

**Thursday, September 19, 2024 @ 7:00 pm at OSPOB**

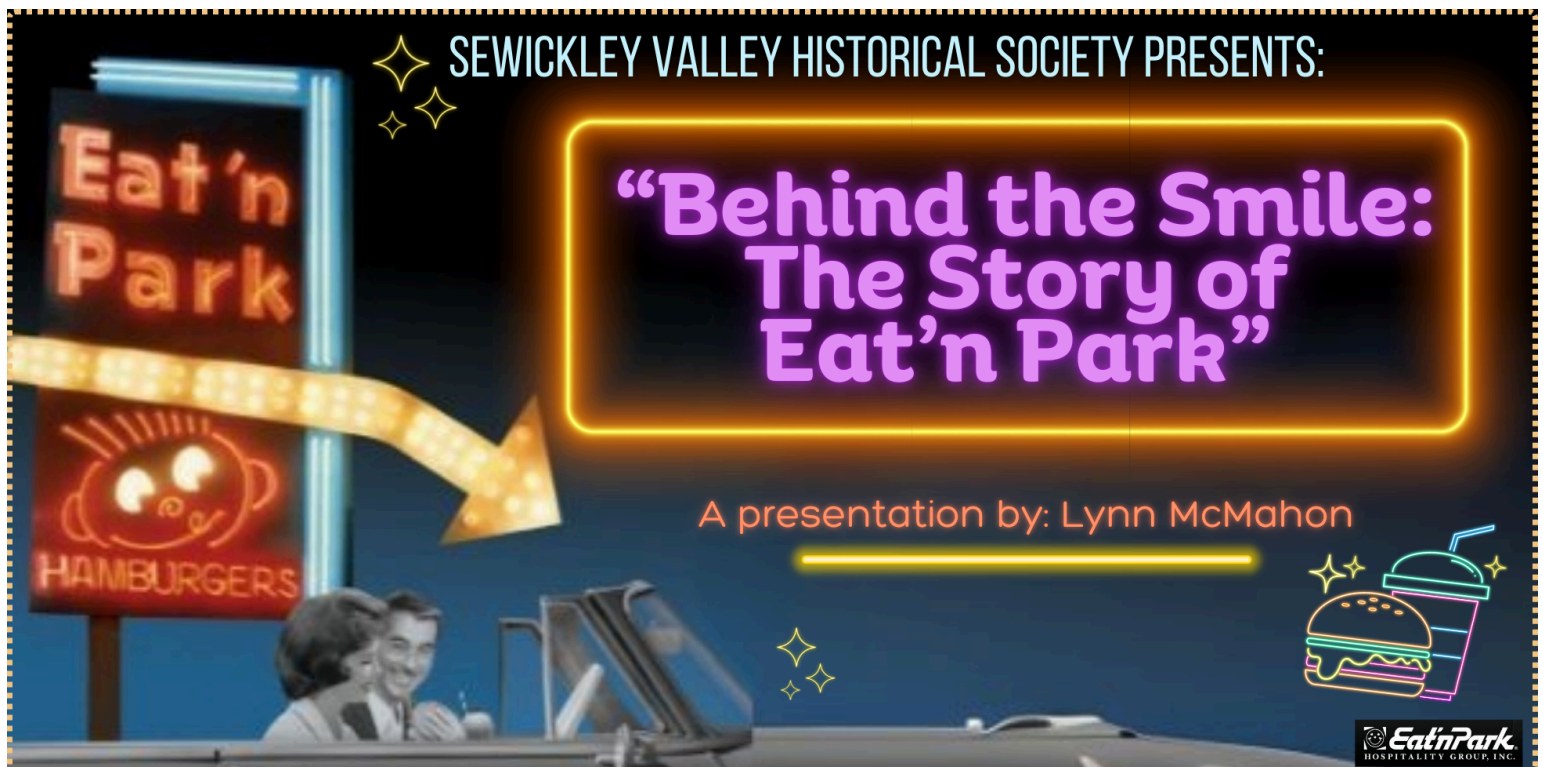
## **“BEHIND THE SMILE: THE STORY OF EAT’N PARK”**

In the Story Behind the Smile, Eat’n Park Hospitality Group team members share their experiences to paint a vivid picture of the evolution of the 75-year-old family-oriented, community-minded company. They trace its transformation from a single carhop restaurant into a multi-dimensional hospitality group with concepts throughout the eastern half of the United States.

