



SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

Traffic Study Confirms Two Poor Sites for Casinos

Our worst fears are validated: Traffic mitigation planning is incomplete and based on false assumptions.

We continue our efforts to relocate the two proposed casinos away from residential neighborhoods in Philadelphia for a variety of reasons: unprecedented proximity to homes, schools and houses of worship; the economic effect of such proximity on the lives of residents; our desire for appropriate waterfront development as identified by the Penn-Praxis design project that involved the input of thousands of residents; the fact that casino developers cannot offer any viable solutions to the dramatically increased traffic on our city streets resulting from their operations.

This column focuses on a thorough and critical analysis of traffic plans that were provided by the casino developers. The analysis, commissioned by City Council through Councilman Frank DiCicco's efforts, was conducted by an independent traffic consultant, Stantec Consulting Services. The arrival of Foxwoods and SugarHouse — the two chosen casino sites along Delaware Avenue (aka Columbus Boulevard) — would result in horrific traffic problems identified (and confirmed!) by Stantec. This study supports the fears and concerns of our civic association (SHCA) together with the Delaware River Neighborhood Alliance — now known as the "Philly Neighborhood Alliance," because the Alliance is being joined

by more groups from across the city. The goal of our coalition of 24 community organizations is to relocate the two casinos at least 1,500 feet away from any residential neighborhood.

Conclusions made by Stantec are in stark contrast to the traffic management plan as proposed by casino developers. On September 14th, the Philly Neighborhood Alliance (PNA) met with Councilman DiCicco and Stantec's staff members to gain an understanding of their review of traffic patterns should these two casinos be built at their chosen locations. After the meeting and in a press release, PNA concluded that, "The message is clear: traffic mitigation planning is incomplete and based on false assumptions."

The extremely heavy volume of vehicles that currently exists along Delaware Avenue would be severely compounded by the increase of 30,000 cars expected on an average day heading towards Foxwoods. Yet Foxwoods does nothing to address this problem beyond some minor tweaking, such as changing the timing of traffic lights. One startlingly false assumption made by Foxwoods' traffic planners is that a significant percentage of cars arriving at its site from the south on I-95 would exit at the Walt Whitman Bridge and proceed seven blocks west in the opposite direction from Foxwoods; then these cars would weave through city streets and pass through seventeen traffic lights before arriving at their destination. But the more logical route for most drivers heading towards Foxwoods, from the south on I-95, would be to exit at the Washington Avenue ramp just north of the site (at Pep Boys) — which would require only one right-hand turn and three traffic lights! Imagine the bottleneck local drivers would experience at the Washington Avenue exit once casino patrons discover this more direct route to the Foxwoods site! Either way, gridlock would exist.

The casinos' traffic predictions contain other serious flaws, according to Stantec's evaluation — not the least of which is the failure to adequately plan for tens of thousands of additional vehicles

continued on page 8

THURS.

November

15

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings Thursday, November 15, 2007

Note: The change of day – from Wednesday to Thursday – is ONLY for this November meeting.

Old Pine Street Church, 412 Pine Street

- 6:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting**
All SHCA members are welcome.
- 7:00 p.m. Meet & Greet Your Neighbors**
- 7:30 p.m. Presentation by John Gallery, Exec. Director Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia**
See page 8 for information about the Alliance and John Gallery's talk.
All Society Hill residents are invited to attend.



SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

November/December 2007 Society Hill Reporter

Managing Editor

Bernice T. Hamel

Casino-Related Articles

Bernice T. Hamel
Rosanne Loesch, Esq.

Editorial Board

Marilyn Appel
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Columnists

Marilyn Appel
Jane Biberman
Richard De Wyngaert
Martha Levine
Tania Rorke
Steven Weixler
Keri White
David Woods

Contributors

Paul Boni
Serena Skwersky
Wally Wing

Graphic Design

Judy Lamirand
judy@parallel-design.com

Press Release Liaison

Sandra Rothman
315-C S. 2nd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Email: norfad@aol.com
Phone: 267-671-0554

Advertising Manager

Matthew DeJulio
mattdejulio@aol.com

Society Hill

Civic Association

P.O. Box 63503
Philadelphia, PA 19147
tel: 215-629-1288
fax: 215-629-9914

Submission Deadlines

January/February issue
Advertising: December 1
Editorial: December 5

Website

www.societyhillcivic.org

Submissions

We want to hear from you. Our goal is to print news of interest to Society Hillers — happenings in and around our community for residents, business people and professionals. Direct your 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 Sandra Rothman. (See contact information above.)

Materials must be submitted in writing — 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.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RICHARD DE WYNGAERT

To borrow the descriptive phrase used by former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, "We are living in an age of turbulence: rapid change and volatile forces define our times." In Philadelphia the profound impact of this dizzying change is experienced daily. Local input is perhaps more necessary than ever if we are to ensure that change is managed responsibly. To this end, civic associations throughout the city can be powerful tools.

Our civic association is one of the strongest and most effective in Philadelphia. SHCA is widely viewed as a model to be emulated. The quality of SHCA is attributable to many things. Paramount among these, I believe, is our association's commitment to an engaged community. This commitment is at the core of everything SHCA does. This core belief inspires honest leadership and respectful communication. It has also engendered a trust and a commitment to our neighborhood and our association.

Our determined efforts to communicate honestly and clearly with our membership is absolutely essential, and takes many forms: this newsletter, the *Society Hill Reporter*; face-to-face dialogue; neighborhood forums and meetings; Welcome Baskets delivered to new neighbors; alerts and flyers disseminated through our system of Block Coordinators; email blasts; and our new web site, soon to be fully functional. Our sincere effort to openly and frequently communicate spurs the interest and involvement so integral to healthy community life.

The myriad issues significantly impacting Society Hill's current and future landscape, in both positive and negative ways, are many: casinos; street lighting and cleanliness; homelessness; greenway beautification; economic development; zoning and historic preservation; crime; safety; noise; parks; taxes; and our efforts to build on this community's strengths through active civic association participation. The association consists of many neighbors who devote their time and talents dealing with these issues, the consequences of which can be profound. No one perspective can fully grasp their reverberating consequences. But to serve our members responsibly, it is incumbent upon us to engage as many perspectives as possible in order to fully understand all sides of any complex issue.

This is often challenging. SHCA's Board of Directors and its committees are comprised of individuals, each with his or her own unique perspective. In

addition to being concerned residents of Society Hill, we are aligned with many small groups or associations. We have our individual perspective; our small-group perspective; our Society Hill resident perspective; our religious perspective; and whatever other perspectives contribute to our whole being. On any given issue, it can be difficult to sort out which perspective motivates one's position, conscious or otherwise. However difficult and challenging, it is necessary that we try to understand these multiple perspectives which shape our decision-making to ensure that whatever positions our Board may ultimately adopt will be more honest, more valid and more reflective of our broad community.

Did I mention a "broad community"? We need more members providing additional perspectives. SHCA's base must be broad enough to reflect the diversity that exists within Society Hill and thus more ably address all the issues that continue to affect and influence our neighborhood. We need *you!*

In order to remain vital and relevant, SHCA strives to be ever more inclusive. Certainly, we must remain steadfast and vigilant in safeguarding the character of the Society Hill we love and to which we owe so much. We must also acknowledge the significance of issues not historically central to our hearts as we aim to broaden our membership and remain relevant to all our prospective members. Over the years, SHCA has made many significant contributions to life in Society Hill. However, the extent to which we can know and effectively influence issues that affect the quality of life we currently enjoy is largely a function of membership and resources: time and money!

