



Spruce Hill Community Association

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

Summer 2008

www.sprucehillca.org

215-349-7825

Community Calendar



Classic movies

What: Outdoor screenings of Bette Davis greatest hits, marking her 100th birthday.

Time: 8 p.m.

Dates: Aug. 7 (Hush, Hush, Sweet Charlotte); Aug. 14 (What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?); Aug. 21 (All About Eve); Aug. 28 (Now, Voyager)

Where: International House, 3701 Chestnut St. (Bring chairs or blankets)

Info: www.ihousephilly.org/campbette.htm
ooo



Summer Concert Series

What: Free concerts sponsored by the city Department of Recreation and Beneficial Bank.

Time: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Dates: July 31 (Iron Reggae and Soul); Aug. 14 (Abstract, the art of music); Aug 21 (The Grown-Ups Jazz Trio); Aug. 28 (Chuck Woodson Jazz Ensemble)

Where: Carroll Park, 58th St. and Girard Ave.

Info: 267-847-1721
ooo



Shakespeare in Clark Park

What: Free performances of As You Like It, a wise and witty comedy in which heart battles head.

When: July 30- Aug 3, 7 p.m.

Where: The Bowl in Clark Park, 43rd St. and Baltimore Ave. (Bring chairs or blankets)

Info: www.shakespeareinclarkpark.org

SHCA Looks Back, Looks Ahead

In these so-called dog days of summer we may find ourselves looking forward to the cooler temperatures of autumn, or back to the pleasant spring day of the Spruce Hill Community Association 50th annual May Fair.

The fair, held May 10, had everything befitting the special anniversary: great food, music, vendors and community organizations, and wonderful activities for the kids.

The fair netted \$8,476 -- almost \$2000 more than last year, according to treasurer Judy Powers. Local businesses, institutions and individual members donated \$1300 more than last year to underwrite the cost of producing the fair. Extra support also came from the Philadelphia Activity Fund. This enabled us to expand entertainment for children with Spiral Q Puppet Theatre, juggler Brian Echenrode, and a performance of West African music by Adimu Kuumba.

We are also grateful to the many businesses that donated items for the raffle, and to the May Fair Committee and volunteers who made the day a success. Special recognition goes to a local Boy Scout, Nick Halbert- Brooks, who sorted all recyclables resulting from the fair.

Most of all, thanks to all who attended the fair, which raises funds for our ongoing efforts to improve our neighborhoods.

Looking ahead, the SHCA annual membership meeting will take place on November 11. The time and place will be announced later. I hope you can attend and hear about what we accomplished during the year. On behalf of the other officers and the Board of Directors, I wish you the best in the remaining days of summer.

Ed Halligan
SHCA President



J.H. Kertis, photographer

Community Calendar



Farmers Market Festival

What: Food, music, crafts and entertainment to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Clark Park Farmers Market.

When: Sept. 6 (time to be announced)

Where: Clark Park, 43rd St. and altimore Ave.

Info: iglyn@TheFoodTrust.org (Festival organizers welcome suggestions)

West Philly Tool Library Expands Hours

Summertime means DIY projects. To help you out, the West Philly Tool Library has expanded its hours:

Tuesdays 6:30-8:30pm

Thursdays 6:30-8:30pm

Saturday 9am-2pm

So you no longer need to wait until Saturday to borrow (or return) tools!

If you haven't visited the library, please check it out. It is at 4620 Woodland Ave, two blocks from Clark Park. You can join for just \$20 a year and borrow as many hand, power, and garden tools as you need for up to one week at a time. For more information -- including a list of the 450-plus tools -- check out the website at www.westphillytools.org or call 215-833-3190.



Spotlight On...

Studio 34 YOGA • HEALING • ARTS

What do you get when a nurse practitioner, a sculptor, and an instructor of yoga, tai chi, and qi gong combine forces?

The answer is Studio 34, a 5,000-square-foot space on altimore Avenue offering classes in yoga, pilates, belly dancing and stress management; massage therapy and Reiki; plus visual and performing arts. City Paper called it a ginormous new community center.

Founders Angie Norris, James Peniston and Stephen Fisher want their creation to serve as a hub for healing, art and wellness information. Their classes are only \$5 or \$10, and they offer low-cost rental spaces, free monthly art exhibits, and free monthly

dance and music performances.

Stephen (the yoga instructor, not to mention a Phd. in psychology from Yale) adds that the comfy lounge is open daily and offers a growing non-lending library of health-related books. The studio even provides free tea, but bring your own mug - it's more environmentally friendly than dealing with throw-away cups.

