

Fast-track Plan for Foxwoods' Slots Parlor in Historic Strawbridge Building – Just Blocks from Independence Hall and Society Hill

**Spruce Street
One Way/
Two Way
Traffic Change
Proposal Update**
See page 7

At a press conference on April 15th, Mayor Michael Nutter and Councilman Frank DiCicco announced that City Council will abdicate its usual oversight role in approving any "Plan of Development" for Foxwoods' proposed casino in the former Strawbridge & Clothier building at 8th and Market Streets. Mayor Nutter is giving the appointed members of his Planning Commission final authority on all aspects of Foxwoods' plans — as yet to be made public — for a 3,000-machine slots parlor in the historic Strawbridge & Clothier building. He did not say why residents near Foxwoods' proposed Strawbridge casino site are not being afforded the same planning process that residents along the river wards participated in for the two originally proposed riverfront casino sites.

On the following day, Councilman DiCicco introduced legislation that would create zoning for a Commercial Entertainment District (CED) at the Strawbridge location — the zoning classification that allows casinos to operate. This legislation would also remove the CED at 10th and Market Streets that was passed in a hurried fashion last fall when Foxwoods suddenly announced it wanted to move from its waterfront location to the Gallery site on Market between 10th and 11th Streets. Foxwoods is now on its third proposed location in Philadelphia, but still only has the original gaming license it received for the waterfront site at Delaware and Reed. This new, fast-track zoning approval plan eliminates City Council's usual oversight role and denies the public an opportunity to testify before City Council about Foxwoods' Plan of Development.

continued on page 5

WED.

May

20

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings
Wednesday, May 20, 2009

**Old Pine Street Presbyterian 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. General Membership Meeting**
All neighborhood residents are invited to attend.

SHCA Elections

Spring is finally here — time for SHCA's annual elections when we welcome caring neighbors to serve on the association's Board of Directors. In this election, an impressive slate of candidates has been assembled to serve as officers and fill vacancies in quadrant director positions. It is also time to thank retiring officers and directors who have contributed their skills toward the betterment of our community. See pages 13-15 to meet the candidates.

Protecting our Delaware River:
Maya van Rossum, Director of
Delaware Riverkeepers

General Meeting Guest Speaker & Topic

A new vision for the waterfront has been embraced by both the city and residents. This General Membership Meeting presents an opportunity for you to learn about and help promote the Delaware's health and longevity. Our featured speaker, Maya van Rossum, is an expert on the subject. She is director of Delaware Riverkeepers, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and defending the health and longevity of the Delaware River through advocacy and enforcement, monitoring, and ensuring that the "voice of the River" is heard. Environmentalists aware of many issues related to the river's quality — e.g. flooding and wetlands — are impressed by the depth of Maya's knowledge on the subject, which she looks forward to sharing with you.



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Submission Deadlines
July/August Issue
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Editorial: June 10

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 e-mail BerniceHamel@comcast.net. To publicize an event, submit all press releases directly to Sandy Rothman. (See contact information above.)

Materials must be submitted in writing – via mail, e-mail, 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 only if signed and the writer provides contact information.



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

RICHARD DE WYNGAERT, SHCA PRESIDENT

"There is no greatness where there is no simplicity, goodness and truth"

—Leo Tolstoy

The speed and degree to which our world is transforming is dizzying. We have never experienced this degree of economic deterioration. A radical restructuring and contraction of our financial apparatus is redefining the economic world order. We are being forced to rethink the nature of things we once took for granted.

Going forward, politically and economically, it is clear that we will be much more reliant on the participation of new and established alliances. There will be broader accountability. Relationships will be entangled and more important than ever. The future will not favor isolation. On all fronts, we must embrace new ideas and innovation. We must learn to be more collaborative if we are going to be successful.

Today's commercial landscape is very different from one year ago. The gold-plated brands long associated with enduring success are struggling, if not disappearing altogether. This shifting economic terrain will spawn great opportunity. But it has seeded a simmering resentment and class division. This strife is palpable and rooted in an allocation of resources perceived by many, correctly or incorrectly, as inequitable. This is a combustible situation and needs to be addressed honestly.

Our elected and appointed officials need to understand and sensitively deal with a widespread and vitriolic belief among the citizenry that our political system is essentially broken. The pervasive feeling is that the rights of the many are subjugated to the needs of a few and that the common good is no longer being served.

The same situation, standards, and principles of engagement apply locally. We the people need to feel that the politicians we've elected are honestly and transparently representing our broad interests. We need to believe that the system works.

We want to believe that our voices are heard and not simply dismissed as an inconvenient annoyance which needs to be strategically placated. We want a say in development that radically alters our communities and our neighborhoods.

Ultimately, the change wrought by these dynamic forces will significantly influence our community. However, as important as this is, it is perhaps less important than how we respond, both individually and collectively. We are a community. And we should therefore be cognizant of the stresses this may place on the nutrients of our community. Certainly, many of the nonprofits and local businesses on which we rely — and which we may consider vital and essential to a healthy community — are feeling pinched. We should therefore make a determined effort to support them, if we are able, and not simply assume they will always be there, because, in this climate, if we are not mindful, they may not be.

Many families and friends in our community are also likely to feel the pain and awkwardness of financial uncertainty and be forced to confront realities and choices they'd never imagined. We should be keenly aware of this, mindful of the multiple possibilities and sources of stress within this environment on people we know and about whom we care. We should be empathic and truly sensitive to ways that we can help our friends, the bedrock of our community, adjust to new life patterns amid a changing landscape.

The time for me to step aside as your President is near. In June, SHCA will have a new president. I am confident that my successor will continue to ably guide the association in an inclusive and courageous manner with an emphasis on consensus building, ever pursuing a more informed position.

I am proud to have been given the responsibility to serve as your President. Thank you.



**Richard de Wyngaert,
President**

In this Issue...

Page 7
Spruce Street Traffic
Proposal: One Way/Two Way

Page 7
Community-Wide
Clean-Up Day

Page 9
The Big Belly Compactor

Page 11
Society Hill's
Open House & Garden Tour

Pages 13-15
General Meeting & Election:
Meet the Candidates

Pages 16-17
Zoning & Historic
Preservation

Pages 18-19
New Initiatives for the
Delaware River

Pages 24-25
Accidental Tourist:
The Powel House

Page 27
Kids Life in the City
Punctuality and Preparation

Page 29
The Physck House
Philly Phyz Festival

Page 31
Joseph and Amy Cassey
Historical Marker Dedication

Page 38
Noteworthy Neighbors:
Tom and Joan Tropp

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— Craig Leffen, Philadelphia Inquirer



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Fast-Track Plan for Foxwoods

continued from page 1

At a City Planning Commission meeting, held on April 21st, individuals and organizations repeatedly and strongly advised the Commission not to recommend to City Council the passage of zoning for the Foxwoods Casino. They urged the city to first conduct independent studies about the known impacts of gambling facilities on the host community and to delay a zoning recommendation until Foxwoods submits a Plan of Development. Since Foxwoods has not submitted any specific information about its plans, the public has had nothing substantive to testify about — other than to question the wisdom of plunking a 3,000 machine slots parlor just two blocks from thousands of family residences and only three blocks from Independence Hall — the birthplace of our democracy.

The Planning Commission asked no questions of those testifying, and within minutes voted to support zoning that would allow slots parlor operations at 8th and Markets Streets. One typical response by a resident who testified on April 21st was, “They are proceeding with blinders on.” The next step will occur before the Rules Committee of City Council on May 7th (before this newsletter will be distributed). The public will again be given the opportunity to testify, even though it is unlikely that Foxwoods will have submitted its plans before that date. Then, if the Rules Committee votes to approve casino zoning at the Strawbridge location, a vote by the entire City Council will be held on Thursday, May 21st.

In addition to requiring city approvals, Foxwoods will also need to petition the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) — to move its gaming license from the waterfront to the Strawbridge building. (Under the 2004 Gaming Act — “Act 71” — the seven voting PGCB members are all appointed by the Governor and the State Legislature.) Since Foxwoods’ gaming license expires this June — because it failed to open its doors in the two-year period required under Act 71 — it will also need to appeal to the PGCB for an extension of time. Because Foxwoods has not acted as this issue goes to press, there is no hearing date scheduled for either request. The public will have an opportunity to testify before the PGCB in Philadelphia

once the hearing is scheduled. However, most of us are not in doubt as to the outcome we expect from the PGCB, just as we have little doubt about the approvals Foxwoods will receive from City Council and the city administration.

At every step of the way toward allowing casinos to function in Pennsylvania, there has been a total lack of democratic process. Unlike other states, Pennsylvania never had the opportunity to vote in a referendum about whether or not to legalize gambling. Act 71 was passed within a matter of hours in the middle of the night — on July 4th, 2004, with no previous hearings. A one-page unrelated bill suddenly was transformed into 145 pages of gaming legislation — permitting 61,000 slot machines to be installed at five free-standing casinos, seven racetracks and two resorts within the state. The law mandated two stand-alone slots parlors with at least 3,000 machines each to be located in the City of Philadelphia.

No other municipality in Pennsylvania has been so unfairly burdened. To make matters worse, the city has allowed casino investors to call the shots as to where their slots parlors would be located. Philadelphia could end up with two giant gaming facilities less than two miles from each other and adjacent to the city’s most densely populated neighborhoods, including our own!

Unfortunately, the city has not performed any independent cost/benefit analysis of potential impacts that would determine whether or not a casino in a particular location would result in a net economic benefit or loss to the city. Before his election Mayor Nutter promised that no casino would be located near a residential neighborhood. Just after assuming office, he publicly stated that no casino would be given a go-ahead until a cost/benefit analysis on the social and economic impacts was completed. Both of those promises have obviously been abandoned.

One thing we have learned in our more than two-year struggle to re-site casinos away from residential neighborhoods is that neither casino — Foxwoods nor SugarHouse — is a “done deal.” In fact, many Philadelphians predict several more unexpected twists and turns in the debacle that is “Slots in Philadelphia.”

ACTION STEPS

- Stay informed by signing up at the following websites:
 - planphilly.org
 - casinofreephila.org
 - aaunited.org (Asian Americans United)
 - societyhillcivic.org
- Write Mayor Nutter and copy your elected officials at:
 - Michael.nutter@phila.gov
 - frank.dicicco@phila.gov
 - mobrien@pahouse.net
 - farnese@pasenate.com
- Write letters to the editors of local newspapers. Even if your letter is not published, it sends a message.
- Contact SHCA’s Casino Committee through Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com. Make sure he has your email address, so you can be notified of important events and hearings.
- Donate to the “No Casinos Near Neighborhoods Fund” by contacting Matt DeJulio.

