



SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

## THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

313 Pine Street

April 1979

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

### NOTICE OF A GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

There will be a general meeting of the SHCA membership Wednesday night, April 18th, at 7:50 P.M. The location is The Wasson Room, Old Pine Community Center, 4th & Lombard Sts. There will be a presentation by NewMarket about its plans for redeveloping its property. Pennsylvania Hospital will make a presentation of its plans for the future. There will be thrilling updates on the Dodson case, zoning, the I-95 cover, and other issues vital to the quality of life in Society Hill.

### SAY, YOU LOOK LIKE PRESIDENTIAL TIMBER

Are you fed up with it all? Not going to take it anymore? Here is your chance - it is SHCA election time again. No organization can be better than the people who run it. Why not come forward as a candidate for the SHCA board and try to do something positive for the neighborhood.

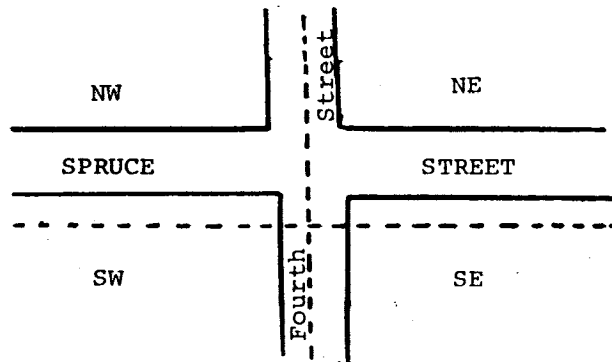
There are four officer positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition there are 12 directors apportioned among the four quadrants of the neighborhood. Officer candidates can live anywhere in Society Hill, but quadrant directors must live in the quadrant they represent.

To be nominated for director and listed on the written ballot, you or your candidate must have a nominating petition signed by ten members from your quadrant. Any ten members may sign petitions for officer candidates.

You can pick up your petition and return it when it is signed to any of the following people: Joe Bright, 606 Spruce St, Joe Koplin, 251 St. Joseph's Way, Bernie Cleff, 715 Pine St., David Cook, 133 Pine St., Sue Wanink, 630 Spruce St.

The above are members of the Nominating Committee. They will be responsible for reviewing the petitions for officer positions and, if there are insufficient director petitions, selecting candidates for directorships. The final notice of election will contain a brief statement about each candidate, however nominated.

To vote in the May 22nd election you must have paid up your membership no later than May 15th. Nominating petitions should be submitted to a member of the Nominating Committee by midnight May 15th. If you are not now a paid-up member, you can send your \$6 single, \$10 for two people living at the same address, to Thelma Gill, Treasurer, 715 Spruce St., 19106.



Here is a diagram showing how the neighborhood is divided into quadrants. Fans of The New York Times will find this easy to figure out. If you aren't sure which quadrant you reside in, ask any SHCA board member or member of the Nominating Committee.

#### HOW GREEN IS YOUR THUMB?

The Hill-Physick-Keith House annual plant sale will be held Saturday, April 28th and Sunday, April 29th, rain or shine, from 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. in the garden of that historic house, 321 S. 4th St. There will be a wide variety of flowering plants, herbs and house plants for your spring and summer garden. Also available will be a large selection of decorative pots and planters for garden and patio. Proceeds from the sale go towards the maintenance of the Hill-Physick-Keith House, a member of the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks.

#### TRAFFIC AND PARKING

Sticker parking is a good idea whose time seems to be coming. The Center City Residents Association has City Managing Director's Office approval for a pilot parking sticker program to begin as soon as preliminary traffic studies are completed. Both the SHCA and Queen Village Neighbors support this first effort by the City to try what has worked so well in cities like Boston, San Francisco and Washington. We hope the experiment will be a success and can be extended to our neighborhood. The program won't prohibit outsiders from visiting, but it will discourage them from coming and staying all day or all night.

In a meeting at the Office of the Managing Director, SHCA representatives, supported by representatives from Queen Village and the Center City Residents Association, discussed Society Hill's traffic problems. We requested an end to timed parking zones in our residential neighborhood and better direction of traffic by the four traffic policemen assigned to Head House on weekend nights and requested unofficial recognition be extended to cars with SHCA parking stickers. We also requested the West side of 2nd St. between Pine & Lombard be made a tow-away zone after 5:00 P.M. Nothing else seems to prevent people from parking in what is a No-Parking-Any-Time-Zone. Even one illegally parked car converts this very heavily travelled two-lane street into a one-lane alley. Illegally parked cars constantly block the 2nd St. bus, creating terrific problems.

