



Spruce Hill Community Association

257 S. 45th St., Phila. PA 19104

Winter 2007

www.sprucehillca.org

215-349-7825

New President: Let's Increase Membership

As we approach the New Year, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the membership as the recently elected President of the association. Although I have met many wonderful friends in the five years since I moved to Spruce Hill with my wife and children, I look forward to meeting and working with even more neighbors in the upcoming months.



President's Corner

Joining me as officers of the association will be Executive Vice President Monica Ferguson, Treasurer Judy Powers, Secretary Kathleen White, and Vice President for Operations Mark Wagenveld. We look to build upon the hard work that preceded our term, and I know I speak for the entire Board of Directors and membership in expressing appreciation to Cindy Roberts for her dedication and effort in moving the association forward during the past year.

As a primary goal this year, we hope to increase membership. This is an area where every member of the association can help. We're all aware that Spruce Hill has had a significant increase in homeowners and families. It seems every block has added at least one new neighbor over the past few years. Despite that growth, association membership has been declining.

Please make an effort to reach out to your new neighbors and ask them to join the association. Let them know that a neighborhood doesn't happen by accident; it takes an effort on the part of everyone to improve the everyday life of the community.

Thank you,
Ed Halligan,
SHCA President

Terrifying Terrific Halloween 2007



The Spruce Hill Halloween Parade was a smashing success, with more than 250 children strutting their stuff in the neighborhood. More pix, page 3.

Fiscal Year Ends on a Healthy Note

The 2007 fiscal year ended on June 30 with a small deficit, but it was not a significant amount and our accountant was not concerned. No noteworthy upgrades to the building were made during the year and the utility expenses were in line with previous years.



Treasurer's Report

SCHA spent \$4050 on professional and consulting fees, primarily to pay the bookkeeper and the accountant.

May Fair, our major fund-

raiser, is held close to the end of the fiscal year, so a separate summary report was prepared that reflected Fair expenses covered after June 30. The net income for May Fair '07 was \$5,442. Contributions to the Spruce Hill Trust, which are tax deductible and defray costs of the Fair, were approximately \$4,000 less than the previous year. However, these contributions almost exactly matched the expenses for this year's fair, which meant the money raised on Fair day was net profit.

Judy Powers
SHCA Treasurer



Proposed Pine Street Hotel Sparks Controversy

Neighbors of this proposed 10-story “extended stay” hotel gave the plans a chilly reception at the SHCA’s annual community meeting on Nov. 13.

The once-grand mansion-turned-nursing home at 40th and Pine Streets was bought by the University of Pennsylvania in 2003. The \$30 million redevelopment, which includes a restaurant and retail space as well as a Hilton hotel, is a project of developer Tom Lussenhop, property

management company Campus Apartments, and the architectural firm Atkin O Ishin Schade.

At the SHCA meeting, neighbors raised numerous concerns, including the scale of the project and its impact on traffic in the already congested corridor.

For news stories on the status of the proposal and how it has fared before the Philadelphia Historical Commission, check out UC Review (online at <http://ucreview.com>).

ICE Campaign

SHCA member Pauline Borkon passed on this great idea for turning your mobile phone into an emergency contact directory.

We all carry names & numbers stored in our mobile phones, but nobody (other than ourselves) knows which of these numbers belong to close family or friends.

Hence the In Case of Emergency Campaign. All you need to do is store the number of a key contact person under the name "ICE." For more than one emergency contact, simply enter ICE1, ICE2, ICE3, etc.

This idea came from a paramedic who wanted a nationally recognized system for storing emergency contacts on cell phones, so medical personnel would be able to quickly contact the right person simply by dialing the



Get Your Block Grant

SHCA offers grants up to \$500 for a single block, or \$1,200 for adjacent blocks, to improve the streetscape. Add or renew trees, gardens, curbs and sidewalks. Blocks must match the grant amount through volunteer sweat equity, in-kind materials or cash.

Jan. 21 is the deadline for the next round of grants. For more information, and an application: www.ucgreen.org.

Cut Energy Costs

If the climbing cost of oil and gas has hit your home heating bill, plan to attend an energy conservation workshop. You’ll get tips for cutting energy costs, budget counseling, and a chance to win a free energy audit that tells you exactly where and how to make your home more energy efficient.

The workshops will be held at the PECO Financial Education Center, which was opened last March by PECO and the Partnership CDC to help its clients with budgeting, credit repair and utility assistance programs.

When: Saturdays, Jan 19, Feb. 16, March 15, April 19, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: PECO Education Center/ Partnership CDC, 4027 Market St.

Register: Call Mona, 215-307-4917 x 225.

It's in the Bag

In Ennistymon, we stopped at a Centra -- which is the Irish version of Wawa -- and bought toothpaste, a newspaper, and a scone. The cashier rang up our purchases, then stared at me and my husband Dan. We stared back. Clueless Yanks.



From the Editor

Then we remembered: In the Republic of Ireland, you bring your own shopping bags or pay extra to buy them from the store. So we picked up our few items and left.

I was delighted. Plastic bags are my environmental pet peeve. Some people lament gas-guzzling SUVs, or landfill-clogging water bottles. My thing is non-biodegradable, resource-wasting, litter-promoting, tree-hanging plastic bags.

The American attitude toward plastic bags seems to be, if one bag will do, use two. Or three. If a bag can hold six items, put one in there. Sometimes, as I watch a cashier reflexively double-bag a single 10-ounce grocery item, I feel compelled to grab the sack and add too many items. So what if the cashier gives me a "No Duh" look as I struggle to lift my over-stuffed bags into the grocery cart.

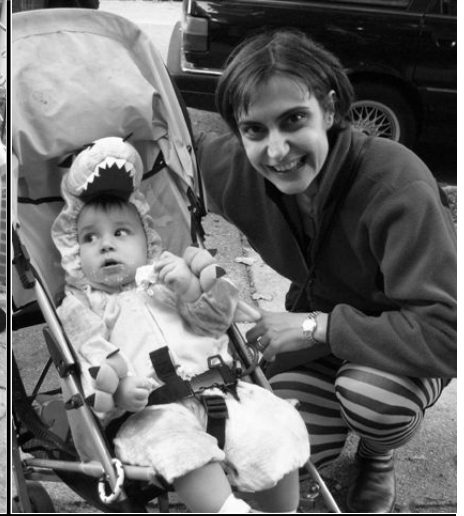
I assume the origins of American bag waste are litigious. Somewhere, a plastic bag broke, causing an explosion of milk or macaroni. The shopper slipped and fell; a million dollar settlement ensued. Soon, store managers from sea to shining sea were telling cashiers to double bag. (True, Whole Foods and a few other stores sell reusable canvas sacks and offer 5 cents per returned bag; it's still not doing much to discourage bag waste.)

Now back home on Sansom Street, I have wonderful memories of Ireland in October. I get nostalgic every time I see a ratty plastic bag on the sidewalk.

Marie McCullough
SHCA News editor



Halloween 2007





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Philadelphia, PA 19104**



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Basic memberships: \$25 per individual or household;

Business/professional/institutional membership: \$35

Seniors/students: \$6 for seniors or students.

Sponsor: \$50 Patron: \$100.

Mail your check to: SHCA Membership, 257 S. 45th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

**Pay for two years and take \$5 off -- \$35 for household/ individual or \$65 for
business/ professional/ institutional.**

