



SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

Fighting The Good Fight!



Residents from Society Hill and neighboring communities up and down the river turned out in great numbers at City Council's all-day hearings on June 13th.

Both Houses of State Legislature Introduce Bills to Relocate Casinos with 1,500 Foot Buffer Zones

City Planner
Janice Woodcock
Concedes:
Foxwoods &
SugarHouse
Too Close to
Residential
Neighborhoods

Public opinion is united behind the concept of a minimum standard that would restrict the building of any casino near residential neighborhoods. Our civic association has worked in close alliance with 23 other civic groups throughout the city in a collaborative effort to achieve this goal. Currently named the Delaware River Neighborhood Alliance (DRNA), our group's activism recently achieved encouraging results, as follows:

- In early June, State Representative Babette Josephs (Philadelphia) along with 29 co-sponsors in the Pennsylvania State House, introduced legislation, Bill 1477, that would prohibit casinos in Philadelphia from being built within 1,500 feet of any home, school, park, or house of worship.
- State Senator Vincent Fumo promised the DRNA in a June 13th meeting that he would introduce companion legislation to House Bill 1477 in the Pennsylvania State Senate. Senator Fumo's support will further bolster Philadelphia's community-wide efforts to create a 1,500-foot buffer zone between casinos and neighborhoods.

- Residents from Society Hill and neighboring communities up and down the river turned out in great numbers (standing room only!) at City Council's all-day hearings on June 13th. They rallied in support of Councilman Frank DiCicco's 1,500 foot buffer legislation and protested vociferously against lame-duck Councilman Juan Ramos' legislation to create an "Entertainment District" that would grant the zoning designation allowing SugarHouse to build.
- Under tough questioning by Councilman DiCicco at the June 13th Council hearing, Janice Woodcock, Executive Director of Philadelphia's Planning Commission, admitted that the proposed location for the Foxwoods casino is "not a good site." She also acknowledged that, based on the criterion of "proximity to residential neighborhoods, the SugarHouse site is not ideal."
- In an example of civic unity rarely seen in Philadelphia, Jeff Rush, President of Queen Village Civic Association, testified before City Council on behalf of the DRNA. He informed Council of the DRNA's unified position demanding a 1,500-foot buffer between homes and casinos.
- City Council decided to table all casino bills until it reconvenes in September — giving our allied communities more time to pursue the goal of keeping casinos away from homes, schools, parks and places of worship.

In spite of these recent successes, we have also experienced some setbacks. One disappointment occurred in early June when the Pennsylvania Supreme Court dismissed an appeal from four united civic associations, including ours, opposed to the licensing of the Foxwoods casino on Columbus Boulevard. The Court said that our neighborhoods have no legal standing to challenge the State's decision to build slots parlors near their homes. SHCA's Board Director Paul Boni, Esq., reacted to the Court's decision by saying: "Come on, this is Pennsport, Whitman, Queen Village and Society Hill — people who live hundreds of feet from Foxwoods. If they don't

The Fight continues on page 7

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SHCA Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 18
6:30 p.m.

Location to be announced.

All SHCA members are welcome to attend.

No Meeting in August

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SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

**July/August 2007
Society Hill Reporter**

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Submissions

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ANNOUNCED AT PRESS TIME

PA Supreme Court Denies Citizens their Day in Court

As we prepared to go to press, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled against the appeal of Philadelphia residents, civic associations and City Council when — on June 22nd — it dismissed our appeals to challenge the casino licenses on various improprieties and violations of law. The Court's decision struck another unwanted blow to the majority of Philadelphia's citizens. The Court did not even address any of our allegations, because it dismissed all the cases on the grounds that we do not have standing to raise these concerns. We are more than disappointed. We're outraged.

Ever since citizens learned how the state's illegitimate bill, Act 71, was passed in the middle of the night over the July 4th weekend in 2004 — establishing the PCGB and its unelected members to determine the fate of casinos throughout the state — "We, The People" began to organize our grass-roots opposition. It hasn't been easy, but we have remained cautiously optimistic that democracy would prevail. This most recent decision made by the Supreme Court struck down the wishes of the people. Let's remember this at election time, since Supreme Court judges, our legislature and Governor are all elected. We will pursue other legal options.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RICHARD DEWYNGAERT

The Myth of Sisyphus

*One always finds one burden again...
But Sisyphus teaches the higher fidelity
that negates the gods and raises rocks...
The struggle itself towards the heights
is enough to fill a man's heart.*

— Albert Camus

I am privileged and honored to begin my term as president of the SHCA. My wife and I, along with our three daughters, have been residents of Society Hill for many years. We are ever thankful to live in this wonderful, unique urban community.

Society Hill is an oasis. To live here is to be aware of the incredible work done by so many past and current residents. The spirit and physical nature of Society Hill reflect the leadership and tireless commitment to preserving our community — elements that make Society Hill a great place to live, raise a family, work, and visit.

We must continue to work just as hard to preserve what we have, as we live in challenging times. Myriad issues and market forces continue to shape Philadelphia and our neighborhood: casinos; waterfront development; land use; tax reform; our public schools; confusing leadership; the absence of political transparency. Clearly, how vigorously we respond to these challenges will significantly determine the future of Philadelphia and the nature of Society Hill.

Whether we want to or not, we must be mindful and shoulder some of the responsibility for the cultural and aesthetic direction of Society Hill: inaction is indeed an action. And any community is culpable for the consequences of inaction. Society Hill is no different.

When considering our responses to these issues, both individually and collectively, we must understand that much more is in the mix than the

immediate victory or loss. It is critically important to be involved. Among the many reasons for our involvement, fundamental is the fact that many of the smaller victories and new alliances broaden our scope. This broadened scope unquestionably strengthens our community and may well lead, ultimately, to larger and very significant victories. The new alliances and numerous smaller victories will represent invaluable assets as we move forward.

Philadelphia is dynamic, and change is constant. This is a given. But again, we must not be passive in our responses: casinos and inappropriate waterfront development will dramatically compromise our quality of life. We must, therefore, be fully attentive and engaged: willing to step forward and express our dissent.

We must envision a positive future and work to make that happen.

The future of Society Hill will undoubtedly reflect the degree to which we step forward and dare to influence the outcome of these current challenges — which are described throughout this edition of *The Reporter*. Please know that your involvement and support are always welcome — indeed, essential! — as we collectively and individually respond to these multiple challenges.

Amid all of this, I would like to thank Tania Rorke, my friend and predecessor, who worked extraordinarily hard on behalf of all of us. She continues to be dedicated to improving our neighborhood, establishing new relationships with other communities, and increasing participation in our civic association. I would also like to thank the many dedicated members of SHCA's Board of Directors, who contribute so much to our efforts.

I appreciate your confidence and trust. I look forward to a great and very busy year.



**Richard DeWyngaert,
President**

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DEPARTMENT OF CHUTZPAH

Amazing But True! Foxwoods Demands Lower Taxes

Foxwoods sought to lower its property taxes by 90%!

Foxwoods, the proposed casino that expects to be located on Columbus Boulevard, practically in our front yards, has attempted to persuade Philadelphia's tax assessor that its property taxes are too high and should be dramatically lowered. Foxwoods has had the chutzpah (also known as "unbelievable nerve") to ask the City Tax Assessor (aka the Philadelphia Board of Revision of Taxes or "BRT") to cut its property taxes by 90 %!

Although the owners of Foxwoods paid \$65 million for the property in 2005, they are now requesting that the site be reassessed at a valuation of merely \$4.5 million! Particularly galling is the fact that this multi-million dollar casino is already receiving a significant tax break from the city worth \$70 million in the form of a ten-year property tax abatement. And to make matters worse, Foxwoods is behind on its pay-

ment of property taxes by \$2.8 million — making it the "Number Three Corporate Tax Delinquent" in the entire city!

If you agree that the owners of Foxwoods are demanding outrageous concessions — while keeping in mind that the social costs of a gambling facility near densely populated neighborhoods have not even been considered — we suggest that you write to the BRT, the Mayor and City Council members. You can do this easily with the push of a button by visiting the Hallwatch website at: www.hallwatch.org, scrolling down the home page to "Active Letter Writing Campaigns" and then clicking on "Cut My Taxes By 90% Just Like Foxwoods."

P.S. On June 22nd we learned that the Bureau of Revision of Taxes said **"NO"** to Foxwoods' demand to reduce its property taxes by 90%.

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RECOMMENDED READING...

