NOTES from SHCA
President

By Dick Ostrander
CLEANUP WEEK

Getting there is half the battle. Congratulations Society Hill on how clean and spiffy you’re making your neighborhood look after our Saturday, May 2 cleanup day. The untiring efforts of the cleanup week—beginning April 26 through May 2—coincided with the Philadelphia Open House Tour for Society Hill on Sunday, May 3rd. These efforts were in keeping with the big white sweeping machine supplied by Senator Vincent Fumo. Watch for the flyer for full details.

And the weekend prior to May 2nd, you can visit the Physick House Annual Plant Sale (see descriptive article in this issue) to buy goodies to decorate your May Day home which will brighten up your front door and our community all spring and summer long. (Maybe it’s time to sail down the holiday wreaths?)

SHCA ISSUES

The next open-to-all board meeting is Wednesday, April 15 at 7:30 pm at the 4th & Lombard Community Center. Issues to be covered include:
1. Councilwoman Joan Speck plans to bring us the latest info on the city budget and will be available to answer your questions.
2. The president of the Korean War Memorial—planned for just north of the Vietnam Memorial—will attend the meeting to explain those plans.
3. We’ll hear from Jack Downey concerning his proposal of a 2nd floor addition to his outdoor cafe at the corner of 2nd and Front Streets.
4. We’ll be revising the hotly debated issue of the South Street barricades. We’ll consider Councilman Joe Vignola’s proposed legislative change of the present rule under which barriers can be installed—see a means of restricting automobile congestion on South Street—one Friday and Saturday nights from April through October.
5. The SHCA by-laws update should be completed by April 15, and we’ll be planning for nominations for new officers and directors, as well as making arrangements to operate a Society Hill Kiosk during the May 15-17 South Street/Head House 7 Arts Festival.
6. Finally, we hope to learn by then about Penn Mutual’s plans for their buildings on the 500 block of Walnut Street. A spokesperson for the company indicated that their studies are complete and will be reported to the neighborhood following a meeting with Independence National Historical Park. No action will be taken before these meetings are held.

SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

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YES, I want to help restore the head house.

• Replace one roof slate: $25
• Replace one cupola pedestal at $50
• Repaint one shutter at $100
• Fabricate one cornice crown molding at $150
• Specific project of choice, such as reglaze the clock face
• Please make your tax-deductible check payable to The Head House Conservancy. Mail to 302 South 2nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. For more information, call 923-3285.

Name__________________________________________________________
Address______________________________ZIP________________________
Phone (day)___________________________(eve)________________________

The 42 Bus Stop & Man Full of Trouble

The petition by the Man Full of Trouble Museum to move the SEPTA Bus Stop from in front of the Museum (on Spruce near 2nd Street) to Mattis Street—about 70 steps northeast and around the corner from the present location—was unanimously supported by the Society Hill Civic Association meeting on March 21st, after being considered at several previous meetings. According to the Museum’s curator, Joyce Halley, it was thought that the Museum’s structural problems resulted essentially from rumbling caused by the long layovers of the buses, which idled in front of the historical structure—built on marshy filled ground on the bank of what had once been little Dock Creek. The fumes from the idling of these buses, sometimes for as long as 45 minutes, also damaged the building’s appearance by causing the paint to peel and the spalling of its bricks.

Last year the Museum requested of SEPTA that these layovers occur on Mattis Street. SEPTA complied, although the buses were still permitted to stop in front of the building for passenger pickup and drop-off. Since then, however, the Museum’s staff noticed that the building still vibrates intensely whenever a bus stops and starts. In fact, Ms. Halley said she could see the English Delft dishes on display rattling with every stop and start of a bus. A Streets Department official said that this is due to a “washboarding effect” whereby the bus digs into the asphalt causing galleys to develop. These depressions in the road have been filled, but others continue to develop and may grow deeper. Soon, unless the buses can be rerouted (or, at least, not stop and start on these old, block-paved streets) the vibrations will be felt by ordinary automobile traffic, causing additional structural damage to the building.

The bus drivers have been inconsistent about last year’s rule of not idling on Spruce Street in front of the Museum. Most do layover on Mattis Street, but occasionally a driver will forget and idle in front of the bus stop. Neighbors on the south side of Spruce Street—in the Penn’s Landing complex—also noted problems with the noise from the SEPTA buses and the destruction of resides in the area. However, some neighbors expressed concern about having the busses stop on Mattis Street, because at night there is little pedestrian life there. It is perceived by some people to be unsafe. But, a lighting survey by the Streets Department indicated that the Mattis Street Bus Stop has considerably brighter conditions than the Spruce and 2nd Streets location.

Recently the Museum reinstituted its original petition to SEPTA to totally eliminate the bus stop on Spruce Street. The Museum has received support by both the SHCA and the Penn’s Landing Association. SEPTA has been asked to act on the petition expeditiously in order to prevent further structural damage to the building. A decision is expected soon.

