



# Neighborhood News

June 2001

Volume 1, Issue 1

## WHAT IS THE GLENBROOK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ALL ABOUT?

### Inside this issue:

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### GNA MEETINGS

**When:** Second Tuesday of every month.

**Where:** The Glenbrook Community Center  
2nd Floor, Crescent Street.

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Invited:** All members and potential members.

#### Next Meeting

**Annual meeting,**  
Tuesday, June 12  
(Refreshments will be served, socializing encouraged!)

Tuesday, July 10  
Tuesday, August 14  
Tuesday, September 11

The Glenbrook Neighborhood Association started meeting October 1999 and is bringing together residents, merchants, and other stakeholders interested in recreating the atmosphere of the old Glenbrook. Our chief concerns are beautification and safety. Maybe you have noticed some of GNA's beautification efforts:



**A Millennium Tree** was planted by the Stamford Tree foundation in front of the Glenbrook Community Center as an Arbor Day observance.



**Wire Trashcans** have been placed in front of storefronts, provided by *Keep Stamford Beautiful*.



**Graffiti Removal** committee headed by Robert Bova and Mike Battinelli has been working with the city and landlords in removing graffiti from buildings and structures.



**Train Station Landscaping** has begun with materials and corporate volunteers supplied by *Keep Stamford Beautiful* in addition to the work of GNA members.



### Great American Clean Up Campaign

which began last May, 2000 was repeated again May 5, 2001. Approximately 50 GNA members have participated in this endeavor during the past two Mays.



**Daffodils** were planted by GNA volunteers along the sidewalk in front of St. Maurice, Union Memorial Church, Glenbrook Community Center, and Hope Street Park. The daffodil bulbs were contributed by *Keep Stamford Beautiful*.



### "Welcome to Glenbrook" Signs

are being purchased with a grant GNA received from the city. There will be



### Train Station Improvements:

Of particular interest is the improvement of the Glenbrook train station area. Maybe you have noticed that we have had the unsightly fenced-in storage area at the station cleaned out.



### Spring Planters:

GNA received 16 barrel planters from *Keep Stamford Beautiful*. They contain Cypress Pines, and soon colorful annuals.



### Traffic Humps were installed on two Glenbrook streets-

Howes Avenue and Fairmont Avenue for which cooperation and support were given by GNA. We are now aware of

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE-  
SIGN UP NOW!**

**SECOND ANNUAL MEETING-  
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!  
TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 7:30 p.m..**

See details inside.



four wooden signs identifying Glenbrook and welcoming people to the neighborhood. Look for them around town.

the correct process for petitioning the city.



### Tree Rescue was

(Continued on page 2)

## WE NEED YOU! ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE-SIGN UP

What can you buy for \$5 these days? A Roly-Poly wrap, a cappuccino and doughnut, or a year-long membership into the G N A !



Annual dues is an affordable

five dollars per adult member or merchant, per year, to join. Membership runs from July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002.

Each member will receive the quarterly newsletter along with monthly emails (as long as you provide the GNA with an email address) containing minutes from the monthly

meetings and other important goings-on in Glenbrook. Currently the GNA boasts 165 members, we would like to double that this year. Please fill out the enclosed membership drive form, mail it in or bring it to the Annual Meeting on June 12.

### ANNUAL MEETING-TUESDAY JUNE 12

Everyone is invited. We will be voting on the Officers along with the Steering Committee members. The current officers are: Gloria Battinelli, President: Diane Ezzo; Vice-President, Frank Eipper, treasurer; Christie Fountain, secretary. The current Steering

Committee members are: the officers, along with Deirdre Virvo, Barbara Buchman, Cricket McCowie, MaryAnn Cobb, Robert Bova, and Mike Battinelli, Stephany Murphy, Freida Francis, Tom Pia and Michael Ferro.

brook Community Center at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments from our new Glenbrook bakery, Farrara's Cream Puff Bakery, on Glenbrook Road, will be served to encourage socializing! Come and meet your neighbors.

Please join us at the Glen-



Newsletter Committee:  
Deirdre Virvo,  
Christie Fountain,  
Barbara Buchman,  
Gloria Battinelli,  
Steven Roussel

Submit ideas to :  
[Dvirvo@swingbox.com](mailto:Dvirvo@swingbox.com)

### GARDENING COMPETITION-STAMFORD IN BLOOM

Sign up for this new citywide gardening competition that will award cash prizes in July to the most beautiful residential front yards. Any questions can be directed to Gloria Battinelli at 348-6392.

### WHAT IS THE GNA ABOUT?

*(Continued from page 1)*  
successful with the GNA support, given to a Glenbrook resident and GNA member in her personal crusade, to save a mature tree from being cut down during the road-widening at the corner of Glenbrook Road and Courtland Avenues.

To date, GNA has 165

members, headed by Gloria Battinelli, president and founder. Dues are \$5/year for adult members. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month, at the Glenbrook Community Center, second floor, 7:30 p.m.

At our meetings we have had guest speakers such as Mayor

Malloy for an open Question and Answer period; Greg Sperling, an adult probation officer who offered us potential community service manpower; Lt. Bill Watrous, of the Glenbrook police substation; Rick Meyers from *Keep Stamford Beautiful* to explain available grants; as well as a representative from the Census Bureau.

We have felt that, as a group, we are much stronger and "louder" than any one of us could be alone. We have been able to aid and assist each other, seek grants and city monies, and are off to an excellent start in beautifying Glenbrook. Newcomers are welcome and appreciated! Bring your complaints, your neighbors, and your ideas.