National Press Takes On Gambling

**Philadelphia Magazine:
Political Process Permitting Casinos
In Our Historical City Condemned**

As reported in previous issues of this newsletter, the sudden threat of two casinos close to our thriving neighborhood and other nearby vital communities — currently in various stages of their own restoration efforts — was the result of a most undemocratic and disturbing process that is described in an exposé editorial appearing in the June 2007 issue of *Philadelphia Magazine*. Entitled “**Rendell’s Slots Debacle: The True Saga of How Ed Screwed the City,**” this critique uncovers many facts about how a Pennsylvania bill was pushed through to benefit the owners of slot parlors — with no concern for gambling’s negative effects on our city and its citizens. (Can’t find a copy of the June issue of *Philadelphia Magazine*? SHCA’s office can forward a reprint of the article to you. Contact Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com or 215-629-1288.)

**The Wall Street Journal:
Casinos Are A “Bad Bet” For Cities**

In addition to the scathing *Philadelphia Magazine* report, another critical article which analyzes the negative effects of casinos appears in the June 11, 2007 edition of *The Wall Street Journal*. “**Bad Odds**” is the title, with an explanatory subtitle: “As More States Look To Win The Economic Jackpot With Casinos, Evidence Suggests They are Playing A Losing Hand.” The complete article is reprinted with the *Journal’s* permission. (See insert herewith.)



RESULTS: PHILLY’S BALLOT BOX REFERENDUM

When the Pennsylvania Supreme Court struck the referendum question to prohibit casinos within 1,500 feet of homes, schools, and religious buildings off the May primary ballot, CasinoFree conducted its own, independent and well-organized “Philly Ballot Box Referendum.” Ballot boxes were set up outside polls in 57 precincts. Of the 13,319 citizens who voted in this unofficial referendum, 95% expressed their support for the buffer zone. Surely, had the question remained on the ballot in all voting places throughout the city, it would have passed by a landslide.

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YO, MIKE!

Citizen Voices on Philly's Future

Matt DeJulio, SHCA'S administrator, wrote a letter to mayoral candidate Michael Nutter as part of a series of commentaries, called "Yo, Mike! Here's what we need you to do . . ." Published in the June 21st issue of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, here's what Matt told Mike:

"The most important thing you can do is to reestablish Philadelphia's independence from Harrisburg on issues that are wholly the city's prerogative: schools, gun control, parking, whatever. Zoning is the most visible issue of the moment to assert our freedom from governance by fiat and backroom payoffs.

Do not permit one-third of the most viable neighborhoods in the city, adjacent to one of the most pristine urban waterfronts in the nation, to lose about 15 percent of their real estate value [due to casinos].

...Flim-flam promotion by outsiders promising outlandish windfalls is simply snake oil. The city fathers need to wake up. You must wake them up."

Fighting the Good Fight

continued from page 1

have standing, the Court has obviously tortured the law beyond recognition."

Clearly, there's still a long road ahead to ensure that the quality of life we enjoy today will not be sacrificed. We must continue all efforts to preserve our wonderfully vibrant neighborhood. We have worked tirelessly, but we are not tired!

A BIT OF PERSPECTIVE

While we continue our civic outcry against the threat of casinos in city neighborhoods, we offer for your perspective the actual size and scale of one casino, selected by the PGCB, that can be easily visualized: SugarHouse proposes to build a complex containing 3.6 million square feet — an "abstract" size that has little resonance for most people — including any of the unelected PGCB members who foisted gambling upon us.

In comparison, the entire King of Prussia Shopping Mall contains 2.9 million square feet of space — yet it was built on a considerably larger site! To continue this numerical and "eye-opening" comparison, SugarHouse will provide 5,000 slot machines in its complex, whereas the single largest casino in all of Las Vegas has 3,200 slots!

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TESTIMONY BEFORE CITY COUNCIL

JUNE 13, 2007

**Testimony Given by Shawn Rairigh,
Architect & City Planner**

My name is Shawn Rairigh. I am a resident of Fishtown and a professional city planner by trade, with seven years experience at a private architecture and planning firm in Center City. I have my Masters in City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania and even started my career with an internship at the City Planning Commission. Mostly why I am here today, however, is because I am a founding member of “Neighbors Allied for the Best Riverfront” (NABR), an activist group that focuses on community-driven planning. NABR organized over a year and a half ago in response to the large development pressure being put on the waterfront areas of Fishtown and Northern Liberties. In addition, I am also NABR’s representative to the Advisory Group of the Central Delaware Waterfront Plan — the highly publicized planning effort that the Mayor himself commissioned for these seven miles.

As you may know, there have been nearly a dozen condo towers and other projects haphazardly proposed and approved, without any overarching plan or community vision directing them. SugarHouse is just the latest unplanned project, though its presence will, in fact, endanger the realization of all the others.

Let me remind Council about the uniqueness of the waterfront area in Fishtown. This is the only neighborhood in the entire city with dense urban fabric on both sides of Interstate 95. We are also home to Penn Treaty Park, the only large green space along the Delaware riverfront. In any effort to extend the city back to the river, our neighborhood is the best beachhead.

The SugarHouse proposal is of a size and scale that is wholly inappropriate and would, in fact, be destructive to this fine-grained area. Allow me to offer some comparisons, so that you may better understand the proposal: At full build-out, SugarHouse will contain 3.6 million square feet, including its garage. This is larger than the King of Prussia Mall, (2.9 million square feet of leasable space) although the SugarHouse project would be constructed on a much, much smaller site. SugarHouse at full build-out will have 5,000 slot machines — whereas the largest casino in Las Vegas, the MGM Grand, has 3,200 slots! Of course, the MGM Grand has table games, while

SugarHouse currently does not, but both have similar sized casino floors: 171,000 square feet at MGM Grand; 151,000 square feet at SugarHouse.

SugarHouse envisions a 4,000 car garage, among the largest in the city. Into this, they say, will flow over 40,000 people each and every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday — more patrons than a sold-out Phillies game. And since a good portion of Phillies’ fans take transit or ride at 2.5 persons by car to games, there will actually be more cars on the road associated with the casino. With the two proposed casinos, we will be adding the traffic of almost three sold-out Phillies games to Delaware Avenue each weekend day — forever! Of course, I might also mention that the Phillies stop serving after the seventh-inning stretch — not to mention the fact that the Phillies have a limited season, whereas SugarHouse will operate year round.

SugarHouse’s 3.6 million square feet of casino space would be larger than the entire King of Prussia Mall, which contains 2.9 million square feet of space — although SugarHouse would be located on a much smaller amount of land than the King of Prussia Mall.

Let me also remind Council that these are just the first two casinos. In choosing these two companies and sites, the Gaming Control Board described them as perfect “bookends” to a waterfront entertainment district. If we, the citizens of Philadelphia, cannot stop or move these two casinos, we will open the door to a Las Vegas strip along two miles of the city’s most valuable and historic waterfront real estate.

As NABR’s representative to the Central Delaware Riverfront Advisory Group, I can also tell you that SugarHouse’s proposal follows few of the recommendations made after months of hard work. Its large site is not broken up by extending the street grid; its buildings are set back from the street, leaving lawns and driveways that would create a permanent suburban environment for over 400 feet along Delaware Avenue. All of its 17 acres would be given over to a single use and a single set of uses instead of the truly urban mix of uses that is envisioned by city planners. Would anyone purchase a house or condo so close to a casino of this scale? I think not.

So — instead of casinos, what should be built on these two waterfront sites? NABR, with much volunteer effort, held an open public charrette* at the end of April this year, where we invited anyone who cared to participate to plan for these

*Collaborative session to draft a design solution



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TESTIMONY BEFORE CITY COUNCIL

JUNE 13, 2007

**Testimony Given by Steve Weixler,
SHCA Board Director & Chairman
of SHCA's ZHP Committee**

I am a member of the Central Delaware Riverfront Advisory Group, which is charged with the task of developing a civic vision for the seven-mile stretch of the central Delaware waterfront.

A resolution passed by the Advisory Group at its June 4, 2007 meeting expressed the group's dissatisfaction with the manner in which the Philadelphia City Planning Commission reviewed and approved the SugarHouse casino development plan on May 22, 2007. The Group's resolution criticized the Planning Commission for failing to provide adequate public notice before the May 22 Planning Commission meeting, and for the Commission's apparent disregard for the work of the Central Delaware Planning Process in its casino plan review and approval process.

