

SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

Vol. 2, No. 1 • Issued January 7, 1992

NOTES from the President

As a new year, so we'll start with a lot of good news on the volunteer front:

To promote the recycling effort at Starr Garden, former SHCA president, Ted Robb, of the 200 block of South Street, has been helping sort and stack after 9 am. With two workers, the job takes about an hour. With the time drops to 15 minutes or so. One or two more helpers are still needed so that a rotating schedule can

be worked out.

Mary Sturdivant, northwest quadrant director from Independence Place, has come forward to assist on this and future issues of the Reporter/Sun and Marian Darlington, a resident of Hopkinson House, has offered to be our staff photographer.

An additional staff writer/editor would enable us to rotate monthly responsibilities, and an advertising coordinator is still being sought.

Please see the SHCA Calendar and mark the January 22nd General Membership Meeting on your personal calendar! We'll be hosted by the new president of Pennsylvania Hospital, Clifton Eldredge, in the auditorium adjacent to the 8th Street entrance, just south of Spruce Street. Refreshments will be



A sample of Society Hill holiday splendor!

served as we gather together at 7:30 pm. We will then move

into the auditorium at 8 pm, where Mr. Eldredge will speak to us and answer our questions. At 8:30 the regular business session of the SHCA will bring everybody up-to-date on many matters of local concern.

A membership table will be set up at that time so that you can bring your renewal check to the meeting. (Save a postage stamp!) We'll be giving everyone a name tag to help newcomers and less active members get acquainted or reacquainted... AND... we'll give out PRIZES to the goofiest, the best-looking, and the weirdest homemade name tags. The only rule is maximum card size of 4 " x 6". So give it a try. (Go ahead—treat yourself to a new set of Magic Markers!) Have some fun, design a tag. Meet your neighbors and maybe win a nice bottle of wine!

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year!

SHCA Membership Campaign Begins

As this issue of the Society Hill Reporter/Sun goes to press, membership renewal letters for the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) are being prepared for mailing.

The directors voted to change SHCA membership back to a "calendar year" beginning January 1, 1992. Now all memberships will expire December 31st of any year, with renewals commencing in January. Membership in SHCA has a major purpose: To preserve the best of Society Hill and the quality of life we have established here. Membership perks include several Special Events throughout the year, but the most significant "perk" should be simply knowing that you're an important part of this vital, ever growing community organization.

This year's upcoming Special Events begins with a MEMBERS ONLY RECEPTION at Cafe Nola. Owners of Cafe Nola, Bill Curry and Judy De Vicaris, are hosting this "Meet and Greet Your Neighbors" reception on February 25, from

5:30-7:30 pm at the South Street restaurant.

Other Special Events being scheduled include a theater party, to be held sometime later in the year at the new United Artist facility on Delaware Avenue. Also, a bigger and better 2nd Annual Family Picnic is being planned for Starr Garden next fall. We'll keep you posted.

SHCA functions with a quadrant system of representation for the board of directors, assuring that directors are aware of each block's problems and concerns. To further enhance communications within our neighborhood, a "block captain" system is being designed—to become effective as soon as possible. (Please call the office [629-1288] if you would be willing to become your block's captain.)

Become an active community member. Join (or rejoin) the Society Hill Civic Association when you receive your renewal letter. Or, you can use the tear-out application printed in this issue.

AT STARR GARDEN

Kid's Computer Classes

Starting this month, Starr Garden's assistant director, Alan Greenberg, will be teaching children ages 7 to 10 how to use the computer. Among the topics covered in the sessions will be word processing, graphics, and games. Each participating child will attend at least three one-hour sessions on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 4 to 5 pm. Saturday lessons may be arranged. The materials fee is exceedingly modest: For children of Starr Garden members, \$3 per child. For non-members the cost per child is \$5. Call Starr Garden at 592-5641 and ask for Alan. Registration is as simple as that.

Other programs include:

A Valentine cookie-baking workshop for children ages 4-12 has been scheduled for Saturday, February 8 from 1:30-4 pm. The cost will be \$2 for Friends of Starr Garden children and \$3 for non-members. Materials are supplied.

