

Letter from the Editor



It's the hot steamy days of August, and we are getting ready for the **Blvd. Breeze Fest**. We hope to meet you this year. We will be in the vicinity of Flatbush Ave. and Brookline Blvd. This will be your chance to buy a horse and a ticket for **SPDC's Night at the Races** on October 8. The fundraiser will support **SPDC** and benefits programs like the **Jacob-Whited Project**, the **DogiPots**, and us—**The Brookline**. Make this year's **Blvd. Breeze Fest** a bigger success than last year's. Stop by.

Have you ever had something you just can't get right? In our case it seems to be the issue number. Every time we think we are on the right track, we find that we have repeated an issue number. How exasperating. We believe we have it under control now. This is **REALLY** issue 26.

Finally, we hope you are taking advantage of a beautiful summer by walking the Boulevard and checking out the merchants. We thoroughly enjoyed our massage at **Lovely Hands Massage** that we were anticipating last month. Now we are trying to find a spot on our calendar to schedule another one.

Next up we are awaiting the opening of **Brookline Produce**. Rumor has it that a pretzel shop may be coming, too. For the natural and organic foodies among us, did you know that **Cannon Coffee's** food is from **Right By Nature**? Come on and walk with us.

LAS PALMAS

700 Brookline Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412-344-1131

Hours: Daily 9:00AM to 10:00PM



What do you do when your landscaping business takes a hit from the economic downturn? You reinvent yourself. That's exactly what **Gabriel Sberumen** and his brothers, **Jose, Luis** and **Francisco**, did when they moved from Indiana to Pennsylvania. Fortunately they chose Brookline to launch their specialty grocery.

The shelves are a contrast of Mexican specialties and good old American favorites. You will find regular Hellman's Mayonnaise next to mayonnaise with lime juice. Chopped jarred cactus sits next to Chef Boy-Ar-Dee spaghetti. **Las Palmas** has a wide selection of hot sauce too.

Mexican Bread comes from Chicago. Many of the items in the grocery are from Chicago where there's a large Mexican population and wholesalers willing to fill the demand of the community. Pan de Canela is a cinnamon flavored bread. Pan de Acambaro is from a town in Mexico famous for its bread recipe.

The produce section features a wide variety of colorful peppers and more tomatillos than you're likely to find at a big box grocer. If you've enjoyed the tasty tacos, **Las Palmas** serves on the weekends, you can buy the same meat mixture seasoned and ready for you to cook at home.

Missy, Gabriel's wife, is working on recipe handouts so those of us who are unfamiliar with some of the foods will know how to prepare them. In the meantime, Gabriel wants to hear from you. He wants to hear your suggestions and complaints. One customer complained that the tamales were too spicy. Now **Las Palmas** has a spicy and a mild tamale. Find tamales on the weekends at the check-out counter!

The Sberumen brothers like Brookline and are committed to making **Las Palmas** another local treasure.

At left: **Anthony Sberumen**, Gabriel's son.

-**Pamela Grabowski**
-Photos by **Catia Alencar**



MERCHANT UPDATE



The striking sun dress on the left is just one of many at **Michael Whitlinger Design**. New merchandise is arriving daily. Stop in and check out gifts for all occasions.

-Photos by Amy Fisher



Mateo's new location has become a weekend hot spot. On the weekends you will need a reservation to enjoy dinner at Mateo's. In addition to the menu you remember, check out the board inside featuring the specials.

-Photos by HK Photo Studio



Your \$10 annual membership in **SPDC** supports projects like Jacob-Whited, DogiPots and **The Brookline**. Join today. See page two for mailing address.



Talk to TIM
Your Brookline Realtor

August is the "hot" time to plan for the fall market!