The Advisory Group asserts that the Planning Commission — in not using the civic values, principles and design guidelines developed through an ongoing and robust civic engagement process as criteria in its casino review process — has ignored the work authorized by Mayor Street in his Executive Order of October 12, 2006 — which created the Central Delaware Waterfront initiative. Furthermore, the Advisory Group believes that the actions of the Planning Commission constitute a significant missed opportunity to integrate valuable citizen feedback to improve waterfront development proposals. The Advisory Group is further concerned that the Central Delaware Riverfront Planning Process appears to have been conducted on a parallel but intentionally separate course from the casino design review process.

As you may know, PennPraxis — the team of urban planning consultants affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania — was invited by the city, in October 2006, to lead the development of a civic vision for the waterfront. Since that time, we have worked with many thousands of Philadelphians to help shape citizen values and principles to guide planning and development along the central waterfront. These civic values and principles serve as the basis for a set of urban design guidelines that call for a pedestrian friendly, mixed-use waterfront. The goal is to create a vision that protects the public interest, encourages quality development and balances with a working port.

In facilitating this civic process, we have remained neutral on the issue of land use, including the sites of the proposed casinos. We have focused instead on guidelines for development and infrastructure investment that will support a variety of development initiatives — whether casinos are built on these riverfront sites or not. The Advisory Group has adhered to the civic principles that have emerged from the public process — principles which provide a strong civic foundation for the work and foster the urban character that makes Philadelphia so special. The commitment to all Philadelphians has been to conduct an open and transparent public planning process, and the Central Delaware Advisory Group continues to maintain clear and frequent communication with the public about the project's progress.

The Advisory Group has worked hard over the past seven months to bring multiple riverfront stakeholders together to seek common ground around shared values for the future of the city. The Advisory Group attempted to host a rich civic dialogue on the tensions and tradeoffs associated with development, growth and change. We recognize that the development of the waterfront holds great promise for the future of Philadelphia, and at the same time, we know neighborhood change is a matter that must be addressed with great sensitivity.

The prospect of casinos on the waterfront has dominated much of the civic dialogue and has been a source of tension throughout the process. The urban design guidelines and planning principles that we have developed are the direct result of this important public dialogue and as such, they reflect the will of the people of Philadelphia. The Advisory Group is greatly distressed by the Planning Commission's apparent lack of application of these principles and urges Council to use these tools to review and judge the merits of all waterfront development.

Philadelphia must begin to establish strong development rules that protect the public good while encouraging quality private development along a part of our waterfront, which is dense, historic, and urban. The Advisory Group believes that no development should move forward until we have an open and public process that explains decisions and respectfully acknowledges disagreement. We look forward to bringing the values, principles and design guidelines developed in this process to that discussion.

...development of the waterfront holds great promise for the future of Philadelphia, and at the same time, we know neighborhood change is a matter that must be addressed with great sensitivity.

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Another “Done Deal” That Got Undone!

For the past several months, our civic association’s Board of Directors has been working with other neighborhood groups and activists to prevent the arrival of two slots casinos from undermining (or, in a worst-case scenario, *destroying*) our homes and communities. This confrontation is the most serious threat to the survival of our neighborhood in over 40 years. In the 1960s a section of Interstate 95, originally planned to be built on grade, would have separated the Delaware waterfront from Society Hill.

At that time many of our community’s remarkably large stock of colonial-era houses were undergoing restoration by home-owning “gamblers” in what was then a mixed neighborhood of decrepit rooming houses and factories. Inspired by the proximity to the waterfront and to Independence National Park, risk-taking community “pioneers” worked hard. But it took seven long years of struggle to attain needed design modifications that depressed Interstate 95 — assuring pedestrian access to the waterfront — thus, ensuring the rebirth of Society Hill as we know it today.

Many of us believe that since this 1960s “done deal” was reconceived and eventually undone, there’s no reason for us to give up on the current struggle to prevent casinos from invading our neighborhood. We are prepared to work hard, remain steadfast, and give generously of our efforts as well as our resources.

Testimony of Shawn Rairigh

continued from page 9

sites. For more than four hours, about 45-50 community members, including eight design professionals, gathered together to plan these sites — the only restriction being “no casinos.” The best moment for me had to be the woman from South Philadelphia who was so excited by the prospect of creating a park to rival FDR Park on the Foxwoods site. As you may know, the eastern half of South Philadelphia has almost no park space — so this woman quietly sat alone drawing her ideal park, complete with bandstand, splash pond, swimming beach, climbing walls, ball fields, and everything else she could imagine. Eventually the charrette compiled everyone’s ideas into a site plan, with renderings and a development package. You will see that our communities are decidedly not anti-development. NABR’s alternative vision for the SugarHouse site would include, for

QUACK QUACK!

Ride The Ducks? Nah!

Many Society Hill neighbors have again been complaining about the disruptive quacking “duck vehicles” that drive through our historic neighborhood during tourist season. Ever since these duck buses/boats first arrived on the scene a few years ago, our civic association was promised that their riders would be told to be respectfully quiet, and warned not to quack their whistles when touring our residential streets. But that has not been the case!

SHCA’s Vice President Martha Levine complained to the firm’s current Managing Director, Steve Dutcher, who asks that neighbors make a note of the number of any vehicle that is offensively loud and report to him the exact place and time where the disturbance occurred. His email is sdutcher@phillyducks.com. Apparently, each driver “does his own thing” — one may instruct passengers not to quack, while another will encourage riders to quack at passersby as they circle Washington Square and our ordinarily quiet streets.

An “Anti-Quacking Committee” is now organizing. Neighbors Jane Green and Martha Levine plan to follow through on the promise made by “Ride the Ducks” to keep their vehicles from quacking and polluting (with gas fumes) our historic residential neighborhood. To join the committee and help ensure a peaceful summer for residents and visitors alike, contact Jane at 215-925-3175 or janeagreen@comcast.net.



NO QUACKING!

example, 440,000 square feet of residential space, 70,000 square feet of commercial space, and a five-acre park. NABR’s alternative use for the Foxwoods site would provide over 800,000 square feet of condos and apartments, 100 townhouses, 80,000 square feet of commercial space and an eight-acre park — which would be twice the size of Rittenhouse Square!

Simply said, these two sites are huge in their urban context and could usefully extend the city’s urban fabric to the river’s edge — instead of being considered for gargantuan suburban, single-use projects that will block views, block access, endanger nearby neighborhoods, and provide a dangerous precedent for our waterfront.

I urge City Council members to vote against Councilman Ramos’ bills and in favor of Councilman DiCicco’s 1,500 foot buffer zone — so that, ultimately, no casino will be built near any home, school, park or house of worship.



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LIGHTING

BY MARTHA LEVINE, CHAIR, FRANKLIN LIGHTS COMMITTEE

Final Phase of Franklin Lights Improvement Project

Now that it's summer, many of us are spending more evenings out of doors — walking to theaters, restaurants, and visiting friends. Surely you have noticed that Society Hill's streets are visibly brighter than they were one year ago. Nearly 500 "brand-new" fixtures and brackets have replaced the 40-year-old ones. The new lights provide increased wattage throughout the neighborhood — giving us a better sense of security as we navigate the streets at night.

What's Been Accomplished Thus Far

From September 2006 through April 2007, 494 brand-new lighting systems were installed within all of Society Hill's distinctive "Franklin" Lamps. (Specifically, the lantern and gooseneck of each lamp was replaced, while only the pole is original.) The new lights were kept burning 24/7 to test that they were mechanically sound — accomplished by covering their photo sensors so they wouldn't react to changes in available light. In April, the Lighting Department began the next phase of the project, which is still being completed: the uncovering of the lamps' photo sensors so each light fixture would turn on at night and off during the day.

We Welcome Feedback

If lights on your block are blinking off and on (called "cycling"), or if they are completely out, please contact me with the precise location of the defective light — for example, in front of or near what address? I will forward your complaint to

the chief of the Street Lighting Department, as the Department is trouble-shooting each reported light to determine its problem — whether related to the photo sensors or old wiring, or if it's a PECO matter. Each light will be addressed — so be patient if you have such a problem near your home.

Current & Final Phase

We are working with a contractor who will paint all of the neighborhood's lamp poles this summer. Methodical preparation of the poles, many with rust and graffiti, will be necessary to make them look as good as the new lanterns above them. The correct type of paint will be used for each pole and should look good for at least twenty years.

