

Center City's Bike Lane Pilot Project

The Philadelphia Department of Transportation held a public meeting on August 12th — at the Gershman Y on Broad Street — to present its Center City Bikeways Pilot Project to all interested residents. Stephen Buckley, the city's Deputy Commissioner of Transportation, conducted the presentation. According to Mr. Buckley, this project, set to begin in late September, will create bike lanes westbound on Spruce and eastbound on Pine Streets to connect existing and proposed bike paths along the city's two rivers. Although this project will certainly affect the traffic patterns for many Society Hillers, we were somewhat surprised that attendance by concerned neighbors was minimal. In fact, the auditorium was overwhelmingly filled with biking

advocates who favored the proposed streets over Society Hill's recommendation to designate Lombard Street as an alternative westbound route.

Our civic association first became aware of this bike lane pilot project at its General Membership Meeting last May. Following that session, members of SHCA's newly formed Bike Committee — consisting of enthusiastic bikers as well as concerned residents — participated in meetings several times with Charles Carmalt and Laura Spina, who represent the Philadelphia Planning Commission's Center City office.

Society Hillers in attendance expressed concerns about designating Spruce Street as the chosen route for the westbound corridor — due to this

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W E D N E S D A Y , S E P T E M B E R 3 0 T H

An Evening of Food, Frolic and Fun at Head House Square

A fund-raising event for the ongoing restoration and longtime preservation of historic Head House Square will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evening, September 30th.

The Head House Conservancy, in partnership with the Society Hill Civic Association, Old City Civic Association, Queen Village Neighbors' Association and South Street HeadHouse District are sponsoring this community-wide party.

We hope to duplicate the remarkable success (and fun!) of our collaborative Soiree held last September. The Head House Conservancy (our local, nonprofit organization) netted almost \$50,000 — or, to be exact: \$46,877.80. With these funds we have completed a series of urgently needed repairs and upgrades to the historic structure — including the total replacement of the Shambles' plaster ceiling. By the time we celebrate this month at our forthcoming Soiree, the Shambles' plaster ceiling and its "ancient" electrical system will have been completely replaced, so that no visible wires will ever again dangle from the ceiling of this historic marketplace.

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WED.	MARK YOUR CALENDAR
September 16	Society Hill Civic Association Meetings Wednesday, September 16, 2009 <i>At Pennsylvania Hospital</i>
6:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting Grand Court Meeting Room, facing Pine Street All SHCA Members are welcome
7:30 p.m.	General Membership Meeting Auditorium entry at 8th & Spruce Streets All neighborhood residents are invited to attend.
Topic: Philadelphia's new Bike Paths Guest Speaker: Stephen Buckley Director of Policy & Planning, Office of Deputy Mayor for Transportation & Utilities	



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Submission Deadlines
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Website
 www.societyhillcivic.org

Submissions

We want to hear from you. Our goal is to print news of interest to Society Hillers – happenings in and around our community for residents, business people and professionals. Direct your editorial submissions and/or queries to Bernice Hamel via fax at 215-925-0877 or email BerniceHamel@comcast.net. To publicize an event, submit all press releases directly to Sandy Rothman. (See contact information above.)

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ROSANNE LOESCH

Historic Philadelphia: The View From France

I write this President's Message towards the end of my month-long stay in France, which has taken me from the boulevards of Paris to the winding streets of Quimper, a medieval town in Brittany. Interestingly, this distance has sharpened my perspective on Society Hill, our little corner of the world. While Europe has long attracted American tourists drawn to the wonder and beauty of its cities, villages and countryside — imbued with a long and constantly changing architectural history — Europeans, not surprisingly, visit Philadelphia's historic center for much the same reason.

Stopping in my favorite bookstore in Quimper, I came across a well-known series of guidebooks, "Le Guide Routard," and looked up the city of Philadelphia. I found a charming and not wholly unexpected description of our fair city — particularly the historic neighborhoods of Society Hill and its riverfront communities:

Long resting in the shadow of New York and Washington, 'Philly,' as it is affectionately called by its inhabitants, is working like crazy to challenge its rival cities for tourists. And it certainly has what it takes! Considered one of the safest cities in the U.S., this beautiful place nurtures its history with big doses of red brick, picturesque alleyways and historic residences caressed by towering trees. It is the birthplace of American democracy and the historic location of all the important debates that led to the battle for independence.

The guidebook goes on to describe William Penn, the founding of Philadelphia, its Quaker influence, and today's vibrant mix of populations and neighborhoods. It notes that Philadelphia has some of the most celebrated museums in North America and that it has become the *gastronomical capital of the United States*. The viewpoint of its French authors — outsiders to our city's cultural and historic identity — confirmed for me what I have long believed: our city's "brand" depends on making the most of its historic roots, its art and culture (including its prominently noted culinary culture) and generally highlighting its unique significance among American cities. Of course, our neighborhood is featured in the guidebook's recommended itinerary for French tourists:

All of the roots of the city and an important part of U.S. history are in Society Hill with its beautifully restored 18th-century brick facades.

Despite the natural assets we are so fortunate to possess, the challenge for our neighborhood (and historic places everywhere) is to preserve the beauty and authenticity of our original buildings, streets and plazas, while adapting to the realities of modern life — e.g. residential living, commercial development and tight civic budgets.

Our neighborhood association faces constant dilemmas in making decisions about whether and how to accommodate new development. The biggest immediate challenge is how to adapt to a dramatic change in traffic patterns — when two new bike lanes on Spruce and Pine Streets will be installed for a two-month trial period in September. It helps to know that cities around the world are also adjusting to increased bicycle traffic in their efforts to address issues of congestion, the "green movement" and a surging interest in cycling. In fact, a recent article in the *International Herald Tribune* noted that Germany is attempting to rival Holland in making its country bike-friendly.

Nevertheless, our association's Board of Directors is mindful of the potential problems residents may encounter with the proposed traffic changes. We have been interacting with the city on a regular basis to anticipate any problems and to attempt to find solutions. We definitely want to hear from you and urge you to let us know what you think. (Please see the related article on pages 1 and 7.) Please try to attend our SHCA General Membership Meeting on September 16th, featuring an information session on these new bike paths. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Stephen Buckley, Director of Policy and Planning for the city's Deputy Mayor for Transportation and Utilities.

In closing, I hope everyone has had a refreshing, relaxing summer and is ready to engage with our civic association to make Society Hill as fine a place to live as possible. I look forward to seeing you at SHCA's General Meeting on Wednesday, September 16th, as well as at our community's "Soiree at the Shambles" on September 30th.

Au revoir et à bientôt!





**Rosanne Loesch,
President**

"All of the roots of the city and an important part of U.S. history are in Society Hill with its beautifully restored 18th-century brick facades."

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French Guidebook**

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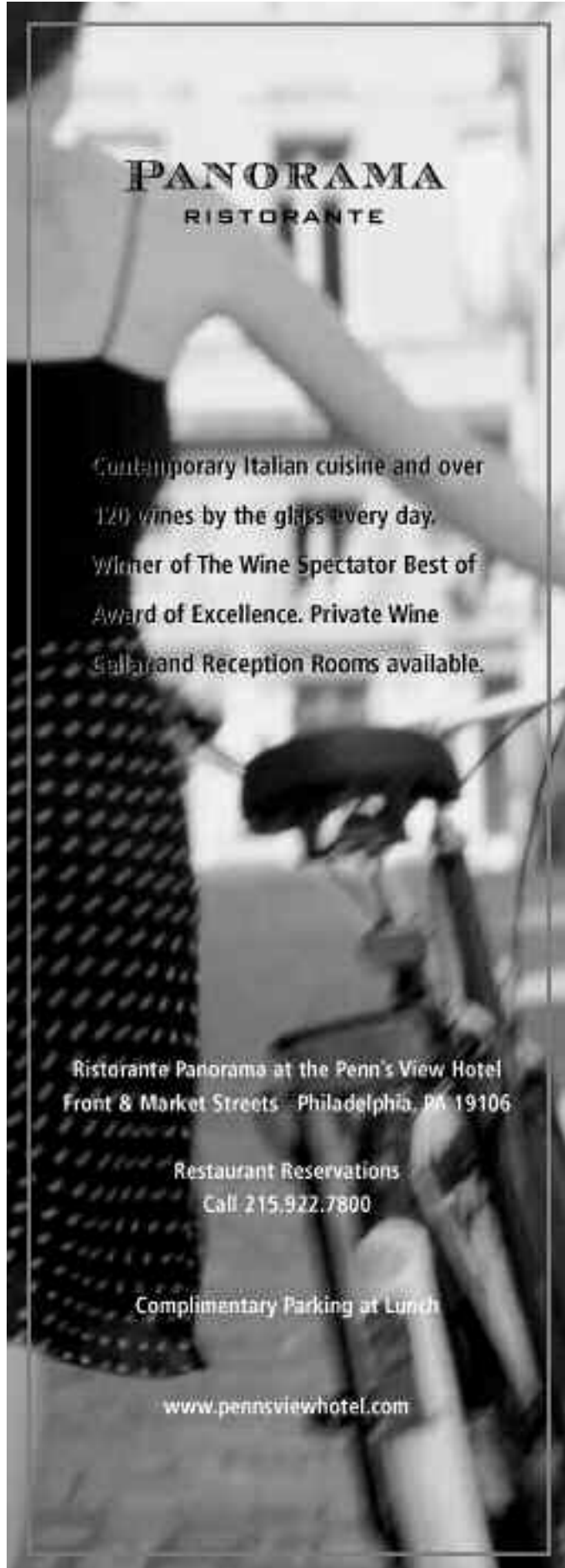
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Casinos Coming to Philly? Don't Bet On It!

