President Nominated

Dick Ostrander of 408 South Sixth Street has been nomi- nated to be the next President of The Society Hill Civic Asso- ciation. Dick and his wife, Liz, have lived in Society Hill since 1971 and both have been ac- tive in the community. Dick and Liz have been CA Board members and Liz is a past Vice President. Dick is an active member of Old Pine Church and has been Chairman of the Board of Managers of the Old Pine Community Center for several years. He is also Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Phila- phia Senior Center at Broad and Lombard Streets.

Dick is now retired after more than 40 years in television. Transferred to Philadelphia in 1969 to become General Sales Manager of TV 29, Dick then became an independent sales agent in syndicated program sales to stations.

The official election will take place during the SHCA Gen- eral Membership meeting scheduled for October 16. Until that time, Dick will be working closely with Acting President Steve Skale and outgoing President Becky Stoloff.

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Trying Times Require New Solutions

In these trying and rapidly chang- ing times, it has become apparent to many of us that to effect positive change, both citywide as well as community wide, new and crea- tive solutions must be tried and imple- mented. Our little corner of the world has been engaged in pro- active, not merely reactive, efforts on many fronts, because realistically, if you want something to happen, it is up to us to make it happen. We have little choice if we want to maintain the integrity of our streets, our neighborhood, and our rich cultural tapestry.

Although it may sometimes feel like a Sisyphean struggle, our ef- forts do make a difference, be- cause volunteerism and civic ac- tivism is alive and well in Society Hill. Our community boasts the talents and expertise of professionals in many fields relevant to our needs, and our neighbors bring their talents to bear in meaningful ways.

The Head House Conservancy is an excellent example of how our community is attempting to take charge of its own fate.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT HEAD HOUSE?

The historic heritage of Head House and the Shambles were showcased during selected week- ends in April and May when the Conservancy’s “Spring Market Days” attempted to recreate a bustling 18th century marketplace bursting with collectibles, book stalls, and gourmet produce in order to bring neighbors and visi- tors together to congregate and shop as they have done in the past. This pilot program was designed for the dual purpose of providing income for urgently needed Head House repairs, while adding new life to our streetscape.

WHERE DOES THE CONSER

VANCY GO FROM HERE?

At this time, an “Emergency Stabilization Plan” awaits the green light from City Hall. The Conservancy is now meeting with the “appropriate authorities” to begin agreeing on the terms of the lease so that work can commence before further damage to the structure occurs. All efforts are being made to overcome the existing hurdles, most particularly insurance.

But despite the hurdles, the Conservancy remains optimistic, and most important, tenacious. The groundwork to begin the process of repairing and restoring this landmark building in our midst has been laid. It remains for neighbors, “we, the people”, to continue pressing on until Head House becomes, once again, a dynamic asset for our city and the nation as a whole—to be used, enjoyed and appreciated for its value by visitors and neighbors alike.

For more information on how to help the Conservancy, please call 925-3285.

The Friends of Starr Garden, now three years old, was formed to improve Philadelphia’s oldest public playground at 6th and Lombard Sts. It has been a won- derful example of public/private cooperation. Thus far, the Friends’ accomplishments include the purchasing of new swings and picnic tables, bleachers for the baseball field, art supplies, and a television and VCR for indoor ac- tivities at the recreation center. In addition, new trees and bushes have been planted, while future plans include an improved toddler area and reconditioning the athletic field.

Son of firefighter McAllister signing his slate at Head House as his mom watches proudly.

Another example of neighbors helping neighbors is the Friends of Three Bears Park, which incorporated in the spring of 1990 for the purpose of raising funds to improve and maintain the park. Through the cooper- ative efforts of neighbors and busi- nesses and a successful Fall festi- val, funds were raised to begin improvements. The first project was completed in June with the metamorphosis of the fountain into a beautifully landscaped garden. The integrity of the fountain was preserved so that someday it might be unearthed when there are funds available for it to be properly maintained. Like all private im- provement groups, the Friends of Three Bears Park needs help —so call the Society Hill Civic Associa- tion office at 629-1288 or write to the Friends at P.O. Box 31550, Phila 19147.

—By Bernice Hanel, Stephanie Balduhn & Brewnon LePore

SOCIETY HILL NEWS

Society Hill Civic Association

P.O. Box 3 • Philadelphia, PA 19105 • (215) 629-1288

ADMINISTRATOR

Phyllis Palmer

SHCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Skale, Acting President & VP; Sidney Hack, Treasurer; Joan Johnson, Secretary. NE Quadrant: Lorna Katz, Lawson, George Scarpulla, Jane Brown; NW Quadrant: Joel Chernow, Mary Strohman, Lynn Wilkeson; SW Quadrant: Liz Ostrander, Sally Smith, Sam Lassen, Ed Sandstrom; Centre: Kitty Walsh, Dianne Perry, Ross Engleman; Hophinson House: Bari Shor, Ponahan Segal; Society Hill Tower: Maggie Schultz, Christopher Anderson; Independence Place: Helen Connors; Immediate Past President Becky Stoloff.

