

## Bike Paths on Spruce & Pine Streets? Summer Trial Period Proposed

### Spruce Street One Way/Two Way Traffic?

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### "Big Belly" Sighted in Society Hill

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With the recent explosion of bicycle use as a means of inexpensive transportation, there is a new initiative in Center City to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and mobility. The Philadelphia City Planning Commission (PCPC) proposes to create a Bike Path that will traverse city streets linking river to river. Specifically, these designated lanes on city streets would accommodate all bikers — both residents who “bike” to work and those who ride bicycles for recreation.

Our civic association first became aware of this city initiative at our annual Board Meeting on May 18, 2009. Rosanne Loesch, our new President, quickly designated a Bike Path

Committee consisting of Board Directors and residents to review this proposal and the effects it will have on our community. As usual, there are numerous viewpoints.

The Committee first met to discuss the proposal and then was invited to meet with Charles Carmalt and Laura Spina of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission. It was explained that the city wishes to select a Bike Path plan for a “trial period” — beginning some time this summer. With that time frame in mind, the Committee reviewed with Charles and Laura the six plans originally presented on May 18th in order to gain a more in-depth understanding of the issues confronting our community.

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## CASINO UPDATE

## The Long Struggle Gets Even Longer

As we head into the third summer since two gaming licenses were awarded in Philadelphia, neither proposed slots parlor is under construction. SugarHouse, the casino proposed for the waterfront in Northern Liberties/Fishtown, does not have any financing or a building permit; Foxwoods is still trying to figure out where it wants to locate.

### SugarHouse

This proposal has undergone a radical redesign, which, according to the owners, will bring the project more in line with “good waterfront” planning. Others say the redesign is nothing but an attempt to speed construction and cut costs. One of the most prominent features of the new design is to build an interim casino with only surface parking on the waterfront site; then, once revenues are flowing, start to build a 10-story garage on the waterfront. Since the garage construction would eat up required parking spots, the city is offering the casino the ability to park “temporarily” at the city-owned Festival Pier site, on the waterfront at the foot of Spring Garden Street. This would be contrary to the Civic Vision for the waterfront, developed in a yearlong public process and guided by the

*continued on page 9*

WED.

July

15

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**SHCA Board Meeting ONLY  
(No General Membership Meeting)  
The Physick House, 321 S. 4th Street**

There are no SHCA meetings scheduled during August. Look for both a Board of Directors and General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, September 16 – site to be announced in the September/October newsletter.

For more information, visit SHCA's website: [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org)



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**Submission Deadlines**  
 September/October Issue  
 Advertising: August 1  
 Editorial: August 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**


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BY ROSANNE LOESCH, SHCA PRESIDENT

## Walking the Streets of Liberty and History

This is my first message to you as President of the Society Hill Civic Association. It is my great privilege to serve in the leadership role of our community association for the coming year. I look forward to this responsibility in a spirit of collaboration with you and respect for our neighborhood's precious history.

One of my neighbors recently said to me: "It is the residents of Society Hill, above all, who have been responsible for preserving the unique character of our neighborhood." Her remark reminded me that it is pioneer residents who purchased old and often decrepit houses in the 60's and 70's and who lovingly restored each to its original beauty. It is the residents who founded our civic association and grew it, so that in recent years we regularly have more than 1,000 dues-paying members. It is SHCA's directors and members who have worked for years to procure historic designation status for our community, which provides a level of protection to help preserve Society Hill's character.

It is the Board Directors and residents who have worked collaboratively and tirelessly to protect our quality of life from inappropriate development — such as the cross-town expressway (proposed in the 70's), and construction of 30- or 40-story structures (proposed within the last five years), or the threat of nearby casinos (an ongoing battle!) that would unalterably change the unique scale and quality of life here in Society Hill. It is the residents who support such historic institutions within our borders as St. Peter's Church, Society Hill Synagogue, Old St. Joe's, Old St. Mary's, Old Pine Street Church and Community Center, the Powel House, the Physick House, and several others. It is the residents who nurture and protect our unique outdoor spaces — including Three Bears Park, Head House Square, Washington Square, and Society Hill's unique mid-block pedestrian "walkways." These walkways were created by the eminent City Planner, Ed Bacon, to enhance the experience of walking through Society Hill. Nor should we forget those friends and stewards of the magnificent park hugging our neighborhood's borders — Independence National Historical Park.

It is not an exaggeration to say that we all feel privileged to live here. Each day, when we leave

our homes, we are walking on the streets of our nation's earliest history and founding as a nation. Strolling our brick-covered sidewalks, one can't help but imagine life during those early years. We imagine the now iconic figures who walked these very streets and lived in or visited our homes — William Penn, Benjamin Franklin, James and Dolly Madison, John and Abigail Adams. But just as enchanting is the beauty of our neighborhood today — when we listen to children playing in our schoolyards, parks and walkways; when we run into neighbors on the street or at the Head House Farmers' Market; when we admire the loveliness of a window-box planting or the paint color chosen for a home's door and shutters. Indeed, we have much to enjoy and be thankful for.

I want to thank all who participate in making our neighborhood so lovely. I particularly thank my predecessor Richard de Wyngaert for his leadership as President of SHCA during the last two years. Also, I ask each and every resident to help contribute to the quality of life we enjoy. Come to our civic association's General Membership Meetings — the third Wednesday of September, November, January, March and May. (Please jot down those dates on your calendar now!) Read our wonderful *Society Hill Reporter* — the bi-monthly newsletter and brainchild of our neighbor, Bernice Hamel. The *Reporter* is one of the best ways to keep up on all the important or relevant issues affecting our neighborhood. Volunteers provide seasonal help when we periodically plant flowers in Washington Square Park. Volunteers are always appreciated for seasonal Clean-up Days or for our Annual House and Garden Tours. (See page 4 to learn about this season's most successful Society Hill tour.) Volunteers are much needed for SHCA's TownWatch Patrol.

You can learn about any SHCA committee that may be of interest to you by visiting our website ([www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org)) or please contact SHCA's admirable Administrator, Matt DeJulio ([mattdejulio@aol.com](mailto:mattdejulio@aol.com)). If you're not already an SHCA member, do consider joining. (Please see page 29.) Your Board works tirelessly on a myriad of issues affecting our neighborhood, and we very much value your support and help!



**Rosanne Loesch,  
President**

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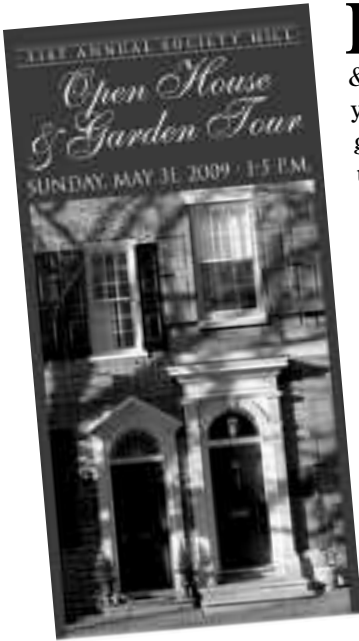
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## Society Hill's 2009 Open House & Garden Tour Incredibly Successful!



If, for any reason, you didn't attend Society Hill's 31st Annual Open House & Garden Tour — on Sunday, May 31st — you missed a unique experience that offered glimpses into some of the most beautiful urban homes anywhere in the nation! Successful beyond our wildest expectations, this self-guided tour of ten marvelous private homes and gardens would not have occurred without the dedicated organizational skills of Co-Chairs Martha Levine and Linda Skale, as well as the able assistance of SHCA's Administrator Matt DeJulio. Nor would there have been the wonderful sites for us to visit if not for the generosity of Society Hill neighbors who graciously opened the doors of their homes and gardens — from the most historic to the ultimate in contemporary condominium living.

### Hold onto Your Hats!

Here's a rundown of this year's incredible numbers compared with previous tours. Usually, the tour attracts about 265 to 285 attendees, and at \$30 per ticket, this brings in about \$7,000-\$8,000 in any year — of which SHCA receives 90% of the profits. However, this year 546 people attended our tour, and at \$25 per ticket we collected \$13,575 in total sales — of which our community received 100% of the profits. We are most fortunate that this year's tour brought in \$5,750 more than any previous tour.

