

Letter from the Editor

We have planted our gardens and cleaned the area around our property. Now we can kick back and relax. Right? Wrong! Our garden will need weeded, watered and monitored for pests if we want a bountiful harvest. In the same way Brookline needs tended for the community to bloom. We have to continue to pick up the trash around our neighborhood. You don't have to remind us. We know you are not responsible for the trash. What we also know is that an area kept clean seems to attract less litter. It will take time to shame the litterbugs into action, and we must keep trying.

We water our community by supporting our local merchants. By spending our money in our community we keep those merchants in the community. In March, we challenged you to stop at a business you don't usually frequent. Have you taken that walk yet?

Finally, those pests - the drug dealer, the thief, the graffiti vandal. If you receive **Cmdr Scott Schubert's** Zone Six - **Brookline Block Watch** Alert emails, you know that some of your neighbors have been instrumental in stopping crimes in their neighborhoods or assisting the police in apprehending criminals. All they did was call 911 because something didn't look right. So simple. So effective.

After the Pittsburgh Police officers' lost their lives on April 4, everyone wanted to find a way to honor them. Perhaps what we can do is really quite simple. We can be another set of eyes and ears. We can call 911 when our gut tells us that something isn't right. What better way to honor **Officer Stephen J. Mayhle**, a Brookline resident, and to thank the police officers who live in our community, including new graduate **Officer Tanya Szuch** [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Saturday May 16, 2009]. Perhaps simple is best. By assisting the police, we make Brookline a safe and vibrant place to live for Officer Mayhle's family, the police officers who call Brookline home and ourselves.

ANTONIO'S PIZZERIA

Antonio Casciato talked to us while he took orders, made pizza and tried to eat lunch. All the time, he never stopped smiling. His affable personality is why **Antonio's Pizzeria** is the place to go for pizza. He has created a destination where Mom and Dad can bring the kids in an environment that's family friendly. The dining area is bright and clean, and Antonio works hard to keep it that way. While the teens do frequent his pizzeria, Antonio discourages them from just hanging around.

Brookline's favorite pizza is the basic pepperoni, but Antonio has a line of specialty pizzas like Philly Steak, veggie and our favorite - buffalo chicken. If you like spicy chicken wings, this is the perfect compromise for those who can't decide between wings and pizza. Grilled chicken with buffalo sauce is spread over a pizza crust covered cheese in a white sauce. Fantastic!

If you need to add something "healthy" to your pizza splurge, Antonio has a variety of salads. There's also a wide selection of appetizers on the menu, as well as calzones, Stromboli, hoagies, wedgies and wraps. Yes, if the buffalo pizza won't do, wing dings are also available. Flavors range from honey BBQ to blazin'.

Antonio learned his craft working in his uncle's shop until he decided he might as well work for himself. He opened his pizzeria in Brookline so he wouldn't be competing with friends and family in Bloomfield. Bloomfield's loss is Brookline's gain. This is great pizza in a comfortable setting. Now that summer's coming, you can eat your pizza at an outdoor table.



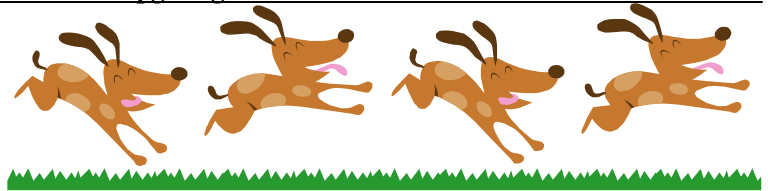
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Antonio Casciato could be preparing your favorite pizza.

Photos by H. K. Photo Studio



-Pamela Grabowski



We would like to feature some dogs of Brookline for our “Dog Days of Summer” August issue. Do you regularly walk your dog on the boulevard or in your neighborhood? Call or email us. Make your pooch a star! See our contact information at the bottom of this page.

Thank You

Jacqueline’s House of Beauty/Day Spa Salon celebrates 15 years of beauty this year. Gail Gratzmiller is not pictured, but you can still find her at Jacqueline’s. Back Row: Victor Solomen, Theresa Calo, Joanne Bolla and Jessica Sunder Front Row: Jacqueline Capatolla and Georgeine Joseph

Dana Hackley our layout and design guru is taking a sabbatical from **The Brookline** while she awaits the birth of her second child. Dana was instrumental in livening up our pages. We will miss her. We wish Dana and her family all the best.

WANTED

ART & CRAFTS VENDORS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
for **Breeze The Blvd.**
August 8, 2009.
Pioneer to Queensboro on Brookline Blvd.
Choice space **\$25.00**, for General space **\$20.00**
For information call Linda Boss at:
412.563.0759.
Applications can be picked up at:
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We want to hear from you. Send your questions or comments by email, phone or mail. Next issue’s deadline is June 10.

