



SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

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 Riverfront Communities United
 

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## Columbus Boulevard CasiNO? NO WAY!

During the summer months when many people are on vacation and out of town, the Society Hill Civic Association does not hold a General Membership Meeting — but that does not mean its board directors and other active volunteers are sitting idly by. Indeed not. Many are busily engaged with a variety of challenges that face our community — not the least of which is the impending threat of having a casino practically in our own “front yard.”

Ever since the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) held public hearings in April, Philadelphia has been faced with the possibility of having two casinos. Five casino operators are competing for the current two designated licenses in order to open gaming parlors in our City of Brotherly Love. A major problem with this relatively sudden proposal to dump gaming parlors in the city is the way that the PGCB will function, as it retains sole discretion to issue, renew, condition or deny the issuance of slot machine licenses — meaning that the City of Philadelphia holds no power to regulate the placement or conditions surrounding casinos in the city.

City Council does not have an official role in this process, even though it recently passed legislation that creates City Commercial Entertainment Districts, to encourage the orderly development of major entertainment facilities — including casinos — by requiring Council’s approval for development plans. Although this legislation was passed by City Council and signed by the Mayor, the bad news is that it is preempted by the state’s power to regulate gambling.

Worse news is that the five sites in contention include one that is located in South Philadelphia, but for all intents and purposes it is practically in our own front yard. This vacant site, proposed by

Foxwoods and located on Columbus Boulevard at Reed Street, is opposite the movie theater complex and near the Home Depot and Super Fresh shopping center. It is named, simply, “Foxwoods.” In addition to this nearby potential casino site, the four others in consideration include: the former incinerator site at Delaware Avenue and Spring Garden Street, called “Planet Hollywood Riverwalk Casino”; one in Nicetown, located on the former Budd factory site, called “TrumpStreet”; two sites in Fishtown — one called “Sugar House Casino” and the other called “Pinnacle.” Of these five properties, only Nicetown’s TrumpStreet site is not located on the river. The PGCB is expected to decide by 2007 which of these five competing companies will receive the two “currently available” licenses for casinos that could possibly open as early as 2008.

Whether or not you are opposed to the very notion of permitting gambling in our city, or if you are specifically opposed to the site that is close to where we live and work, you’ll be

glad to know that Councilman Frank DiCicco agrees with us, his constituents, that the proposed site at Columbus Boulevard is unacceptable. In written testimony he said: “I could not imagine how a casino would work at this location because of traffic congestion. Couple this congestion with the impact on the surrounding neighborhoods, I do not believe that this site is acceptable as a gaming location.” Councilman DiCicco has also gone on record to oppose the gaming site at Delaware Avenue and Spring Garden Street. In addition, Councilman-at-Large James F. Kenney has clearly stated his opposition to Foxwoods’ proposed gambling site on Columbus Boulevard, as he finds it unacceptable to all of the communities it borders, (that includes us!), as well as to the entire city.

*continued on page 7*



### Regarding Foxwoods

**“I do not believe that this site is acceptable as a gaming location.”**

**Councilman  
Frank DiCicco**

# CASINO!

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**Website**

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**Submissions**

We want to hear from you. Our goal is to print news of interest to Society Hill residents, professionals and businesses — especially happenings in and around our community. Direct editorial submissions and/or queries to Bernice Hamel via fax at 215-925-0877 or email: bernicehamel@comcast.net. To publicize an event, submit all press releases directly to Andrea Layden. (See contact information above.)

Materials must be submitted in writing — sent via mail, email, or fax — and must include the name of a contact person. Edited submissions will be considered for publication if the subject matter is community-related and if space allows. Otherwise, upcoming events of interest may be listed in the Community Calendar. Letters to the Editors will be considered for publication — but only if signed and the writer provides contact information.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

There will be no General Membership Meeting during the summer, but all SHCA members are invited to attend our Board meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, July 19 at 6 p.m. Location to be announced.

All Society Hill residents are welcome to attend SHCA's General Membership Meetings — so please try to save Wednesday, September 20 to attend our next large gathering that will bring you up-to-date on all recent activities. Look for the next issue of this newsletter indicating place and time — available shortly after Labor Day.



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**P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E**

TANIA RORKE, SHCA PRESIDENT

On June 1, SHCA's slate of Board Directors began their official 2006-2007 term. I would like to welcome our only newly elected director Marilyn Appel, who for several years has been a member of this newsletter's editorial team. Marilyn was elected to the position of secretary, replacing Lana Nadel who will be moving out of Society Hill. Speaking for our entire Board, I thank Lana for all of her time and efforts on behalf of our organization.

Over the summer months, our current Board will have a very busy period — whether facing historic preservation challenges or the threat of a gambling casino close to our neighborhood. Although there is much work ahead of us, here are two community accomplishments I am quite proud to tell you about:

Although Washington Square Park is under the official management of Independence National Historical Park, the Society Hill Civic Association organized and funded a major beautification project at the Square on June 7. (See page 11.) Kudos to Sissie Lipton who chairs SHCA's Washington Square Committee. Without her perseverance and dedication, the Square would not look half so beautiful. Hooray for flower power!

Special thanks to our victorious Franklin Lights Committee, chaired by Martha Levine. I believe we surprised many people at our May General Membership Meeting when we announced that the needed amount of \$600,000 to improve our street lights had been raised through several sources — especially the generosity of private donations coming from our own community. Other significant sources include a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development; additional state funding, thanks to Senator Vincent Fumo; and city funding thanks to Councilman Frank DiCicco. We thank all who made donations to this worthy project. Beginning in September and on a block-by-block basis, every old Franklin fixture in Society Hill will be replaced with brighter lights. Completion is expected before the end of the year. (See page 15.)

One of our community's most recent and most pressing challenges has to do with the possibility of a gambling casino that could be built very close to us on Columbus Boulevard. The topic has already been adequately covered in this issue's lead article beginning on page 1. I'm grateful to Ray Swerdlow who has agreed to chair SHCA's Gaming Committee. Also, I commend Paul Boni, Esq. who recently retired from chairing SHCA's Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee and who now is assisting Ray and our Gaming Committee with his professional expertise.

At our Board of Directors meeting in May, a new SHCA committee, temporarily called "The Village," was officially formed. For the next several months, this committee, coordinated by Jo Ann Buller, will begin to examine the idea of initiating a program designed for Society Hill's senior citizens who wish to stay in their own homes rather than move to retirement communities. One such innovative and thriving program exists in Boston's Beacon Hill, known as "Beacon Hill Village." A similar Village-like concept in our own neighborhood would be a wonderful addition, since a segment of our population could possibly benefit from the range of services it might offer. SHCA's new "Village" committee will keep us informed as they gather information. Please see page 33 and look for an update in the September issue of the *Reporter*.

Over the summer months we will continue to work with and meet with developers and neighbors regarding both the Dilworth House and the NewMarket site. In addition, we are working to improve our current website — to make it more up-to-date, informative and user-friendly. We will also look seriously at developing a comprehensive strategic plan for our community.

For those of you planning trips this summer, I wish you all wonderful vacations and safe travels. Our next General Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 20th, at a location to be determined. We will conduct one board meeting this summer, on Wednesday, July 19. All board directors and SHCA members who happen to be in town on that day are certainly most welcome (urged!) to participate. I look forward to seeing you at these meetings.



**Tania Rorke**  
SHCA President

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## Shaping The Future Of Society Hill

If you were unable to attend SHCA's General Membership Meeting on May 17th, you missed Paul Levy's engaging video presentation and enlightening discussion about Center City's residential revival.

The video, entitled "Center City's Residential Revival: 50 Years in the Making" tells the story of Society Hill's rebirth that began in 1956. Viewers are treated to "before and after" pictures that, for example, contrast houses on the 200 block of Pine Street during the '50s to the block's appearance today. Also featured in the video are community pioneers who describe their experiences when they purchased dilapidated, but historic homes many years ago. One such pioneering couple, Stanhope and Libby Browne, recount how they renovated and moved into their house, which is where their children were born and raised, on a block dotted with open lots and a defunct manufacturing structure. A copy of this video can be downloaded from the website [www.centercityphila.org](http://www.centercityphila.org) under the section entitled "Forums on the Future of Center City."

Paul reminded us at this well-attended May meeting that we have much to celebrate in "our town" these days, including recent quality-of-life improvements — such as the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, a world-class Convention Center, and the enhanced historic district. Center City has also seen a dramatic growth in restaurants and sidewalk cafes which support its strong residential revival.