We have many folks to thank for this season's remarkable program. Administrator Matt DeJulio, handled the mailing of more than 2,000 brochures and was responsible for all phone and email reservations. In addition, we thank all sponsors of our promotional brochure whose contributions covered the total cost of its design, printing and mailing, as well as fees for most of the ads placed in local and suburban newspapers. By the way, those attractive brochures and handsome posters were created by none other than Judy Lamirand, designer of this newsletter!

Big applause for one and all — including the “weather planner” for allowing the sun to shine after a week of almost constant rain. This ideal spring day encouraged folks from neighboring communities to take the tour — which contributed to its overwhelming success that ultimately will benefit Society Hill and our civic association.

Our “grassroots” program received online support and promotion from historic preservation organizations, civic associations and tourist bureaus, as well as publicity from several suburban newspapers. For example, a reporter from the *Bucks County Herald* helped promote the program when she was invited to preview two sample houses one week prior to the tour. She did a photo shoot of these houses, and then wrote a wonderful article for the *Herald*, accompanied with sample photos. Her report surely encouraged many suburbanites to take the tour.

### A Bit of History

Society Hill's annual tour program originated in our neighborhood after the time of its redevelopment and rebirth. Following its inaugural success and for the past thirty years, our tours were part of an umbrella program across different neighborhoods, known as “Philadelphia Open House,” coordinated by the Friends of Independence National Park. During this 30-year period, Society Hill was just one in an annual series of regional home and garden tours — although, granted, it was always the most popular of the Friends' various tours.

But times change! Recently the Friends of Independence decided to reduce its tour program from an annual basis and conduct it every other year. That left our civic association wondering whether to organize a self-sponsored, self-coordinated tour — such that overall planning — e.g. promotion and sales — could be generated by SHCA volunteers. Fortunately, Martha and Linda, who had previously co-chaired Society Hill's tours for the Friends of Independence, decided to step up to the plate and independently operate “our own” Society Hill Open House & Garden program.

This SHCA-sponsored, self-guided event meant selecting and lining up an exciting and diverse sample of homes and gardens for 2009. Their efforts included raising \$3,300 to cover the cost of the brochure's 2009 design, printing and mailing, which also helped pay for ads published in local and suburban newspapers. Those ads encouraged a large number of folks from Pennsylvania and New Jersey suburbs to participate. Thus, a total of \$13,575 was collected in ticket sales — from an all-time high of 546 attendees.



Our program received very positive feedback from both homeowners and “tourists.” Several homeowners commented on the courteous and respectful manner of the “guests,” while many “guests” expressed appreciation for being able to visit these exceptionally fine homes. They also acknowledged the professional quality of all our volunteers who provided helpful information when serving as guides in each room of every home on the tour. In fact, due to the surprisingly large turnout of attendees, we ran out of our supply of descriptive printed programs, given to each tour taker, that listed and summarized each site. Again fortune was on our side, since Old Pine Street Church, Society Hill’s “official tour headquarters,” owns a copy machine capable of handling our 11 x 17 size brochure. At the last minute we printed another 200 needed copies of these programs.

**Tour Profits to Be Well Spent**

The funds raised from this year’s hugely profitable tour will be spent on a much-needed project for pedestrian safety. As you surely know, the brick sidewalks and curbs in front of many homes are uneven and must be leveled — since our community’s “historical-looking” brick sidewalks were laid down many years ago. In some cases there are missing bricks, often causing people to trip. The condition of sidewalks, in front of or on the property of any Society Hill residence, is actually each homeowner’s responsibility. Therefore, to encourage homeowners to “fix the brix,” SHCA will contribute 25 percent of the project’s cost — up to \$150 per property — so that homeowners can adjust those old bricks, replace missing ones, and deal with the growth of tree roots that often cause these problems. See page 23 to learn more about this program.

**Final thanks to one and all who helped make this season’s house tour the most successful in Society Hill’s History!**



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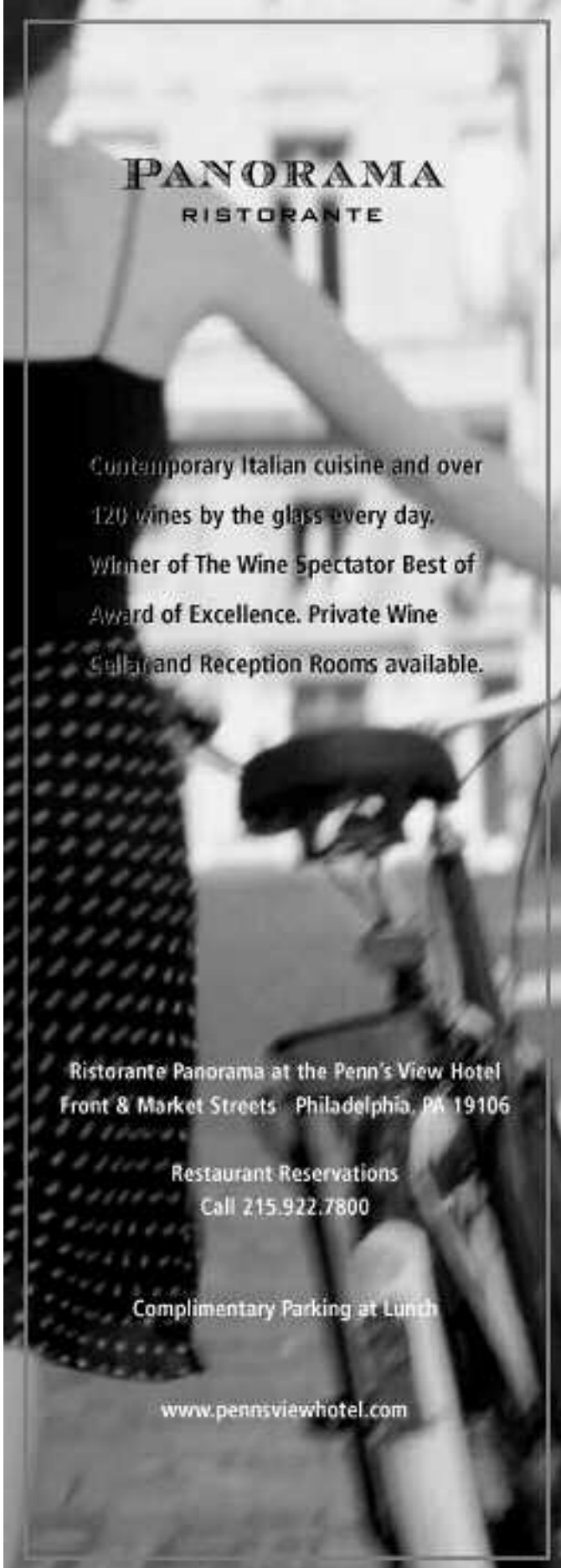


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## Bike Path Summer Trial Proposed

*continued from page 1*

It appears that the most viable option currently presented is to have two streets with designated bike paths: one street would travel east-to-west and one street would travel west-to-east. Currently, the Planning Commission is considering Spruce and Pine Streets. Under this plan, the traffic on these two streets would be reduced to one lane and one lane would be designated solely for bike traffic. Parking on one side of the street would remain.

The Committee raised many issues that could compromise the quality of life in our neighborhood. Primary concerns and preliminary answers, which need to be further confirmed, include:

**1 The impact on Permit Parking for Society Hill residents — e.g.: How many permit parking spots would be lost by the creation of this bike path?**

Permit Parking for residents will probably not be affected or changed to accommodate bike paths, although some permit spots may be lost.

**2 What is the impact of the bike path on Permit Parking for religious institutions?**

The city has not completely addressed the problem of parking for religious services. Current thinking is that religious parking regulations would remain the same, although there is some consideration for finding alternative parking on other streets during services. Additionally, the city intends to begin stricter enforcement of its current parking permits for religious institutions.

**3 Will drivers be able to use bike paths for taxi pick-ups and drop-offs, deliveries, unloading of cars and emergency vehicles?**

Residents would probably be able to use the Bike Paths for taxi pick-ups and drop-offs, deliveries and unloading of cars, without being ticketed. The PCPC said it needs to confirm this.

**4 How will the plan accommodate tourist vehicles, such as horse and carriages, trolleys, and the Duck Boats?**

The accommodation of tourist vehicles has not yet been determined. For example: Will horse and carriages use the bike path so as not to slow down auto traffic? How will good traffic flow be assured with slow-moving vehicles — e.g. trolleys and Duck Boats?

