until 9:00PM, and the boulevard was jammed with traffic on "bank night." You did it [banking] in person, no online banking. Many people had their mortgages there. Next to the bank was the 5&10 owned by the local **Rauch** family of builders. It had the old wooden floors that were popular back in the day. Next to the 5&10 was an insurance office/real estate company. Next was the **Ella Bernhard Women's Store** [now **Decio Rapali Tailoring**]. Beside that was the **Boulevard Gardens Movie Theatre** (now **Cedars of Lebanon**) with bowling alleys downstairs. Next door was the **Boulevard Men's Shop. Kelly & Cohen Appliance** was at one time next to that.

Question of the month: What was the company name of the 5&10?

-Joanne Fantoni

Last Month's Memory Teaser

Question: What is the name of the park where the cannon sits?

Answer: Triangle Park



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READER FEEDBACK

I have 4 Labs (I don't walk them together though.) I walk them a couple of times a week and will often walk the boulevard particularly if it is getting dark since it's well lit. We show our Labs in AKC dog shows, obedience trials and hunting dog tests. Several of them are Canine Good Citizens as well. I also teach dog obedience classes in Pleasant Hills. Responsible dog walkers are observant neighbors and an asset to the community in deterring crime. I would like to see an area in one of the parks in Brookline dedicated to letting our dogs run off leash.

-Gina Gross

KRAZY BROTHERS PIZZA AND PASTA

(Continued from page 1)

too. Not only am I happy that I can afford their reasonably priced foods for my family, but the homemade goodness satisfies us all. You can find that in such dishes as: wedding soup, pastavasoul [pasta fagioli], lasagna, stuffed green peppers, stuffed banana peppers and favorites like wings, hoagies and calzones.

Even during this economic crunch, **Krazy Bros.** is determined to provide quality products and good portions at great prices.

When asked how this was achieved, Rob answered, "It's hard taking the loss but we do it to better serve our customers."

Rob also hopes that in the near future **Krazy Bros.** will be a household name. His vision for **Krazy Bros.** even includes franchising in the next few years.

As I left my interview, with food in my hands, I reflected on the shop and its owners. I believe Brookline has a gem in its midst. It is a place where family people welcome their customers openly - gladly sharing conversation and good, homemade food.

For restaurant quality food at pizza shop prices, you'd be crazy not to give **Krazy Bros.** a try.

-Carol Sossaman



WREATH SILENT AUCTION WINNERS
Lee Herbermann, Fox's Pizza (2 wreaths)
& Tony DeFilippo

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BACC ANNOUNCES UPCOMING SEASON

We have been working very hard on our meetings for the **Brookline Area Community Council**. Our September meeting will feature the Census Bureau. This should prove to be an interesting meeting on the importance of the upcoming census which will take place in April of 2010. Our allocated government monies for the following 10-year period will be based on the census. These numbers will also reflect our representation of elected officials. We all need to fill in the census forms that we will be receiving in the spring. The Bureau will also explain the new simplified form and the fact that the information received is strictly confidential. This is a crucial meeting, and we hope to get the community behind us to support us and attend the meeting.

The October meeting is still open. We need ideas and help from the community. Are there any issues that we are not aware of that need to be brought to the floor for an open forum? Let us have some feedback so we can expedite the scheduling.

The November meeting is our annual Kick off the Holidays party. This is for the children and families in our community. We invite all children from the local schools, and many grandparents bring their grandchildren. We have refreshments and the “big man” comes dressed in his red suit. Fun for all! We even play holiday games and all children get treat bags. In the past, we have also had coloring contests and prizes for the winners.

The **BACC** meets at **St. Marks Lutheran Church** on Brookline Boulevard and Glenarm Avenue at 7:30PM the last Monday of each month. The guest speakers usually begin at 8:00PM. The schedule for the fall 2009 meetings are as follows:

September:	Census Bureau	September 28, 2009
October:	OPEN - IDEAS ???	October 26, 2009
November:	Holiday kickoff party	November 30, 2009

We would like to thank the community people who supported our first pot luck dinner in May. The dinner was the evening before election day, and we were very surprised at the number of people who participated. The atmosphere was wonderful, and the food was even better. We had a variety of dishes and so much that we all had leftovers. We are looking forward to hosting the potluck on an annual basis. With each passing year, we hope to grow bigger and more successful. Thanks to everyone who came, brought food and supported our first potluck.