About The Museum

The “Man Full of Trouble Tavern” was built in 1739. It was owned by Colonel Blaithwate Jones, who was in charge of the Delaware River defenses of Philadelphia during the Revolution and John Wood, a famous clockmaker. The last of the many 18th century homes of colonial Philadelphia, the building was restored in the 1960s and has been maintained as a museum by the Knauer Foundation. The Museum is open to the public on the second Sunday of every month, from 1-4 pm. Admission: Adults, $2; Children 6-12 years, $1; under 6 years, free. Group tours can be arranged by appointment. Call 922-1759.

April 1, 1992

15
HILL-PHYSICK-KEITH NOW JUST PHYSICK HOUSE
A New Identity for an Old Neighbor

The Hill-Physick-Keith House, the Federal house at 321 South 4th Street, has simplified its name to the Physick House. The change reflects the importance of Dr. Philip Syng Physick, "the Father of American Surgery," who lived and practiced in the house from 1815 until his death in 1837. The house was built in 1786 by Henry Hill, a wine merchant, who furnished it sumptuously in the latest English taste. After his death in 1798, the house was leased until it was sold in 1815 to Abigail Physick, who in turn sold it to her recently divorced brother, Dr. Philip Syng Physick. The 4th Street house was Dr. Physick's principal residence for seventeen years. When he bought the property in 1815, Dr. Physick, 47 years old, was the leading surgeon and teacher of surgery in the United States and was an honored member of both the British and French Royal medical societies. He taught medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and practiced surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital. But it is evident from probate documents that he maintained a medical office and large medical library at his house, as well as what may have been a laboratory for the development of the surgical inventions for which he was so famous.

The restoration of the Physick House in 1965 was made possible by the magnificent gift of Ambassador and Mrs. Walter H. Annenberg. Upon completion of the restoration, ownership and maintenance of the house was assigned to the Landmarks Society.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE BENEFIT
April 24-26
For more than twenty years, Landmarks volunteers have sponsored a Spring Plant Sale to benefit this historic house. It has become a well-attended community event, and again this year will have a large selection of bedding plants, herbs, hanging baskets, house plants, geraniums, and decorative pots.

The dates are:
Friday, April 24 from 3-6 pm
Saturday, April 25 from 10-6 pm
Sunday, April 26 from 10-6 pm
The sale will be held—rain or shine—in the garden at the rear of the house at 321 S. 4th Street.

THE SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION
If you didn't receive a 1992 membership renewal letter...it means, naturally, that you were not a SHCA member last year.

WE WANT YOU TO JOIN US THIS YEAR!
Your membership and your voice will make a difference in our neighborhood.

Tear off and mail to:
Society Hill Civic Association
P.O. Box 3, Philadelphia, PA 19108
Attention: Treasurer

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

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
Zip _______ Phone (day) ________ (eve) ________

We would be interested in working with the following committees:
☐ Membership    ☐ Liquor Control
☐ Neighborhood Maintenance ☐ Town Watch
☐ Recycling ☐ Report/Sun newspaper
☐ Zoning ☐ Legislative
☐ Preservation ☐ Other (please specify)

YOUR HOME IS YOUR PRIMARY INVESTMENT, PROTECT IT!

OLD PINE COMMUNITY CENTER ANNOUCEES:
SUMMERCITY
DAY CAMP & PLAY CAMP
July 6 – August 28
BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROGRAMS
ART • CLUBS • SNACKS
SWIMMING • DAY TRIPS
ATHLETICS • CRAFTS
GYMNASTICS • MUCH MUCH MORE!

OLD PINE COMMUNITY CENTER
401 Lombard Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147 • (215) 627-2493
Society Hill Recycles

-SWEEPER WEEK- begins Monday, April 20 through Sunday, April 26 throughout Philadelphia. Society Hill is doing its share by recycling. For information about Earth Week events, call the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Earth Week line at 563-8276.

WANTED AT STARR GARDEN:
Glass, Newspaper, Aluminum cans
The Starr Garden Recycling Station, located on Rodman Street between 6th and 7th Streets (much closer to 6th), has three impressive, separate igloos for clear glass, and amber/brown recyclable glass. These igloos are always open to accept your recyclable glass, since they are located on the street itself, not inside the fenced playground. Inside the Starr Garden playground—which is separated from the igloos by a fence—is a cute white shed for recycling newspapers and aluminum cans only. The gate, for access to the white shed, is open as follows:
- Monday through Friday from 9 am to 9:30 pm.
- Saturdays from 9 am to 5 pm.
- Sundays from 1 pm to 5 pm.
Society Hill's recycling program depends on the daily involvement of SWCA President Dick Ostrander and Don McNell. According to Dick, the site is filling more and more quickly, a good sign that the program has caught on in our neighborhood.