**5 What is the enforceability of this plan for bikers as well as drivers?**

The city has not yet spoken with the Police Department to determine if and how the police would assist in enforcement of traffic rules for motorists and bikers.

**6 What criteria will be used to evaluate the success of the plan during the trial period?**

**7 Will traffic flow be compromised such that Society Hill experiences traffic jams and honking motorists?**

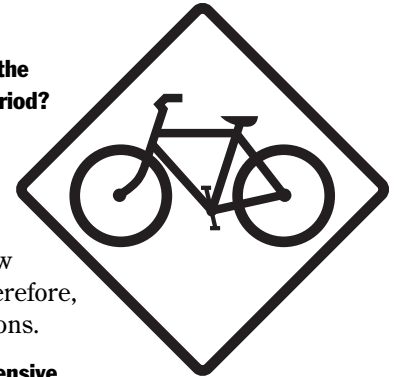
The city has not yet determined how it will evaluate the program and, therefore, has not addressed these two questions.

**8 Will this change be part of a comprehensive Bike Path Plan that designates north/south streets connecting to existing bike paths, such as on Spring Garden Street and Washington Avenue?**

The city's goal is to create a comprehensive bike plan, but streets that would be designated for north/south bike paths have not yet been determined.

One significant question SHCA's Bike Path Committee has raised with the PCPC is: when the city considered the streets to designate as east/west bike paths, why did it prefer Spruce and Pine Streets rather than, for example, Chestnut and Lombard? The city responded that its mandate is to create a river-to-river grade-level connection. This requirement eliminates Washington Avenue and Spring Garden Street. The city also wants to avoid streets with heavy auto traffic and numerous bus routes, such as Chestnut and Market Streets. Lombard Street is considered problematic, because the PCPC said that overflow traffic from South Street is often diverted to Lombard Street.

We understand and appreciate the benefits of safe and designated bike paths in our community, but we are also concerned about the viability of the plans as proposed. The PCPC has promised to meet again with SHCA's Bike Path Committee to provide detailed responses to the above issues. Thus far, we have contacted neighboring civic associations asking for their input and support. The city has also promised us that prior to any "trial" implementation, there will be a public forum for residents to explain and discuss the proposal.



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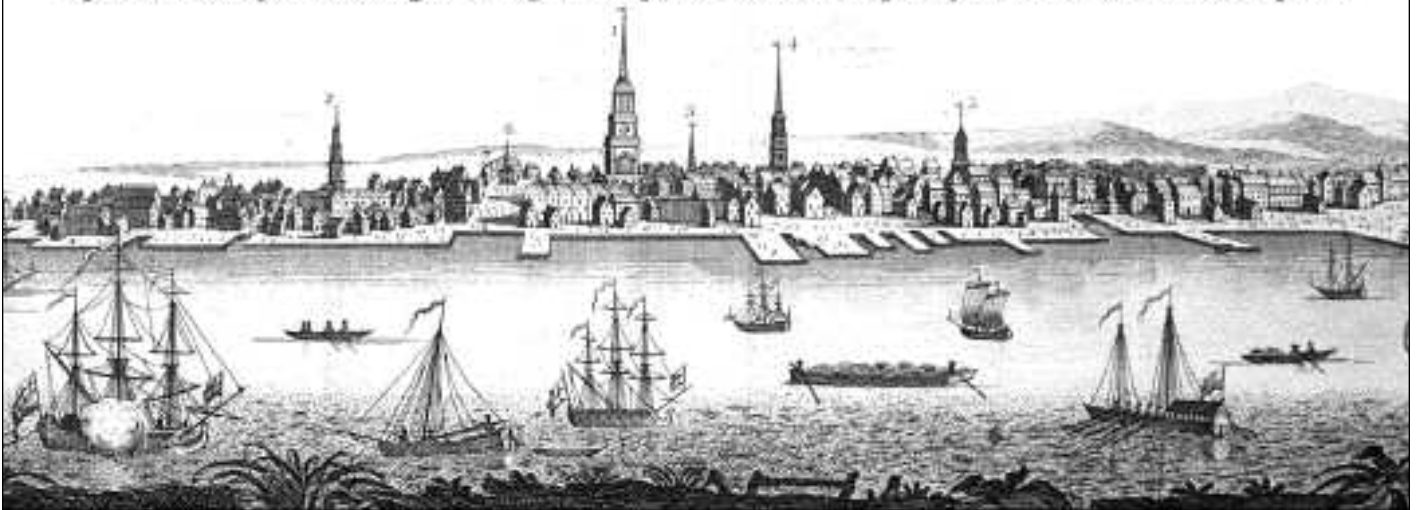
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## The Long Struggle Gets Even Longer: Casino Update

*continued from page 1*

University of Pennsylvania's distinguished "Penn Praxis" design program.\*

The SugarHouse investors have repeatedly admitted that they do not have financing to build the facility. This could change if and when the economy improves. Competing forces include the continued saturation of the casino market and changes in consumer discretionary spending habits. Philadelphia Park Racetrack/Casino in Bensalem is already suing the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board — claiming that the recently approved 500 slot machines at Valley Forge will unduly eat into Philadelphia Park's market share. The newly opened Sands Casino, in Bethlehem, is dealing a heavy blow to Harrah's Chester, which is experiencing continued revenue declines. Meanwhile, the Rendell administration is pushing for legalizing Video Poker at all bars and taverns in every Pennsylvania neighborhood. Sports betting is being legalized in Delaware; and on it goes.

On the regulatory and litigation fronts, SugarHouse still needs more permits and approvals. Our communities continue to oppose. Indeed, Northern Liberties Neighbors Association is in court challenging sewer approval for SugarHouse. Trump is in federal court challenging both Philadelphia casinos. The State Gaming Control Board recently extended SugarHouse's license to give the casino until 2011 to open its doors.

### Foxwoods

Currently Foxwoods is trying to move into the old Strawbridge and Clothier building at 801 Market Street. However, it appears to be in no hurry to overcome many obstacles. As you might know, Foxwoods' main local investor is Ron Rubin, who is also the CEO of Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust (PREIT). PREIT owns the vacant lower floors of 801 Market, but the upper floors of this building — a commercial condominium — are owned by Gramercy Capital, which is resisting the rezoning of the property to allow a slots parlor. Councilman Frank DiCicco twice stated publicly that he would not rezone the property for a slots parlor unless and until Foxwoods, PREIT and Gramercy agreed on the project. Nevertheless, without any lease in place and with Gramercy still opposing the rezoning,

Councilman DiCicco pushed through the rezoning in mid-June. The bills also eliminated the need for both casinos to return to City Council after obtaining approval on their Plans of Development by the City Planning Commission.

With all casino sites rezoned, as per the casinos' wishes, this effectively ends City Council's involvement in the land use issues. In the final push to approve all bills (which were passed by Council on June 11th), Councilman DiCicco stated on the floor of City Council:

*"I want to send a clear message to Foxwoods, to the Gaming Board and to the State legislature. Frank DiCicco, City Council and the City of Philadelphia support Pennsylvania Entertainment and Development Partners [also known as 'PEDP,' the corporate name for Foxwoods Philadelphia]. The City, the State, PEDP and PREIT all have a significant economic interest in this project. As such, we're committed to working as partners to make this casino a reality."*

For a full copy of the Councilman's comments, visit [www.planphilly.com/node/9111](http://www.planphilly.com/node/9111).

To open up at Market Street, Foxwoods would still need to obtain approval from the Philadelphia Planning Commission for a Plan of Development, which it has yet to submit, as well as obtain approval from the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to relocate its gaming license. Foxwoods recently filed for a two-year extension, stating that it might need until May 2011 to open its doors.

For additional information contact:

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City Council  
unanimously  
approved zoning  
legislation that  
would allow  
Foxwoods Casino  
to operate at  
the former  
Strawbridge  
and Clothier  
building.

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**No matter what your position,  
we encourage your active participation  
on these issues.**

\*NOTE: Penn Praxis is the inter-disciplinary design program of the University of Pennsylvania which has been closely involved in overall planning for Penn's Landing since 2001. It has developed a sustainable and comprehensive plan for the Central Delaware River Waterfront.

