

Society Hill REPORTER

...Working Together
For a Better Place To Live

September 1999

Newsletter of The Society Hill Civic Association

Candidates Face Off

Wednesday, September 15
8:00 PM

Old Pine Church, 4th & Pine Streets

In the first eight months of the next Philadelphia mayoral term, the new mayor must negotiate five major union contracts. As the ink dries on the last one, the national media floodlights will focus on Philadelphia for the National Republican Convention.



Sam Katz

Who is the best
man to lead this
city into the new
millennium?



John Street

Both candidates for mayor, the Republican Sam Katz and the Democrat John Street, will meet with you on Wednesday evening, September 15, at Old Pine Church. After opening remarks, they will answer questions from the floor. Please come, ask, then decide.

Doors open at 7:30 PM to meet your neighbors and tour this Greek Revival style church rebuilt in 1856.

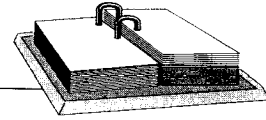
Homeowner & Auto Insurance Offers Get Off to Strong Start

Response to the special program of discounted homeowner and auto insurance offered at special rates to members of SHCA has been phenomenal.

Nationwide has written 30 new policies on \$45 million with savings 12-20% below regular rates. One client realized \$4,000 in premium reductions.

Chubb's Masterpiece offer resulted in 35 responses and premium sales in excess of \$10K since the announcement went into the mail at the end of June, according to Larry Fisher of Mather and Co., agent for Chubb. Savings of up to 15% have been reported.

For further information or to receive a quote, SHCA members are asked to call Kathy McCafferty of Chubb (homeowner only) at 215-351-4707 or Chris and Deanna Coyne (auto, home and commercial) of Nationwide at 215-574-9147.



Save These Dates:

General Membership Meeting

Mayoral Face-Off

Wednesday, September 15

Old Pine Church, 4th & Pine Streets

7:30 PM: Meet Your Neighbors

8:00 PM - 9:30 PM: Program

Independence Charter School Meeting

Monday, September 27, 7:30 PM

Pennsylvania Hospital Auditorium

8th and Spruce Streets

Planning Meeting Open to the Public

GURU Happy Hour

Wednesday, September 29

222 South Street

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Free Social Mixer to Members

Three Bears Park Fall Festival

Saturday, October 2

(Rain date: October 3)

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Barbecue, bake sale, games,
face-painting, silent auction

Contact Denise Cavalier, 215-922-6735

1999 Guinness Oyster Festival

Saturday, October 9

Head House Square, 2nd & Pine Streets

Noon - 8:00 PM

Arts, crafts, entertainment,
Oyster Shucking Contest

Native American Chieftain Memorial Dedication

Sunday, October 24, 1:00 PM

St. Peter's Churchyard, 3rd & Pine Streets

All welcome. Reception follows at

St. Peter's House, 313 Pine Street

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT <http://www.wnwr.com/shca>

Fit-Out for Free Library at Balch Institute Begins

To the accolades and applause of community and civic leaders, Mayor Edward Rendell announced the beginning of construction of the East Philadelphia Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

At a press conference on Tuesday, August 10, 1999, at the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, 18 South 7th Street, Rendell spoke about the years of community effort that have resulted in the new branch library, which will be housed on the first floor of the Balch. He praised City Councilman Frank DiCicco, Balch Director John Tenhula and Elliot Shelkrot of the Free Library for their efforts to bring the two agencies together.

Frank DiCicco said "... the library never would have happened without the constant pressure from **Mel Buckman** and **Liza Nickerson Seltzer**. It would not have happened without the leadership of the **Society Hill Civic Association**."

When **Mel Buckman** became SHCA president in 1995, one of his goals was to have a branch library in the neighborhood. Despite defeatist responses from many, he and Liza Seltzer, a Board Director at the time, built a coalition of people from Society Hill and surrounding communities to support their drive for the library.

In August 1997 the presidents of four area civic associations signed a letter to local politi-

cians. Mel met with Councilman DiCicco to discuss the possibility of the library in the autumn of 1997.

Liza spearheaded a letter writing campaign. Every month the East Philadelphia Library Coalition would meet at Liza's home to discuss possible sites for the branch and strategize ways ensuring that money for the branch was in-

cluded in both Philadelphia's operating and capital budgets. Finally on February 13, 1998 Mayor Rendell committed to the library.

SHCA salutes the leadership of Liza Seltzer and Mel Buckman, thanks the efforts of all the volunteers, Frank DiCicco and Ed Rendell and proudly awaits the opening of the East Philadelphia Library early in 2000.

Family Fun at Three Bears Park Annual Fall Festival

An upcoming neighborhood family event that you don't want to miss is the Three Bears Park Annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 2, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM (rain date is October 3).