However, we were also reminded about how much farther we have to go for additional quality-of-life improvements. Cities like New York and Camden, across the river, have done a much better job at providing public access and amenities along the waterfront. In our more immediate neighborhood, Paul highlighted the under-used potential of Head House Square (a National Historical Landmark) on South 2nd Street between Lombard and South. Instead of angle parking for 40 cars, he suggested that the area be transformed into an open, sidewalk-café venue, expanding on the amenity already offered by Cosi's outdoor café. He suggested that with some small changes in on-street parking regulations, at least 30 of the "lost" parking spaces could be regained on adjacent blocks.



Paul also referred to the summer Crafts Fair at Head House. While it may be attractive for tourists, it offers little appeal to neighborhood residents. He has already suggested to the South Street Head House District, which manages the space, that it could be put to much better interactive and attractive use — such as an expanded outdoor farmer's market, which would benefit both visitors and residents alike.

If you want to see and know more about Paul Levy's excellent PowerPoint presentation entitled "Shaping the Future of Society Hill," you can do so by downloading and visiting the following website: [www.centercityphila.org/docs/061706Levy\\_societyhill.pdf](http://www.centercityphila.org/docs/061706Levy_societyhill.pdf).

*Note:* Be sure to include the underscore after "Levy" and before "societyhill" when accessing this site, which features over 90 "before and after" photos of Society Hill's rebirth. Also, be patient and give yourself a bit of time to enjoy seeing the community's countless changes and our current hopes for further revitalization. And, to learn more about the Center City District and the Central Philadelphia Development Corporation, visit [www.centercityphila.org/home/default.aspx](http://www.centercityphila.org/home/default.aspx).



Center City's current revival is being led by Society Hill neighbor **Paul Levy**, who is President and CEO of the Center City District (CCD) as well as Executive Director of the Central Philadelphia Development Corporation (CPDC). The CCD provides a range of services and improvements to Philadelphia's central business district, including security, sanitation, marketing and hospitality. CPDC's long-term initiatives have resulted in recruiting and encouraging businesses to stay in Center City. Working together, CCD and CPDC promote Philadelphia as a wonderful place to live, work and play.

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Would you like to see a Sidewalk Café near the fountain at Head House?

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## CasINO! *continued from page 1*

Last March representatives from the Society Hill Civic Association, together with nearby neighborhoods and their respective civic groups, organized a coalition to oppose the Foxwoods' intended gaming location. Called "Riverfront Communities United" (RCU), this new coalition of seven residential neighborhoods includes Society Hill, Queen Village, Bella Vista United, Hawthorne, Pennsport, Whitman, and Passyunk Square — as well as the South Street Headhouse District, a business alliance headquartered at Head House Square on South Second Street. The RCU assembled for one purpose: to fight gambling in our part of the city and specifically, to oppose the Columbus Boulevard casino application by Foxwoods. While RCU acknowledges that both the state and city are in need of increased revenues that gambling may bring, it asks where gambling sites could be placed so that they would do the least harm and be more acceptable to their surrounding communities.

Needless to say, several protest rallies, both large and small, have already been staged. Rene Goodwin, serving as the chairperson for RCU, argues that the worst possible of the five proposed sites is Foxwoods — because it would bring the most harm to the city for the lowest return. At the top of the list of "troubles" that gambling would bring to our immediate neighborhoods is more traffic. Columbus Boulevard is already a driver's nightmare, considering the shopping complex that has recently popped up along that stretch of road. Foxwoods can never convince us that dumping 6 million visitors a year into our neighborhoods will result in anything but gridlock and a safety hazard to pedestrians — whether residents or tourists.

On June 1st Rene Goodwin spoke at a rally opposing the Foxwoods site, saying that our coalition will "fight against it for as long and as hard as it takes." She argued that "...there are only 480 feet from the proposed casino property to our densely populated, historic, highly developed neighborhoods. This is much too close to where we live, work, shop and raise our families.... Our communities are not in need of economic development. We are fully developed now."

We ask: Why would the State of Pennsylvania risk destroying our vibrant, economically viable, culturally diverse communities for such short-term gain?"

Along with neighboring communities, Society Hillers will help lead the fight against the



**This vacant site is proposed for casino construction by Foxwoods. It is located on Columbus Boulevard at Reed Street, opposite the movie theater complex and near Home Depot and Super Fresh.**

introduction of a gaming parlor on Columbus Boulevard so close to our homes. According to SHCA Board Member Ray Swerdlow, who chairs our association's new Gaming Committee, a short list of fears expressed by residents includes: traffic gridlock; pollution and environmental degradation; more crime and filth, as well as plummeting property values. The state's "eminent domain" could result in a worst-case-scenario whereby many houses would be demolished in order to build new I-95 off-ramps to serve thousands of "visitors" to our community "hosted" by Foxwoods. Ray reports that our SHCA committee has been amply assisted by Board Member Paul Boni. With Paul's guidance, RCU has retained its own traffic consultant who has reviewed Foxwoods' traffic studies and has produced a report with the following conclusions:

- the Foxwoods' studies present at least eight (8) significant "issues of concern" that warrant further data gathering and analysis;
- based on the information provided by Foxwoods, it would be imprudent for the PGCB to rely on a new I-95 southbound off-ramp as providing any relief or mitigation of traffic congestion associated with the proposed casino; and,
- in general, the studies put forth by Foxwoods contain so many "issues of concern" that warrant so much follow-up investigation, that the studies in their current form do not allow the PGCB to make meaningful and informed decisions as to the traffic issues related to a Foxwoods casino existing at this location.

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**To learn more about our coalition, Riverfront Communities United, please visit [www.RiverfrontUnited.org](http://www.RiverfrontUnited.org). And, if you would like to add your voice and become proactive in our collective fight against Foxwoods' proposal, please consider joining SHCA's Gaming Committee. You can email Ray Swerdlow at [ray@thesixpackstore.com](mailto:ray@thesixpackstore.com). Or contact SHCA's Administrator Matt DeJulio at [MattDeJulio@aol.com](mailto:MattDeJulio@aol.com); 215-629-1288. We'll need all the help we can get.**

**ZONING & HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

BY STEVEN WEIXLER, ZHP COMMITTEE CHAIR

This is my first report to you as Chairman of the Zoning and Historic Preservation (ZHP) Committee. Paul Boni has stepped down after almost five years of service and I am honored to assume his post. Paul's dedication to the preservation of our quality of life has produced notable and permanent benefits to Society Hill. He will continue as a valued member and will serve as attorney when needed. I have been a member of this committee for nearly an equal amount of time. Paul and I have worked closely together for several months to make this transition a smooth one. Paul has our heartfelt thanks for his time and savvy. I look forward to continuing to work with him and the committee on behalf of our unique neighborhood.



**We believe that the developer's plan for a tall building is not appropriate for the NewMarket site.**

As you look around Society Hill, you can see the results of many years of careful advocacy and hard work. During the rejuvenation of the neighborhood, planners saved most of the older buildings suitable for rehabilitation, and the zoning map was developed to encourage new development in a cohesive pattern. We luckily escaped the "Urban Renewal" period without having large tracts of land cleared. We have inherited instead land-use laws that require each property to maintain a certain minimum percentage of open space and which allows for public "greenways" and parks we can all enjoy. In recent years, Society Hill has been designated a Historic District which protects the façades of all buildings within the community's boundaries, whether old or new, from alteration without oversight. The Philadelphia Historical Commission has this oversight responsibility and operates within federal guidelines to allow for reasonable alteration without sacrificing the essential character of any building.

From the founding of our civic association more than 40 years ago, dedicated advocates have been working to maintain and advance Society Hill's quality of life. Today, we have the cooperation and mutual respect of our elected representatives and government agencies because we have been consistently fair and reasonable. Our current leadership is carrying that mission forward and I am glad to be a small part of it. Our committee, which represents the greater community, is focused on the following longtime unresolved challenges.

### **York Row**

SHCA has toiled for several years advocating for appropriate preservation of the façades of York Row, one of the last vestiges of the many fine houses that once existed at 8th and Walnut Streets.

You may recall that during construction of the St. James Tower (at the corner of 8th and Walnut), all of the marble cornices along the upper edge of the York Row façades — along with original ironwork and marble steps below — were accidentally destroyed. An important Philadelphia house of the period is an architectural composition of raised base, main façade and cornice. In the case of York Row, the red brick façade and large symmetrical windows are visually bracketed by white marble. SHCA advocated before the Philadelphia Historical Commission that the cornices should be replaced in marble, as the federal standards recommend. Nevertheless, the substitution of fiberglass, painted in the color of window trim, was permitted. Our appeal of this decision has been pursued in the Court of Common Pleas, which unfortunately upheld the Commission. On June 5th, our attorney Michael LiPuma ([www.lipumalaw.com](http://www.lipumalaw.com)) ably presented our appeal in oral argument before the Commonwealth Court. We are awaiting the judges' decision. Congratulations to Mike for his excellent work.