I urge you to become a member of this civic association, if for any reason you are not. And if you are a member, I ask you to think about four things. One, reflect on how SHCA's services enhance your experience of living in Society Hill. Two, please consider increasing the amount of your contribution — but only to a degree with which you are completely comfortable. Three, please consider urging a friend or family member to become more involved. And four, do let me know how we can better serve you. Please feel free to email me, at radewyngaert@headhousebooks.com.

The more neighbors we represent, the more powerfully we can guarantee a robust Society Hill for today and also for tomorrow.



**Richard De Wyngaert,
President**

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Marlene Talasnik



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season!**



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THE TWO SLOTS PARLORS

Our Ongoing Battle at All Levels of Government

What We're Doing....

Since the May 2007 primary election — when the Pennsylvania State Supreme Court supported casino gambling interests and the unelected members of Pennsylvania's Gaming Control Board (PGCB) by knocking the City's Casino Referendum Question off the ballot — many citizens responded that we must begin to fight this battle in federal court. The following bullets summarize recent and current actions:

- We are engaging in a multi-pronged federal lawsuit with other community groups. The goal of this lawsuit is simple. We do not oppose casinos *per se*. Rather we wish to have these two proposed casinos relocated so that each is situated at least 1,500 feet away from any home, school, house of worship or public park.
- Our civic association and the Philly Neighborhood Alliance (PNA) continues to work on numerous fronts and at different levels of government to oppose the two currently selected casino sites — which are merely a couple of miles apart from each other on Delaware Avenue. The midpoint of the two proposed locations is Spruce Street.

Foxwoods proposes to locate directly across from the Riverview movie theaters immediately south of us; SugarHouse would be located on the border between two reviving residential neighborhoods — Northern Liberties (immediately north of Old City) and Fishtown. In fact, the SugarHouse casino would be situated only 200 feet from a densely populated residential neighborhood. The two casinos combined would generate at least 60,000 cars each day along this short stretch of roadway.

To prevent these two massive slots parlors from being built so close to residential neighborhoods,

our civic association and the PNA have been working with different levels of government, as summarized below.

The State of Pennsylvania

- We are communicating with legislators to insist that these gambling businesses abide by “riparian rights” legislation — such that in order to build along the riverfront both casinos would need to purchase or lease State-owned lands. (Specifically, “riparian rights” are water rights owned by the State in trust for the public, which can be granted only by the State legislature.)

- We continue to urge legislators to pass House Bill 1477, which would require that the two casinos relocate to new locations such that each would be at least 1,500 feet away from any residential community.

The City of Philadelphia

- **City Council:** With overwhelming and continued neighborhood opposition to both Foxwoods and SugarHouse, we are urging City Council to delay approving their zoning appeals due to unresolved problems, including:

- 1 The need for a viable solution to the formidable problems caused by traffic and infrastructure;
- 2 The dispute concerning “riparian rights,” which are needed by the casino developers so they can build on parts of the Delaware River.

- **Philadelphia's Future Mayor:** We are hoping to persuade the presumptive Mayor, Michael Nutter, to lead the city in fighting for an appropriate buffer zone between slots parlors and residential communities. He has indicated that he supports our efforts, and we are encouraging him to turn his position into action even before he assumes office.

Join the team!

If you are willing to assist our efforts to relocate these two casinos, please contact Rosanne Loesch, Co-chair of SHCA's Casino Evaluation Committee, at loesch10@aol.com.

Can Governor Rendell Resolve the Casino Problem?

We believe that the Governor is in a position to solve “the casino problem.” He can find a way to persuade the owners of the slots parlors to find alternate locations, of which there are several, that are not so close to residential neighborhoods. We believe that if enough pressure is put on the Governor he might help us achieve our goals. One way to accomplish this is to send him a personal letter or email expressing your view. Please take a moment to write Governor Rendell.

In the letter, you can explain that you hope he will support House Bill 1477, which would require the casinos to relocate to more appropriate sites. Your letter should be polite but firm.

Send him a note via the Hallwatch website: www.hallwatch.org/faxbank/we_want_answers. Or write him a letter and mail it to: Governor Edward G. Rendell, 225 Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

Note: A handwritten letter might be best.



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Major Land Ownership Dispute Exists Between Casinos & Elected State Officials

Casinos maintain that they do not require “riparian rights” to build their facilities. In contrast, State Representatives William Keller and Mike O’Brien insisted at the September 11, 2007 hearing, held at the Independence Seaport Museum, that the casino parcels as currently chosen are, indeed, partially located on state-owned lands held in trust by the

Commonwealth for the public. Therefore, the casino developers would require an act of the State Legislature to build their facilities at the proposed locations. An attorney for Foxwoods who testified at the hearing was unable to provide any legal support for Foxwoods’ contention that it would not impact any state-owned lands.

Philly Casino Battle Breaks Into National Media

The Associated Press recently wrote a story about citizen opposition to the two proposed slots parlors so close to our residential neighborhoods. The article — which concluded with a quote about how this struggle is “David and Goliath all over again” — was picked up online by *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe* and was also reprinted in newspapers in DC, Texas, Minnesota, New Mexico, California, Alabama, North Carolina, New York, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Florida, Washington, Massachusetts, and the United Kingdom. In another item, *The Boston Globe* wrote a lead editorial on the desire of the Governor of Massachusetts, Deval Patrick,

to legalize gambling in his state, and made the following point: “The last thing Massachusetts needs is a mess like what happened recently in Pennsylvania, where the State Supreme Court rejected efforts by Philadelphia residents seeking to vote on whether to exclude casinos from residential neighborhoods. Pennsylvania granted too much authority to its Gaming Control Board, including exclusive rights to award casino licenses and locations. The Patrick administration seems to be learning from the mistakes of others. One good sign is that the governor’s legislation is expected to require proof of local support even before developers can submit a bid.”

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Support the funding of our federal lawsuit to challenge the licensing of the waterfront casinos. Make your tax-deductible check payable to: The Society Hill Fund. And please be as generous as possible.

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How much is *your* home and neighborhood worth to you?

Please consider an informal get-together at your home so that SHCA’s Casino Committee Board members can explain the details of our federal lawsuit and answer any questions. For more information, contact Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com or 215-629-1288.

Join Us For John Gallery's Presentation

Next General Membership Meeting will be held at Old Pine Street Church on Thursday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.

We encourage you to join us for a special presentation by John Gallery, executive director of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia. Mr. Gallery will speak to our community on Thursday evening, November 15. In addition to summarizing the work of the Preservation Alliance, Mr. Gallery will introduce, with projected illustrations, the guidebook he's recently written, entitled *Sacred Sites of Center City*. This guidebook includes a walking tour of Society Hill's religious sites and provides short histories and wonderful illustrations.

As you probably know, Philadelphia's nonprofit Preservation Alliance provides expertise,

professional skills, and educational resources to homeowners and stewards of historic buildings, as well as government and community leaders. Its acclaimed monthly tours take visitors inside historic places that are normally closed to the public or are off the beaten track. Architectural properties — everything from office skyscrapers to townhouses to landed country estates and open spaces — are safeguarded by the Alliance's preservation easement program, one of the strongest and most effective mechanisms for protecting the region's heritage. You'll want to learn more about how the Alliance protects our city's historic resources and promotes worthwhile public policy initiatives. We hope to see you there.

Traffic Study... continued from page 1

at the same time that major road construction will be occurring. (See page 9 for information about this construction project on I-95, beginning in 2008.)