Highlights of the festival include delicious barbecued foods, home-baked goods, games to play, face painting, sale of toys, books and clothing, a fabulous 100-item silent auction, and the most fun you can have on a beautiful fall day.

The Festival is a fund-raiser sponsored by the Friends of Three Bears Park, a non-profit organization created to maintain and enhance the Park, on Delancey Street between 3rd and 4th Streets.

The Park relies solely on the Fall Festival and private donations to finance all of its projects such as its twice weekly cleaning by a private

service, tree trimming and gardening, brick-masonry repair, and general maintenance.

The Friends work with the neighborhood, Society Hill Civic Association, and the City of Philadelphia to maintain an atmosphere that is inviting to all who visit the Park's unique setting. The Park is a treasure, a second home to many of the neighborhood's young children.

If you are interested in contributing food, games, toys, books or children's clothing, please contact **Darlene Cavalier** at 215-922-6735. To send a financial donation (all donations are 100% tax deductible), mail to **Sam Sadtler**, Treasurer, Friends of Three Bears Park, 340 South 4th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

Saturday, September 19, 1999 is cleanup day at Three Bears Park. Volunteers are needed. Call Darlene Cavalier.

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Please, Can We Talk?

I, as President, as well as many on the Board of Directors of the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) are now beginning our second year in office. I would briefly like, in this column, to comment about our first year and tell you about some initiatives for year two.

We have had many successes this past year.

As a result of SHCA efforts for over 5 years, we are finally assured of a neighborhood library.

Society Hill was designated an "historic district" in 1999, again as a result of many years of effort by SHCA. I believe being an "historic district" will have long-range positive effects, although in the past few months we've had some confusing decisions by the city's Historic Commission. We are monitoring this closely.

We instituted a membership insurance discount program. Many neighbors have participated, including myself. I've saved over \$1,000, or 15% on my home owner and auto coverage.

We've had some good membership meetings. We've tried to make them both informative and fun. Our pre-primary mayoral candidate meeting was very well attended. All six candidates came as scheduled and there was good interplay with the audience.

I'm looking forward to Mr. Street and Mr. Katz appearing at our September 15th meeting at Old Pine Church.

As a point of information, we plan to rotate membership meetings among the houses of worship in our community. Society Hill contains many magnificent and unique churches and synagogues and all are happy to make their facilities available. We began with A.M.E. Mother Bethel Church in the spring and this month will be at Old Pine Church.

Continuing from last year into this year are many activities, many of which may seem routine, but which take much planning and hard work. I refer to street clean up days, tree plantings, weekly sidewalk cleaning, lamppost painting, street light improvement, welcome baskets to new neighbors and, of course, the preparation of this newsletter.

We've begun new initiatives. Working with city government, and especially our Councilman, Frank DiCicco, we've asked for two sets of street signs at every intersection. We want more and better looking trashcans and we want them emptied daily. We want fewer, but better located newspaper-vending boxes.

All this is underway.

We remain very involved with real estate development in Society Hill. We are also working closer than ever with the neighborhoods in East Philadelphia that surround us.

Our mission remains to represent the community. We very much want to know what you think about the Civic Association. Speak up if you like what we are doing; and if you don't, we still want to hear from you.

We need you to be a member and to participate in our programs. I personally promise that every call, letter and e-mail will receive a response.

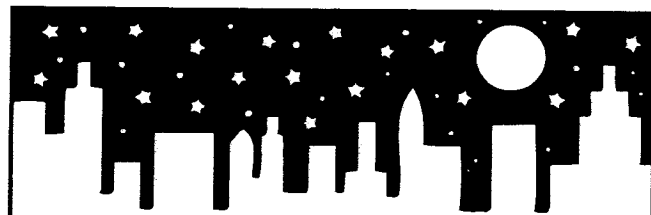
— Norman Tissian

Wanted

Cartoonist or Caricaturist

The Reporter is seeking a talented artist who would enjoy doing caricatures and/or cartoons for this publication. Please call the office at 215-629-1288 if you are interested.

High-Rise Advisory Council Formed



It is estimated that high-rise residents comprise as much as 50-55% of Society Hill's community (1,713 high-rise units out of a total of 3,297 households). While many of SHCA's activities affect high rises, there are often other needs and issues of importance to high-rise residents that we believe are not addressed.

To better meet those needs, we have established a High-Rise Advisory Council, which has begun to assess and recommend ideas. The Council is made up of the current SHCA high-rise directors and representatives:

- **George Compton and Larry Meehan: Hopkinson House**
- **Herb Lipton and Bill Hawkins: Independence Place**
- **Marc Bonavita and Bonnie Halda: Society Hill Towers**

We invite all high-rise residents of Society Hill to help us help you. Let us know if you would like to be a part of the Advisory Council and/or if you have any suggestions on issues or needs that affect you and your neighbors. Where it is practical and if appropriate, we will try to address them.

