



# SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

Newsletter of the Society Hill Civic Association  
Issued September 8, 1996

Message from the President

## A Broken City

**Dys.function. n. Med.** malfunctioning, as an organ of the body.

So states my dictionary. Dysfunction of our city government is a critical problem in Philadelphia. This dysfunction is forcing the Civic Association to be reactive rather than proactive. The resources and energy which this consumes makes it difficult to mount new programs for the benefit of the community — like bringing a library branch to this part of town.

Instead, we are repeatedly asked to intervene to protect the community from potentially harmful conditions — present or proposed. In many cases this is unavoidable in a neighborhood where citizens with competing interests live and work in close proximity. These neighborhood issues include whether there should be a high-rise hotel on Penn's Landing, whether and which zoning variances



should be allowed or opposed, and whether and to what extent liquor license applications should be supported or opposed. These are issues which are properly addressed by the organized community. And that's what this Association does.

But there are a number of other issues which should not require the effort we must expend on them — at least not as often as we do. I refer to getting the City government to do what it is supposed to do. For example:

**Non-enforcement of quality-of-life laws.** Anti-noise laws. Anti-fouling of the streets. Anti-littering. These laws are not enforced and efforts to get them enforced leads to frustration. Example: On Greek Weekend, calls to 911 and the Sixth District went unheeded and unresponded to. The officer in charge would not come to the telephone. Callers were told problems were the mayor's fault, because he would not authorize enough police officers to handle the crowds. And noise is not a problem limited to a single weekend. It is here all summer — particularly on streets which lead to and from South Street. So far as I know, no one has ever been ticketed for noise north of Lombard Street.

**Non-enforcement of the motor vehicle code.** The law forbids operation of a motor vehicle without a driver's license, valid registration and insurance. So if someone is caught violating these laws he or she must lose their driving privilege — right? Wrong. Even though the police have this power, City Hall has instructed them merely to issue a ticket and to allow

the unlawful operation to continue.

**Failure to enforce the laws against public drinking.** Visitors to South Street drink beer and booze on the street, often in full view of the many police officers on duty there. Little, if anything, is ever done although it is against the law.

**Failure to maintain public facilities.** A neighbor finds a hole in the street and calls the Streets Department. She gets a recorded announcement and leaves a message. No one replies. We bring Councilman DiCicco into the issue. A Councilman having to deal with a hole in the street?! But if he doesn't intervene, nothing is done.

**Inadequate enforcement of the zoning and building laws.** The issue at American and Delancey Streets regarding the use of a backyard for parking or unloading is a graphic illustration of City government not at work: Illegal permits being issued. A commission holding an *ex parte* hearing to authorize what it had earlier rejected. Neighbors spending thousands of dollars for lawyers to do what the City should have done in the first place. Another example is building projects underway without building permits. Where were the inspectors? In most communities a permit must be posted on each job. But not here.

Most of these issues should be dealt with by City government as a matter of course, and should never require more than a single telephone call to authorities for action. But, in many cases, the call results in inaction and frustration.

So why even discuss this? First, so that residents who have had this problem will know that they are not alone — it happens again and again. Second to urge everyone to report conditions that need attention. A list of helpful telephone numbers appears on page 15. And finally to alert citizens not to relax after they have called in a report. Follow-up is almost always required. Occasionally, even in Philadelphia, the squeaky wheel finally gets the grease.

— Mel Buckman

### Mark Your Calendars

#### Change of Date for Next Meeting!!!

**Wed., Sept. 18, 6:30 pm:**

Board of Directors meeting at Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard. Members welcome.

**Wed., Sept. 18, 8 pm:**

Membership meeting. Originally scheduled for October, this meeting will be held in September at Old Pine C.C. On the agenda: Unveiling the new SHCA-subsidized privatized operation to get sidewalks swept weekly, following trash collections.

**Wed., Oct. 16, 7:30 pm.**

Board of Directors meeting at Old Pine Community Center. Members welcome.

**Note: The October Membership Meeting has been moved to September.**

# Bulletin Board

By Greg Montanaro

**Report from Camp Homeless:** A resident population of homeless people has been growing in the park near Front and Spruce Streets. These people are apparently tied to the large number of auto break-ins in the immediate area, and evidence of drug use in the park is also apparent. In addition, as there are no bathroom facilities in the park, an unsanitary condition has been created.

As the park is part of the Fairmount Park System, no one is allowed to camp out in it, and it is officially closed at 1 a.m. (although police say they cannot enforce this effectively).

The 6th District community relations officer, **George McCardell**, says he will make sure that the park stays sanitary. Report any unsafe or unsanitary conditions to McCardell at 686-3060.

**Graffiti Hot Lines:** Following a city-wide trend, graffiti has been on the rise in Society Hill. Increasingly, street fixtures such as Franklin lamps and street signs are "tagged" with "permanent" markers or stickers. Only if people remove graffiti immediately, will the battle against scrawl be won.

According to the Central Police Division's anti-graffiti officers, the most effective way to beat graffiti is a zero-tolerance policy. This method has been very effective in the Center City District.

