

# SOCIETY HILL NEWS

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## President Nominated

Dick Ostrander of 408 South Sixth Street has been nominated to be the next President of The Society Hill Civic Association. Dick and his wife, Liz, have lived in Society Hill since 1971 and both have been active in the community.

Both 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 Philadel-

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 General 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 changing times, it has become apparent to many of us that to effect positive change, both citywide as well as community wide, new and creative solutions must be tried and implemented. 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 treasures.

Although it may sometimes feel like a Sisyphean struggle, our efforts do make a difference, because volunteerism and civic activism 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 weekends 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 visitors 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 wonderful 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 activities at the recreation center. In addition, new trees and bushes have been planted, while future



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

plans include an improved toddler area and reconditioning the athletic field. The Friends of Starr Garden still need donations and still need help—for how you can participate, call Ann Spector at 928-1928.

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 facilities. Through the cooperative efforts of neighbors and businesses and a successful fall festival, 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 improvement groups, the Friends of Three Bears Park needs help—so call the Society Hill Civic Association office at 629-1288 or write to the Friends at P.O. Box 31550, Phila 19147.

—By Bernice Hamel, Stephanie Badulak & Bronwyn LePore

The Head House Conservancy participated in a Memorial Day service honoring the three fallen firefighters who gave their lives in the Meridian Bank fire. The families of firefighters Chappel and McAllister and Capt. Holcome were invited to participate in the "time capsule" campaign, whereby signed slate shingles will eventually replace the roof of Head House. The time capsule tells the story of how neighbors at the turn of the 21st century helped save an important 18th century building for their children's children.

## SOCIETY HILL NEWS

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

ADMINISTRATOR  
Fluffy 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 Chernock, Mary Sturdivant, Lynn Wiksten; SW Quadrant: Liz Ostrander, Sally Smith, Sam Lear; SE Quadrant: Kitty Wallin, Duane Perry, Ross Engleman; Hopkinson House: Bari Shor, Jonathan Segal; Society Hill Towers: Maggie Schultz, Christopher Anderson; Independence Place: Helen Comstock; Immediate Past President: Becky Stoloff.

### STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Bernice Hamel, Stephanie Badulak, Bronwyn LePore, Dick Ostrander, Becky Stoloff

### MAIN MAILING ADDRESS:

East Philadelphia Sun  
518 S. 5th St., #60, Philadelphia, PA 19147 • (215) 625-2846  
Bruce Anthony, Publisher

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# Society Hill News & Sun

Hello Society Hill neighbors! In order to provide our news on a monthly basis, we've decided to join with other local communities under the East Philadelphia Sun banner. Participation with the recently established Sun however, is an experiment and does not mean that we will no longer be publishing the Society Hill Resident Newsletter. But we need

to know what you think about this additional news venue—so please let your voice be heard. Do drop us a line or give us a call. Better yet, attend our events listed in the calendar section. And, if you would like to help in our efforts to bring our community timely news (reporters and ad takers welcome), let us know.  
—Becky Stoloff

## TRASH IS WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT

Every year, each one of us throws away almost ONE TON of trash. If you piled this trash in your living room, it would come to your shoulders.

A person's one ton of annual garbage breaks down like this: 920 pounds of paper; 440 pounds of food and yard wastes; 200 pounds of glass; 160 pounds of metals; 140 pounds of wood; 140 pounds of cloth, rubber, plastic and leather.

In one year, our combined trash totals 360 million tons. We have tried burning it, but burning trash can cause air pollution. We have tried dumping it in the ocean, but dumping can pollute the ocean as well. We have tried burying it, but we're running out of empty land

near cities. Some "scientists" have even suggested shooting trash off into empty space. But do you want your old tennis shoes orbiting around the earth?

RECYCLING is a responsible way of coping with some of our trash. It solves the problem of what to do with it, and also helps us preserve our natural resources. Recycling means shredding old cans and cars and melting the pieces to make new metal for new cans and cars. It means scooping up grass cuttings and garbage to burn for energy or to make fertilizer to help new plants grow. It means crushing bottles into tiny glass bits and melting these bits to make new glass.

## The Society Hill Recycling Station is located at Starr Garden Playground

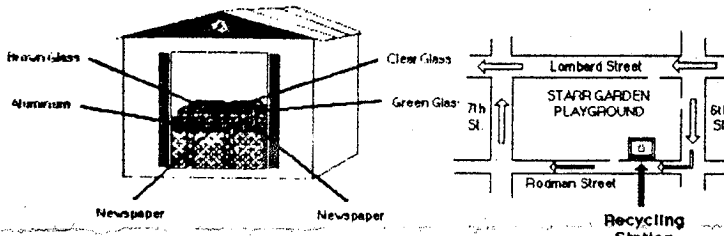
Please bring CLEAN recyclables to the Starr Garden station, on Rodman at 6th Street, and sort them into the bins provided there.

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/tins or trash. Carry your bags and boxes away with you. Leave the station at least as clean as you find it. And, thanks for recycling. It's important.



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## Letters

Dear Ms. Stoloff:

I was surprised and pleased to get 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 slate 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 Chappel, Firefighter Phyllis McAllister and the entire Philadelphia Fire Department family, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for your donation to the Head House 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 Department members who have made the supreme sacrifice in serving the citizens of Philadelphia.

Thank you again for your show of support during this difficult time.

Very truly yours,

George T. Robinson, Btln. Chief  
City of Philadelphia  
Fire Department

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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 their de-

cision. 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 Stoloff

### 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 L&I approval of structure which was in code violation. Our appeal was rejected, as 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 6, Society Hill Sheraton.

To learn how to get a free security assessment of your home—or 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, Raffle. Starr Garden, 6th & Lombard Sts.

September 24:

### MEET THE CANDIDATES

For City Council, First District, 7:15 P.M., 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 P.M. 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Single (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_ Corporate (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_  
Household (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_ Corporate Sponsor (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Society Hill Civic Association.

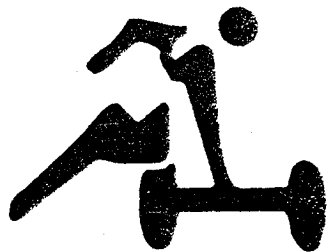


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