Due to these unresolved traffic problems, as well as other issues — for example, continued neighborhood opposition and the land ownership dispute regarding "riparian rights" (described

on page 7) — we and PNA urge City Council to deny approval of legislation that would allow zoning requested by both casinos for a "Commercial Entertainment District" (CED). Given the fact that Society Hill is the ultimate example of good urban planning, how can we accept a massive private development that would put our friendly residential community in such peril? Please see page 5 to learn more about our various efforts to prevent this from happening.



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I-95 Girard Avenue Interchange Reconstruction

The Philly Neighborhood Alliance learned from Stantec Consulting (see front page) that Delaware Avenue traffic will be significantly affected by the scheduled Girard Avenue Interchange construction project for I-95, which will soon begin in 2008 and not be completed until 2016! Stantec stated that until PennDot reveals the phasing and staging of construction in sufficient detail to indicate what lanes and what ramps will be active and at what times, there is no way to clearly evaluate how the additional 30,000 expected vehicle trips per day destined for SugarHouse on Delaware Avenue will be accommodated.

We also learned from Stantec that some accommodations resulting from the Girard Avenue Interchange construction project on I-95 will likely divert traffic as far south as the proposed Foxwoods site at Delaware Avenue and Reed Street (across from the Riverview Theater complex). To make matters worse, SugarHouse's traffic study does not include the 4,000 proposed new condo units planned for its immediately adjacent neighborhood.

A further flaw in the traffic studies by the developers of both SugarHouse and Foxwoods is that neither casino takes into account traffic demands beyond Phase I of their respective three-phase plans. Phase I, for example, consists of a casino on each site containing 3,000 - 5,000 slots machines and parking garages for both sites accommodating up to 4,000 cars each. Later phases will add hotels, additional parking and other facilities that would dramatically increase traffic. These, we believe, are imperative reasons to step on the brakes of casino development at the two currently proposed locations.

Here in Society Hill we have always been concerned about going south on Delaware Avenue due to the severe traffic near the movie theater. As we learned from Stantec, if the SugarHouse casino is not moved to a more remote location, this excessive traffic will be a fact of life on North Delaware Avenue. Society Hill is located at the exact midpoint between these two proposed casinos.



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BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Fix Any Loose or Missing Bricks on Your Sidewalk...

Did you know that the sidewalk in front of your house happens to be *your* legal responsibility? We're sorry to report that for the past many months the brick sidewalks in our neighborhood have been poorly maintained by homeowners — and in many cases, not maintained at all! Some sidewalk areas have loose, uneven and many missing bricks, causing holes in the pavement which can be quite dangerous for pedestrians.

Uneven or missing bricks on our sidewalks often cause accidents, especially at night. If a person falls in front of your house and twists a leg or foot —

requiring a hospital visit and the wearing of a cast (or more commonly these days, a therapeutic “boot”) — *you* will be liable!!

Please do the right thing! If any bricks are missing or loosely laid on the sidewalk on or in front of your property — it is up to YOU to fix it. If you don't know how, or if the project is too big to handle, we recommend that you hire a contractor. (Don't know who to call? For an up-to-date list of Society Hill's List of Recommended Contractors, contact Martha Levine at 215-629-0727 or marthalev@msn.com.) Please prevent needless accidents from happening.

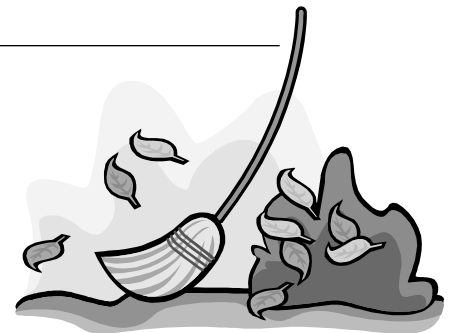
Break Out The Brooms on Clean-Up Day...

Saturday, November 17, 2007
8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Rain or Shine

Pick up brooms, trash bags and gloves after 8 a.m. at the S. 5th Street SuperFresh, and then please sweep leaves from your sidewalks, streets, walkways, alleyways, as well as Three Bears Park and McCall School property. Bag street leaves and trash — but no household trash, please! By 1 p.m. your bagged leaves and street debris should be left at major intersections on Locust, Spruce, Pine and Lombard Streets, where they cross numbered streets, as well as at Three Bears Park. Please return the borrowed brooms to the SuperFresh no later than 2 p.m.

To avoid being ticketed, cars must be moved to the opposite side of the street after 6 p.m. Friday evening — until 3 p.m. Saturday — *where posted*. Cars will be ticketed between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday — with the exception of synagogue blocks on Spruce and Lombard Streets (the 300, 400, and 500 blocks on both

streets). To accommodate synagogue services, these blocks will be swept by 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, leaving the south side of these streets available for parking.



Note that there will be no parking on either side of the 300 and 400 block of Front Street; 700 block of Locust Street; 200 and 300 block of Second Street; and Lawrence Court. Cars will be ticketed between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. if they are not moved where posted. You can return your cars to the “usual” side of the street at 3 p.m. on Saturday. If, by any chance, you are erroneously issued a parking ticket, please contact Wally Wing, SHCA's Clean-Up Day coordinator, who will be stationed at the SuperFresh.

Volunteers for Clean-Up Day are needed. If you can help, please contact Wally, prior to that day, at 215-592-9951 or wally.wing1@verizon.net. However, if on Clean-Up Day itself you have a question or problem, please call him on his cell at: 215-284-5792.


...and Put Out Holiday Trash a Day Later than Usual!

We wish to remind you that the coming holiday season means that our trash pickup will be one day later than usual!

After Thanksgiving, please do not put out your household trash on Thursday night, November 22nd for early morning Friday pickup. Instead, put out your trash on Friday night, November 23rd, after 7:30 p.m. for early Saturday pickup.

Christmas this year falls on Tuesday (December 25th, of course) and so again, we ask you to delay setting out your trash by one day. Set it out on Friday night, December 28th, after 7:30 p.m.

The same procedure must be followed for the week of New Year's. Do not set out your trash out on Thursday, January 3, 2008. Instead set it out on Friday night, January 4 for early morning Saturday pickup.



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City Gardens Contest

First Prize Awarded to Lawrence Court Walkway

We are very pleased to announce that the Lawrence Court Walkway has been awarded First Prize in the 2007 City Gardens Contest, which was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Located between Spruce and Pine Streets, as well as between 4th and 5th Streets, Lawrence Court is one of several walkways throughout Society Hill. The Awards Reception for this city-wide garden contest was held on Sunday, October 21st at the Wanamaker Crystal Tea Room, and Serena Skwersky, who has been long involved with the Walkway's beautification, accepted the award. We share her lovely acceptance speech with you.

Residents and other "members" of the Lawrence Court Walkway team are to be commended for their time and effort that have resulted in the creation of a lovely park-like area in our neighborhood. Although the walkway is actually owned by the City's Recreation Department (as are all of Society Hill's walkways) the maintenance at Lawrence Court has been generously funded by many nearby neighbors. Devoted team members, who supply their personal vision and loving "green thumbs" to maintain the welcoming ambiance of Lawrence Court, include Serena and Bill Skwersky, Pat and Ed Coyle, Laura and Sam Sadtler, plus David and Marsha Harwitz. In addition, many financial donations come from beyond the walkway's more immediate residents. Also, daily cleanup by the staff members of the Society Hill Synagogue complements the work of Lawrence Court residents which, of course, adds to Society Hill's overall beauty.



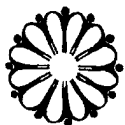
From left: Edwin Coyle, Patricia Coyle, William Skwersky, Serena Skwersky, Laura Cline Sadtler and Samuel Sadtler – the committee that received First Prize in the 2007 City Gardens Contest for "Large Community Courtyard Garden."