Contact our offices at (215) 629-1288; write to us at P.O. Box 3, Philadelphia, PA 19105; e-mail us at shcivica@aol.com or fax us at 215-625-9914.

JOIN SHCA NOW!

Name (s): _____

Address: _____ Zip _____

Phone: Work () _____ Home () _____

New Membership Renewal

Household Membership: \$40 Business Membership: \$100

*Additional Contributions: \$ _____

- *Earmarked for:
- Project Sweep Stakes
 - Town Watch
 - Street Trees/Tenders

I/We would like to work on the following committees:

- ___ Clean-Up Day
- ___ Historic Preservation/Zoning/Development
- ___ Library
- ___ Liquor Control
- ___ Society Hill Reporter
- ___ Street Trees/Tree Tenders
- ___ Town Watch

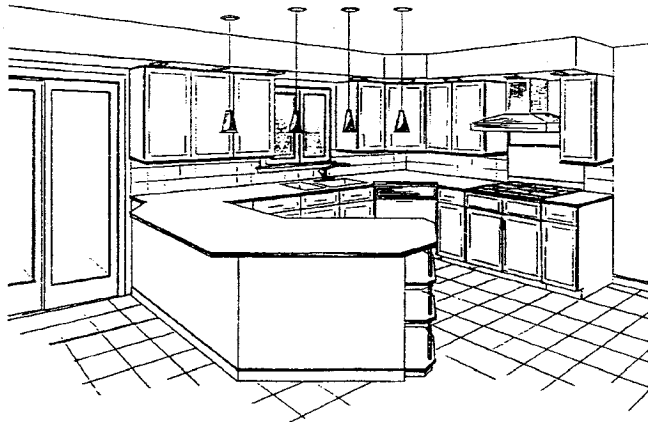
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McCall School Play Yard\Parking Lot

Over the summer a 10-foot-high hurricane fence was erected around a portion of the play yard at McCall School, located at Delancey Street between 6th and 7th Streets. At the time it was assumed that the fence was associated with the repaving project on Cypress Street, which resulted in the street and sidewalk in that area being torn up.

However, after completion of that project the fence remained, and it was learned that the school had submitted plans to use the fenced-in portion of the play yard permanently for teacher parking — an area of approximately 5400 square feet (60 feet by 90 feet).

Objections of parents and neighbors

Concerned parents and neighbors have objected to the school's plan. These objections primarily concern the removal of a substantial portion of the play yard, as well as the appearance of the fence itself.

There is also local concern that the project was approved and put into place without informing the parents who sit on the school governance council, those associated with the Home and School Association, the Society Hill Civic Association or the neighbors.

Children interviewed

Children interviewed at the site said that the new parking area was formerly a kick ball court and that the fence interfered with the basketball court.

According to Arthur Rubin, Cluster Leader for the School District of Philadelphia, there are numerous reasons for fencing in a parking area at the school.

Providing teachers with own parking

First, providing teachers with their own parking area "demonstrates the kind of respect for teachers that they deserve." Second, it is "a matter of contract between the School District and the Federation of Teachers." (The contract states that provisions shall be made as rapidly as possible for parking for employees near their schools.) Third, convenient parking allows teachers to "spend more time at school and use that time more productively."

Alternatives recommended

One local resident, Stephen Skale, has recommended a number of alternatives to fenced-in parking. These recommendations include:

1. Allowing teacher-only parking along the 6th Street and 7th Street curbs abutting the school premises during school hours where there is presently no parking allowed during school hours. (A change in the parking restrictions and new signage would be required).
2. Issuing temporary parking permits to teachers, exempting them from the 2-hour parking time limit during school hours. (A special parking permit authorized and approved by the parking authority would be required.)
3. Exploring arrangements with other established parking lots in the neighborhood to allow parking of a specific number of school vehicles during school hours.

Mr. Rubin stated that the parties are "looking for solutions that will meet the needs of the community and serve the staff."

A meeting will be held in the near future to discuss the alternatives. The children return to school on September 7.

NOTICE

To be included on our e-mail list for future activities, send e-mail addresses to joele@earthlink.net, or see the Society Hill Civic Association's web site: www.wnwr.com/shca.

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Princely Discounts Offered on Theatre Tickets for SHCA Members

The Prince Music Theatre, the newest theatre on the Avenue of the Arts, is offering 50% discounts on its nine-show season starting in September to all SHCA members. Call Betty Keiser at 215-972-1005 for shows, dates, order form and additional information.

Don't forget the Wilma Theatre is offering two-for-one coupons for their musical, *Tin Pan Alley Rag*. Just order from the box office or over the internet and present the coupon printed below when you pick up the tickets.