### **The Former NewMarket Site**

SHCA is engaged in an ongoing dialogue with a development company that, at present, proposes to construct a hi-rise luxury condominium on this vacant parcel of land — the largest empty lot in Society Hill, located between Front and 2nd, Pine to Lombard Streets. On May 15th, our ZHP Committee hosted a well-attended public meeting to allow the developer and his team to present their plans to the community for comment and question.

We continue to advocate for the construction of a project that will enhance our community's quality of life and which is respectful of neighbors. In the recent pattern of Society Hill's development, larger buildings are concentrated in the northern sector along Walnut Street that adjoins commercial areas and public spaces associated with Independence National Historical Park. In the southern section of Society Hill, the scale of buildings is reduced, as the neighborhood blends into Queen Village. We believe that the developer's plan for a tall, narrow building is inappropriate for this site, and we will keep you informed. For additional and ongoing information, please visit [www.SaveNewMarketNow.org](http://www.SaveNewMarketNow.org).

At the public meeting in May, the developer agreed to put his plans on the Internet, and he has done so at [www.NewMarketCondominium.com](http://www.NewMarketCondominium.com). We do not agree with certain things on that site and, of course, we do not vouch for its accuracy.

Z O N I N G & H I S T O R I C P R E S E R V A T I O N

**The Dilworth House (223-225 S. 6th St)**

The developer, John Turchi, is proposing a fourth revision to his plans to build a condominium on the site of the Dilworth House. The new design would save the entirety of the rectangular front structure of the Dilworth House and would build a 16-story luxury condo behind it. The retained portion of the Dilworth House would be featured against a glass curtain-wall that would be backlit in the evenings. To build the condo, the developer would demolish the rear "L" of the Dilworth House. (In 2003, the Historical Commission approved the demolition of this rear "L," albeit for a plan that would have added only a newer, larger wing to the Dilworth House, which still would have remained as a single-family home.) The first three floors of the condo building would be entrance lobby, car parking, storage space for condo residents, and storage for The Athenaeum, which is adjacent to the developer's property.

The developer suggests that this plan is a good compromise in that it allows for new development of a prestigious Venturi-designed condo, while it

preserves and features the front part of the Dilworth House as an asset to the neighborhood. Clearly the developer is trying to maximize the development potential for this property. Each floor of the condo would have one unit of approximately 4,000 square feet; the top two floors would be one unit, for a total of 12 units in the new building. The developer asserts that this 16-story condo can be constructed without a zoning variance because of a private agreement with The Athenaeum. (In previous iterations the height of the building was 15 stories.) The new design requires review and approval by the Philadelphia Historical Commission, which may occur at the end of July.

The Society Hill Civic Association is meeting with neighbors throughout the community to explore this new design concept and determine our position. We are scrutinizing the plan and assessing it in the context of historic preservation issues, zoning issues, and its potential impact on the immediate area. For more details and to stay abreast of this matter, please visit [www.SaveDilworthNow.org](http://www.SaveDilworthNow.org).



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One of the "giants" in the green industry, Paul has so many great accomplishments it is hard to know where to begin and to keep this a message and not a book. We say, "Thank you Paul." Thank you for helping to preserve tens of thousands of trees, shrubs and ground covers. Thank you for maintaining thousands of beautiful properties, which make up this beautiful city. Most of all, thank you for teaching our arborists and all of our great employees how to maintain and preserve the health and well being of trees and shrubs in an urban environment.

Reducing his workload this year, Paul's role with the company will be to continue teaching and advising on property management practices. McFarland Tree & Landscape Services is proud to continue Paul's philosophy and beliefs in the many years to come.

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# The Beautification Of Washington Square

An ambitious group of volunteers showed up on Wednesday afternoon, June 7 to assist with planting, mulching and weeding in Washington Square. The intermittent rain didn't dampen the spirit of about 50 individuals, which included a class of second grade children from St. Peter's School and seventh graders from McCall School. The children had a great experience and were taught about flowers, shrubs, annuals, planting and how to determine what constitutes a weed. The little ones had a great time finding worms while planting impatiens. Heidi Shober and her crew from Enchanted Garden Design prepared the soil, edged and mulched while the volunteers helped plant the artistically placed flowers and shrubs. The perennials will bloom and spread next year, and the Square will be even more beautiful as time goes on.

Beverly Morris from Independence National Historic Park (INHP) welcomed volunteers and served refreshments, while the park's maintenance crew worked hand-in-hand to help and provided the needed equipment. Eventually we hope to improve the Square's fountain and plans are beginning to make this dream a reality.

Initiated by our civic association and in cooperation with INHP, the funds for this beautification project come directly from SHCA's budget. This means that your annual membership dues help contribute to the beauty of our Square.

Please know that we always welcome additional volunteers — so if you are willing to give some of your time or want to know what becoming a "Square Volunteer" entails, please contact SHCA's Administrator Matt DeJulio. He'll put you on our list of potential "doers," and while you're at it, please consider making a financial



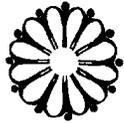
donation to this project for maintenance and new plantings.

Finally, we thank INHP's Superintendent Dennis Reidenbach and his staff for working with us. We also thank faculty and students from both the McCall School and St. Peter's School who volunteered their time and "green thumbs" to assist in helping Washington Square become an even greater asset in our community.

**Please** remember to keep dogs and children out of the flowerbeds.

**Volunteers included a class of second grade children from St. Peter's School (left) and seventh graders from McCall School (right).**





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## What's Happening at the Korean War Memorial

After many years of dreaming and further years of delay, the Korean War Memorial at Penn's Landing finally became a reality in July 2002. However, a few months ago neighbors noticed that a fence had been erected around the Memorial and there appeared to be construction activity. We made several inquiries, and just as this issue was about to go to press, we spoke to Mr. William Kelly, Esq., the president of the Korean War Memorial. Here's what we learned:

Several years ago when the Memorial's architect, The Vitetta Group, first designed the monument, they had expected to install sturdy granite all around the walkway area rather than concrete, which can easily break down over time. Since the project had to be completed within budget, they used concrete — both for the walkways and the individual plaques given by families to commemorate their loved ones.

Recently, the Memorial's Board applied for a grant from the United States Department of Defense so that the walkways could be replaced with granite, the same substance with which the vertical monuments are constructed. The Memorial's original general contractor, J. J. White, is now back on the job for this "improvement" project, enabled by the grant. Workmen are busy replacing the entire concrete walkway

with more durable granite, and the surrounding area of the site will be expanded. The concrete on individual plaques will also be replaced with granite — at no cost to the families. Work will continue throughout the summer, with completion of the project expected in September. The re-dedication ceremony of this "new, improved" Korean Memorial will occur sometime in October.

To attend, or if you want additional information, contact Mr. William Kelly at: 215-463-5800.



photo by Ben-Zion Friedman

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### Reminder:

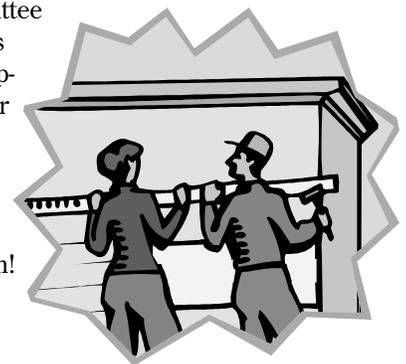
## If You're Planning To Alter Your Home's Façade

Long-time Society Hill resident Penny Batcheler, a retired historical architect at Independence National Park, sent us a note to follow-up on the *Reporter's* May/June issue, regarding recommendations to anyone planning to renovate the exterior of their home (other than painting). In the issue we suggested that residents should first contact the Chairman of SHCA's ZHP Committee and to that advice Penny says, "Right on!"

However, she also asks us to remind homeowners that the next step to obtaining a city Building Permit is to have your plans approved and stamped by the Philadelphia Historical Commission. Penny advises that homeowners seek out both organizations early in their planning **prior to** making designs that might

be unacceptable to the Commission — because Society Hill is, after all, a historic district. Both SHCA's experienced ZHP Committee members and the staff of Philadelphia's Historical Commission can be very helpful. Rather than informing you that your plans must be modified (often increasing the cost of your project), both ZHP members and Commission staff can advise you so that your initial design plans will be approved upon submission!