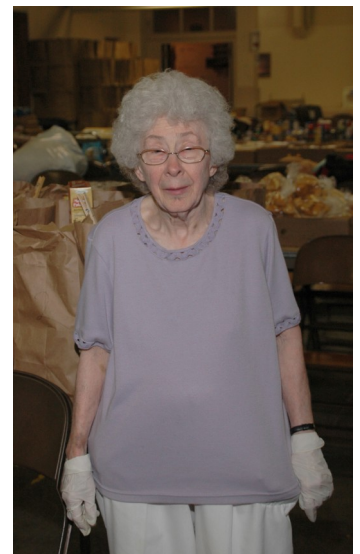
-Louise Pallone

FEEDING THE COMMUNITY

It's not uncommon for **Pat Erny** to find bags of food on her front porch. “Since we don't have an office, people just leave bags of food on my porch. Pat has been the director of the **Brookline Christian Food Pantry** for 15 years. Before becoming director, she volunteered at the pantry. Now with her team of volunteers she helps to feed as many as 200 families during the holidays. People come for the items they can't buy with food stamps like paper products. That would include bathroom tissue.

The Christian Food Pantry's clientele come from Beechview, Dormont and Carrick as well as Brookline. We encourage you to consider the Food Pantry when you shop. Add some extra cans of soup, rolls of bathroom tissue to your cart, or a gift card to at local grocery store. The food bank can always use some extra hands. If you can spare a few hours, Pat can use your help. There are bags to pack and food donations to pick up in preparation for the second Saturday of the month. That's the day the Food Pantry is open for business, but they also fill special immediate need requests on other days.

-Pamela Grabowski



Upper Right:
Pat Erny

Right: Volunteers getting ready for another busy Saturday.

Photos by
HK Photo Studio



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FROM SENATOR WAYNE FONTANA



It's almost here! Join me on Saturday, September 26 for the 5th Annual FontanaFest. Held at South Side's Riverfront Park (Bottom of 18th Street at the river in the South Side), the event begins at 11:00AM and ends at 4:00 PM.

If you have not attended before, FontanaFest is a free, community-wide event for friends and neighbors to gather and celebrate one of Pittsburgh's greatest resources - our rivers and riverfront parks. It's an event that brings together neighbors, friends, and family for a full day of activities on the river, including music and entertainment, children's activities, food, drink, and fun. Attendees have the chance to tackle a climbing wall, take a kayak or canoe on the Mon, learn more about their community organizations, hear music, participate in a story time, make a craft, have a burger or hot dog, win a door prize, and enjoy the camaraderie. This year, there will also be visits from the Pittsburgh Pirate Parrot and other special guests. Check my website (www.senatorfontana.com) for more updates on the day's event.

I hope to see you on September 26th.



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHELSA WAGNER

It is sometimes hard to know who to trust when bringing home improvement contractors into our homes. But a law passed by the legislature last session which went into effect July 1 can provide some peace of mind when hiring a contractor.

The Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act allows consumers to verify that their contractor is registered with the state and is insured, as well as provides protections against fraud. For contractors, this program will prevent them from having to pay registration fees in multiple municipalities and keep unscrupulous competitors out of the job market. Registration is valid for two years and costs \$50. Contractors can register online by visiting www.attorneygeneral.gov and clicking on the Home Improvement Contractors Registration link.

To check your contractor's registration or find a registered contractor near you, call 1-888-520-6680 or visit www.attorneygeneral.gov/hicsearch/. The Home Improvement Consumer Information Web site also includes a wealth of information on the legal requirements on contractors and how to protect yourself from fraud.

I am proud to have supported the legislation creating this important program and will continue to work toward measures which will protect consumers and their pocketbooks.

BREEZE THE BLVD. WINNERS

The **Chinese Auction** winners:

Chocolate Fondue/Lotto Tickets Basket

M. Walsh

Baby Basket

Lorrie Esch

Picnic Basket

Sue Anthony

Cooler on Wheels

Big Mike

Italian Basket

Jack

Brookline Pub Jacket

Schnuff

Michael Whitlinger Design Basket

Mailman Mike

State Senator Wayne Fontana Basket

Margie Warner

Photo Share

Conroy

Penguins Picture

Ben Ferris

HK Photo Studio Basket

Shirley Lapcevic

Lottery Winner - Joe Szuminsky



FROM CITY COUNCILMAN JIM MOTZNIK

A major blow was recently struck against litter in our neighborhoods. I sponsored legislation in May of this year to penalize companies from throwing their handbills onto our yards and sidewalks. After much deliberation with other members of City Council, the City's Law Department, and the Mayor's office we crafted and passed tough legislation that would fine these companies for littering. This bill states no person shall intentionally distribute any unsolicited handbill, newspaper, advertisement, flyer, announcement or sample merchandise on private property, including walkways and lawns, so as to cause litter. Unsolicited materials must be securely deposited on porches and stoops.