How You Can Help

As the painters move throughout the neighborhood to paint all the lamp poles, every hanging plant basket must be removed for the painting's prep work and cannot be returned until the paint is completely dry. Look for instructional flyers placed through your door the week before the poles on your block are painted. This will give you time to temporarily remove any hanging plant baskets. Also, traffic signs attached to the light poles will be temporarily removed.

We hope that this final stage of work to improve our street lights will run smoothly, but to report a malfunctioning light or for additional information, please contact me at marthalev@msn.com or 215-629-0727.



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If you have an interest and want to get involved, please contact me or stop by our 5th Ward constituent services office at Suite 1000, 437 Chestnut Street. Thank you graciously for your interest in our great city and community. Please contact the 5th Ward GOP!

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STEVEN A. WEIXLER, ZHP COMMITTEE CHAIR

Update: York Row

It's been quite awhile since we've updated our civic association's legal action for the preservation of York Row. As you may recall, this row of fine historic houses along Walnut Street, at S. 8th Street, was damaged during the construction of the St. James' Tower. SHCA brought court action to require the Philadelphia Historical Commission to implement the restoration of marble cornices along the roofline of these buildings. Together with the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, we contended that the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation and the City's Preservation Ordinance required these elements to be replaced with the original materials. After a Commonwealth Court decision in our favor last July (2006), the developer filed a brief to appeal the case to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. I am now pleased to report that on May 2, 2007 the Court denied the developer's petition. We will now take steps to insure that these significant buildings are properly repaired and preserved.

Stamper Square (formerly "NewMarket")

The architecture firm H2L2 is beginning work on a mixed-use hotel proposal for this important Society Hill site, which for many years was known as "New Market." H2L2, an international firm headquartered in Philadelphia since 1907, will soon present its proposal to our committee. The principal in charge of this Stamper Square project is Barry Eiswerth, a long-time resident of Society Hill. When I asked Eiswerth to comment on his approach to integrating the project into the scale and character of our historic neighborhood, he said: "As proposed, the building is mostly a luxury hotel... The network of pedestrian paths and parks/plazas that weave their way through Society Hill will be extended through Stamper Square as an extension of Stamper Street and will connect S. 2nd Street to Front Street." Eiswerth also offered: "The process for arriving at the final design continues to be a collaborative one between the Society Hill Civic Association, the architects and the development team. We intend to keep the neighborhood engaged throughout the process to ensure a positive outcome for all."

Needless to say, our ZHP Committee, which consists of several design professionals and architects, will be fair when considering the merits of this project in relation to community concerns and the quality of our neighborhood.

Central Delaware Advisory Group Focuses on the Topic of Casino Site

For many months the Delaware River has been a "front and center" issue for our neighborhood association and fifteen other civic associations that joined together as the Central Delaware Advisory Group (CDAG). Much of CDAG's planning has been facilitated by PennPraxis, which serves as consultant to the group. PennPraxis — generously funded by the William Penn Foundation — is a nonprofit team of urban planners affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania.

PennPraxis presented an exciting vision of new development that would transform Philadelphia for future generations to the Central Delaware Advisory Group. As Society Hill's representative to this group, which is the "official" urban planning team for the waterfront, I have continued to advocate for a Master Plan that will improve our neighborhood and the quality of life for our allied communities.

The coalition involved in CDAG has become increasingly frustrated and angry with the Philadelphia Planning Commission's lack of openness in their review and consultation with casino developers. CDAG has been expending a great amount of time and talent on planning — without receiving critical information from the Planning Commission. On May 7th — assisted by the able counsel of SHCA's Vice President Jim Moss, Esq. — a resolution was drafted for CDAG's Master Plan that includes the option for not building casinos. This was accepted and PennPraxis began to include the Group's ideas in their work.

Meanwhile, the Planning Commission concluded its review of plans for the SugarHouse casino, and on May 22nd approved the SugarHouse proposal — with a bare 24 hours of public notice. Naturally, this sparked outrage and frustration among the members of CDAG. To learn more, about CDAG, visit www.planphilly.com/node/1474. At CDAG's June 4th meeting a letter expressing our concerns to the Mayor and to City Council was approved (see www.planphilly.com/node/1570). On June 13th, I appeared before City Council's Rules Committee to make our concerns public. The full text of my statement appears on page 11 of this issue. City Council has deferred its decision on the matter until it reconvenes at its next session in September.

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That quaint phrase took on fresh life when, on May 22nd and 23rd, volunteers gathered in Washington Square for our “Annual Spring Beautification Day.”

Children from Independence Charter and McCall schools, their teachers, parents and others rolled up their collective sleeves to plant shrubs and perennials. They also enlarged, weeded and mulched the existing flower beds. Special attention was paid to the Square’s entrance corners.

Our civic association contracted the services of Heidi Shober’s firm, Enchanted Gardens, to complete a significant amount of this landscaping project. She inspired the students with a lesson about gardening, and then distributed the necessary equipment. The kids pitched in with energy and enthusiasm. For their efforts they received not only a badge from Independence National Historical Park Service (INHP) but also the satisfaction of contributing to the loveliness of our neighborhood!

Many thanks to INHP staff for preparing the Square for our community effort by completing various needed repairs to the sprinkler/irrigation system and weeding and edging all the flowerbeds. In addition, they provided mulch, shovels and wheelbarrows, as well as refreshments.

We’re especially grateful to Sissie Lipton, SHCA’s Washington Square Committee Chair, and INHP staffers Beverly Morris, Jean Marra and Steve Murphy for all their hard work in this ongoing landscaping project.

Our beautiful Washington Square is the result of a collaboration between Independence Park and our civic association — financially supported by SHCA, grants from various sources, and of course, donations by neighbors — including a generous one from Bernie and Joan Spain, Independence Place residents.

We hope all neighbors appreciate these efforts to improve the appearance of Washington Square. Do consider making a contribution to SHCA, earmarked for the Square, so that we may continue these wonderful improvements. We particularly ask nearby and hi-rise residents who daily see and enjoy the results of our efforts to become involved in this beautification project at their doorsteps.



Kids roll up their sleeves and pitch in to help beautify Washington Square



Thanks to all the volunteers for getting down and dirty!

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Beacon Hill Village Conference Sheds Light

BY CAROLE LE FAIVRE-ROCHESTER

We reported previously on efforts underway in Society Hill and adjacent Queen Village and Old City to develop a supportive organization that would help our older or disabled residents to live independently in their own homes for as long as they can. To gain more information about establishing a local supportive "Village," SHCA Board Directors Tania Rorke and Carole Le Faivre-Rochester recently attended a conference in Boston focusing on a pioneer in this field, Beacon Hill Village.

Up and running since 2002, Beacon Hill Village received much attention after articles appeared in the AARP magazine and the *New York Times*. Consequently, other "Village" communities are springing up nationwide. The website for Beacon Hill Village states, "persons age 50 and older who live on Beacon Hill and in its adjacent neighborhoods enjoy safer, healthier and more independent lives in their own homes — well connected to a familiar and attentive community." The process to develop such a program takes time, however, requiring major steps along the way.

The first important component is applying for a 501(c)3 status for our Village, by filing articles of incorporation as a non-profit entity and by securing federal income tax exemption — a process we have already begun. We also must decide on a name for this project. A Board of Directors has yet to be established, a business plan written, and committees set up to handle marketing, finances, programs, and oversight — to name a few important areas.

Major questions still unanswered include: how would we fund such a program? Would there be grants available for start-up costs? Would there be different levels of membership based on income? For example, Beacon Hill Village has two levels of membership: those with incomes of less than \$45,000 a year are charged a lower membership fee, but they do pay the same amount as other members for required or requested services, such as transportation and cultural activities.

Other questions of importance: do we need an office? Yes, we do, and with the assistance of Frank D. Vagnone, Executive Director of Landmarks Society, our local Village has been offered office space at the historic Physick House.

Lest there be misconceptions about our Village project, here are some important points to keep in mind:

- A Village project acts as a *referral service* between registered community members who've paid their annual fees, and a strategic partner or partners who provide services, including hospitals.
- Service providers are carefully chosen in advance. For example, Beacon Hill Village wisely decided during its planning stage to work with a strategic partner that was already in place in the Boston area, HouseWorks. You can look them up at: www.house-works.com/homeCare/index.htm. Beacon Hill also established a good relationship with Massachusetts General Hospital. Locally, our participating communities are fortunate to have very supportive hospital representatives from Pennsylvania Hospital and Thomas Jefferson University. Philadelphia has providers similar to HouseWorks, and we are in the process of examining them.
- The service provider screens caretakers (nurses, nurses' aides, homemaker home health aides, home improvement agencies and others) who will come into members' homes to provide, for example, hands-on personal care assistance, household management and other needed services.
- Many services may be handled by volunteers, such as some transportation, home visits, check-up phone calls, reading to the visually impaired, or providing home-cooked meals.

