

SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

Box 3, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19105

July, 1981

Notes from a Lively Membership Meeting

A general membership meeting of the SHCA was held May 20 at Old Pine Community Center. This was also the night of the election for SHCA board members for 1981-82.

Elba Pellecchia of the City Planning Commission presented a slide show outlining some of the ideas being considered for the city's riverfront, including Penn's Landing. She stressed that nothing had been decided yet. SHCA board member Jim Stran told the meeting that Craig Schelter of the Planning Commission has promised to keep us up to date on developments touching on Society Hill and that neighbors with complaints should send them to City Representative Dick Doran. Mrs. Pellecchia said that work could start soon on Delaware Ave., but Jim said the city's priority list called for finishing the missing part of I-95 and on the Vine St. expressway before repairs on Delaware Ave. are begun.

Aaron Beyer gave a brief history on the litigation over the proposed "low-cost" housing on 6th St. and pointed out that financial support is needed (see coupon elsewhere in this issue

for where to send your check). Sam Tanz asked for volunteers to write President Reagan asking why existing housing units wouldn't be preferable and less expensive than building new units.

The neighborhood Town Watch is about to incorporate and will apply for a federal tax exemption.

Representatives of Jack W. Blumenfeld & Co., developers of the Abbott's Dairy site between Second and Third and South and Lombard Sts. (a site that is wholly in Queen Village), and Irving Shapiro, their architect, made a presentation of their development which is to include

40,000 sq. ft. of shops and 159 units of housing. Concerns were voiced about kinds of commercial development proposed and about the impact of the traffic in people and vehicles that the project will bring to an already congested area. President Willmann pointed out that the project is well under way and that the SHCA has no veto power. The final hearing before the Planning Commission was scheduled for the end of June and construction could start in the fall.

The President announced that the slate of officers and board members submitted by the nominating committee had been elected.

1980-81 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Board of the Civic Association enjoyed significant success over the past year in dealing with what it felt to be the major problems which confront the neighborhood.

The Clean Streets Program, under Liz Ostrander's chairmanship, built on its initial success of the previous year and became a focal point for a truly neighborhood-wide effort to get trash off the street on a block-by-block basis.

Similar success was enjoyed in the two-year battle to bring resident sticker parking to the neighborhood when City Council passed Bill 547 designating Society Hill as a resident sticker parking district.

Community-wide involvement in fighting criminals who would prey on our neighborhood became a reality, and 225 of our neighbors are now on the streets in a well organized Town Watch Program headed by Tom Gould.

Commercial development has become closely monitored, and the community has been involved in, and

been kept abreast of, development plans for Abbott's Square, the Bookbinder's Parking Lot, Independence Place and Penn's Landing.

In addition, through a series of forums, our neighbors have received information and assistance in dealing with real estate tax reassessments and the myriad candidates for political office who present themselves for our support.

All of this has been duly recorded in a renaissance *Resident Newsletter*. At the same time, invitations to become active in the work of the Association have come out through not only the usual channels but also in the context of a neighborhood-wide party attended by over 300 and brilliantly organized by Nancy Frenze.

In retrospect, it would appear that the Association and the neighborhood were the beneficiaries of a great deal of hard work by too many people to mention and that, everything considered, it was a pretty good year.

John Michael Willmann
President

Mark Your Calendars!

(But Leave Your Burnouses at Home)

You will have the opportunity to hear and to question David Glancey and Joseph Smith, candidates for the 3rd Congressional District, the seat vacated by the resignation of Raymond Lederer. The action will begin at 8:00 p.m. at Old Pine Community Center on Wednesday, July 8th. There will be a meeting of the SHCA board at 6:30 p.m., which is open to the public.

