



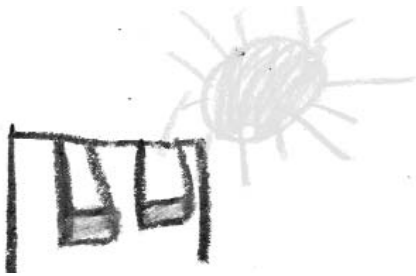
spruce hill community association

news

spring 2006

Spruce Hill Community Association News is published quarterly. Please send contributions or advertising to:
meridithsauer@hotmail.com -or-
SHCA, 257 S 45th Street,
Philadelphia, Pa 19104
Attn: Meridith Sauer

CLARK PARK PARTY FOR THE PARK



Help Us Keep Clark Park Clean, Safe, and Green.

That's the theme for the seventh annual "Party for the Park" coming up this May 4, but "clean, safe and green" aren't the words neighbors would have used to describe Clark Park just a few years ago.

The theme this year reminds me just how far we have come since the Friends of Clark Park (FOCP) and University City District (UCD) proposed joining forces to try to overcome years of neglect that had left Clark Park a trash strewn, overgrown and frightening landscape - little used and avoided by most residents.

It seems hard to believe when compared with the beautiful, well maintained and safe park we have today, but as Paul Brooks, a park neighbor and former FOCP president remembers, a few years ago trash collection and mowing were so infrequent that he "kept a scorecard comparing ... the number of trash pickups with the number of lawn mowings,"

Spruce Hill May Fair

For great food, great games, great shopping, and great neighbors—don't miss the 48th Annual Spruce Hill May Fair.

One of Philadelphia's largest and oldest community fairs, the Spruce Hill May Fair will be held in Clark Park, at 43rd Street and Baltimore Avenues, on Saturday, May 13th from 11 am to 4 PM. Along with food from local beloved eateries, the fair also features childrens games, a "white elephant" flea market, a used book sale, a plant sale sponsored by the Spruce Hill Garden Club, craft vendors, homemade baked goods, and a raffle of great prizes!

Please contact the following for information, with questions, or to volunteer:

Bake Sale:
Rose Halligan, 215-222-2997

Used Book Sale:
Ben Jacobs, 215-222-6579, bcjacobs@gmail.com

Table Rental:
Nancy Khan, 215-222-1944, wrv.nancy@rhd.org

Raffle Donations:
Cindy Roberts, 215-387-4330, cf.roberts@verizon.net

White Elephant:
Pauline Borkon, 215-349-7825, pborkon@hotmail.com

Sponsorship:
Derek Riddle, 215-222-7525, riddlederek@yahoo.com

Volunteers/General Questions:
Ed Halligan, 215-222-2997,
Edward.Halligan@courts.phila.gov

please volunteer !!!
assistance is needed with setting up,
taking down, plus helping with the bake
sale and white elephant tables

Party for the Park cont.

with neither above single digits. At one point, after the weeds had grown over 2 feet tall, Paul sent a "bouquet" of weeds to a local representative in an attempt to dramatize the plight of the park.

Anne Kringel also remembers the frustration and disappointment of walking through a park that should have been a wonderful place for her children to play, but was instead a hazard and eyesore. "I remember a terribly hot day in August 1996. I walked down Chester through the park, which was full of knee-high weeds and trash. Lew Mellman was picking up trash in the bowl, and there were a few other people in the park. They were sticking to the walkways since the 'grass' was too high to walk through. I thought to myself, 'This is hopeless.'"

But Kringel, like many in the neighborhood, refused to let the park die of neglect. Mellman, a longtime FOCP board member, convinced her to get involved just as the board was considering a plan to join forces with UCD and the Recreation Department in a public-private annual fundraiser - the Party for the Park - that would pay for the extra maintenance Clark Park so desperately needed. "I thought it was just wishful thinking. When I look at the park today, I still can't believe it's the same piece of land," says Kringel.