One important service that we found among many of the villages is monitoring of the elderly. For example, a son or daughter in another part of the country can call the Village staff to make sure that a parent is safe. Even without such a family request, Beacon Hill staff routinely calls members they have not seen for a while.

Although we plan no additional general meetings until September, a steering committee and expanded sub-committees may meet during the summer. We have asked before, and we ask again, for your assistance. If you are interested in working with Society Hill, Queen Village and Old City to help form our Village community, please email Bob Rossheim at sh1682@gmail.com. If you have any questions about our project, contact Tania Rorke at TRorke@aol.com. Don't yet have email? Write to her, c/o SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147.

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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

BY MARILYN APPEL

When it Rains it Pours:

A rash of “thefts from autos” has occurred running up Spruce and down Pine, as well as in-between. When “Yours Truly” recently returned home from a vacation abroad, I found that my car had been broken into — although very little was taken. So goes it for many others — very little taken, unless there was money — because, believe it: the thieves searched each car specifically for cash. The “funny” part is that my car, as well as many others, had no broken windows or door locks. This means that these perps had some way of entering the vehicles without causing noise or vandalism. How did they do that? In other cases windows were smashed. Of course, all these incidents reported to me by email were also reported to the police, but not necessarily by the complainants (see below).

A police car is keeping watch for us.

Warning: If you see something suspicious, don’t just shrug it off as if by seeing you the thief will go on his or her

way! **Report it**, by calling 911. Report suspicious activity and tell them about the wave of car break-ins. They **will** send a police car. **Another warning:** Never leave anything in your car that could be enticing — e.g. a wallet, coins, cell phones, laptops — anything, for that matter. Whatever you leave in your car should be locked up and out of sight.

The Police Need Your Help:

There were two reports of crime on the same block within three days of each other. There were no 911 calls reporting suspicious activity, persons or noises prior to the report by the complainants. The police need active participation (your eyes and ears). Look out for yourselves and also for your neighbors.




Be alert: Look for autos with several males in them that could possibly be circling your block. Here’s what they do: one person gets out of the car and quickly gets back in — they’re looking for a target. Watch out for groups of males, who seem not to have a particular

destination, but are more inclined to be watching people, places, bikes, autos, etc. Listen to your gut feelings about this. Take out your cell phone, call 911, and report suspicious activity. Give a description as best you can of the person(s), the activity, the location, direction of travel, time, etc.

The second time around: Believe it or not, the State Store on 5th Street, right next to Zeke’s Deli, was held up, point of gun, for the second time and in daytime hours. Now that’s scary!

Captain Korn has increased bike patrols in our area, including two bike officers in plainclothes.

Cell phones: We’re still collecting used cell phones, and if you’ve read this column before you know that the phones and chargers are sent to the DA’s office to be reprogrammed to call only 911. These phones are given to abused persons and the elderly. Don’t discard old cell phones! Take them to 414 Spruce Street. We’ll get them to where they have to go.

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200 block of Pine	\$390,000	500 block of Delancey	\$935,000
600 block of Addison	\$397,000	300 block of S. American	\$950,000
300 block of S. 3rd St	\$459,900	600 block of Spruce	\$960,500
300 block of Lombard	\$480,000	200 block of Spruce	\$990,000
500 block of Lombard	\$560,000	300 block of S. Lawrence	\$1,000,000
400 block of Lombard	\$615,000	300 block of Delancey	\$1,055,000
600 block of Pine	\$625,000	500 block of Addison Court	\$1,095,000
200 block of Stamper	\$645,000	300 block of Spruce	\$1,105,450
200 block of Delancey	\$659,900	200 block of S. 4th St	\$1,175,000
300 block of S. 5th St.	\$712,500	300 block of S. 2nd St	\$1,320,000
400 block of Pine	\$715,000	200 block of Delancey	\$1,450,000
500 block of Spruce	\$720,000	200 block of S. 4th St	\$1,500,000
200 block of S. 7th St	\$740,000	200 block of Pine	\$1,550,000
500 block of Delancey	\$743,000	200 block of S. 3rd St	\$1,650,000
200 block of Spruce	\$767,000	500 block of Spruce	\$2,150,000
200 block of S. 3rd St	\$800,000	300 block of S. 3rd St	\$2,550,000
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We have pruned trees at Historic RittenhouseTown in the Wissahickon, participated in cleaning up Pleasant Park in Mount Airy on Martin Luther King Day, and donated a day's work by three men to Habitat for Humanity in Norristown.

This winter we spent a day at Kearsley Retirement Community in the Wynnefield section of Philadelphia, working on a near forgotten, historic graveyard at the rear of the property. Kearsley is the nation's first retirement community, dating back to 1772. It began with a mission to save indigent women. Today it is a retirement home for both genders.

One of its residents, Doris Weiman, has been caring for the graveyard since 1992. After she showed us this hidden gem and gave us a history lesson, we

realized this would be an ideal opportunity for service.

We returned to prune out the large dead limbs that could break head stones when they fell; we also removed the volunteer trees and did a general clean up.

By volunteering our services, we express respect for the communities we serve, while maintaining the standards and ideals that are our trademark.

ACCIDENTAL TOURIST IN MY OWN BACKYARD

A COLUMN BY JANE BIBERMAN

How to Bet the Horses and Win

It's a dazzling summer day. No humidity, light breezes, perfect — except for the hordes of tourists crowding the sidewalks and blocking the scenery in the vicinity of Independence Hall. Lines bursting with boisterous kids snake around every corner. Quacking duck boats lumber noisily down the streets followed by tour buses bleating out dates, landmarks and toxic fumes. My mom, 92, her companion Aretha, and I also want to tour the largest colonial neighborhood in the country, but we don't want to stand in a long line.

How can we enjoy a recreational trip and learn a bit of early American history, while we're at it? A horse-drawn carriage, of course! So we pat a dozen Belgian draft horses standing quietly on 6th Street between Chestnut and Market before finally choosing Smokey and his human partner, Cheri Holt. A sixth-generation Philadelphian — whose great-grandparents kept a fruit and vegetable stand at Head House Square — Cheri lives in Queen Village with her five-year-old son, Jamie, who was named after James Madison.

As we rumble down the streets in our flower-festooned carriage, we're immediately transported to a bygone era. Cheri suggests a 60-minute tour of the Independence Park area, Old City and Society Hill. "If I can't tell you ten things you didn't know before today, the trip's on me," she promises. Prepared to save \$80 plus tip, we place our bet. In five minutes we lose our money, but win the time of our lives.

We clip-clop over bumpy Belgian block streets as Cheri points out celebrated sites accompanied by interesting information. A patriotic history buff, she's indignant that the *Philadelphia Inquirer* accused tour guides of disseminating "nuggets of nonsense." Cheri, who also gives walking tours for Centipede (215-735-3123), checks her facts. She shows us "busybody mirrors" on colonial homes that allowed residents to look up and down the street without being seen at their windows; marble mounting blocks that enabled modest women to hide their ankles while descending carriages; architects' trademark boot scrapes; decorative pineapples on homes and gates denoting hospitality. Cheri relates that Ben Franklin, aka Poor Richard, said that "guests are like fish; they stink after three days."

We pass the semicircular brick Whispering Bench on 4th Street, where, according to Cheri,



Cheri and Smokey share a carrot

people would secretly gossip — hence the expression "talking to a brick wall." We stop at the Physick House, the largest freestanding mansion in Society Hill, and the Betsy Ross House, the tiny trinity where it is believed that Betsy stitched the first American flag designed by Francis Hopkinson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Cheri notes that Callowhill Street was named after William Penn's wife, Sarah, and that Market Street used to be called "High Street"; and that Ronald Reagan gave our city Sparky the Dalmatian, who lived at the firehouse at 4th and Arch Streets. We "tourists" cover a lot of ground before returning to Washington Square, so that Smokey can drink from one of two original watering troughs in the area.