Serena Skwersky's Acceptance Speech

Nearly thirty years ago an angel named Sonja Vent came to Philadelphia. She had a grand idea, believing in the beautification of the environment. She adopted the Lawrence Court Walkways, primarily because nobody seemed to take responsibility for them, and because she had a vision: "Friends of the Lawrence Court Walkways."

She and her committee members — Colonel Joseph McKone and Linda Smith, hand-delivered hundreds of flyers asking closest neighbors to assume the greater burden, and the folks living further away to give whatever they could. Thanks to donations that came in from an ever-widening circle of friends, they nurtured, maintained and beautified the walkways. Sonja believed that something lovely could create harmony. Many people have said that strolling through Society Hill's walkways has given them a feeling of inner peace.

Sonja passed away seven years ago, quite prematurely — a stunning loss for all. While no one will ever fill her footsteps, we continue always to strive to fulfill her vision. Our thanks go to the hundreds of friends of the walkways for their continued support over three decades. This award, though, is for Sonja!



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HEAD HOUSE NEWS

Market Days Continue at Head House



The Sunday market is being extended until December 23rd. See you at the Market!

As most Society Hillers probably know, Head House Square is experiencing a revival of lively shopping activities — bringing the historical site back to its original purpose. And what a ride it has been since the nonprofit Food Trust had its first opening day last summer on July 1st. These market days have been exhilaratingly successful, and people from all over the region have taken notice. In fact, many folks drive into town regularly — from Philly suburbs — to shop at Head House markets.

Most exciting is that due to popular demand, the Sunday market is being extended until December 23rd. In addition, the market will be open on the day before Thanksgiving — Wednesday, November 21st.

So remember to place your orders at least a week prior to the holiday. Then, on the Wednesday immediately prior to

Thanksgiving, the Food Trust is inviting additional farmers to join the farmers and producers we're already familiar with. Customers can pre-order their turkeys at Head House Market for pick up on Wednesday when they can also shop for and pick up other Thanksgiving goodies — including fresh produce and veggies, fine baked goods, desserts and home-grown flowers.

Important Notes:

- 1 Due to the November 21st Market Day on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, the Food Trust's usual Sunday market day will be closed on November 25th, the Sunday after Thanksgiving.
- 2 The last day of the 2007 season for Head House Market Days will be Sunday, December 23.
- 3 For the 2008 spring season, the opening day for the market will be Sunday, May 4th.

Here's a fascinating fact:

CNN's Headline News did a poll on "America's Favorite Cities" — and Philadelphia placed third in the "Farmers' Market" category!



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HEAD HOUSE NEWS

Shambles Sampling: An Astounding Success!

It was a beautiful fall evening on Wednesday, October 10th, when the First Annual Fall Chef's Culinary Sampling event, called "Savor the Shambles," was held at Head House Square. We could never have predicted that more than 600 attendees would show up to sample, consume and thoroughly enjoy the 3,774 portions of "signature dishes" from our local restaurant scene. Each participating restaurant, as part of the South Street HeadHouse Special Services District, showed off its most distinctive recipe and confirmed our suspicion that you don't have to head for Center City to appreciate a great meal. This "Taste of South Street" was conducted for the benefit of the Head House Conservancy, whose fundraising mission is dedicated to preserving our nation's oldest open-air marketplace, a National Historical Landmark site, in continuous use since the Colonial era. The tasting event was, indeed, a memorable experience, which shows that people working together for a worthy cause can achieve great things.

The accompanying music, provided by the City Rhythm Orchestra, added an extra bit of magic to that mid-week social and dining experience.



Thanks to these restaurants for making the event a success

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ZÔT

Fascinating Facts About Head House

Recently, Bonnie Halda, SHCA Board Director and a National Park Service professional, uncovered some interesting facts about Head House:

- The official name of the property is "NewMarket," with "Head House Square" as its common name. All of the National Park Service records are filed under "NewMarket" — good to know should we wish to request information from the Park Service or use its official name for federal grant applications.
- On November 13, 1966, the property was designated a "National Historic Landmark." An official bronze plaque that proudly announces its landmark status was presented in a ceremony that occurred on June 9, 1967.

Head House Spring Gala Being Planned

You'll soon learn about another exciting social and culinary gala, being planned for the coming spring, which will feature fine food, music and dancing — intended to raise funds for the continuing maintenance and preservation of Head House. The gala's planning committee consists of members of the Head House Conservancy (our community's nonprofit organization which rescued the building less than twenty years ago), the South Street Headhouse District (the property's tenant) and members of the Society Hill Civic Association. Interested in helping us? For more information, please contact Tania Rorke at 215-370-6485 or trorke@aol.com.



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OUR COMMUNITY'S UNIQUE FRANKLIN LAMPS

BY MARTHA LEVINE, CHAIR, FRANKLIN LIGHTS COMMITTEE

Help Us Keep Society Hill Bright & Safe

Update on Painting the Lamp Poles

In the last issue of this newsletter, we reported that the poles of all Franklin Lamps in the neighborhood were scheduled to be painted this fall. We did get a late start and may need to take a hiatus if inclement weather poses a problem. For paint to dry properly, it is necessary to have an outdoor temperature of at least 50 degrees and, of course, no precipitation. Let's keep our fingers crossed for a mild and dry November. Commemorative plaques for those who contributed at the \$1,500 level will be affixed after the painting is completed.

To Report a Malfunctioning Street Light

There are still some Franklin Lights that are cycling off and on unexpectedly. In the last issue, I asked you to email me with the addresses of any such lights. I forwarded these complaints directly to the Street Lighting Department and they in turn sent a technician out to check for the cause. There is a change now in our procedure: to complain about a malfunctioning light, please call the Street Lighting Department directly at 215-686-5610 and give the exact address of the problem light. Please make a note of this phone number, as it should be used now as well as in the future for any Franklin Light that does not turn on or is malfunctioning. So that SHCA can track which lights still require attention, please email me (see below) with the specific address of the light and describe its problem. The culprit is either an overly sensitive photo sensor or, rarely, a wiring matter.

How To Help Keep Society Hill Bright & Safe

In 2006-07, when 500 new Franklin Lights were installed throughout the neighborhood, doubling

the wattage from 50 to 100 watts each, the lantern and goose-neck bracket of every lamp was replaced — but not the poles. Moving the poles closer together to give a better spread of light was never in the plan — because it would have cost millions. As a result, although we now have the best lighting in Society Hill's history, there are some dark spots intermittently, caused either by tree foliage, wide spacing between the lights or, in some cases, the absence of a light where one should exist.

Here's what *you* can do to help remedy this problem (beyond donating several million dollars!)

All houses should have a front door light turned on from dusk to dawn! This will fill in the dark spots on any block and help provide uniformity of lighting throughout the neighborhood. Many folks have automatic timers installed for these lights, which turn on their front door lights after dark and then off in the early morning. Not much effort, but it does help assure the safety and security of us all as we walk the streets at night. These front door lights can also protect your home from intruders who usually prefer to work in the dark. In general, good lighting is a deterrent to crime! Do something positive for yourself as well as for our neighborhood.

For more information on the Franklin Lights Project or to obtain a list of Society Hill's Recommended Contractors, which includes neighbors' recommendations for reliable electricians — should you need to install a front door light — please contact Martha Levine at 215-629-0727 or marthalev@msn.com. Upon request, this comprehensive list will be sent to you via the U.S. mail, not emailed. Please keep it handy for your future use.



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ZONING & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

 BY STEVEN A. WEIXLER, ZHP COMMITTEE CHAIR

“BIG” Developments

It has been a busy time for SHCA’s Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee, and we expect to become even busier as we advocate for Society Hill on several important development issues in our neighborhood.