But it's not only the landscape maintenance that is better now, as Allison Williams points out. The partnership with UCD also enabled the Friends to tackle much-needed long-term planning for the park, resulting in major playground improvements and other critical projects. "A couple years ago there was a rather dangerous tot lot - many a child fell off the stone wall or scraped a knee," says Williams. "The 'big kid' playground was across the street, on the other end of the park and often lacked seats for the swings. Not too convenient or safe for families, particularly those with children of varying ages."

Now, only a concrete turtle remains in a grassy spot on the original tot lot area. Two playgrounds - one designed for preschoolers and the other for school-age children - are located near one another so parents can safely observe children of all ages at play.

But a park, like any growing, living thing, must continue to be nurtured. Although I'm amazed at how far we've come, we can no more stop caring for the park and expect it to stay healthy than we can stop nurtur-

ing the children whose drawings illustrate this year's invitation to "Party for the Park."

More than a hundred neighborhood children drew pictures of "fun in Clark Park" to decorate this year's party tent. You'll see three of those wonderful drawings on your party invitation - artwork by six-year-olds Tajinia Hussain, Rayan Amrani and Samiha Tahsin.

Please support your park and keep it "clean, green and safe" by buying tickets to Party for the Park, held this year from 5:30-8pm on Thursday, May 4, at Kingsessing and 43rd Street. If you didn't get an invite (or even if you did) you can buy tickets online at www.ucityphila.org.

- Andy Cole

what's new at Penn...

If you would like to know more about the University of Pennsylvania's construction plans log onto www.facilities.upenn.edu/whatsnew/construction.

On the first Thursday of each month from 8-9:30 a.m. (usually held at the Walnut West Library), Glenn D. Bryan, Office of the Vice President for Government, Community and Public Affairs convenes a very informative meeting. Its purpose is to provide a regular opportunity for University and Community leaders to exchange information, allow for early and informal issue identification, problem solving, and to look for new shared opportunities. Any member of the community is welcome.

Spruce Hill Community Association always has representatives at this meeting. At the present time Diane Adler and Pauline Borkon attend for SHCA.

HOMEOWNER WORKSHOPS SET FOR APRIL

The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia is pleased to announce an upcoming series of workshops in April for the owners of historic homes. These workshops are free and open to the public, but seating is limited.

Don't miss this great opportunity to learn from historic preservation professionals including architects, contractors, craftspeople, and consultants, about the best practices for the restoration and maintenance of your historic home.

Working with Architects and Contractors: Planning Ahead

Germantown: Wednesday April 5 at 7:00 PM

West Philadelphia: Thursday April 6 at 7:00 PM

Roofing on Historic Buildings

Germantown: Monday April 10 at 7:00 PM

West Philadelphia: Tuesday April 11 at 7:00 PM

Historic Windows: Maintenance, Repair and Replacement

Germantown: Wednesday April 19 at 7:00 PM

West Philadelphia: Thursday April 20 at 7:00 PM

Masonry and Pointing

Germantown: Wednesday April 26 at 7:00 PM

West Philadelphia: Thursday April 27 at 7:00 PM

Workshop Locations:

Germantown: Cliveden, 6401 Germantown Avenue (Workshops at carriage house: enter property through the gate at Cliveden and Morton Streets)

West Philadelphia: Calvary Center for Culture and Community,
801 S. 48th Street

To reserve your space, or for more information, please contact Patrick Hauck, Director of Neighborhood Preservation Programs, at 215-546-1146 x4 or patrick@preservationalliance.com.

numbers for neighbors...

helpful information for spruce hill residents

18th Police District: 215-686-3180 (5510 Pine Street)

University City District Philadelphia Police Substation: 215-243-0667 (40th and Chestnut Street)

Penn Police: 215-573-3333 (the Community Relations Officer is Officer Stacey Livingston)

Drexel University Public Safety: 215-895-2822

University of the Sciences in Philadelphia Security: 215-596-8938

University City District: 215-387-3942 (escort and unlock/jumpstart your car service)

Note - Always report a crime to 911, no matter how insignificant it seems to you.