Two separate casinos are trying to open and operate in Philadelphia. Many of us in Society Hill are concerned about *where* and *when* they might open, and so this article begins with a brief review on their proposed locations and their efforts to build. In addition, many of us are concerned about how these casinos, if ever built, would impact Philadelphia. This summary will conclude by focusing on the “larger” issues of gambling.

Foxwoods

Hot off the press: As of press time, word arrived from Harrisburg that the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board has instructed Foxwoods to situate its proposed casino at its originally selected site, Columbus Boulevard and Reed Street — not at Market East or anywhere else. At this point it is questionable about whether Foxwoods can obtain financing needed to build at its original proposed site on Columbus Boulevard, and so a temporary casino plan may now be a possibility. Any change in design would require a hearing at the Philadelphia Planning Commission and perhaps also a zoning change at City Council.

In any case, Foxwoods will never meet its previously projected opening date of December 2009, as it so mistakenly boasted at the October 2008 monthly meeting of the Central Philadelphia Development Corporation. In fact, for the past several months Foxwoods has been seeking an extension of time — until 2011 — before it can open its casino.

Clearly, two conclusions can be drawn. First, neither Foxwoods, the Gaming Control Board, the Mayor nor City Council have reached any consensus about the placement of casinos in Philadelphia. Secondly, there is a great deal of work ahead for all concerned citizens opposed to casinos situated in unwelcome and inappropriate locations. Many of us believe that casinos are not a “quick fix” to solving the city’s economic problems. In fact, our Society Civic Association remains opposed to a casino at Columbus Boulevard and Reed Street.

SugarHouse

SugarHouse Casino proposes to locate on the Delaware River waterfront in the Northern Liberties and Fishtown communities. Lawsuits and controversy still surround the casino’s attempt to build at this location, although no building permit has yet been issued for the property. SugarHouse claims to have groundbreaking scheduled for the end of this summer, but we’ve been hearing that for the past three summers.

SugarHouse lost its original financing, and is now in the process of trying to obtain new financing. It recently retained international investment banking firms to arrange a \$180 million loan with an interest rate of 12.9%. An independent, global source for credit ratings and risk analysis — Moody’s Investors Service — has rated the \$180 million loan at B3, which is junk status. According to Moody’s, a junk rating is appropriate because of all the following negative factors:

- the start-up nature of the project;
- its single property concentration risk — because, for example if traffic is not managed well, SugarHouse’s expected revenues will be at risk;
- the expected further increase in gambling venues in eastern Pennsylvania — e.g., the expansion of the Philadelphia Park Casino in Bensalem, a slots casino in Valley Forge, and the continued competition from casinos in Bethlehem and the Poconos;
- the weak economy is expected to continue its downward pressure on people’s gaming “budgets.” Nevertheless, SugarHouse is currently petitioning the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to approve its new financing package.

Overall Issues

The Philadelphia casinos are being proposed amidst the recession and crises in both the city’s and state’s fiscal budgets. These respective governments continue to view gaming revenues as “easy money,” without due regard for the larger economic impact or the social impact, which has its own economic component. For example, citizens who become addicted to slot machines and drive themselves into bankruptcy or home foreclosure create economic consequences for those who have never even set foot inside a casino.

As many people view it, slots parlors are predatory enterprises which use a business model based on addiction. Debates on such economic and social issues continue to play out in our neighborhood, throughout the city and on the editorial pages of national newspapers. So far, however, the legislative and executive branches of our state and local governments have not addressed the economic consequences of gambling. Instead, there is talk about “solving the budget crises” by installing video poker machines in every bar and tavern in the Commonwealth and expanding gambling in these casinos to include table games, such as blackjack and craps. Will *we, the people* win this craps game? Or the politicians??

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Fix Your Bricks

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WORD ON THE STREET

Spruce Street Two-Way Traffic Proposal

As reported in the previous issue of this newsletter, a proposal to permit two-way traffic for the 100 block of Spruce Street has been under consideration. This would allow eastbound vehicles to drive directly toward Columbus Boulevard from the intersection of S. 2nd and Spruce Streets. Thus far, no traffic studies have been conducted that would either confirm or negate the Streets Department's independent assessment that this traffic change would not be dangerous. However, many Society Hill residents oppose this traffic change as a safety issue, since it would benefit only a few at the expense of many. They have expressed several concerns, such as:

blockage of the east-bound lane by delivery and service vehicles; the impact on SEPTA's bus routes #42 and #12; and the criteria that would be used when evaluating the effectiveness of this traffic change. A community-wide meeting had been promised by Councilman Frank DiCicco before any final decision will be made, but no meeting was held during the summer — nor is one scheduled for the near future. At press time, we contacted his office to learn the status of the two-way proposal. Again we were assured that no decision has been made, and, should he decide to implement the change, appropriate signage would be installed, as well as advance notification given.

Center City's Bike Lane Pilot Project

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street's unique sites and various uses, all specific to our community. These include several religious institutions that require additional permit parking throughout the year; multiple tourist vehicles; the SEPTA buses #42 and #12, and convenient access to Pennsylvania Hospital and its emergency room. Despite our community representatives' repeated discussions and requests to consider Lombard Street as an alternative to Spruce Street for this portion of the bike path, the city decided to proceed with its Pilot Project as originally proposed — not to consider Lombard as a preferred alternative route to Spruce Street.

In preparation for the Pilot Project and prior to its implementation — scheduled for late September — the Streets Department will complete street striping to clearly identify these specific bike lanes. Also included in the street striping are sections of the street close to intersections, which will be clearly marked so that cars turning right onto cross streets will be able to share the bike lanes with bicyclists.

In the future, consideration will be given to providing loading zones along these bike lanes. Although not fully detailed, follow-up studies are expected to be accomplished by the city that will evaluate motor vehicle queue lengths at key intersections, conduct spot speed studies, and assess the number of bikes vs. autos along the bike lane routes at various times of the day.

However, there has been no mention of evaluating the other challenges along these bike routes.

Not addressed at the city's presentation, but acknowledged at the August meeting, was the fact that in addition to these designated bike paths, by law all bicyclists will still be allowed to travel along any motor vehicle lane. Thus far, we have not been informed about what kind of enforcement policy will be employed — either for drivers of motor vehicles or for bicyclists. Nor has the city considered these trial cross-town bike lanes in a larger context throughout Center City, which would include north/south routes, as well as east/west. Enthusiastic Society Hill bike riders have expressed their disappointment that the city has not taken into consideration the fact that folks who use their bicycles for transportation need to travel north and south, as well as east and west.

In an effort to better inform our community about the pilot bike lanes and address concerns expressed by residents, SHCA has invited representatives from the city's Department of Transportation to our September 16th General Membership Meeting — which will be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Pennsylvania Hospital's auditorium (corner of Spruce and 8th Streets). Please try to attend this session, as it will be the only meeting where you can either voice your enthusiasm about the bike lanes or express your specific concerns.



Coming soon to Center City – bike lanes!

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An Evening of Food, Frolic and Fun at Head House Square

continued from page 1

Our coalition of concerned neighbors and businesses is “cooking up” another wonderful social event to help raise funds for further improvements. One significant objective is to repair and refurbish the clock at Head House, made in 1819 by Isaiah Lukens, the clockmaker responsible for creating the clock at Independence Hall. Additional improvements planned for 2009 include masonry repairs and a fresh coat of paint for both Head House and the Shambles.

As you probably know, the colonnaded market sheds at Head House Square have the distinction of being America’s only surviving Colonial-era marketplace. Attached to these outdoor market sheds — called “the Shambles” — is our nation’s oldest volunteer firehouse, built in 1805. This city-owned structure was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1966. But neglect and abuse caused its deterioration, and by the late 1980’s the Secretary of the Interior identified it as a “threatened and endangered landmark.”

In 1990 a group of concerned citizens from SHCA organized to raise funds and repair the structure. This nonprofit Head House Conservancy raised more than \$200,000 from friends and neighbors — and fully restored the building, both inside and out. Today the 204-year-old firehouse serves as headquarters for the South Street HeadHouse District, which manages the property. Once again, the 264-year-old Shambles serves our community as a Farmers’ Market on weekends — adding new life to the streetscape while recalling this landmark’s unique history.

Like any structure, Head House requires ongoing maintenance and improvements.