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ONE-WAY OR TWO-WAY?

## Spruce Street Traffic Update

As reported in the May/June issue of this newsletter, the Political Action Committee (PAC) of the Society Hill Towers and its Board of Directors had proposed initiating two-way traffic onto Spruce Street which would allow drivers exiting the Towers garage (on the 200 block of Spruce) to turn left as well as right — so as to drive directly onto Dock Street (a.k.a. the 38th Parallel) and therefore shorten the distance to Columbus Boulevard. However, numerous concerns were raised by neighbors, and the Philadelphia Streets Department produced a safety report regarding the proposal.

A meeting was held, on May 27th, to review the report presented by Charles Denny of the city's Streets Department. In attendance were Councilman Frank DiCicco and his Legislative Assistant Brian Abernathy; representatives from both the Towers' PAC and Board; a Penns Landing Square condominium representative on SHCA's Board; as well as SHCA's Committee whose members are studying the traffic change proposed by the Towers' PAC.

Mr. Denny's report concluded that there are significant safety issues to preclude two-way traffic on the 200 block of Spruce Street, but he did not yet reach the same conclusion about the 100 block of Spruce. Currently, therefore, the Streets Department will consider changing only the 100 block of Spruce to permit two-way traffic from 2nd. However, many residents of Penn's Landing Square and other nearby residents who would be most affected by converting the 100 block of Spruce to two-way traffic disagree with the Street Department's conclusion. They have raised the following specific concerns:

- 1 Two-way traffic on Spruce Street would permit cars driving down the hill from 2nd Street to turn left onto Spruce — which might endanger pedestrians crossing the intersection — when heading for Septa's # 42 bus, for example;
- 2 Many delivery vehicles — e.g. Fed-Ex, Postal Service, and moving vans — would have to block Spruce's eastbound lane to make deliveries;
- 3 There has been no estimate or traffic study to determine the true impact of converting Spruce to two-way traffic or the actual number of cars that would use this route;
- 4 Regarding the intersection of Spruce and Front Streets: Mr. Denny stated that the Streets Department would need to complete its analysis to determine whether the proposed two-way traffic change would increase the number of accidents at this intersection. He also indicated that "an all-way stop" might be required with the additional east-bound volume of traffic.

### Current Status

Although changing Spruce Street's traffic pattern from one-way to two-way would not give the Towers' garage users the full benefit they had originally sought, it would provide some shortening of their trips and might reduce the amount of traffic on the 100 block of Delancey Street. Upon further consideration, therefore, the Towers' PAC and Board verbally reported to a representative of SHCA's Committee that they will no longer seek this two-way change of direction on the 200 block of Spruce Street.

However, the proposal to allow two-way traffic on the 100 block of Spruce has not yet been resolved. SHCA's Committee will continue to study this matter and make a recommendation. In addition, Councilman DiCicco has promised a community-wide meeting with Society Hill residents before any action is taken on this matter.

Permitting two-way traffic for the 100 block of Spruce Street is still being investigated.

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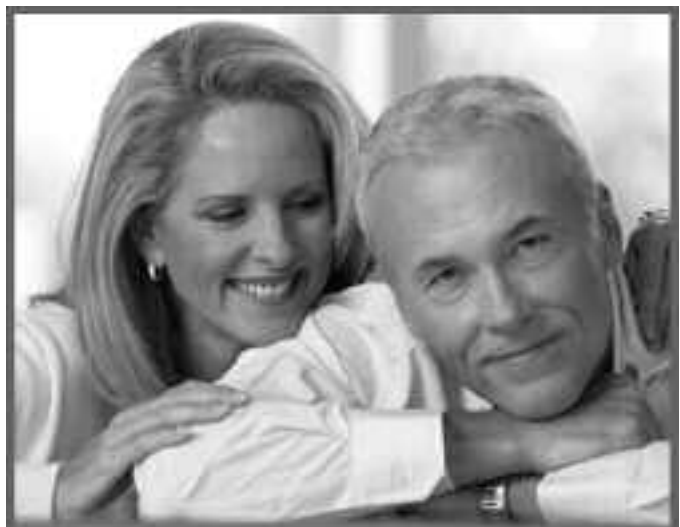
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**ZONING AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION REPORT**

BY STEVEN A. WEIXLER, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

**Former “Cosi” Restaurant**

Northwest Corner of 2nd & Lombard Streets

Many neighbors probably miss the chance to drop into Cosi’s for a cup of coffee or a sandwich after this popular spot recently closed. But there is an exciting new possibility to report. Stephen Starr’s highly respected restaurant organization has approached our civic association with a new concept for the vacant space. While his concept is still very preliminary, and we can’t give you specific details at this time, we can say that he hopes to open a new eatery with all the “Starr” hallmarks: innovative food served in a stylish environment.

The location at Head House Square is attractive to locals and tourists alike, and we are optimistic that the new venture will provide an upscale ambience at this corner one block from South Street. Starr’s initial concept shows a stylish but relaxed Italian-style restaurant. There are many details yet to be worked out, including approval by the Historical Commission for alterations to the building as well as various operational details, but we look forward to hearing more.

In a related development, Michael Palermo, Director of Development for the Starr Organization, reports that negotiations to reopen the Washington Square Restaurant at the N.W. Ayer Building at 210 W. Washington Square have reached a temporary impasse. However, they hope to have good news in the near future.

**The Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial**

Spruce St. between Front St. & Columbus Blvd.

The Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial, on the border of Society Hill — midway between Independence Hall and Penn’s Landing — is a location familiar to us all and important to the many Philadelphians who served our country in that conflict. It is visit-

ed by thousands of people every year. The ZHP Committee recently heard a presentation on a two-phase plan to upgrade the Memorial, which is being sponsored by the Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans in its “Duty To Remember” Memorial Fund Campaign. The project includes improvements to the Memorial’s landscaping, lighting, safety and dignity. Our committee was unanimous in its support of this important site adjacent to our historic neighborhood, and we encourage all in Society Hill to support these improvements.

**The SuperFresh Sign**

5th & Delancey Streets

Many Society Hill residents are aware of negotiations that have been taking place between our civic association and the corporate management of SuperFresh regarding the installation of its eight-foot diameter logo sign on the outside wall — at the southern end of its South 5th Street facade. The sign was installed in late February during renovations to the building’s interior, without any neighborhood notice. Most Society Hill residents, particularly on the 500 block of Delancey Street, feel the sign is inappropriate for the historic context of our neighborhood.

SHCA Vice-President Paul Boni — an attorney and long-time member of our Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee — has been persistent in his efforts to maintain an open dialogue with SuperFresh as we seek to resolve this situation. At press time, we are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to persuade SuperFresh that this particular sign is unnecessary — especially given all of its other very visible signage. After all, SuperFresh wants to be a good neighbor, and our ZHP Committee continues its mission to protect the character of Society Hill.



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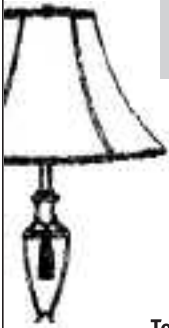
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**“BIG BELLY” SIGHTINGS**


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## Trash Compactors Arrive in Society Hill

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

If you haven't noticed, we have some new inhabitants in the neighborhood — the new “Big Belly” solar-powered trash compactors, the city's latest plan for more efficient trash collection. Since installation began in mid-June and is expected to be completed throughout Society Hill by the end of July, by the time you read this article there could be a “Big Belly” near your corner.

### Choice in the Matter?

In recent issues of this newsletter we reported that the City of Philadelphia has determined that Big Belly (a.k.a. “BB”) is the trash receptacle of choice for all of Center City, including Society Hill. Five hundred BB's were purchased by the Streets Department, although the fact that some areas in Center City are primarily residential (e.g. Society Hill!) was not considered. The Department's “one-size fits all” solution for varied neighborhoods is disappointing — to say the least. Their reasoning was based on cost, since trash and litter dumped into these big BB compactors requires collection every four days rather than daily, as the “old” trash containers require (whether wired or top-covered). This saves on manpower, as well as the cost of fuel and truck maintenance. The city will no longer collect litter and debris from the other trash baskets — not the wire ones nor the top-covered ones — since all those will be removed. We have no choice — it's Big Belly or nothing!