There was concern by some of the companies that would be affected by this legislation that it was too strict. They felt if constituents do not want the handbills they can just call the company's number and tell them to stop delivering it. The problem is that residents would call the number to cancel and still have the handbills thrown in their yards. The unwanted handbills are eyesores and would clog catch basin drains in the street. Also, a collection of handbills in front of a house is a signal to possible burglars that the residents aren't home. This legislation will benefit residents in Brookline and across the City of Pittsburgh. If you see this law being broken please either call my office at 412-255-2131 or the Mayor's Service Center at 311.

SEPTEMBER AT THE LIBRARY

For Kids and Teens:

Storytimes

Baby/Toddler: Stories, songs, rhymes and fingerplays. For children birth through age 3 with a caregiver. Thursdays, beginning September 10 at 11:00 AM

Preschool: Stories, songs, games and the occasional craft. For children ages 3-5 with parent or caregiver. Thursdays, beginning September 10 at 12:30 PM

Craft Club for Kids

Kids in grades K – 5 are invited to make leaf art.

Monday, September 21 at 4:00 PM.

After School Movie Fun

Nothing to do after school? Come to the Library and watch a movie. We will provide the popcorn, you bring a drink. Grades K-8. Thursdays, September 10, 17, & 24 at 4:00 PM.

Get Your Game On

Come try your skills at the **Wii**. Grades 6-12. Registration is not required. Bring your friends! Wednesday, September 9 at 3:00 PM.

Tween Craft – Disco Balls

Express your creativity disco balls out of used cds. Grades 4-8. Monday, September 14 at 4:00 PM.

Teen Book Club

Organizational meeting on Monday, September 28 at 4:00 PM. Grades 6-12 are welcome.

Karaoke Fun

Nothing to do after school? Think you have the best (or worst) voice in Brookline – Prove it! Tuesdays, September 8, 15, 22, 29 from 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM.

For Adults:

Monday Evening Book Discussion

September 17 at 6:00 PM – Reading *Gone, Baby, Gone* by Dennis Lehane

Wednesday Afternoon Book Discussion

September 16 at 1:00 PM – Reading *Dead Dry* by Sarah Andrews.

Explore new ideas and perspectives through fiction and non-fiction. New members are always welcome. Adults 18 and older.



Call for Volunteers

- **FOREVER HOME BEAGLE RESCUE** call 412-304-4034 or BeagleHQ@msn.com Foster homes needed as well as donations of dog food, blankets and bath towels.
- **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 **Brookline United Presbyterian Church** at 412-531-0590

Are you unable to volunteer your time right now? You can still help many of these organizations.

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

Buy a grocery store gift card for the **Brookline Christian Food Pantry**. You don't have to load the card with a large sum. Every little bit helps. Send it to the **Brookline Christian Food Pantry**

c/o Pat Erny

2918 Pioneer Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15226 –2038

Lend a hand any way you can. It really does takes every one to make a community work.

THIS MONTH

September 8
Cub Scout Pack 601 Sign-Up 7:00PM at Resurrection Church's Fr. Quinn Hall.

September 8
Brookline Block Watch Meeting 7:00PM at Magistrate Charles McLaughlin's office 736 Brookline Blvd.

September 14
Chamber of Commerce 6:00PM at Magistrate Charles McLaughlin's office 736 Brookline Blvd.

September 20
Brookline 50's Picnic 1:00PM at the Home Economics Building in South Park. \$15.00 fee. Contact **Butch Davoren** for details at 412-341-0968.

September 21
South Pittsburgh Development Corp 7:00PM at Brookline Blvd. United Presbyterian Church 1036 Brookline Blvd.

September 28
Brookline Area Community Council 7:30PM at St. Mark's Church corner of Brookline Blvd. & Glenarm Ave. Topic will be the 2010 Census.