Captain Joseph DiPeri, commanding the traffic policemen who operate in the neighborhood (the ones in the white hats), has promised better and more active direction of the very heavy traffic around NewMarket on weekends.

Joy Lindy is the Chairman of the Traffic and Parking Committee. She is trying to build up this community service. If you are interested in serving, please call her at 922-4042.

Your Civic Association was the first in the City with its own parking sticker. It won't guarantee you a place, nor will it allow you to park illegally. It will identify your car as one that "lives" in Society Hill, though, and the City and police know about it and will "extend courtesy" to cars so marked. You can get one by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope with \$1 if you are a SHCA member (\$5 if you are not). You can join the Association for \$6 and \$1 more will get you a sticker. Two people living at the same address can join for \$10 and you can get two stickers for \$2. The stickers are numbered and are available to members and residents. Please - these are only for cars that live in Society Hill.

#### THE NEW NEWMARKET

There are going to be some changes at NewMarket. Management says that there will be a re-orientation from a "tourist showcase" to a collection of stores "designed to serve the surrounding residential community." There will be a number of clothes shops, a bakery, and more restaurants. The central area near what is now the pool will be rebuilt for high-volume restaurant use, and much existing space will be redesigned. The Ross House on the corner of 2nd & Pine will be completed for use as a high-volume restaurant. The target date for the completion of the whole project is the end of the summer. A presentation of the new plans will be made at the SHCA general meeting this month.

#### COMPANY'S COMING

Society Hill and six other Philadelphia neighborhoods will open their doors this spring to show off the delights and wonders of the city. Philadelphia Open House is offering seven different tours in our neighborhood between May 5th and 12th. The tours have been organized by the Friends of Independence National Historic Park in cooperation with the SHCA, the Landmark Society and WHAT. In all, 12 organizations are working together to offer 16 tours from the Old City area to Germantown and the Main Line. In Society Hill, more than 40 people have agreed to open their houses for various tours and four houses of worship have agreed to serve refreshments.

WHAT, the SHCA and the Friends of INHP are hoping that all residents of Society Hill will join in by sprucing up their house fronts and window boxes, flying flags, putting May baskets on their doors and such. Would you leave your garden gate or your front window uncovered? Anything we can do to liven up our streets would add to the air of festivity.

With so many tours going on, many volunteers are very badly needed to serve as hosts and hostesses in the houses, to spend a few hours at the Kosciuszko House Headquarters for an afternoon or early evening, or to serve refreshments at a church or synagogue. Won't you join in? Please call Libby Browne at WA5-1372 or Natalie Ogilvie at MA7-0876 to volunteer. For tour information and brochures, stop in at the Philadelphia Open House office at 313 Walnut St. or call 928-1188.

#### THE HEAD HOUSE CRAFT FAIR CONTROVERSY

The Craft Fair isn't crafty enough. At least that's what some of its neighbors think. They've asked the board of the SHCA for help in either restricting the scope or eliminating the Fair this year. Their complaint is that the weekly event (Saturdays until midnight, Sundays until 6:00 P.M.) attracts huge amounts of traffic to an area that is already impacted by the NewMarket bars, restaurants and shops. The neighbors suggest moving the Fair to Penn's Landing or Independence Mall. They claim that the original purpose of the Craft Fair is no longer served.

The Fair originated about a decade ago, before NewMarket was developed. A group of South Street artisans approached the Civic Association and requested its support in getting the City Department of Public Property, which supervises the facility, to permit them to hold weekend sales of the craft items they made, under the covered shambles of Head House. Residents were enthusiastic at the prospect of livening up a sleepy neighborhood and encouraging local artisans. Permission was given by the SHCA for such use on weekends from the end of June to Labor Day.

The Craft Fair turned into a Frankenstein monster, eventually attracting mammoth crowds. A survey taken by National Analysts in 1973 revealed that 65% of the visitors came by automobile - and that was over a year before NewMarket opened. Responding to protests from the immediate neighbors and the SHCA, the Craft Fair operators agreed to cut out food service which was littering the neighborhood and to reduce the volume of amplified music. But the cooperation is arbitrary. Last year, for example, without consulting the SHCA, the operators went to City Hall and got an extension of the event until October. Further, when there didn't prove to be enough local artisans to participate, the operators imported them. A random check of stalls last summer included the following tenants: Recycled Reflections of Quakertown, Pa., Earthly Creations of Beavertown, Enright Bookbinding of Drexel Hill, Canina Impressions of Bryn Athyn, Kleckner Stoneware of Allentown, Designs in Wood of Jenkintown, Nancy Irons, with a Jersey telephone, Merima Mikic of Jenkintown, Loretta Blessing of Merchantville, N.J., Clark Pots of Glenside, Demsey Stoneware of Wilmington, Del., Winston Photographer of Havertown. Additional tenants were from Roxborough, West Philly and the Northeast.