As they follow this once burger-and-shake company with a long history of innovating, attendees will enjoy learning how a round sugar cookie from the owner’s youth went on to become an instantly recognizable icon and the inspiration behind the company’s highly motivating purpose to Create a Smile®.

The Story Behind the Smile relays how Eat’n Park Hospitality Group leaders have blended business savvy with a genuine concern for people to become one of the nation’s admired and successful businesses.

This event is FREE and open to the public. Advance registration requested via the SVHS website, or by contacting the SVHS office at 412-741-5315 | [info@sewickleyhistory.org](mailto:info@sewickleyhistory.org)



**Additional Information on Page 4**

## Notes from the Postmaster's Office



By: Amanda Schaffer, Executive Director, SVHS

Welcome to the 2024 - 2025 Program Year at SVHS! It was a productive summer in the Old Postmaster's Office, and with the recent Harvest Festival marking the end of the summer season, I am excited to highlight and share a few of the things that we have been working on since our May Signals.

In June and July, I took the opportunity to visit other local historical societies -- the Squirrel Hill and the McKees Rocks Historical Societies -- to check out some of their programming and learn more about their work. It was great to meet those involved with other history-loving organizations and to see how they preserve and present the history of their communities. Not only were ideas exchanged, but connections were made that could be assets for future collaboration and inspiration; I hope to make a habit of visiting other historical societies.

Our members and community continue to remember SVHS as a place for the keeping of their historic Sewickley Valley treasures. This summer we accepted the donation of an early 19th-century rifle from SVHS Member Joyce Cortese. Joyce purchased it as a wedding present for her husband over 50 years ago. She brought it to our Antique Appraisal and Donation Day this past April where she learned its age and value. We look forward to displaying the rifle in future exhibits and sharing it with the community as a learning tool.

We also accepted an amazing assortment of late 19th/early 20th-century clothing from SVHS Member Susan Burrows, a descendant of the Walker family. The donation includes hats, – including one stored in a hat box from the beloved Sewickley store, Band Box – beaded handbags, children's clothing, and a variety of women's dresses worn by those who once called Muottas home. The pieces are in amazing shape and we are already thinking of ways to put them on display and share them.



Some of the items SVHS received through donation this Summer.



The mark of the end of Summer -- the Sewickley Harvest Festival.  
Many thanks to those who stopped by to talk or shop!

You may have noticed your annual membership appeal packet arrived a little later than usual. We thank you for your patience as we worked to bring you the most robust Year in Review yet, as well as taking the time to create an ambitious program schedule for the upcoming year. We are extremely pleased with what came together and with the pieces that are still falling into place.

We will kick off the fall with our traditional lecture series but want to draw your attention to the event set to take place before the lecture on October 23, where we invite you to enjoy a "Bite of History." A paid event prior to the free lecture, we will be serving some of the foods made famous by the Chicago's World Fair of 1893. You'll have a chance to enjoy the items as a light dinner while mingling with the presenter of the evening, University of Pittsburgh archivist and author of "From the Steel City to the White City", Zachary Brodt and learning fun facts about the food served at the fair. Advance registration will be required for this event, and space will be limited, so stay tuned for when sign-ups open to reserve and pay for your spot.



In the winter we will debut a new Saturday Open House event for the community to come in and explore the Collections at SVHS as well as bring back our Winter Tea – a sold event last year! -- and our Antique Appraisal and Donation Day. As we move through the spring, we are truly excited to be partnering with The Lindsay Theater for “Lights, Camera, History!” where we will look at history through the lens of film.

The Lindsay is still working to iron out the distribution of the movies we are hoping to present, but once they are confirmed, we will not be able to contain our excitement in sharing with you the films and their presentation.