SugarHouse Update

Recently SugarHouse testified before the PGCB that it has lost its financing and is actively seeking a new source of funds. Nevertheless, it proposes to construct an “interim” gambling facility at its chosen location on the Delaware riverfront, near historic Penn Treaty Park. It is proceeding in spite of continued neighborhood opposition and pending environmental appeals. The PGCB will conduct a May 6th hearing to consider this redesign proposal and SugarHouse’s request for an extension of time to begin operations. Citizens who have engaged in the planning process for the recently adopted vision for the Delaware River waterfront are disheartened by the “big box” interim facility SugarHouse is proposing, which would be dwarfed by a 10-story concrete garage and surrounded by acres of surface parking.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

NewMarket Site Remains Un(ful)Filled

BY PAUL BONI

Last year City Council rezoned the NewMarket site (between Front, Second, Pine and Lombard Streets) to accommodate a 15-story project called “Stamper Square” — that would include a luxury Starwood Hotel topped with 77 high-end condominiums. The project was detailed in a Plan of Development approved by the Planning Commission on July 15, 2008. The zoning ordinance contained a sunset clause requiring the rezoning to revert automatically to its historic small-scale zoning by April 2009 if the developer had not made substantial progress by then.

The developer has not made substantial progress to date. As reported in an April 21, 2009 article by PlanPhilly.com, the developer currently does not have financing for the project, nor does it have a lease with Starwood anymore; the developer does state that it is in negotiations with Starwood and that “we’re getting really close.”

Councilman Frank DiCicco now proposes a new rezoning ordinance to extend the rezoning for another year. While this bill does state that the project must conform to the Plan of Development approved last year by the Planning

Commission, it also contains a clause allowing the property to retain its more generous zoning if the project is “in conformity with any amended Plan of Development approved by the City Planning Commission after it has determined, in its discretion, that such amended Plan provides for development appropriate in scale, density, character and use for the surrounding community.” If this bill is enacted, the developer might be able to seek changes to the project’s scale, density, character and use, which the Planning Commission could approve in its discretion.

The bill, numbered 090296, is scheduled for a public hearing at the City Council Rules Committee on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, 10:00 a.m. in City Hall Room 400. Positions, either pro or con, as well as requests for the ability to provide public comment during the hearing, can be emailed to Councilman DiCicco at Frank.DiCicco@phila.gov.

Last year the Board of the Society Hill Civic Association was evenly split on a vote regarding the height and mass of the project. Nevertheless, by a separate motion the Board voted to oppose last year’s bill to rezone the property.

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PROPOSED TRAFFIC CHANGE

Spruce Street: One Way/Two Way

As was noted in the previous issue of the *Reporter*, the Political Action Committee of the Society Hill Towers (PAC) has been petitioning the city to change Spruce Street into a two-way thoroughfare beginning at the Towers' parking garage ramp (near the northwest corner of 2nd and Spruce) going east to Columbus Boulevard. There is no identified precedent for such a change that would convert a long-established one-way street into a partial two-way street.

The Society Hill Civic Association has appointed a Spruce Street Subcommittee to review the probable impact of the PAC's proposed traffic change. The Committee — consisting of Becky Stoloff, George Kelley, Andrew Hohns and Michael Rochester — has identified the following issues to be studied in greater detail:

- safety concerns for pedestrian and vehicular traffic;
- impact on general traffic flow on what is a crucial intersection in the neighborhood;
- loss of a substantial amount of on-street parking;
- possible need to install a traffic light and add another controller box at 2nd and Spruce Street;
- need to install new signage and street stripes to alert drivers and pedestrians;
- impact on SEPTA's bus route #42;

Spring Is Here in Washington Square

Spring is here! The azaleas are in full bloom with daffodils everywhere throughout the park. Our group of volunteers will be planting additional shrubs in the beginning of May — to fill in where many dead and leggy older plants were removed.

During the month of May additional volunteers will be needed to plant annuals in all the Square's flowerbeds. We're pleased to report that Independence National Historical Park is improving the Square's sprinkler systems throughout — so we expect that all the flowerbeds will be well-maintained during the entire season.

If you love flowers and appreciate the beauty and inviting nature of Washington Square, we'd love to have you join our volunteer "floral" team. To add your name to our group of volunteers, please contact Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288 or mattdejulio@aol.com.

- inconvenience for neighborhood residents, delivery, moving and trash trucks;
- a precedent-setting change which could encourage similar proposals throughout the neighborhood and city.

Recently, notices that clearly express opposition to the PAC's proposed traffic change have been posted in the windows of every occupied house on the 200 block of Spruce Street. Additionally, a unanimous vote opposed to the change was made by residents of Penn's Landing Square, as it would directly affect entering and exiting their garage, located near the southeast corner of Spruce and 2nd Streets.

Since the alleged benefits of the PAC's proposal are based upon unsubstantiated data — for example, the saving of gasoline and driving time, supposedly resulting in improved air quality — SHCA's Subcommittee asked the PAC to conduct an independent study with a professional traffic engineer to analyze these and other salient points. The request was rejected. At this point, a long-awaited report is expected from a Streets Department official, which will be reviewed by Councilman Frank DiCicco, the PAC and SHCA's Spruce Street Subcommittee. We hope that all concerned can reach an amicable decision.



Clean-Up Day: Saturday, May 30th

Due to the city's budget cuts, our usual community-wide Spring Clean-Up Day is being slimmed and trimmed, rescheduled for Saturday, May 30th. All homeowners are encouraged to sweep their sidewalks and gutters, as well as nearby walkways and schoolyards, so as to generally spruce up the entire neighborhood. Unlike previous city-sponsored Clean-Up Days, the city will not provide us with supplies, and there will be no sweeper trucks nor special pickups of trash on this day. The good news, however, is that unlike city-supported Clean-up Days that alter parking rules throughout the neighborhood, there will be no special parking rules on this day — but it may be a bit more challenging to sweep at curbsides where cars are parked.

We ask all neighbors to participate in our own "Home-Grown Clean-Up Day" by supplying your own trash bags and needed supplies. When you've filled these bags with sidewalk debris, please hold them until your block's next weekly trash pickup time. Better yet, hide them away, because the very next day — Sunday May 31st — will be Society Hill's Annual Open House and Garden Tour Day. So Saturday may also be a good day to wash your front windows and prune the plants in your window boxes. (Please see page 11 for more information about this popular tour event.)

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17TH & JFK BLVD

Are Big Belly Trash Compactors Right For Society Hill?

BY MARTHA LEVINE, CO-CHAIR, SAFE AND SOUND COMMITTEE

The City of Philadelphia has a plan to radically change the collection of trash from corner litter baskets all over Center City, including Society Hill. The Big Belly Solar-Powered Trash Compactor is a solar-powered, state-of-the-art device that does not require direct sunlight to function. It compacts trash continually, which will require fewer collections by the Streets Department. Rather than requiring daily collections of corner litter containers, Big Belly needs to be emptied only every four days. The city's motivation to purchase these devices is that they will reduce the labor cost of frequent trash collection. Installation is expected to begin in Society Hill by mid-June.

Big Belly was first introduced to our community at SHCA's General Membership Meeting in March. We invited Deputy Commissioner of Streets, Carlton Williams of the Sanitation Division, to speak and present the city's plan to install these trash compactors at most intersections in Society Hill. At first, many of us thought this could be "the solution" to our existing problem of over-stuffed and overflowing corner trash cans. Believe it or not, although we have weekly household trash collection, some residents illegally dump their trash into these corner cans, causing overflow of debris onto our streets.

At the presentation by Mr. Williams, we were advised to go see an example of Big Belly, at 660 Chestnut Street. Its bulky dimensions are 26"W x 26"D x 51"H, which had us wondering if its size is appropriate for residential and historic Society Hill — with our narrow sidewalks. Would its huge dimensions create a greater eyesore than the current overflowing corner trashcans we now have? Since we're still adjusting to the brown controller boxes that were recently installed throughout the neighborhood without any warning or consultation with our community, we wonder how residents will react to this new "street furniture."

Since Boston is an American city that uses Big Belly compactors, we contacted the Boston Department of Public Works, as well as the Big Belly Company itself, in Needham, Massachusetts. We were informed that Big Belly compactors are used only in high-traffic areas — such as commercial districts, parks and college campuses — not in residential neighborhoods! Certainly not in Beacon Hill, Boston's historic counterpart to

Society Hill. But when we asked if pedestrian litter baskets are ever used on any residential streets in Boston, they replied: "Simply put — we do not have baskets on residential streets — or *very* few at best."

We met with Deputy Commissioner Williams on April 24th to discuss SHCA's concerns and to recommend a plan suitable for our unique neighborhood. Our recommendation is that the city place Big Belly compactors *only in Society Hill's commercial areas but not on any residential streets*. The blocks we suggested for these new compactors are: 2nd Street between Pine and Lombard — all commercial; South side of Walnut Street, from Front to 8th Streets; 8th Street at Spruce and Pine, near Pennsylvania Hospital; 6th Street at Lombard, outside Starr Garden only; 3rd Street at Lombard, at St. Peter's School; 5th Street, near the entrance to SuperFresh.

Our recommendations were well received and accepted — with the idea that we could add more compactors as needed. Apparently, the Streets Department was glad to make amends for their installation of those ugly signal controller boxes. Fortunately, we have been promised ultimate say about where these Big Belly compactors will or will not be placed in Society Hill!

Caveat: Once Big Belly arrives, all of our current trash receptacles, both wire and covered-top models, will no longer be serviced and will be removed. Only trash from Big Belly compactors will be collected. According to both Philadelphia and Boston sanitation experts, corner trash receptacles in residential neighborhoods only invite more deposits of household trash. The solution is fewer cans, not more! This thinking is certainly "outside the box," or, should we say, "outside the can." We asked how the City of Boston manages its dumping problem, and they replied that they impose hefty citations for dumping household trash in corner litter baskets. However, with a reduced city budget and consequent reduced manpower, the Philadelphia Police Department will have more to think about than giving citations for the illegal dumping of trash.

We will keep you posted on Big Belly's installation in the July issue of this newsletter. But for updates or more information, contact me at 215-629-0727 or email:marthalev@msn.com.