Not only are these people not from the neighborhood, but are possibly siphoning off trade from rent-paying neighborhood artisans, apparently without assuming the expense of acquiring mercantile licenses or collecting state sales taxes in many instances. That the stalls are indeed serious business is attested to by the fact that almost all of the offer credit card facilities for customers.

Another charge made by the neighbors is that the purpose of the Fair, according to its operators, is to promote arts and crafts. But actually, the operation takes on an increasing carnival nature with its midnight hours. One exhibitor last year was in the business of photographing people sitting in a mammoth rocking chair. The neighbors, incidentally, have no objection to Head House use by St. Peter's School or hospital charities.

The SHCA board was sympathetic to the concerns of the neighborhood and appointed a committee to look into Craft Fair operations this year and recommend a course of action to the Civic Association.

The committee is chaired by SHCA board member David Cook (627-1387) and includes board member Damon Childs (627-5145) and Alan Halpern (WA5-3431). Cook has asked the Public Property Department not to make a commitment on Head House shambles use this year by Craft Fair until it gets input from the Civic Association. If you wish to express your views, please contact one of the committee members as soon as possible.

#### ZONING UPDATE

Dock Street Site: Although their decision is under litigation, the Redevelopment Authority and City Planning are recommending that the Dock St. Site be changed to residential from commercial. A residential plan has been submitted proposing 17 houses on the east side of the site, and 12 houses on the west side and 14 houses on the north side. Each house would have an exterior walled garden at grade level. Two gardens at the southern end of the site would relate to the adjacent I-95 cover.

712 Locust (Old Rohm & Haas): Messrs. Angelo Aquaro and Dante Fantasia have until May 21st to come up with the additional credit.

NW Corner Spruce and 4th (the four-year hole in the ground): Redevelopment Authority has written to Mr. Jaworski asking when he is going to begin. . . again.

Chernock Row: The current agreement promises:  
719 and 725 Spruce Street must be done by June 3, 1979;  
both are single family dwellings.  
717, 721, 723 Spruce Street must be done by September 3, 1979.  
These are to be multiple dwellings.

700-714 Spruce Street: Pennsylvania Hospital received an extension until February 1981.

273 South 4th: A hearing is scheduled before the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a one-family dwelling and an architectural, designer and design office.

132 Delancey: This tiny house has been in default for 13 years. Common Pleas Court advised the SHCA that the owner will be given another year to restore the house.

#### A SMALL SIDEWALK CAFE, MA'MSELLE

City council has before it an ordinance (Bill 1262) allowing the operation of sidewalk cafes within the greater center city area, including Society Hill and parts of Queen Village. Sidewalk cafe licenses will only be granted to restaurants that have valid liquor licenses. There must be a minimum of two tables and there can be no bars or storage of liquor outside. Only patrons seated at a table may be served. The SHCA proposed an amendment that would have prohibited cafes on sidewalks less than 12 feet (the standard width), but that amendment was not accepted. The Bill was sponsored by Councilmen Greenberg, Kelly, Verna, Tayoun and Moore.

#### IN A CORNER ON THE MARINER CORNER

The southwest corner of Front and Delancey has seen more than its share of action. Make that inaction. It was formerly the site of the Mariner Church, and for 20 years wave after wave of developers fought for the property, then ignored it once the Redevelopment Authority awarded it to them. None of these developers bothered to do any maintenance on the once-sound building.

Early in 1977 the developer of record was the Chart House Restaurant chain which wanted to put in a vast dining room with no parking space. Then in August of 1977 an Act of God intervened. A violent rainstorm took down the rotted hulk, causing Chart House to exit and a new round of developers to squabble over the land. It was eventually awarded to Ralph Heller under obscure circumstances. Heller hired a neighborhood architect, Roland Davies, and came up with an initial plan to build four, then five houses on the 8,000-square-foot lot. The plan provided parking for up to eight cars on a half-sunken lot covered with a planted concrete deck. Initially, some of the immediate neighbors, distressed with the change from four to five houses, opposed the design, hired attorney John Hunt to represent them and persuaded the SHCA board to back them in opposition at a zoning hearing. The project, nevertheless, got zoning approval.