The Dilworth House – on Washington Square

We have learned that developer John Turchi will make a final presentation for approval from the Philadelphia Historical Commission of his plans to demolish a large part of the Dilworth House to build a new 200-foot-high condominium tower. Our civic association stands with the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, as well as a group of near neighbors in opposition to this project. We contend that the developer’s plans for this landmark property represent “demolition in substantial part” — prohibited in these circumstances under the City’s Historic Preservation Ordinance. The construction of a “sliver” hi-rise on the site is also contrary to the principles of the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for historic preservation. The hearing of the developer’s plan may occur at about the same time as this newsletter hits your doorstep — so we’ll report on the status of this matter in the next *Reporter*. But for the latest updates, please visit www.savedilworthnow.org or contact SHCA’s Administrator Matt DeJulio, at mattdejulio@aol.com.

Delaware Riverfront Planning

The Central Delaware Advisory Group and PennPraxis are putting together the final touches on our multi-year riverfront Master Plan. This long overdue effort for organized and citizen-driven development will be presented at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 14th at the Pennsylvania Convention Center (1101 Arch Street). See our Community Calendar on page 36 to register or for more information.

This new plan extends our neighborhood-scale street grid to the shoreline — with the inclusion of green space, new residential and commercial development, as well as the amenities that make our community livable. It is an ambitious effort that will require many years to complete, but with continued civic involvement, a planning-oriented Mayor and City Council, and sensible zoning reform, we can indeed rejuvenate our neglected waterfront. The citizens of Philadelphia, PennPraxis and the William Penn Foundation have worked together for more than a year to turn this dream into reality.

However, just as the Advisory Group was finishing its last meeting, “Big Development” spoke up. Led by consultant Craig Schelter and attorney Michael Sklaroff, a group of real estate developers made a joint statement attacking the plan as a “disastrous showstopper for waterfront

development.” Speaking to a reporter after the September 20th meeting of the Advisory Group, Schelter explained that “there are a lot of people coming in from the suburbs who don’t want the rest of the world walking through their project.” Sklaroff and Schelter seem to see no reason developers shouldn’t be able to erect more gated communities on the Delaware. In response, Inga Saffron, *The Philadelphia Inquirer’s* architecture critic, noted: “It’s a good thing this pair wasn’t around to counsel William Penn and Thomas Holmes against laying down Philadelphia’s original street grid. If they had, we might well have a high fence encircling Society Hill.” I agree with Inga: Society Hill is a pretty fine neighborhood to live in. Perhaps Mr. Schelter is mistaken that one can’t have a good neighborhood with “the whole world walking through.”

Needless to say, the newly formed alliance of civic associations has some challenges ahead. But I’ll remind our community that Society Hill once faced the prospect of the South Street Crosstown Expressway and Interstate 95 on raised embankments. Told that it was an inevitability, we citizens organized, lobbied our government and, after years of hard and sometimes frustrating work, we achieved our goal.

This is the beginning of a new generation of effort for William Penn’s vision of Philadelphia. Please attend the presentation on November 14th if you possibly can. It promises to be an interesting evening. To register or for more information, visit www.planphilly.com.

Stamper Square – formerly NewMarket

SHCA’s Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee is working with the community and Bridgeman Partners on a proposal for a mixed-use hotel and residential project on what is commonly known as the NewMarket site, but which is now being called “Stamper Square.” This vacant property, basically a giant hole located between Front and 2nd Streets and Pine and Lombard Streets, is the largest undeveloped site in all of Society Hill. Our Committee has held several meetings with nearby neighbors and members of SHCA’s Board of Directors. More meetings are planned. The architectural firm H2L2 is currently revising their preliminary proposal after input on a range of concerns by SHCA’s Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee and also from the neighborhood. Currently the height of the proposed design exceeds by a considerable margin the zoning maximum for the site. The Committee intends to stand with our neighbors to bring a contextual, high-quality project to this important site.

As always, I welcome your comments or questions by email: stevenweixler@verizon.net.

SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

A COLUMN BY MARILYN APPEL

Helpful Hints for Staying Safe



Marilyn Appel

Unintended Consequences of *Al Fresco* Dining

Hanging your purse on the back of your chair while sitting at an outdoor café or restaurant is an opportunity for a purse-snatcher or pick-pocket. Recently, while we were sidewalk dining at one of our neighborhood's new restaurants, a young woman came back to look around the seats where she and a friend had been dining. Her wallet had been taken out of her purse while they were seated outside of the restaurant. So to keep your *al fresco* dining experience entirely pleasant, remember to keep your purse and your money on your lap or on the ground between your feet — not hung over the back of a chair!

Unwanted Telephone Solicitations:

To discourage future calls of this type, say "Hold on, please" and don't hang up. When you hear that beep, beep, beep, you know they've hung up, and you can too.

Unwanted Ads With Your Bills: Send them back with your payment in their postage-paid envelopes and let those companies throw out their own junk mail. Or, phone the offending firms and tell them to stop sending advertisements along with bills. Sometimes this works!

Car Break-ins and Vandalism: Recently several cars have been broken into, even though there appeared to be nothing of consequence to steal.

Reported occurrences on Spruce, Pine, Walnut and Locust Streets, as well as the numbered streets and inside parking garages indicate that your car is vulnerable anywhere in the area. The Sixth District Police reports that these incidents continue around the neighborhood. Especially victimized are out-of-towners who park their autos filled with all kinds of goodies.

When people are visiting from out of town or the suburbs, please remind them to completely empty their cars of everything: small change, laptops, cell phones, tools, clothing, even paperwork and food — anything that might seem tempting to a needy or hungry thief. However, if or when you need police help, please contact Victim's Assistance Officer, Carol Young, at 215-686-3063. Make a note of her number in your Rolodex.

Auto Thefts: Yes, people are trying to steal cars, especially Jeeps. It would be good to get a device that locks your steering wheel, because at the very least it would slow down the thieves. They look for cars that are easier and faster to steal.

Cell Phones: Old cell phones are still being accepted at 414 Spruce Street. Please donate (rather than discard) your unused, old cell phones together with their chargers so that they can be reprogrammed to call 911. These phones are then given to the elderly and/or abuse victims.

GOT GRAFFITI?

If you see graffiti of any kind (including stickers) on public property in your quadrant of Society Hill, please call a member of SHCA's Anti-Graffiti team. For the purposes of removing graffiti in the neighborhood, Wally Wing, our Anti-Graffiti Chair, loosely defines each quadrant as follows:

Northeast: The north side of Spruce Street to Walnut Street, and Front Street to the west side of 4th Street

Northwest: The north side of Spruce Street to Walnut Street; and the west side of 4th Street to the east side of 8th Street

Southeast: The south side of Spruce Street to Lombard Street, including the 300 block of Gaskill Street and "Liberty Court," the new housing development on Lombard Street; plus Front Street to the west side of 4th Street

Southwest: The south side of Spruce Street to Lombard Street, including the 400 block of Gaskill Street; and the west side of 4th Street to the east side of 8th Street.

For each of the areas described above, a member of SHCA's Anti-Graffiti Committee will volunteer his time to remove these visible blights. Please be sure to contact the person responsible for your area to report the site of any graffiti — either by calling or emailing, based on each team member's preference. For future reference, we ask you to save or make a note of these names and numbers. (Note: the Northeast Quadrant has two volunteers.) Thank you.