This new partnership will lead us right to the month of May when SVHS will present “Valor in the Valley – An Exhibition of the Sewickley Valley in Times of War.” While preparing for 2023’s “All Out for 50” exhibition, it was noted how many incredible pieces of war-time history are preserved in the Collections at SVHS, and so those pieces were held back to put on display, this May. 2025 marks the anniversary years of the end of the American Civil War (160th), WWII (80th), and Vietnam (50th) so we feel it is a great time to reflect on the service of those in the Valley in all American conflicts as it is preserved in the Collections at SVHS, and we hope that it becomes an opportunity to collect even more stories and artifacts that reflect the contributions of Valley residents when called upon by their country.

It is a diverse and ambitious slate of events – some paid, some still free and open to the public, some traditional formats and some new – and we look forward to sharing them all with you in the coming year.

Finally, we are thrilled to announce that we have welcomed an intern from the Master’s in Public History Program at Duquesne University. Reagan Ricata will be assisting with digitizing and programming two days a week for the fall semester. We hope that Reagan is the first in a long-term partnership with the internship program at Duquesne.

It has indeed been a busy summer, and promises to be an even busier fall, but as always we look forward to sharing the history of Sewickley Valley with you!

## SVHS PRESERVATION GRANT 2024-2025

### *New Dates to Know!*

Applications Open:

**Tues., Sept. 3, 2024.**

Applications Close:

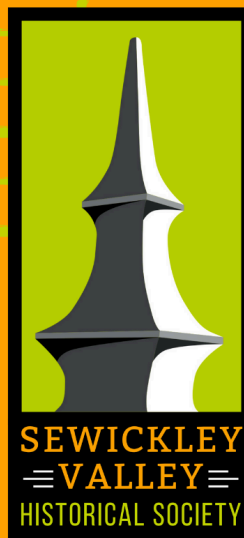
**Tues., Oct. 15, 2024, by**

**11:59pm**

Notification of award by:

**Nov. 22nd, 2024**

*Timeline and Due Dates for the 2024-2025 SVHS Preservation Grant are earlier than previous Grant cycles -- please take note!*



VISIT [WWW.SEWICKLEYHISTORY.ORG](http://WWW.SEWICKLEYHISTORY.ORG) FOR MORE INFO AND TO APPLY

## Friends, Sponsors, Patrons, Benefactors

*Many Thanks to the following who since our last newsletter have supported SVHS with gifts in addition to dues.*

Mary Ann Baldridge  
Mike Cevarr and Kirk Fordham  
Hanley Cox  
Judy Haluka and Carolyn Nash  
Joe and Judi Nocito  
Janet Oellig  
Sean and Michele Rollman  
Robert and Tina Thomas



Joe and Judi Nocito

## Special Contributions

- Susan Denny, in memory of Anne Painter (Jones) Wigton

## *In Memoriam*

Lawrence Hitchins  
Michelle Peduto



## A Place of Tradition, Smiles and Memories...

Whether it is Sunday morning after church or late night after a school dance, or perhaps a first date or a birthday gathering, Eat'n Park has been the physical location for many a Pittsburgher's treasured traditions and memories over the last 75 years.

The Sewickley Valley's own Eat'n Park in Edgeworth, on Ohio River Boulevard, opened in 1967. Other locations near to the area marked milestones for the beloved restaurant. The Bellevue Eat'n Park, another Ohio River Boulevard resident, was the second location for the chain, opened in response to the popularity of the original restaurant that opened in 1949 on Saw Mill Run Boulevard. The Moon Township location shares a birthday year with SVHS, opening in 1973 as the first Eat'n Park built only for inside sit-down dining.

The Sewickley Valley location in Edgeworth has grown and changed in time with its sister locations over the years. It too started as a carhop location. An August 1989 *Sewickley Herald* article interviewed a then 22-year veteran employee of the location, Andrea Chiodo, who recalled that "it was nice being outside, but a little cold in the winter." She also mentioned that "sometimes your best tips came from the beat-up cars, or the most unlikely cars."