Here’s What You Can Do:

First, please attend our Soiree at the Shambles on Wednesday night, September 30th. This will be one weekday night when you won’t have to cook or clean up — because several of our area’s most desirable and popular restaurants will be offering their “signature” dishes. Contributors at press time include: The Artful Dodger, Bridget Foy’s, Chick’s Cafe, City Tavern, Continental, Fork, New Wave, Bistro Romano, Lovash Indian Cuisine, Lucky’s Mexican Spot, Philadelphia Java Company, Supper, Xochitl and Zahav. This is a wonderful opportunity to dine well and enjoy fine wine, as well as meet and socialize with your neighbors.



Society Hillers (pictured above at last year’s Soiree) enjoy more than just desserts (pictured below).

As you probably know, all contributions to the Head House Conservancy are tax-deductible, since it is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. So we hope you will consider any one of these sponsorship roles:

- **“Shingle Sponsors”** will participate for a donation of \$100 each.
- **“Brick Sponsors”** donate \$200 each.
- **“Cobblestone Sponsors”** will be invited to a “Pre-Soiree Patrons’ Party” in the beautiful home of Susan and Bruce Shapiro — at \$500 each.

If you are a member of SHCA, you have already received your invitation to the Soiree. We thank neighbors Steven and Sonia Grasse (of Quaker City Mercantile) for their generosity in designing the beautiful invitation again this year. If you are not a member but are interested in attending our delightful community event, you can receive an invitation by contacting Tania Rorke — at 215-370-6485 or trorke@aol.com — and leaving a message with your name and address. Then look for your invitation in the mail. A limited number of tickets will be available at the Soiree.

Interested in volunteering? Our Soiree Committee welcomes any assistance. Again, contact Tania Rorke. By working and partying together, we can preserve our community’s unique Colonial legacy while enjoying the wonders of this 21st century. We look forward to celebrating with you on Wednesday, September 30th, and, of course, we greatly appreciate your generosity.



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“FIX THE BRIX”

SHCA’s Brick Sidewalk Repair Program

The Society Hill Civic Association’s sidewalk safety and beautification project was recently initiated to help homeowners repair, level and/or replace bricks that are uneven, broken or missing from the fronts of their properties. Uneven bricks may be due to tree roots that have up-ended bricks. Long years of wear may also cause bricks to become uneven or go missing. Any of these brick problems are potentially hazardous and can cause pedestrian accidents.

It is the legal responsibility of every homeowner (and apartment building owner) to maintain the sidewalks abutting their properties. SHCA is willing to help **you** fix the problems on your property by contributing 40% of the cost of repair — up to \$150. This incentive should encourage you, as a homeowner, to enhance the appearance of your property and, more important, to avoid legal liability for any “slip and fall” accidents.

SHCA’s “Fix the Brix” Committee has carefully screened the arborists who have bid on these jobs. We strongly recommend that you choose our vetted arborist, Bartlett Landscaping. We ask you to please contact Frank Signorello, Chair of SHCA’s “Fix the Brix” Committee, at fsignorello@gexchange.com. He will have Bartlett assess your property and provide an estimate for shaving the tree roots — or, if necessary, enlarging the tree pit and replacing your bricks. However, if you prefer to select another arborist, we suggest that you contact Frank so that he can clue you in — together with your chosen arborist — about how SHCA’s Committee has been working to achieve level and safe brick sidewalks on all properties in our neighborhood. (If email is not your preference, you can phone SHCA’s Administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288.)

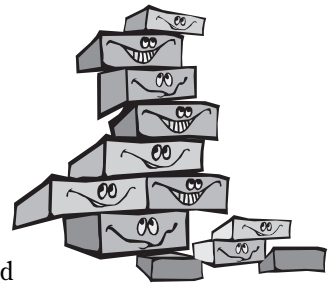
SHCA is offering an incentive to “Fix the Brix” on your property — up to \$150 — so contact SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288 or mattdejulio@aol.com. You will be reimbursed within a reasonable amount of time.

Please note that many of the up-ended bricks result from tree roots that spread both down and sideways, craving water — thus lifting the bricks, especially those bricks that are laid in concrete. Bricks laid in concrete are a major problem, because concrete is set in large slabs. We have been advised by experts that to be laid properly, bricks should be in a bed of six inches of crushed stone and two inches of a sand mixture. The mixture of crushed stone and sand allows water from any source (rain or a garden hose) to seep through and reach those thirsty tree roots.

Bartlett is equipped to do the tree work and the area around the tree, but a mason will be needed to repair larger parts of the sidewalk. We suggest choosing from our list of a half-dozen highly recommended masons, who will do the job the “right” way. For a list of these masons and their phone numbers, please contact Frank Signorello, at fsignorello@gexchange.com.

It would be advantageous and probably more efficient to have residents of the same block work together. Do consider contacting your nearby neighbors to see if they will join you in this effort to improve the safety and appearance of your sidewalk.

SHCA will help **you** fix the brick problems on your property by contributing 40% of the cost of repair — up to a maximum of \$150.



**Society Hill’s List of Contractors
Free to All Current SHCA Members**

To obtain your copy of this invaluable resource — a 12-page list of contractors of every kind, recommended by Society Hill homeowners — please contact us at: marthalev@msn.com or 215-629-0727. The list will be mailed to you directly.



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BIG BELLY TRASH COMPACTORS

Now Here in Society Hill

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Do neighbors find Big Belly Compactors acceptable?

Big Belly Solar-powered Trash Compactors (aka “BBs”) — Philadelphia’s answer to more efficient litter collection for Center City — have finally arrived in our neighborhood. In fact, the Streets Department purchased 500 of these hulky compactors for all of Center City (including Society Hill) with the goals of having cleaner streets and more economical collection costs. Additionally, at several carefully chosen locations, you will notice their adjacent “Big Belly/Big Brother” recycling units. All of these BB compactor-recycling units have been strategically placed at “more commercial” locations. Our committee has thoughtfully selected the site for each and every Big Belly, and we have tried our best to situate them all where they will be most useful — without compromising the beauty of our historic neighborhood.

Designed for depositing only street litter and debris — not household garbage — the contents

of any “Big Belly” Compactor were scheduled for collection every fourth day, rather than daily, as was required with the “old” open trash receptacles. This was expected to provide significant savings for the city. Each BB unit directly signals the Streets Department when it is full and must be emptied. (For example: a blinking green light indicates *not full*; blinking yellow means *close to full*; blinking red indicates *full*.)

In a previous *Reporter* article, we forecasted that the installation of all Big Bellies would be completed by the end of June. Indeed, all were in place before July 4th. That article asked two important questions:

- 1 Will neighbors find these Big Belly Compactors acceptable?
- 2 Will BBs eliminate or reduce the amount of household debris placed inside or beside corner trash receptacles by inconsiderate residents?



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BIG BELLY TRASH COMPACTORS

What's the verdict?

After BBs were installed throughout Society Hill, we asked residents to provide feedback. Are the BB's doing their job? Are there any concerns? The main concerns expressed by neighbors include:

- the BB's size and appearance;
- the BB's "germy" handles and offensive odor;
- the appropriateness of the BB's locations; and
- the continuing problem of illegal household trash deposits.

Addressing Concerns

Responding to these concerns, we contacted the Streets Department's Deputy Commissioner of Sanitation, Carlton Williams. He assured us that the Department will address the following issues:

• Odor

The city's original plan to save money with fewer BB trash pickup days did not quite materialize. Originally the city planned to collect trash from BBs every fourth day. But with warmer weather's unwelcome odors, the collection schedule has been revised, as follows: Wednesdays to Sundays — from May to October only — daily BB pickups will be made. Then from November through April collections will revert to every fourth day.

• Location

SHCA was given the option of choosing the locations for these Big Belly Compactors. Only a few locations were objectionable to neighbors, and we were assured by the Streets Department that they would be relocated at our discretion. In fact, when a BB was placed at the entrance of historic Head House Square, at the corner of 2nd & Spruce, the Head House Conservancy contacted the Department. Within one week that BB unit was moved around the corner to a more suitable location. To date, several BBs have been relocated. The Department also promised that it will provide additional compactors if we request them. We have already asked for a few additional BBs, as recommended by some residents.

• Household Garbage

An ongoing problem is that some folks continue to deposit their household garbage and trash inside or alongside these Big Bellies. We spoke to the Officer at the Sixth District's Police Sanitation Division, who informed us that **misuse of these city litter containers can result in a fine of \$150.** This means that if someone is observed

dumping household trash into or beside a Big Belly, and the action is reported by a neighbor, that individual will receive a warning for the first offense and a fine the next time.

If you see anyone deposit household trash into a corner BB, kindly inform him or her that this is an illegal action that can be reported — by calling 215-686-3063. We are hoping that the threat of being reported and fined will prevent offenders from continuing this unsanitary practice. (By the way, callers will not be asked to identify themselves!)