The Brookline by Email is in 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 **Jessica Luffy** at jess@jessicaluffy.com or call 412-343-2859 for more information. We have over 1,000 readers. **ASK ABOUT OUR SPECIAL ONE MONTH RATE!**

Year
SPDC Members \$280
Non Members \$400
Six Months
SPDC Members \$160
Non Members \$225
Three Months
SPDC Members \$100
Non Members \$125

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

Funding for newsletter by Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development

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From Senator Wayne Fontana

On May 5th, a long-awaited meeting occurred when the community hosted a meeting on the Brookline Boulevard Improvements. Congratulations to the community groups, including the **South Pittsburgh Development Corporation**, who advocated relentlessly for some word of progress on this project. I was happy to join the effort to encourage the City of Pittsburgh to begin to move forward on this federally-funded project.

The May 5th meeting allowed residents, business owners and public officials the opportunity to review the plan that was selected by the community, to go over the actual details of the changes being proposed to the Boulevard, and to talk about a tentative time schedule for the beginning and completion of the project. I understand that there are many items that still need to be worked out – for instance, how inconvenience to existing businesses will be handled, whether utility updates (gas, water and sewer) can be scheduled along with the work on the Boulevard to minimize disruption, and what parking options will remain or be available during this work. While many questions still remain, this is a step closer to the ultimate goal of the community – making the business district better for existing business and residents while attracting additional business and more residents to frequent a thriving community.

I look forward to remaining a vital part of the conversation with all of you, moving toward the business district that we've all been hoping for in 2012, and working together with you.



From State Representative Chelsa Wagner

As your State Representative, one of my goals has been to integrate and foster cooperation among the neighborhoods in my district. For too long, South Pittsburgh communities have suffered from a lack of attention and funding even as individual community groups have done extremely important work. By working together, I strongly believe that we can do more to improve economic opportunities and public safety in Brookline and neighboring communities.

Recently, a huge step was taken in this direction when my office awarded a \$50,000 grant to a coalition of four community groups from southern neighborhoods. These funds will be used to employ a full-time staff person for one year to assist all of the groups in their activities and in working together on joint initiatives. The groups are: **Brookline Area Community Council, Brookline Chamber of Commerce, South Pittsburgh Development Corporation**, and Community Leaders United for Beechview.

While all of these groups have been strong advocates for revitalizing their communities for some time, access to a full-time staff person will help them to achieve even more and to work toward a comprehensive vision for the future of the southern neighborhoods. My office also sponsored Board members of each organization to complete the South Pittsburgh Workshop for Neighborhood Leaders, a rigorous series of seminars developed and conducted by the Community Technical Assistance Center, helping them to enhance their skills as advocates and organizers.

Strong community organizations embracing a spirit of cooperation will make for exciting developments and bright futures for Brookline and our neighbors. I am happy to have been able to assist these groups in taking this significant step, and will continue to work closely with them as they continue their important work.



Antonio's Pizza has a table waiting for you.
Photo by H.K. Photo Studio



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JOANNE'S CORNER

Things that aren't here anymore - Part Four

A few well-known institutions were located in Brookline back in the 1940s until I don't know when. DePaul Institute for the Deaf run by the charity nuns was world renown. It taught both day school and live-in children. High school girls who lived there went to Elizabeth Seton with me. Toner Institute was a military type facility for grade school boys with discipline and family problems. It was strictly live-in and run by the Capuchin Fathers. On Sundays you would see the boys on the boulevard in their neat uniforms. They would be out with family for the day going to the movies. Both Toner and DePaul were located at the top of Castlegate Avenue.

Question of the month: What was the name of the movie theater located on the boulevard where **Cedars of Lebanon** is today?

-Joanne Fantoni

Last Month's Memory Teaser

Question: Do you remember what we used to call the guys with the white hats who worked behind the fountains?

Answer: Soda jerks.

"They were called soda jerks. I think it was in reference to jerking the handle forward to dispense the soda in the fountains behind the counter and not to the demeanor of the person doing the dispensing. On my sixteenth birthday, Mr. Patterson offered me a job as a soda jerk in his pharmacy at 944 Brookline Blvd. The pay was 75 cents an hour with a raise to 85 cents if I proved I could do the job. I worked there until he retired in February of the following year and have some great memories of that experience. Mr. Patterson was kind enough to get me a job working for Sam's Hardware and a raise to \$1.00 an hour. That's another story for another day. Love you Brookline."

-Bob Daley

"Though I am not old enough to have had the pleasure of being waited on by one of the hundreds of SODA JERKS, my mother has fond memories of a fun loving era."

