



# Neighborhood news

GLENBROOKASSN.COM

SUMMER 2009 ISSUE 7

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What is GNA?

Village Commercial  
District

New trees on  
Glenbrook Road

Membership form

## GNA Meetings

### WHEN

2nd Tuesday in September,  
January, March and June

### WHERE

Glenbrook Community Center,  
35 Crescent Street

### TIME

7:30 p.m.

### WHO

All GNA members and  
Glenbrook residents and  
merchants

### NEXT MEETING

September 8

### QUESTIONS?

Call 348-6392



GNA worked with the City's transportation planner and engineering department to determine the scope of the grant-funded improvements to the Glenbrook train station.

# A Year of Progress for Glenbrook

## 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.*

The GNA had a lot to celebrate at our tenth annual meeting, held June 9 at the Glenbrook Community Center. During this tenth year of our existence, momentum picked up and we saw tangible changes. GNA had grants from both the City and the State, and the City had a Federal grant for enhancements to the Glenbrook train station. We also celebrated a new zoning category – Village Commercial District (VCD) – passed on June 1 by the Zoning Board, that will enable Glenbrook to have a pedestrian friendly village center near the train station.

Completed in May, the train station enhancements included a new walkway and safety railing, bike racks, landscaping, pay station replacement, and gravel ground cover to improve the view from the platform. Did commuters notice? One man getting off the train did a double take, laughed, and said he couldn't believe all the changes. The train station will continue to be a major focus of GNA's improvement efforts.

# Village Commercial District (VCD) Hope for Glenbrook's future

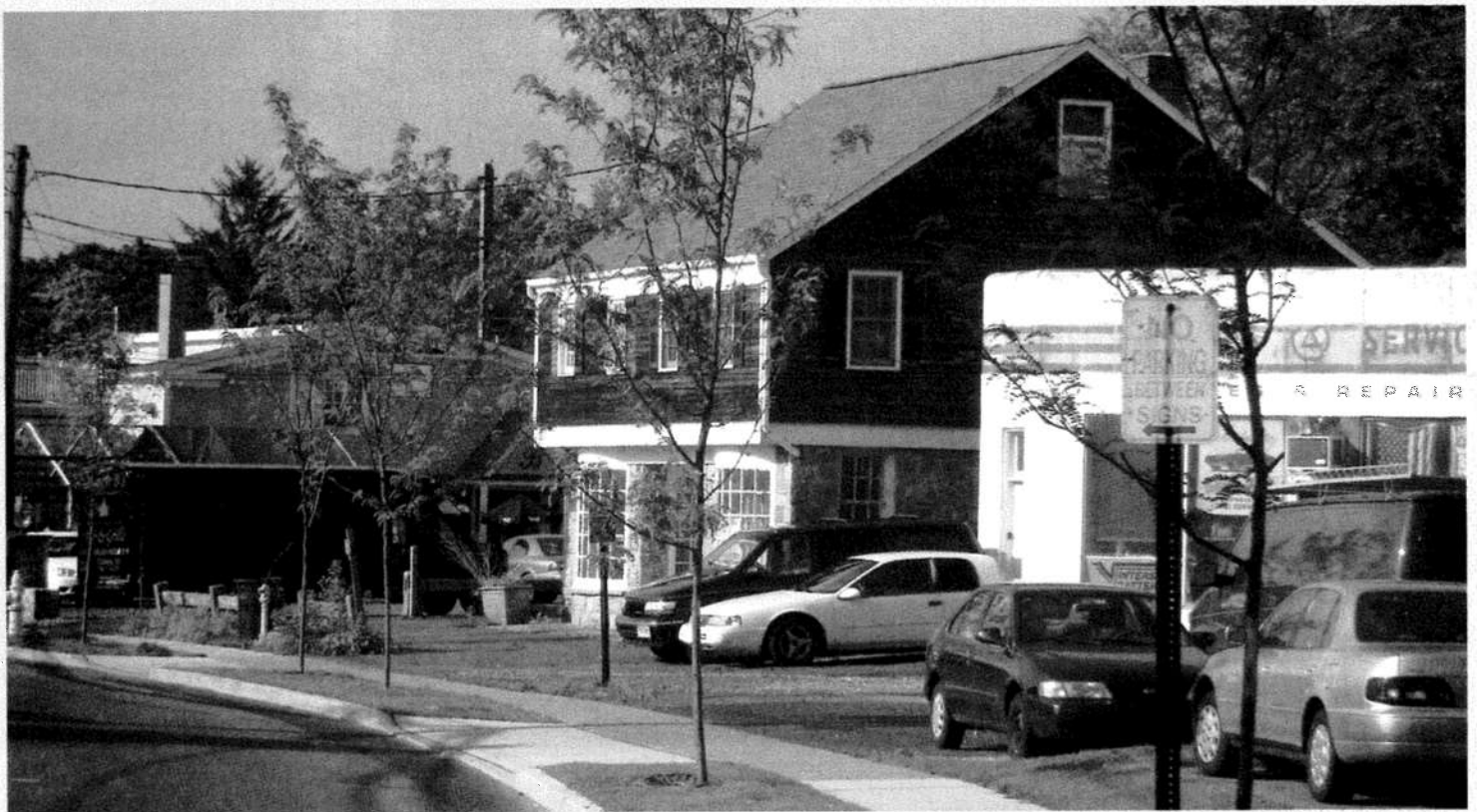
"Glenbrook could be so nice—a little community by the train."