• Graffiti

Our community is fortunate to have an all-volunteer anti-graffiti team that will remove graffiti on any Big Belly compactor (or anywhere else). If you see graffiti on a BB, please contact George Kelley, at kellaws@gmail.com and it will be removed promptly. Remember, the sooner the graffiti is reported, the easier it is to remove.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Most neighbors have the same goal:
To keep Society Hill clean, safe, and beautiful.
YOU can help.

- **Report incidents of graffiti** found on any BB in Society Hill by contacting George Kelley at kellaws@gmail.com.
- **Report incidents of illegal household trash dumping** inside or beside any BB by calling the Sixth District Police Sanitation Division, at **215-686-3063**. Remember: there is a hefty fine for illegal dumping.

If you have any questions or for additional information, feel free to contact Martha Levine at 215-0629-0727 or marthalev@msn.com.



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ATTENTION NEIGHBORS!

Pole Painting of Franklin Lights Expected To Begin in Near Future

We are expecting to improve the appearance of Society Hill's distinctive Franklin Lights by having their faded and distressed poles repainted. At press time, we are hoping that this community-wide project will begin some time this fall — perhaps as soon as October.

Please note that this *little* inconvenience will result in a *big* improvement when SHCA's chosen contractor begins this block-by-block painting process. Since we are uncertain about the specific time when this project will begin, we ask all neighbors to cooperate by becoming alert to any scheduling announcements. For example, one week prior to beginning the painting of poles on your particular block, you will receive a flyer through your mail slot announcing the exact dates scheduled for the process. We ask you to respect and abide by the "No Parking" signs for your block — which will be posted three days in advance. Please keep in mind that any vehicle not moved on those scheduled painting days is likely to be towed and relocated. The "good news,"

however, is that parking will again be permitted on those blocks — **but only after 7 p.m. and prior to 7 a.m. on those painting days.**

Weather permitting, this inconvenience for our pole painting project should last only a few days for any block. By following these few simple rules, you can help — so that all of our unique Franklin Lights will be painted efficiently and without unwanted problems.

How You Can Help

- Do not park your car on blocks where painting will be done.
- If you have hung flower baskets from a Franklin Light pole, please remove them until the paint is completely dry.
- Avoid contact with wet poles.
- Keep your dogs away from the wet poles.

Any questions? Please contact Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com.

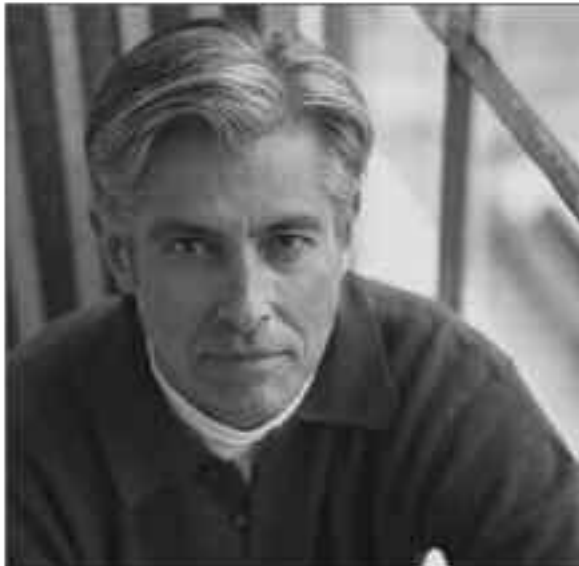


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ACCIDENTAL TOURIST IN MY OWN BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

Ben, Butch and Me

This summer, I've been dining *al fresco* in Society Hill with my new best friend, Butch, a 15-year-old Cocker Spaniel mix with a gourmet palate. Our favorite restaurant is Patou, at 312 Market Street, where we often enjoy a table for two on the sidewalk. The shortcut we take from Chestnut to Market is through Franklin Court. Butch likes to sit on what was once Ben Franklin's 1787 privy pit, near the print shop.

Because it's been years since I visited the Venturi-designed Franklin Court, I left my canine companion home a few times in order to revisit the underground museum, the print shop, the postal museum and the post office — where, like many tourists, I sent cards to friends "hand-stamped" with Ben Franklin's signature.

I agree with Frommer's guidebook that Franklin Court is an "imaginative, informative, and downright fun (and free) museum." Arriving at 9:30 on a weekday morning, I had the place pretty much to myself. Of the artifacts on display, I was most impressed with a four-sided music stand that Franklin designed to accommodate his friends who formed a string quartet.

At the Franklin Exchange, I listened on the phone to dozens of famous people talking about Ben's fabled wit. Not everyone admired Franklin, however. Mark Twain loathed the man for his "everlasting aphorisms," while John Keats called him "a philosophical Quaker full of mean and thrifty maxims."

Still, who can argue with Franklin's declaration: "He that lieth down with Dogs shall rise up with Fleas." Of course, I can understand that Franklin may not have been universally loved. I found him

insufferably self-satisfied as played by Howard da Silva in one of the three films shown at the museum's Franklin Film Festival. On another visit, I did enjoy the biographical movie made for the Discovery channel. But my favorite was "Ben and Me," the Disney version that portrays our hero as an absent-minded professor who would have been lost without his faithful and inventive mouse sidekick.

In the postal museum, I learned that the Pony Express advertised for "young, skinny fellows... preferably orphans," and that the work involved 119 relay stations, 90 riders and 500 horses. "A Man in a Passion rides a mad Horse," said Franklin — our first Post Master General — who wasn't just talking about equines.

After an instructive demonstration of typesetting and printing press techniques by two gracious and knowledgeable women in the print office, I ate a hearty breakfast a few doors down Market Street at Fork, Etc., which serves economical and delicious fare. I forgot, for the moment, that "A full Belly is the Mother of all Evil."

Then I went home to Butch because, as Ben said, "There are three faithful friends." A dog is one of them. Can you name the other two?

(Answer below!)

Three Faithful Friends?



Ben, Butch and Me — Under the Mulberry Tree in Franklin Court



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McCall School's Centennial Gala

Save the Date:
Thursday,
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The McCall School's Centennial Gala — to be held on November 12, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut Street — will be the culmination of a year-long celebration commemorating the school's historic

past and will help contribute to its ongoing and future success. Please consider joining many neighbors and local leaders, as well as current and previous members of the McCall family, to celebrate the past century of McCall.

Centennial Gala organizers aspire to provide all McCall students with the very best educational resources. The proceeds of the Gala will be dedicated to McCall's "Science Is Elementary" plan. This collaborative initiative between our community and the school will strengthen and modernize its science education program — including curriculum, materials, facilities and technology.

Tickets cost \$75 for individuals and \$145 for couples. Sponsorships at higher Patron levels are also most welcome, as are donations in any amount for those unable to attend. For more information or to receive an invitation, please email 100years@meetingmccall.com.



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SOCIETY HILL'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A Brief History of the McCall School

On October 26, 1909, the General George A. McCall Elementary School was conceptualized, and construction of the building commenced. In February 1911, the school was officially opened with a capacity for 1,300 students, which helped relieve the congestion in this Fifth Ward of the First School District of Pennsylvania — bounded by 7th Street, the Delaware River, South Street and Chestnut Street.

In the 1920's and 30's, children in Philadelphia were required to attend school regularly until the age of 14 — after which they were permitted to leave and begin working at full-time jobs. However, until they reached the age of 16, teens were required to attend "Continuation School" one day each week. The McCall School became well known for its "Continuation School" in the 1920's, as various vocational trades were taught — such as printing, tailoring, carpentry, metalworking, and automobile mechanics. In fact, McCall students built an automobile in 1927. In that same year students produced a radio in their electrical class, which they gave as a Christmas gift to Philadelphia's "Children's Homeopathic Hospital."

Many of the clothes and other products made in these classes were purchased by the Red Cross, and McCall's Continuation School invited potential employers to inspect the products completed by its students. "Employers' Week" was celebrated annually from 1923 to 1928 — and included the likes of Ellis A. Gimbel, head of Gimbels Department Stores, who spoke to students about future employment and offered career advice.

The Depression era led to "Opportunity Classes," which then catered to boys 16-21 years of age. No credits were given for attending these classes and no grades assigned. But these classes provided a way for young men to gain skills leading to employment, which prevented them from being idle and roaming the streets. Thus, the concept of "Vocational School" was born.

The McCall School has always had a diverse, multicultural population. Beginning in the early 1950's, immigrant children were assigned there as part of a special program that taught English — the only such public school program in the United States at that time. Children were sent to McCall from all over the region, including suburban areas, to learn English before being transferred to their neighborhood schools and entering regular school classes. By 1953, McCall had as many as 200



Original watercolor of McCall School, painted by Christine Rother, which was donated to the school.

students studying English from more than twenty countries — such as Ukraine, France, Japan, China, Greece, Puerto Rico, Germany, Brazil, Hungary, Cuba, Korea and several African nations. McCall's "welcome signs" appeared in fourteen different languages, and at times the school was referenced as a "mini United Nations."