Hail to the Chiefs

The votes have been counted and a new slate of officers and directors for the Association have been installed. They include:

J. Michael Willmann (Pres.), 335 S. 2nd St., 922-1415 (O)/925-9283 (H)

Aaron Jay Beyer (Vice Pres.), 632 Spruce St., 546-6200 (O)/925-4288 (H)

Milton S. (Tony) Schneider (Treas.), 345 S. Fifth St., 925-3233 (O)/923-1911 (H)

Deborah Newbold (Rec. Secty.), 256 S. 3rd St., 928-0134

Robert J. Holtz (Cor. Secty.), 43 St. James Court, 665-8300 (O)/928-1809 (H)

NE Quadrant

Stephen W. Miller, 210 Locust St., 241-1822 (O)/925-7033 (H)

James B. Straw, 112 Spruce St., 561-1050 (O)/925-7399 (H)

Susan Weinberg, 272 S. 2nd St., 928-1477

SE Quadrant

Fredric Edelstein, 103 Pine St., 925-2703

William J. Filmyer, 313 S. American St., 925-2348

Timothy Lemmer, 236 Pine St., 854-2162 (O)/923-7142 (H)

NW Quadrant

Theodore R. Robb, 236 S. 7th St., 922-1810 (O)/627-0329 (H)

H. Wallace Roberts, Hopkinson House, 922-4122

Helen Rodgers, 437 Spruce St., 923-2877

SW Quadrant

Ronald B. Abrams, 615 Pine St., 735-2714 (O)/925-6239 (H)

Elizabeth H. Ostrander, 408 S. Sixth St., 922-6179 (O)/922-0895 (H)

Arthur K. Smith, 535 Pine St., 922-5180 (O)

Getting punchy...

We're collecting the Fish House Punch recipes you sent in but the contest is still open. Send your formula to SHCA *The Resident Newsletter*, Box #3, Philadelphia, Pa. 19105.

Independence Place: How Safe Is It?

The April and May meetings between representatives of the developer and representatives of neighbors (Washington Square East condominiums 1 and 2 and the SHCA) were singularly unproductive as far as any major issues were concerned. There are cover plates on the Manning Walk lights and temporary lighting on Sixth Street but debris continues to fall from the building at an alarming rate and cement bags are piled high at the Sixth Street entrance and exit preventing motorists from seeing oncoming traffic.

At a meeting on June 9, representatives of the neighbors decided to use the issue of lack of any adequate safety precautions to bring the developer to the table for the purpose

of negotiating a final *Declaration and Agreement Imposing Restrictions* which will permanently run with the property, and to review the *Accessory Facilities Declaration of Easements* which is an amended version of the *Overall Tract Declaration* recorded in 1973 by Denny Development Corporation. There has been no response from the developer to the condominium's rejection of the Pennoni Parking Study, a garage safety study which does not address the traffic and parking problems of the neighborhood, in the opinion of the neighborhood representatives.

The new SHCA representative is Ted Robb, who has joined the SHCA board as northwest quadrant director.

SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION Treasurer's Report For Period from May 13, 1980 through Fiscal Year End April 30, 1981

Cash Balance as of May 13, 1980	\$ 3,779.13
Income:	
Dues for 1981 fiscal year	2,671.00
Parking Stickers	102.00
Contributions	587.00
Advertising	180.00
Tee Shirts	50.00
Interest Earned	136.74
	<u>3,726.74</u>
TOTAL:	<u>7,505.87</u>
Disbursements	
Legal Fees Olan Lowry	2,975.00
Legal—other	40.00
Printing Expenses Newsletter	1,646.20
other	643.43
Postage Reimbursements	415.84
Reimbursements—supplies various	401.68
Reimbursement—Secretarial services	392.82
Membership Party	150.00
Clean-up Day expenses	183.48
P.O. Box rental	48.00
Subscriptions	31.50
Photos	30.00
Funeral Basket	28.62
	<u>(6,986.57)</u>
Balance April 30, 1981	<u>519.30</u>

Dire Doings On Dock Street

Progress report on the A-4 Parcel (better known as the Dock Street hotel site):

Stouffer's Corp. presented its plans to the SHCA Board in April. It proposed an L-shaped building along Front and Walnut with a covered colonnade and public walk curving along Dock St. from which there will be an automobile entrance to the lobby, meeting rooms, and restaurants. Loading would be on Front and Walnut, and elevation would be 40 feet. Underground parking is proposed for 240 cars. The facade is Georgian style with brick walls and windows with white trim. The projected completion date is 1983.

