



SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

313 Pine Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

December 1978

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS

Continuing through December 24, local school and community choirs will present carols and Christmas music on the square in NewMarket. Walk on down starting Tuesday, December 19, 1:00 P.M., the Pepper Middle School Choir; Wednesday, December 20, 1:00 P.M., Maria Goretti School Choir; Thursday, December 21, 1:30 P.M., Germantown High Choir; Sunday, December 24, 2:00 P.M., the Little People's Community Choir.

AND DECK THE HALLS

Part of the credit for all those magnificent Christmas wreaths decorating neighborhood doorways and windows must go to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. The organization has been encouraging the practice for years and awarding ribbons for excellence. It also hosts a showing of floral Yule decorations at its 325 Walnut Street headquarters. You can admire them until December 31 weekdays from 9-5. The big event of the season is a candlelight stroll through the neighborhood starting at the headquarters at 3:00 P.M. Tuesday, December 20. The stroll will be followed by a holiday reception from 5-7 where the wassail will flow and cookies crumble.

HOLIDAY SERVICES

- December 24th
- 8:00 P.M. - Holy Trinity Church-Christmas Eve Mass.
 - 7:30 P.M. - Old Pine Street Church. Christmas Eve Service-carols, reading and candlelight. Children should come ready to be a character in the Christmas Story.
 - 7:30 P.M. - Old St. Joseph's Church-Carols.
 - 8:00 P.M. - Christmas Eve Mass.
 - Midnight - Old St. Mary's Church-Mass.
 - 10:30 P.M. - St. Peter's Church. Music by Choir-Men and Boys
 - 11:00 P.M. - Midnight Service.
 - 10:30 P.M. - Christ Church-Christmas Eve Service, Music.
 - Society Hill Synagogue-First Candle of Chanukah.
- December 29th
- 4:00 P.M. - Society Hill Synagogue-Sundown Service.
- December 30th
- 9:00 P.M. - Society Hill Synagogue-Chanukah Sabbath Service.

SPRAY IT AGAIN

Washington Square Associates hope to have the fountain repaired and working by the summer of '79, and are working with the Fairmount Park Commission to select a piece of sculpture to further enhance the site. The Moon Tree (the seed was taken along on the last space expedition to the moon) is recovering nicely from a broken limb in the Fairmount Park Nursery and will be replanted when it has matured.

THE SIX-YEAR ITCH

Joel Chernock has yet to produce his financing plans for the development for the properties on the 700 Block of Spruce Street. He acquired these properties from the Redevelopment Authority back in 1972. The Authority has the right to recapture title to the properties under its agreement with Chernock if his financing was not firmed up by November 3rd. The waiting game continues, but our patience has run out. City Hall's John Gallery and the RDA's Mike Arno have promised to resolve the outstanding issues.

WELCOME ABOARD

In accordance with the bylaws, the SHCA board has elected Joy Lindy (124 Delancey Street) to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Malcolm Strickler. Joy will represent the Southeast quadrant.

APPEAL FOR AN APPEALER

An appeal for a re-hearing before the U.S. Supreme Court has been made by Olan Lowery, Esquire, in the case of Mabel Dodson v. Redevelopment Authority & H.U.D. concerning the proposed construction of low income housing in Society Hill.

Gene DiRe, SHCA board member, states that \$8,757 has been donated by concerned neighbors from June, 1977 to date, leaving a balance of \$479 owing. Anyone interested in donating should make checks payable to Olan Lowery and mail to Gene DiRe, 628 Spruce Street. The contribution will be noted and forwarded.

SHCA YELLOW PAGES

597-9101	-	Federal Information Operator
-911	-	Fire or Medical Emergencies
-911	-	Police Emergency
231-3131	-	For other Police Help
MU6-4960	-	Storm & Snow Emergencies
MU6-3900	-	Water and Sewer Emergencies
WA2-5560	-	Street Emergency - Trash, Garbage.
WA2-5523	-	Poison Information Center
629-0800	-	Federal Bureau of Investigation

OLD PINE COMMUNITY CENTER (OPCC)

Brochures for the next eight-week series of Community Workshops will be available at OPCC during the week of January 1st; registration opens on January 4th; classes begin on January 15th. Most programs will be available at a cost of \$20 for children and \$25 for adults. Courses range from volleyball to disco. Please call 627-2493 in the mornings for more information.

A program for young teens meets every Friday from 8:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. The charge is \$2. The program includes disco dancing, films, volleyball, ice skating.

The first time a young teen (13,14, or 15) comes to the Center, he/she must be accompanied by a parent. The parent remains for the evening, and will be asked to chaperon at least once every three months. During the evening, no drugs, alcohol or smoking will be permitted. For more information, please call Joan Putney, 925-1413.

PENNSY HOSPITAL & PUBLIC HOUSING: LOOKING AT THE BLUEPRINTS

A SHCA meeting was held on December 12th to discuss the latest plans for Pennsylvania Hospital and for public housing on Sixth Street.

The Hospital's plans have been slightly revised to accord with a photograph taken before 1900 of the old orphanage (700-704 Spruce Street). The meeting voted to support the revisions to the design and to request that no tile be used on the south elevation. They also voted to approve the garage design which had been changed to meet community objections.

The developers of the low-income housing sites on Sixth Street changed their plans to meet most of the community objections. Three-story structures were placed at Sixth and Pine Streets, stucco was eliminated, and sloping roofs were added. The meeting voted to recommend eliminating the mansard roofs on Pine Street and make other minor modifications.