Society Hill Civic Association

Two-for-One Coupon

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Prices:

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday evening ... \$30

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Sunday matinee & evening ... \$30

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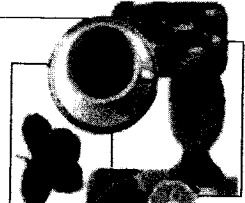
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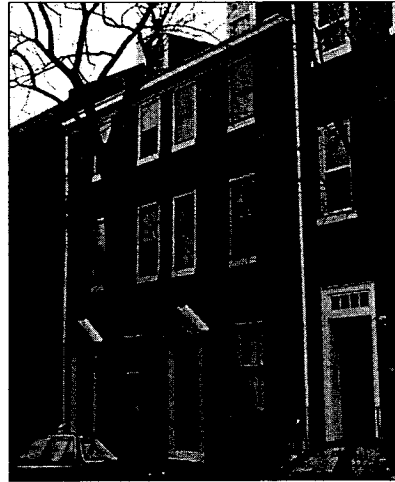
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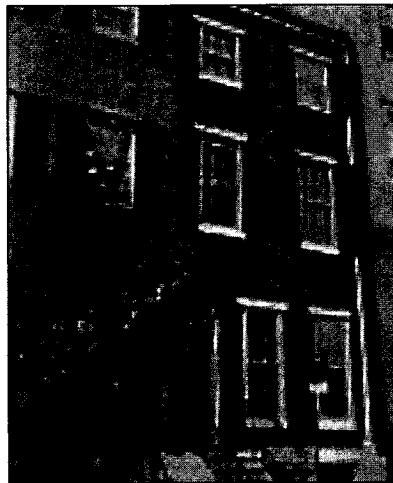
All Around Society Hill, Featuring...



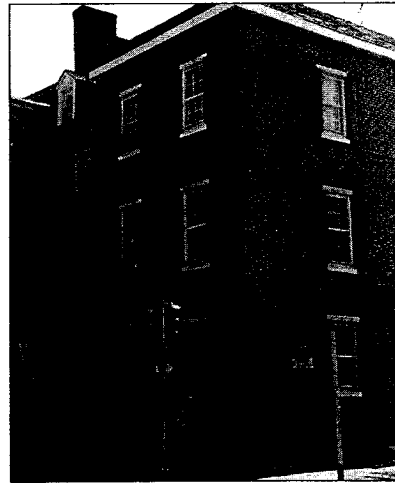
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Raising a Stink

Better Horse Carriage Regulations In Sight

We continue working with the city, through Councilman Frank DiCicco, to improve the outdated regulations that control Philadelphia's horse carriage trade. When City Council reconvenes in September, we will press for these long-awaited changes.

For more than three years, residents, together with SHCA, have requested new regulations which affect waste management, carriage routes, tourist safety issues, as well as major improvements to the horses' working conditions. The Pennsylvania SPCA and other humane organizations and equine experts from across the U.S. have also made their case to City Council. So far, to no avail.

Requested changes

- Develop a waste management plan to control urine and solid waste on streets, to be paid for by the carriage companies, who pay nothing now.
- No carriages to be operated during rush hours: before 9:30 a.m., and between 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Improved enforcement of carriage routes.
- For safety reasons, tourists must not be permitted to sit alongside driver. (No current regulation. Often very young children are given the reins — in busy traffic!)
- Horses must not be worked when temperature is above 89° F, or below a reasonable cold threshold - perhaps a wind chill factor of 15-20°. (Currently the nation's highest at 94° with no accounting for humidity. There is no low temperature regulation.)
- Horses must not be in harness for more than 9 hours in one day. (Currently 10 hours working plus travel to/from stables.)
- Stables must be inspected at least twice a year. (Currently annual inspections — two stables were cited earlier this year for non-compliance and have since improved their conditions).
- Blankets must be provided for horses at 25° and lower. (No current regulation.)

Please contact the following people and ask for the changes to be implemented as soon as possible:

Councilman Frank DiCicco, Room 332, City Hall, Phila. 19107. Tel. 215-686-3458/Fax 215-686-1931

Councilman Jim Kenney (L&I Committee Chair), Room 330, City Hall, Phila. 19107. Tel. 215-686-3450/Fax 215-686-2013

Council President Anna Verna, Room 490, City Hall, Phila. 19107. Tel. 215-686-3412/215-Fax 563-3162.

Armour Resigns — Stoloff On Board

Elizabeth Armour, active in historic preservation issues and until recently co-chair of SHCA's Historic Preservation Committee, has decided to retire from Board responsibilities due to her international work commitments.

Her seat on the Board, representing the Southeast Quadrant, has been filled by a civic-minded neighbor who hardly needs an introduction: Becky Stoloff, a Society Hill resident since 1973, was SHCA's president from 1989-91 and vice-president from 1987-89.