Tim Reitmeyer

412-833-3600

412-343-5372

treitmeyer@howardhanna.com



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SKIP THE RIVERS CASINO

Save your money for **SPDC NIGHT AT THE RACES * October 8 *** Doors open at 6:00PM
* First race at 7:00PM. You can buy horses and tickets at Blvd. Breeze Fest. See our table at Flatbush Ave. & Brookline Blvd.

THE BROOKLINE PAST ISSUES

Clint Burton has archived past issues of **The Brookline** at www.brooklineconnection.com.

CONTACT THE BROOKLINE

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

*****ADVERTISING RATES CHANGES*****

Contact Pamela Grabowski at mnp.grabowski@verizon.net or call 412-343-2859 for more information. We now have over 1,300 readers.

All ads purchased after July 1, 2010 will be a standard width of 3.75 inches. We will charge by the height of the ad at \$12.00 per inch. This is an example of a one inch ad space. We are hoping this pricing change will enable smaller merchants and subcontractors to buy advertising in **The Brookline**.

The **Brookline** by email is in **FULL COLOR!**
The **Brookline** is also available by mail. A one year subscription is \$15 with your \$10 membership to SPDC.

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.



Most of the ads currently in the newsletter are 3.75 inches by 2 inches. Remember ad graphics and artwork are free! Call us to place your ad in **The Brookline**.

Funding for newsletter by Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development

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

A-BOSS OPTICIANS, INC

BREEZE-FEST SALE

\$ 89.00 Complete pair

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TIP PROJECT STATUS DISCUSSED

On June 24, 2010 the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (which makes recommendations regarding transportation issues) held a public meeting at the Regional Enterprise Towers in downtown Pittsburgh. The purpose of the meeting was to hear input for the 2011-2014 Transportation Implementation Program or TIP. Three TIP projects that impact City District 4 were discussed. The three projects slated to be funded are:

Brookline Boulevard Renovation

Intersection Improvements at Rts. 51 & 88

Improvements to Wenzell Avenue through regrading

During the public comment period, both District 4 **Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak** and **Heidi Tappe** who is Chief of Staff for state representative Wagner, addressed the SPC as to the importance of the Brookline Boulevard and Rts. 51 & 88 projects to the economic well being of the communities and surrounding areas. Also, Carol Anthony of Overbrook Community Council and John Rudiak of Carrick spoke of the neglected 50-year history of the Rts. 51 & 88 intersection, often with droll hilarity regarding planning going back to the pre-Kennedy era, yet still not realized.

You can visit Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's site at www.spcregion.org.

-Keith Knecht

MOVIES IN THE PARK

- August 5 Alvin and the Chipmunks:
The Squeakquel (PG)
- August 12 Michael Jackson's This Is It (PG)
- August 19 How to Train Your Dragon (PG)
- August 26 Up (PG)

Location: **Brookline Memorial Park**, Oakridge Street
Time: Dusk

No Name Coffee Shop

536 Brookline Blvd.

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Italian Night

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COUNCILWOMAN NATALIA RUDIAK



The city of Pittsburgh has established itself as a place for businesses large and small to grow and prosper creating a vibrant economic community for our neighborhoods to take part in and enjoy. While large corporations from Heinz to UPMC play a major role in our local economy, it is the small business owners and their community-oriented businesses that serve as the backbone of our community.

The University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is part of the effort to grow the small business community in the city. The SBDC offers monthly workshops that provide potential and current small business owners with the information and resources necessary to start, grow, and maintain a successful business.

The workshop consists of two parts, each held at Mervis Hall at the University of Pittsburgh from 7:30 to 10:00 a.m. The first workshop deals with the mechanics of starting a successful business in your community. The dates available to participate in the first workshop are August 13, September 10, October 8, November 5, and December 3. The second workshop deals with developing a business plan and successfully maintaining your business. The dates available to participate in the second workshop are August 27, September 24, October 22, November 19, and December 17. The cost of each workshop is \$25 or \$40 if you pre-register for both. If you have any additional questions about the workshop or the SBDC, you can reach them at 412-648-1542.