In the 1950's, the socioeconomic status of Society Hill residents and surrounding areas was slightly below the citywide average. McCall's population continued to grow, and by the early 1960's it was ready to expand. In 1965-1966, the school added a new gym and an auditorium. By 1970 enrollment stood at 700, with a long waiting list of students from kindergarten to 8th grade. Today it remains a very well respected public school with full enrollment and long waiting lists for both students and teachers. McCall continues to have a multicultural population, with pupils from Society Hill, Washington Square West, Old City and Chinatown. Over the past several years, its active Parents' Association has built a "Cybrary" (cyber library) and furnished every classroom with a state-of-the-art "Promethean Board" that gives teachers touch-screen computer technology in their classrooms. The school's large playground gives kids lots of room to run and play — especially with its newly installed equipment and basketball courts. Also, the faculty offers great after-school programs, with clubs for chess, yoga, drama, choir, computers and math. Of course, there's a basketball team.

Celebrating its Centennial year, the McCall Home and School's objectives are to enhance arts and science programs, accurately document McCall's history, and encourage an active alumni association to maintain the school as a pillar in the community while providing top-notch education for all of its students.



Student embroidered shirt design celebrating McCall's Centennial.

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MY PERSONAL HISTORY

Why Our Kids Attend McCall School

BY ANDREA LAYDEN

From the moment of conception, the thought of what school our children will eventually attend becomes a dominant issue in our minds. The answer, for many of us, is to move out of the city and live the suburban life where school options don't appear to be as painful. However, for those of us who prefer to remain in the city and raise our kids here, the dilemma can be somewhat distressing.

For a long time my husband and I thought private school was the best (and perhaps only) option available to provide a safe and challenging educational experience for our children. But that did not mean it was the obvious choice. Parents have to know what educational philosophy best suits their child's needs and personality; and perhaps most daunting of all, will the child — whose only major accomplishment thus far has been reaching the potty 50% of the time — test well enough to be accepted into the school of one's choice? And that doesn't even consider the often extreme costs associated with private school — although we do have excellent private school options in the city. Even clearing these hurdles, something else kept holding us back: the hundred-year-old enormous structure encompassing the square block of Delancey Street from 6th to 7th Streets — the McCall School.

Send your child to McCall? A public school in the city? "Never" was the answer given by many friends and family members I questioned. However, when I pressed for an explanation for their objections, I learned that most had never been inside the building. I couldn't understand how we could have this incredible neighborhood that we invest so much into and view with such pride, yet seem to lack confidence in and turn our backs on the community school that is literally in our backyard. I truly believe that the best way to invest in our community is to invest in our children. So after a little research, my husband and I decided that McCall was the right option. (On page 19, McCall's history is summarized and described, as are the school's state-of-the-art technologies and diverse student population.)

One common complaint about public schools in general has always been class size — historically about 28 kids in each classroom. But exciting initiatives by Philadelphia's School Superintendent Arlene Ackerman, Ph.D. have added new teach-

ers and lowered the class size to 23 children — smaller than some private schools! Transparency in performance is also a plus, since public schools can easily be monitored by the mandated proficiency tests and Internet ratings. Not to be forgotten, the price of admission to McCall is a wonderful benefit to our family's bottom line.

My daughter started kindergarten at McCall last September. Although quality of education was our major concern, that concern was quickly replaced with enthusiasm, excitement, and pride. Her kindergarten class participated in and exceeded the school's "100 Book Challenge" — a program that encourages children to read (and, if needed, assist others to read). The program sets a challenging goal for each child: read 100 books during the school year. My daughter not only learned to read, but read 206 books on her own! Her experience is not unique, however, since the majority of McCall students are thriving — supported, of course, by the school's active parents' association.

McCall encourages parental involvement through its Home & School Association, and it has many corporate community partners. However, its success depends on full neighborhood support. How can you help? Due to the economy and budget constraints, McCall is always in need of financial assistance and book donations. If you can make a monetary donation, please do so through the SHCA Fund, and indicate that your gift be targeted for McCall. The funds raised will be spent on books and computers, as well as arts and science programs. And since the "100 Book Challenge" is quite costly, a good way to help provide support for this program (other than financially) is for you to clear out some old books that are collecting dust on your shelves.

No spare books lying around? Reading volunteers and people to help with tutorial services are always needed. If you are interested in volunteering or making either monetary or book donations, or for more information, please contact me directly at married2Irish@msn.com.

If you have kids but have never considered McCall, I urge you to simply take a tour and see this amazing school for yourself. Choosing to commit to our local public school, and in turn our own community, has been one of the best decisions my family has made.




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KIDS IN THE CITY

BY SONIA GRASSE & CATHERINE SIGNORELLO

Nature, Naturally

The *New York Times* recently published a column by Nicholas D. Kristof called “How to Lick a Slug.” He emphasized the importance of exposing children to nature. How easily we forget that we are guests of this lovely planet, and we really have no excuse to deny our kids access to it — especially with today’s technology! It’s “magical” that we can track weather conditions by the hour and access the information from anywhere via our phones. Getting lost in the woods practically never happens — thanks to GPS. Come to think of it, we even use our GPS systems to find the woods!

The idea of fearlessly handling daddy longlegs, hunting for garter snakes, and getting poison ivy seems foreign — and almost dangerous — when growing up in our “concrete jungle.” Bugs of any kind become the enemy or disgusting pests to be removed or exterminated. When is the last time you have seen a lightning bug in downtown Philly or stood in awe enveloped by the sound of cicadas?

To city kids, these kinds of adventures may seem a bit like a science lesson. Breaking out of the rut of going to pay-to-play places takes effort and can feel like culture shock, but making that effort to discover the adventure that lies off the beaten, but concrete path is more than worth it. Like most good things in life these pleasures are often free, hard to describe ahead of time, and can pay back in unimaginable ways.

With this in mind we bring you a list of autumn outdoor activities — some more local than others — but all guaranteed to be a good time and full of great photo-ops:

- Take a walk or bike ride along the **Schuylkill River Trail**. There’s less traffic on this path than on Kelly Drive. This new 23-mile trail runs from Center City to Valley Forge and can be reached from behind the Art Museum, near the Water Works. For more information, visit www.gophila.com and search the Schuylkill River Trail.
- Catch falling leaves. This is ageless fun but not as easy as it sounds! Bring along a tree-identification book and learn a little something while you scamper to catch each leaf.
- Slow down on your errand walks and pad them with extra time to dawdle. Listen for nature

sounds, take time to smell the roses, or flip over rocks to find and inspect bugs.

- Take a hike, take horseback riding lessons or go fishing at one of Philly’s hidden gems, **Wissahickon Valley Park**. This is one of the most remarkable “nature preserves” within any major city in the country and relatively close to Center City. For directions and information, visit the Friends of the Wissahickon website at www.fow.org. Just be cautious of the occasional overly “enthusiastic” mountain bikers on some of the trails.
- Pack a picnic and enjoy it, surrounded by the delightful gardens at **Chanticleer**, in Wayne, Pennsylvania. These gardens are open each year from April 1 through the end of October — so include this activity at the top of your list for this season! Visit ChanticleerGarden.org for more information.
- Head for **Valley Forge Park** — just an exit or so past the King of Prussia mall. This national treasure is filled with rolling hills and history. Enjoy a trolley ride, a guided tour, or throw Frisbees on the lawn. During the fall on Saturdays, the park offers campfires at dusk hosted by costumed park rangers. Check out www.ValleyForge.org.
- Visit the **Tyler Arboretum** — one of the oldest arboreta in the United States. Tyler encompasses 650 acres of renowned plant collections, champion trees, historic buildings, and twenty miles of hiking trails through woodlands, wetlands, and meadows. It also has family programs and year-round children’s events. Visit TylerArboretum.org for more info.

Additionally, resources on the following two Internet websites are worth perusing:

Just Add Nature

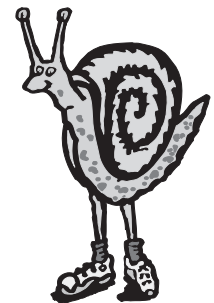
Consider joining an organized group of families who meet regularly to explore nature and the outdoors together. They visit state and county parks in Bucks, Lehigh, and Montgomery Counties. Visit www.justaddnature.blogspot.com.

Children & Nature Network

The mission of this network is to give every child in every community a wide range of opportunities to experience nature directly and connect with its joys and lessons, and to appreciate its physical and environmental bounty. This site is packed with research, resources, events and activities. Visit: www.childrenandnature.org.



Nature calls.
Pack a picnic
and take a hike!



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

Alumni Homecoming & Harvest Hoedown

The rich academic and historic heritage of St. Mary's Interparochial School dates to the early days of Philadelphia, as Catholics and Protestants engaged in spirited debate over educational practices. Founded in 1782 by Jesuits, St. Mary's is known as "The Mother School" of Catholic parochial education. Situated at the corner of 5th and Locust Streets, near Independence Hall, the school served children for more than a century before closing in 1902 after a devastating fire. St. Mary's reopened in 1968. With students drawn from six different parishes, it became the first interparochial school in the nation.