**After ten years of meetings and advocacy and envisioning the future**, GNA celebrated the passage of a new zoning category with the potential to reshape Glenbrook. In June the City officially adopted a new zoning designation, Village Commercial District (VCD), for properties near the train station that were previously zoned C-N (Commercial Neighborhood).

Since 1999 both the Glenbrook and Springdale Neighborhood Associations have worked with the City on the neighborhood offshoot of the 2002 Stamford Master Plan. The goal has always been to make our neighborhoods look and feel like a modern version of

the pedestrian-friendly villages that they were in their prime. Glenbrook will never again be the way it was in the thirties and forties, but we as residents and as a neighborhood association can now start to influence Glenbrook's physical development and the aesthetics of new construction.

At the final public hearing before the Zoning Board, Glenbrook business owner Joseph Criscuolo said that in recent years Glenbrook near the train station has looked "piecemeal." He remembers telling his father Nick, of Nick's Pizza, in 1968, "Glenbrook could be so nice – a little community by the train."



## "A Happy Change" on Glenbrook Road

The following is an excerpt from GNA member Anne Goslin's final report on the \$2,000 Neighborhood Empowerment Grant from the City.

*"The grant has made possible a project that has beautified a much traveled, blighted section of our commercial center near the train station, and has enabled the neighborhood association to demonstrate its commitment to the city's Master Plan. The streetscape between 471 and 463 Glenbrook Road has been transformed into a pleasant place in*

*which to walk. With the empowerment grant, and the help of the City of Stamford, sections of asphalt were removed between the sidewalk and the street, curbs and sidewalks were repaired, and trees were purchased, planted, and watered. GNA is also appreciative of Classic and Muscle Automotive and the Food Bank for providing water.*

*A Glenbrook resident voluntarily offered his thoughts on the improvement. He called it "a happy change."*



Before



## Glenbrook History Project

A short history of Glenbrook, written by freelance history researcher Nils Kerschus in 2005, is available on GNA's website, [www.glenbrookassn.com](http://www.glenbrookassn.com). This project was paid for with GNA funds. After spending some time in Glenbrook, the author commented that three things distinguish Glenbrook as a neighborhood: Hope Street Park, the presence of mature trees, and the variety of historically significant architecture. This spring, Union Memorial Church's Rev. Dr. Blaine Edel, a history buff, took it upon himself to design a cover for the history and have it printed and bound. Copies have been donated to the Ferguson Library and the Stamford Historical Society.



**That looks better!** GNA volunteers met at the train station parking lot on a recent Saturday morning to weed the Liberty Garden.