The Radisson Corp. was not able to come before the SHCA Board until June 12, and its plan included a

sloped metal roof with raised seams that would exceed the height restrictions of the Urban Renewal Plan.

As this newsletter goes to press, neighbors contiguous to the property (residents of the Society Hill Towers and the Pei Houses) plan to support the SHCA request to the A-4 Parcel Selection Committee to defer selection of a developer until neighbors have had a chance to see the plans to determine whether the developers have, in fact, complied with the Urban Renewal Plan of 40 foot height restrictions and that the roof air-conditioning units do not exceed the additional 10 feet allowed. Up until now, the developers have expressed reluctance to allow the public access to the plans, and have rejected requests to come before a general

membership meeting of the SHCA. (It was only a few years ago—in the Age of Tate—that 11 developers were bidding for the right to develop the Third and Spruce St. site; then we had the time and the cooperation of the developers and the city who met with the neighborhood. Some neighbors now are asking why Mssrs. Doran and his seven-man Selection Committee are “so mysteriously trying to railroad a project through without the neighbors viewing plans of a building we will all be living with shortly . . . Something is rotten on Dock Street.”

Old Pine Performances

Three Sunday afternoon programs will be given at the outdoor amphitheater of the Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard, sponsored by a grant from Western Savings Bank. they are: **July 12**—New York Mime Group—Paul Dion; **August 2nd**—Georgia Express—jazz & original music; and **August 23rd**—Folk and country singer Saul Brody. Performances from 4:00 to 5:15. Free.

Our Readers Write

To the editor,

In reference to your recent “Dart,” what is the connection between Mayor Green’s big limousine and our trash-littered streets? Maybe it would be better for us as property owners to address the problem of litter at its source rather than taking swipes at the size and style of our mayor’s car.

In many cases (but not all) it is we ourselves, who are responsible for the litter problem. We let our dogs roam on other people’s property, we don’t clean our sidewalks of snow and leaves, and we don’t put our trash out in plastic bags and sturdy cans.

I am proud of my neighborhood, my mayor, and my city. I want to support all of them. I am not proud of those of my neighbors who take pot shots in the dark at others for no reason.

Sincerely,
Gail S. Moss

Treasurer’s Report for first month of Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, through May 30, 1981

Cash Balance May 1, 1981	\$	519.30
Income:		
Dues for 1982 fiscal year		2,965.00
Parking Stickers		201.00
Contributions		50.00
		<u>3,216.00</u>
TOTAL:		<u><u>3,735.30</u></u>
Disbursements		
M. Willmann Reimbursed		17.50
N. Frenze Reimbursed		11.99
Printing Expense		941.19
Veizer Associates, Inc. Tee Shirts		298.60
E. Ostrander Reimbursed		23.85
H. Harris Reimbursed		3.18
		<u>(1,296.31)</u>
Ending Balance as of May 26, 1981		<u><u>2,438.99</u></u>

Outstanding Receivables as of May 30, 1981, include all advertising revenue for the May Newsletter as well as Lily’s ad for the prior Newsletter; in addition we are due a \$250 rebate from Friends of Independence Park for Clean-up Day; finally, a large portion of fiscal 1982 dues have not yet been received.

All liabilities for which we have been invoiced as of May 30, 1981 have been paid and are reflected in the above year to date disbursement schedule.

Robert S. Thanhauser, Jr.
Treasurer

Advertising in the Newsletter

If you are interested in our new advertising arrangement, call Lisa Halterman at 923-3159 or Cathy Lipkin at 925-4806 after 6 p.m.

A thank you to the staff and to Helen Rodgers, Liz Ostrander, for their contributions to this issue and to Lisa Halterman and Cathy Lipkin of our new advertising staff. Deadline for articles and ads for the next issue is August 13th. They may be mailed to The Resident Newsletter, Box #3, Phila., Pa. 19105.