St. Mary's is adjacent to Independence National Historical Park and serves 250 children from all over the City of Philadelphia and its suburbs. On Saturday, October 24th, the school will celebrate its third annual "Alumni Homecoming and Harvest Hoedown" — from noon to 4 p.m. — featuring square dancing, arts and crafts, hayrides, children's activities, tasty treats including a pie-eating contest, and even a door prize. All are welcome. Cost is \$10 per person. To reserve your spot, please call the school at 215-923-7522. Or purchase tickets online at www.saintmarys.us.

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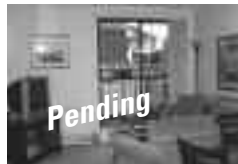
Independence Place
 1 bedroom, eat-in kitchen



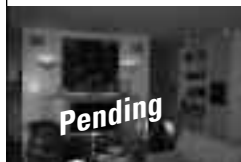
Symphony House
 2 bedroom with den



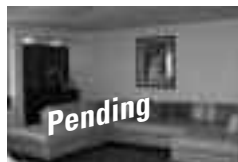
Society Hill Towers
 1 bedroom priced to buy



Abbott's Square
 1 bedroom with balcony



Society Hill Towers
 2 bedroom with upgraded kitchen & bath



Hopkinson House
 2 bedroom, Park View

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Something Old Is New Again: The Athenaeum

In 1814, the Athenaeum of Philadelphia was organized to collect books and other reading materials “connected with the history and antiquities of American and useful arts, and generally to disseminate useful knowledge.” In other words, the founders established a subscription library, filling a need in Philadelphia before the advent of free libraries. Although the idea of a library in early 19th-century Philadelphia appears fairly straightforward, the ambition of the Athenaeum founders went beyond that. They also wanted a meeting place where lectures and book discussions could occur. In 1847, when the organization finally raised enough money to move into its own building on East Washington Square, those ideas were apparent in the large rooms on the second floor, which still serve as library and lecture space.

Today, the Athenaeum continues to pursue the aims of its founders, with some changes. The legacy library collections amassed in the 19th century are now rare books, and the building has attained the status of a National Historic Landmark. Along the way, the Athenaeum has established a prized architectural research collection that embraces pattern-books, trade catalogs and an archival collection of some 250,000 architectural drawings and nearly 300,000 photographs — all of which are available online through the Philadelphia Architects and Buildings website: www.philadelphiabuildings.org.

The Athenaeum’s atlases and maps — some collected in the 19th century, supplemented by rare atlases lent by the Philadelphia Free Library — are also available for free via the online Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network. (www.philageohistory.org/geohistory/index.cfm).

Since the early 1990’s, the Athenaeum’s gallery has hosted exhibitions that are freely available to

the public, as are tours of the building. Last year the Athenaeum also expanded access by initiating “First Saturdays” during the fall and spring seasons — at which time on the first Saturday of each month the building is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. These “First Saturdays” are often the opportunity for visits to the gallery, book arts workshops, and children’s activities. Athenaeum members may also borrow books during these times.

In fact, Athenaeum membership has recently changed to allow more people to use the lending collection and to attend programs. Members have use of both the historical and contemporary collections, and are invited to the full range of programs, workshops for adults and children, and adult education seminars — most of which are free or offered at a nominal fee. Furthermore, membership supports this unique Philadelphia historical organization and helps maintain its National Historic Landmark status.

For information about becoming a member, please contact the Athenaeum’s Membership Coordinator, Laura Fiorello at lafiorello@philaathenaem.org or Executive Director Sandra L. Tatman at sltatman@philaathenaem.org.

Athenaeum Open House

The Athenaeum will hold an Open House for prospective members on Saturday, October 3rd, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., with a presentation at 3 p.m. Staff and members will be present to answer questions. Light refreshments will be served.

Please reserve your place by emailing or calling Susan Gallo at sgallo@philaathenaem.org or 215-925-2688.



Gardening for Four Seasons

A Special Program Presented by The Independence Library

If you have a “green thumb” or hope to improve your gardening skills, a special program presented by our local library branch will likely be of interest. Entitled *Gardening for Four Seasons*, this presentation, in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, will feature

Master Gardener Mary McKnight. The program is free, of course, as it is being funded by the Friends of Independence Branch Library. All garden lovers should make a note of the date and time of this special program: Wednesday, October 14th, at 6 p.m., in the Community Room of the Independence Library — located nearby at 18 S. 7th Street, between Chestnut and Market Streets. See you there!



Riverfront Plans Move Ahead

BY STEVEN A. WEIXLER, CHAIR,
CENTRAL DELAWARE ADVOCACY GROUP (CDAG)

A genuine Master Plan is now expected to be developed.

Society Hill has been an important part of a citizen-driven effort to transform the Delaware riverfront. For nearly three years, many of you have taken an active interest in this long-overdue opportunity to remove the neglect and blight along our shoreline. Recently, on June 3rd, the future of good urban planning for the riverfront reached an important milestone when the Central Delaware Riverfront Zoning Overlay Ordinance was favorably reported out of City Council's Rules Committee and passed by Council on June 18th. Councilman Frank DiCicco has long supported legislation to protect the principles of our Civic Vision for the Central Delaware, as accepted by the city's Planning Commission. A genuine Master Plan is now expected to be developed in the next 18-24 months. We thank Councilman DiCicco for his support.

Society Hill residents can also be assured that the new zoning overlay does not affect existing zoning rules, although it does add new provi-

sions on urban planning — particularly for some Society Hill areas. For example, in our neighborhood the ordinance covers only the areas east of Interstate 95 — basically the location of the Independence Seaport Museum and the Penn's Landing Marina, which have been safe from redevelopment for many years.

As Chairman of the Central Delaware Advocacy Group (CDAG), I've advised the Planning Commission that the challenges are significant but this is not the first time Philadelphia's Planning Commission has risen to a challenge. In the 1950's and 60's, Mayor Dilworth and Commissioner Bacon proposed to turn a run-down area, once commercially oriented toward the river, into a new community. Recently the American Planning Association named that community, Society Hill, as one of the country's "Ten Best-Planned Neighborhoods." On behalf of CDAG, please know that we are fully prepared to begin a multi-year process of representing the interests of Philadelphia's citizens.



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PENN'S VILLAGE

BY TANIA RORKE

Neighbors Being Neighbors

As you grow older or have special needs, would neighborly support help you remain in your home? Would you like to participate in our vibrant community by providing neighbors a bit of assistance? Penn's Village is a nonprofit organization founded by a group of Center City residents who love city living and share their desire to stay here. We provide a growing menu of services for members, as well as volunteer opportunities for residents willing and able to contribute time and friendship to neighbors in need — helping make city living easier and more enjoyable, as we assist members with everything from transportation and home maintenance to shopping and dog-walking.

For a modest annual fee, with grant-funded financial assistance available for those in need, Penn's Village members can call or email to ask questions, arrange assistance, or participate in a variety of social activities — such as book groups, get-togethers and cultural expeditions. Our

carefully screened volunteers provide a variety of services at no additional cost to members. When volunteers are unavailable, services are provided by our carefully screened professionals.

Volunteers donate their time to help members with a variety of tasks — such as grocery shopping, home repairs, computer support, and transportation to medical appointments. Of course, they also offer companionship. If you need assistance now or want to support Penn's Village for the future, please consider becoming a member.

Penn's Village will host an information meeting on Thursday, October 1, at 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 201 South 21st Street (entrance on 21st Street, south of Walnut Street). Do join us for refreshments while learning about both membership and volunteer opportunities. For questions or to RSVP, please visit us online at pennsvillage.org; call 215-925-7333; or email us at info@pennsvillage.org.




ANNUAL FEES

Regular Membership
\$500 for individuals
\$750 for households.

Charter Membership
Two years' membership plus \$500 tax-deductible donation:
\$1,300 for individuals
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Membership fees cover liaison and advocacy services, as well as services provided by Penn's Village volunteers and staff. Grant-funded financial assistance now available for members living on limited resources.



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Date	Units Listed	Average	Pending	Sold	Sold Average	Average DOM
8/9	24	655,000	2	7	364,000	122
7/9	34	551,443	10	22	463,056	150
6/9	42	463,674	21	31	524,119	154
5/9	66	459,734	26	20	388,600	152
4/9	31	554,829	24	15	460,633	122
3/9	88	479,522	19	13	437,038	127
2/9	45	495,395	17	6	514,504	184
1/9	47	499,025	14	6	926,233	82
12/8	27	479,059	4	9	281,416	133
11/8	25	603,964	4	9	447,588	146
10/8	33	940,378	10	14	1,050,107	152
9/8	99	536,972	17	13	319,661	124
Totals:	581	545,696	168	165	508,821	140

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241-43 CHESTNUT F \$899,000
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642 ADDISON \$895,000
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509 SPRUCE \$775,000
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304 CYPRESS \$699,900
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338 S 3RD \$549,900
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503 SPRUCE #14 \$399,000
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SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

BY MARILYN APPEL & MARTHA LEVINE

Take Steps to Protect Yourself

Through this regular column, we inform Society Hill residents about crimes in our neighborhood, as well as provide tips on how to prevent re-occurrences. Please know that we can take steps to protect ourselves and limit these unwanted incidences. Our Safe and Sound Committee receives a weekly crime report directly from Captain Korn of the Sixth Police District.