The businesses of Brookline have played an important role in the development of this neighborhood. But with the help of enthusiastic small business owners we can continue the revitalization of Brookline as one of Pittsburgh's most vibrant neighborhoods.

If you have any questions about this or any issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Either by phone at (412) 255-2131, or through e-mail at <http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/district4/>

JOANNE'S CORNER

Things that aren't here anymore - Part Eighteen

We talk about the good old days and the conveniences we have today that we didn't have back in the day. Are they really convenient? This is a little personal story of my own titled, "Is It Really Convenient?"

I had back surgery in the spring because of almost unbearable pain. Trying to make sitting and laying less painful, I got a lift-recliner chair which turned out to be very comfortable. I even slept in it.

During one of the power outages we had in the spring, the battery backup on the chair failed. I was literally stuck in the chair. No one was at home, and my cordless phone did not work. After staying in the chair for four hours waiting for the power to come on, I thought I'd better make a move to get out of the chair as it was starting to get dark. It took me another hour to try to get into the right position to get out.

Moral of the story—Are your conveniences really that convenient?

-Joanne Fantoni

Question of the Month: Does anyone remember the name of the school crossing guard at Creedmoor & Brookline Blvd?

Last Month's Memory Teaser

Question of the Month: What was the name of the playing field at Gallion, Rossmore & Wolford?

Answer: Donkey Field. The Logue boy was killed there falling off a Tarzan rope.

READERS' RESPONSE

I found your publication through brooklineconnection.com earlier this week when I was searching for websites regarding Brookline history. I've lived in the same house on Woodbourne Ave. since I was born in 1980, me and my wife becoming it's owner when my parents moved out in June 2007.

Your June 2010 Letter from the Editor made me start thinking of when I was a child and the Boulevard was THE place to go, as you said. I remember walks with my mother every week up Castlegate to get our groceries at **Foodland**, **Sunny Farms**, and if we needed any sweets, **Kribel's** or **Party Cake**. I also remember a children's book reading my mother took me to once in a while at the library, which at the time was at its old location down the road from its current one.

I also remember as an older child frequenting the Boulevard every weekend with my buddies from Woodbourne and Berkshire to make our weekly rounds to our favorite spots...First was usually **Bickerton's** for the penny candy. Then we'd walk a block away and stop at **More for your Dollar** for the non-baseball trading cards (Teenage

Mutant Ninja Turtles were my favorite), as well as candy cigarettes and whatever sugar-filled concoction we forgot to pick up at **Bickerton's**.

During our walk we'd usually run into our good friend **George**, clipboard and all. After talking with him for a few minutes asking him how his day was and exchanging pleasantries, we'd usually be on our way. We never knew at the time that people like **George** are what make Brookline what it is. A 'small town' with friendly, helpful people that just happened to be a part of a big city.

By this time, however, we were usually on a sugar high from all of the candy, so our trek down to the intersection of the Boulevard and Queensboro usually went fast. Down there, we would hit up one or both of the trading card shops on either side of the road. The names of the places escape me at the moment. One was located in the building next to "**It's Greek To Me**," the one with the ramp going up to the door, and the other was almost directly across the street in one of the storefronts right before the Cannon.

Times changed and I found myself becoming a mallrat in my high school years. I remember getting guitar lessons at **Wee-Bee** in the early to mid 90's, but if I wasn't there, I could be found at either South Hills Village or Century III Mall on any given night with my best friend who lived a few doors down. To us at the time, the Boulevard was 'outdated'. I might still run into **Bickerton's** if I couldn't find a comic book I wanted elsewhere, and I believe my buddy bought a lottery ticket there when he turned 18, just because he could, but aside from that, it just felt like the Boulevard lost its charm.

When I came back from college, I needed a job. I worked at the **Blockbuster** on the Boulevard from April of 2000 until January of 2002. This brought back a lot of memories as I stood outside to get fresh air and ran into people like **George**, or old friends from **Brookline Elementary** inside the store.