The city believes "Big Belly" will offer these benefits:

- Reduce the number of collections by 80 percent — a savings for the city;
- Eliminate unsightly overflowing litter baskets;
- Environmental benefit — fewer collections mean less exposure to truck emissions and fewer trucks to clog our streets;
- Automatic trash compaction — direct sunlight not required;
- Improve the appearance of our streets with less litter.



These supposedly covered trash cans are still overflowing with household trash.

Queen Village Open House Tour

**Sunday, May 17th
Noon-4 p.m.**

This self-guided walking tour, sponsored by the Queen Village Neighbors Association, begins at Old Swede's Church: Columbus Boulevard and Christian Street.

Tickets: \$25 each To reserve, call 215 339-0975 or email info@qvna.org.

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Toni Ann Flanigan

Society Hill's Open House & Garden Tour

Sunday, May 31, 1-5 p.m.

Mark Your Calendar!

Cancel your trip to Prague! The Society Hill Open House Tour is coming on Sunday, May 31st. Tickets are on sale now for this "must-see" annual event.

Sponsored by SHCA, the event is a self-guided tour of over ten private homes and gardens in Society Hill, one of the most historic districts in the United States. Each year our tour presents an exciting lineup of homes and gardens — with no repeats from the previous year. Homes range in style and décor from the 18th and 19th centuries to the most contemporary. This is a rare chance to see how others live.

Change You Can Believe In

We all need a change, and this is the year for it. Tired of looking at your faded old wallpaper and lumpy sofa? Take this tour and discover some creative new ideas for your own home — from some of the finest houses and condominiums in our area. According to Martha Levine, who co-chairs the event with Linda Skale, "Many visitors attend the tour specifically for inspirational design ideas they can use in their own homes."

Did you know that Society Hill's Open House Tour directly benefits our neighborhood? SHCA has planned several essential community improvement and beautification projects, for which funds are needed far beyond what is raised by our annual membership dues. This year, 100% of the tour's proceeds will be spent on a project that

promotes pedestrian safety: the leveling of uneven and/or loose bricks on sidewalks throughout the neighborhood.

About the Tour Program

For the last thirty years, The Friends of Independence National Historical Park has sponsored the Society Hill Tour — under its umbrella program known as "Philadelphia Open House" — which features about 35 home and garden tours throughout different communities in the Delaware Valley. Recently, however, the Friends decided to conduct their program every other year (rather than annually) and therefore, will not sponsor any tours this season. But because members of the Society Hill Civic Association feel so strongly about the value of this annual program, they have decided to proceed independently for 2009 rather than disappoint the nearly 300 visitors who attend the tour every year.

Advance Ticket Purchases Are Encouraged

To purchase tickets, or for more information, please call the Society Hill Civic Association at 215-629-1288 or email mattdejulio@aol.com. Tickets may also be purchased on the day of the tour at Old Pine Street Church, 412 Pine Street.

Date: Sunday, May 31, 2009

Time: 1 to 5 p.m.

Cost: \$25 per ticket

(MasterCard and Visa accepted)

Complimentary light refreshments

Comfortable shoes suggested

Photographs not permitted inside homes

Bring your friends from other neighborhoods. They'll love this tour!

SOCIETY HILL OPEN HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

Please indicate the number of tickets you wish:

_____ tickets @ \$25 each \$ _____

Please choose your method of payment:

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Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please print clearly and fill out all parts.

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Mail this form with your payment to:
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SHCA's 2009 Annual Election

SHCA's annual election for incoming Board officers and directors will take place at the next General Membership Meeting — on Wednesday, May 20th — at Old Pine Street Church (412 Pine Street). Our civic association's Nominating and Elections Committee has selected a diverse slate of caring and active neighbors who have agreed to serve. Officers are elected for one-year terms each — for up to three succeeding terms. In addition, we will vote for one nominee from each of Society Hill's four quadrants — since every Society Hill quadrant is served by three Board Directors, each for a three-year term.

Note: In any year SHCA allows up to five vice-presidents to serve simultaneously. In the forthcoming election only one of five vice-presidents is departing — so there is one candidate for that vacant position. Condominium representatives are appointed by their respective membership associations, and each can serve for up to three consecutive one-year terms.

Prior to welcoming our nominees, however, we gratefully acknowledge and give thanks to those who are now retiring from the Board. First and foremost, we appreciate our retiring President, Richard deWyngaert, who has served in this demanding role for the past two years. We also thank outgoing Vice-President Jim Moss, who served for two consecutive years. Additionally, we recognize four dedicated quadrant leaders who have donated their efforts and expertise. Our thanks go to departing Northeast Director Matt White, Southeast Director Sandra Rothman, and Southwest Director Anine Burlingame. Rosanne Loesch, who has represented the Northwest Quadrant for the past five years — having replaced an early-retiring director for two years, in addition to her standard three-year term — is now stepping up to the presidential plate.

We most heartily welcome all new officers and quadrant directors whose brief biographical summaries appear below and on page 15.

INTRODUCING SHCA'S BOARD NOMINEES

Rosanne Loesch, President

For the past five years Rosanne Loesch has served on SHCA's Board of Directors as a Northwest Quadrant Director. Her appreciation of Society Hill's long history — associated with the founding of our nation and its subsequent rebirth — has inspired her to volunteer in a range of community programs. For the last two years she chaired SHCA's Casino Committee and has raised significant funds for our *No Casinos Near Neighborhoods* program. She helped raise funds for our neighborhood's unique Franklin Lights project, and has now agreed to assume the primary leadership role as President of our civic association. Rosanne and her husband, Yves Quintin, live in a 1792 Federal home on Spruce Street with their two college-age children. She is a non-practicing attorney in the fields of corporate and transactional law, with a degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and both undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Michigan. Fluent in French, Rosanne has lived in France, and for many years both she and Yves have been active in a host of French organizations in Philadelphia — among them, the French International School, the French Heritage Society and the French American Chamber of Commerce. Rosanne believes that Society Hill residents are "truly fortunate to experience daily the charm of a European-style environment combined with the beauty of countless tangible reminders of early American history."

Benita Fair Langsdorf, Vice-President

In 2005, Benita Fair Langsdorf moved from the Philadelphia suburbs to Washington Square. For Benita, "Society Hill feels like a village within the city, similar to the *arrondissements* of Paris." Shortly after her move, Benita became an active and committed member of SHCA's Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee to support our "village's" history, architecture and design. Professionally Benita is a Senior Counsel of Managed Care at Independence Blue Cross — where her practice includes a broad range of representation involving complex legal projects and effective counsel for business clients in the health care arena. A graduate of Cornell University, with a Masters of Education from Temple University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the Widener University School of Law, Benita was elected last year to the National Board of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS). Previously she served as president for HIAS of Philadelphia. (Both HIAS groups are advocates for immigrants and refugees worldwide — helping to rescue, resettle and reunite families.) An active Cornell alumna, Benita served as chairperson of this region's Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network. In addition, she was a long-term member of the Women's Leadership Board of the Jewish Federation of Philadelphia. Benita loves traveling — especially to great cities in Southeast Asia and Europe. She has three adult children living in or near great cities in America: New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

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MEET SHCA'S QUADRANT DIRECTOR NOMINEES

Andrew Hohns, Northeast Quadrant

Andrew Hohns, a Center City native, has been a resident of Society Hill since August 2006, when he moved here with his wife, Leah. Andrew has greatly enjoyed getting to know his neighbors, and as one who values the community's history, he has developed "an appreciation for the tremendous efforts and commitments of SHCA's members who make our neighborhood such a vibrant urban enclave." Professionally, Andrew has a decade of experience in investment banking and finance, with particular expertise in debt capital markets. He earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University's Wharton School. Andrew is grateful to the many folks who have invested so much energy to make our neighborhood as lively and lovely as it is. He therefore welcomes this opportunity to serve on SHCA's Board so that he can contribute his time and enthusiasm. His prior civic experience includes service as a Board Director of the Mural Arts Program of Philadelphia, as well as involvement with Young Involved Philadelphia, an organization he founded in 2000 with fellow Penn alums. Presently, Andrew serves as a board member for the Ed Bacon Foundation.

Everett Katzen, Southeast Quadrant

Everett Katzen grew up in Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania, and attended the William Penn Charter School. Upon completion of his B.A. in Business & Communications from Franklin & Marshall College, he moved to Philadelphia, where he founded Springboard Media Inc., specializing in the sales and service of Apple Macintosh computers. As President of Springboard Media, Everett gained significant experience in leadership and management, guiding his company to support diverse individual and business clients throughout the Delaware Valley. He also serves on the national Apple Reseller Advisory Board, as well as in an advisory role to the board of Wireless Philadelphia, a local nonprofit organization. Prior to moving to Society Hill in 2007, he served as Vice President of the Abbott's Square Condominium Association. He is a member of the Union League of Philadelphia and is very involved with EO, an international organization for entrepreneurs. Everett and his wife, Dr. Amanda Lehman, a graduate of Jefferson Medical College, enjoy hiking, international travel and gourmet cooking. Everett has an interest in Philadelphia history, and has done research at the Athenaeum and The Library Company of Philadelphia. He is enthusiastic about many of SHCA's causes and is dedicated to helping ensure the preservation of the history and beauty of Society Hill.

Andrea Layden, Northwest Quadrant

After a one-year hiatus, Andrea Layden gladly returns to her role as an SHCA director in order to devote more time to the community she loves. A Society Hill resident for almost a decade, she and her husband, Dan, reside in St. James Court with their two children. Prior to her career as mother and homemaker, Andrea worked for ten years as an insurance adjuster for State Farm. A graduate of Widener University, this "stay-at-home mom" is hardly one to remain idle. Active here in the city, she founded a nonprofit support group for mothers and families, called "Mom's Club Philadelphia – Center City." She has served as its president for five years. Andrea is also an enthusiastic volunteer for the Parents Association at McCall School — where three days a week she reads to kindergartners. In addition, she helped organize a recent fundraising event to aid the school's finances. If you can't find Andrea and her children at Three Bears Park or one of the many museums they regularly visit, the avid travelers are likely escaping to Italy — where she and Dan recently purchased a vacation home in Abruzzo, from which her mother and grandmother had emigrated.