Save-A-Penny, Save-A-Tree Campaign: Many area stores are allowing Friends of Starr Garden to leave collection cans on their countertops for the park's beautification program. All monies received will be spent towards the purchase of new trees for the playground. These collection cans can and do accept denominations greater than pennies—so please be generous.

OUTREACH District Attorney to Visit

Since last July the District Attorney's office—under the direction of long-time Society Hill neighbor, Lynne Abraham—has been conducting a "community outreach project" whereby assistant DAs visit different neighborhoods to hear problems first-hand from residents.

Society Hill will be the site of this outreach program on Saturday, February 15th at the Old Pine Community Center, at 4th and Lombard Streets. If you are concerned about an issue you believe should come to the attention of the DA's office, plan to bring this to the first Society Hill DA outreach meeting. Look for a reminder and more information about this meeting in the February issue of the Reporter/Sun.

SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

Society Hill Civic Association

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(215) 629-1288

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Articles & Letters Welcome.
Mail to above address. Deadline
for February issue: January 28.

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(215) 625-2846

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SHCA Achievements of 1991

We've had a very busy year, and we're proud of what we've accomplished in 1991. Here's a brief review of some of our activities, not necessarily in order of importance.

• **Neighborhood Recycling Program established at Starr Garden.** This was no easy feat, and a few more volunteers would help enormously by taking the pressure off our tireless regulars.

• **The Society Hill Reporter inaugurated in the August issue of the East Philadelphia Sun.** A news venue for the community that keeps us in touch with each other and with other nearby neighborhoods.

• **New committees established to focus on areas of concern:**

Legislative Committee—initiates legislation on behalf of Society Hill

Liquor Control Board Committee—monitors and lobbies for control and regulation of liquor licenses in the area

Historic Preservation Committee—acts as our eyes and ears for historic properties in neighborhood—e.g. promotes Head House restoration; helped publicize threat of demolition of Penn Mutual buildings at 5th & Walnut Streets

• **Ongoing Committees** continue their work:

Zoning Committee—a very active group that assures compliance of all zoning variance requests in Society Hill

Neighborhood Maintenance Committee—initiated the Franklin Lamp refurbishment in cooperation with the Streets Dept.

Town Watch—monitors the safety of our streets

SHCA representatives meet with police and city officials regarding:

- Controlling crowds for various events—e.g. Penn's Landing
- Attend meetings of South Street Special Services District and South Street Task Force meetings
- Participation in Sanitation

Enforcement Coalition

SHCA Sponsors Variety of Community Meetings and Events:

- Candidates' Night for City Council and Mayor's election
- Annual Fall Picnic at Starr Garden

SHCA supports goals and programs of local businesses:

- Development and use of NewMarket as the potential new home of the Philadelphia Drama Guild
- Meetings with SuperFresh and State Store to curtail panhandling and sales of liquor to street people

Participates in Sponsoring several nonprofit groups, including:

- "Green City Philadelphia"—an urban environmental platform for the nineties to ensure a healthful and rational quality of life
- Head House Conservancy—America's oldest firehouse & market
- Friends of Starr Garden—America's first playground

HOW TO RECYCLE CHRISTMAS TREES

Christmas trees make great mulch. Here are two easy ways you can have your tree mulched:

(1) Use it to help keep Lawrence Court and Walkway green. Bring the tree to the intersection of the Walkway and Lawrence Street the week of January 6th. Simply stack it next to the garage behind 417

Pine Street. The mulcher will do the rest.

(2) The other recycling opportunity is offered by the Philadelphia Zoo, which will accept your tree at the 34th Street parking lot, the weekend of January 11-12th. Your tree's mulch will be used on the Zoo grounds. As an extra in-

centive to recycle at the Zoo, the first 500 tree donors will get a free tree seedling, and everyone will be offered a \$1 discount coupon off the Zoo's admission.

The Streets Department will start its regular post-holiday collection of discarded trees the week of January 6th. Simply put out your clean tree (free of ornaments) at

curbside—preferably in a collection bag—and it will be removed. **NEW GLASS COLLECTION IGLOOS**

Glass collection igloos have been installed at the Starr Garden Recycling site. The igloos are on Rodman Street adjacent to the collection shed. Please be sure to put the correct color glass in the right igloo—each igloo is clearly

marked. This new facility will greatly increase the recycling potential at Starr Garden. Call the SHCA office (629-1288) if you need more information or would like to volunteer to help keep our neighborhood recycling site operating properly. Remember: Recycling is good for our neighborhood and good for the environment!