Call 215-686-7660 to schedule an appointment with the Historical Commission, located in Room 576 of City Hall. And to reach ZHP's brand-new Chairman Steve Weixler, contact him at either [stevenweixler@verizon.net](mailto:stevenweixler@verizon.net) or 215-592-9570.





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FRANKLIN LIGHTS CAMPAIGN

# A "Brilliant" Success

BY MARTHA LEVINE  
CHAIR, FRANKLIN LIGHTS COMMITTEE

The Adopt-A-Franklin-Light celebration, held at the beautiful Downtown Club on April 27, was a huge success, attracting a large crowd of generous contributors to our Franklin Lights improvement project. The festivities began with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and continued with a full buffet dinner. Special guests included Councilman Frank DiCicco, who truly energized the campaign by helping to obtain a \$250,000 appropriation from the City of Philadelphia. He spoke with great enthusiasm and wished us luck in this very important neighborhood improvement project.

Our second speaker, Senator Vincent Fumo, who assisted in obtaining a \$110,000 state grant for the project, congratulated us on a successful campaign, and spontaneously announced he would grant us another \$25,000 — which pushed us to our \$600,000 goal! This announcement was met with wild applause from the delighted guests. Philadelphia's Chief Lighting Engineer Joseph Doyle, who has been working closely with our committee for the last six years, congratulated us on a well-run campaign. He will oversee the installation of all the new lights.

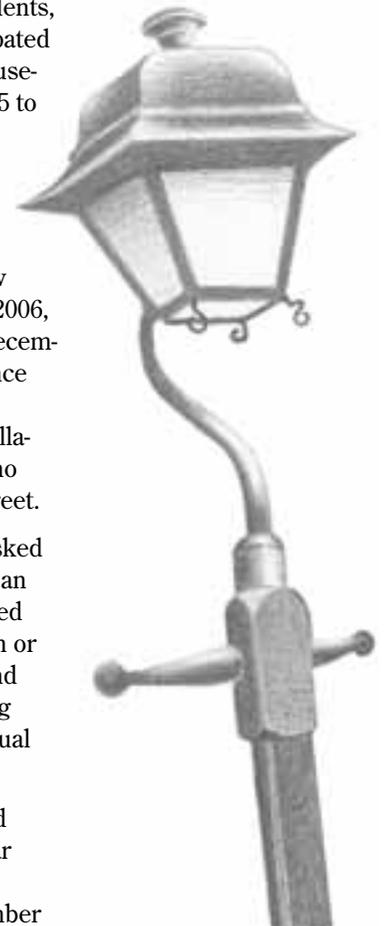
Only one year ago, SHCA learned that replacing 400 Franklin Lights would cost \$600,000, at \$1,500 per light including installation. Despite the doubts of some who thought this objective would be an impossible feat, we did it! The funding breakdown is listed below.

SHCA extends sincerest thanks to all residents, organizations, and businesses who participated in this fundraising campaign. Over 400 households made contributions ranging from \$25 to \$3,000. This enthusiastic response and the amount of money raised demonstrate the degree of support residents feel for our great neighborhood.

A beginning date for installation of the new Franklin Lights is planned for September 2006, with an approximate completion date of December 31, 2006. To minimize any inconvenience to residents, the electrical contractors will complete one block at a time. During installation on any particular block, there will be no parking of vehicles on both sides of the street.

In the previous issue of the *Reporter*, we asked if anyone would be interested in obtaining an old Franklin Light after removal (dismantled and without wiring) for use in one's garden or backyard. We received several requests and are currently talking to the Streets Lighting Department about procurement by individual residents.

If you have contributed \$1,500 or more and wish to have a plaque placed on a particular Franklin Light dedicated to you or a loved one, please contact us. We have had a number of such requests and will be happy to oblige either free of charge or for a very modest fee. For more information, please contact me at 215-629-0727 or marthalev@msn.com.



## We Thank Our Funding Sources

Philadelphia Street Lighting Department	\$100,000
Appropriations through Councilman DiCicco	\$250,000
State Grant through Senator Fumo	\$110,000
Additional funds through Senator Fumo	\$25,000
Contributions from Society Hill residents, businesses, and organizations	\$115,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>

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**S A F E A N D S O U N D I N S O C I E T Y H I L L**

**Police Officer Wins George Fencel Award**

This year our “very own” Captain Brian Korn was first place runner-up for the George Fencel Award which came with a plaque, as well as a monetary reward. This is given annually by the *Philadelphia Daily News* to police officers who demonstrate similar characteristics to the deceased George Fencel — dedication, bravery, compassion and community involvement. Captain Korn has shown all of these traits, and many letters recommended him for this prestigious award. His responsiveness to our community and others under his command has been outstanding. He has served the Sixth District for almost nine years — an unusually longstanding commitment — as most captains serve two years and then move on. According to many of his superiors, he is among the “best captains in the City.” Congratulations, Captain Korn!

**Ownership Registration For Your Bike**

Did you know that you can protect your bike by registering it as yours? In the event that your bike is stolen, there is a possibility of retrieving it if you take advantage of this free service provided by the Philadelphia Police Department. Just recently, two bikes were stolen in our neighborhood — the result of a garage break-in. These bicycles were not registered, and it is unlikely that they will ever be found and returned. Therefore, we recommend that you bring your wheels to the South Street Mini-Station (905 South Street) where the bicycle will be registered and a number inscribed. Call first — at 215-922-6706 — to be sure that an officer is available to register your bike. Or stop in at any time for a registration application, which is simple to fill out. Several bikes have been returned to their owners as a result of this registration process, as the officers from the Mini-Station recognized them, retrieved them and returned them to their rightful owners. Despite your belief that all stolen bikes are sent to China, many have been known to show up somewhere in the city’s Third Police District, which is south of South Street. So, get your bike registered as soon as possible.

**Civilian Police Academy**

Learn what rookies go through when training to become police officers. This 13-week course provides invaluable skills to help the average citizen deter crime. If interested, you can obtain an application from the Police Academy, located at 8501 State Road, by calling Lt. Brady at 215-685-8120.

**Crime Rates Drop**

We are pleased to report that nationwide crime rates have dropped 14%. A comparison of 2004 vs. 2005 year-end stats in Society Hill show the following healthy decline, except for aggravated assault incidents, as this table illustrates:

**Actual Numbers of Criminal Activity in Society Hill**

	2004	vs. 2005
<b>Thefts from Autos</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Stolen Vehicles</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Robberies</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Burglaries</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13</b>

The homicide rate in Philadelphia puts us in ninth place among American cities — clearly not something to be proud of. But, thankfully, these crimes did not occur in our area of the city. However, this does not excuse us from always remaining alert as we go about our daily errands and business!

These days people are often unaware of what is happening in their immediate vicinity because they have cell phones stuck in their ears, or because they are simply not alert to their surroundings. Truth be told, there’s been a rash of burglaries in our neighborhood and the police have made several arrests. Remember: if you see something strange, call 911. Always keep your doors and windows locked, with burglar alarms on when you’re not at home. And if you don’t already have motion sensor lights for your backyard or garden, we suggest that you call an electrician and have them installed. These devices light up when an uninvited individual suddenly appears in your backyard: a visual alert for you to call 911.



**Protect your bike by registering it as yours!**

**Recycle Your Retired Cell Phones**

Keep your “old” cell phones coming to 414 Spruce Street. These non-obsolete devices are reprogrammed by the DA’s office to call only 911. They are distributed free of charge to needy folks or people at risk, such as the elderly or the abused. Sorry, we can’t offer receipts, but you can take a tax deduction for your contribution. So keep ‘em coming to 414 Spruce Street.

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## Society Hill Town Watch

### National Night Out: Save The Date

Our annual Town Watch Night Out for volunteers and interested neighbors will be held on Tuesday, August 1, from 6 – 8 p.m. We are optimistically planning to hold the event at Three Bears Park. Although construction at the park continues as we go to press, we've learned that the park's renovations should be completed by August 1. If, however, there's been a delay, requiring a change of location, be assured that our Night Out will definitely occur somewhere else. Look for flyers, distributed by Block Coordinators, as well as notices posted at the park about an alternative location. We look forward to seeing you...wherever!