Cheri takes us home to Independence Place, where we plan a future outing on a cool day. She tells us that the carriage horses aren't supposed to work when the temperature exceeds 91 degrees. I think this is much too hot, but still many drivers and companies are guilty of non-compliance. So please report violators to Philadelphia Animal Care & Control (267-385-3800). After all, this should be the City of Brotherly Love for all creatures.

I'll bet you a quarter, stamped with a "P" for Philly at the U.S. Mint, that you'll also enjoy "playing" the local horses.



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- 1034 Spruce #101** **\$429,900**
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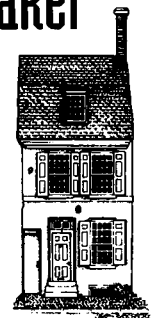


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Kids' Beat

A COLUMN BY KERI WHITE

New Shop to Launch in August

Society Hill, get ready to welcome a new kids' store into our midst. Courtesy of former litigator and neighborhood mom, Jackie Promislo, her shop "Lolli Lolli" will launch in August — at 713 Walnut Street — carrying clothes, toys, furniture, gifts, layettes and bath products for the 10 and under set.

The how and why are simple: as a busy mom, Jackie found shopping with and for her kids challenging. In her experience, many kids' stores were not particularly kid friendly or convenient. "With the busy schedules we all juggle," she said, "it is not always feasible to dash all over town searching for a birthday present or new outfit." In addition, it was difficult to find clothes for her children that were moderately priced, unique and fun without being inappropriately trendy or boring. Finally, the closing of Gap Kids and Kamikaze Kids left no real source for kids' clothes east of Broad Street. Add to these factors Jackie's lifelong goal to start her own business pulling at her.

She loved working at Cozen O'Connor, but the need to "build something to enhance my community" eclipsed her drive to litigate. The demographic shifts in Center City also played a role in Promislo's decision: "This neighborhood is just teeming with kids, and more and more grandparents are here as empty nesters move back into the city." Her conclusion: a comprehensive, family-friendly children's boutique was needed, so Lolli Lolli was born. The name comes from a "patty-cake" type game that her children play and is all the rage at their elementary school. There was a constant chorus of "Lolli Lolli" in the house, and Jackie liked the sound of it for a kid-oriented business.

In developing the concept of the store, Jackie drew on her experiences in the children's shopping world, and aimed for a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere that would occupy the kids, while at the same time answer the parents' need for efficient procurement. She remembered that when she managed to corral her eager daughter and reluctant son into a children's shop, invariably one or both of them needed food, drinks, or the bathroom. Lolli Lolli will have a table set up for reasonably healthy snacks and drinks (which the store will provide), as well as a rest room and

diaper changing room. Jackie will also provide arts and crafts, toys and books to occupy the children while mom or dad shops. For safety purposes, the play area is in the rear of the store. Situated on Washington Square, the store's location is no accident. If junior needs to take a break, the family can do a few laps around the park and resume shopping with the energy expended, at least temporarily.

Promislo will offer a full-service, low-stress shopping experience. Call her with a gift situation: "I'm visiting my sister-in-law tomorrow. I owe each of her four children birthday gifts. Help!" Provide some basic information, and Lolli Lolli will select, wrap, and ship or deliver the gifts, complete with greeting cards from the loving Auntie. Baby registry will be available as well.

And the clothes. Oh, the clothes! I saw a sampling, and the stuff is delicious. Colorful, interesting, and distinctive without being precocious; classic, traditional and timeless without being dull. Some of the brands Lolli Lolli will stock include: Deux par Deux; Bees and Dragons; Sage Creek Organics; Eland; Mimi and Maggie; Monster; and Sister Sam. Toy brands will include: Like a Bike; Webkinz; Penelope Pea Pod; Manhattan Toy; and Eeboo.

During the month of September, Promislo plans a variety of special Saturday events to introduce Lolli Lolli to the community. Come by for face painting, balloons, free lollipops, and a delightful shopping experience. See you there!



Kid's Quote

"Mom, can I get a job at Lolli Lolli this summer?"

**Kelsey, age 8,
Society Hill Kid**

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Kathy, Patrick and the Conway Team

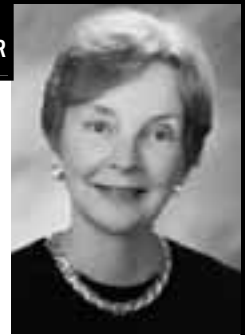
Congratulations to Kathy, Patrick and the Conway Team for recently being honored in San Diego California for receiving the most prestigious award "The Fianale Award" (One of the Top 10 Agents in the United States of America out of 60,000 Prudential Agents.)

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For More Info Contact Jan Stephano

215.922.3600 x219

Neighbors Begin Organizing St. Peter's Archives

BY CYNTHIA J. EISEMAN

One of the most beautiful and prominent landmarks in our neighborhood is St. Peter's Church, located at 3rd and Pine Streets. The church, designed by Robert Smith and built in 1761, retains its original Georgian design. Its interior, with the wine-glass pulpit at the west end of the sanctuary, the altar at the east and the box pews in between, delights and intrigues visitors. The familiar bell tower (now being repaired) and spire were designed by William Strickland and added in 1842. The surrounding churchyard contains over 1,000 interments and is the final resting place for generations of Philadelphians.

All this is well known to Society Hill residents. Less well known is the fact that the archives of St. Peter's contain some 200 linear feet of records that not only tell the 250-year history of the church but also reflect constantly changing life in the surrounding neighborhood. Until now, St. Peter's archives have been minimally used and little understood. A typical request comes from an individual seeking genealogical information about ancestors — births, baptisms, marriages or burials. Kate Randall, the parish administrator, or a volunteer, most recently Roy Bernat, has helped researchers find what they want.

But information of a different nature lies hidden in St. Peter's archives. Ledgers listing the renters and rental fees for church pews provide a rich primary source about parishioners. Late 18th- and early 19th-century ledgers read like a Who's Who of the Colonial and Federal eras. Lists of communicants, registers of services, parish bulletins, accounting wardens' books and maps showing the church's property holdings tell us much about the neighborhood and the city of Philadelphia since 1761. Endowment funds that provided coal or shoes for those in need reveal the changing fortunes of Philadelphia's residents, as well as the nature of families' needs and how the church and its auxiliary groups helped meet them.

In order to be more useful to the public and to scholars, however, the archives need to be better organized and a searching method must be created. Since July 2006, a group of neighbors has volunteered hundreds of hours to begin the process of organizing, preserving and making accessible these archives. Leading this effort is Carol W. Smith, a consulting archivist. The archives project was a recommendation of a Pew Trusts' Heritage Philadelphia Program study in 2002.



Funding came from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Archives and Records Management Program, with additional support from individuals.

Among St. Peter's archives, however, there does not seem to be the quantity of records one would expect for a church of this age. It was customary in the past, as it is today, for parishioners to do volunteer work for the church at home and keep church-related documents there. Often, those documents were never turned over to the church. If you or someone you know is a former rector, vestry member or active parishioner, or a descendant of one, please search your attic, closets or garage for documents related to St. Peter's and turn them over to the archives. If you have questions about what we are seeking, you may contact either Nancy Fago at 215-923-4473 or nfago@comcast.net; or Cynthia J. Eiseman at 215.923.5492 or CynthiaJEiseman@verizon.net. If using email, please insert "St. Peter's Archives" in the subject line.

St. Peter's Church has played an integral role in the history of Philadelphia. The church's 250th anniversary, to be celebrated between 2008 and 2011, is an opportune occasion to share that history with the neighborhood, Philadelphians and the world, through exhibitions at the church and on the Web.

Friends Preserve Old Pine Street Graveyard

Be on the lookout for an envelope you'll soon receive in your mailbox, hand-delivered by Boy Scouts, to promote the preservation of an historic graveyard in our midst. Old Pine Street's "all-weather urban park" needs repair to its fences. These 4th Street fences are unstable and could pose a safety and security problem. We hope you'll join the "Friends of Old Pine Street" who are supporting this ambitious effort to stabilize the heritage of a site where colonial heroes as well as everyday citizens have been buried since 1764.

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A T T E N T I O N

Independence Place, Hopkinson House, and St. James Residents

We are sure you are aware that Washington Square, an integral part of Society Hill, is one of the most prestigious parts of the City, home to over 2,000 residents who enjoy a quality of life equal to, if not better than residents around Rittenhouse. Our proximity to theatres, grocery stores, health clubs, and the excitement of Olde City and South Street cannot be equaled.