CALENDAR

(clip & save)

COMMUNITY AWARENESS & SAFETY NIGHT

Tuesday, January 14
Society Hill Towers
Community Room, West Tower,
7:30 pm
Hosted by: Town Watch

SHCA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, January 22
Pennsylvania Hospital Preston
Hall, 8th & Spruce Sts.
Board Meeting—6:30 pm
Reception/Refreshment & Name
Tag Contest—7:30 pm
General Meeting—8 pm
Hosted by: Mr. Clifton Eldredge,
president of hospital

DA's COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT

Saturday, February 15
Old Pine Community Center

4th & Lombard Sts., 11am-2pm

***SHCA BOARD MEETING**
Wednesday, February 19
Old Pine Community Center
7:30 pm

"MEET & GREET YOUR NEIGHBORS" MEMBERS ONLY RECEPTION

Tuesday, February 25
Cafe Nola 328 South Street
5:30 - 7:30 PM
Hosted by: Bill Curry & Judy De
Vicaris, proprietors

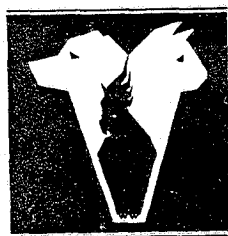
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, March 18
Old Pine Community Center
Board Meeting—6:30 pm
Reception/Refreshments—7:30
General Meeting—8 pm
GUEST: Martha B. Aikens,
superintendent Independence
Park

*Note: All Board meetings are open to all members. Bring your comments and concerns.

Society Hill Veterinary Hospital

Center City's only full-service veterinary hospital with AAHA certification. Services provided include complete medical and surgical facilities, Ultrasound and computer-aided diagnostics. Boarding, grooming and a full line of prescription science diets. Special interests in Acupuncture and Avian medicine. Dedicated doctors who care about that special family member, we are the oldest veterinary hospital in Center City. Serving the pet community since 1969.

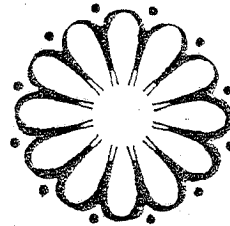


T.V. Yuhas, VMD
L.R. Letsky, DVM

SOCIETY HILL VETERINARY HOSPITAL
S.E. CORNER OF 2ND & LOMBARD
627-5955



Branching out into the future with SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!



- After School Program
- Nursery School incl. Toddler
- Library Program
- Summer City Day Camp
- Gymnastics (Saturday)
- Pre-Teen Program
- Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts
- Volleyball
- Saturday for Seniors
- Jazzercise
- Weight Watchers
- Community Meetings
- Banquets

For more information about Center programs, ways to schedule events for your own functions, or how to get involved in current activities, call or visit

OLD PINE COMMUNITY CENTER

401 Lombard Street
627-2493

THE WRITE TYPE II

333 Bainbridge St.
(215) 922-3092

- PHOTOCOPIES From 9¢ down to 4¢
- STATIONERY
- RESUMES
- TYPING SERVICES
- LASER PRINTING
- FAX SERVICE
- SPIRAL/THERMAL AND WIRE BINDING
- TICKETS
- LAMINATION*
- COLOR COPIES*
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*24 Hour Service
M-F 8:30-5:30/SAT 10-11

NOW THRU 10/31
ORANGE COPIES
REDUCED TO 5¢

ZONING MATTERS

enn Mutual Buildings at 5th and Walnut Streets
 [front page of Sun for this report.]

-703 Pine Street (Vacant lot owned by Pennsylvania hospital)
 The hospital proposes to develop a three-story medical center with 15 parking spaces. Local concern was expressed regarding traffic congestion caused by handicapped people being dropped off at the corner of Pine and 7th Streets. SHCA supports the proposed use for the vacant lot if the hospital will continue to work with architects and SHCA Zoning Committee to develop drop-off area from Delancey Street, which would minimize traffic congestion.