NW Dwight Bechtel: dwight01@gmail.com
 NE Bob Curley: bobcurley@gmail.com
 NE George Kelley: 267-886-9718
 SW Wally Wing: 215-592-9951
 SE Ralph Colabelli: 215-829-9489

SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

It bears repeating! Keep your home's front lights on from dusk to dawn: Brighter streets discourage break-ins, muggings and purse snatchings.

Residential Break-ins: Recently, an apartment resident called a property manager to tell him that there were two males in her apartment. The manager sent over a maintenance worker, who confirmed this. Then the manager called 911. Apparently, the perpetrators had a key to the apartment because they had previously worked for the real estate agent. They were caught, but the route was rather circuitous. It would have been faster had 911 been called first.

On the 500 block of Spruce Street, another break-in occurred where the thief walked away with a laptop, a digital camera, and an i-Pod. Since both of these described break-ins occurred in the middle of the night, all Sixth District police personnel have been made aware to look out for prowlers during these hours.

Over the past several months several similar break-in incidents have occurred within Delancey Mews (located on S. 2nd Street between Spruce and Delancey Streets). In one frightening situation, the burglar entered a home while the residents were in it. To be extra vigilant in protecting your homes, we suggest you follow these precautions:

- 1 Keep your alarm system turned on while you are in your house, as well as when you are gone;
- 2 Have automatic motion sensors (lights) installed — so that at nighttime, motion will cause the lights to turn on automatically — i.e. if someone appears in your back yard;
- 3 Keep some lights on from dusk to dawn in front;
- 4 Use double locks (deadbolts) on your doors;
- 5 Don't tempt thieves by leaving bikes outside your home (or even in your garage, if you have one);
- 6 Ditto! Never leave any obvious items visible in your parked cars;
- 7 And for women, whenever you can avoid wearing a purse or handbag, especially if alone at night, it is recommended that you hide cash and even a charge card in your pocket rather than carry a handbag or purse.
- 8 Finally, be sure to report every burglary incident (even minor ones) to the police by calling 911. Our District has received the report concerning Delancey Mews and the area is now being covered.

Pry marks on front doors can be a sign that someone has tried to enter your house; a broken window is another clue. Stay alert and always call 911.

Important Correction: In the previous Safe and Sound column, the cell phone number of our Police District's Bike Patrol, Officer Ferrero, was incorrectly listed. Please note his CORRECT cell phone number: 215-787-7864 (not 267-787-7864). We suggest you program Officer Ferrero's cell phone # into your cell phones — should you ever need it: 215-787-7864.

Remember, if you see something happening, please call Bike Officer Ferrero. And by all means, keep his number handy on your speed dial. Call him first, then follow immediately by dialing 911. When he's on duty, Officer Ferrero will respond more quickly than 911. Most important: Do not get involved with whatever troublesome or threatening event seems to be happening! Let the police do their job.

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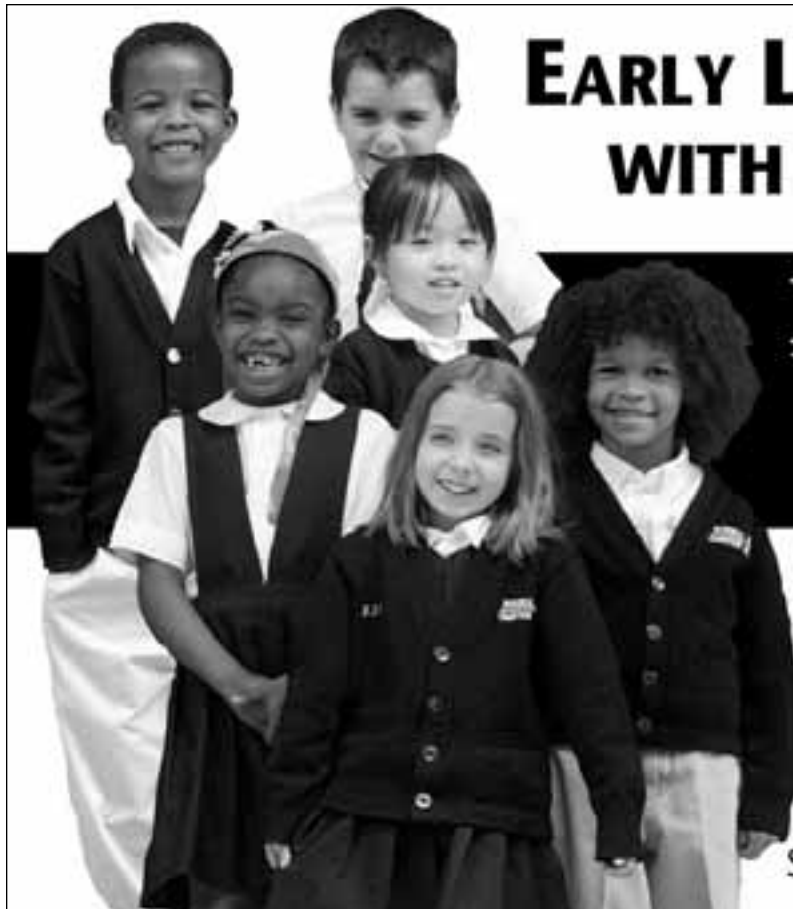
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Kids' Beat

A COLUMN BY KERI WHITE

A Spa for the Family

There's a new spa in town! Annodam/Seedlings has opened at 519 S. 4th Street with an innovative, family-oriented mission: to provide parents and children with customized, relaxing and top-quality spa services. Owners Karen Lafferty and Geri Rucharsky, both Philadelphia natives, launched the spa in August — after perfecting the model over the last eight years at their suburban location.

They began with Annodam, a traditional Aveda salon & spa geared toward adults in Doylestown, where they found their clientele frequently requesting services and accommodations for children. In response, Lafferty and Rucharsky conducted a brainstorming forum where adults and children made suggestions on what they would like to see in a family-friendly spa. Thus, Seedlings was born. Three years later, they decided to replicate the enterprise in our neighborhood.

And what a place! Etched glass signage welcomes you down the stroller-friendly ramps into a relaxing and serene space decorated in soothing earth tones. Aromatherapy candles waft comforting smells throughout the space, and calming music enhances the overall atmosphere of tranquility. Seedlings, the rainforest-themed kids' area, is off to the right — connected enough so that safety is not a concern, but separate enough so that Annodam's restful spa atmosphere remains intact for Mom or Dad.

Kids can enjoy the full panoply of services — massages, facials, nails and hair. And, yes, there are some treatments aimed at boys: sports pedicures to maximize foot fitness for the soccer field; manicures

for optimal follow-through on the jump-shot or for grip on guitar strings; sports massages to improve muscle flexibility and circulation for the big game; as well as temporary tattoos. In the future, the owners plan to offer classes for kids and teens in skin care, blow-drying, up-dos, and yoga, as well as childcare services in the Seedlings playroom while Mom or Dad enjoy a service at Annodam.

Birthday parties are available for groups of up to 20 offering various treatment packages, as well as an opportunity for guests to create their own signature product using spa materials. Themes are encouraged, and the salon will incorporate these themes into the treatments. For example: "American Idol" would result in edgier hairstyles and tattoos, while "Princess" would involve lots of sparkles and pink tones. The birthday girl or boy will also receive a special Seedlings gift pack.

Spa policy requires parents to remain with their child for the duration of the first service, to insure everyone's comfort level, and all technicians have full background checks and clearances. For safety purposes, there are always two staff members on the premises at Seedlings and there are security cameras throughout the facility. For more information about Annodam/Seedlings, call 215-627-7390, or visit annodamspa.com.

Kid's Quote

"We don't have Three Bears Park where I live — only Central Park."

