

SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

An independent newsletter published by the Society Hill Civic Association
in cooperation with the East Philadelphia Sun

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NOTES from SHCA President

Clean-Up Day = Pride In Our Neighborhood
Congratulations to all wonderful neighbors—residents, businesses, and school children—who participated in the resounding success of our community's May 1st Clean-Up Day.

And congratulations go to all Blue-Ribbon Prize winners whose May Baskets and decorative plantings earned them their coveted "good neighbor" awards. Laurels also go to all who cooperated with the temporary alternate-side-of-the-street parking signs. This helped our streets really clean by enabling the power sweepers to get to curbs that usually remain dirty. DARTS to all who ignored the "no parking" signs or to those who intentionally tore them down before Saturday's Clean-Up Day event. These few noncooperative people interfered with achieving a

SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

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Civic Association
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maximum clean-up of our streets.

BIG Thanks to the event's Co-chairs Mary Sturdivant, Howard Lander, and, of course, my wife Liz Ostrander. (Familiar name? Community service is a family affair!) And to all our many other neighbors, too numerous to mention, who assisted in the myriad details of making this program of cleanliness and beautification a great success, we send to you our thanks, thanks, thanks!

Mother Earth Day Next Week

If you didn't win an SHCA "Blue-Ribbon Neighbor" award on Clean-Up Day, don't fret. You have a second opportunity to win a prize for your May basket or street plantings from South Street Festival's MOTHER EARTH DAY contest, to be held on Mother's Day, May 8th. Call 238-0402 if you want to be an "official" contender, or contact Fluffy Palmer at 629-1288 for entry forms.

Project Street Trees

Our very ambitious "Project Street Trees" program is still alive, but unfortunately, not doing as well as we had hoped. The planting of new trees throughout our neighborhood has been hampered by a delay in funding, so we are currently "on hold." Project Chair, Jean Bodine, reports that this "hold" may break soon, as we have word of favorable consideration from two of our grant applications. We'll report back as soon as we hear anything definite. Meanwhile, think green!

South Street/Headhouse District Interested neighbors should try to attend the May 11th meeting of the Rules Committee of City Council

as they hear and consider Bill #494 to approve the plan to create and authorize the South Street/Headhouse District, a special services district that will provide quality supplemental services to our area. (City Hall, Room 400 at 8 am.)

As Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee of the District, I can report that thousands of hours and thousands of donated dollars have gone into the plan. It is simply the most creative and affirmative plan ever for the area, and it has already borne fruit in getting our business and residential communities working cooperatively in a unique way.

May General Membership Meeting

Our next meeting will be hosted by Pennsylvania Hospital, and will begin at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, May 19th. Please note that the meeting will be held in the hospital's Preston Auditorium, at Spruce and 8th Street. (Enter on 8th Street.) Refreshments will be provided by our hosts. Included is a report from the hospital, the annual election of SHCA directors and officers, an action proposal from the Special Friends of 3 Bears Park, SHCA committee reports, and an update on NewMarket plans. See you there!

Steve Skale, former vice-president, has written an updated set of By-Laws, but it needs editing and some modifications before presentation to the general membership. It will be on the agenda for the following General Membership Meeting.

—Dick Ostrander

**May 1st
Cleanup, on
Addison Street:
Martha Moore,
David
Lambertson and**



Clean-Up Day Thanks

Here's a list of businesses and organizations who made the day's events such a success:

TGI Fridays and **Pizzeria Uno**, who provided free lunch and drinks for all who attended the awards ceremony.

McCall kids for their delightful posters and the **PhilaPride Anti-Littering Mascot, "Kool Kat,"** who delighted the kids who attended the ceremony. (The children's art work will be on display on South Street.)

The **National Park Service**, who supplied manpower and some of the power cleaning equipment.

Pennsylvania Hospital, who supplied both cleaning equipment and 25 people. Also **Jefferson Hospital**, who provided a clean-up crew.

The two City "special services" districts: **Center City District** and **South Street/Headhouse District**. Real professionals!

The **Society Hill Carriage Company**, who provided transportation for PhilaPride's "Kool Kat" to ride about in.

Providers of free trash bags: **The Glad Bag-A-Thon** and "**Philadelphia More Beautiful.**"

The **Citizens Alliance for Cleaner Neighborhoods**, particularly **Frank DiCicco** who drove the "big sweeper," and his son **Frank, Jr.** on the mini sweeper.

Charlie Niedermayer, who hand-decorated our token-of-appreciation awards, the "Re-new Brooms" and who also gilded the "golden Pooper-Scoopers" awards.