Things come full circle usually however. I used to frequent the Boulevard bars, and I saw the cleaning up of the bars from 2003 on, and sometimes still go to the **Pub** or **Zippy's** to unwind. My wife used **Rita's Alterations** and **Nerone's Cleaners** for her wedding dress, and **South Hills Printing** did our wedding invitations for us.

Convenience is a great thing to have. I don't buy gas from anywhere but a place by my job in Robinson, or the **Sunoco** on the Boulevard. I never buy beer from anyone but **Brookline Beer**. Heck, when I wanted to find a board game last year the first place I called was the **Geekadrome**. They didn't have it unfortunately, but if they did, I would have bought it through them.

In closing, it's great to see the Boulevard coming alive again. I remember a time in the mid to late 90s where it almost seemed like a ghost town, at least in my eyes. I hope the Boulevard remains vibrant for years to come, and I hope my future children could one day reminisce about THEIR Boulevard memories.

-Steve Korbett

FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

It seems that these days everyone is on Facebook. It's hard to believe that as recently as 2006, Facebook didn't even exist. Now, even if you don't have a Facebook account of your own, you're almost certainly "connected" to someone who does.

If you are a part of this social network phenomenon, we'd like to have you connect with us! Facebook is a great way to stay informed about Social Security and what it means to you. With more than 400 million active users worldwide, Facebook was ranked as the most-used social network website in the world according to a 2009 study. What better place than Facebook to join Social Security's network and stay in the know?

In addition to a Facebook page, Social Security also has started "tweeting." If you're not connected to us on Facebook (or even if you are), be sure to follow Social Security on Twitter. Social Security news and information is presented in easily digestible, 140-character bits! Coincidentally, Twitter found its beginnings in 2006 as well. It was ranked as the third most popular social networking website in 2009 and boasts six million unique monthly visitors and 55 million visits a month.

Whether you're a fan of Facebook or you tend toward Twitter, we hope these electronic avenues will help us reach more people who can benefit from our online information and services. To follow us on Facebook, go to www.facebook.com/socialsecurity and click "like." To follow us on Twitter, go to www.twitter.com/socialsecurity and select "Follow Social Security" to receive our messages.

Or, visit www.socialsecurity.gov and look for the Facebook and Twitter icons. While you're there, take a look at the icon that links to our YouTube page where you can watch Social Security videos, including public service announcements featuring rock and roll icon Chubby Checker and academy award winning actress Patty Duke.

-LeeAnn Stuever

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHELSA WAGNER

With schools returning to session soon, 1.5 million Pennsylvania students per day will ride school buses. While school buses are an overwhelmingly safe way for students to travel, there are important tips our children can follow to ensure their own safety and that of others. For instance, students should keep in mind that driver distraction is the leading cause of bus accidents, and that the most dangerous area around a school bus is the "Danger Zone," the area within 10 feet in which the driver has limited visibility.

A brochure on School Bus Safety available from my office includes these and many other tips to review with students on the safest ways to wait for, board, ride and exit the school bus. This brochure is available at my main Constituent Service Office at 900 Brookline Blvd. and my Satellite Office in the Caste Village Shops, or contact us at (412) 343-2094 and we would be happy to mail one to you.

Drivers also must be aware of children entering and exiting school buses and follow Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law. This law requires that:

- Motorists must stop at least 10 feet away from school buses that have their red lights flashing and stop arm extended.
- Motorists must stop when they are behind the bus, meeting the bus or approaching an intersection where a bus is stopped.
- Motorists following or traveling alongside a school bus must also stop until the red lights have stopped flashing, the stop arm is withdrawn, and all children have reached safety.
- Motorists must not proceed until all the children have reached a place of safety.

The penalties if convicted of violating Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law include a \$250 fine, five points on your driving record, and a 60-day license suspension.