The Society Hill Civic Association — a group of dedicated volunteers— works hard to make sure the quality of life is maintained and enhanced for ALL Society Hill residents — whether they live in the townhouses or in the high rises around Washington Square.

Have you noticed the recent increase in flowers and elegant foliage at each

of the entrances of our historic square? These horticultural improvements were not done through the cash-strapped National Park Service nor the indifferent City government. These improvements were made possible by you — the citizens of Society Hill, by your membership dues in SHCA and through extra generous contributions by a number of individuals.



Yet year after year, participation in SHCA by residents from IP, HH, and the St. James, continues to lag. While well over 60% of all townhouse residents belong to SHCA, here are the latest percentages for the high rises:

- Independence Place Tower Two— 77 paid members—34.5%**
- Independence Place Tower One—62 paid members—23.5%**
- Hopkinson House— 54 paid members— 10.1%**
- The St. James— 11 paid members— 0.5%**

204 members out of a potential 2,000 is discouraging. If you live in one of these high rises, PLEASE consider joining SHCA if for no other reason, so we can continue to improve Washington Square.

SHCA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Good News!

SHCA reaches its 1,000 benchmark goal

At the time this newsletter goes to press, our civic association reached its goal of 1,000 current, paid-up members. In fact, there are 1,001 total members to date, and we are quite pleased to report that 60 households are new. We thank *all* members, particularly “brand-new” households, as your participation at this challenging period for Society Hill encourages us to continue our efforts to preserve our unique, historic community.

The surprising (and disturbing!) fact is that there are still 109 past members who have not yet renewed from calendar year 2006 — a membership total that had reached an all-time high of 1,066.

Our hope (and expectation) is to significantly expand SHCA’s total membership base by increasing participation from hi-rise dwellers. This civic association has contributed much effort, as well as funds for the beautification of Washington Square — so we wonder where the estimated 2,000 or more Washington Square neighbors have been hiding. Since there are over 600 units at Hopkinson House, and the two buildings at Independence Place have about 500 units, we would expect greater SHCA participation from these condominium owners and dwellers.

Thus far, we are quite pleased with participation from homeowners in the Lippincott and Saunders Buildings, which surround Washington Square. And soon the Ayer Building will be occupied. We hope to see a high level of participation from these homeowners, who we heartily welcome into our community. In addition, there are approximately 200 households in the new St. James hi-rise — so we are optimistic that we can significantly increase the total number of members for our ever-diligent civic association.

Join now!

SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Membership Application/Renewal Form



Renewal New

Name _____

Address _____ 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. SHCA never shares its membership list with any other organization, no matter how worthy the cause.

Residential Memberships

- \$50 Basic Household
- \$100 Federal Friend
- \$150 Georgian Grantor
- \$300 Benjamin Franklin Benefactor*
- \$40 Senior/Student

*Will receive a FREE ticket for Society Hill House Tours

Business Memberships

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

Additional contribution for

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Washington Square Beautification | <input type="radio"/> McCall School |
| <input type="radio"/> Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal | <input type="radio"/> Street Trees |
| <input type="radio"/> Town Watch/Safe and Sound | <input type="radio"/> Franklin Lights |
| <input type="radio"/> Zoning & Historic Preservation | <input type="radio"/> PA Hospital’s Pine St. Building |
| <input type="radio"/> <i>Society Hill Reporter</i> | \$ _____ |

Check Enclosed Total \$ _____

Charge VISA/Mastercard _____

Number _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____

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

- Anti-Casino Clean-Up Day Newsletter TownWatch
- Washington Square Zoning & Historic Preservation Other: _____

Return completed application to:

Society Hill Civic Association
 P.O. Box 63503
 Philadelphia, PA 19147

HAPPENINGS AT HEAD HOUSE SQUARE

Grand Opening: The "New" Head House Market



See you at
the market...

Join us on Sunday, July 22nd for the Grand Opening of the Head House Farmers' Market at the Shambles of Head House Square — at 2nd and Lombard Streets. There will be much to celebrate. Not only will this farmers' market be the largest in all of Philadelphia, with more than 25 local farmers and producers participating, but it will also be an historic occasion — returning the Shambles to its original purpose, as it is the oldest existing outdoor marketplace in the entire country! Mayoral candidate Michael Nutter will be there to help celebrate the July 22nd "re-opening" of this historic marketplace, which will once again be brimming with fresh local produce and culinary delights.

The new Head House Market will operate every Sunday, beginning July 22nd, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the entire summer and through to Thanksgiving. The Market will feature a range of farmers, ranchers and artisans selling a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, flowers, meats, cheeses and other dairy products from the local region. There will also be wonderful baked

goods, locally made ice cream and hot fudge, as well as many other specialty items.

To help celebrate the opening of the new Sunday market on July 22nd, PhillyCarShare will sponsor a chefs' competition. Local chefs will select fresh ingredients from the market and compete to create the best dish.

The Head House Farmers' Market is managed by The Food Trust, a nonprofit organization. Visit www.thefoodtrust.org for more information about this much anticipated and eagerly awaited addition to our community.

The Saturday Farmers' Market at 2nd & South Street Continues

Are you wondering about the familiar Saturday Farmers' Market at 2nd and South Street, now in its 9th year? Well, for this 2007 season, the Saturday market has continued at its original location, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. But on July 7th it will move one block north and across the street to the Head House Shambles, where it will then operate for the rest of the season.



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HAPPENINGS AT HEAD HOUSE SQUARE

“Make It a Film Night” Puts On Dancin’ Shoes...

3rd Annual Head House FREE Film Series

The popular weekly FREE “Make It A Film Night” series — held every Wednesday night at Historic Head House Square during the summer, sponsored by the South Street Headhouse District, presents an all dance theme this season.

Instructors from the co-sponsoring Society Hill Dance Academy will lead FREE pre-movie dance instruction in one of the featured numbers in that evening’s film. Dance instruction begins at 7:30 p.m.

“With the popularity of TV shows such as “Dancing with the Stars’ and the instructional resources of co-sponsoring Society Hill Dance Academy, this season’s dance theme seemed like a natural,” explains Dave Hammond, Executive Director of the South Street Headhouse District.

Following are the movie selections for the remaining summer evenings, which are screened when sufficiently dark — about 8:15 p.m.

This program is a model for FREE community-based activities making use of a historic site in our midst.

- 7/11 Dirty Dancing
- 7/18 Swingers
- 7/25 Cabaret
- 8/1 Strictly Ballroom
- 8/8 Chicago
- 8/15 The Goonies
- 8/22 Priscilla, Queen of the Des
- 8/29 Rocky Horror Picture Sho



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Friday, September 28, 7 p.m.
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NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

A COLUMN BY DAVID WOODS

Jill Pasternak

Tune in to
our very own
“drive-time diva!”

Jill Pasternak has enjoyed a stellar career as both a musician and an interpreter of music on her popular radio program. But her career started on a somewhat discordant note when she was blithely told that she would never play the harp because her thumb was too long. Undaunted, she approached one of the 20th century’s greatest harpists, Marcel Grandjany, who inaugurated the harp department at Juilliard. He dismissed as ridiculous the idea that her thumb was too long and took her on as a student. After graduating from Juilliard, she received a Fulbright scholarship to continue her studies in Paris.

Jill then embarked on a number of freelance and fulltime gigs, including Radio City Music Hall, Broadway shows, the Halifax Symphony, and as an editorial assistant at *Hi Fi Magazine*, while earning a Master’s degree in public media from Montclair State University.

But despite all her success, with a divorce and two children, Jill needed to earn more than a musician’s income. She took on administrative work, including a six-year stint with Exxon as a coordinator of a training program and also as a writer. Then in 1981 and out of the blue, she received a note from a Montclair professor, saying: “Jill, investigate this.”

“This” turned out to be an opening for a classical music announcer at the 24-hour Schenectady radio station WMHT. “There were 85 applicants,” Jill says, “and they wanted a man.” Nonetheless, she was offered the job. But at \$14,000 a year, she still had to supplement her income... and so she accepted an administrative position at Thomas Jefferson University three years later.



Now in Philadelphia, she sent a tape to WFLN and landed the station’s 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday shift before going fulltime. Eventually, in 1997, she landed her present role at WRTI — the Temple University station — bringing along with her 7,000 listeners from WFLN.