A Foundation for Architecture board director for many years, Becky held the position as its president from 1994-95. She is currently the president of the Reading Terminal Market Preservation Fund and also vice-president of the Head House Conservancy.

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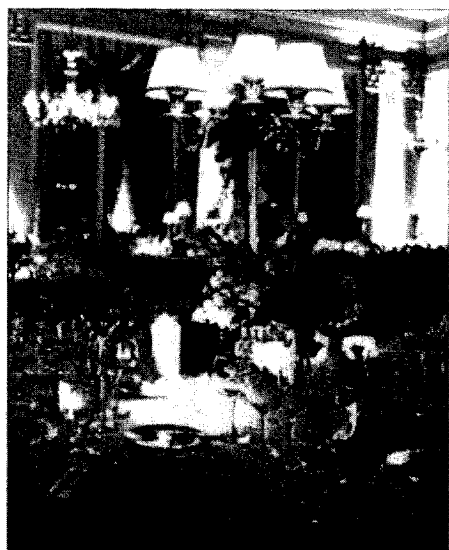


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Society Hill REPORTER

A publication paid for by association membership dues and advertisers.

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Bernice Hamel • Bill Hawkins • David Woods

To reach any of the officers or directors or send a letter or contribution to The Reporter, call the office at 215/629-1288, leave your name and number, and Day Murray, administrator, will have the director return your call.

You may also write to SHCA at P.O. Box 3, Philadelphia, PA 19105 or fax to 215/625-9914 or e-mail at SHCIVICA@aol.com.

Next deadline for the Reporter:
Wednesday, October 20, 1999

St. Peter's Honors Tragic Loss of Indian Chiefs

Sunday, October 24, 1:00 PM: a sign will memorialize the tragedy. A reception will follow.

In January of 1793, fifteen chieftains from the Ohio Territory came to Philadelphia, capital of the United States, to meet with President Washington and the Senate over land disputes with westward moving settlers.

Seven died of smallpox soon after their arrival, and an eighth perished in April. Their names and tribes are listed in St. Peter's Churchyard records, but the graves are unmarked.

On Sunday, October 24, at 1:00 PM, St. Peter's, in conjunction with the United American Indians of the Delaware Valley, will memorialize the tragedy with a sign at the Churchyard.

A reception will follow across the street at 313 Pine Street. Please join them and hear this fascinating story.

The new sign is sponsored by the Historic St. Peter's Church Preservation Corp. and is being funded by a grant from the Hamilton Family Foundation and other individuals.

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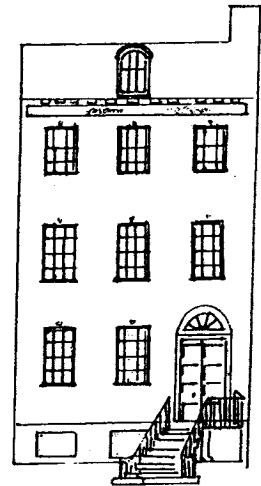
Refer to your Neighbors

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Society Hill Realty Company, Inc.

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It is with deep regret that we announce the sudden death of H. William Pitz, II, co-owner with his wife, Eloise Taylor, of Society Hill Realty Co. Inc.

Owner also of Housewright Partners, Inc., Mr. Pitz specialized in the design and construction of notable properties in the Metropolitan Philadelphia area and devoted twelve years to the Tredyffrin Township Planning Commission, the only builder to do so.

Contributions in his name may be made to the Village Learning Centers at 850 S. 2nd Street, Phila., PA 19147, which Mr. Pitz helped to found and support.

**SHCA
Action
Phone
Numbers**

*Clip and save
for reference*

- EMERGENCY (including fire) 911**
- Sixth District Police Station 215-686-3060
- South Street Police Mini Station 215-922-6706
- MUNICIPAL**
- Anti-Graffiti Network Hotline 215-685-9901
- Police Anti-Graffiti Hotline 215-685-1174
- City Hall 215-686-1776
- Mayor's Action Center
(Information and Complaints) 215-686-2250
- Fairmount Park Commission (Trees) 215-685-1835/1837
- Health Commissioner 215-686-5000
- Historical Commission 215-686-4590
- Illegal Dumping & Litter Enforcement . . . 215-686-5560
- Independence Hall National Historic Park 215-597-8787
- Parking Authority Enforcement
(9 am-5 pm) 215-683-9600
- (evenings & weekends) 215-683-9773
- Pennsylvania SPCA (animal control) 215-426-6300
- Recycling Office/Hotline 215-685-7329
- Resident Parking Permit
. 215-683-9730/9731/9732
- Rubbish Removal 215-685-1770/1771
- STREETS**
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- Alley Lights 215-686-5516/5517
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- Trash Collection/Bulk Trash Pick-up 215-686-5560
- Water & Sewer Service & Problems 215-685-6300
- POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES**
- Frank DiCicco (City Council District #1) . . 215-686-3458/3459
- W. Curtis Thomas (State Rep.) 215-232-1210
- Vincent J. Fumo (State Sen.) 215-486-3866
- Robert Borski (U.S. Rep.) 215-335-3355
- Robert Brady (U.S. Rep.) 215-236-5430
- Arlen Specter (U.S. Sen.) 215-597-7200
- Rick Santorum (U.S. Sen.) 215-864-6900
- COMMUNITY**
- Society Hill Civic Association/Town Watch 215-629-1288
- South Street Headhouse District 215-413-3713
- HOMELESS INTERVENTION**
- Michael Whaley at Hall Mercer (in the neighborhood)
215-829-3461
- Will O'Brien (outside the neighborhood) 215-232-7272
- Police Dept. Sgt. Taylor/9th District
(homeless issues) 215-686-3090