Abbott's Square (Friday's Restaurant)
 SHCA is obligated to support the wishes of all parties who signed the original agreement with Abbott's Square Associates that allowed the TGI Friday's liquor license. Since the interests of Blackwell Court Association (adjacent to the

site) are opposed to the development of a sidewalk cafe on the 2nd Street side of TGI Friday's, SHCA has also agreed to oppose this expansion.

3rd and Walnut Streets (behind Ritz Theater)
 SHCA testified at the ZBA hearing, 12/31/91 regarding use of this site as a public parking lot. It requests a continuance, on details that impact on the safety and the aesthetics of the lot, which had not been satisfactorily presented. The developer, Posel Enterprises, agreed it would provide a written agreement with these assurances, and the ZBA and SHCA agreed to approve the lot's use as a parking lot upon receipt of it.

St. Mary's Convent (S. 4th Street)
 The ZBA heard an appeal for the approval of existing use of the site as a residence for lay and religious women, although the site provides less than the required parking space called for by the Philadelphia zoning code. ZBA granted the permit based on SHCA's recommendation.

404 South Front Street
 SHCA does not oppose the owner's application for a variance for commercial use of the building and the erection of a one-story rear addition. The property is currently zoned as R-10A (multifamily dwelling).

423 Pine Street
 Complaints from neighbors about illegal building activity were corroborated by SHCA's Zoning Committee. The local L & I inspector reported that there were violations far exceeding the original permit, exemplified by a third-story rear addition. The owner has been cited and will go to court—unless he applies for and is granted a permit, and unless he pays the fines accumulated for these violations.

Dr. Stanley C. Katz
 SURGEON PODIATRIST

621 PINE STREET
 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106

TELEPHONE
 922-7757

TOWN WATCH ALERT

Nearly everyone has a soft spot for someone in distress. We hope you will be alert to the different kinds of "sympathy scams" operating in our neighborhood, including garden variety door-to-door solicitations, such as "Can I use your phone?... Let me wash your windows."

Then there's the *fake colostomy man* who pulls up his shirt to show his apparent colostomy. There is no colostomy, although he does wear the appliance!

Reminder: NEVER LET AN UNKNOWN PERSON INTO YOUR HOME ON ANY PRETENSE. Report any scams to the police and to Town Watch. Our number is easy to remember: 625-WALK.

Please join us for an informative program on Tuesday, January 14th for Community Awareness & Safety Night at Society Hill Towers West, at 7:30 PM. A vigilant neighborhood is a safer neighborhood.

ATTENTION NEIGHBORS

The McCall School
 6th and Delancey Streets
 is now taking applications for
full-day Kindergarten
 for the 1992-1993 school year
 Phone Leonard Rovner, Principal
 for more information
 351-7350



You are Invited to

HELP US SAVE THIS HISTORIC STRUCTURE!

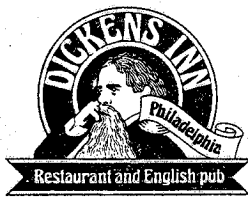
THE HEAD HOUSE & MARKET SHAMBLES

The Head House Conservancy is made up of people like you... people who love their neighborhood, the city of Philadelphia, and our Nation's architectural treasures.

You can make your contribution by dining at Dickens Inn and we will contribute \$4.00 for *every* dinner purchased to help restore The Head House. Simply bring this ad with you. (One ad per party.)

Valid January, February and March (Saturdays excluded).

For Reservations
 Call 928-9307
 Reduced Validated
 Parking



421 South 2nd St.
 Between Pine
 & Lombard,
 Philadelphia

**THE SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION
 WE'RE NOT A CLUB
 BUT WE WANT YOU TO JOIN US**

...because caring for our neighborhood is the same as caring for ourselves. Your support will make a difference.

Tear off and mail to:
 Society Hill Civic Association
 P.O. Box 3, Philadelphia, PA 19105
 Attention: Treasurer

- New Member
- Household \$25
- Membership Renewal
- Business/Corporate \$50
- Corporate Sponsor \$100

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone (day) _____ Phone (eve) _____

I(We) would be interested in working with the following committees:

- Membership
- Liquor Control
- Neighborhood Maintenance
- Town Watch
- Recycling
- Reporter/Sun newspaper
- Zoning
- Legislative
- Preservation
- Parks/Playground

YOUR HOME IS YOUR PRIMARY INVESTMENT. PROTECT IT!