Today known as the “drive-time diva,” Jill is the executive producer and host of *Crossover*, an award-winning and highly popular classical music program. She also graces the airwaves on Mondays through Fridays — between 2 and 6 p.m. — bringing a deep feeling for and knowledge of music. Jill presents her material using an ear not only sharply tuned to music but also to the French, Italian, and German from which many of her selections often emanate. She is included in the 2007-2008 *Who’s Who in American Women*.

So far as her own musical interests are concerned, she is a passionate enthusiast of the tango, and her favorite composers are Beethoven, Ravel and Bach. Aside from music, Jill enjoys many other activities, such as interior decorating, cooking and shopping for household furnishings. She especially enjoys solving crossword puzzles and caring for her cats, Tigger and Butsy, who live with her in an apartment overlooking the Delaware.

**Breaking News**

We congratulate our own “Noteworthy Neighbor,” columnist David Woods, who was recently appointed Editor-in-Chief of a British-based publications firm, Rx Communications. David, an author of four books, holds a doctorate in health policy and is, of course, a Society Hill resident.

David Woods can be reached at
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SEEKING BOOK LOVERS

New Society Hill Book Club Now Forming

Jill and Bill Raich, who are relatively “new” Hillers, would like to start a book discussion group. They propose that the club could meet every four to six weeks. Reading selections will likely include fiction, nonfiction, classics and contemporary books, based on the recommendations or interests of the participants.

The Raich’s have offered to host an initial organizational meeting and get-together at their apartment in the Society Hill Towers. Should there be irresistible appeal to this proposal, more than one group could certainly be formed — perhaps consisting of ten to twelve members each and organized along the expressed interest of participants. Intrigued? Please contact Jill and Bill Raich at 215-923-2191 or bjraich@yahoo.com.



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R E P R I N T F R O M

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Bad Odds:

As more states look to win the economic jackpot with casinos, evidence suggests they are playing a losing hand

BY MARK WHITEHOUSE
DATED JUNE 11, 2007

Out on the Great Plains, an experiment is under way: Under a new state law legalizing gambling, Kansas City, Kan., could soon be lit up by the first full-blown casino resort in its 135-year history.

If the plans come to fruition, Kansas will be the 13th U.S. state to bet that commercial casinos will prove to be a win-win game, reaping profits for the casino owners and boosting development for their hosts at the same time. "We'll see a big economic benefit," Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said when she signed the enabling legislation in April.

A growing body of research and experience, however, suggests the odds are not stacked in the state's favor. Some economists go so far as to call casinos a sort of global zero-sum game, in which the outcome for a host city depends on the casino's ability to attract out-of-state tourists and separate them from their money — a feat that becomes increasingly hard to achieve as more states install casinos of their own.

"There are two simple questions: Where does the money come from, and where does the money go?" says William Thomson, a professor of public administration at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas. "If the customers live in the local area, there's no way you can have economic development."

No place in the U.S. has been more successful at attracting out-of-town money than Las Vegas, which hosts nearly 40 million visitors a year. Professor Thomson estimates that those visitors contribute more than four-fifths of the area's annual gaming revenues, which exceed \$8 billion.

Over the past few decades, more and more regions of the U.S. have decided to take a shot at doing what Las Vegas has done. According to the American Gaming Association, 12 states now have operating commercial casinos, up from only two in 1987 (that doesn't include racetrack casinos and casinos run by Indian tribes). Consumer spending on commercial casino gaming stood at \$32.42 billion in 2006, up from \$17.1 billion a decade earlier and more than triple the level of U.S. movie box-office sales.

States and municipalities typically count the benefits of casinos in terms of jobs and tax revenues. In 2006, commercial casinos employed about 366,000 people and paid about \$5.2 billion in direct gaming taxes, according to the American Gaming Association.

More blackjack dealers and gaming taxes, though, don't necessarily add up to growth in economic well-being. For one, casinos often take business from other entertainment venues, such as theaters or sports bars. As a result, some economists — such as Earl Grinols, a former senior economist on the president's

Council of Economic Advisers who now teaches at Baylor University in Texas — contend that, on average, casinos actually make no net tax contribution. The effect on jobs could actually be negative, because many modern casinos — replete with slots and video-poker machines — need fewer employees per customer than the businesses they tend to replace.

"The problem with cities is that they only look at the positive side," says Ricardo Gazel, who is an economist at the Washington, D.C.-based Inter-American Development Bank, and who authored a paper on casinos and economic development while at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. "They look at revenues and the creation of jobs, but they don't look at the destruction of other jobs."

Also, casinos don't necessarily provide the same benefits that most other businesses do. If, for example, a city or state attracts software or biotech firms, the community is likely to benefit not only from job creation, but from the services or products that these types of companies provide. In the case of software, that "utility" is added productivity or entertainment for anyone who uses the product. For biotech, it can be health benefits.

The utility of casino gambling, however, is harder to pin down. Proponents say casinos provide the thrill of risk-taking, along with drinks, music and lights. "A casino

is just like a widget factory or a newspaper,” in that it produces something of value, says Eugene Christiansen of Christiansen Capital Advisors, a consultancy that counts governments and gaming companies among its clients.

Some economists, though, doubt the excitement of casino gambling is worth what people pay for it. In Las Vegas, for example, the average visitor who gambles spends — meaning loses — about \$650. Many people aren’t shelling out that money purely for entertainment: Prof. Grinols, citing various studies, estimates problem and pathological gamblers, on average, account for as much as half of casinos’ gaming revenues. That suggests that to a large extent, casinos do little more than transfer money from one group of people to another — in this case, from their customers to their investors and employees. “With a service like gambling you don’t have that mutual value of trade,” says Prof. Thomson.

Beyond that, studies have shown that casino gambling imposes significant costs on communities. The most important is crime: Cities with casinos provide relatively attractive targets for criminals, who see opportunities in the crowds of people carrying large amounts of cash. In a study of more than 3,000 U.S. counties published last year in the Review of Economics and Statistics, Prof. Grinols and economist David Mustard at the University of Georgia estimated that, on average, about 8% of crime in casino counties was attributable to the casinos. Taking all the costs and benefits of casinos into account, Prof. Grinols has concluded that the introduction of a casino

ultimately incurs an average net cost of at least \$97 per resident per year.

A few communities, such as Las Vegas, and to a lesser extent smaller gambling centers like Biloxi, Miss., come out ahead because they also are successful as tourist destinations, drawing most of their gamblers from afar. That keeps the benefits at home and distributes the costs elsewhere, because people take their losses and problems back to the places from whence they came. “Because they’re drawing such huge volumes of money from other areas, you can argue that’s enough to outweigh the local negatives,” says Prof. Grinols. “You’re imposing the social costs on some other place.”

But with more and more places trying to become the next Las Vegas, the greater competition lowers the chances that any will succeed. A city aiming to install a casino “is very unlikely to become anything more than a regional player, and its major customers are likely to become its own residents,” says Bill Eadington, a professor of economics at the University of Nevada in Reno.

The pitfalls are evident in places like Gary, Ind., and Detroit, which both introduced casino gambling in the hopes of stimulating moribund local economies. The three casinos in Detroit, built in part to compete with casinos across the border in Canada, cater largely to a local clientele, says Fred Wacker, an avid gambler and professor of interdisciplinary studies at Wayne State University in the city. Revenue from the three casinos has grown steadily, and they contributed about \$158 million in gaming

taxes to the state budget in 2006. But Professor Wacker, who initially favored bringing in casinos, sees little positive impact on the area.

“Casinos always make money, but how much good they’re doing for Detroit’s economy is another question completely,” he says. “I don’t see much community development.”

Even when casinos do manage to attract gamblers from out of town, they can spur neighboring regions to retaliate, which is one explanation for the growing number of states taking the plunge. In Kansas, for example, the bid to bring in casinos is partly an attempt to get some business back from neighboring Missouri, which has casino boats on the Missouri River in Kansas City, Mo. “In those parking lots it’s like 40% to 50% Kansas tags on the cars,” says Ed Van Petten, executive director of the Kansas Lottery, which oversees gambling operations in the state. “Hopefully it would stop a money drain of Kansas dollars going to Missouri businesses.”

Proponents of gambling on the Kansas side of Kansas City also believe it will help create the critical mass needed to make the area a major tourist attraction. Judging from the experience of other places, the city might do well to limit its wager. “Gambling can address small issues,” says Professor Eadington. “It cannot address big issues in a positive way.”

Note: This article appeared in the June 11, 2007 edition of *The Wall Street Journal*. Written by Mark Whitehouse, a staff reporter at the *Journal’s* New York bureau, it is reprinted with permission.