Donna Thomas, Southwest Quadrant

For nearly thirty years Donna Thomas, a Virginia native, has lived in Society Hill with her husband, Wayne, where they raised their two daughters. First they occupied an apartment in the Hopkinson House; then they lived in a tiny contemporary home on Manning Street; and for the past 24 years they've enjoyed their Federal period home on Pine Street. Donna believes that her "Southern roots" could be the source of her love for the preservation of old homes and structures. She recalls hearing her parents complain about the "tearing down of venerable old houses — whether on a farm or in a city or town." Donna fears that the quality of life in Society Hill is currently being challenged, and so she hopes to contribute her efforts to helping it remain the wonderful neighborhood we love. Both she and Wayne are now retired from their respective professions (she was a librarian), so they gladly donate their time for several good causes. Donna is now completing her six-year term of service on the Board of the Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, which owns and operates the Physick House and Powel House — two of our community's treasures. Also a Board Director of Fairmount Park's Japanese House and Garden, she now enthusiastically looks forward to serving on SHCA's Board of Directors.

ZONING AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION REPORTS

BY STEVEN A. WEIXLER, COMMITTEE CHAIR

What's Going On Under Pine Street?

Water Dept. proposes to replace storm water drains along Pine Street.

Since early last summer, neighbors have been aware of a project proposed by the Philadelphia Water Department to replace inadequate storm water drains from Broad Street to the east along Pine Street. These aging drains carry the runoff from rainstorms on buildings, sidewalks and streets to the Delaware River, mostly through the familiar street-corner grates. They are not a part of the municipal system which carries household sewage to treatment plants, but are dedicated only to normal runoff. Many have been in place since the mid-1800's and frequently cause backups of floodwater into the basements of our neighbors in the Washington Square West district.

The Water Department, like any engineering-oriented branch of a large municipality, originally proposed a very direct and economical solution to the problem: Replace the aging drains under Pine Street from Broad to Front Streets. After this plan was met with opposition, the proposal was modified somewhat. The current plan is to run the new drains along Pine Street to 7th Street, then north on 7th to connect with an adequate existing drain at Walnut Street. This alternate route is necessary to avoid the PATCO subway tunnel along Locust and 8th Streets. There has been considerable opposition to this plan as well. In much the same way that the Streets Department gave us those unwanted "brown-refrigerator" traffic controllers, the Water Department seems to have made plans that disregard the tradeoff between benefit and cost to the community.

Pine Street, like all urban streets, is a tangle of buried infrastructure. Water, gas, sewer, telephone, electricity, cable and other utilities have been buried in different locations over the years and run in various directions. Installing a large new storm drain is not a simple matter of digging a trench, laying a pipe and paving it over (as we saw with the installation of the fiber-optic cable for our "refrigerators"). Further, a drain must be sloped "downhill" so the water runs naturally to the river. As a practical matter, this means that Pine Street must be excavated from curb to curb to expose the existing utilities to a depth of up to sixteen feet. The impact on our neighborhood will be quite considerable. Traffic on Pine and 7th, two heavily traveled streets, will be disrupted for up to eighteen months. Parking will be nonexistent on the affected blocks. Business will be severely curtailed. Residents will be exposed to the dust, noise and inconvenience of the construction process. Damage to historic buildings is possible. Most street trees, if not all, will be killed by the destruction of their root systems and will be replaced (eventually) by the city with immature saplings, similar to the ones planted along South Street after its recent renovation.

One alternative offered by the Water Department to address some of these issues is to use existing drains and add new ones to hook up with an improvement along Washington Avenue. Joanne Dahme of the Water Department has pledged to give us weekly progress reports, and our civic association will be updated accordingly.

N.W. Ayer Building, 210 W. Washington Square

This highly significant example of 1920's ArtDeco architecture, on the west side of Washington Square, was originally built as the offices of the N.W. Ayer Advertising Agency. It was converted to residential condominiums several years ago. About that same time, the Steven Starr organization opened a restaurant on the south side of the building, and our civic association negotiated an agreement which provided that the entrance to the restaurant would be through the outdoor patio area — not directly from the 7th Street sidewalk. The restaurant, known as Washington Square, subsequently closed. Recently, SHCA's ZHP Committee reviewed a proposal from Mr. Starr and his architects to renovate that space for a new restaurant. Their proposal will require a modification in our association's agreement, which would allow an entrance from 7th Street directly into

the restaurant. Previously, the ZHP Committee opposed the alteration of the building's large street-level windows to include a new door on the north side — because the design and materials were not consistent with the original's character-defining architectural quality. Mr. Starr's architect and attorney have agreed to present a new, more sensitive design for an entrance door in the former windows, and the Historical Commission has approved the replacement of the existing north side door as a trial for alteration of the windows in Mr. Starr's leased space. The ZHP Committee is awaiting installation of this new design to evaluate the alteration of the original, unmodified south windows before we can begin discussion about modifying our agreement with Mr. Starr.



North door to be replaced.

ZONING AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION REPORTS

 BY STEVEN A. WEIXLER, COMMITTEE CHAIR

Is This Sign Too Big?

I can certainly say that I have heard much community comment since the new signs were installed at our local SuperFresh market at the end of February, most of it centered on the new “icon” pictured here. The ZHP Committee was aware that renovations were taking place at the super-market, on S. 5th Street, but all of us (especially our neighbors on the 500 block of Delancey Street) were concerned when installation of these new exterior signs began. After checking that the posted building permit called for interior renovations only and verifying that local management had no responsibility for the changes, I visited the Historical Commission to discuss this “big” surprise.

After reviewing the applications to the city from SuperFresh’s parent corporation, I found that the overall size (in square feet) of the new signs was well within the allowance of the zoning code for the property. My concern was that the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for an Historic District like Society Hill recommend that new alterations respect the “historic context” in “scale and character.” The approval of the Historical Commission was given by an accredited staff member — without the full review (and public notice) of the Commission itself. In my view, with nearly thirty years of design experience, neighbors were justified in their concern for the interjection of such a visually intrusive object.

SuperFresh initially maintained that the size of the “icon” sign was required under their corporate marketing policy in which each location must carry



Large new sign installed at our local SuperFresh.

the same “branding.” This is not an unfamiliar concept to any of us involved in the process of advertising our businesses. In initial conversations, I pointed out that the size of the advertising seemed to be oriented more toward the potential customer traveling along a suburban highway rather than walking or driving along 5th Street and, therefore, its size could be considerably reduced.

Since that time, our ZHP Committee has met with concerned neighbors. SHCA’s Vice President, Paul Boni, Esq., has filed an appeal of the Historical Commission’s approval with the Department of Licenses and Inspection’s Board of Review. He continues to engage SuperFresh executives in conversation on a more acceptable alternative. I hope we can reach a compromise, since this market is a valuable neighborhood resource.

A “New” Ordinance Before City Council

On Tuesday, April 7th a bill was voted out of Rules Committee and sent to City Council for consideration, which would modify the standards for advertising on newsstands within Philadelphia. The bill would allow an increase in the size, amount and types of advertising signage permitted on newsstands. Currently, newsstand owners are limited to signs that promote periodicals and Pennsylvania Lottery products sold on-site. This new legislation will allow newsstand owners to install non-accessory advertising for all kinds of products and businesses. Society Hill has a very limited area where newsstands are permitted under the Philadelphia Code. However, I spoke to both the Councilman’s office and the Historical Commission to review the pertinent sections of the Code and the Preservation ordinance.

It appears that newsstands (and any concomitant new signage regulations) are not specifically prohib-

ited in historic districts. However, since a newsstand is a permanent structure, any application for a new one in an historic district would have to be approved by the Historical Commission. In the unlikely event that the Commission would receive such an application, it would be relatively easy to contest on any number of grounds, beginning with “appropriate to the historic context” and “suitability and scale of design and materials” under the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards.

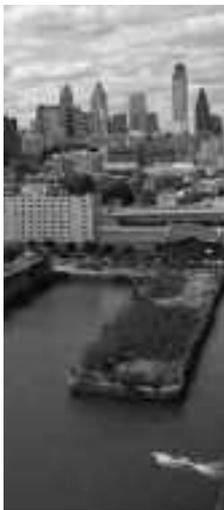
That said, it may be possible to design a newsstand which the Commission might consider. Given that many of us are concerned with the character of our surroundings, I would encourage you to visit the following website: www.urbanblight.org/Issues/Newstands/20090324_StreetsServicesTestimony.pdf. Or contact Councilman DiCicco with your comments at: www.phila.gov/citycouncil/dicicco/feedback.htm.

CENTRAL DELAWARE ADVOCACY GROUP

New Initiatives Along the Riverfront

BY STEVEN A. WEIXLER

Pier 11 represents Philadelphia's heritage as a port.



Plans are underway to turn Pier 11, now derelict, into a public park with access to the riverfront and a link in the hiking/biking trail along the Delaware River.

Society Hill Civic Association continues to be an active member of the Central Delaware Advocacy Group (CDAG). As you may know, CDAG was initially part of a study group including fifteen civic associations (currently more than twenty), as well as thirty state and city government agencies. We were commissioned by Mayor Street, in November 2006, to consult with the University of Pennsylvania's PennPraxis and an international group of urban planners to consider a 21st-century plan for the Delaware Riverfront.

The plan, "Civic Vision for the Central Delaware," was presented to Mayor-elect Nutter in November 2007. Mayor Nutter endorsed the formation of CDAG, with the William Penn Foundation as sponsor, and in June 2008, the group presented its 2008-2018 Implementation Plan that was enthusiastically approved by the Mayor.

On January 30, 2009, Mayor Nutter's administration kept one of his major commitments to the early promise of the Civic Vision in the transformation of the former Penn's Landing Corporation. The new Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC) immediately began work on significant steps to realize the Civic Vision. As Chairman of CDAG, I have been working with fourteen city agencies and other groups to select a project manager for the design of the first steps toward the riverfront access plan and the development of Pier 11.

For those not familiar with Pier 11, it lies at the base of the Philadelphia tower of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge, and is in derelict condition. Our intention at DRWC is to recreate it as a public park, with access to the riverfront and a link in the trail along the Delaware River for Philadelphia's

neighborhoods. The unique thing about Pier 11 is its location. Although neglected for decades, it is one of the piers that represents Philadelphia's heritage as a port. It is directly adjacent to the 1920's engineering achievement of the Franklin Bridge and is literally across the street from the West Shipyard. Currently a DRWC-managed parking lot, West Shipyard is one of the last portions of Colonial Philadelphia's intact shoreline — an archaeological site containing verified ship-building structures from our earliest days that is worthy of a visit from residents and tourists alike. As John Scorsone of River's Edge Neighbors' Association said: "If the excavation of the President's house on Independence Mall attracted so much attention, so should this site." In addition to the early development of a riverfront trail, CDAG and its member associations are working to make this one of Philadelphia's "must-see" locations.