STAFF FOR THE NEWS

Bernice Hanel, Stephanie Balduhn, Brewnon LePore, Dick Ostrander, Becky Stoloff

MAIN MAKING OFFICE

East Philadelphia Sun

518 5th St., #601, Philadelphia, PA 19147 • (215) 625-2846

Bruce Andounge, Publisher

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The Society Hill Recycling Station is located at Starr Garden Playground
Please bring CLEAN recyclables to the Starr Garden station, on Rodman at 6th Street, and sort them into the bins provided there. The station is open Monday through Saturday, from 11 AM to 8 PM. Bins are provided for newspaper, aluminum, and for brown, green and clear glass.

NOTES:
Bundle your newspapers. Empty and crush aluminum cans. Empty and rinse glass (you can leave labels on). Leave no plastic, cardboard, steel/ferns or trash. Carry your bags and boxes away with you. Leave the station at least as clean as you find it. And, thank you for recycling. It’s important.

Letters

Dear Ms. Stelloff:
I was surprised and pleased to see your letter on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Society Hill Civic Association complimenting me on the relationship between the Association and Independence National Historical Park during my tenure as Park Superintendent. I know the National Park Service would like to continue that relationship with the new superintendent when that selection is made. I am very flattered that you will donate a plaque with my name on it for the roof of Head House and you can be assured that I will return frequently to visit in Society Hill. Best personal wishes to all of my friends in Society Hill.

Sincerely,
Hobart G. Cawood, President
Old Salem, Inc.

On behalf of the families of Captain David Holcombe, Firefighter James Chappell, Firefighter Phyllis McAllister and the entire Philadelphia Fire Department family I wish to express my sincere appreciation for your donation to the M. Howard Scholarship Fund. Your contribution will go a long way towards not only the continued educational opportunities for the children of these three fallen Firefighters, but all the children of Fire Department members who have made the supreme sacrifice, serving the citizens of Philadelphia.

Thank you again for your support of this difficult time.
Very truly yours,
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HISTORIC DISTRICT Certification On Hold

A recent sweeping decision by the State Supreme Court has put the City's plans for Historic District certifications on hold. The implications of this decision are not yet fully understood and the City, supported by preservation groups from throughout the state, have requested that the Supreme Court reconsider its decision. While this is something the State Supreme Court rarely does, it is hoped that because of the far-reaching impact of this decision it will do so in this case. The SHCA will be participating in a city-wide meeting reviewing the impacts of this decision. Look for an update in next month's News.

Becky Staloff

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ZONING 604 Spruce St: variance for rear dormer and deck—no opposition. Downey's Sidewalk Cafe and Deck: Joined with South Street Neighbors to appeal Del approval of structure which was in code violation. Our appeal was rejected, as was Downey's appeal to construct a second story deck.

LEGISLATIVE Participating in drafting of legislation to control horse carriage trade.

LIQUOR CONTROL Working with State Representatives to target nuisance bars for non-renewals.

RECYCLING Recycling center opened in Starr Garden. See separate report.

TOWN WATCH Sponsored Society Hill Town Watch Night Out, August 8, Society Hill Sheraton.

To learn how to get a free security assessment of your home—how you can help Town Watch, call 625-WALK.

TOWN WATCH ALERT There have been a series of second story break-ins. Make sure all second floor windows and doors are securely locked at all times.

Mark Your Calendars

September 22 (rain date 9/29):
FIRST ANNUAL SOCIETY HILL PICNIC Afternoon event featuring fun for all. Food, Games, Entertainment, Rafting, Starr Garden, 6th & Lombard Sts.

September 24:
MEET THE CANDIDATES For City Council, First District, 7:15 PM, Old Pine Community Center. Sponsored by the South Street Neighborhood Association.

October 16:
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Old Pine Community Center, 4th & Lombard Sts., 7:30 PM. Details to follow.

Join the Society Hill Civic Association Today!

Mail to:
Society Hill Civic Association
P.O. Box 3
Philadelphia, PA 19105
Attn: Treasurer

☐ New Member
☐ Membership Renewal
Name _______________________________________
Address _______________________________________
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Single ($25) Corporate ($50) Household ($50) Corporate Sponsor ($100) __________
Make checks payable to Society Hill Civic Association.

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