### Town Watch Integrated Services (TWIS)

Beginning in September, a program will be held on the third Tuesday of every month, at 7 p.m., hosted by the Sixth District office, at 11th and Winter Streets. Presentations and discussions are held on a variety of Town Watch subjects, such as the best times to patrol, how to improve your observation skills, learn what's happening in other neighborhoods, and police responsiveness to particular problems. Anyone from Society Hill may attend this free program. Learn more by calling Tanya Brown, the Sixth District's Community Relations Officer, at 215-686-3063.

### SCAM ALERT

That well-dressed, terribly upset black man who gave you an elaborate story about having a flat tire; or that he was working two doors down, but locked his wallet and keys in the house and needs to get home; his wallet was stolen, etc... Don't be fooled, because it's the same well-dressed guy, in his early 40s, who gives his name as either Troy or Colby Shubert — suggesting a relation to the composer? Hah!

Bottom line: he needs cash, immediately! This fellow is so "nice" that several generous Society Hillers have given him what he says he needs. He also always promises to pay back the "loan" and he takes your phone number. Guess what? He never shows. This con artist has been operating in affluent neighborhoods throughout the city for quite some time.

Don't be scammed! Call 911 — providing a good description of the fellow and watch where he goes. And never, never fall for his scam.

### Arts & Crafts Fair at Starr Gardens

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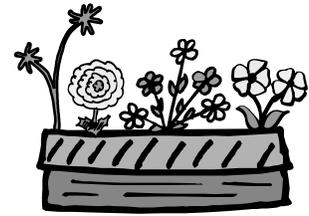
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 New Initiatives for Old Buildings
 

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## Update: Society Hill's Historic House Museums

In addition to several key sites under the stewardship of Independence National Historical Park, our community is blessed with other cherished unique sites that are open to the public. Currently there are two functioning house museums we Society Hillers often proudly point out to visitors. These are owned and operated by the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, a non-profit organization often referred to simply as "Landmarks" or "the Landmarks Society."

**The Powel House**, at 244 S. 3rd Street, is an elegant 18th-century townhouse once occupied by Philadelphia's "Patriot Mayor," Samuel Powel. Together with his wife, Elizabeth Willing, they entertained in their home the leaders of the American Revolution, including George Washington.

**The Physick House**, at 321 S. 4th Street, is a free-standing Federal mansion that was once the home of Dr. Philip Syng Physick, known as the "Father of American Surgery."

Both of these Society Hill house museums are filled with period antiques and have beautiful adjoining gardens.

Landmarks maintains and operates two additional distinguished house museums: **Grumblethorpe**, located in the Germantown section of Philadelphia, and **Historic Waynesborough** located on several wooded acres in Paoli, Pennsylvania.

For 75 years, ever since Frances Anne Wister first saved the Powel House from demolition in 1931, the Landmarks Society (through membership participation, contributions and grants) has safeguarded examples of America's heritage by restoring, furnishing, maintaining and interpreting the stories of unique historical sites. These four house museums are open year round to individuals, schoolchildren, tour groups, Elderhostel programs and others.

Recently Landmarks initiated its long-range "Living Legacy Project" to determine how best to carry out its responsibilities for stewardship of these national treasures. The process will require a thorough financial analysis, which will forecast the increasing cost of preserving each property. Leaders of this "Living Legacy" program include Landmarks' Board of Directors and staff, as well as professional consultants and community activists. Penny Batcheler, Libby Browne and Bernice Hamel are Society Hill residents participating in the Project's Alternatives Committee. This committee meets monthly to review ideas about whether these sites should continue functioning and serving the public; or, alternatively, to determine if there might be more appropriate purposes for any of these four sites. Society Hill residents who are Landmark Board Directors participating on this Alternatives Committee include Donna Thomas and Lee Dennis. (Lee is also chairing the Project's Ethics & Communications Committee.) Board Director Eric Norris is chair of the "Alternatives" initiative. He is the person to contact regarding any questions or suggestions you may have.

The new, fulltime Landmarks Executive Director, Frank Vagnone, is an experienced architect who served for eight years as executive director of the very successful Bryn Athyn Cathedral complex. He is responsible for oversight of Landmarks' four properties, with his management office situated at the Physick House. Frank reports that Landmarks is deeply appreciative of the support it has always received from Society Hill neighbors, and he welcomes inquiries and suggestions — whether to explore volunteer opportunities or to seek committee participation. He hopes his leadership will result in an even closer, more mutually supportive relationship between community residents and Landmarks. To contact the Landmarks office, please call 215-925-2251.

### **Powel House Celebrates 75 Years**

On Thursday, September 14 Landmarks will celebrate 75 years of saving, owning and caring for the Powel House. This early evening garden cocktail celebration will feature a one-hour concert. In addition, a wonderful dinner will be served upstairs in the ballroom, limited to only 50 generous patrons because of the size of the room. All Society Hillers are invited to join the 75th "birthday party" of the Powel House. To receive your invitation in the mail, please contact either Lee Dennis at LeeKDennis@aol.com or 215- 829-1505. SHCA's Administrator Matt DeJulio can also refer your request to Landmarks. Contact him at 215-629-1288 or MattDeJulio@aol.com. We hope many neighbors will celebrate with us.

### **The Man Full of Trouble Tavern**

"The Man Full of Trouble Tavern," located at the corner of 2nd and Spruce Streets, was once another Society Hill historic museum. The only surviving tavern building from pre-Revolutionary Philadelphia, it sat on Little Dock Creek (long since filled in and lost to view). In its hey day the "Troubled Tavern" was patronized primarily by sailors — as it was close to the waterfront. This popular museum was created at the time of Society Hill's rebirth in the early 1960s by its owner, the Knauer Foundation, which also operated the museum. The museum was permanently closed in 1996 when the Knauer Foundation donated the building to the University of Pennsylvania. All its historic furnishings and artifacts were returned to the Knauer family. The building has since been vacant and essentially unused. Concerned about the building's condition, SHCA leaders initiated a long-awaited meeting last year with representatives from the University urging that a realistic analysis be conducted so that the best possible use for this unique pre-Revolutionary building can be found. SHCA will attempt a follow-up session with the University's management in the near future, and we will keep you posted.

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# Everything You Need To Know About Trash!

## Trash Pickup Days

Were you being a good neighbor? Did you put out your trash a day later than usual because there was a holiday? Did the City know it was a holiday? These are some of many questions asked after trash pickup days following the Memorial Day holiday. Some people did not put out their trash on their regular day, and were surprised and dismayed that, lo and behold, the City trucks came by. Other neighbors put out their trash the following evening, as the City mandates, and guess what! The trash trucks did not show up.

What to do! The fact is, we don't know. The Sanitation Department doesn't respond with a human voice in the many times we've called. Maybe we'll have an answer for you in the September issue of the *Reporter*. In the meantime, remember that the City requires that we put out our trash one day after our regular pickup day following any legal holiday.

## Property owners, take note:

You are responsible for trash left in front of your buildings by renters who are moving out of the area. If these renters (or any other residents) leave a mess on the sidewalk in front of your building, call Sanitation Officer George McCardell. He is the only Police Officer in the Sixth District licensed to issue tickets for trash abuse. So call him at 215-686-3063.

## Corner Litter Receptacles

Have you been placing your home trash in a nearby city litter receptacle? Don't do it! If the Sanitation Officer finds your trash in the city receptacle, you'll be issued a \$25 fine. No kidding! It's called "abuse" of city litter receptacles (Did you ever?)

**Warning:** SHCA has received many complaints from unhappy residents who report that their particular corner litter receptacles are constantly filled to overflowing with people's home trash. They have asked our association to "do something." What we can do is suggest that you become proactive: if or when you see someone discarding their garbage in sidewalk litter containers, call Officer McCardell so that he can issue a ticket. Again, his phone number is 215-686-3063.



Let's report this kind of "abuse" of corner litter receptacles! Call Officer McCardell at 215-686-3063.