Darts & Laurels

Welcome Back, SuperFresh!

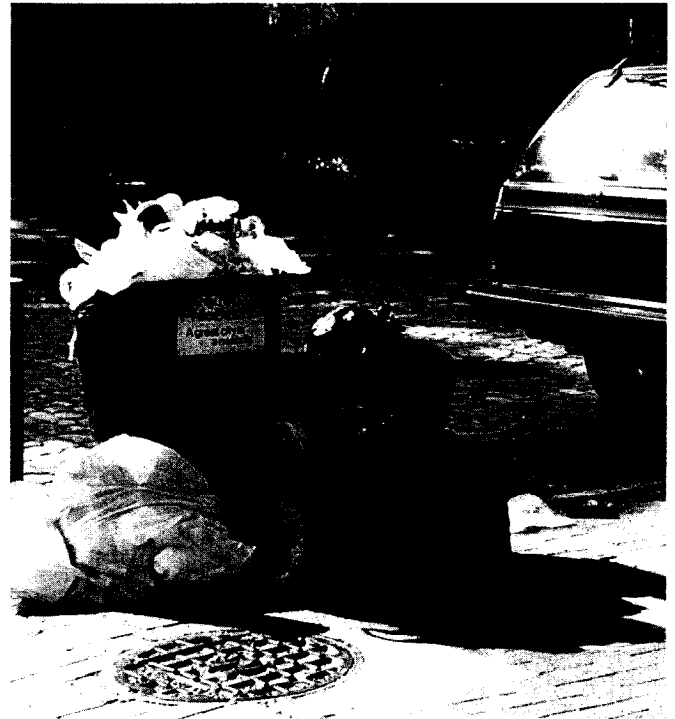


Neighbors celebrate the reopening of the SuperFresh at 5th & Spruce on August 1

Laurels to the food chain for taking the opportunity to improve the facility with wider aisles, better layout and lighting and reopening so quickly.

Laurels also to the many good Samaritans with cars who drove neighbors to markets during SuperFresh's closing. The only casualty of the fire appears to be Baker Street, which closed.

It's said lightning doesn't strike twice, but who thought to invite Benjamin Franklin?



Darts to neighbors who continue to put household trash in the corner receptacles.

These are for the convenience of pedestrians, who have litter like a gum wrapper, water bottle, bagged dog excrement or a newspaper. Litter baskets are neither big enough nor emptied often enough to serve as an auxiliary to Monday night trash pick up.

If you are going away, you may drop household trash off on the 600 block of Pattison Street between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday to Saturday. The fine is \$25.00 for dumping trash in the corner receptacles.

Report miscreants to Sanitation Enforcement at 215-592-5618.

Valuable Benefit for Society Hill Civic Association Members:



Dear Member:

There has never been a better time to be part of Society Hill Civic Association. SHCA has partnered with Nationwide® Insurance to offer a discounted auto insurance program designed exclusively for SHCA Members. This special program offers comprehensive coverage at **rates not available to the general public.**

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Members can call Deanna or Chris at the Gannon-Coyne Agency to find out more about the program.

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- 99 Pine ★ 801C South ★ 307 Pine ★ 237 Pine
- 116 Cuthbert ★ 715 Lombard ★ 326 Juniper
- ★ 403 S. 11th ★ 308 S. American ★ 412 S. 7th
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Historic Preservation, Zoning, Development

The petition to build out 100% on the lot at 535 Delancey Street has created controversy among the adjacent neighbors. The Zoning Board of Adjustment allowed the variance, but the Committee is considering joining neighbors in an appeal. However, all parties have agreed to attend a meeting where we hope to come to a compromise. This will be after the deadline for this article, so please check the Web site for further information as it develops.

One good suggestion to come out the dispute is to provide a simple flowchart of what agency or governing body to see for what alterations to a home or structure in this area. The process needs some work, and we are working to streamline it for you.