The CDAG also has two major and more immediate initiatives in its sights: the adoption of the principles of the Civic Vision as guidelines for the Philadelphia City Planning Commission and the passage of an interim zoning overlay ordinance for the riverfront, sponsored by First District Councilman DiCicco.

As we go to press, I will be speaking to the Philadelphia City Planning Commission on the value of the Civic Vision in providing a long-term framework for the riverfront as the public asset it should be. Because the Mayor and his administration have repeatedly embraced the Civic Vision and used it in policy-making, including casino review, I believe that we have an opportunity of historic proportions: a working and compatible relationship between government planners, neighbors, and investors

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CENTRAL DELAWARE ADVOCACY GROUP

to “get it right.” With the solidarity among our riverfront civic associations, we can work together to extend our neighborhoods to the river.

More immediate to politics is the progress of Councilman DiCicco’s interim zoning overlay ordinance for the riverfront. As it extends only from the eastern edge of I-95 to the Delaware River shoreline, Society Hill residents should realize that this is an “overlay” which adds restrictions to existing zoning. The impact of this interim zoning on our neighborhood will likely be delayed for decades, since “our” section of the riverfront is fully occupied by the development at Penn’s Landing, the Independence Seaport Museum and the Penn’s Landing Marina.

As you may know, voters in Philadelphia approved the formation of the Zoning Code Commission to reform the city’s codes, but, according to Deputy Mayor Andy Altman, meaningful reform is 18 to 24 months away. Councilman DiCicco was the originator and primary supporter of the riverfront Master Plan and realized the necessity for a “placeholder” ordinance to protect the long-term vision and to set high standards for future growth. For several months I have participated in

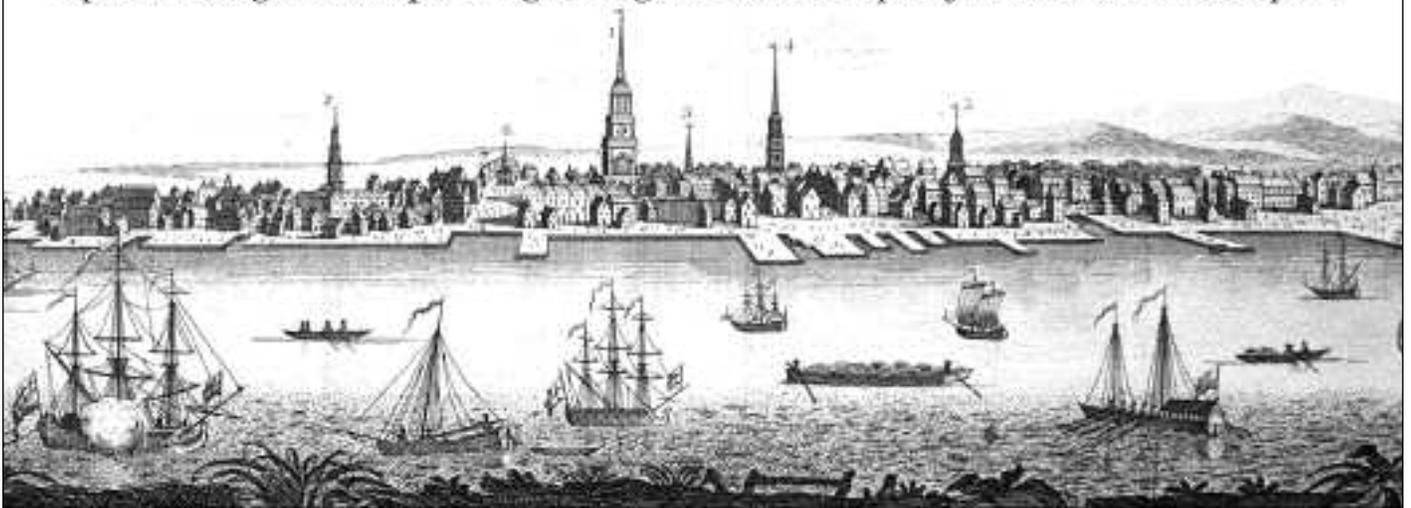
talks between the Councilman and representatives of landowners on the riverfront to introduce an interim ordinance, which, although not entirely acceptable to any party, has the basis of practical application. CDAG representatives will continue to work for legislation that will “do no harm” to the principles of the Civic Vision.

According to Brian Abernathy, Councilman DiCicco’s legislative aide, the ordinance will be debated in Council before the summer recess. I will be advocating the position that passage of this ordinance during the current economic recession will result in less pressure for development — which will allow Philadelphia and its citizens to make good long-term decisions, as opposed to the old parcel-by-parcel basis of previous administrations.

I’ll close with a quote from our Mayor in the *Daily News* on June 25, 2008: *For decades, “planning” in this city — deciding what gets built, or, maybe more important, what doesn’t — has been constructed on insider politics, nourished by the twin poison pills of bureaucracy and chaos, and sustained by a philosophy that those wanting to build something here, and having enough money and connections, can do whatever they want.*

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BY FRANK SIGNORELLO

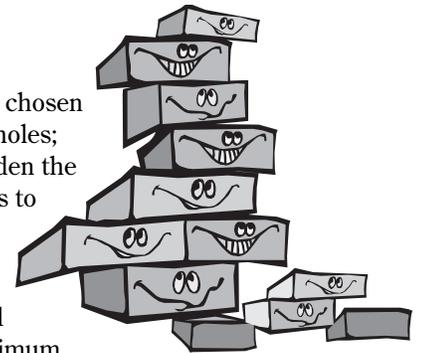
In the last *Reporter* we told you about a project to improve pedestrian safety, as well as beautify our neighborhood streetscape, by leveling the brick sidewalks and shaving tree roots throughout Society Hill. We also reminded readers that homeowners are responsible for the sidewalks and curbs in front of their own houses. Through limited funding given to the association as a grant, SHCA is willing to help neighbors level their sidewalks by adjusting old bricks, replacing missing ones, and dealing with the growth of tree roots.

Our Brix Committee, composed of Marilyn Appel, Martha Levine and myself, has already reached out and explained the project to three vendors who are arborists. In order for them to be more competitive, we would like to do the project on a block-by-block basis. This means that they do not have to move their trucks to find new parking spaces throughout the day, and their crews can move from one place to another easily within the same area. The average job appears to run about \$250 - \$300, based on the amount of work

needed. In some instances the company chosen would simply replace bricks and repair holes; in others, they would remove bricks, widen the tree base, shave roots and replace bricks to make a more even surface.

In addition to the discounted rates you will receive from the arborist, SHCA will reimburse participants 40%, up to a maximum of \$150 per household. We have limited funds for Phase I of this project, but hope to secure additional funding. Our immediate goal is to document the number of homeowners interested in participating. The committee will map each block in the neighborhood with the number of interested participants — initiating the project on those blocks that need the most help.

To obtain additional funding, we need to know how many homeowners are willing to participate in the project. So if you're interested, please notify me at fsignorello@gexchange.com, or contact SHCA's Administrator, Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288 or mattdejulio@aol.com.



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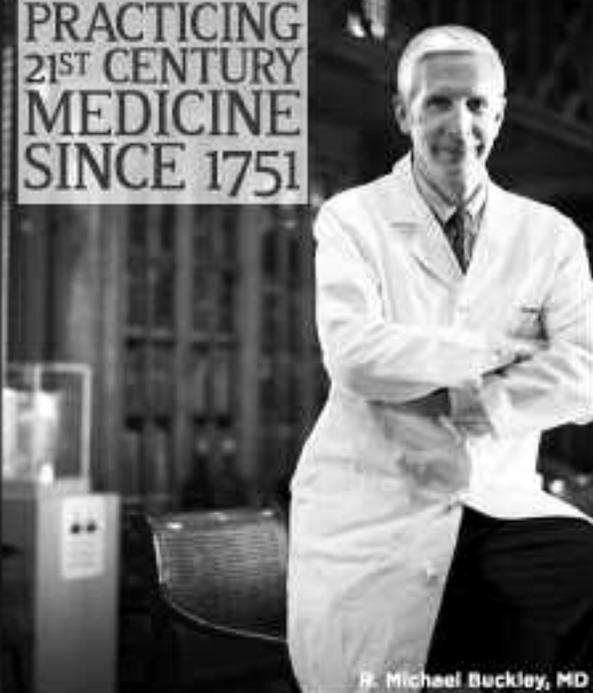
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SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

BY MARILYN APPEL

Neighborhood Crime Reports

I'll say it again: Ladies, watch your handbags while dining *al fresco*. Keep those purses on your lap or hold them between your knees. Now that the weather is getting warmer, handbag theft is likely to increase. A recent theft occurred at 2nd and Pine Streets (at the Artful Dodger). One of two perpetrators, a 17-year-old, was apprehended and charged with theft and conspiracy. The other escaped through the Philadelphia Sports Club, where the handbag, minus a cell phone, was recovered. In another incident, a passport and checkbook were stolen from a bag in a closet at Old Pine Church.

Recent Incidents

- On Saturday, April 11 at 1:30 a.m., a man and woman walking together at 3rd and Spruce Streets were confronted by two males, one with a gun. Her handbag and cell phone were stolen, and his wallet and cell phone were taken. The following day, at 12:20 a.m., on the 700 block of Spruce Street, two males confronted a man, beat him and stole his wallet and cell phone. Central detectives are investigating these two crimes to see if they might be connected to a string of thefts in the 3rd District (just south of Society Hill).

Captain Korn has assigned a two-officer car in the Society Hill area during the hours of these robberies, in addition to the sector car already patrolling. He also appointed a team of plainclothesmen in an unmarked vehicle, as well as a bicycle patrol officer to monitor the neighborhood. This should prove to any local skeptics that *our police officers are working for all of us in Society Hill*. You may not see them, but they are here.

- There was an accident, at Front and Spruce Streets, where the driver of a vehicle struck another car. The complainant and his passenger got out of their car, but then the driver struck them again with his vehicle — hurting the man's hand and his passenger's knee. A good description of the driver's car was obtained, but he got away.