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The Letter of the Litter Law

According to Howard Mintzer, Commissioner of Streets, city ordinances governing litter and dumping (this includes dog litter and the improper disposal of garbage) have been amended and are now in effect.

- anyone who receives a citation for any kind of litter or dumping violation may pay the \$25 fine within 10 days with no penalty.

- if he ignores the citation and does not pay within the 10-day period, or if he wishes to contest the case, he will appear at Municipal Court.
- if he is found guilty, he will be fined no less than \$150 nor more than \$300.

Effective June 16, these ordinances will be enforced by police officers and by other authorized city personnel, including sanitation supervisors.

Coming Clean

The April 25 Clean-Up Day was a success. A band of hardy souls gathered at Head House to witness the presentation of the Second Annual New Broom Award to W. Wilson Goode. Then, as Dick Doran and Jim Tayoun applauded, our leader, Mike Willmann gave the first annual "SHCA Golden Scoop" Award to Councilwoman Joan Krajewski for her work on the dog litter ordinances. A mini-parade of a Scout-filled (Troop 176) balloon-decorated Fairmount Trolley wound through the streets, followed by Mr. Goode's Mobile Office, and a shiny yellow trash truck.

Neighbors cleaned lots, Scouts spread the word to surprised residents, McCall's kids made great posters, A&P gave lots of cleaning products, Bill Pindar clowned, the Tootsie Pops played, and the kids

raced for New Market balloons. Bentley wagged his tail.

Everyone had a good time and agreed that Clean-Up Day should become an annual SHCA springtime block party.

Special thanks to Heather Harris, Leonard Robner and Miss Maimon of McCall's School, Commissioner Mintzer, Scoutmasters Jackson and Lewis, Jane Yuhas, Mike Willmann, Nancy Frenze, Bill and Marge Filmyer, and Bob Riley of the A&P. And, of course, Bentley.

Sound Off

We'd like to start an Op-Ed page in the next issue. If you'd like to make a suggestion, vent your wrath or even recall an interesting incident about the neighborhood, put it on paper—50 to 500 words—and mail to The Resident Newsletter, Box 3, Phila., Pa. 19105. Do it today.

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What's New at NewMarket/Headhouse

Who Needs Septa?

The NewMarket Nooner, a Fairmount Park Trolley-Bus, now provides free transportation between the Independence Square area and New Market each weekday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The trolley originates at 6th and Arch, travels down 6th to Chestnut, across on Chestnut to 2nd, and then to NewMarket. Return departure is every 15 minutes from 2nd and Lombard with stops at 3rd & Walnut, 4th & Walnut, 5th & Chestnut, 5th & Market and 6th & Arch.

Very Crafty

The three-day Fourth of July weekend marks the beginning of the 13th Shambles season for the Head House Crafts Fair at 2nd and Pine Streets. Approximately 40 craftspeople will have works for sale each weekend (Saturdays from noon to midnight, Sundays from noon to six) for ten weeks ending on Labor Day, September 7th.

Twilight Concerts

NewMarket's admission-free Twilight Concert Series held each Wednesday (weather permitting) in the Lower Court will continue through August 26th. There will be two performances of 25 minutes each at 7 and 8 p.m. by the following artists:

*July 8—Bainbridge Brass Quintet

*July 15—The Cantibile Chamber Players

July 22—Tom Alles (sing-along music)

July 29—Karen Banos (string quartet)

*August 12—The Cantibile Chamber Players

August 19—The Norristown Saxophone Quartet

*August 26—Bel Canto Brass Ensemble

Funds for these performances will be furnished in part by the U.S. Recording Companies through the Music Performance Trust Funds, as arranged by Local 77, American Federation of Musicians and NewMarket.

Independence Hall's Summer Roster

Despite heavy budget cuts, some last-minute funding rescued the "Sound and Light" show behind Independence Hall from certain shelving; it can be seen on Wed. thru Sun. evenings starting **July 8**; likewise, the "Spirit of 76", an historic drama, was also retrieved and can be viewed next to the Second Bank, beginning **July 8 thru Aug 30** at 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30.