More thanks to: Mayor Edward Rendell; State Senator Vincent Fumo; State Representative W. Curtis Thomas; City Councilman

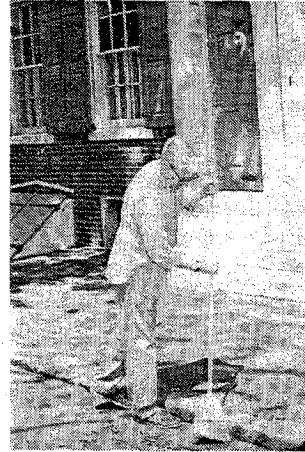
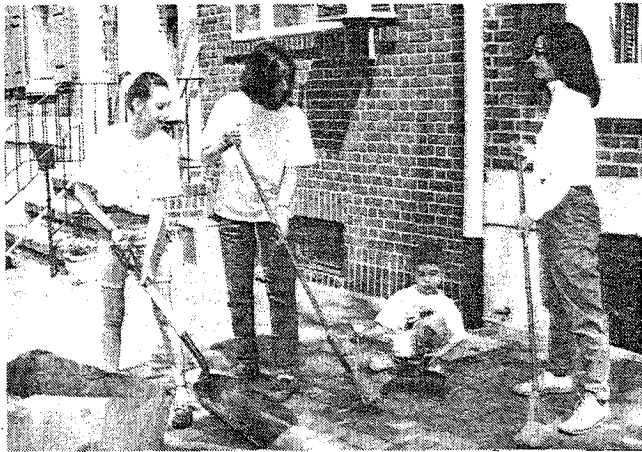
Joseph Vignola; the City's new Commissioner of Streets Department, Larry Moy; our neighbor and President of the City's soon-to-open Convention Center, Bob Butera; President of Pennsylvania Hospital, Cliff Eldridge; Lieutenant Swift and Sergeant Melfi of the 6th District Police; and Bob McCarthy of the South Street Police ministration.

The event's Co-chairpersons Mary Sturdivant, Liz Ostrander, and Howard Lander are to be commended for the enormous amount of work they did coordinating a



Rob Donaldson, left, of Pizzeria Uno serves Sgt. Melfi. Food was free and plentiful.

elements of the clean-up: getting the cooperation of residents, businesses, City agencies, and providers of services and goods. They did a great job! This project was also done in conjunction with the Washington Square West Civic Association. Thanks, finally to everybody involved, including all neighbors who spruced up their homes with May Baskets and new plantings. And thanks especially to "Mother Nature," who cooperated by providing a classic sunny spring day! (Did we forget anybody? We hope not! But if so please forgive us—we have a press deadline!)



Thursday evening: signs are posted throughout Society Hill and Washington Square West to move cars for Saturday's sweep.

Top left: Saturday morning, Alfred Zerwick of the 200 block Spruce Street helps Daniel Velez, CCD employee.

Above: Julie Smith, Sally Smith, Jonathan Skale and Linda Skale, 500 block of Pine Strete.

Next: Paul Noyes sweeps along the 500 block of Delancey Place.

Top right: Ron Meliment, Clotile Galbraith on Addison Street.

Left: Awards ceremony featured Mayor Rendell, Jean Fumo, Nancy Hallman, co-chairs

Howard Lander and Mary Sturdivant. (Not pictured: co-chair Iiz Ostrander.)

Bottom: Senator Vince Fumo, who drove the big sweeper (missing the awards) with daughter.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR **Three Bears Park**

Dated April 20, 1993
to the Editor:

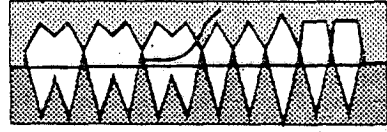
Last month's issue of the Society Hill Reporter/E. Philadelphia Sun carried an article which explained in detail the situation with re- to Three Bears Park. The article outlined the events leading up to the installation of the playground equipment and what has happened since then. It was accurate throughout and ended on a hopeful note. It was the first hopeful note since last summer when the Friends of 3 Bears met with

the neighbors of the park. At that first meeting in early June of 1992 they gave their assurance of cooperation.

The new equipment has not "grown" on the neighbors, as the Friends of 3 Bears suggested would occur with time. After one year since its installation, it is today still a situation needing to be resolved. In that light, I called the manufacturer in Missouri who said that many options were available, while keeping in mind the happiness and safety of the children. I called the represen-



tative in the area and met with him and several members of the Friends of 3 Bears on March 9 of this year. There seemed to be some progress at that meeting and no objections to our recommendation of changing the or-

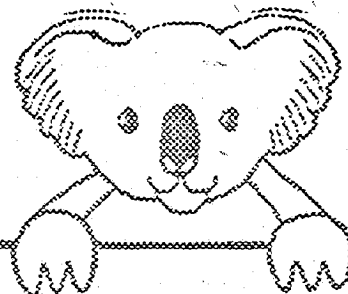


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SHCA'S DIRECTORS PROFILE Sid Hack

A hundred year old unkei—a carved wooden troll-like figure—wards off evil spirits at the entrance of his home. Sid Hack explains with a twinkle in his bright blue eyes, "I look at him and think, 'How bad can it be?'"