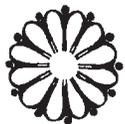
- Two bicycles were stolen from the common area of apartment house basements — one at 6th and Spruce, the other at 7th and Spruce. Apartment dwellers should take care never to leave these spaces unlocked. It was fortunate that the thieves did not break into any apartment and that no one was hurt.

- Recently a 1994 Honda was stolen from the 200 block of S. Front Street. In addition, there was an attempted theft of a 2009 Hyundai on the 300 block of S. 7th Street. A middle-aged male was apprehended by police when reaching through the smashed window of the Hyundai.

- On a recent Sunday, a 6th District Police Officer observed a male pushing a motor scooter from a parking garage on the 200 block of Lombard Street. He was not the owner and so was charged with attempted theft.

Reminders: We are still collecting your used cell phones that are donated to abused women. Also, we are collecting all kinds of kitchen equipment — such as dishes, cooking utensils and cutlery. These supplies are all donated to St. Paul's Church, at 10th and Wallace Streets, which hosts a Christmas Party the police conduct for all first graders in the Sixth District. Please bring your donations to 414 Spruce Street.

You may not see plainclothes officers, but they are here, working for all of us.



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ACCIDENTAL TOURIST IN MY OWN BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

The Powel House



...I now know where the word "blockhead" originated.

If I could buy any house I wanted in Society Hill, it would be the Powel House, at 244 South 3rd Street. This magnificent Georgian mansion would be perfect for dinners and parties. And its large walled garden, with flowering camellia and magnolia trees, would ideally suit me and my dogs, not to mention the cat. Of course, I'd have to stand in line. Another Jane, namely, Jane Eiman, would probably beat me to it. One of a cadre of terrific docents at this historic 1765 house, she greeted me warmly when I took a tour a few weeks ago. Jane never tires of sharing her encyclopedic knowledge about the former home of Samuel Powel.

The last mayor of Philadelphia under the Crown and the first after the creation of the United States, Samuel Powel was not only a great diplomat, but also a great collector. Upon his graduation from the University of Pennsylvania (my alma mater), he spent seven years abroad amassing a houseful of antiques and paintings before carrying his bride across the threshold in 1769. His wife, the former Elizabeth Willing, loved to entertain. Dances and *musicales* were often held in the second-floor ballroom. Among their illustrious guests were Martha and George Washington, John Adams, the Marquis de Lafayette and the ubiquitous Ben Franklin.

It wasn't all play for Powel, who worked in the handsome front office off the spacious foyer. Reproductions of letters, which were hand-sealed and delivered by teenage boys, lie on his desk. The room features several pieces of Chippendale furniture and a tall-case clock

made by David Rittenhouse. (I learned from an informative 18th-century-style newspaper, distributed for self-guided tours, that the term "Grandfather Clock" wasn't coined until the 19th century.)

Next to the office is the dining room, reputedly the first in Philadelphia — because before its introduction entire rooms were not devoted solely for the purpose of eating. The Powels were fabulously wealthy, and in their day, each room was taxed. (Closets were considered rooms.) The unique color of green on the walls was thought to aid the process of digestion, and from an account by John Adams, the Powels served "sinful feasts" with "twenty sorts of tarts, fools, trifles, floating islands and whipp'd sillabubs." (Sillabubs are desserts made of cream whipped with brandy). No doubt the "pretzel-back" chairs groaned. I forgot to ask if dancing took place either before or after dinner, but guests climbed the handsome mahogany staircase to reach the ballroom.

Sometimes called a drawing room, the ballroom boasts a Waterford chandelier and some first-rate paintings — including a portrait by Gilbert Stuart. The letter on the music stand, written by Sarah Franklin Bache, Ben's daughter, tells of dancing with George Washington. When tired of dancing, guests retired next door to the withdrawing room, where you can see two silhouettes of the former President hand-cut by Sam Powel. (Jane informed me that two silhouettes were made because the subject objected to the slack chin line shown in the first.)

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ACCIDENTAL TOURIST IN MY OWN BACKYARD

Of course, scads of help were needed to wait on the family and their visitors. My favorite room is the bedchamber of the head servant, with its Delft-tiled fireplace and canopied bed. On the dresser is a wooden wig stand. Thanks to Jane, I now know where the word "blockhead" originated.

Perhaps the most important thing I learned during my hour-long visit to the Powel House is the critical work of the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, which in 1931 was established to purchase and renovate the property. The building, bought by one Wolf Klebansky in 1900, for his horsehair factory, was about to be demolished shortly before Landmarks intervened. (The vacant space would have been used as a parking lot!)

But don't feel bad if you cannot purchase the Powel House as your own private residence or as a special site for celebrations, because it happens to be available for rent! If you want to throw a party, as did the *Reporter's* editor, Bernice Hamel, for a special occasion (her 45th wedding anniversary), just call 215-627-0364.

And please note: on Wednesday, June 3rd the Powel House Garden Party and fundraiser will be held. (See the accompanying invitation.) For information about visiting or renting the Powel House, or to make a contribution toward its preservation, check out Landmarks online, at www.powelhouse.com.



You're invited!

Other Powel House Happenings

The Powel House Garden will be open once a month on Wednesdays, from 5 to 9 p.m. Please feel free to pack a picnic dinner, bring a bottle of wine, meet friends and enjoy the evening on May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19th and September 16th. We'll provide a historical character as guest.

Volunteers are always needed. If you'd like to work in our garden, we will gather May 28th and June 25th at 10 a.m. Contact garden committee chair Julie DeVuono at 610-688-7779.

To learn more about the Powel House and become a tour guide, call Kathie Dunn at 215-923-0976 or Lee Dennis at 215-829-1505.

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KIDS LIFE IN THE CITY

BY SONIA GRASSE & CATHERINE SIGNORELLO

Punctuality and Preparation: A Guide for the Harried

When we as parents are struggling to get our children out of the house on time, even a few minutes of delay can amount to a catastrophic setback on the punctuality-meter. Something as simple as shoes forgotten upstairs can easily tack on an extra few minutes to the departure routine. In the company of those who have zero concept of time (to be clear: I do mean the children), the ability to arrive anywhere at the intended time truly is a miracle. We aren't sure about you, but one of us was "punctuality-challenged" even before she became a mother. Add to the mix the unpredictable nature of a child's mood or unwillingness, and the scene of departure can get really ugly really quickly.

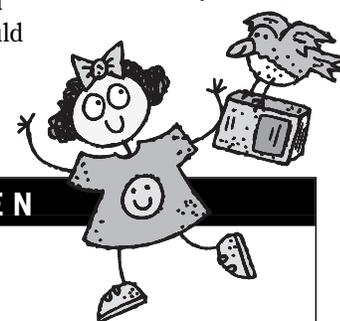
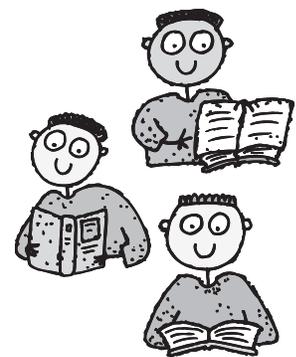
Something that has helped quite a bit (aside from marrying Mr. Arrive-on-Time himself) has been the "night before plan of attack." On the evening prior and with the child's participation, pre-select and lay out the chosen clothing for the upcoming school day. Unless we are packing for a trip to the Caribbean, there will be no time-engulfing surprise negotiations about wearing a tank-top in cold weather around here! By anticipating and addressing the outfit conundrum ahead of time, there is ample time to locate (and wash, hem, buy, manufacture, etc...) any missing or specially required articles.

Our book-bags also have "homes." When not in use, they go immediately there and remain there until needed again. (Now if only the in-laws would do the same!) The hooks where they hang are low enough so that the children can reach and put the bags there or fetch them in the morning. Note here the use of the word "can"; this is not to say that the kids always really *do* this themselves, but they actually could, in theory. No more searching for lost papers, permission slips or library books; they too go into the bag the evening prior. This particular "search-and-pack" maneuver is also suitable to be built into the post-dinner clean-up routine.

Breakfast (which, thanks to our painfully slow-eating child, could very well be called break-slow) is another routine that can easily be amended with some time-saving steps, especially since so many children enjoy repeatedly eating the same thing. With the simple glance at a clock, the needed amount of preparation can be

measured into a fairly reliable and consistent amount of time. (Note: please be sure to take care of your own morning routine prior to this, or your results can be dangerously erratic.) There is no reason to feel guilt at the seeming mundane act of serving the exact same thing day after day — so long as the child enjoys the meal. We must also take a sacred moment to acknowledge and appreciate the invention of cereal, as it is a serious timesaver. One of us even has a 7-year-old who, in the name of "independence and self-sufficiency" is able to serve the cereal to her brother and herself. (Read: five more minutes for mom.) There is hope, folks.

Lastly, don't forget to delegate to your partner! These half-magical (no need to mention the other half, ahem) creatures can be a boon to time-saving. Train them carefully, and they will not only cook said breakfast but serve it as well. (We even have a friend who, in a brilliant revelation of efficiency and pleasure, is training her husband to bring coffee to her so she can wake up in bed.) The ultimate time-saver would be, of course, if we could only persuade Java Coffee Company to deliver....



BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

Dear Friends of School Children
and the Free Library:

As the school year winds down, the Free Library of Philadelphia is preparing for more than 66,000 students who participate in its Summer Reading program during the summer months. In this program students are given weekly incentives to read, because studies show that reading just five books over the summer months will maintain a child's reading level so that he or she will be ready to begin a new school year.

Due to the current financial crisis, however, Philadelphia's budget for library materials was slashed by 25%. Essentially, this means that the Library cannot purchase any new books for its Summer Reading Program.

In response, the Library officially launched its 10,000 Books for Children Drive on April 13 (the beginning of National Library Week) — and will continue this drive through the start of its Summer Reading program in June.

To learn how you can help, please visit:
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LET'S GET PHIZZY!

Free, Fun, Family Philly Phyzz Festival

Sunday, July 5th, 1-5 p.m.
Historic Physick House & Garden
321 S. 4th Street

Bring your family to the Third Annual Free Philly Phyzz Festival — scheduled for Sunday July 5, from 1 to 5 p.m. — at Landmark's historic Physick House and Garden, 321 S. 4th Street.