The good news for graffiti victims is that inexpensive cleansers are available which wipe away the scrawls. "Goof-Off" effortlessly removes graffiti from most non-masonry surfaces. As for stickers, anti-adhesives such as "Lift-Off" are very effective. Both of these products are available at Southwark Paint Company at 4th and Catherine (you could also try Washington Square Hardware at 257 S. 10th and most other hardware stores — if you can find one).

To remove graffiti from your masonry or brick walls or larger surfaces, "Scram-It" is very effective. It is made by N.B. Garber, Co. (333-5798). This chemical, when rinsed with a power-washer, has reportedly been quite successful. A 1750 psi power-washer can be rented from the Duron paint store at 8th and Spring Garden Sts.. (925-7533).

(We recommend NewMarket's **Mike DePaulo** try it on the graffiti that's been on the NewMarket garage wall facing Stamper St. since 1991.)

For people who need professional graffiti removal, various options are available. Two professional graffiti removers are: Graffiti Removal System (765-0134) and A & A Grimebusters (725-4583).

In addition, many city agencies are very responsive in removing graffiti from their property. The Post Office recently initiated a zero-tolerance policy. Any graffiti reported to them at 895-8610 will be removed within 72 hours.

Here are some other helpful numbers to report graffiti on public and utility properties:

Street Signs/Lights	Streets Dept.	686-5560
Parking Meters	PPA	977-7270
Newsstands	Newsstand Assoc.	557-7611
PECO	PECO	731-3235
PGW	PGW	684-6774
Newspaper Boxes	Inquirer/Daily News	854-5774
Rec. Centers	Recreation Dept.	686-3622
City Property	Managing Director	686-3481
Mailboxes	U.S. Post Office	895-8610
Bell Phones	Bell Atlantic	611
Other Phones	Central Atlantic Assn.	800-779-3096

For graffiti complaints/questions, contact the City Hall number: 686-3099

**The Light That Failed:** After years of discussion between the Society Hill Civic Association and the city, a new batch of Franklin Lamps are currently being installed to replace lamps knocked over in traffic accidents. The problem of replacement had been languishing in a bureaucratic limbo for years until the SCHA started making noises.

The new lamps' design remains the same as the original lamps, first installed in Society Hill in 1968 by the Redevelopment Authority. The design for the lamps was based on sketches drawn by Benjamin Franklin, thus their name. Nonetheless, the city had proposed replacing them with a generic "ye olde" model out of a catalog. This was strongly opposed by the Civic Association board which found a firm that would manufacture exact replicas of the missing lamps at a reasonable price. The only major change is that the new lamps are 20 percent brighter — a plus.

Unfortunately, the installation of many of the new lamps by contractors hired by the city has been faulty. For example, the new lamp on the northwest corner of 3rd and Pine streets has yet to work, although it was installed many months ago. In addition, much of the replacement brick work around the bases has been faulty, and many of the lamps were damaged upon installation.

**Joe Doyle**, the city's lighting engineer, has promised that a foreman would check the site of each of the new lamps to make sure they had been properly installed.

Have you noticed any problem installations? All concerns over new lamps should be addressed to Mr. Doyle at 686-5515.

**Belgian Block Waffle:** Part of the historic fabric of Society Hill are the smaller streets paved with rectangular blocks of granite called Belgian block. Unfortunately, when city agents make road repairs on these streets, they usually fill in the holes with a temporary asphalt patch, presumably only there until the original stones can be replaced. The question is — when?

The Civic Association was promised by former Councilman **Joe Signal's** staff that a contract would be issued by the city to have all the patches repaired. In addition,

Continued on page 15

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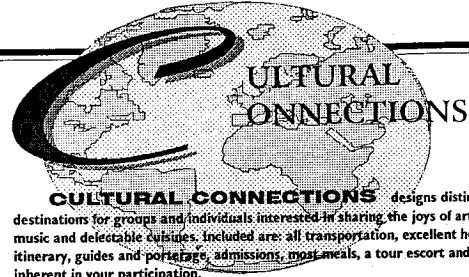
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**The Joy of Tree Hugging** Ever wonder why Society Hill is suddenly so leafy green compared to other Philadelphia neighborhoods? Well, much of the credit must go to our **Jean Bodine**, who is co-chair of Project Street Trees. She has just reported that 103 new trees have been planted in the neighborhood since the project began in 1994.

To encourage owners to replant street trees, the Civic Association has offered a \$100 subsidy (which represents about a third of the cost) to offset the expense of a new tree. This year, on June 14th, the Pennsylvania Urban & Community Forestry Council awarded the SHCA a \$1,000 grant to continue the program. A good thing, since each year we lose a few trees from the effects of harsh winters and storms, damage from vehicles, road salt from snow clearance, fire, disease, trees pits too small to allow nutrients and water to reach the root system and other urban stresses.