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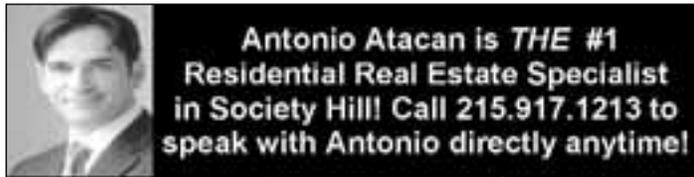
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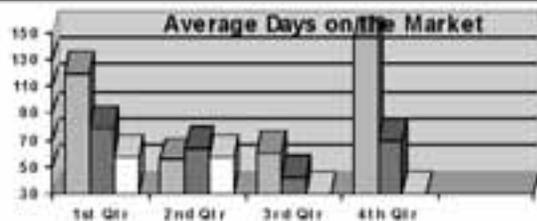
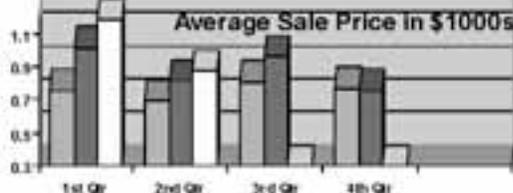
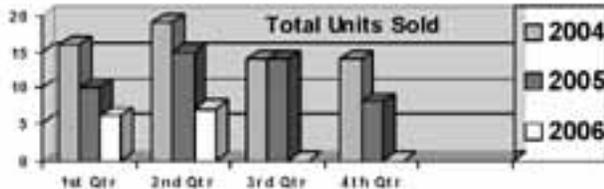


*Society Hill Real Estate Report*

Every Society Hill townhouse\* sold in 2006 b/w Front-7th & Lombard-Walnut

500 block of Lombard	\$560,000
200 block of Delancey	\$659,900
500 block of Spruce	\$720,000
300 block of Delancey	\$743,000
500 block of Delancey	\$910,000
500 block of Delancey	\$935,000
300 block of S. Lawrence	\$1,000,000
300 block of Willings Alley	\$1,100,000
500 block of Addison Court	\$1,095,000
200 block of S. 4th St.	\$1,175,000
200 block of S. 4th St.	\$1,500,000
200 block of Pine	\$1,550,000
300 block of S. 3rd St	\$2,550,000

Avg. Sale Price: \$1,115,223 Avg. Days on Market: 65



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# When Good Can Do Harm

## A Message from SHCA's Tree Tenders

More homeowners are mulching the pits surrounding their trees in Society Hill — a good idea, especially when using the free mulch provided by the City. (See directions below for acquiring your free mulch.) Serious damage can be done to your tree, however, when the mulch is allowed to come into contact with the bark at the base of the tree where it flares into the soil: the mulch rots the bark and borers are invited to attack the trunk.

It is essential to maintain the soil at the base of the trunk level and to keep mulch 4 - 6 inches from the bark. Tempting as it might be to raise the level of the soil in a pit, this eventually leads to the demise of the tree. Keeping the pit tilled each season will prevent rootlets from coming to the surface and will allow space for planting decorative greens and flowers.

### How to Acquire Free Mulch: Simple, Just Drive South.

Directions to the Philadelphia Sewage Plant, open 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Saturdays: Take I-95 South to the Bartram Road exit before the airport; turn right at bottom of the ramp; enter Works at second gate where you will see two large bins: one with mulch, the other with compost. This mulch is marvelous for pots, free of charge — seriously good stuff!

Note: Please make a note of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's next "Tree Tender" training sessions — to be held on Wednesdays, September 13, 20 & 27, from 5:45. – 8:45 p.m. Interested parties can call Cherry Bombeck at 215-627-1356 or send an email to Hans Bombeck at [hansbombeck@verizon.net](mailto:hansbombeck@verizon.net).



## Where Have the Bears Gone? And When Will They Be Back?

On May 17, after almost four years of planning, work began on the renovation of Three Bears Park. Though this is not the most convenient time for families to be without their children's favorite playground, the Friends of Three Bears Park requested that the work be started as soon as possible. This late spring schedule worked for both the city and contractor.

The goal to have a wonderful new and improved park is well underway. Don't worry about the Bears, they have gone into a wooden "cave" for hibernation until work is completed. Playground equipment and play surfaces have been removed and work is ongoing to repair and replace concrete and brick surfaces rendered uneven by tree roots. Fixing the root system would have caused permanent damage to the trees. Soon two new locust trees will replace the ones that had to be removed.

We expect that the new playground equipment will have been installed by the time you receive this newsletter. All the work will be finished when the concrete and brick have been laid around the park's perimeter. Hopefully, our children's favorite park will reopen by August 1 — if construction moves along smoothly and there are no unwanted surprises.

You may recall that in 2004 the Friends of Three Bears Park conducted a fundraising campaign to purchase new benches, because the old ones were infested with carpenter bees. Three families and one individual each donated the cost of a complete bench, while 15 families donated funds to pay for two additional benches. Our refurbished park will have a total of six "new" benches. But prior to the bee infestation, there were a dozen benches in the park. Eventually we hope to raise enough funds to replace all twelve benches, but we will need your help. The current cost to purchase and install a bench is \$1,700. We would also like to install three permanently mounted picnic tables with built-in seating for four. The cost for each picnic table is \$1,800. If you are willing to donate either a bench or picnic table, a permanent plaque to be placed there will acknowledge your gift (and message if you desire).

Thanks to State Senator Vincent Fumo and State Representative Marie Lederer, funding for the Three Bears Park project was obtained through grants by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. Additional park funds were designated by Councilman Frank DiCicco. More is needed.



Please consider making a tax-deductible donation, of any amount, made payable to the Friends of Three Bears Park. Mail to: The Friends of Three Bears Park, 324 Delancey Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. If you have any questions or need further information, contact Tania Rorke at TRorke@aol.com; or 215-925-4544.

Many thanks to Tom Fox, Sam LePara and Frank Fabey from Philadelphia's Department of Recreation; Keith Davis from Marturano Recreation; and architect Peter Johnson. Were it not for their efforts, we might still be in the planning stages of this project! It is our hope that when completed, our community will think the wait has been well worth it.

Meanwhile: looking for another park to take the kids? McCall School has a beautiful, new playground, which is open to the community, and of course, there's also Starr Gardens at 6th and Lombard Streets.



**Where are the bears?  
Can YOU guess?**

	<p style="text-align: center;">—◆—</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Timeless toys you remember from your childhood and that your child will remember too.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—◆—</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Happily Ever After</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1010 Pine Street • 215-627-5790 www.happily.com • info@happily.com</p>
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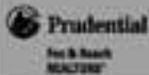
**326 LOMBARD STREET**

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# Kids' Beat

A COLUMN BY KERI WHITE

Society Hill is home to a variety of households: Families with children, DINKS (Double Income No Kids), Gay & Lesbian couples, Empty-Nesters, singles, and most configurations imaginable. As a result, these groups may have divergent views on what is deemed to be acceptable conduct. Over the last year, I have become increasingly aware of tensions, aggressions, and occasionally outright battles between and among the various factions. In general, the lines are drawn between people with kids and without. Now, if you are rolling your eyes thinking this is going to be a sanctimonious Society Hill mommy spewing a soap-box soliloquy about how non-breeders should be more tolerant of youngsters, you are mistaken. This, fellow citizens, is a two-way street, and at the risk of being blacklisted by Three Bears Park moms, I will give equal time to both sides. Allow me to share two admittedly extreme, but hopefully illustrative examples.

A local mom meets her child daily at the school bus stop on a peaceful, scenic corner in our neighborhood. She brings her younger child with her, since it is inadvisable to leave a three-year old at home without supervision. The person dwelling in the house near the corner has repeatedly shouted at them, demanded that they leave the area, verbally abused them, frightened the child by allowing his dog to run at her unleashed, and threatened them to the point that the woman had to ask for police intervention. They were not creating a public nuisance, excessive noise, litter or any other menace. They were just waiting on the corner, and were harassed simply for being a mother with her child.

In a less sociopathic, but similarly contentious dynamic, a child-oriented business that currently rents space in a local office building is in an imbroglio with fellow tenants about the disruption of the work day due to children noisily entering and exiting the building. In some instances, the children have no consideration for people in the building trying to concentrate and conduct business — but as children, they cannot be expected to. This is the fault of their parents who seem to feel that regarding their children, anything goes. Last week, I entered the premises and was greeted with loud raucous laughter by a group of children in the common area — a lovely sound at a playground or birthday party, but not in the hallway of a place of business. I overheard one parent comment, “This is the reason that the

other tenants are trying to evict us.” Another parent, aptly demonstrating that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, could only bask in “the joy and exuberance of excited children.” This disregard of others gives parents a deservedly bad name.

While the first instance is so extreme it could almost be written off entirely, there are plenty of other anti-family examples—the militant noise restriction, splashing ban, and no-game rules at local condo pools, most of which now house an increasing number of families with children; neighbors opposed to playgrounds being built in the midst of Society Hill, and the scowls that follow kids on scooters, bikes, and tricycles. Similarly, parents continue to ignore the fact that everything Junior does is not fascinating to the world at large. Recently I attended an art gallery opening where a woman lay down in the middle of the floor with her two-year-old as art aficionados stepped over and around them. I rushed over to inquire if they were ill, and the mother replied, “No, we’re just having a rest and a quiet chat.” This free-range mentality is appropriate at Woodstock, not polite society (Hill).