Ben, a 3-year-old New Yorker visiting his Society Hill grandmom

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Three Bears Fall Festival

BY TANIA RORKE

This year the Three Bears Park Fall Festival took place on Saturday, September 29th. The weather was beautiful, and the festival was a huge success, raising over \$7,000 which will be used for park maintenance and improvements. Children enjoyed visits from the Philadelphia Fire Department's South Street Unit and from Officer Tanya Brown, Community Relations Officer with the 6th District Police. Children were able to sit in both the fire truck and police car. They also enjoyed a moon bounce, pony rides and face painting.

Most appreciated was the outstanding support from community businesses: Dean Bielicki, operating partner at Johnny Rockets, contributed hamburgers and hotdogs; Jerry Roseman and Alia Bonna, owners of The Philadelphia Java Company, donated coffee; David and Janie Auspitz, owners of Famous Fourth Street Cookies, donated their fabulous (truly "famous") chocolate chip cookies; and John and Nikki Luciano, friends of the park, donated Italian dishes. The next time you visit these community businesses or see the Luciano's, we hope you'll remember to thank them for their continued support of the park.

Let's give a special round of applause to the park's many moms, dads and supporters who gave so much of their time to make the Fall Festival a success — either by spending a significant amount of time preparing for it or volunteering on that day. In no particular order, they are: Cindy and Chris McDonnell, Alex Haines, Kelly Nelson, Keri and Kelsy White, Fritz Dietel, Ed Plachter, Joceyln Jenik, Claudia and Kevin Miller, Mary Jo and Becca Kannon, Michelle Meltzer, Jim and Anne King, Scott and Cindy Towers, Jacquie Lewis, Carmen Guerra, Amanda Aslansan, Dawn Ang, Elaine Grabar, Gail Silver, Jennifer Brown, Marissa and Kendall Pelzer, Jennifer Lewin, George and Mason Hall, Bob, Darlene and Rebecca Cavalier, Tom Rorke, Mark Woodland and David Blum. Our community and Three Bears Park are quite fortunate to have the continued support of these helpful folks.

Interested in becoming involved with Three Bears Park — perhaps to sit on a planning committee for future projects? Please contact Tania Rorke at 215-370-6485 or TRorke@aol.com.



Children at the Three Bears Park Fall Festival enjoyed pony rides.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

St. Peter's School Holiday Sale & Breakfast

December 7, 8 and 9

Savvy shoppers know that the annual Holiday Sale at St. Peter's School is a wonderful source for gifts and décor in Society Hill. The festive tent erected on the school's grounds, at 3rd and Lombard Streets, showcases yummy gourmet baked goods and unique gifts for everyone on your holiday list, as well as beautifully decorated wreaths and poinsettias. Release your inner Martha Stewart as you deck your halls with a fabulous selection of trims, evergreen roping and a lush, fresh tree locally grown at Kindig's Farm in Orangeville, Pennsylvania. All proceeds from the Holiday Sale will benefit the St. Peter's School Scholar's Fund.

Children and parents throughout Society Hill are invited to attend the school's very special "Holiday Breakfast" — to be served on Saturday, December 8th at 9 a.m. For a nominal fee, families will be treated to a tasty way to start the day, while a variety of kid-friendly craft-making activities will be offered to celebrate the traditions of Christmas, Chanukah and Kwanzaa. Of course, the highlight of the morning occurs when Santa arrives "down the chimney" offering boys and girls the chance to sit on his lap and pose for photos. Reservations for the Holiday Breakfast are required. For further information or to place your reservation, please contact the school's Development Director Marcy Leader, at 215-925-3963 or mleader@st-peters-school.org.

Hours of the Holiday Sale

Friday:
9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday:
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday:
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

St. Peter's Food Cupboard 20 Years of Neighbors Feeding Neighbors

This fall marks the 20th anniversary of a neighborhood institution. You may not have heard of it, but quietly over the years the St. Peter's Episcopal Church Food Cupboard, at 313 Pine Street, has been helping out those who struggle to fill their own cupboards. With your help, we can make some noise! Volunteers come from all walks of life and contribute in every manner from giving in-kind donations to donating their time. Every little bit helps the Food Cupboard distribute over 3,000 bags of groceries annually to low and fixed-income households; 80% of these clients come from Center City and South Philadelphia and live on Social Security, with annual incomes of less than \$10,000. Often many of the Cupboard's clients exhaust their resources early in the month,

leaving them without proper nutrition at the end of the month — if not for the Cupboard's supplemental food source.

Clients come to the Food Cupboard on Saturdays, from 8-10 a.m., to obtain a bag of groceries containing a planned nutritional mix. Given the cost of each bag (\$16), the Food Cupboard has distributed close to \$1 million of food, right in our backyards! Yet as funding sources and donations become increasingly scarce, the Food Cupboard needs your help. In-kind donations of food, time, or money, can impact the lives of these clients. To volunteer your time and/or resources for the St. Peter's Episcopal Church Food Cupboard, please contact Parish Administrator Kate Randall at 215-925-5968 or visit www.stpetersphila.org.

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ACCIDENTAL TOURIST IN MY OWN BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

Visit Historic Pennsylvania Hospital



Pennsylvania Hospital, circa 1900

The first time I went to Pennsylvania Hospital was not as a patient, but as a volunteer. Actually, I intended to enroll my Sheltie, Kipp, as a therapy dog, but when he couldn't pass the "Sit & Stay" test, I took his place. Over the years, I've visited patients, filled water glasses, tutored students at Hall-Mercer, helped with art therapy at the Karnell Cancer Center and I've also worked at the "old" Bargain Shop, which has reopened in the hospital courtyard.*

Recently I toured the hospital's historic Pine Street Building. And what a fabulous tour it was! I made a reservation with Stacey Peebles, hospital archivist, who took me on a fascinating hour-long visit. We began at Benjamin West's powerful painting: "Christ Healing the Sick in the Temple." This, in my opinion, has it all over Eakins' "The Gross Clinic." West, a native Philadelphian, worked eleven years on what he considered was "the redeemer of mankind extending his aid to

the afflicted of all ranks and condition." The work includes a "demoniac" that pays homage to the hospital's early treatment of the mentally ill. The painting was delivered in 1817 and was displayed in a special picture house where 30,000 visitors came to see it during that first year.

Pennsylvania Hospital — the nation's first — was founded in 1751 by Dr. Thomas Bond and Benjamin Franklin, and was built in three sections. The East Wing, completed in 1755, housed the poor and mentally ill who were walked around the moat in the gardens facing Pine Street. The West Wing, completed in 1796, was specifically devoted to the mentally ill. (Dr. Benjamin Rush, on staff from 1783 to 1813, is considered the "father of American psychiatry.")

The center section of the building, "The Great Court," was the administrative center, as it still is today. Portuguese tile, 150 years old, covers the original wood plank flooring. Magnificent staircases frame the area. Off the Great Court is a meeting room with a musical planetarium clock made by David Rittenhouse — in 1780. Originally the apothecary, this room contains a striking Eakins portrait of Dr. Jacob DaCosta, who was on the hospital's staff for many years. There is also a portrait of Dr. Philip Syng Physick, whose handi-

Take a guided tour and view art, architecture, gardens and history.