To help educate the neighbors on caring for their trees and to do some basic maintenance, many of the original committee members have been trained by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society on the care and pruning of street trees. These Tree Tenders in their special T-shirts can be seen on Monday nights or Saturday mornings enlarging tree pits and pruning dead or diseased branches. Society Hill Tree Tenders include **Hans and Cherry Bombeck, Jean Bodine, Chris Clark, Lynn and Mary Joyce Enderby, Bill and Nancy Fenimore, Audrey Greenhall, Jim Holt, Laura Lane, Joanne Lawrence, John Lloyd, Ruth**

**Sachs, Diane Shecter, Irene Shuman, Karen Skafte, Jane Stevenson, Mary Sturdivant, and Frank Thomas.** To participate as a Tree Tender or inquire about planting a tree, call the SHCA office at 629-1288. — **Mary Sturdivant**

**Rumor Central:** Negotiations are reportedly underway to bring a large gourmet supermarket to the mostly vacant NewMarket area between Front and Second, Pine and Lombard. Reportedly the trucks will unload on Front Street.

**Chamber Potluck:** Society Hill is one of the few Philadelphia neighborhoods with its own chamber music ensemble. Even more impressive: Most of the instrumentalists also play with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Still more impressive: They perform in the visually-stunning and acoustically-crisp Old Pine Church at Fourth and Pine so you don't have to worry about parking, but can walk to a concert.

And most impressive of all, unlike the Philadelphia Orchestra concerts, it doesn't cost an arm and a leg to get in. Concert tickets are \$20, \$60 for the three-concert subscription. There's always a complimentary wine and cheese reception afterwards.

Programs are truly astounding in their breadth — from baroque to contemporary pieces — most of them seldom heard. Take the November concerts (at 8 pm on Friday the 15th and repeated at 2 pm on Sunday the 17th): It includes cantos by Ginastera for mezzo-soprano, violin, flute, harp and percussion; a Beethoven septet for strings, woodwinds and horn; four songs by Virgil Thomson for mezzo, clarinet, viola and harp; and three pieces by Max Bruch for clarinet cello and piano. For info, call 592-7840. Do it today or you'll forget.

**How Clean Was Our Alley:** May Clean-Up Day may seem like long ago, but thanks remain to be proffered to all those who helped. And it's a most impressive roster of residents, governmental and corporate backers. In addition to this tribute, you can thank them personally when you run into them: Neighbors **Jim Covello, Jo Butler, Janet Cooke, Linda Percival, David Stevens, Frank Thomas, Susan Tomito, Miffy Coonley, Alan Siegel, Perry Whyte, Michael Czeredarczuk, Bob Bodine, Martha Moore, Nancy Hallman** and co-Chairs **Mary Sturdivant and Larry Meehan.**

Pennsylvania Hospital once again recruited employees to help, hosted the picnic and printed the flyers. Waste Management donated the dumpster, which the McCall School allowed us to park in their playlot. The Philadelphia Parking Authority, Sixth Police District and Streets Department sent people and equipment as did the National Park Service and The Citizen's Alliance for Better Neighborhoods. **Rob Donaldson** of Pizzeria Uno and **John Foy** of Bridget Foy on South Street supplied the food, including those wonderful Portobello mushroom sandwiches. **Mike Costello** at Superfresh supplied coffee and doughnuts, and PhilaPride and Philadelphia More Beautiful lent signs and brooms. Glad provided the trash bags as part of its annual national community clean-up program. **Sonia Vent** worked with Mike Costello at SuperFresh on those wonderful flower baskets. **Janet Cooke** got her neighbors to copy the 500 block of Pine Street's flowering baskets. So the effects of Clean Up Day continue long after the event. — **M.S.**

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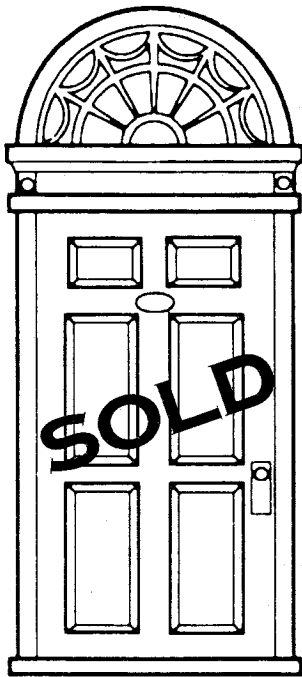
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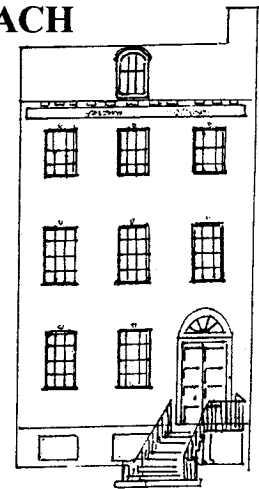
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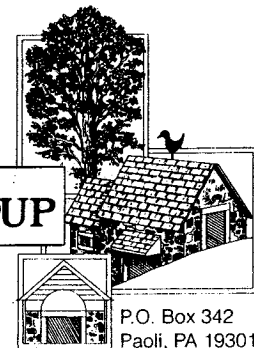
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## Hotel or Notel?