Come celebrate the birthday of Dr. Philip Syng Physick, who is the "Father of American Surgery" as well as soda's "Pop." Children will be encouraged to play with period toys and games and help make homemade ice cream and fizzy water. Enjoy a Dr. Physick Black Cherry Soda, America's first soda, with a piece of birthday cake in the shady garden, and take a special tour of his splendid house led by a descendant of the renowned doctor.

At this year's Philly Phyzz Festival, visitors can also partake in a reading of the Declaration of Independence — at the site of Colonial John Nixon's house when he made the first public reading of it in on July 8, 1776. Then try your hand at signing the document — using a quill pen dipped into a reproduction of one of the inkstands made for Independence Hall by the doctor's grandfather. After the reading and signing, children can help ring bells commemorating the cracking of the Liberty Bell, which happened during the funeral procession for Dr. Physick's patient, Chief Justice John Marshall, on July 8, 1835.

This free, fun family event will also feature costumed re-enactors and an opportunity to learn about other historic Society Hill stories and places.



Come on over and help make homemade ice cream and fizzy water!



Physick House Brings History to Life

When strolling past the Physick House, the large, square single home at 321 South 4th Street, you may have stopped to read the sign telling of its importance in the history of our area. But have you ever been inside? It's practically the only house in the city to display what a fashionable home was like during the Andrew Jackson/Lewis & Clark era — with its eye-popping wallpaper and luxuriously high ceilings.

However, this article isn't about the house's history or its artifacts. It's about the stalwart people from Society Hill and Greater Philadelphia who work (and play!) to help maintain Physick House, support the site's activities and events, and carry out the mission to bring Society Hill's past alive.

The Plant Sale has been a neighborhood activity for more than thirty years, and has morphed from a petunia-and-marigold sale into a three-day garden mart for "the rare and the wonderful" — made possible by the members of the House Preservation Committee.

Volunteers also host two fundraising events: the Fall Garden Party, held on a mild autumn evening, and Twelfth Night, which closes out the November-December holiday season with a final shout on or around January 6.

Two events especially geared for children began in recent years. The Philly Phyzz Festival focuses on Dr. Physick as the introducer of soda-pop in America for medicinal reasons. (Fact!) Another recently developed program is the Cobweb Hotel Tea Party, for costumed kids at Halloween. These two happenings were initiated by site manager Del Conner, a descendant of Dr. Physick.

The Physick House Preservation Committee welcomes more members who would like to help with one or more of these activities or events — and not only "worker bees," but helpers to plan and strategize future programs — e.g. history buffs may enjoy serving as docents. There's also a need for garden volunteers for spring, summer and fall clean-ups. Of course, the Preservation Committee monitors the condition of the house and seeks to ensure that repairs are done according to historic specifications.

It's a labor of love — and Society Hill folks who have such interests will be heartily welcomed into the fold!

To become involved, or learn more, please contact Herb Gunther at 215-925-8261 or gunther320@verizon.net or Linda DeMarco at 215-389-5408 or Laccdem@comcast.net.



The Physick House has recently completed designing its own website. Check it out at:

www.drphysick.com

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Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony for Joseph and Amy Cassey

BY BARRY ARKLES AND JANINE BLACK

On Friday, March 13, 2009, the Pennsylvania Historical Commission placed an historical marker for the Cassey family at the site of Joseph Cassey's barbershop on S. 4th Street. Representatives from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and other national, state, regional, and local historical organizations, as well as Temple University, attended the ceremony.

Joseph Cassey (1789-1848) came to Philadelphia as a French-speaking immigrant escaping yellow fever, malaria, slave revolts, and English military takeovers of the French Caribbean islands during the French Revolution in the 1790s. As a teenager he started a hair-dressing business at 4th and Chestnut Streets, located across the street from the home of several United States Vice Presidents, a block from the United States Presidential home, and a little more than a block from Independence Hall. Joseph networked among his influential clientele to expand into money-lending, real estate, and rental properties.

In the early 1800's, Joseph Cassey and James Forten were the two wealthiest African-Americans in Philadelphia. While Forten's wealth was gained from a sail-making business (located at Front and Lombard Streets), Cassey's wealth was gained from real estate and financial deals that derived from his ability to network at his barbershop and perfumery business — located near what is now the rear entrance to the Bourse Building. With his sizeable wealth, Joseph Cassey funded black churches and schools, as well as intellectual and philanthropic societies.

The marriage of Joseph Cassey to Amy Matilda Williams (1809-1856), the daughter of Reverend Peter Williams of Trinity Church in Manhattan, united the leading African-American families in post-Colonial United States. Amy Cassey was an anti-slavery activist whose prestigious family name drew all of the most prominent abolitionists and activist orators to her door. Her personal album at The Library Company of Philadelphia contains contributions from Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, Sarah Mapps Douglass, Margaretta Forten, and Wendell Phillips. The activism of the family continued with their children. The Cassey's son, Reverend Peter William Cassey, started the first church and school for African-Americans in California, during the Gold Rush of the 1850's.

What did this couple mean to Society Hill? In some ways, post-Colonial Society Hill, with an integrated community of able and intellectually astute residents, comes closer to today's post-1960's redevelopment era than anything in the intervening 100-150 years. An influential segment of the African-American community lived along Cedar Street (now South Street) and Lombard Streets. You can see a series of African-American historical markers between 3rd and 9th Streets along this corridor. The Cassey family attended St. Thomas' Church, formerly on 5th Street. Joseph and Amy retired to Lombard Street near the corner of 3rd Street, and their descendants lived in Society Hill for five generations — mainly at 63 Union Street (now 243 Delancey Street).



Cassey's proud descendants attended the dedication ceremony. From left to right: Wayne Spilove, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission; Peter William Cassey III (age 90), great grandson of Joseph Cassey; his daughter Dianna Cassey and her son, William; Larry Alford, Dean of Libraries at Temple University and a Society Hill resident.



Society Hill residents Janine Black and Barry Arkles were instrumental in creating the marker for this African-American family that had significant social and financial impact in post-Colonial Philadelphia. In fact, they live in the Cassey's historical home, which they recently renovated.

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Society Hill's List of Contractors Offers New Services for Seniors

Over the years many neighbors have already used and trusted Society Hill's List of Recommended Contractors, which provides a 12-page directory of reliable and skilled contractors of every kind — painters, plumbers, electricians and general contractors — all of whom are highly recommended by Society Hill residents.

We now welcome a new service that may be beneficial to many neighbors: **Home Safety For Seniors – Solutions for living independently, safely and comfortably.** The purpose of this service is to provide professional assessment, modifications and/or installations to mitigate safety hazards and provide accessibility in home or business spaces. Installations include: grab bars and hand rails, wheelchair ramps, lighting improvements, widening of doorways, etc. For more information call 215-606-7010 or visit www.homesafety4seniors.com.

SHCA members can receive a copy of Society Hill's List of Recommended Contractors through the mail. Just contact Martha Levine at 215-629-0727 or marthalev@msn.com. We're sorry, but the list is not available online and cannot be faxed.

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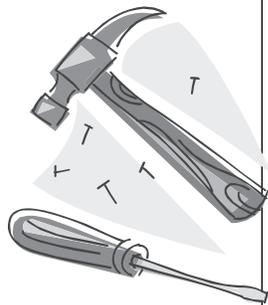
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FOOD TRUST HOSTS SEASON KICKOFF

Pancake Breakfast and Fundraiser for Farmer's Market at Head House

Save the Date! Saturday, June 13, 2009

In support of our Farmers' Market at Head House Square, The Food Trust will host a special event to be enjoyed by the entire family — young and old alike! The Pancake Breakfast & Fundraiser will be held on Saturday morning, June 13th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., beneath the Head House Shambles. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$5 for children under 10. Remember, this includes all the pancakes you can eat!

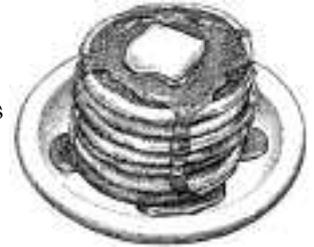
Participating with the Food Trust will be South Street's popular Supper Restaurant and The Global Dish Catering Company. This delicious event will offer a hearty breakfast featuring local ingredients. Live music will enliven the entire atmosphere!

The Head House Farmers' Market is a project of The Food Trust, a nonprofit organization that has been operating farmers' markets in Philadelphia for more than fifteen years. Your

market purchases help support local farmers, while these markets rely on financial support from individuals, business sponsors and grants for weekly management and operations.

Please visit www.headhousemarket.org for more details or to purchase your tickets for the Saturday morning Pancake Breakfast. Tickets will also be available at The Food Trust's table at the Head House Farmers' Market, which begins on Sunday, May 3rd.

Note: The Head House Farmers' Market opens for the entire spring through fall seasons on Sunday, May 3rd! Neighbors from near and far enjoy shopping at America's oldest existing marketplace — beneath "the Shambles" at S. 2nd Street between Pine and Lombard Streets. This year you'll enjoy a wonderful selection of early season favorites, as well as many new products. The Saturday Farmers' Market opens on Saturday, May 9th.



All the Pancakes You Can Eat!

Sunday, May 3: America's Oldest Marketplace opens for the entire spring through fall seasons.



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2009 Society Hill Real Estate Review, 1st Quarter
For houses in the 19106, Society Hill Neighborhood

Currently there are...

- 29 Houses for sale, Ranging from \$412,000-\$4,200,000, avg. days
- 5 Houses Pending, Ranging from \$399,000-\$3,400,000,
- 3 Sold, averaging \$1,175,000, in 125 days, at 78% of asking.

Address	Sold Price	Asking Price	Days on the Market
1xx Delancey	\$975,000	\$1,150,000	340
1xx Pine	\$975,000	\$1,195,000	392
5xx Spruce	\$1,375,000	\$1,900,000	4

Also, Houses for sale in Rittenhouse, 19103.

- 25 Houses For Sale, from \$399,000-\$6,875,000, avg. days for sale: 208
- 5 Houses Pending, from \$1,025,000-\$1,995,000, avg. days for sale: 125
- 5 Sold, averaging \$709,000 at 83% of asking in 176 days

Also, Houses in Washington Square West, 19107 & 19147.

- 36 Houses for sale, from \$274,000-\$1,399,900, avg. days for sale: 110
- 8 Houses Pending, from \$314,000-\$599,900, avg. days for sale: 100
- 6 Sold, averaging \$514,417 at 91% of asking in 87 days

Also, Houses in Fifer Square & Logan Square, 19147 & 19103.