### Is More Better?

We are concerned that residents will be upset at the influx of these out-of-scale street objects placed throughout our neighborhood — similar to what happened recently when those big brown “traffic signal controller boxes” were installed here at every major intersection. Resolved to find a plan suitable for our uniquely historical yet residential neighborhood, SHCA decided to “make the best of it” — if you get lemons, make lemonade! It seems inevitable: to receive reliable litter collection and maintain our community's clean and inviting sidewalks, we must adapt the city's needs to our neighborhood.

Last March, SHCA's Safe and Sound Committee met with Carlton Williams, the city's Deputy Commissioner of Sanitation. We were shown a map depicting where the Big Bellies would be placed — with one or more BBs at every

intersection. In addition, many intersections had not only the compactor but also its companion “recycling kiosk” placed adjacent to it: side-by-side to any 26-inch-wide Big Belly compactor, the result would be a mammoth 52-inch wide eyesore. These oversized “twins” were destined for Spruce Street at 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th Streets, as well as at many intersections on Pine and Lombard Streets.

### Tweaking the City's Plan

Anticipating a negative reaction by many residents to the onslaught of these combined compactors/recyclers, our Safe and Sound Committee asked the city to halt installation of these “twin” Big Bellies except at Society Hill's more “commercial” settings — such as Starr Garden (600 block of Lombard) and Head House Square (2nd Street between Pine and Lombard). These hulky, steel-colored boxes are visually less obtrusive when located at Broad and Walnut, or along Market, Chestnut, and Walnut Streets. But placed here on our residential narrow, tree-lined sidewalks... tall, dark and handsome may be appealing in a man, but not in a trash receptacle!

Safe and Sound's original plan was to restrict the placement so that BBs will be placed away from homes. After a brief neighborhood survey, however, the plan has been modified from placing them only on more commercial blocks to allowing them on many other sidewalks, but keeping BBs away from homes as much as possible.

Two questions need answers:

- 1 Will neighbors find the Big Belly Compactors acceptable?
- 2 Will BBs solve the problem of some residents who deposit their household trash in corner receptacles?

Bear with us! We will welcome your questions and comments after the compactors are completely installed. Please note that we have been assured by the Streets Department that we can make changes if we want to relocate a few compactors here and there to more favorable locations, or to add a few more where necessary. For comments and questions, please contact Martha Levine, [marthalev@msn.com](mailto:marthalev@msn.com), or 215-629-0727.



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## 2nd Annual Soiree at the Shambles

On Wednesday, September 30th, Society Hillers, together with nearby neighbors from Queen Village and Olde City, will gather for our “2nd Annual Soiree at the Shambles” — an evening of food, frolic and fun! Last year’s Soiree, held under the “Shambles” at Head House Square, was one of the most successful and enjoyable community events in anyone’s memory. We met and socialized with many neighbors and enjoyed delicious meals contributed by some of our area’s most wonderful restaurants.

Our Soiree at the Shambles will be another extraordinary collaboration of generous neighbors and businesses — cosponsored by the Head House Conservancy, a grassroots, non-profit organization. Together with neighboring civic associations and the South Street Head House District, the *fundamental* purpose of the Soiree is to raise *funds* to help preserve this National Historic Landmark and bring back the Shambles to its original purpose. See you at the Soiree, and, of course, at the Markets!

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Wednesday,  
September 30th

## The Story of the Delaware

BY MAYA K. VAN ROSSUM, DIRECTOR, THE DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER

In 1609, Henry Hudson “discovered” the Delaware River while seeking a northwest passage. The river observed by Hudson was a plentiful source of clean water and fish — so abundant you could catch them with your bare hands. In the bay, whales, seals, and porpoises swam in abundance. When the horseshoe crabs spawned, the bay beaches bubbled over with tiny green eggs. Hundreds of thousands of migratory shorebirds came to feast on these eggs, darkening the sky with their arrival. Much has happened in the past 400 years, which have passed in just a blink of an eye for this river that began forming about 50 million years ago.

The race for the Delaware River’s resources may have begun slowly in the years after 1609, but by the 1900’s it was dangerously polluted. Fish were too contaminated to eat. People who drank its once pristine waters became ill and in some cases died from typhoid fever and cholera. Populations of shad, sturgeon, horseshoe crabs, bald eagles, and migratory shorebirds began to decline, some to the brink of extinction. Homes and businesses built too close to the river were subject to devastating floods and also contributed runoff and pollution to neighbors downstream. By the 1950’s the river had become so contaminated that its waters clogged ships’ engines and peeled paint from their sides. For a distance of twenty miles in the Philadelphia-Camden reach, the river was dead — these waters contained no dissolved oxygen, making it impossible for aquatic life to inhabit.

But enough was finally enough and the community reacted by demanding clean water, strong laws and strong action — not only to protect but also to restore the river to health. Today the

Delaware is viewed as a dramatic success story. But, while in many ways the river is better, it remains threatened by daily insults.

Pollution is dumped into it legally and illegally. Permits allow discharge of sewage, industrial waste, even banned toxins like PCBs. Oil spills like the 2004 Athos I, which dumped 265,000 gallons of heavy crude into the river, are a constant risk for a waterway on which nearly 42 million gallons of crude oil are moved daily. We are paving the watershed and building in the floodplain, putting people in harm’s way during flood events that are occurring with increasing frequency — due to increasing development and potential climate change. Clearly, we are in danger of forgetting the lessons of the recent past.

In 1988, a group of caring and concerned citizens formed the Delaware Riverkeeper Network to ensure that those lessons would not be forgotten. Its proven record of success includes: the prevention of dumping VX nerve agent waste into the river; a body of regulations and designations giving the Delaware the longest stretch of river protected by high quality laws; protection of Petty’s Island from development. We are making a difference, and you can too.


What can you do? First, when you see a threat to the river, call our pollution hotline (1-800-8-DELAWARE). Become a member of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and let us help you stay informed about protecting both the river and your community. Visit our website at: [www.delawareriverkeeper.org](http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org).

Remember: Even the smallest action could be that one critical turning point ... and let’s hold our elected officials accountable to do the same.

*At SHCA’s May General Membership Meeting, our featured speaker was Maya K. van Rossum, Director of the Delaware Riverkeepers — the nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting our endangered river. In this article, Maya provides a brief history of the river’s original resources and then summarizes how modern times threaten its existence. Her enlightening (but disturbing) article is one you’ll want to share with others so that we can help protect the river’s remaining resources and preserve its beauty.*




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## SHCA's TreeTenders

BY HANS BOMBECK & GARRETT SMITH

SHCA's TreeTenders worked hard to have our neighborhood included in this spring's "TreeVitalize" Philadelphia Tree Planting Program with 20+ new trees. However, all sites applied for were rejected by the Fairmount Park Commission (FPC) for a variety of reasons — some valid, some perhaps not. Recognizing that FPC has the ultimate authority of approval over tree removal and planting in the City of Philadelphia, we approached the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS), a lead partner in the program, to lend us a helping hand. With PHS' support, we have revised applications for sixteen new trees scheduled for planting this fall. These will include a total of six trees surrounding Holy Trinity Church and St. Mary's Church.

We still expect to be supplied with trees free of charge. Unfortunately, it now appears that the burden of pit preparation, including stump removal and actual planting, will rest with the community and/or property owners. We have been in touch with several qualified arborists, and although not all estimates have come in at the time of this writing, we are confident that the preparation of selected pits in the various locations can be handled by a third party at reasonable cost — especially if SHCA provides the traditional subsidy of \$150 for each new tree.

When it comes to the actual planting, however, we will be seeking community volunteers and "elbow grease" to help carry out the task. This could turn into a fun day of neighborhood camaraderie. So stay tuned!

**FYI:** The TreeVitalize Tree Planting Program placed hundreds of young trees in other parts of the city this past spring. The next cycle of the program calls for the replacement of dead or dying trees, or the re-establishment of trees in existing or dormant pits — for the Spring of 2010. The deadline for another round of these applications from Society Hill property owners is July 31. Anyone interested should contact us as soon as possible, so that we will help you sort out the "red tape."