**The Civic Association is split, but the neighborhood is not.**

The special board meeting of your SHCA directors on Wednesday night, July 31st, was tension-filled. It was held to decide whether to endorse or withhold endorsement for the 24-story hotel proposed for Penn's Landing opposite Society Hill Towers. A number of previous prospective developers have walked away from similar projects on Penn's Landing over the past ten years when financing or design became a problem.

This hotel has a financial problem too. In order to build it, the developers are counting on a low-interest \$10 million dollar loan-grant from HUD — the government agency most famous for building housing projects for welfare families rather than giving corporate welfare to real estate promoters.

The new hotel development has been a hotly debated project since it was first announced earlier this year. Proponents of the project — led by Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell and his development creature, the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC), have been dogging HUD to provide the funds. They say that the hotel will provide a boost to the development of Penn's Landing, provide 300 new jobs and add to the city's ever-shrinking tax base.

Opponents say the massive scale of the hotel is out of keeping with the historic low-rise nature of the neighborhood, that it should have been located at the Market Street end of Penn's Landing rather than adjacent to Society Hill, that the developers have not made the requisite environmental impact study, that the hotel's design is unattractive, that it would cause traffic problems and would eliminate much of the sculpture garden now on the site and would discourage the use of Penn's Landing by Philadelphians.

These opponents do not object to a hotel on Penn's Landing but have called for a low-rise alternative like the Society Hill Sheraton (which was originally proposed as a high rise).

At the special board meeting, over 50 civic association members and other interested parties packed the Old Pine Community Center as SHCA board president **Melvin J. Buckman** cautioned that there would be little time for audience participation during this 90-minute meeting.

Before the meeting officially began, Mr. Buckman shared with the audience and board members copies of a letter he had received that morning from Penn's Landing Corp.'s veep in charge of development and planning **James J. Cuorato**. It contained two sketches of revised architectural renderings of the hotel's exterior design.

When questioned about the future of the sculpture garden on Penn's Landing — to be partially obliterated by the hotel, Mr. Cuorato was unable to ensure that the PLC had sufficient funds to successfully reassemble it. Upon hearing this, board member **Barbara Bagileo** — who had introduced a resolution of support for the hotel project — revised her original motion in favor of one accepting the project, provided any portion of the Sculpture Garden taken in construction be restored at the completion of hotel construction. Another SHCA official present, **I. Edward Robinson**, head of the board's Liquor Control Committee, made a motion, quickly seconded, to table board response until after

four public hearings sponsored by HUD were held on August 6th and 15th. The vote to table was defeated.

After the president reminded the board that members must make a decision whether or not to support the project on the basis of the knowledge they currently possessed, the original proposal was voted upon: The vote was 7 in favor and 7 opposed, with the President refusing to break the tie.

With the SHCA board equally divided, the scheduled public hearings were held at the Seaport Museum — next to the site of the proposed hotel. At the first August 6th meeting, the neighbors who turned out were unanimous in opposing the project. The effect of their sentiments seems to be inconsequential, since the "hearings" were actually just a bureaucratic, pro forma event required by HUD before a project could be approved. It was run by PIDC vice president **Robert Fina**, who reported that a transcript would be turned over to HUD. It turned out to be less a hearing than a venting of objections to the project by neighbors who included a cleric, planners, business executives and architects who provided reasons for opposing the project as it was proposed.

It was revealed during a question period that Hyatt Corporation, which is signed up to run the hotel, has no financial interest in the hotel, and that the project is highly leveraged — the developer has promised to put up only \$5 million to get the \$10 million HUD loan-grant and bank financing for the \$54 million project.

— By **Suzanne Stutman and Alan Halpern**

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# Mailbox

## American Street Update, Greek Week

The Reporter received the following letter which referred to an article in the previous (May) issue:

If you like rough and tumble street fights, you have to love the American Street Rumble over proposed changes in the yard behind 229 Delancey at the corner of Delancey and American. It has been a battle between the New Kids who wanted to use their back yard for off-street parking or for loading/unloading their car and the Home Boys who fought tooth and nail to oppose any of these changes. The Civic Association started off as referee.

Sadly, the rumble has been quite typical of many disputes among neighbors that have developed over the past 35 years since the redevelopment of Society Hill got rolling. It has involved a lot of pushing and shoving, charges and counter charges, challenges, political maneuvering and extravagant claims and uncontrolled emotions; not very attractive but about par for the course.

But there are a few things about this disturbance that are particularly disturbing.

The efforts to change the use of the yard behind 229 Delancey Street have been attacked as a significant threat to the future integrity of Society Hill as an historic neighborhood. Whether this small space is a garden, a parking space or a load/unload area will, to be sure, affect nearby neighbors to some degree, but it is difficult to imagine that it will have much impact on our neighborhood as a whole. The thought that the historic

character and integrity of all of Society Hill can be significantly jeopardized by one minuscule backyard is a really bizarre notion that cannot be supported by experience or common sense. If the future of our neighborhood hangs by such a fragile thread, we are in deep, deep trouble.