On Tuesday, April 3rd, the neighbors met with Developer Heller and Architect Davies to look at a model of the development and review changes made to suit neighborhood objections. Almost all of the neighbors - including three who live adjacent to the project endorsed the current design and asked the board of the Civic Association to remove its opposition. But one couple said they would retain John Hunt personally to oppose the project. When questioned by The Resident, Hunt said an appeal to Common Pleas Court, initiated at a time when the neighborhood opposed the project, is tentatively scheduled to be heard in late April. Hunt added that at this time he is not sure whom he represents or whether he will stay with the case.

Developer Heller is bewildered too. He does not understand how the Civic Association board can oppose a project the neighborhood now almost unanimously wants. He reported to The Resident that if he can get the case withdrawn from court he can start excavating in May, with possible completion by the end of the year.

#### CLOSER LOOK

The Zoning Committee of the SHCA is going to take another look at the zoning in the area (done last in 1969). Anyone interested in helping the committee on the project call Janet Lewis - 925-6574.

#### CUP OF CHEER

The Friends of the Coffee Cup cordially invite you to attend the premiere performance of "The Magic of Broadway," a delightful potpourri of Broadway show tunes for the benefit of the Coffee Cup on Sunday, May 20, 1979 at the Academy Cabaret Theatre, 1420 Locust Street at 2:30 P.M. It's a bargain at \$6.50. The CC serves a hot lunch for residents over 60 living on limited incomes and provides a caring environment.

#### A TISKET, A BASKET

Welcome Spring-attach a May basket to your door or gate during the week of May 5-12. Fill it with cut or dried flowers or rooted plant material from Hill-Physick-Keith House plant sale on April 28&29. Then join in the fun by entering the Penna. Horticultrual Society's May Basket competition (order blanks at the Penna. Horticultrual Society, 325 Walnut). This year's garden tour of Society Hill by WHAT (Walking Historical Architectural Tours) will include private gardens as well as the garden of the Pennsylvania Hospital and its historical wing-all for the inflation fighter price of \$7.50. Grab a friend and call the Philadelphia Open House (928-1188) to reserve your ticket.

**LAURELS & DARTS**

- Laurel - To Charles Peterson, noted neighborhood architect and preservationist, for being awarded the American Institute of Architects Gold Medal.
- Dart - To all the slovenly people who walk their dogs down little Stamper Street, turning it into an organic minefield.
- Laurel - To Councilman Tayoun, noted local restaurateur and Councilman, for his help in changing the zoning on the north side of Willings Alley from commercial to residential.
- Dart - To NewMarket for not including in its new expansion plan Candleberry Ltd. and the adjacent Head House Card Shop, which were among the first stores to locate in the area a decade ago and have admirably served the neighborhood.
- Laurel - To Brother Alvey at Old Saint Joseph's for his Herculean efforts in eliminating a potential traffic hazard by getting the City to move the Old Saint Joseph's historical landmark sign to a new location closer to the Church's entrance.

The ranks of the Newsletter are bulging with talent. A salute to Louise Jacobs, Janet Lewis, Libby Browne, Gee Elliott and Joyce Breeding for copy in this issue. If you'd like to work on the next issue or have a news item included, contact Jan Stephano, Tim Lemmer, Peg Robb or Alan Halpern or write The Resident Newsletter, 233 South Third Street.

**SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER**

Make your voice heard against the projected Disco to be installed at the empty store complex opposite the Ritz Theater. We have enough bars and noise as it is. Write your objections to: Domenic Sabatini, Room 720, Municipal Services Building, 15th and JFK Blvd., Phila., Pa. 19107.

Kali Corporation has been issued a permit for a nightclub and bar with dancing at 608-610 South St. Queen Village Neighbors and the Bella Vista Neighbors Association are opposed to this. Bella Vista claims that the liquor board notice was improperly posted, but the cork is out of the bottle, so to speak, and it is a bit late to do anything about it. Neighbors should call the attention of their Civic Association to any zoning or liquor notices, so the neighborhood can decide what it wants to do in time to be effective. Now it appears that all the neighbors can do is to complain about the noise. If it happens often enough the Liquor Control Board may revoke the license.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD NEIGHBORS TO COME TO THE AID OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD SHCA memberships expire next month, before the elections (unless you've joined since January 1st, in which case your membership is still valid). Be sure to send your membership fee to Thelma Gill, Treasurer, 715 Spruce St., 19106. Despite the ravages of inflation, despite the high cost of imported oil, despite the strike of Iranian caviar workers - you can still get a bargain from the SHCA. Membership is a mere \$6 for an individual, \$10 for two people living at the same address. Send in your check now, before you forget.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Check One

\$6 single   
\$10 couple

I request a waiver of dues