- 24 Houses for sale, from \$309,500-\$3,125,000 avg. days for sale: 145
- 6 Houses Pending, from \$259,900-\$639,000 avg. days for sale: 133
- 1 Sold, \$685,000 at 86% of asking in 57 days

J.D. Power & Associates, reported
Keller Williams Realty ranks
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*Based on a 2008 survey of 2000 customers rating their experience with Prudential, Keller Williams, Coldwell Banker, Re-Max, Century 21, ERA & GMMC. Keller Williams received the highest rating in all 3 categories surveyed: Agent, Office & Services.

ANGELINA'S STORIES FROM THE DOLL HOUSE!



April is my favorite month in Society Hill. It so pretty here with all the flowers in the trees. Plus it is also spring break! We usually go somewhere fun, but we just went to Disney (see me & daddy by the castle) last month, so my mum is coming up to visit because it is my birthday!!! I am going to be 6 and I am hoping for a puppy! Also the Easter Bunny came over with yummy candy and toys for me and my brother too. I love April!



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Two Bedroom & one bedroom combined to form a three bedroom home. **\$664,900**
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PIER 5 • 7 N. Columbus Boulevard
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THE LIPPINCOTT - 227 S 6TH #5NW **\$2,300,000**
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802 PINE A&B **\$1,250,000**
Unique opportunity - 2 condo units converted into one, 4BD/3.5BA, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 wood-burning fireplaces, 2 French balconies, deck, 2 car parking.

110 PINE **\$1,250,000**
Handsome, traditional style 3BD/2.5BA with den, 1 year prepaid parking, hardwood floors, high ceilings, crown moldings, stainless appliances, fireplace, built-ins, large terrace, landscaped garden.

241-43 CHESTNUT F **\$975,000**
Amazing 2BD/2BA with radiant heat floors, custom kitchen, 3-sided fireplace, aluminum counters, hardwired for cable, internet and surround sound.

511 ADDISON **\$850,000**
Beautiful, prestigious 3BD/2.5BA with garage + 2 car parking, large brick patio, sundeck, floor to ceiling windows, wood-burning fireplace, hardwood floors.

509 SPRUCE **\$799,900**
Original brick front, historically certified, 3BD/2.5BA, 2 finished dormer rooms, finished basement, newer kitchen, many upgrades.

314 S 2ND **\$649,000**
Historic reproduction on a cobblestone block, 3BD/2.5BA, finished basement, hardwood floors, wood-burning fireplace, all new kitchen, red brick patio.

338 S 3RD **\$579,900**
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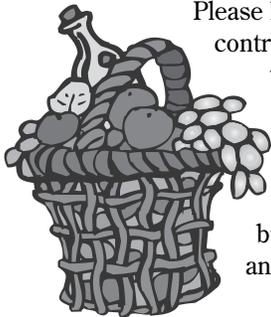
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WELCOME BASKETS

“Welcome,” New Contributors!

If you are a new or first-time homeowner in Society Hill in 2008/09 and you haven't yet received a Welcome Basket, please let us know. SHCA wants to present a welcome gift to you — a large basket of delicious fresh foods, information about our neighborhood and Center City, and a variety of gift certificates for area theaters, restaurants, shops, and services. Every item in the basket is a contribution from a local business. No other neighborhood (that we know of) offers such a valuable gift.



Please help us thank our contributors by patronizing their businesses and services. In difficult economic times such as this, we want to help keep these businesses alive and well.

Welcome to New Businesses

We welcome the following to our family of generous contributors:

Cochon, 801 E. Passyunk Avenue, a French BYOB restaurant.

Eyes Gallery, 402 South Street, Latin American crafts, unique clothing and jewelry.

Fosters, 339 Market Street, offers everything you need for the modern home.

Lux Spa and Fitness Center, at the Omni Hotel, 401 Chestnut Street, provides a full service spa and fitness center.

Metalworks, 315 South Street, showcases contemporary jewelry, glass, and crafts.

Philadelphia Dance Academy, 232 S. 4th Street, offers dance technique training for students of all ages from 3 to adult.

The Pampered Chef, Cindy Fidanza, 215-764-7478, helps you “discover the chef in you” through culinary products and recipe tips.



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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Do You Ever Feel Out of the Loop?

News is happening all day, every day, here in our neighborhood. While we do our best to keep everyone up-to-date with our bi-monthly newsletter, invariably events of major importance occur after the newsletter "goes to bed."

Fortunately, with today's modern world of the Internet, where individual communications supplant mass communications, we can fill that information void with direct email service. But we cannot do this without your help. If you are not receiving SHCA's emails on a regular basis, we probably do not have your current email address. We are pleased to report, however, that in the last SHCA membership renewal process, our email database has expanded from 939 to 1,066, a healthy 13 percent increase.

Did you receive our recent email about the Civic Vision for the Delaware? If not, most likely your email address was not legibly written on your membership renewal form. If you want to be included in our email database, please email mattdejulio@aol.com today, and he will make sure you are kept in the loop!

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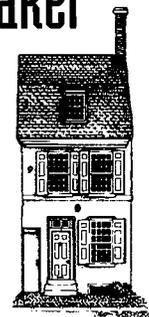


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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SHCA Membership Total Reaches 974

As of early April, SHCA's 2009 membership drive, which began in late November 2008, has generated dues and extra contributions from 974 members. We are pleased to report that 92 new members are included in this total.

Regretfully, however, we have not yet heard from 145 folks who were members in 2008. We are hoping, nevertheless, to reach our all-time high of 1,063 members from last year, and so after three written requests, we will be pursuing these remaining residents through our Block Coordinators, as well as via email. As you may be aware, our regular operating budget derives primarily from annual membership dues.

Reporter advertising revenue, while substantial, merely offsets the newsletter's expenses (printing, delivery, etc.) while its volunteer editorial team works to keep all Society Hill residents in the loop — independent of whether or not you are current SHCA members.

Specifically, your membership dues pay for sidewalk cleaning throughout Society Hill, the planting of new trees, graffiti removal supplies, the planting of flowers and general improvement of Washington Square, as well as all general administrative costs. Without membership dues, SHCA would cease to function.

Protect your neighborhood and your real estate investment by joining our civic association today. Just fill out the adjacent form and mail it with your check or credit card information. Or, visit our web site, societyhillcivic.org and pay by PAYPAL. Please feel free to call 215-629-1288 or email mattdejulio@aol.com if you have any questions.

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Residential Memberships

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- \$ 100 Federal Friend
- \$ 50 Basic Household Membership
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- \$100 Institutions—
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\$ _____ Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal

\$ _____ *Society Hill Reporter* \$ _____ Franklin Lights

\$ _____ TownWatch/Safe and Sound \$ _____ Street Trees

\$ _____ Zoning/Historic Preservation \$ _____ Three Bears Park

\$ _____ No Casinos Near Neighborhoods

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Signature _____

The following topics are of special interest to me. I welcome receipt of e-mail updates on these topics.

- Clean-Up Day Washington Square Zoning & Historic Preservation
- Franklin Lights Social Events Fundraising
- Dilworth House Property Taxes Local crime incidents & alerts
- Reporter Casino Issues

Please return completed application to:
Society Hill Civic Association
 P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147

NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

BY DAVID WOODS

Tom and Joan Tropp

The French have a proverb that says, “The Swiss live to work and the French work to live.” Tom Tropp would certainly agree with the second part of that proverb. Not only is he a Francophile and a current board member of the Alliance Française, but after working for a large law firm — while putting his three daughters through college — he now enjoys a solo law practice that, he says, “lets me set my own schedule and fund my travel.”

And that travel is truly extensive and quite impressive. He and his wife Joan took a trip to Greece last year; but in recent years have also traveled to Nepal, Africa, Kuwait, Turkey, Italy, Switzerland, England and Morocco. Plus, they vacation in Saranac, New York for two weeks each summer.

Tom and Joan were married in 1997 — the second marriage for both. They immediately decided to move from the Philadelphia suburbs into the city. Tom has three daughters from his previous marriage. Joan has a son and a daughter from hers.

Joan, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a Master’s degree in administration, works these days as a hospice nurse with the Visiting Nurses’ Association of Philadelphia, providing care to patients in their own homes. Her heritage is evident in their Delancey Street home, built in 1798, where a portrait of her great-great uncle Colonel William F. Small (a volunteer commander in a Civil War regiment) is situated so that he and a portrait of his wife always look across the room at each other. Joan is also proud of her two prints of the Darley Arabian and the Godolphin Arabian, the two foundation sires from which all thoroughbred race horses are descended. “These prints were a gift from my grandfather,” she says. “He gave one to my mother and one to me, telling us both that they were never to be separated.”

And, speaking of Arabian, Tom has a keen interest in the Middle East. As a founding board member of the Middle East Forum, he and Joan visited Kuwait as guests of that country’s ruling family. Tom’s father and mother, by the way — who are respectively, 96 and 89 years old — were friends of the parents and grandparents of Daniel Pipes, a leading political commentator and the author of several books on the Middle East. And Tom is a fan of another nonagenarian, Bernard Lewis, the 93-year-old author and lecturer regarded as one of the West’s foremost experts on the Middle East. In fact, Tom is a self-described “lecture junkie” who regularly attends meetings of such organizations as the World Affairs Council, and the Cosmopolitan Club, where Joan currently serves as recording secretary.

When Tom and Joan are on home turf, they love seeing films at our nearby Ritz Movie theaters, and they also enjoy dining out. Their favorite local restaurants: Salt and Pepper, Little Fish, and Bistro La Minette. They surely have colorful lives and stories to dine out on.

Note: As part-owner of a thoroughbred racehorse himself, the interviewer/author, David Woods, disclosed that after his wife saw the thoroughbred sire prints at a dinner party at the Tropp’s home, she gave him similar prints as a birthday present.

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CALENDAR

Wednesday, May 20

SHCA Board & General Meetings

See pages 1, 13-15

Saturday, May 30

Society Hill Clean-Up Day

See page 7

Sunday, May 31

Society Hill Open House & Garden Tour

See page 11

Wednesday, June 3

Powel House Garden Party

See page 25

Saturday, June 13, 9:30 a.m.

Pancake Breakfast

Head House Farmers' Market

See page 33

Wednesday, June 17, 7:30 p.m.

SHCA Board Meeting

Society Hill Synagogue

418 Spruce Street

Sunday, July 5, 1-5 p.m.

Philly Phyzz Festival

The Physick House

See page 29



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