"To Think that it Happened on American Street" in the May issue of the Reporter is a troubling and biased piece that demonstrates how the Civic Association has abandoned its role as referee in the American Street Rumble and has joined the fray as a major partisan. The article makes no attempt to give a fair or balanced account of the controversy; at every opportunity, it is critical of the owners of 229 Delancey while the opposition is treated with deference and admiration. It promotes extreme, alarmist opinions of the significance of the changes proposed for the use of this one small piece of land and, to top it off, the article ends with a solicitation for funds to help defray the legal expenses of the status quo group.

The Civic Association should make an all-out effort to oppose ideas, plans and developments that truly threaten the best interests of all of Society Hill, and it should monitor and take positions on changes and plans that impact parts of our neighborhood. But to smash a mosquito with a sledge hammer is totally inappropriate and raises questions about its judgment and motivation.

It would have been far better if the Civic Association had made

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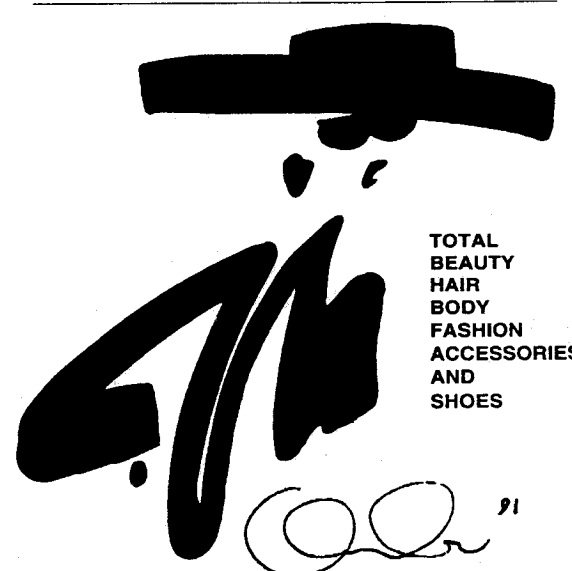
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some effort to resolve this internal dispute in an equitable and friendly manner, but apparently this idea was never considered.

— William J. Eiman

EDITOR'S NOTE: A similar letter was received from Peter Horty, Bernice Hamel, who wrote the article, replies:

**FIRST THE BAD NEWS:** At press time, American Street at the corner of Delancey is still an open wound with yellow "caution" tape surrounding the dismantled and still un-restored sidewalk and curb.

**NOW THE GOOD NEWS:** The opposing parties have signed an agreement to repair the curb and sidewalk to look as they had before they were ripped apart. The brick garden wall (demolished months ago) will eventually be replaced with a 10-foot-wide wooden gate, hinged to open on the left. The right side will be anchored to the bricks and will not be hinged to open. The Franklin Lamp will remain in its present and original location because, according to the agreement, there will be no vehicle parking and there will be no loading or unloading allowed in the space. Therefore, the lamp's position need not be moved north toward the corner of Delancey Street to accommodate a vehicle turning into the yard. The yard will remain just that—an open yard, rather than a parking spot.

Our Civic Association received two letters complaining about perceived biased treatment in The Reporter toward the Joneses whose application for a zoning variance precipitated the dispute.

One letter appears above. The second neighbor complained about our article as being "unfair" because "two other American Street residences already have parking areas which are similar to the Joneses' proposed space," and because our article "seems to indicate that they (the Joneses) had no right to hire an attorney nor a zoning expert."

*SHCA's president, Mel Buckman, replied to this neighbor's letter:*

You ask why, if others are doing it, the Joneses cannot do it also. In my opinion, adopting such a view would be a dangerous policy. Unfortunately, there are many examples in Society Hill of uses and structures of doubtful legality or even absolute illegality. For one reason or another (the passage of time, for example) these cannot be prevented now. However, it would defeat the purpose of our zoning laws to allow repeated violations just because others have 'gotten away with it' in the past.

Ms. Hamel concludes,

American Street neighbors and all of Society Hill would like to close the book on this controversy. We look forward to a restored and friendly American Street. And, we work to insure improved functioning among the various City agencies so that our neighborhood will prosper. That is what the Society Hill Civic Association is all about.

### Delta Force

Returning home from a business trip at 10 PM on Saturday night July 13th, my taxi encountered a 20-minute traffic jam north of Washington Ave. on Columbus Blvd. After finally reaching Spruce St., the police informed us that the area was "off-limits," even to local residents. So I took my briefcase and suitcase from the cab and began the trek home. Imagine, then, my surprise when I had to navigate the hordes of Greek Week

celebrants with radios blaring, pot smoking and obscenities flaring (Imagine me, having the temerity to walk in front of a car running a stop sign!) on my walk home. My dismay was matched only by that of the beat cops trying to maintain a sense of order.

I understand that City Hall was swamped with complaints. Three shootings were reported that night in the area. Peace arrived at midnight when a veritable infantry unit of Philadelphia Police cleared the streets.