If both students and motorists follow the rules and use common sense, we'll experience another safe school year. Thank you for remembering patience, awareness, and the rules of the road.

AUGUST AT THE LIBRARY

Storytime

Baby/Toddler: Stories, songs, rhymes and fingerplays. For children birth through age 3 with a parent or caregiver. Thursdays, August 5 & 12 at 11:00AM.

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

Catch the Reading Wave

Grades K-6

Join us for a story and activities.

Tuesday, August 3 at 1:00PM – **Island Fun**

Tuesday, August 10 at 1:00PM – **High Sea Adventures**

Movies @ the Library: Summer Fun

Nothing to do this summer? Looking for some cool summer fun? Come to the Library and watch a movie. Grades K-8. Thursdays, August 5 & 12 at 3:30PM.

Make Waves at Your Library – Summer Reading Club For Teens:

Grades 6-12

Monday, August 2 at 1:00PM – **Just Add Water: Spa Edition**

Monday, August 9 at 1:00PM – **Iron Chef Competition**

Monday, August 16 at 1:00PM – **Shrinky Dinks**



For Adults:

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

Monday Evening Book Discussion – Monday, August 16 at 6:00PM – Reading *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrow.

Wednesday Afternoon Book Discussion – Wednesday, August 11 at 1:00PM – Reading *The Condition* by Jennifer Haigh.



Brookline Farmers' Market
 Seton Center Parking Lot
 1900 Pioneer Avenue
 Every Wednesday 11:00AM—6:00PM

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. Add a grocery store gift card to your shopping cart and send it to the **Brookline Christian Food Pantry, c/o Pat Erny, 2918 Pioneer Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15226-2038**

*****NEW OPPORTUNITY*****



Volunteers are needed for “Doggie Pot Maintenance.” Volunteers are needed to refill the Doggie Pots on the Boulevard. If you are interested, please contact us at 412-343-2859 or mnp.grabowski@verizon.net. Put Doggie Pot in the subject line.

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not!

-- Dr. Seuss, *The Lorax*

THIS MONTH

August 1 Sunday

Free Flea Market 8:00AM to 2:00PM in the green space at the front of Brookline Recreation Center. Bring your own table and sell your stuff. This is an enjoyable day for all. No cost to sell. No cost to shop!

August 5 Thursday

Family Festival 6:00PM to 8:00PM at Brookline Recreation Center. Fun for the whole family with free food, games and prizes. Sponsored by Pittsburgh Baptist Church.

August 10 Tuesday

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

August 13 Friday

Car Cruise 5:00PM to dark at Brookline Recreation Center. Free night of fun, music, prizes and great memories.

August 14 Saturday

Brookline Breeze at Brookline Recreation Center

8:30AM 1Mile Fun Run Cost \$9.00

9:00AM 5K Run Cost \$15.00

9:05AM 5K Walk Cost \$12.00

Sign up online at www.brooklinebreeze.com or pick up a registration form at the Recreation Center.

Community Festival 12:00PM to 2:00PM at Brookline Recreation Center. There will be a petting zoo, games, climbing wall and music. Free.

August 14 Saturday

The Blvd. Breeze Fest 10:00AM to 5:00PM on Brookline Blvd. from the Cannon Memorial to Pioneer Avenue. There will be arts, crafts, sales, food, fun and games.

BROOKLINE RECREATION CENTER

412-571-3222

YOUTH PROGRAM

KINDER SPORTS Thursdays from 11:00AM to noon.

Ages 3-5. Story time follows from noon to 1:00PM.

TAE KWON DO Mondays at 6:30PM. Children over 8 to adults. Free.

BASKETBALL CAMP August 2, 3, 4 and 5 10:30AM to 12:30PM. Boys and girls ages 8-11 Participants will receive a shirt and other goodies.