To employ an overused phrase: “Can’t we all just get along?” If everyone practices some common sense, tolerance and consideration, this problem can be reduced. Parents, if you are taking your kids out to eat and they tend to get restless, bring some toys or crayons, request a window seat to entertain them with the view outside, and don’t order the risotto for dinner and soufflé for dessert, each of which adds 20 minutes of prep to your dining experience. Choose a time that is best for your children — this might mean breakfast or lunch instead of dinner. If they get to the point of no return, for everyone’s sake, ask for a doggie bag! Remind your kids to use their “inside voices” in consideration of others. After all, kids are built to be egocentric and must learn to be aware of others. It is our job to teach them.

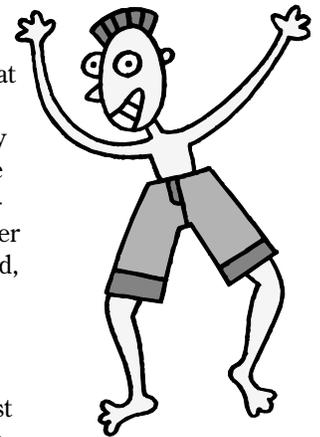
If you are looking to avoid the family scene, choose a restaurant that is not kid oriented, dine later, or sit near the bar. But in the bigger picture, kids are people, too. Their mere existence should not be considered offensive to others, nor should they be expected to conform to unreasonable standards.

Now that I have offended parents and non-parents alike, I wish you all a wonderful summer. I’ll spend it drumming up another controversial topic to address in the fall!

## Kid's Quote

“Dad, if the bathing suit Mom bought you is too big, you can save it for next year!”

**Kelsey, age 7**  
**Society Hill Kid**





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**SENIOR SCENE**


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A COLUMN BY JEAN BRYAN

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**The Philadelphia Senior Center**


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Close to Society Hill — at the corner of Lombard and Broad Streets — is an inspiring senior resource — particularly if you're on a fixed income. The Philadelphia Senior Center (PSC) is open during the day for lunch (under \$5.00) and an assortment of activities, most of which are free. I recently enjoyed a tour of its facilities. I suggest you request a current issue of the PSC's newsletter so that you can see for yourself all that the Center offers.

On any given day, a senior can choose from an astounding variety of 8 – 10 activities: ballroom or tap dancing lessons, drama classes, poetry reading, stained glass class, crafts, painting and drawing with mixed media, sewing or knitting/crochet class, a choral/choir singing group and many more, including computer lessons. Perhaps you could use help with some basics skills, such as bill paying, or you may need counseling on Medicare or real estate taxes. A quiet weekly meeting called "Talking, Listening, Caring" (T.L.C.) is a time to share your life with others.

You men don't want to crochet? A men's group meets weekly to discuss topics such as sports and health issues. PSC also offers social services for the home-bound and helps others with safe, viable housing. Or expand your life with day trips for a nominal fee: on July 24 there's a scheduled visit to the Delaware State Fair. In addition, a variety of health and wellness programs are offered at the Center. Truly, I was "blown away" by the activities happening during my tour, in talking to the Center's enthusiastic staff, and reading more about the range of their programs.

If you think the Center could be an affordable place for expanding and enriching your senior life through activities and companionship, give it a try. Alternatively, you may want to consider donating your time as one of over 100 volunteers who help out, averaging a total of 630 hours per month. Donations to PSC — large or small — are appreciated. The Center is supported by United Way among other city and state agencies, as well as by foundations and caring individuals who see the value in its mission "to assist people in meeting their basic needs and enhancing their quality of life." For more information, visit the Center's website at <http://www.philaseniorcenter.org/> or call 215-546-5879.

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**Crafts with Amanda**


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Amanda Ziegert is a young woman committed to unleashing your "inner artist." She is offering demonstrations, which might include making your own cards for any occasion, designing a journal cover, personalized notepads, or scrapbooking — the list goes on. At the end of the demonstrations, she provides materials for you to make something of your choice under her artistic supervision. The demonstrations and the materials are free the first time.

If your interest is piqued, I would be glad to host a demonstration class at my home if enough people show interest. Call me at 215-925-6416 or email [jeanbryan@gmail.com](mailto:jeanbryan@gmail.com).




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**Reminder: Join the Walkie-Talkies!**


---

Don't forget, the Walkie-Talkies leave each Tuesday and Thursday morning from Three Bears Park — promptly at 8:15 a.m. — for a really fun walk. Simply show up! If you're a bit shy about joining, we're planning for an introductory social. So do consider joining us for a pleasant cocktail hour some time this summer. Please let me know and we'll schedule a date and place for this purely social session. Call or email me at contact info shown above.

---

**Head House Books Events**


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Stop by Head House Books at 619 S. 2nd Street for its monthly calendar of events. Call the store at 215-923-9525 or access its website at [www.HeadHouseBooks.com](http://www.HeadHouseBooks.com) for programs that might interest you. A monthly Senior Book Club has been proposed — to be held in the late afternoon, around 4:30 p.m. — possibly followed by an early dinner someplace in the "hood." If you're interested, please let me know. (My contact info is given above.)

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**EXERCISE FOR AGING BOOMERS**


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**Watch The Flowers Grow**

Exercise and hard work — that's the way to keep young and fit. Here's one way that you aging baby boomers, not-so-aging baby boomers, just aging, young, or young-at-heart can volunteer for the beautification of our neighborhood and at the same time stay fit: watch your hard work grow into beautiful flowers throughout Washington Square Park. If you want to help, contact "one of our own" aging baby boomers Matt DeJulio at [mattdejulio@aol.com](mailto:mattdejulio@aol.com) or 215-629-1288.



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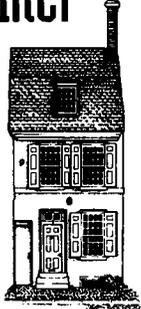


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## SHCA Membership Drive Continues

We are pleased to report a total of 997 members as of press time (mid-June), with 104 new members signed up for this year. However, we are still short of our goal for the calendar year 2006, which would bring our total to 1,050 members — so we hope to fill that gap with "only" 53 additional members for 2006. At last year's end (December 31, 2005) we had almost reached our modest goal of 1,050 when we culminated with a total of 1,031 registered SHCA members.

Recently, and despite three mail solicitations, 106 members from 2005 have not yet renewed. The last solicitation asked non-renewing members what we are doing or not doing that has caused their membership to lapse. Only one person responded to our inquiry — citing "just a lack of attention to mail — you are doing nothing wrong."

It's hard to believe that SHCA letters fall to the bottom of the pack — especially since the quality of life in our immediate neighborhood is a top priority for most residents.

If you are among the 106 lapsed civic association members, please fill out and forward the form you received in the mail along with your check or credit card number; or fill out the adjacent form and send it to us today. If you still see no reason to join, please send us your reasons why.

SHCA can be an even better organization — but only with maximum community participation. We need your input - don't keep us in the dark. Keep SHCA working for you. Join today!

### Reminder: Wednesday is Movie Night All Summer Long

**Free at 8 p.m. at Historic Head House Square South 2nd Street between Pine & Lombard**

- July 12: The Sixth Sense
- July 19: Butch Cassidy & The Sundance Kid
- July 26: Willie Wonka & the Chocolate Factory
- August 2: The Rocky Horror Picture Show
- August 9: The Sting
- August 16: Raiders of the Lost Ark
- August 23: Bambi
- August 30: Cheech & Chong
- September 6: Grease
- September 13: Philadelphia
- September 20: Rocky I



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### SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

#### Membership Application/Renewal Form



Renewal     New

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Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emails provide you with timely, topical information about once a week. SHCA never shares your email address with others and never transmits spam. Our emails deliver only topical information related specifically to neighborhood issues.