Below is a summary of events, from June 1st to August 9th, as reported to the Sixth Police District by Society Hill residents:

Thefts from Autos

Many more thefts than usual occurred, mostly at night. (See “How to Outsmart Criminals,” at right.)

Theft of Autos and Bicycles

Several have occurred in the neighborhood! Use your auto club to secure the steering wheel. And always secure your bike with a strong lock!

Street Robberies

These incidents still occur, particularly in the early morning hours. Please be careful at these hours and avoid walking alone whenever possible. Several assaults occurred recently, one by a homeless man in Washington Square, who was arrested.

Defacement of Property

Two incidents occurred in this time period. One resulted from substance abuse, and an arrest was made.

How To Outsmart Criminals

We cannot emphasize enough that you should never leave anything visible inside your parked car. This encourages predators (and “opportunists”) to help themselves — usually by breaking a glass window. Not only does the car owner lose valuables, but he/she also ends up with an expensive bill for window replacement. Items typically stolen from autos are cell phones, iPods, laptops, cash, handbags, wallets, sunglasses, GPS units, DVDs, stereos, CD players, and radar detectors. Remember, anything you leave in a car is a tempting target. When parking, always lock the car. Also, activate the alarm system and use your steering wheel club, if you have these security devices.

Finding parking spaces can be a challenge, but some streets are more risky than others when it comes to potential break-ins and thefts. Look for a well-lit street whenever possible.

Keeping Safe on Our Streets

When walking, especially at night, be aware of other people on the street — in front as well as behind you. If you see a group of characters who appear to be unsavory (or drunk!), it’s best to alter your route rather than walk in their path. Choose well-lit and well-traveled streets if possible. Or, call a cab! The last thing an opportunistic troublemaker wants is an audience. So, when possible, avoid secluded areas and walkways.

Above all, remember to call 911 to report any crime — no matter how small.

Vandalism is a crime and should be reported to the police. We know there are hot spots in Philadelphia where the police are needed, but citizens have a right to be protected by our Sixth District officers. They assure us that they are at our service — so don’t hesitate to call 911. Let’s work together to keep Society Hill safe.

Never leave anything visible inside your parked car.

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Ten Years and Growing



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Is it possible that it's been ten years since SHCA began presenting Welcome Baskets to recently arrived home and condo owners in Society Hill? Over these years, the 561 baskets offered to new neighbors have been gratefully received. Each big basket is brimming with fresh food and gift certificates to area restaurants, theaters, shops, salons and services — all contributed by local merchants and businesses — as well as important and relevant neighborhood information. The total value of each basket is usually well over \$600!

New SHCA Members

These baskets are individually presented to new residents in their own homes — always by appointment. At that time we introduce newcomers to our association and tell them about SHCA's significant role in our community and what we manage to accomplish through our many volunteers and their efforts. Our Welcome Baskets have helped to promote the enthusiastic participation of many new members in our civic association.

We hope we have not missed *you!* If you are a new Society Hill home or condo owner, or if you know of a new neighbor who has recently moved to our community, please let us know so that we can hand-deliver a welcoming basket filled with goodies. Contact Martha Levine at 215-629-0727 or marthalev@msn.com. (Please note: All Society Hill home or condo owners are eligible to receive one of these Welcome Baskets.)

Thanks to All Welcome Basket Contributors

We publicly thank all loyal contributors who help introduce Society Hill newcomers to our wonderful neighborhood by donating gifts and services for our "Welcome Basket" program. Some of these businesses have been generously contributing since the program began ten years ago.

We proudly introduce **Pennsylvania Dental Associates**, 604 South Washington Square, a full-service dental practice; and **Hello Home**, 1004 Pine Street, a new local shop that features mid-century furniture, vintage art, contemporary lighting and glassware. Check 'em out!



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 Farm Fresh Express (delivery of local organic foods), 607-423-7111
 Fork: etc. (prepared foods), 308 Market Street
 ShopRite, 29 Snyder Avenue
 SuperFresh, 5th & Pine Streets
 WholeFoods Market, 929 South Street

Restaurants

Amada, 217 Chestnut Street
 Ava Restaurant, 518 S. 3rd Street
 Bistro Romano, 120 Lombard Street
 Bridget Foy's South Street Grill, 200 South Street
 Caribou Café (French Bistro), 1126 Walnut Street
 City Tavern, 138 S. 2nd Street
 Core De Roma, 214 South Street
 Creperie Beau Monde, 624 S. 6th Street
 Fork, 306 Market Street
 La Buca Ristorante, 711 Locust Street
 Mustard Greens, 622 S. 2nd Street
 Panorama Ristorante, 14 N. Front Street
 Philadelphia Fish & Company, 207 Chestnut Street
 Positano Coast, 2nd & Walnut Streets
 Zot (Belgian cuisine), 122 Lombard Street

Specialty Foods

Homemade Goodies by Roz, 510 S. 5th Street
 Metropolitan Bakery at the Metro Café, 15 S. 3rd Street
 Naked Chocolate Café, 1317 Walnut Street
 Pink Rose Pastry Shop, 630 S. 4th Street
 Zeke's Deli, 318 S. 5th Street

Specialty Shops

Adornamenti (jewelry), 1106 Pine Street
 Ethnics Furniture (Indonesian), 928 Pine Street
 Eyes Gallery (Latin American crafts), 402 South Street
 Foster's Homeware (home décor), 399 Market Street
 Happily Ever After (toys), 1010 Pine Street
 Head House Books, 619 S. 2nd Street
 Hello Home (home décor), 1004 Pine Street
 Lolli Lolli (childrens' clothing & toys), 713 Walnut Street
 Marmelstein's Fabric & Trim, 760 S. 4th Street
 Metalworks (craft gallery), 315 South Street

Paper On Pine, 124 S. 13th Street
 Pileggi Boutique (women's fashions), 715 Walnut Street
 Pinot (wine accessories), 227 Market Street
 Show of Hands Gallery (crafts), 1006 Pine Street
 W. Graham Arader III (fine antique prints, framing), 1308 Walnut Street

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 Arden Theater, 40 N. 2nd street
 1812 Productions (all-comedy theater), 215-592-9560
 Ghost Tours of Philadelphia, 610-404-8474
 Independence Seaport Museum, 211 S. Columbus Boulevard
 Lantern Theater Company, 10th and Ludlow Streets
 Lights of Liberty, 6th & Chestnut Streets
 National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut Street
 Pennsylvania Ballet, 1101 S. Broad Street
 Philadelphia Shakespeare Theater, 2111 Sansom Street
 Philadelphia Theatre Company, Suzanne Roberts Theater, Broad & Pine Streets
 Philomel Concerts, 215-487-2344
 Piffaro, The Renaissance Band, 215-235-8469
 Prince Music Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street
 Society Hill Playhouse, 507 S. 8th Streets
 The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, 1520 Locust Street
 The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, 215-569-8080
 Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad Street

Other Services

Advanced Spinal Care Center, 1129 Pine Street
 Judy Moon Massage Therapy, Hopkinson House
 Liberty Tree & Landscape Management, 215-725-3637
 Lux Spa and Fitness At the Omni, 401 Chestnut Street
 Philadelphia Dance Academy (children & adults), 232 S. 4th Street
 Pennsylvania Dental Associates, 604 South Washington Square
 Riff Cleaners, 314 S. 5th Street
 Simplified Living LLC (solutions to your needs), 215-813-3506
 Society Hill Dance Academy, 409 S. 2nd Street
 Wellness Chiropractic Center, 700 E. Passyunk Avenue
 The Pampered Chef (culinary products/meal tips), 215-764-7478
 The Worth Collection (women's clothing), 215-925-8813
 Yoga Child (children and adults), 903 South Street

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Your Chance To Win a Free Dinner for Two!

Residents of Society Hill who are not currently members of our Society Hill Civic Association have a chance to win a free dinner for two at Cuba Libre. If you are a new resident or have let your membership lapse since 2007, you are eligible for this drawing.

To become a current member of our civic association, please fill out the application and send it with your check or credit card information, or visit our website and pay by PayPal. Please respond no later than September 30th so that the winner can be announced in the next issue of the *Reporter*. (Sorry, the 116 former members from 2008 who have not renewed do not qualify for this drawing, but we still welcome your renewal.)

So far, total membership in SHCA stands at 1,030, which is down from last year's total of 1,063. Remember, your membership dues pay for sidewalk cleaning, the planting of new trees, graffiti removal supplies, the planting of flowers and improvements for Washington Square. Without member dues, SHCA would cease to function. Protect your neighborhood and your real estate investment.

Any questions, call 215-629-1288 or email mattdejulio@aol.com.

Walkie-Talkies

C'mon Ladies, Let's Lace Up!