### GNA BULLETIN BOARD

Head of the Bulletin Board Committee, Pat Battinelli, couldn't find a board for less than \$300. So what did he do? He built it himself and donated his time and materials to the GNA. Thanks, Pat. Look for it and news about Glenbrook on the outside wall between Grade A and John's Best Restaurant on Hope Street.

### GLENBROOK TAKES PART IN A COMMUNITY DESIGN WORKSHOP

GNA's formation was inspired 1 1/2 years ago by the opportunity for Glenbrook to participate in a community design workshop that was part of the updating of the Stamford Master Plan. Glenbrook residents took part in an intensive "retreat" with professional planners, architects, transportation specialists, and urban designers from New York City, creating drawings that envisioned our recommendations for the revitalization of Glenbrook's commercial center. Why that design focus? Because Glenbrook (like Springdale) is a special case in Stamford, with its own small downtown and train station. To make a long story short, we designed ways to recreate Glenbrook's village atmosphere, centered around the train station. We presented the plans to city officials in March of 2000 as enhanced input into the Master Plan.

## BACKGROUND ON GLENBROOK

Glenbrook, like Springdale, developed as a residential neighborhood after the opening of the New Canaan branch railway stations in Glenbrook and Springdale in 1868. Maps from 1892 show Glenbrook as an eastern suburb of Stamford, two miles from town hall. It remained separate from Stamford until the mid 20th century, and there are still some longtime residents who write their address as "Glenbook, Conn." Glenbrook used to be a self-contained small town where everyone knew each other. It was a "company town" for the Phillips Milk of Magnesia Factory.

Certain landmarks still remain today: Union Memorial Church, St. Maurice Church, Stark Elementary School with its playground and adjoining Northrop Little League field, the fire house, Glenbrook Community Center (formerly Glenbrook School), the train station area, the Milk of Magnesia water tower, and

the Noroton River (now visible to the public only from two bridges). The former Phillips property, along Glenbrook Road near the Darien border, has been subdivided and developed as; Research Park, Glenbrook Industrial Park, Riverwalk Condominiums, and a concentration of satellite dishes with the intriguing name of Glenbrook Earthstation.

A change in housing stock and zoning has affected the character of Glenbrook in recent decades and into the present day. This has changed the look of entire streets. As a result Glenbrook is more populated, less friendly, less attractive, and has more traffic, less open space and fewer trees. It doesn't appear that anyone has been looking out for the community as a whole.

Because of its history, Glenbrook still has many of the ingredients that could

make it seem like a small town: a train station, post office, fire department, elementary school, community center, a little league division, churches, stores, and restaurants.

What it lacks, though, is unity. The Glenbrook Neighborhood Association hopes to be the force that pulls together residents, merchants, and other stakeholders interested in recreating the feel of old Glenbrook. Won't you join us in this effort?



**"Glenbrook used to be a self-contained small town where everyone knew each other."**

### BLOCK PARTY

Those of you long-time Glenbrook residents will remember the wonderful Block Parties that the Glenbrook Fire Dept held every year at the Fire Station. GNA would love to bring back the neighborhood party, complete with fire engine rides for the kids. We are aiming for a date in early September. We will keep you posted. Anyone interested in joining the Block Party Committee, please call Pat Battinelli at 348-6392 or Steve Frost at 324-6222.

## WHAT'S NEW IN GLENBROOK?

These are just the recent changes near Glenbrook's commercial center by the train station:

**Tradefield's Farmers Market is now Fiesta Farms**, run by the Rojas family, who have had several successful businesses in downtown Stamford.

**Landmark Baptist Church** has bought the property across the street at 66 Crescent Street and will create its new church home there. In the process, the vacant lot at the corner of Crescent Street and Taylor Reed Place will become a parking lot.

**Tommy K's Fitness Exchange** has relocated from the Cove to the former Good Buy Thrift Shop on Glenbrook Road.

Glenbrook now has a bakery and cappuccino! **Farrara's Cream Puff Bakery** has relocated from High Ridge Road and has a 15-year commitment to Glenbrook.

**Roussel Photography**, a Designer Portrait Studio, has also relocated from High Ridge Road and has is located on the second floor, above the bakery.

## GNA MERCHANT MEMBERS

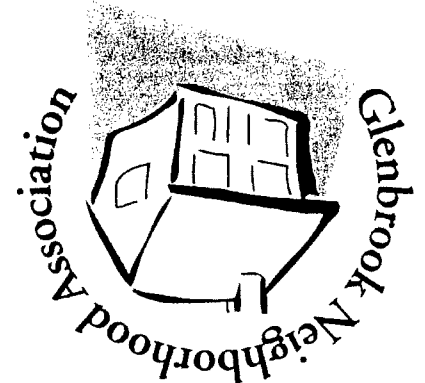
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AC Sitting Service  
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Lion's Club of Stamford  
Mr. C's Fix It  
Nice Nails  
Nick's Pizza  
Paramount Stone Co.  
PC Repairs & Sales  
Roussel Photography  
St. Maurice Church  
Stamford Tent and Party Rental  
Sunny Mart and Exxon Station  
The Italian Deli  
Union Memorial Church  
Valentino Ristorante

GNA MISSION STATEMENT  
The purpose of the Glenbrook Neighborhood Association shall be to safeguard the mutual interest and welfare of its members; to preserve and enhance the beauty and tranquility of the area; to promote the safety of its inhabitants; to protect the integrity of the environment; and to enhance the quality of life of Glenbrook residents.

GNA is a non-profit community organization. For info contact  
association president Gloria  
Battinelli at 348-6392

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