Down by the Riverside

Penn's Landing is buzzing with a varied list of activities to suit the musical tastes and nautical fantasies of all ages. There are five major events which will occupy the entire site.

On **July 18 and 19** the Delaware River Yachtman's League Queen Pageant will send a regatta of 130 decorated boats up the Delaware, along with an honor guard, entertainment and a coronation. To further whet the appetite of the aspiring sailor, on **July 25 and 26** exhibits from oceanography to ship brokerage activities will span the pier for a weekend-long Port Festival. **August 1 and 2** troubadours, bands, poetry, food—you name it—its an Hispanic Festival.

And that's not all. Penn's Landing will continue with the popular evening ballroom dancing on Wednesdays; square dancing on Thursdays and Dockside Concerts on Fridays along with other special events on Saturdays, and Sundays in July and August. Call 923-9030 to find out when your favorite group is scheduled.

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Sleep Well, Society Hill, Your Town Watch is Watching

Evening patrols by Society Hill Town Watch started smoothly June 5, reports the group's president, Tom Gould. "Beginning on a weekend was a real challenge," Tom says, "but we had no problems whatever with equipment, people or procedures."

Covering a 32-block area, the foot patrols are equipped with CB radios that provide instant communication with the base station. Activities will expand as new members are trained in radio and patrol procedures. Town Watch's recent membership drive has raised its current strength to 300 volunteers. With this size, patrol obligations of individual members should be sharply reduced. "New members may be asked to volunteer only two hours of their time every third or fourth week."

Tom Gould credits the smooth start-up to the hard work of Town Watch's officers and organizers, and to the "excellent cooperation of the

6th District police under the command of Captain Henry Marke." He cited particularly the many contributions of Police Community Relations Officer Wiley Redding, who has been working with the group since planning began in late March.

Besides Tom Gould, officers of Society Hill Town Watch include Lisa Halterman, vice president; Tom Byrne, secretary; Hilary LaViolette, assistant secretary; and Cathy Lipkin, treasurer.

Serving on the board of Society Hill Town Watch are Ken Cundy, Tom Gould, Rodger Halterman, Joy Lindy, Al Meinster, Sam Tanz, Loren LaViolette and Mike Willmann.

Society Hill Town Watch is sanctioned by the SHCA and is not affiliated with any other Town Watch. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible contribution to Society Hill Town Watch, please call Lisa Halterman at 934-3159.



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Low Income Housing Update

During the past few months the SHCA has continued its efforts to stop construction of low-income housing in Society Hill, and to seek an alternate solution to the housing issue.

Under a court ordered consent decree in the 'Dodson' case, in which the neighborhood had no say, 14-18 units of new, low-income, subsidized housing would be built on three sites on 6th street between Delancy and Lombard.

The SHCA filed suit (SHCA vs Harris) to try to overturn the consent decree and for the past several months the parties have been interrogating witnesses and compiling evidence in preparation for trial later this year.

The SHCA's Committee on Low-Income Housing has been working toward a settlement of the issue. It has proposed that two existing properties be rehabilitated and four units in those buildings be made available, on a subsidized basis, for the remaining plaintiffs in the 'Dodson' case. The committee (after a neighborhood meeting) has discussed this proposal

with HUD, the Redevelopment Authority, the proposed developer and the plaintiff's attorney.

The committee is also compiling a list of owners of rental properties in the neighborhood willing to accept low-income tenants on a subsidized basis. Anyone who knows of such properties should contact Aaron Beyer (925-4288). The information is needed for the 'Harris' case.

The Society Hill Housing Foundation, an independent non-profit organization which has applied for tax-exempt status has been raising funds to defray the SHCA's costs for the 'Harris' case. SHHF has raised over \$8000 in the past 4 months and needs continued support. Donors can use the form below to help prevent construction of a low-income housing project in Society Hill.

SOCIETY HILL HOUSING FOUNDATION

Name _____

Address _____

I pledge \$_____ (monthly/one time only) to support the anti-low income housing litigation. (Monthly pledges are for 9 months, 3/1/81-12/1/81.