We encourage local residents who value the "Greening of Philadelphia" to consider taking a free TreeTender course, offered by PHS. You will learn about tree biology, identification, planting, urban stresses on trees, pruning and proper care. The three-part series is free. To sign up for the training program, contact [www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org](http://www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org) or call 215-988-8776. To hear how much we enjoyed the experience, feel free to call Hans Bombeck at 215-627-1356 or Garrett Smith at 215-760-1213!



## Beautifying Washington Square

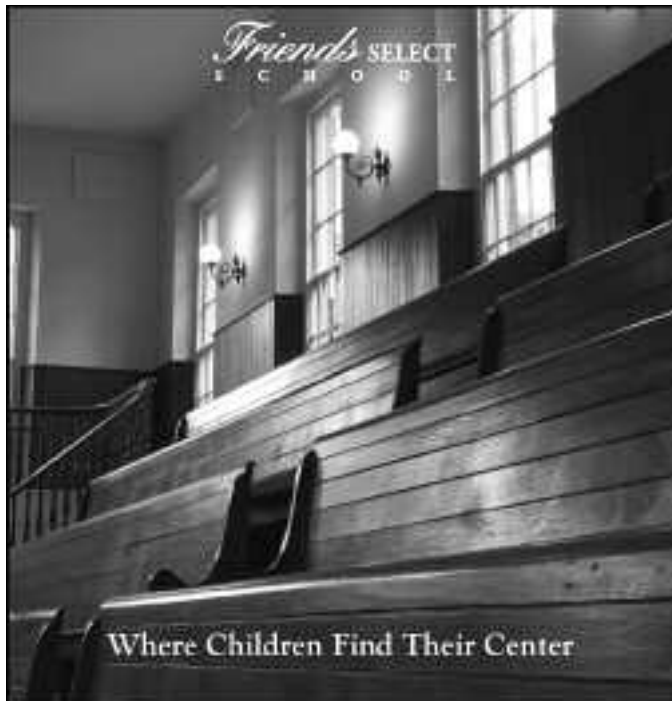
After many rainy days in May, twenty capable volunteers and forty McCall School students and their teachers set out to plant annuals in Washington Square. The landscape company "All Seasons" assisted their efforts with placement of the annuals — totaling about 64 flats in less than three hours. The children participated in several other ways — such as weeding the rose beds and helping mulch the flower beds.

It was a very successful day of community effort — topped off by rain later in the afternoon. SHCA Vice-President Sissie Lipton, who chairs our association's Washington Square Committee, wishes to thank all who participated — including, of course, staff from Independence National Historic Park (INHP) who weeded the entire area and spread the mulch. INHP also installed new sprinkler heads in the beds, as well as painting the pool of the fountain.

Washington Square is now dazzling with color and beauty, and so Sissie asks you to help keep it that way. Please do not allow your dog to walk or play among the flower beds. She also asks you to always keep your dog, (and your children's hands and feet!) out of the fountain, since the water is polluted and could be dangerous to their skin and health.

But if at any time a resident is concerned about a person or event in Washington Square, please call INHP's Dispatch line — at 215-597-7077. A Park Ranger will be sent to help — so please keep this number handy.

Finally, neighbors are asked to contribute to Washington Square's continuing beautification program. Please send your donation to SHCA and indicate that it is to be used for this fund. Thank you.



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KIDS IN THE CITY

BY CATHERINE SIGNORELLO

Lucky Number 13

Every couple of years I want to move. Wait, let me rephrase that. Every couple of years, and often multiple times within the same year, I do move. Since I graduated from college fifteen years ago, I have moved thirteen times. I blame four moves on lack of a focused plan, one on a crazy neighbor and a lazy landlord, three on an early marriage and its subsequent end, and two on finding true love and then making a place of our own. And way too soon after making that home of our own, I blame three more moves on making a place of our own again and again and, oh yes, *again*.

I am on my moving company's personal Christmas card lists. They have seen me settling into places and settling out of places. They have moved the same huge jelly cupboard thirteen times.

It goes without saying that I am not averse to change. I like a variety of environments. You might even say that I embrace change. But what might not be so obvious is how very important to me the concept of home is. Judging from my track record, one might assume "home" is a throwaway for me. (One might also assume that I am unable to commit, which, after tallying my moves, I agree, does beg the question...).

Incongruously, I have spent my whole life preparing for "home." Since I was a little girl, I have daydreamed about my house, my husband and my children. It was old fashioned, but while my peers were studying for GREs and vying for promotions, I was merrily envisioning birthday parties we'd enjoy at my house and the traditions my family would keep.

And here I am in the thick of it: a knockout husband, two super kids, a friendly dog and a lovely home — and I am wondering if I got it right. Is the city the right place for us? I know it's a great place that I love, but is it what I envisioned as the backdrop for my children's childhood?

What I have concluded is this: the city can be tough on a family in the summer. Many friends have left for the season, it is ridiculously hot, there are too many tourists, there are few places to let your kids ride a bike, and there is no place to swim. I could go on, but I won't — because what I have also concluded is that all those "problems" are distractions that keep me from living up to the vision I hold for the life of my family. If I can be busy focusing on perceived negatives — then I can't be busy doing the work I am meant to do. Whether the city is the right place for my family is not the relevant question.

It is often easier to blame the surroundings than it is to commit to being the compass that keeps your family going in the right direction. To commit to living authentically and rearing your children without compromise is an exhausting and time-consuming task. The actual day-to-day of any family routine does not always leave one smiling by dinnertime. Fortunately, we live in a supportive community, here in Society Hill, and there is a tangible feeling of "we're all in this together."

It is important that I don't use the city as a scapegoat. I think I finally got it right on move #13.

To commit to living authentically and rearing your children without compromise is an exhausting and time-consuming task.



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**241-43 CHESTNUT F** **\$899,000**  
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**509 SPRUCE** **\$799,900**  
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**304 CYPRES** **\$699,900**  
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**338 S 3RD** **\$565,000**  
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**503 SPRUCE #14** **\$399,000**  
Nice 2BD/2BA, as-is, central air, galley kitchen, sun room, stained glass windows.

**922 WAVERLY** **\$304,900**  
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## Safe and Sound in Society Hill

BY MARILYN APPEL, CO-CHAIR, SAFE & SOUND COMMITTEE

### Recent Unwanted Incidents

- Car break-ins are still happening frequently in our neighborhood, and car windows are often smashed in the process. Items usually taken are cell phones, GPS units, papers, and yes, even a gun hidden under a seat. Again and again we remind you to never leave anything visible in your car. Remember: thieves are opportunists — so don't give them the opportunity.
- The same goes for bicycles. Even when your bike is secured at a pole, a thief can and will take it — unless you use a very secure lock. Bikes are also stolen from home gardens and basements of apartment buildings.
- On 5th Street last month, personal items were taken from a locker at the Sports Club.
- A glass door at the SuperFresh was broken with a brick. (A male was seen entering the store, but nothing appeared to be taken.)

### Recent Local Arrests

- A male and female were involved in a waterfront robbery, behind the Hyatt Hotel.

Another robbery, at 2nd and South Streets, was perpetrated by a couple matching their description. They were apprehended and arrested.

- On Columbus Boulevard a man driving a stolen motorcycle crashed. He was taken to a hospital, and later arrested.

### Saying Goodbye

When reporting homeless people in our area, we have always called upon Ed Speedling — our Community Liaison with Project Home's Outreach Coordination Center — who has worked so well to address and cope with homelessness in Philadelphia. We wish him farewell and good tidings.

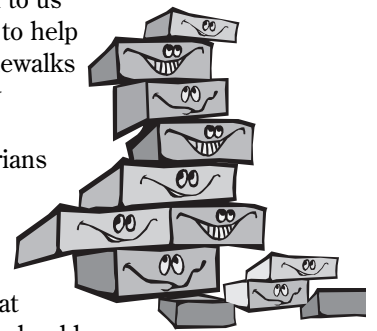
Through this Outreach Program, he and his co-workers have helped hundreds of individuals begin journeys of recovery — restoring health and dignity to these people and their families. For information about this program, or to report a homeless person, please contact Beth Lewis, DSW, Director of the Outreach Coordination Center at 215-232-7272 x3004, or [bethlewis@projecthome.org](mailto:bethlewis@projecthome.org).