Before 8:15 a.m. on any Tuesday or Thursday morning, meet at Three Bears Park — if it's not raining — for an hour-long walk and engaging talk. Newcomers most welcome.



SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Your email (print clearly) _____

IMPORTANT: Today most everyone communicates via email. Please be sure that we have your current email address — so that you can receive important updates between publication of our community newsletter. All SHCA emails will be judiciously screened, and rarely will we send emails more than once a week. Nor will we share your email address with anyone else. This convenient, 21st-century system helps save our civic association postage costs while keeping you regularly informed.

Residential Memberships

- \$ 1,000 Benjamin Franklin Benefactor
- \$ 500 Washington Benefactor
- \$ 300 Jefferson Benefactor
- \$ 150 Georgian Grantor
- \$ 100 Federal Friend
- \$ 50 Basic Household Membership
- \$ 40 Senior/Student

Business Memberships

- \$100 Institutions—
5+ employees
- \$ 60 Institutions—
fewer than 5 employees

Additional Contributions:

- \$ _____ Washington Square Beautification
- \$ _____ Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal
- \$ _____ Society Hill Reporter
- \$ _____ TownWatch/Safe and Sound
- \$ _____ Zoning/Historic Preservation
- \$ _____ No Casinos Near Neighborhoods
- \$ _____ Franklin Lights
- \$ _____ Street Trees
- \$ _____ Three Bears Park

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Charge VISA/MasterCard:

Number _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____

The following topics are of special interest to me. I welcome receipt of email 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

Dennis and Michael Faucher

True or not, it's often said that newcomers to a country are more boosterish about their new land than are its denizens. Dennis Faucher's ancestors came to Quebec from France in 1636 and no doubt praised their new homeland. Their descendants moved to Michigan in the late 19th century, presumably to sing the praises of the land of the free and the home of the brave.

But the same might be said of newcomers to a city — and Dennis and Michael Faucher are prime examples of people who came from elsewhere and who are huge fans of their adopted Philadelphia. Both came here from Boise, Idaho where they met and married fifty years ago this summer. Since coming to their present home, which they bought at auction in 1991, they have become true lovers of the “City of Brotherly Love.” Dennis is a big fan of both the Eagles and the Phillies; Michael has placed a Philadelphia flag at the front of their house... and says she feels a particular emotion when walking through Independence Park. “It just makes you want to try to be a better person, a better citizen,” she says. In fact, she achieves that by serving on the Board of the Friends of Independence Park.

Not that the couple are in any sense house-bound. After traveling to Switzerland last year,

they determined that it was the 24th country they had visited together. This year, in celebration of their Golden Wedding Anniversary, they took their three sons and three daughters-in-law, along with eleven grandchildren (ranging in age from five to 18) to Annecy, in France. Nineteen people in all for a two-week festival marking half a century of married life!

Their union might never have taken place, though, but for a wager. One of Dennis's fraternity brothers bet him a case of beer that he couldn't get a date within an hour. Dennis knew of Michael, also an alum of the University of Idaho, got the date and won the case! As a lawyer he's won other cases since then — practicing law in Boise before coming to Philly to litigate in the Penn Central Railroad bankruptcy and then spending twenty years with the firm of Saul, Ewing before retiring five years ago.

Michael majored in education at Idaho and then in healthcare administration at Temple. She went on to become Vice-President of Administration at Hahnemann, left for a while, and returned when it became Drexel College of Medicine — where she eventually became Assistant Dean of Continuing Medical Education. A member of Philadelphia's Cosmopolitan Club, Michael served on the club's finance committee and as its Treasurer. Today she spends time cooking and reading... and, in fact, started a neighborhood book club. She is also active in the Independence Branch of the Free Library.

Meanwhile, Dennis works with Old St. Joseph's Church Historical Corporation, is a volunteer at Pennsylvania Hospital, and despite strong roots in Philadelphia, he keeps a connection to Boise through his membership on the Board of Directors of the University of Idaho Foundation, which he says is currently in complicated litigation over real estate issues. And, he's taking up piano lessons that he let languish a year or two ago.

The Fauchers speak glowingly of the joys of their adopted city — citing easy access to history, the arts, sports and great restaurants. To their celebration of Philadelphia can now be added their celebration of five decades of marriage. Cheers!

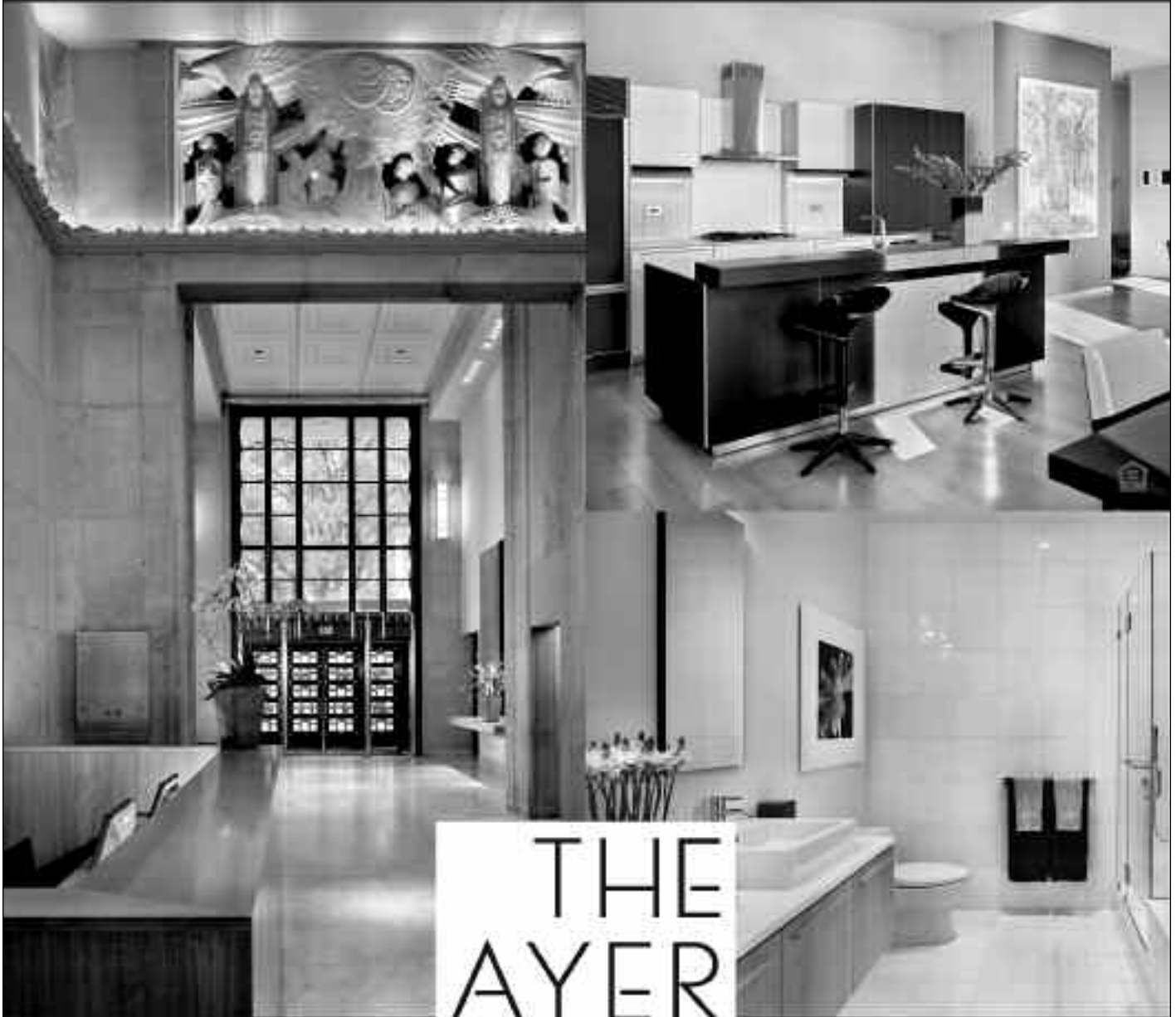
David Woods can be reached at hmi3000@comcast.net

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C A L E N D A R

Wednesday, September 16
SHCA Board & General Membership Meetings
 Pennsylvania Hospital
 6 p.m. Board Session
 Grand Court
 7 p.m. General Meeting
 Auditorium, 7th & Spruce
 See page 1

Wednesday, September 30
Soiree at Head House Square
 7 p.m.
 For info: 215-370-6485
 See page 1

Thursday, October 1
Penn's Village Info Meeting
 First Presbyterian Church
 201 S. 21st Street, 6 p.m.
 See page 27

Saturday, October 3
Athenaeum Open House
 From 2:30-4:30 p.m.
 See page 25

Wednesday, October 14
Gardening for Four Seasons
 Free Lecture
 Independence Library
 6 p.m. See page 25

Saturday, October 24
St. Mary's Homecoming & Harvest Hoedown
 Noon – 4 p.m. \$10/person
 See page 24

Thursday, November 12
McCall Centennial Gala
 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
 See page 18



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