Coverage of the Edgeworth location in the *Herald* marked the changes over the years to the physical restaurant. In 1967 an article announced the restaurant received a zoning variance that allowed it to construct a "canopy-type shelter for car-parking customers" which the *Herald* notes was "something novel" for the area.

A March 1978 *Herald* piece titled "Big Things Happening" celebrated the reopening of the location after a week of closure. That week brought the location a whole new wing of seating that allowed for another 88 people to sit and enjoy their favorite Eat'n Park dishes. That expansion kicked off the development of the area surrounding the restaurant with the construction of a 5-shop mini-mall called Edgeworth Village.

Read on to see photos from the *Herald* articles mentioned, pulled from the Collections at SVHS.

The Sewickley Herald: Wednesday, April 11, 1984 -- Page 15

# LOOK WHAT WE'VE LINED UP FOR BREAKFAST



Sewickley is waking up to a whole new way to have breakfast. It's Eat'n Park's breakfast 'n fruit buffet.

A tasty lineup of serve-yourself goodies like scrambled eggs and breakfast potatoes. Homemade buttermilk biscuits. Bacon and pork sausage. Why, there's even a selection of chilled fruits. And muffins chock-full of blueberries.

You can have as much as you like for \$2.95 and half-price if you're a kid under 12. And on Sundays, you can heap your plate with all this and more at our special Sunday brunch. Bite into tender chicken and baked ham. Fresh salads, soups and chili. And melt-in-your-mouth pastries. All for just \$4.90 and half-price for kids.

So stop by tomorrow morning for a taste of our breakfast. We think it's a real eye-opener.

## ***Eat'n Park***

Buffet Hours: 6:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.  
Brunch Hours: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Sunday only  
201 Ohio River Blvd., Sewickley

**This Eat'n Park ad ran in the April 11, 1984 Sewickley Herald. It announced the arrival of the all-you-can-eat Breakfast Buffet to the Sewickley Valley location.**

**LOOK AT THOSE PRICES!**

**Only \$2.95 for adults and \$1.50 for children during the week. It went up on Sundays to \$4.90, but also included baked ham and chicken.**



*The Herald article to the right is included in its entirety, so that concerns at the 1985 zoning hearing could be enjoyed by all.*

*Were you one of the hooligans drag racing in the front Eat'n Park parking lot in the 1980s?*

*From the Sewickley Herald, June 26, 1985.*

Page 2 — The Sewickley Herald: Wednesday, June 26, 1985

News

## Eat 'N' Park: grow 'n' build

### Zoning Board grants variance for expansion

By Eric Stragar

Eat 'N' Park, 201 Ohio River Boulevard, will be able to expand as planned after receiving a variance from the Edgeworth Borough Zoning Ordinance on June 11.

The variance allows Eat 'N' Park to begin construction of a freezer section that will be attached to the restaurant's back wall.

At the hearing before Edgeworth Zoning Hearing Board, plans were revealed for a bakery at the restaurant. However, this change, which will involve a reconstruction of the lobby, will occur under the existing roof. The only new physical addition to the building will be the freezer section.

Eat 'N' Park representative David Shaw admitted the new addition will fall within a flood plain, but asked for a variance from Article VIII, Section 800, of the ordinance, which prohibits development in a

flood-plain highway zoning district.

Neighbors across the boulevard from the restaurant, Mr. and Mrs. David M. Mitchell, 205 Orchard Place, offered some resistance to the plans.

They complained the new sections would attract more customers.

According to the Mitchells, ever since Eat 'N' Park expanded into a 24-hour operation, they and some of their neighbors have noticed that late-night patrons are quite often drunk and unruly.

Mrs. Mitchell emphasized that on some nights "drag racing" occurs on the restaurant's front parking lot.

Shaw rebutted their fears.

Shaw contended the new sections would not bring in more customers. Furthermore, he said the "new" lobby would in fact decrease counter seating space. The new improvements will only "make things more effi-

cient for the present customers, not bring in new ones," he stated.