The avuncular treasurer of the Society Hill Civic Association is a transplanted New Yorker, who now resides in Society Hill with spectacular views of the both the Benjamin Franklin and Walt Whitman bridges. This leisure time sailor (both power and sail) can look at the water from his home or when he is donating time to the research library at the Philadelphia Maritime Museum.

Retired now from his import business, Sid's home reflects his years of traveling, especially in Japan with art, furniture, porcelain and plants. He explained what it was like to do business in Japan after World War II. His colleagues in electronic musical in-

struments were all trying to get the best deal, but Sid claims the Japanese knew the value of a yen. So he decided to invest in quality. It was a hard sell to his sales force who wanted to go with price. But Sid prevailed, and the Les Paul guitar was a hit. Quality does sell.

Over the years, he developed many strong relationships with Japanese businessmen. When they



Anita and Sid Hack

struck a deal, it was with a handshake. Obviously this works when there is strong mutual trust. He

never learned the language and says he was not encouraged to do so by the Japanese. Where many of us see xenophobia, Sid sees a deeply rooted desire for privacy—even in communication.

Sid easily explains the success of karaoke. He noticed that the Japanese businessmen all go out for dinner and drinks in the evening. After two drinks, they must sing. So of course the Japanese would develop the market for a karaoke machine.

If you see Sid, either at his side or a few feet behind, is Anita. They met on Coney Island fifty years ago, and Sid "test" dated her for a friend. They still radiate love. Or that may just be the healthy glow of two peripatetic Philadelphians. They chose this city because it was so walkable and easily traveled to or from by their two children and four grandchildren.

Sid worked with the Small Business Administrations SCORE program for years until his frustration with the lack of credit for entrepreneurs made him cut back on his time. Now he tries to get the Civic Association to do good business plans for each project. Sid and Anita also work with the Friends of Washington Square and act as guides for the Man Full of Troubles Tavern museum.

Sid would like to see more acceptance of different ideas in the Civic Association. He feels our major weakness—even as Americans in the world economy—is that we want everybody to think the way we do. That is not reality based on his international experience. His own life seems to reflect the principle, "To whom much has been given, by whom much is owed." As a good treasurer, before he meets the final accountant, he is making sure his life's statement balances.

3 BEARS PARK LETTER (cont.) ange colored elements of the equipment to a softer tan that would be a color more in harmony with our historic streets. This was announced at the SHCA meeting of March 17.

Now I hear that some members of the Friends have expressed their unwillingness to make any changes or to compromise in any way. They are happy with the equipment design and colors, and they will brook no compromises.

Why has the SHCA not taken a more active role in mediating the controversy? Could we resurrect the attitude of care, concern, cooperation, communication and compromise within our community where everyone's action impacts on others?

Sincerely,
Jo Ann Buller
("Special Friends of 3 Bears Park")

Editor's Comments:

In all likelihood the greater community of Society Hill is in favor of coming up with a reasonable solution to this conflict. Since the Society Hill Civic Association is perceived to be the neighborhood's "official" voice with government, businesses, and organizations, it is understandable that, at this point, the City's Recreation Department will listen to and respond only to the Association. It is, therefore, imperative that the SHCA have up-to-date information about how the entire neighborhood feels about the current impasse.

Whether you agree with one point-of-view or the other, every person's opinion should be respected and should not be belittled. After

all, our community was built respect for others, and ours community of reasonable people.

The Delancey Street Park definitely be on the agenda. make a note of the day, time, place: Wednesday night, May at 7:30, at Pennsylvania Hospital's Preston Auditorium on Spruce Street—entrance is on 8th Street—Bernice Hamel

SHCA Calendar

(clip & save)

Wednesday May 19
7:30 PM

General Membership Meeting
Pennsylvania Hospital's Preston Auditorium (enter 8th near Spruce)

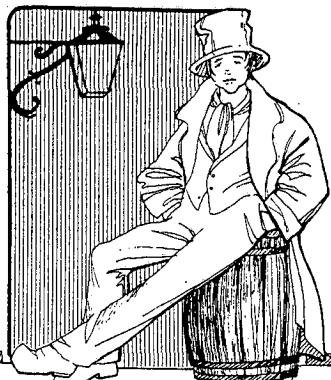
Agenda: SHCA Elections, 3 Bears Park, NewMarket

Saturday & Sunday, May 8 & 9
Mother Earth Day Events
South Street/Headhouse
Festivities all weekend long

Friday, May 14
"Popcorn Day" at Pennsylvania Hospital
All day street vendors—help support the hospital!

Wednesday, June 16
7:30 PM
Board of Directors Meeting
Old Pine Community Center
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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	Other (please specify)

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