After considerable discussion about whether or not the houses should be traditional (colonial) design, the meeting voted to recommend that the houses be "built to conform with the majority of the houses on the street."

HATS OFF. . .TO

Neighbors Joy Lindy, Vicki Goldberg, Damon Childs, Gene DiRe, and Ted Robb for submitting copy for this issue. Your editors, Tim Lemmer, Allan Halpern, Peg Robb and Jan Stephano wish everyone a happy holiday and a new year filled with parking spots.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Time to spare? Here are some neighborhood institutions that need your help.

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, 11th and Walnut Streets, Volunteer Service, 928-6222.

Pennsylvania Hospital, Eighth and Spruce Streets, Miss McClelland, 829-3270, Miss M. O'Rourke, 829-5187.

Radio Information Center for the Blind, 919 Walnut Street, Ruth Sheets, WA2-5450

BIG BIRD WANTS YOU!

WHYY Channel 12 and WUHY-FM are your public broadcasting stations in Philadelphia. The TV/12 on-air auction is WHYY's major annual community fund-raising event. The success of the auction depends on thousands of volunteers.

The next auction will be held May 2-13, 1979. Although this may seem to be a long way off, TV/12 is already in full gear and could use help now.

Vicki Goldberg, a Society Hill resident, is the Philadelphia Regional Chairman for General Merchandise. She says there are numerous opportunities for the auction volunteer. . .soliciting donations in our neighborhood, clerical/administrative duties, telephone work (from station or from home) . . . not to mention the fun and excitement of participating in auction week itself.

Those interested in further information or volunteering their services may contact the auction office: 243-2256 where WHYY auction staffers Edna Goldstein, Jo-Anne Niden or Art Magnani will be glad to answer questions.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING

Joy Lindy (922-4042) is the new chairman of the Traffic and Parking Committee. Ms. Lindy was featured in an Inquirer article on the traffic problems of our neighborhood, and was pictured holding the new SHCA logo. This is in the process of being printed as a parking sticker that will be sold to SHCA members for \$1 and to non-member neighbors for \$5, under a distribution system still to be worked out. The sticker won't keep you from getting a ticket if you park illegally, but it will tell the police that your car belongs in the neighborhood, so hopefully they won't tow it too far.

ROSS HOUSE UPDATE

NewMarket has let contracts for the winterizing of the Ross House at 2nd & Pine Streets. This will keep it standing till work can begin in the spring.

THE HUNT IS ON

John Hunt, Esquire, has been retained to represent the SHCA in zoning matters. Contributions for the support of this worthy cause should be sent to the SHCA Treasurer, Mrs. Thelma Gill, 715 Spruce Street. Checks should be made out to the Society Hill Civic Association and marked for "Zoning Fund."

WATCH YOUR STEP!

There have been several attacks on women in our neighborhood in the last few months. Although this is one of the best patrolled areas of Philadelphia, the Police can't be everywhere at once. Officer Grey of the Police Community Relations Department suggests that the best way to prevent attacks is to minimize the risk.

If you are going to be out, try not to be alone if at all possible. A man is the best escort, but another woman is good, or a dog. Avoid the smaller streets and stay on well-lighted, heavily traveled routes if possible. If you can't avoid being out late, or alone, the police recommend that you carry a freon horn. It is small, light and cheap, and unlike tear gas guns, it is not classified as an offensive weapon. The freon horn is better than a police whistle because you can hold it in your hand, you can use it if someone grabs your neck, and it makes a very loud and distinct noise. They cost \$3.50, and are sold by the Citizens Alliance for a Safer Philadelphia (CLASP), 5400 Wayne Avenue, 848-8100. (Brookstone also carries them).

The St. Peter's Parents Association and the SHCA are considering some sort of neighborhood distribution system for freon horns, police whistles or other sort of warning device. Watch this space for more information.

OUR EDITORIAL POLICY IN A NUTSHELL

To clear up any questions our readers may have about how your newsletter is written and edited, the editors offer this statement of editorial policy.

The Resident Newsletter encourages written contributions and suggestions from neighbors. Articles are edited by a staff of volunteers, two of whom are working journalists. All articles are edited to some degree. Headlines are written by the staff, though authors are free to suggest their own. No articles in the Resident Newsletter are signed. This allows us to rewrite contributions and to combine them in the interest of brevity and clarity.

We try to be accurate and fair, to represent the position of the SHCA, and to provide a balanced, lively and useful community service. We will consider printing dissenting views, subject to the same space conditions that apply to other articles. If you care to comment or contribute to future issues write to The Resident Newsletter, 233 S. Third Street, Phila., Pa. 19106.

DARTS AND LAURELS

- Laurel - To Leslie Blum who conceived the design for the SHCA logo and parking sticker.
- Laurel - To Bob Epp of the Philadelphia Inquirer, for designing the new SHCA logo and parking sticker.
- Laurel - To Mort Kanter, vice president of Spring City Electrical Mfg. Co. (which makes the Society Hill colonial street light) for furnishing us with photos to use in preparing the SHCA parking sticker.



- Dart - To Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth and to her ambassador to the United States, Peter Jay, for reassigning OUR Denis and Beryl Richards-- their Consul General. God Speed!
- Laurel - To the Old St. Mary's-Valvardi partnership to recycle paper. Save your newsprint for a mid-January drop-off. Watch for the dumpster on the parking lot on Fourth Street, north of Spruce.
- Laurel - To Councilman Jim Tayoun and State Representative Sam Rappaport for meeting with the SHCA board to try to get funds to complete the cover for I-95.