Thanks to Philadelphia Sports Club for removing the banner and installing the tastefully understated chrome sign on the side of the building.

We are now working with the building's owner to replace the illegal cyclone fencing with something more attractive.

— Chair: Richard Bost

Liquor Control

Two young men who grew up here, Perry Dunn and Bruce Rowan, have purchased the Artful Dodger at Pine and Second Streets. They promise to improve the food and stop the music on Friday and Saturday nights at 1:00 AM.

— Chair: Mel Buckman

911: Emergency Response System

SHCA supports improved communications for the City's Emergency Response System, aka the 911 system. Through the Police Radio Advisory Board (PRAB), which is made up of civilian representatives from Philadelphia neighborhoods and members of the Police Department, we are involved in the development of a city-wide education program for the 911 system geared to the general public, and in particular children.

Currently, PRAB is seeking funding for various materials that communicate the importance of the 911 system and how to properly use it.

Working with Dr. Andrew Verzilli's "Learn by DUing" Drexel students, various items have been developed for use with young children, including coloring books complete with lesson plans and laminated placemats. A video also is being finalized, thanks to the support of TV anchor Larry Kane and students from the College of the Performing Arts.

If you would like to help in any way to raise funds for this important outreach program, contact Bill Hawkins of the SHCA at (215) 592-8734.

You may also attend PRAB meetings, which are held on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Police headquarters at 7th-8th Streets and Race. There will be a special meeting on September 29 — come along and meet the news media and high-ranking police officials.

— Chair: Bill Hawkins

Membership Committee Report

Membership in the Civic Association stands at an all-time high — 743, nearly double the total from three years ago.

Membership dues will not be increased for the year 2000 — \$40 for household, \$100 for businesses. Renewal notices will be mailed at the end of October. Anyone who joins after September 1 of this year will be credited for a full year 2000.

Special efforts will be made to attract more high-rise residents whose membership totals remain half the average of townhouse residents.

— Chair: Matt DeJulio

Welcome Baskets

Not even 98° heat slowed down the pace of Welcome Basket delivery this summer. Since July 1998, the Welcome Committee has delivered 72 big baskets filled with delicious foods to new Society Hill homeowners. As a result, 85% of the recipients were happy to join our membership, to support us, and to feel part of the neighborhood.



Generous donations of foods and services from local retailers make these baskets possible.

Special thanks to Zeke's Deli, Super Fresh, Chef's Market, Old City Coffee, Roz: Homemade Goodies, Starbucks, Riff's Cleaners, Old Dickens Curiosity Shop, and newcomer, Metropolitan Bakery. Other new donors include The Wilma Theater, Arden Theater, and Society Hill Playhouse, who give complimentary theater tickets.

Are you a new neighbor or do you know one?

Call Chair: Martha Levine at 215-629-0727.

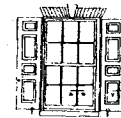
Clean Up Day

Before the leaves start to fall, it is time to organize for the fall Clean Up Day on Saturday, November 20.

Banners have to be washed and installed, flyers printed and distributed, and parking signs posted. During the event, we need volunteers to coordinate "no parking" signs posted, the luncheon, ride in the patrol car, hand out brooms and bags, monitor the dumpster site and lots of other stuff — fun and otherwise.

But it is a great way to get to know each other and make this a better place to live in a very visible way.

To volunteer, call Chair: Mark Valentine at 215-923-9943



Historic Window Panes

Society Hill may be this country's largest outdoor museum. Help educate visitors about our history and architecture by displaying a window pane showing the date your home was built, by whom or for whom, and in what style.

For FREE, SHCA offers a window pane at no charge to all members and new residents. There is a \$15 charge to non-members. Matt DeJulio will look up the vintage of your house in our historic register and provide you with a pane within 15 days.

Contact Chair: Matt DeJulio at 215-574-0372.

Neighborhood Pride

Need a good carpenter, painter, or general contractor, but confused about where to look?

For over a year, Neighborhood Pride has provided an excellent resource for Society Hill homeowners through its Preferred List of Contractors. The nine-page list has the names and phone numbers of some of the finest contractors available, listed under such categories as contractors, carpentry, painting, electrical, brick-masonry work, marble installation and restoration, plumbing, heating/air conditioning, millwork, floor refinishing, and more.

All contractors listed have been recommended by Society Hill homeowners. (Note: Because of the real estate boom, contractors are overwhelmed with work and may take longer to return your call.)

For a list, call Chair: Martha Levine at 215-629-0727.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editors:

I agree with the Board's decision to mail copies of *The Reporter* to members. But, for this to be perceived as a benefit rather than a redundancy, I think the free distribution should be delayed by about three days. And perhaps the high-rises should go back to a pile in the lobby so that residents have to be a member to be sure of getting a copy.