Greek Week occurs annually and, to read about it in the *Inquirer*, is a very successful civic event. I have no desire to quell the participant's enthusiasm. However, in the spirit of civic cooperation, the organizers of Greek Week should take effort to preserve the residential nature and safety of our neighborhood. Better yet, future events such as this one should have traffic routed along commercial, not residential, thoroughfares.

— Jonathan Seltzer

### Filling Out This Coupon Could Cost You \$40. But It's Definitely Worth It! (It's your 1996 SHCA Membership Application)

This is your Civic Association, an example of democracy at work. With about a dozen challenges facing our community at any given time, we remain in communication with city officials, developers, and businesses to protect the quality of life we have created here.

If you've just joined us for the first time or renewed for 1996, we hope you will become more involved and let your voice be heard. But if we have somehow missed reaching you and you have not yet become a 1996 member, please fill out this coupon and join us today. Thank you

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## Everybody Wins in Neighborhood Sweep-Stakes

Beginning this month, the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) is wagering \$5,000 that it can attract 200 new members by sweeping their sidewalks after every trash pick-up.

Thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the Fund for Philadelphia, the SHCA will launch a demonstration project consisting of weekly professional sweeping of residential areas within Society Hill on Tues-

days, the day after trash is collected. The SHCA hopes that this new, highly-visible service will encourage neighbors who have not yet joined the Civic Association to do so.

The weekly sweep is expected to last four months. The SHCA-sponsored sweeping is expected to complement, not replace, the ongoing maintenance of the area which residents already provide. The

Center City District had bid on — and was awarded — the contract to carry out the work.

In order to fund continuance of the sweeping service after the trial project is completed, the SHCA is counting on the \$40 annual dues it would receive from signing up 200 new residential members (\$80 for business members). In addition, the SHCA also aims to renew the more than 600 current members.

Non-members are urged to join the SHCA now (a coupon is on page 9), and renewal information will be sent to all current members in October.

To facilitate the membership drive, Block Captains have been chosen to help the SHCA membership committee iden-

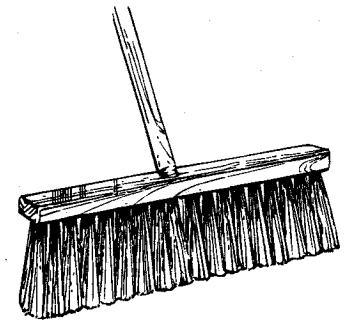
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tify and recruit potential new members from the blocks where they live. The following SHCA members will serve in this capacity:

**Janet Cooke**  
**Marian McKone**  
**Dorothy Stevens**  
**Jim Covello**  
**Martha Moore**  
**Mary Sturdivant**  
**Michael Czeredarczak**  
**Linda Percival**  
**Perry Whyte**  
**Matt DeJulio**  
**David Stevens**  
**Frank Thomas**  
**John Lloyd**

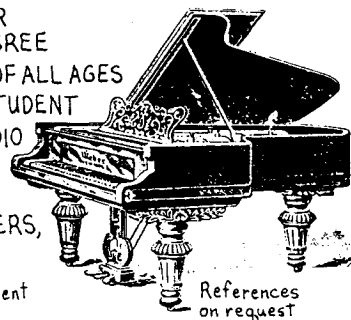
State Senator **Vincent Fumo** was instrumental in connecting the SHCA with The Fund for Philadelphia, the donor for the trial sweeping project. The Fund is a non-profit organization charged with distributing state funds for community development projects.

For further information about the sweep, please call **Mary Sturdivant** (928-1203) or **David Stevens** (923-1349).

— Liza Seltzer

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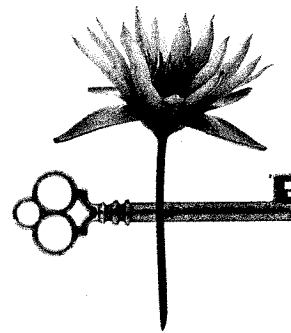
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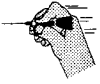
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# Darts & Laurels



**Dart:** A poignard in the posterior of city officials who decided to squander taxpayer bucks on 800 bike racks for center-city scattered willy-nilly. We're all for getting noxious cars off our streets and using more pedal power, but how about getting SEPTA fully funded first? While the racks are supposed to go in front of commercial properties one was placed in front of 706 Pine until the owners filed a complaint and got it removed.

—M. DeJ.

**Laurel:** To FM stations WHYI (90.9) and WWFM (107.9 — with a translator-transmitter atop Society Hill Towers, making for crystal clear reception in the area) for providing the neighborhood — and the region — with days and nights of, respectively, commercial-free stimulating news/talk and dazzling classical music. (Attention Slackers: Don't forget to support their fund drives.)