#### Residential Memberships

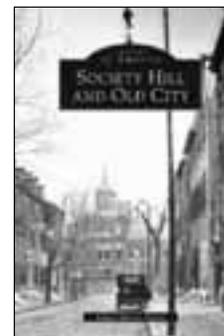
- \$ 50 Basic Household
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- \$300 Benjamin Franklin Benefactor\*\*
- \$ 40 Senior/Student

\*Will receive the Robert Skaler book, *Society Hill and Old City*

\*\*Will receive book plus FREE house tour

#### Business Memberships

- \$60 Business with fewer than 5 employees
- \$ 100 Businesses/Institutions with 5 or more employees



#### Additional contribution for

- Beautification of Washington Square
- Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal
- Town Watch/Safe and Sound
- Zoning/Historic Preservation
- Society Hill Reporter
- McCall School
- Street Trees
- Franklin Lighting

**Check Enclosed Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**I would like to volunteer** for the following committee(s):

- Clean-Up Day
- Washington Square
- Town Watch
- Zoning & Historic Preservation
- Newsletter
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Independence Place #2401** \$899,000  
 Fabulous Penthouse condo on Washington Square with stunning  
 bedroom, 2 gorgeous stone baths, central air, spectacular chef's  
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 breathtaking panoramic views of the city! **Virtual Tour# 4602055**

**1016 Spruce Street #3** \$895,000  
 Grand 4-5 bedroom, 2 bath tri-level condo with 4400+ SF of living  
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 Strickland Row with common roofdeck and pool! **Virtual Tour#**  
**4650350**

**1335-37 Pine #201** \$699,900  
 Gorgeous 2 bedroom, 2 bath custom built condo unit with gourmet  
 kitchen, central air, impeccable details throughout plus 1 year paid  
 parking and 7 years left on Tax Abatement! **Virtual Tour#4637060**

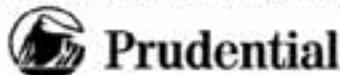
**256 S. 3rd Street** \$719,900  
 Wonderful and large duplex with 2 Bedroom owner's unit with  
 modern kitchen and bath, separate dining room, and cedar deck plus  
 1 bedroom, 1 bath unit and 2 car parking!! **Virtual Tour#4558799**

**1335-37 Pine #301** \$649,900  
 Fabulous 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo unit with beautiful wood floors,  
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**Tour#4694923**

**330 Lombard Street** \$619,900  
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Staying Put

## SHCA's Feasibility Study to Begin

Ever hear of Beacon Hill Village? If you are over 50 and receive AARP's bulletin (aka: American Association of Retired Persons), you probably have. The "Village" is a nonprofit association started in 2001 to address the needs of those aged 50 and above who want to remain in their own homes as they grow older. The website [www.beaconhillvillage.org](http://www.beaconhillvillage.org) explains their purpose: "Beacon Hill Village helps persons age 50 and over who live on Beacon Hill and its adjacent neighborhoods to enjoy safer, healthier and more independent lives in their own homes and stay well connected to a familiar and attentive community." Some folks in our neighborhood are interested in forming a similar arrangement.

To this end an SHCA committee has been formed to study the feasibility of adapting the Beacon Hill plan to suit our needs. SHCA believes that this plan will assist many to stay in the community we all love, so the association has granted \$5,000 in seed money to investigate the possibility of developing a similar independent cooperative program. Over the next several months, the "Village Project" committee will begin assembling information in the areas of finance, legal issues, social services, cultural activities, physical therapy and exercise programs, medical issues, foundation grants, marketing, transportation and other areas. The coordinator of these efforts is longtime Society Hill resident, Jo Ann Buller. If you have particular expertise in any of these fields and wish to help, please contact Bob Rossheim, who is currently operating our database, at [sh1682@gmail.com](mailto:sh1682@gmail.com). To be kept up to date on the project, please let Bob know. Information will be sent to you periodically.

There is a long way to go, and SHCA's feasibility study to consider establishing a similar program in our neck of the woods will require creative and professional know-how, as well as patience. The Beacon Hill community worked for three years before their village concept was ready to take off. We hope that with all the talent and expertise in our community, we can somewhat decrease that time frame and develop a workable plan to allow our older neighbors to live with confidence and security in their own homes.

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## NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

A COLUMN BY DAVID WOODS

## Jonathan and Bobbie Turner

**This Anglo-American pair epitomizes a 'special relationship'**

Those of us who came to this country from England generally assimilate pretty well. Sure, you might come across an occasional Manchester United shirt, or a long A, as in 'cahnt,' a missing R, as in 'pahty,' or an intrusive one, as in 'Cuber is a sunny island in the Caribbean.' But you won't see emigrants from that rainy island off the North Sea marching on St. George's Day or clamoring for steak and kidney pie.

However, there's one type of Brit that a fellow countryman can recognize at 50 paces. He's attired in well-tailored suits from, say, Wells of Mayfair, where Prince Philip is fitted; possibly in multicolored offerings from Prince Charles's favorite shirt maker, Turnbull and Asser; and perhaps in a flamboyant sports coat from Harvie and Hudson. Add an ascot—or, as he might call it, a cravat; throw in the clipped accent of a top-notch public school, and you have one such in the person of Jonathan Turner.

Jonathan and his equally chic and very personable wife, Bobbie, inhabit an 18th-century house on Delancey Street, along with their four-year-old son, James. Actually, it's two adjacent structures they combined into one, and the ground level of the smaller house now serves as their living room. During their renovation project the couple came across all kinds of archeological objects, including two-centuries' old bottles, pottery, clay pipes, and oyster shells. They've collected these artifacts in plastic bags which in the future they plan to assemble into an interesting mosaic for their back yard.



Epitomizing the 'special relationship' said to exist between the two countries, this Anglo-American pair met at a picnic, were engaged three months later, and in 1993 were married in Old City's Christ Church. Jonathan's previous marriage ended in divorce, and yielded a son, Alexander, a major in the Irish Guards, and a daughter Rebecca, a sales executive with two children ages 9 and 11.

The Turners are both adventurous and eclectic. They've driven 2,000 miles through Namibia in a Land Rover, spent Christmas in a castle in Derbyshire, where Jonathan also owns a farm; and share a love of good food and wine. Bobbie, who runs the American College of Physicians' annual conference that attracts some 12,000 registrants, also serves on the boards of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and the Powel House. She is an actively involved parent at St. Peter's School, where James is now enrolled. A Haddonfield native, Bobbie graduated from the University of Richmond where she was a history major.

And Jonathan exalts in the title of Grand Sénéchal of the Haddonfield division of the *Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin*, a society whose 11,000 members celebrate the joys of Burgundy. His larynx, presumably lubricated from all that fine wine, enhances his participation in the Orpheus Choir, the oldest choral society in the Western Hemisphere... and he plays classical guitar. Aside from all that, he finds time to run the Langhorne-based international metals company, TurnerSure LLC, that he acquired in a leveraged buyout in the 1980s.

Before the couple met, Jonathan was about to sell his Society Hill house and decamp to 'another hill,' Chestnut Hill. But he quickly tore down the 'For Sale' sign, and, along with Bobbie, is a big booster of our neighborhood. They especially praise the local history and architecture, and the fact that everything is 'at your finger tips.'

George Bernard Shaw famously quipped that Britain and America were two nations separated by a common language. So even if Bobbie's truck might be Jonathan's lorry, and her elevator his lift, the two communicate with evident enthusiasm and civility.

David Woods can be reached at  
HMI3000@comcast.net

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*Saturdays thru September*  
**Farmers Market**  
 Second & South Streets  
 215-568-0830  
 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

*July 1- 31*  
**Fun & Safe Games for the Summertime**  
 National Liberty Museum  
 321 Chestnut Street  
 Tuesdays thru Sundays  
 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
 Admission: \$5 adults, \$4 seniors  
 \$1 kids 6 and over  
 www.libertymuseum.org

*Wednesday, July 19*  
**SHCA Board Meeting**  
 6 p.m. Location to be announced

*Now thru October*  
**Holy Trinity Church**  
 6th & Spruce Streets  
 No masses will be held

*Saturday, July 22 & Sunday, July 23*  
**Arts & Crafts Fair at Starr Gardens**  
 Lombard between 6th & 7th Streets  
 Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
 Sunday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
 See page 19

*Tuesday, August 1*  
**SHCA's Town Watch Night Out**  
 3 Bears Park, from 6 – 8 p.m.  
 See page 19

*Saturday & Sunday, August 5 & 6*  
*Saturday & Sunday, August 19 & 20*  
*Saturday & Sunday, August 26 & 27*  
**The Creative Collective Crafts Fair**  
 Head House Square: 2nd & Pine Streets  
 Saturdays, noon – 11 p.m.  
 Sundays, noon – 6 p.m.

*August 1-31, 2006*  
**Rule-Breaking Religious Heroes Celebrated**  
 National Liberty Museum  
 321 Chestnut Street  
 Tuesdays thru Sundays  
 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
 Admission: \$5 adults; \$4 seniors;  
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*Thursday, September 14*  
**Landmark's Celebration:**  
 "75 Years Since Powel House was Saved"  
 See page 21

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