## “Fix the Brix”

Society Hill's sidewalk safety and beautification project — “Fix the Brix” — has secured funding from our community's civic association. Initially and for the next few weeks, we will have Bartlett Tree Service survey all the properties for any homeowners who have expressed interest in participating. However, if the sidewalk on your property is more of a “bricks and mortar” problem rather than a “tree root” issue, we will ask for bids from masons, if Bartlett is unable to perform the task. Our goal is to have the appropriate vendor submit a bid to us, which in turn, we will share with you. We will include the vendor's quote separate from your SHCA reimbursement. If you approve the quote and wish to proceed with the work, we will schedule dates with the vendors — so that they can work on several Society Hill properties on the same day and on a block-by-block basis. The average cost for homeowners, based on the amount of repair work required, is usually about \$250-300.

The vendor — whether Bartlett or another firm — must perform the work to your satisfaction, because ultimately you as the homeowner should be pleased with the result. Therefore, please feel free to provide feedback, both to us and the vendor. Our ultimate objective is to help level or replace missing bricks on the sidewalks and curbs of your property — to not only improve our neighborhood's appearance, but, more importantly, to prevent pedestrians from tripping and hurting themselves.

If you are interested in participating in our “Fix the Brix” project, or have any questions, please email Frank Signorello at [fsignorello@gexchange.com](mailto:fsignorello@gexchange.com). Phone calls should be made directly to SHCA's Administrator, Matt DeJulio, at 215-629-1288. Thank you for your interest in SHCA's “Fix the Brix” plan, which will improve the safety and appearance of our community's sidewalks. And thank you for your efforts to help keep our neighborhood beautiful!





**VICTORIAN GEM!**



*Logan Square*  
 102 N. Woodstock St.  
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- Elegant Dining Room with 11' ceilings, fireplace
- Large eat-in-kitchen faces brick patio
- Original plaster moldings & flooring
- Grand living room with built-in bookshelves
- Finished basement with den
- Closets/storage galore!
- Monthly parking available

**PRESERVATIONISTS DREAM!**

*Society Hill*  
 310 Cypress  
 \$695,000

- c 1790 3-story brick façade of Flemish bond with glazed headers
- Living room; authentic paneling, blue marble around working fireplace
- Eat-in-Kitchen overlooking garden
- Master bedroom/grand living room has working fireplace with original marble mantel and paneling
- Two 2nd floor bedrooms, one with built-in bookshelves; 3rd floor bedroom has working fireplace with original mantel & marble surround
- Basement with washer/storage



*Original flooring, paneling, fireplaces.*

**GREAT LOCATION!**

*Society Hill*  
 232 Philip Place  
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- Stunning I.M.Pei contemporary
- 3-story corner brick townhouse
- Living Room & Library w/ 9'ceilings
- 4 bedrooms, 2 all-new full baths
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- Operable skylight above **elevator**
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- Wood-burning fireplace
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- Gourmet kitchen
- Dining room faces landscaped patio

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ACCIDENTAL TOURIST IN MY OWN BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

Storefront Art on South Street

On a recent Thursday morning, we “Walkie-Talkies” headed for South Street. Our group of neighborhood women meets bi-weekly for aerobic workouts and mini-tours throughout Society Hill and nearby areas, such as Queen Village. We’ve been thinking of renaming ourselves “Fit to Stride,” although on some lazy Tuesday or Thursday mornings it would be more accurate to call us the “Stroller-Schmoozers.” This is what we were doing when we left our meeting point at Three Bears Park at 8:15 a.m. and walked over to Third and South. We sauntered up to Tenth Street, stopping to peer into storefront windows displaying sculpture, paintings and crafts.

“Storefront Art on South Street” is the brainchild of Society Hill realtor and longtime neighbor, Howard Lander, who, on a winter trip to Florida, saw shopping centers half empty and feared that retail would not survive the recession. Howard told me, “This is a national problem and it’s evident in our city — on Market, Walnut and Chestnut Streets .... I own eight stores on South Street and rather than see them remain empty, I got the idea to lend these spaces to artists. Many landlords think they’re better off leaving their stores vacant. But I think empty stores look awful. I feel artists are doing landlords a service by fixing up empty spaces and transforming them into art galleries during this recession. Perhaps we haven’t spread the word sufficiently so that neighbors have not yet responded by checking out the scene in the way I had hoped. But with summer now here, and South Street being surrounded by four residential communities, I think it should be a destination for all of us.”

As a nearby neighbor, I rarely visited South Street except to shop at Whole Foods or Pearl Art Supplies. But that changed after I attended an art opening at 777 a few months ago. My friends, Richard Ryan and Linda Brenner, were exhibiting their artworks there. I also met Judy Gelles at the opening and fell in love with her “dog art.” Judy lives across the street from Howard and, among other things, she displayed a highly personal canine portrait. I’ve commissioned her to do my new dog Butch, who is an

honorary member of the “Walkie-Talkies,” since he frequently accompanies us on our morning outings. Judy told me that by the time this column appears, the artists at 777 will be looking for another venue. “That’s what happens when we work hard and clean up an empty store,” she said. “Someone rents it.”

Which is the whole idea. “We want people not only to visit galleries but to support nearby shops and restaurants,” explained Howard. At press time, there were seven stores displaying art, with openings planned every two weeks—usually Sundays from 3 to 8 p.m. Julia Zagar, the owner of Eyes Gallery at 402 South, is in charge of interviewing artists for the project. “I have a dream that South Street could be a great area,” she said. “Hopefully, Art on South will continue all year round to encourage people to buy art—that’s my business. We have a neighborhood that will work if we have the right stores.” (Julia can be contacted at Zagar@msn.com.)

The galleries featuring “Storefront Art on South Street” are open Wednesdays through Sundays, from 2 or 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Do drop by. You’ll be delighted by the range of fine art offerings.



**WALK ON!**  
 Ladies, join the Walkie-Talkies for one hour of healthy exercise and enjoyable socializing on any Tuesday and Thursday morning. Newcomers are most welcome. Just show up at Three Bears Park promptly at 8:10 a.m. — if it’s not raining!

“Goldie”  
 24" x 24"  
 archival pigment print  
 Judy Gelles



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- 8/24/09 6-7:30pm, RSVP by 8/21/09
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## Delancey Dogs: New, Local Service for Pet Owners

Pet owners are all too familiar with guilt — whether from spending too long a day at work, leaving town for a vacation, or experiencing an urgent matter requiring them to immediately leave home. Long-time Society Hill residents, Jacqueline and John Shultz, faced these issues with Dante, their dog of sixteen years, and then their new “rescue,” Dempsey. Recently, when they learned that an establishment where their dogs receive annual check-ups will no longer provide boarding services, they decided to gently launch “Delancey Dogs” — a small but specialized pet care service where individuals in our neighborhood can contact them for whatever service they may need. Whether dog walks (of various lengths) to long-term, overnight “staycations” — each pet will always remain in his own home and continue his usual routines.

A unique and innovative aspect of their program includes e-mailing clients to communicate anything of interest. If you use their services, your inbox will let you know that Buddy did, in fact, just come home from his scheduled power-walk around Washington Square. With this system, our neighborhood’s pet owners can have peace of mind when not at home.

“Delancey Dogs” is all about providing specialized attention from a local couple who have the best interests of our neighborhood’s pets at heart. Four-legged friends — from puppies to seniors — can ask their owners to email Jacqueline and John at [delanceydogs@yahoo.com](mailto:delanceydogs@yahoo.com) to set up a “meet and greet” at the pet’s home. They’ll bring the biscuits.



You’re going WHERE?  
And you’ll be back  
WHEN?