**Laurel:** Have you noticed the massive cleanup of that jungle-cum-junkyard at the NE corner of Spruce and Dock and the adjacent park area? We have Society Hill's Town Watch group to thank for this major improvement, particularly **Barbara Bagileo**, who spearheaded the effort. Thanks also for the involvement of the Sixth District Police and **Captain Pat Giordano-Fox**, as well as a commitment of cooperation by the until-now negligent Fairmount Park people and the phantom developers of the chimerical Tun Tavern who have agreed to maintain this neglected area of our neighborhood on a regular, ongoing basis. Accomplishments include graffiti removal from the fountain and the boarded-up rest-room bungalow. The five-foot-high sawgrass was mowed and trash of every conceivable variety was removed—including a washing machine, a super-market cart, a year's supply of six-pack cans and a live Bengal tiger.

For postings of upcoming Town Watch activities, please see NewMarket merchants (e.g., Koffmeyers Cookies, Dickens Curiosity Shop, and Morning Cup). And join. You get a Magnum 44, ammo, a whistle, some knucks and a chance to protect the neighborhood with some very congenial fellow patrollers.

**Laurel:** To The Society Hill Towers for a dandy, pool-side concert on the evening of June 26th. All SHCA members were invited by the Towers' manager, **Beverly Sherman**, to join hi-rise residents for this free "night of stars under the stars" as the Ocean City Pops orchestra and guest vocalists performed Broadway favorites. A genteel and enjoyable neighborly event!

—B.H.

**Laurel:** Lou Costello might have to ask, "Who's on third?" But we know and cherish **Connie Stephano**, who planted the hedges and flower beds on the lot between his Pei townhouse and the Episcopal Community Services headquarters on Third below Walnut. And another laurel to **Janet Cooke** and Third Street neighbors who spearheaded the beflowering of the Franklin Lamps with hanging baskets.

**Laurel:** (This is getting monotonous) to the Meridian Bank branch at Second and Pine, or, more accurately, to CoreStates, its successor, for replanting the sidewalk trees and enlarging their beds — which might make them more apt to survive than their predecessors. And another encomium for keeping its

friendly and competent staff on the payroll. Who says bankers have hearts of stone?  
—G.M.

**Laurel:** To City Hall (and the prodding of Stockton Strawbridge) for the new look on East Market Street. What a transformation! The brick sidewalks are in, the trees are planted, the Victorian lamp posts are pretty and quaint. If you haven't been up there lately take a hike to the 100 and 200 block where gentrification has been rapidly settling in. It's the first time in living memory the City has done something right. Some interesting shops have been opening like **Fiddlehead & Fennel** which is a sort of Chef's Market wannabee, **Brothers Bistro** — run by the Feurborn boys — which has an outstanding pork sandwich (with even more outstanding handmade potato chips) among other tasty choices for lunch; we have to try it for dinner, and **The Onion Tart**, a pizzeria that makes pissaladieres or, at least, vegetable pizzas, and the ever-nifty **Au Fin Palais**, which has great French pastry and light lunches.

**Dart:** The Order of Lawrence of Arabia and a bucket of camel droppings to City Hall for not turning on the fountain at Second and Lombard — or any of the fountains in the neighborhood for that matter. He's not Fast Eddy. He's Dry Eddy.

**Laurel:** To **Eli Karetny** and that Hamilton lady partner for a daring act of piracy — hijacking the good ship *Moshulu* from the Camden waterfront, elegantly refitting it and anchoring it on Delaware Avenue below South. It's now a classy restaurant with a pleasant, moderately-priced menu and elegant service by a waitstaff dressed like naval cadets. Lunch and dinner.

**Laurel:** Toss your tricorne in the air and head for the punch bowl: Entropy was dealt a severe blow when Philadelphia's preservation activists finally got their act together. The Preservation Coalition of Greater Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation have just joined into one unified force to fight galloping decay of historic properties and the insults of creeping modernism in a difficult economic climate when City Hall is no longer able to tackle these roles. Call for more info at 568-8225. (**Milton Marks**, an SHCA Board member, is executive Director of the new Preservation Alliance.)

—B.H.

**Laurel:** And a two-pound beefsteak tomato to the new Farmers Market, the South Street Headhouse District is hosting every Tuesday afternoon. About a half dozen farmers from Lancaster County, Quakertown and similar spots truck in their fresh pickings and sell them from stalls on Fifth Street (or is it Passyunk?) just below South. We've been shopping there for the past few weeks and find the food is even fresher than Reading Terminal's and absolutely delicious. We bought the best cantaloupe of our life there last week. Other goodies include miniature squash, blueberries, purple peppers, mushrooms and fresh picked corn. Prices are good, too — we paid 50¢ a pound for nifty tomatoes. But, if we had our druthers, we'd move the whole operation to the Head House shambles which was originally built as an outdoor market.

*Got an encomium or a pet peeve to bestow? Snail mail or e-mail it to us at the addresses shown on the masthead on page 2.*

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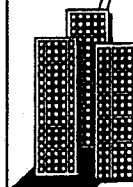
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## Bulletin Board *continued from page 2*

tion, 2nd Street, between Spruce and Lombard streets, was slated to be repaved with Belgian block.

Although the contract supposedly was issued, no work has occurred to repave these streets. Society Hill's Councilman, **Frank DiCicco's** chief of staff, **Robin Shatz**, is currently investigating this situation, and THE REPORTER will keep you posted on developments.