Thanks go to Captain James O'Donnell of Engine 11—the fire station located opposite the igloos on Rodman Street. Captain O'Donnell helps tidy and monitor the recycling center, reporting any major problems to Dick Ostrander, including informing him when the site is filled to capacity. Thanks also to Vernon Roesler, the supervisor of Starr Garden for all his cooperation and help.

Please remember to bring only your non-plastic disposables to this site, because no plastics are accepted at Starr Garden! However, a new plastics-only recycling program has been operating. So do read on!

PLASTICS RECYCLING:
FIRST SATURDAY EVERY MONTH

Another exciting recycling project—for plastics only—has begun Saturday, April 9th. Thereafter it will be an ongoing program for the first Saturday of every month.

Location: Ladder 11 Fire Station, 12th and Reed Streets
Hours: From 10:30 am to 12:30 pm
Please note that the only acceptable plastics are water bottles, milk jug, soda and seltzer bottles, bleacher, fabric softener and laundry detergent bottles.

Some tips to remember: Please empty containers and remove aluminum caps. String jugs together through the handles, and crush containers.

This important endeavor is cosponsored by the South Philadelphia Environmental Action Coalition and the Firehouse Farmers Market. Proceeds will be donated for neighborhood causes. One volunteer is needed each Saturday to oversee the separation and collection at Ladder 11 Fire Station. If you can help, or would like more information, please call: Debbie Lee at 467-3377 or Joyce Roman at 467-8302.

*PHILADELPHIA SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY*

Society Hill

*THE WRITE TYPE II*
333 Bainbridge St.
(215) 922-3092
- PHOTOCOPIES
  - From 9c down to 4c
- STATIONERY
- RESUMES
- TYPEWRITER SERVICES
- LASER PRINTING
- FAX SERVICE
- SPIRAL/THERMAL BINDING
- TICKETS
- LAMINATION*
- COLOR COPIES*
- STUDENT RATES*

*24 Hour Service
M-F 8:30-9:30/SAT 10-3

NOW THRU 10/31
ORANGE COPIES
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The Shops at Newmarket

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**The Shops at Newmarket**

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Dickensian memorabilia and English products, situated next to Dicken's Bakery. By appointment. Call 928-3907 for more information.

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OF HEADHOUSE SQUARE
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416 South 2nd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147

**THE EYEWORKS AND CONTACT LENS CENTER**

416 South 2nd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
OPEN AND NOW
Requiescat in Pace, Doctor More

The following article was written for Charter Day, March 25, 1992 by Charles E. Peterson, Convenor of the annual celebration commemorating the anniversary of the chartering of the Free Society of Traders in Pennsylvania, after which Society Hill was named. The group's purpose (besides needing a good excuse to have a party!) is to "Encourage the Research and Publication of Society Hill History."

By Charles E. Peterson

Quaker Hicks' famous painting of the "peaceable Kingdom" has given most modern traders a cozy impression of the early days here. No one disputes the idealism of William Penn in founding Pennsylvania, but the realities of life in his new capital are usually overlooked.

After arriving in 1689, Penn found the city of Philadelphia a wretched place. He set out to improve the city and make it a model of Quaker philosophy. He is remembered today as a great architect, a great writer, and a great legislator. But he is also remembered as a great businessman, a great investor, and a great builder.

The Case of the Missing Health Club

This article was adapted from the Independence Place News, written by Robert Langer, a resident of Independence Place, who chaired the Independence Place, who chaired the Independence Place, who chaired the Independence Place, who chaired the Independence Place, who chaired the Independence Place, who chaired the Independence Place, who chaired the Independence Place, who chaired the Independence Place, who chaired the Independence Place, who chaired the Independence Place, who chaired the Independence Place. The article is about the missing health club at Independence Place.

Summers: Camps, Tennis, Golf, Baseball

Super Sport Camp at Independence College. For boys and girls, ages 6-16. Rain or shine

Owner. The current owner recently repaired the roof of the club's building, but the building itself is not in good condition. The building's vacancy and the owners' neglect have been somewhat alleviated by the sale of the building to a new owner, but the new owner is not interested in maintaining the property as a health-related facility. The possibility of converting the building to a multi-use facility remains.

The Tower Association, in conjunction with the Society Hill Civic Association, will have to mount an aggressive campaign to protect the interests of the neighborhood. Rumors that either the Society Hill Civic Association or the Posel Management Corporation, which owns the Northeast Racquet Club & Fitness Center, plan to purchase the Society Hill Club building have been denied by both corporations. The latter, however, has shown some interest.

A reopened health club? In view of the latest postponements, the likelihood of a reopened health club for the forthcoming summer season is extremely unlikely.

April 20-22, 1991 recital will include Society Hill's own Charles E. Peterson, a historian and preservation architect who has written extensively on the architectural restoration and historic preservation of Philadelphia. Also receiving praise is Sarah Bacon, who has written extensively on women's history and Quaker history and John Lumbert Cotter, a distinguished scholar of the historical archaeology of Philadelphia.