## Got Grants?

One advantage of banding together as a neighborhood organization is the ability to apply for grants as a nonprofit organization. Our annual Neighborhood Empowerment Grants from the City have funded these projects:

- Welcome to Glenbrook signs
- Sturdy trash containers and planters
- Train station landscaping
- Professional tree care
- Renovation of Hope Street Park
- New trees and sidewalks on Glenbrook Rd

## Why a Glenbrook Neighborhood Association?

There is strength in numbers. We are a nonprofit organization of about 200 households and merchants. Over the past ten years we have accomplished more together than we would have as individuals to improve Glenbrook's safety, appearance, quality of life, and to guide its future development. GNA can apply for and receive grant funding. This summer for the eighth and final time GNA members will escort Mayor Malloy on his annual walk in our neighborhood. We have developed relationships with City departments, our elected representatives in Stamford and Hartford, and with Metro North. We take on projects big and small to improve life for people in Glenbrook.

**977-4140**  
Remember this number!

Call the Citizens Service Center to report a problem, request a City service, or ask for information.

People attending their first GNA meeting often come with a question or complaint that can be answered this way:  
**Call 977-4140!**

### On the horizon:

- Courtland Avenue widening
- Courtland/Maple Tree intersection redesign
- East Main train station on New Canaan branch
- Canopy for Glenbrook train station platform
- Path for pedestrians who take the short cut on "Pear Tree Hill" by Courtland Ave bridge

### Glenbrook Neighborhood Association

*Gloria Battinelli, Pres.*  
*Diane Ezzo, Co-Vice Pres.*  
*Mary Ann Mara, Co-Vice Pres.*  
*Christie Fountain, Secretary*  
*Frank Eipper, Treasurer*

#### *Steering Committee members:*

*Julia Brennan*  
*Cheryl Canzoneri*  
*Georgianna Cecire*  
*Kristine D'Elisa*  
*Anita Kosminsky*  
*Meryl McDaniel*  
*Shawn Monks*  
*Nancy Patterson*





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GNA is a tax-exempt 501c 3 organization For information contact President Gloria Battinelli at 203.348.6392

Have you noticed the **changes in Glenbrook** this year?



## How Did I Get This GNA Newsletter?

This issue comes to you free of charge and is paid for by GNA. Won't you join your neighbors in making Glenbrook a nicer place to live? A membership form is enclosed. Dues – only \$5 per year! Our members who cannot attend meetings stay informed via email.

Reasons to visit the City's website [www.ci.stamford.ct.us](http://www.ci.stamford.ct.us)

- NEW!** Request a "toter" bin on wheels for single stream recycling.
- NEW!** Check restaurant inspections.
- NEW!** Read VCD guidelines

Register to vote – give Glenbrook more clout.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

GNA sincerely thanks all the people who helped make 2008-2009 a year of tangible accomplishments. On the Master Plan/Village Commercial District project we culminated a rewarding ten year partnership with Robin Stein of the City, Rob Lane of RPA, and Marilyn Trefry of Springdale Neighborhood Association. We also thank the members of the Planning Board and Zoning Board for their service to the community. On the train station project, we thank the City's transportation planner Josh Lecar for inviting GNA to get involved, and for paving the way to meetings with Ed Gentile, Ernie Orgera, Doug Hoyt, and Alan Bush. On the Glenbrook Road trees and sidewalk grant project, Anne Goslin worked with the City's Ed Gentile and Phil D'Amico and found remarkable the "wonderful cooperative effort between our neighborhood association, the City's engineering department and tree warden, Stamford Downtown Special Services District, Glenbrook Road shop keepers, and local businesses." We thank Mayor Malloy, State Rep Carlo Leone, and State Senator Andrew McDonald for their ongoing support of our efforts in Glenbrook. We thank the Citizens Service Center for their professional handling of our many requests and those of all the people we send their way. Finally, the officers of GNA are encouraged to see new people becoming more involved and public spirited. It bodes well for Glenbrook's future.