University City District Graffiti Removal Team: 215-243-0555, ext. 236

Abandoned Cars: 215-683-2277, or report to UCD 215-243-0555

Nuisance Bars: 215-560-4111

Broken Street Light: 215-687-8844

Broken Traffic Light: 215-5530

Rats (Health Dept.): 215-685-9719

Uncollected Trash: 215-686-5560

Streets Department: 215-686-1776

Water Department: 215-686-6880

Abandoned houses and vacant lots, Licenses and Inspection: 215-686-2463

Dumpster Code Violations Unit: 215-685-5618

Pothole repair, Streets Dept. Highway Division: 215-686-5560

Recycling information and buckets, Recycling Unit: 215-685-7329

Missing or damaged street signs, Traffic Engineering Division: 215-686-5524

Air and noise pollution: 215-686-7580

PECO emergencies: 215-841-4141

PGW emergencies: 215-235-1212

Liquor violations (underage drinking and purchasing): 1-800-932-0602

Telemarketer "Do Not Call" list: 1-888-777-3406

Survey of Penn Alexander School Catchment Area

Last fall the Education Committee of the Spruce Hill Association conducted a census of the catchment area in order to assess the impact of the Sadie Alexander Penn Partnership School in the growth of the neighborhood and to help anticipate future enrollment demands. Here's the recap of the survey:

324 households surveyed, or 5.4% of 6000 housing units in the PAS catchment area. Approximately 174 surveyed were homeowners. According to ratio of PAS students to housing units, survey should have resulted in 2.9 students per coming grade year. Actual results were 13 students coming in 2006, 16 for 2007, 22 for 2008, 14 for 2009, 17 for 2010, 8 for 2011 (partial year, class begins with children born after 9/1/2005).

Of 174 homeowners surveyed, 45.9 % said PAS was a factor in their decision to move into catchment area (80 households). 53%, or 104 homeowners, said Penn's continued support of PAS is a factor in their decision to stay in the catchment area. 85 households (26% of households surveyed) have purchased their house's since 2000, 72% said PAS was a factor in purchasing their houses in catchment area, 74% said Penn's continued support is a factor in their decision to stay.

important education issues in Spruce Hill!

The SHCA education committee is looking for members to help take on the challenges of meeting the needs of Spruce Hill families, planning for the future for public education, and developing after school and day care options for the families in the neighborhood.

If these issues are important to you, please consider joining this important committee!

Please contact Angela McIver at mciver@verizon.net to join!!

PIC Annual Plant Sale

The plant sale is Friday, May 5 from 3-6pm and Saturday, May 6, from 10am to 3pm, in the church at 42nd & Spruce.

Fabulous annuals, perennials, bedding plants, flowering baskets, herbs & veggies. Proceeds support the Parent-Infant Center Scholarship Fund. Saturday is Daisy Day - plants plus bake sale, balloons, face painting, and a chance to win a basket packed full of gardening goodies.

For more information or to see the plants, visit us at www.parentinfantcenter.org.

Penn Alexander School Musical

PAS first school musical will be
May 24-25, 7pm.

Annie!

Sponsor levels:

\$25 (single ticket), \$50 (2 tickets),
\$100 (2 tix, program listing);
\$250 (two tix, program listing)

Make checks payable to: Trustees of the
University of Pennsylvania.
Mail to: Penn Alexander School,
4209 Spruce St, 19104

summer job opportunity!

UC Green, University City's grassroots community greening organization is launching a parttime summer tree maintenance employment program targeting local youth or adults interested in working outdoors and learning more about how to care for the trees of our urban forest.

Do you know someone who likes to work hard and would like to be part of the UC Green Corps?

To print out an overview and application go to: www.ucgreen.org

Questions? Contact Winnie Harris at wharris@ucgreen.org or 215-573-4684

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The Spruce Hill Community Association is a volunteer organization of neighbors working together to preserve, protect, and improve the Spruce Hill neighborhood. The organization's boundaries are Market Street to Woodland Avenue and 46th Street to 40th Street. For membership information, please contact the SHCA Center at (215) 349-7825. The Spruce Hill News serves to keep members informed about current and upcoming SHCA and neighborhood activities. For more information, please visit our website at www.sprucehillca.org.

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