— Dave Stevens

Editor: A majority of the Board voted in July to mail to all members to make sure they receive the newsletter. As part of our mission, we want to keep the entire community (SHCA members and non-members) abreast of what is going on in the neighborhood.

The logistics just do not work out to delay the door-to-door distribution until after a mailing because of its timing with our five General Membership Meetings.

Besides, we now e-mail all the files to the Web-site editor, Joel Eichen, for immediate posting, so Internet users will always have an advantage. Bill Hawkins and Joel are working hard to make that a better Web site because it is the best way we can achieve timely dissemination of information.

We are also very pleased that **Elaine Slotkin** at Independence Place and **Beverly Sherman** at Society Hill Towers distribute it door-to-door to their residents. We hope the new manager at the Hopkinson House will join the effort. SHCA is trying different ways to reach out to the high-rises.



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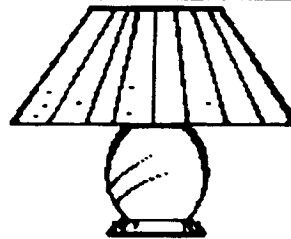


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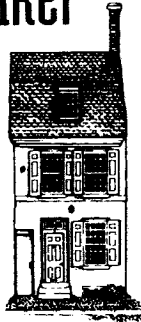


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Lest We Forget

An occasional series for those too new to remember and those starting to forget

The more things change, the more they stay the same ... or do they?

Libby Browne dropped off minutes from a January 12, 1950 meeting of the Independence Neighborhood Association — we were still more than a decade away from being named Society Hill. M.C. Gloster reported that they decided to have membership dues of \$1.00 a year “to cover a few incidental expenses that have been and would be incurred in getting the organization started.” They collected \$33.00 that night.

Chairman Dr. Allen Evans stated “that all present should receive membership cards and if anyone was not prepared to pay this time it would be perfectly satisfactory to contribute at the next meeting if they were in a financial position to do so.”

At the July 1999 meeting of the Board of Directors for the Society Hill Civic Association, treasurer Perry Whyte reported year to date income of \$9,168.47 and disbursements of \$7,505.71 with cash balances of \$16,259.13. Quite a change!

The 1950 meeting focused on getting a Boy Scout troop started at St. Peter's. No one brought up the idea of a Girl Scout troop — besides, no girls attended St. Peter's. Next was a discussion about a Golden Age Group. Today, those Boy Scouts of yore would be eligible for the Golden Age Group, if we had one.

Next, the meeting moved to a discussion about the Head House market at Second & Pine. “The Chairman believes it would make a fine museum for relics of this neighborhood. He believes that the Philadelphia Historical Society will be interested in helping and that numerous visitors from all over would be attracted there if it was returned to its colonial condition. Dr. Evans also stated that he had many wild plans for the Second Street Market.... The market contained butcher stalls showing names of early tradesmen and butchers which he felt should be retained. In the south end he suggested placing four bowling alleys and the income from which could go quite a ways towards the upkeep of the building. We will have a ninety-nine year lease on the place and they won't be able to pull the market down even if the Lombard Street Boulevard is approved....”

Arnold Blumberg noted “We intend to make this area one of the most visited historical spots in the United States. The new association would act to improve the physical aspect of our area. As the market is being leased from the City for \$1.00 a year, he advised that volunteer help would be needed from among the younger members to assist in clearing up the place as the older men cannot do the physical work that will be necessary ... Want the whole neighborhood behind us, not just a group of five officers....”

“In response to many inquiries, Dr. Evans explained the phrase *In Monte Socialae Sitas* shown on various notices meant *Situated on Society Hill* and that he found it on the tombstone of one of the Society of Free Traders to whom William Penn donated 5,000 acres of ground between the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers. Dr. Evans felt the phrase was very appropriate for our association [because] he felt [we] were a good society of free traders since we had made [such] a good deal on the market.”

Thirty years later, neighbors like Penny Batcheler, Rody Davies, the late Jerry Dye, Bernice Hamel, David Stevens, Becky Stoloff, and numerous others rallied to establish the Head House Conservancy to save the derelict Shambles once again. No bowling alley, but lots of arts & crafts and street festivals happen there today. Currently, the South Street Headhouse District is the rent-paying tenant and steward of this city-owned property.

— Thanks to Libby Browne and Charlie Peterson
for this piece of nostalgia.



S. American Street, watercolor, 1998

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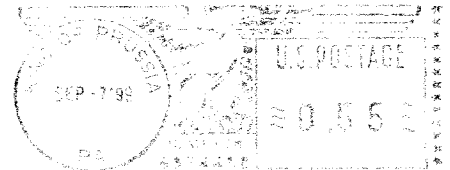
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