September 26
Pretty Up Beechview 9:00AM at the parking lot at the intersection of Broadway & Beechview Ave. Brookline is invited to participate in a plant swap. Meet local gardeners as they share perennials, bulbs and seeds from their gardens and advice on how to care for those plants. For more information please visit www.cleanupbeechview.blogspot.com or contact Rachel Romano at 412-343-3743.

October 2
Autumn Car Cruise 5:00PM until dark at Brookline Recreation Center



SEPTEMBER 20 JUNIOR GREAT RACE
SEPTEMBER 27 GREAT RACE
 Check the website for details. www.rungreatrace.com

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YOUTH PROGRAM

Martial Arts Classes A martial arts class based especially for the 5-10 year olds in mind. Taught by our own instructor, Joshua Kern. Specifically made to help foster and build the martial artists of tomorrow as well as to have a lot of fun this summer! Cost per child is \$20 per month. Tuesdays and Thursdays, ages 5-7 at 6:00PM -7:00 PM, ages 8-10 at 7:00PM-8:00 PM. Older brothers and sisters can join in the fun as well!

Mr. Joe's Fitness Program Come and receive personal in class training and nutritional info from **Joe Syzmanski**. 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.

After School Whiffle Ball Program Starting September 1, 2009 to October 31, 2009. We're going to play at the T-Ball field above the recreation center. Program is free to kids ages 8-12. Just come and play with Joe Cirigliano.

ADULT PROGRAMS:

Fundamentals of Acting Do you think you have what it takes to be an actor? Or, maybe you saw a great movie and wanted to know exactly just how they did it? Well join Joshua Kern as he explores the basics and fundamentals of acting, with you in mind. Cost per Person: \$20 per month. Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00PM-7:30PM.

Joe's Fitness Club Come and receive personal in class training and nutritional info from **Joe Syzmanski**. Men & Women age 18 and over

Body Sculpting and Weight Loss Program Mon. and Thurs. 6:30PM to 7:30PM \$30.00 for 10 classes

Yoga Tues. 6:15PM to 7:15PM \$50 for 6 week session or \$10 per class.

Men's Basket League Outside court at **Moore Park**. Permitted. This is not a Parks and Recreation Program. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at 6:00PM to 9:00PM.

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At left : **Maxie** is sitting and in front is **Bingo**. They live with Kathy from **No Name Coffee Shop**. **Bingo** is blind so **Maxie** keeps a watchful eye on **Bingo**.

Photo by Kathy

MISSING PERSON



If anyone in Brookline has seen this person (Known as the Hokey Man) please call the Mayor's Hotline at 311!!!!!! And report his whereabouts.

If you remember last September's newsletter, you would have seen my

report on the Mayor's new initiative called "Taking Care of Business District's Program." This program included a "Hokey Patrol," and for a month or two this person (shown above) was indeed here to perform the function of cleaning the street (and sometimes the side walk).

This person has since disappeared and is badly needed on the Boulevard. Am I the only one who has not seen him??? If so, I apologize. On the other hand, it seems to me that the Mayor made Brookline a promise which now appears to be a "broken one."

-Bob Beiler



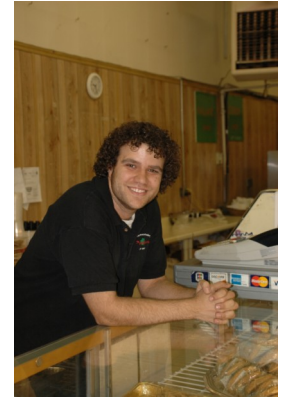
Ralph Wilson making pita bread.

Photo by HK Photo Studio



Sonya Farah & Ron Elias packaging pitas.

Photo by HK Photo Studio



Nabeel Ela is waiting for you at Pitaland.

Photo by HK Photo Studio



BOULEVARD ICE CREAM

719 BROOKLINE BLVD.

16th ANNUAL TASTING PARTY

Taste Over 55 Flavors for \$2.29!

Saturday, Sept. 19th 7 to 10 PM

BREEZE THE BOULEVARD



Above: Auditor General Jack Wagner ran the 5K.



The weather was perfect. Food was plentiful. There was Italian ice, hot dogs, Antonio's meatball hoagies, Michael Whitlinger served up his sauerkraut with pierogies, and Tisha's had lemonade. That was in addition to Brookline Pub, Mateo's and Boulevard Ice Cream.

Photos by Jan Beiler