Checks should be made to SOCIETY HILL HOUSING FOUNDATION and delivered or mailed to:

R.W. Ostrander, Trustee
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Please check if you'd like monthly pledge envelopes yes no

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DARTS & LAURELS

Laurel—To NewMarket for finally subduing the wayward curbside bricks at Pine and Second Streets, and

Dart—To the NewMarket brickmen for neglecting to repair the pedestrian potholes on Head House Inn's Pine Street sidewalk.

Laurel—To those who gave comfort to the Town Watch sign-up attendants —NewMarket which furnished tables, chairs and glasses; Once Upon a Porch for the lemonade; and the Cheese Shop for the elegant platter of fromages. (Cheezit, the Town Watch.)

Dart—To whomever it is who keeps putting their elegant garbage in the litter container on the corner of Third and Lombard Sts. This is proof that poverty doesn't cause the slum mentality.

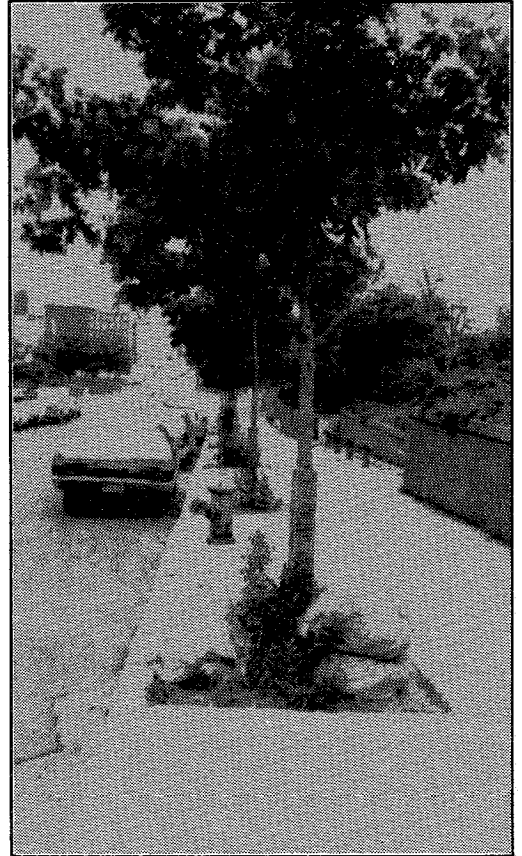
Laurel—To a new neighbor in the 700 block of Lombard, Dr. Cuddy Faber, who has the decency to curb-and clean-up after his dog.

Dart—To the Octavia Hill Association for poor pavement maintenance in the 600 block of Lombard.

Dart—To Independence Place for dropping something-or-other large and metallic from the roof (25 stories) on June 2 shortly after the 9:30 a.m. traffic crunch. It took quite a bounce in the middle of Sixth Street.

Dart—Is the street vendor at Sixth Street and Washington Square really selling Miller Lite to employees on the Independence Place site?

Dart—To Dick Doran and his City Hall cronies for letting the I-95 park turn into a grungy arboretum of city weeds and a museum of broken beer bottles. If they can't maintain it decently, why don't they just pave it over.



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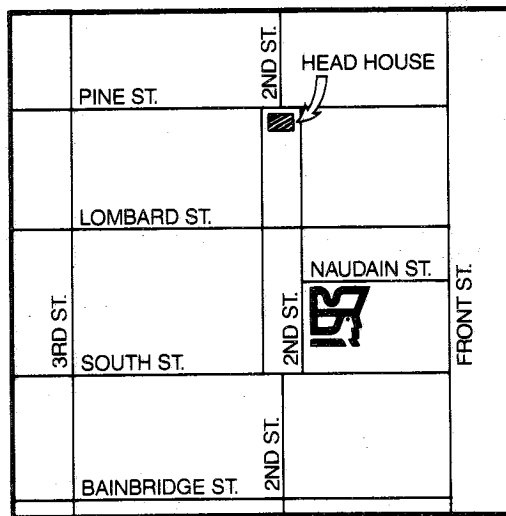
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