* The "brand-new" Bargain Shop that reopened on October 24th, at 8th and Delancey Streets in the hospital's courtyard, is open Tuesdays thru Fridays, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. It gladly accepts donations of good used women's and children's clothing, jewelry and bric-a-brac items. For information about this recycling venue in our neighborhood, contact Marjorie or Pat at the Bargain Shop at 215-829-3497 or email auxiliary@pahosp.com.

continued on page 31



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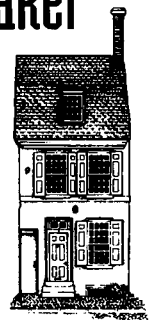


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Pennsylvania Hospital *continued from page 29*

work can be seen up one flight of stairs in the historic library. Besides containing 13,000 medical books, most published between 1750 and 1850, the room features an unforgettable embalmed tumor. Dr. Physick removed this seven-pound mass from one James Hayes on Christmas Day, 1805. It was 25.5 inches at its widest point! This incredible operation was performed on the top floor of the hospital in the nation's first surgical amphitheater where surgeries were performed only on sunny days between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. — since, of course, there was no electricity at the time. There was no anesthesia until the 1840s, so until then surgeons got their patients “blind drunk” on rum, gave them opium, or struck them on the head with a mallet to knock them out. (Incidentally, Dr. Physick is known as the “Father of American Surgery,” and the house he occupied at 321 S. 4th Street is, of course, now a cherished local house museum featuring Dr. Physick’s original medical instruments.)

Happily, one can end the tour with a stroll in the hospital’s gardens, open all year, but which are famous for their spring azaleas. A statue of William Penn stands in the center of the lawn. Legend has it that his ghost leaves the pedestal and walks the hospital grounds every night.



Visit the nation's first surgical amphitheater, on the top floor of Pennsylvania Hospital.

To reserve your own tour (given Thursdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.), call 215-829-3370. Also, in the gift shop you can purchase for \$2 a copy of *A Distinguished Past: The Pennsylvania Hospital Walking Tour* and take a visit on your own. But, in my opinion, it's more fun to be escorted by a knowledgeable guide. Volunteers are needed, so if you are interested, please contact Stacey at 829-5434 or peepless@pahosp.com. Or simply call the Volunteer Office at 215-829-5187.

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SHCA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

2008 Membership Drive Underway

SHCA's 2008 membership drive began on November 1st — so you may have already received your annual renewal notice in the mail. To help us avoid the additional cost of postage for second or third “reminder” mailings, please send this application form back to us as soon as possible. Your 2008 SHCA membership cards will be issued in December. When filling out your membership renewal or application, we ask you to include your email address on the form — so that we can keep you abreast of any late-breaking news between publication issues of this newsletter and through periodic e-mails.

Please keep in mind that our civic association is more active now than ever before in our history — as we work to preserve the quality of life we have created and come to expect in the neighborhood. Needless to say, funds are needed to keep all our programs going. For example, due to a shortage of funds in late 2007, we had to scale back our \$300 tree subsidy for any household requesting the subsidy (for the “greening of Society Hill”) to our original subsidy of \$150. Currently, we cannot continue to fund major plantings and other improvements around Washington Square — unless our membership increases — particularly for the Square’s surrounding hi-rise buildings — considerably below average compared to other households throughout the neighborhood.

For the year 2007, our membership rolls concluded with 1,048 households, which was down about 3% from our record-breaking year in 2006 — when we reached a total of 1,066 members. We are pleased to report, however, that 91 new members joined our association in the past twelve months. For unknown reasons, 77 members from 2006 did not renew, while 52 members from 2005 did not renew. We did not receive one single message of complaint about SHCA from these non-renewal residents, so we have no means to assess the reason or reasons why our total membership number has dropped recently.

Whether you are a new Society Hill resident — living either in a hi-rise building or a private home — and whether you are a long-time resident or a relatively new neighbor who for some reason has not supported our active civic association in the past year or so, we ask you to kindly reconsider and join us. Please fill out the application form and drop it in the mail to us today. Together we can work for a better quality of life for us all. Any questions or concerns you wish to raise? Feel free to call or email SHCA’s Administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288 or mattdejulio@aol.com.

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

- “Anti-Casino Legal Fund” – Make your check payable to the “Society Hill Fund,” since this qualifies as a tax-deductible donation.
- Washington Square Beautification McCall School
- Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal Street Trees
- Town Watch/Safe and Sound Franklin Lights
- Zoning & Historic Preservation PA Hospital’s Pine St. Building
- Society Hill Reporter* \$ _____

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

NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

A COLUMN BY DAVID WOODS

Marlene Talasnik

Someone who figures prominently, and epitomizes success

The British philosopher and radio pundit Professor C.E.M. Joad (on the popular and long-defunct BBC program *The Brains Trust*) was famous for parrying every question with “it all depends what you mean by...” And that’s how he prefaced his definition of success; but then went on to say that success, in his view, comes from knowing your talents and abilities — and being rewarded for them.

Sometimes, one’s talents and rewards are separated by many years. For Marlene Talasnik it took 23 years of toiling in the banking world before, as she puts it, “giving it all up for my life choice — using my education, skills, and experience to work for myself.” And so, earlier this year, Marlene founded Simplified Living — a service that organizes the fiscal and paperwork needs of small companies and individuals. “Look no further; I am your solution,” says her voicemail message. She is quick to point out, however, that her service is not intended to supplant those of professional CPAs, attorneys or financial advisers.

Her educational input to this life choice is a Temple University undergraduate degree in business with a major in accounting, and a postgraduate degree in law. The experience factor comes from two decades of working with several local banks in a variety of positions, including corporate trust officer. She also points out that she served for eleven years as her mother’s legal, financial, and medical helper.

As for her skills, she says, “I wear four hats: networking through such organizations as the Center City Proprietors Association; administrative work; a commitment to service; and public relations.” The latter involves being on the speaking circuit...talking to residents of assisted-living homes, for example, and doing community work, such as serving on SHCA’s Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee. As a member of the “ZHP Committee,” as it is commonly known, she is devoted to preserving our neighborhood’s unique character...currently, for example, the committee is working to influence appropriate development at the Dilworth House so that it will fit in with the feel of Society Hill and reflect concerns and desires of local residents.



A petite and personable divorcée, Marlene has lived in the same sparsely but tastefully furnished 23rd floor apartment for 23 years. Twenty-three is a number that seems to figure prominently in her life.

When not conducting her brand-new business, she loves theater and ballet, and dining out with her many friends at some of our area’s wonderful restaurants, such as Amada and Panini. She reads books — most recently a best-selling novel, *The Secret*, by Rhonda Byrne — as well as daily periodicals, including of course, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and the AARP magazine. A lifelong Philadelphian, she especially likes Society Hill for its “suburban feel within the city” and the panoramic views of the area from her apartment.

Marlene epitomizes Professor Joad’s definition of what constitutes success. Although he’d probably say, “It all depends what you mean by epitome.”

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TUESDAY - FRIDAY 12-6 PM, SATURDAY & SUNDAY 12-5 PM
OR BY APPOINTMENT



C A L E N D A R

Wednesday, November 14

Delaware Riverfront Planning Session

Pennsylvania Convention Center
1101 Arch Street, 6 p.m.
To register, visit www.planphilly.com
See page 19

Thursday, November 15

SHCA Meetings

See page 1

Saturday, November 17

**Be A Good Neighbor
Clean-Up Day**

See page 11

Wednesday, November 21

Day before Thanksgiving
Head House Market Day Open

See page 14

Friday-Sunday, December 7, 8, 9

St. Peter's School Holiday Sale

Fri: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.,
Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sun: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
See p. 27

Saturday, December 8

St. Peter's Holiday Breakfast

9 a.m.
See page 27

Wednesday, December 19

SHCA Board of Directors Meeting

Location to be announced

*Have a
Happy,
Healthy
Holiday
Season!*



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excellent condition,
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bedroom with marble bath, floor-to-
ceiling windows
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