Location: 4522 altimore Avenue

Info: www.studio34yoga.com

Phone: 215.387.3434

In each issue of SHCA news, we spotlight a new, unknown or under-appreciated enterprise in Spruce Hill. Send your suggestions to repopster@gmail.com, or snail-mail to SHCA, 257 S. 45th St., Phila. PA 19104.

James Peniston, Angie Norris and Stephen Fisher (left to right), have created a fabulous, community-friendly space for those who want to get healthy and stay that way.



Good Intentions Littered with Obstacles

Every day, I pick up litter near the sign on my block that says: *No littering. Violators subject to \$50 fine.*

I'm sure no violator has ever been ticketed, and I'm probably the only one who notices the faded sign.

Even so, I figured I'd request a new one with the correct fine: \$150. As you may know, last month City Council increased the penalty. (News stories said the old fine was \$25; who knows why the punishment on my block was twice as much.)

I wasn't sure which city department would be providing new signs, so I asked Keep Philadelphia Beautiful.

"As far as I know, the signs haven't even been thought about," said Phoebe Coles, executive director of the non-profit. "You're giving your government too much credit."

I guess it doesn't matter whether people know how

**From
the
Editor**



much they can be slapped for littering since the chances of it happening are slimmer than an empty Doritos bag. You'll get a parking ticket two seconds after the meter runs out, but dump a bucket of KFC bones or a six-pack or a dirty diaper, no problem. As the Daily News recently reported, littering enforcement has gone from paltry to pathetic: 325 tickets in 2005; 257 in 2006; just 122 last year.

I abandoned my quest for a new sign and instead tried to find out the status of two sanitation violation reports I had made online through the Philadelphia Police Dept. (ppdonline.org). I'm one of those pesky perfectionists – there are several on my block -- who don't ignore flagrant breaches of the sanitation code when reasoning with the violators is unsuccessful.

Both reports involved those ever-

popular offenses "high weeds" (7-301) and "not removing waste matter from property" (7-302). The online form says complaints "will be forwarded to a specially trained, empowered police officer."

I called police headquarters and was told "police have nothing to do with sanitation violations." Then I called the 18th police district, where an officer said to call Neighborhood Services, then said call the police district substation.

There, I finally reached a helpful officer who looked online, grumbling, "I don't know why they referred you to us when they could look it up just as easily."

My reports seemed to have vanished, so she took my information to give it to the officer who usually writes code violation notices in my neighborhood.

I got his name, since he seems like a good guy to know. Maybe, just maybe, he'd even ticket litterbugs.

Marie McCullough
SHCA News Editor

Indulge Your Arbor Ardor for Free

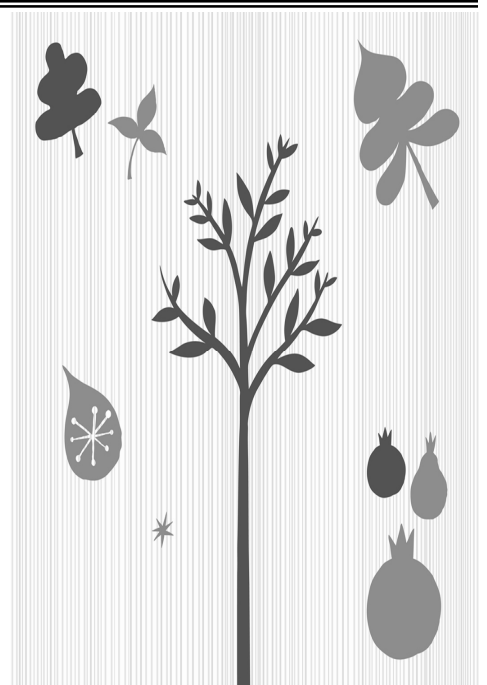
In University City, West and Southwest Philadelphia, property owners may request new street, yard or public space trees. These trees are provided by TreeVitalize at no cost to the property owners and are planted by community volunteers organized by UC Green.

If you'd like to take advantage of this wonderful program, go to www.ucgreen.org and submit the "Property Owner's Request for a New Street Tree," or call (215) 573-4684, or email info@ucgreen.org to request a

hard copy of the form.

Here are some of the many reasons to TreeVitalize:

- Planting trees is one of the cheapest, most effective ways to draw excess CO2 from the atmosphere. In addition, one tree generates \$30,000 in oxygen, recycles \$35,000 of water, and removes \$60,000 of air pollution over a period of 50 years.
- Buildings and pavements in city centers create a heat-island effect. A mature tree canopy reduces air temperatures by about 5 to 10° F, which reduces internal temperatures of nearby buildings.



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To join the Spruce Hill Email list, send an email to SHCA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Check the mailing label for your membership expiration date.

Membership (2 year membership--deduct \$5)

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime \$300 |



Make checks payable to SHCA and mail to:
SHCA, 257 S.45th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104