-Donna Marzan

READER FEEDBACK

Hi, I'm writing this because I was upset when I was reading the Brookline Journal [**The Brookline**], and my Grandmother's store was not listed in there. My Grandfather and Grandmother, **George Bickerton** and **Gloria Bickerton** opened **Bickerton's News** in 1970. Our family kept the store going when my grandfather George passed away in 1990. We were there for thirty six years. My whole family, especially my Mom Linda who ran the store, really misses it up there. It was where all my cousins and I grew up. We had penny candy, lottery, magazines, cigarettes and cigars. We were the first store in Brookline to have a lottery machine. I still see kids till this day that come up to me that are adults now that really miss us. They loved the penny candy, and the friendly environment. They all knew if they were ever in trouble or needed somewhere to go, they could come to **Bickerton's**. My grandfather George was also a constable. He and my one cousin dressed up as Santa every year and went to different children's homes who had disabilities with gifts for them and our famous penny candy. My uncle Butchie who has cerebral palsy loved to come up and sit out front. We met so many great people over the years up there. We were a family to a lot of people up there. I wish we could have stayed open, but everything [prices] went up. We had to close after so long. It was one of the saddest things we had to do, but with the cost of everything, we could not afford to stay open. We didn't make any money on penny candy. We just did it so that the kids could enjoy it. They really miss us. I would do anything to go back to being a kid and hanging out in front of my grandmother's store eating penny candy and drinking a carton of ice tea. It was the best growing up and being able to have that place. We had a lot of good customers. If anyone would ask one of our old customers, they would tell you that me, my mom Linda and my cousins knew most of the numbers they played off by heart or what type of cigarettes they smoked without even telling us. I wish the kids still had a place on the boulevard to go and be able to buy something for a penny or even have people treat them like they matter as customers like we did.

-Dana Bruno (McMinn)

BROOKLINE KIDS

LOW COST OR FREE CHILDCARE OPENINGS!

Brookline Kids Preschool/Extended Care now has special opportunities for families of 3, 4, and 5 year olds with financial need. If you qualify for CCIS, we can help you while you are on the waiting list.

Your child may also qualify for our Head Start Preschool. Extended care is from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Monday through Friday, year round, in warm Christian setting.


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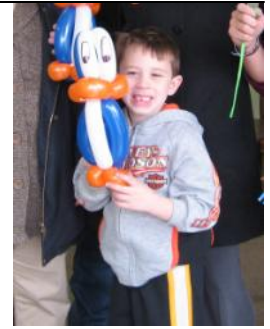
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Photos
 by
**Jan
 Beiler**



Left: Balloon artist **Barry Taylor** at Spring Fling.
 Above: **Alex Fisher** posing with his penguin.

CURBING FIDO

A while ago, SPDC installed dog waste receptacles on the Boulevard to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets and reduce waste on public sidewalks. Many dog owners walk Brookline Boulevard, but many more walk the surrounding side streets where we do not have receptacles. There are a variety of items available for "cleaning up" after your four legged friend.

Area pet stores sell biodegradable dog waste bags and gadgets for picking up and disposing of waste. The bags may be a bit pricey in pet stores but sites like eBay are a great spot to buy the bags in bulk and many sellers offer free shipping. For example, 1,785 bags may be listed on eBay for \$41 with free shipping, which works out to \$0.44 per bag.

Don't want to purchase bags, or they just aren't in your budget? If you receive a newspaper or those pesky ads that end up in your yard every week, these bags are a great substitute to the pricey pet shop bags.

So, you have a large breed dog and the daily newspaper bag just isn't big enough? Use a plastic shopping bag or search eBay. The dog waste bags are available in various sizes.

The bottom line - please be responsible for your dog and respect your neighbor's property. Even if it is the space between the side walk and the curb, clean up after your pet. Your neighbors will appreciate it.

-Julie Murphy

Now Showing

MOVIES IN THE PARK BROOKLINE MEMORIAL PARK Oakridge Street Thursdays at Dusk

- June 11 "Star Wars: The Clone Wars"
- June 18 "Kung Fu Panda"
- June 25 "Journey to the Center of the Earth"
- July 2 "Hotel for Dogs"
- July 9 "City of Ember"
- July 16 "Igor"
- July 23 "The Day the Earth Stood Still"
- July 30 "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa"
- August 6 "Tale of Despereaux"
- August 13 "Inkheart"
- August 20 "Wall-E"

★ **Flea Market** ★
American Legion on Brookline Blvd
 9AM to 3PM on July 19th
 \$15 for a table
 Table reservation *must* be made by
July 10th
 To reserve your table call:
412-561-9750 or 412-561-0803
 Don't delay, tables are going **FAST!**



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THIS MONTH

June 8

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

June 9

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

June 22

Brookline Community Kennywood Picnic

Brookline Price		Regular Price
Funday Pass	\$21.00	\$33.99
55+ Senior Pass	\$11.00	\$16.99

Ticket Outlets:

- A-Boss Opticians**
- Community Bank**
- Kribel's Bakery**
- The Medicine Shoppe**
- National City Bank**
- Elizabeth Seton Center**

Look for the Kennywood poster in merchants' windows for additional ticket outlets.

Do you have an event you want us to list? Send an email to mnp.grabowski@verizon.net. Please put Brookline Event in the subject line. No email? Then call us at 412-343-2859.

BROOKLINE RECREATION 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 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.

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 info from **Joe Syzmanski**. 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.

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

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- **BREEZE THE BLVD.** August 8 Volunteers needed. 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

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

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