One neighborhood street will see a new surface soon, however. Pine Street is scheduled to be resurfaced this summer. In asphalt, of course.

**Curb cuts:** In the last two years, most of the corner curbs throughout the neighborhood have been "cut" to accommodate wheelchairs, and bring the city into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Some of the brick-work which followed this installation has been faulty, however. The current state of disrepair of the northwest corner of 6th and Pine streets is evidence of this.

Concerns about ramp installation on your block should be forwarded to **Richard Primerano**, the project manager, at 686-5505.

**Meet Your Patrol Officers:** Have you smiled and said hello to **Police Officer Shawn McLaughlin**, Badge #3895? He's the new beat officer for Society Hill who has replaced longtime Society Hill veteran, the much admired and missed Ron Habeth.

McLaughlin works with **Officer Jim Bender**, Badge #9497, also a veteran of Society Hill. They patrol on foot from Front to Fourth streets, Tuesday through Thursday from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. They both like to meet people in the community, and everyone should feel encouraged to introduce themselves.

In addition, **Ron Smith**, a private patrolman, Badge #2154, patrols the area from 3rd to 5th Streets, and Pine to Lombard. He is employed by St. Peter's Church/School, Lode Pine Church/Community Center, and the Presbyterian Historical Society. He has provided a lot of volunteer support for the Society Hill Town Watch, and tries to know as many community members as possible.

On behalf of the SHCA, a salute to these officers for all they do to keep the neighborhood safe.

Incidentally, if you'd like to join the Town Watch, phone **Barbara Bagileo** at 592-9820. Then your neighbors will smile at you, too.

**How to Post-It:** We'd like to run timely items of interest to neighbors, but our deadline and frequency present a problem for late-breaking news. THE REPORTER is published on alternate months (July, September, November, January, March and May) and distributed the second week of these months. We go to the printers about the 5th of the preceding month. So if you have an item you'd like to see considered for the November issue, we'd like to receive it by the of October. The address to mail, fax or E-mail items appear with the masthead on page 2.

**Attention Fall Gardeners:** On Saturday and Sunday, October 5th and 6th, the historic Physick House at 321 S. 4th will hold its first fall plant sale. Colorful pansies, hearty mums and asters and ornamental kale will be available for brightening decks, window boxes, fall gardens and tree surrounds. The sale

will be held from 10 to 6 on both days, or until supplies of plants are gone. Purchases are tax-deductible contributions, For info call 925-9537.

**Greetings, Tovaritsch:** Got an empty guest room? Dinner table conversation flagging? Well, here's a solution. You can host an English-speaking Russian here on a business internship to learn the American way of doing bizness. Share your family rituals and your neighborhood with an interesting person from another world for a two- or four-week period. The Russkys are here to work with Philadelphia companies and are mentored by the Center for International Development. Host families will attend an orientation session, receive a host's manual and have an IVC staffer available round the clock a telephone call away. To get involved call **Ann Stauffer** or **Kristy Tyndal** at (215) 686-3062 or (215) 636-3963. Sounds like great fun. And afterwards, you'll have a friend in Eastern Europe and an insatiable longing for caviar.

## SHCA Action Phone Numbers Clip and save for reference...

### EMERGENCY ..... 911 (& PRAY!)

Sixth District Police Station ..... 686-3060  
South St. Police Mini Station ..... 922-6706

### MUNICIPAL

Parking Authority Enforcement:(9 am-5 pm) ..... 977-7221  
(evenings & weekends) ..... 977-7223  
Resident Parking Permit ..... 977-7200  
City Hall ..... 686-1776  
Anti-Graffiti Network ..... 686-1569  
Bulk Trash Pickup ..... 592-6060  
Councilman Frank DiCicco ..... 686-3458  
Fairmount Park Commission (trees) ..... 685-1835  
Historical Commission (Dr. R. Tyler) ..... 686-4543  
Illegal Dumping & Litter Enforcement ..... 686-3082  
Mayor's Office for Information ..... 686-2250  
Recycling Hot Line ..... 1-800-807-3292  
Recycling Office ..... 686-5504  
SPCA (animal control) ..... 426-6300  
Street Lights ..... 685-9184  
Street Repair & Potholes ..... 686-5508  
Streets Dept. Customer Service ..... 686-5560  
Streets Dept. Sanitation Division ..... 685-6062  
Water Inlet Cleaning (storm drains) ..... 592-6300

### MISCELLANEOUS POLS

W. Curtis Thomas (State Rep.) ..... 232-1210  
Vincent J. Fumo (State Senate) ..... 468-3866  
Thomas M. Foglietta (U.S. Rep.) ..... 925-6840  
Robert Borski (U.S. Rep.) ..... 335-3355  
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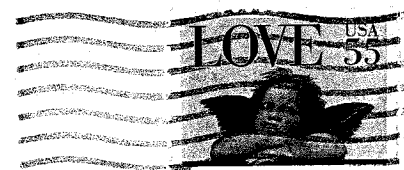
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