The Mitchells requested Shaw to look into the problem of drunken and unruly patrons at late night at the Eat-N-Park. They even suggested that perhaps only the back lot be used at night, instead of the front lot, thus making things more quiet for the people on Orchard Place.

Shaw vowed that he would look into the "late night problem" and pass on the Mitchell's suggestion.

The variance was granted to Eat-N-Park and Zoning Hearing Board member Ronald Gebhardt stated that although the new section will be made in a flood plain area, it will fall within the boundaries of the legal zone.

On June 11, second variance was granted by the board to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brodish, of 326 Nicholas Place, Edgeworth. The Brodishes



EAT 'N' PARK in Edgeworth has announced plans for renovation and expansion. The project, however, needed a zoning variance, which has been granted by the borough. (Photo by Mike M...)

requested the variance for the purpose of installing an in-ground swimming pool.

Article V, section 502 of the Edgeworth Zoning Ordinance prohibits the construction of a swimming pool in the front yard of a residence on Beaver Road if the pool is within five feet of the building set-back line.

Mr. Brodish told the board could not install the pool in his back yard because he does not own one. Since his house abuts two streets, he technically owns two front yards.

"I was very surprised to find out I owned two front

yards" said Mr. Brodish. Until recently, Mr. Brodish said he believed he owned a front and a back yard.

When asked by board members why he couldn't move the pool within the boundary, he replied, "Other than aesthetic reasons there is none."

However, Brodish informed the board that by moving the pool within the legal zone it would make the pool too close to the "back" door and that since an old garage foundation provides an easy start for pool construction, it would be easier to build it out of the legal zone.

Neighbors told the board that in terms of engineering, the place where Brodish plans construction is most feasible. Neighbors also told the board that the pool would make a "nice contribution" to the neighborhood.

The board granted variance from the ordinance after hearing neighbor's views, opining that since the Brodishes' property is below street level and a fence would be around the pool, the pool no way would bother one or hurt nearby property.

**"Behind the Smile:  
The Story of  
Eat'n Park"**



### Ways to Sign Up to Attend:

- 1.) Scan the QR code below to be taken directly to the event's page on our website to sign up for the program.
- 2.) Visit [sewickleyhistory.org](http://sewickleyhistory.org) and find the event listing the on the homepage. Click thru to learn more and to sign up to attend
- 3.) Call the SVHS Office at 412-741-5315 or email us at [info@sewickleyhistory.org](mailto:info@sewickleyhistory.org)



Please RSVP in advance for person or zoom attendance.

Light refreshments will be provided for in-person attendees.

**Above:** Sewickley Herald, March 8, 1978

**Left:** Andrea Chiodo, the Eat'n Park employee interviewed for the 40th anniversary of Eat'n Park in the August 2, 1989 Sewickley Herald.

From the Sewickley Herald Collection in the Collections at SVHS.

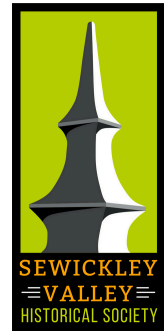
**WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL JOIN US!**



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September 2024



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## WEAR YOUR LOVE OF SVHS

SVHS is now using [bonfire.com](http://bonfire.com) to bring you your next favorite shirt!

We've created two custom SVHS designs that through bonfire we are able to offer in a variety of shirt types and colors in all sizes. With bonfire you can pay and have the shirt shipped to you directly -- SVHS does not need to take on inventory and the organization still receive \$5 - \$10 per shirt sold!

Scan the QR code next to the design you are interested in and be taken to the design's page where you can pick from different types of t-shirts, sweatshirts, and tank tops, in a multitude of colors and sizes.

With any questions, reach out to the SVHS office.



SVHS New Logo Gear



SVHS Represents Gear



Signals is written, designed, and edited by SVHS Executive Director, Amanda Schaffer.  
Visit our website, [www.sewickleyhistory.org](http://www.sewickleyhistory.org) | e-mail us at [info@sewickleyhistory.org](mailto:info@sewickleyhistory.org) | or call us at 412-741-5315.  
SVHS offices are open 10am - 2pm Monday - Friday.  
Appointments are encouraged.