ADULT PROGRAMS:

YOGA Relax your mind, body and spirit Tuesday evenings from 6:15-7:30PM with our certified instructor, **Lori Grable**. Program runs in six-week sessions. Cost per session: \$50. Cost is prorated for late enrollees. Bring your own mat!

NOTE: To all of our good friends in Brookline, the **Brookline Recreation Center** is currently undergoing renovations both upstairs and downstairs. We regret that the temporary closures may occur without much warning as the renovation process continues. We expect the construction to be done sometime in September if all goes as planned. Please be patient during this process. When all is complete, we will have a new state-of-the-art fitness center downstairs and new amenities throughout the building.

-Thank you, The Recreation Staff



THE BLVD. BREEZE FEST

The Brookline Chamber of Commerce and South Pittsburgh Development Corp. are back this year with "The Boulevard

Breeze Fest" following the Breeze Race at 8:00AM. MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 14 FROM 10:00AM to 5:00PM. Both the returning and new attractions will make this year's event even better than last year's. Applications for space are available at **A-Boss Opticians** and **Michael Whitlinger Designs**.



EVERY WEDNESDAY

Cannonline Poetry Open Mic Series 8:00PM to 10:00PM at **Cannon Coffee** 802 Brookline Blvd.

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P O Box 9610, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15226 412-563-0759

The Brookline Chamber of Commerce will take a summer break. The monthly meeting will resume Monday Sept. 13 at Carnegie Library. The Chamber's purpose is to protect, foster

and develop the business district of Brookline. The Brookline Chamber of Commerce membership is open to businesspersons, community residents, and various civic organizations. We sponsor business promotions such as Breeze-fest, Christmas Lighting, Halloween Parade and Little League Baseball.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE BREEZE-FEST. STOP BY OUR BOOTH.



Summer Food Program



Free breakfasts and lunches are available to children up to 18 years of age and mentally disabled individuals up to 21 years old through the **City of Pittsburgh** and **Allegheny County** at **Moore Pool** until August 20.

2010 BROOKLINE CHAMPIONS



GIRLS LITTLE LEAGUE

SPONSORED BY PARTY CAKE BAKERY

Front Row: Hailey Kottler, Shania Brimage.

Sitting: Alex Kirsh, Hayli Davis, Gigi Varlotta, Victoria Hudson, Elissa Varlotta.

Standing: Coach Herb Davis, Brenna Gallagher, Rachel Cashman, Coach Bobby Kirsh, Scorekeeper Stephanie Snyder, Mary Denti, Manager Jim Kottler, Tea Stein, Savona Honaker.



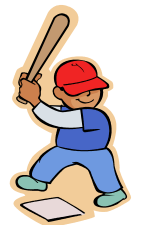
MINOR LEAGUE TEAM

SPONSORED BY TAS SPORTSWEAR

Front Row: Blaize Foreman, Evan Rhetorik, Colin Healy, Nicholas Matts, Josh Howe, Nick Perkins.

Standing: Evan Sterrett, Philip Tranter, Tommy Sposito, Jimmy Wheeler, Nick Stewart, Matthew Bishop, John O'Rourke.

Rear: Coach John Wheeler, Manager Keith Matts.



LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM

SPONSORED BY MIKE POREMSKI PLUMBING

Front Row: Cameron Miller, Leo Wilson, Corey Bogaski, Bobby King, Anthony Bogaski.

Standing: J.T. Wheeler, Billy O'Malley, Dominic Matts, Nick Rahuba.

Rear: Coach John Wheeler, Manager Bill O'Malley, Coach Mike Wilson.

Missing from photo: Jake Devers, Jason Anthony.

Team Photos by *Bob Hayes Photography*

At right: There's no one in the kitchen. That must mean you haven't placed an order at **Vinny's Pizza**. We are trying to get a photo of **Sean Cavanagh** for our newsletter. He's one busy man moving between his Uniontown, Morgantown and Brookline locations.

-Photo by *HK Photo Studio*