— Lady Ga Ga,  
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<p><b>J.D. Power &amp; Associates, reported Keller Williams Realty ranks #1 in Client Satisfaction for home buyers</b></p> <p><small>*Based on a 2008 survey of 2000 customers rating their experience with Prudential, Keller Williams, Coldwell Banker, Re-Max, Century 21, ERA &amp; GMMC. Keller Williams received the highest rating in all 3 categories surveyed: Agent, Office &amp; Services.</small></p>		<p><b>2009 Society Hill Real Estate Review, 1st Quarter</b> <i>For houses in the 19106, Society Hill Neighborhood</i></p> <p>Currently there are...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 29 Houses for sale, Ranging from \$412,000-\$4,200,000, avg. days</li> <li>• 5 Houses Pending, Ranging from \$399,000-\$3,400,000,</li> <li>• 3 Sold, averaging \$1,175,000, in 125 days, at 78% of asking.</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Address</th> <th>Sold Price</th> <th>Asking Price</th> <th>Days on the Market</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1xx Delancey</td> <td>\$975,000</td> <td>\$1,150,000</td> <td>340</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1xx Pine</td> <td>\$975,000</td> <td>\$1,195,000</td> <td>392</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5xx Spruce</td> <td>\$1,375,000</td> <td>\$1,900,000</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Also, Houses for sale in Rittenhouse, 19103.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 Houses For Sale, from \$399,000-\$6,875,000, avg. days for sale: 208</li> <li>• 5 Houses Pending, from \$1,025,000-\$1,995,000, avg. days for sale: 125</li> <li>• 5 Sold, averaging \$709,000 at 83% of asking in 176 days</li> </ul> <p><b>Also, Houses in Washington Square West, 19107 &amp; 19147.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 36 Houses for sale, from \$274,000-\$1,399,900, avg. days for sale: 110</li> <li>• 8 Houses Pending, from \$314,000-\$599,900, avg. days for sale: 100</li> <li>• 6 Sold, averaging \$514,417 at 91% of asking in 87 days</li> </ul> <p><b>Also, Houses in Fifer Square &amp; Logan Square, 19147 &amp; 19103.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 Houses for sale, from \$309,500-\$3,125,000 avg. days for sale: 145</li> <li>• 6 Houses Pending, from \$259,900-\$639,000 avg. days for sale: 133</li> <li>• 1 Sold, \$685,000 at 86% of asking in 57 days</li> </ul>		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
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	<p><b>ANGELINA'S STORIES FROM THE DOLL HOUSE!</b></p> <p>I'm having a super fun summer in Society Hill! This month I went to my 1st Phillies game and I sat in the Mayor's Box, thanks to the tickets my dad got at the St. Peter's auction! It was so much fun and I even ran into some of my friends there! Also, I started taking acting classes at Walnut Street Theater and Spanish classes at Berlitz. Between classes, hanging out at 3 Bears and having loads of fun play dates, I hardly miss school at all, but I still can't wait to start Kindergarten!</p>																		

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## SHCA'S 2009 Membership Total Reaches 1,011

SHCA's membership rolls currently stand at 1,011, including 100 brand-new members. Congratulations to new members who show their support of our neighborhood by joining Society Hill's hard-working civic association.

However, we remain bewildered. After three requests we cannot understand why 116 members from 2008 (many of whom were members for many years) have not yet sent in their annual dues. It cannot be the economy — since the best way to decrease the value of your investment in your home is to not support our neighborhood organization!

SHCA continues to work (often fight!) on many fronts for our community, whether major or minor — including casinos that could arrive so close to our doorsteps or inappropriate signage, such as the one recently installed at SuperFresh. At the same time we are always coming up with new ways to “fix the brix,” plant more trees, and have our streets regularly cleaned — in spite of the city's financial cutbacks.

But we need you to become a part of our efforts — because if some of us fail, we all fail together! So please fill out the adjacent membership form and join or renew today! Thanks so much.

## Lost Your Parking Spot To a Film Crew?

In mid-June a Society Hill home on S. 3rd Street was the site for the filming of an upcoming independent feature entitled “The Best and The Brightest.” (The film industry is enchanted by the charms of our wonderful neighborhood.) However, this honor arrived with a temporary inconvenience when parking spots on the block were lost while the movie was being made. As a result, several residents with local parking permits were unable to find free parking spots in the neighborhood and then had to pay for parking in nearby commercial garages. There is a silver lining, however, because our civic association receives a small remuneration whenever film crews take up parking spaces on our streets. The donated money is spent on projects benefiting our neighborhood — such as beautification.

### SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

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

Please return completed application to:

**Society Hill Civic Association**

P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147

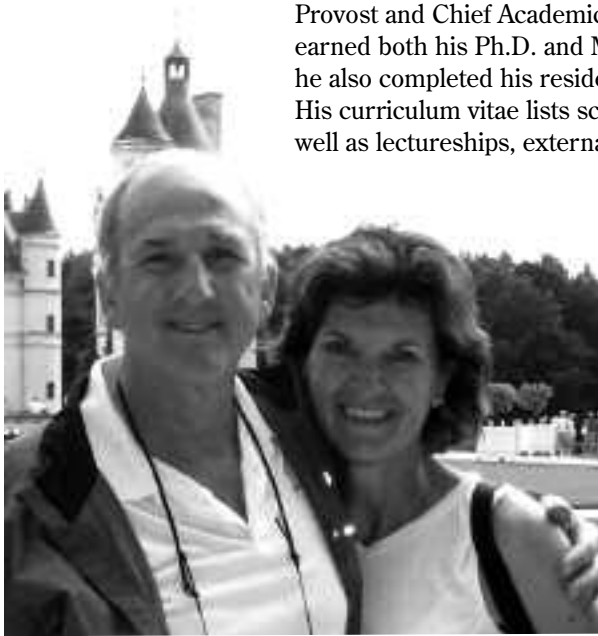
## NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

BY DAVID WOODS

## Robert and Francis Barchi

'Let us then be up and doing ... still achieving, still pursuing'

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



Well, Robert and Francis Barchi are surely up and doing, and their achievements and pursuits are manifold.

To begin with, Robert came to the presidency of Thomas Jefferson University in 2004 after 30-plus years at the University of Pennsylvania — during the last six of which he served as that University's Provost and Chief Academic Officer. He had earned both his Ph.D. and M.D. at Penn, where he also completed his residency in neurology. His curriculum vitae lists scores of honors, as well as lectureships, external committees and

boards, consultancies and membership in honorary societies ... plus serving as author or co-author of five books and more than 160 research articles.

Meanwhile, Francis (the spelling was to honor her grandfather), armed with two Master's

degrees, is in pursuit of a doctorate in Penn's School of Social Welfare. She is deeply engaged in women's decision-making and health in the developing world. To that end, she has traveled alone for the past three years to Africa for one or two-week stints as a lecturer on research ethics at the University of Botswana. Francis believes strongly that the more autonomous a woman can become, the less likely she'll be abused — especially in some of the more patriarchal societies. And the more independent a woman becomes in day-to-day life, the more likely she'll make informed decisions about being a research subject or a patient. Francis will also be teaching aspects of global health at Jefferson's new School of Population Health, due to open in September. In previous careers she was Executive Vice President of the Dana Foundation, a private organization whose principal interest is in brain science and through which she met neurologist Robert. She also ran her own company, IdeaCom, providing strategic communications for governments and corporations internationally

— an enterprise that helped set up pavilions at three World's Fairs and involved working with King Abdullah and Queen Noor of Jordan, among other clients.

Francis describes herself as a full-time student, but she also finds time for quilt-making, collecting English tea caddies, and gardening in the attractive lot behind their Pine Street house, built in 1806. The couple also have a summer home in West Bath, Maine, where they keep an old lobster boat. And they have four children ... all now in their 20's.

Robert felt that taking on the Jefferson presidency provided an ideal opportunity to bring a different perspective to an institution that offered excellent clinical skills and great patient care, but which needed a stronger set of academic initiatives and more creative problem-solving ideas. He generated a strategic plan to grow the University into a full-spectrum medical school, which has meant — in addition to its new School of Population Health — setting up a School of Pharmacy, adding more than 1,000 new students over the past three years, revitalizing clinical programs to reflect a new focus on the patient, and training healthcare professionals as members of a team rather than as individual practitioners.

One palpable sign of the president's influence is the move to make the University's campus a more cohesive place rather than a disparate collection of city buildings. The new Hamilton Building, fronting on the grass which serves as a focal point for other Jefferson sites, is also a central meeting place for students. Other initiatives include a new ambulatory care building (currently in the design stage), and an outreach to other academic institutions, especially the University of Delaware, which serves as an undergraduate feeder school for Jefferson. And Jefferson offers Delaware graduate healthcare input. When not overseeing all that, Robert is interested in antique horology and has built several clocks. He has also just refurbished a 1952 Ford 8N tractor.

Francis and Robert are not only achievers and pursuers, they also clearly delight in each other's accomplishments. And even though my mother urged me to be respectful of everyone but in awe of no one, it's hard for me not to find their accomplishments pretty awesome.

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 321 S. 4th Street

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 Location to be announced

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