



Spruce Hill Community Association

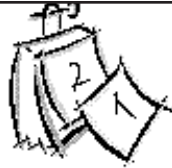
257 S. 45th St., Phila. PA 19104

Spring 2010

www.sprucehillca.org

215-349-7825

Community Calendar



Spring Plant Sale

What: The Parent Infant Center's annual plant sale. Annuals, perennials, bedding plants, herbs, vegetables, hanging baskets for Mother's Day. (The pre-order deadline is April 15, but walk-in shoppers are welcome.)

When: Fri, April 30, 3-6 pm. Sat, May 1, 10 am-3 p.m.

Where: Church, 42nd and Spruce Sts.

Bonus sale: Locust Walk, Friday, May 1, 11 am – 2pm.

Info: www.parentinfocenter.org



Veggies in Pots

What: Pennsylvania Horticultural Society teaches how to grow vegetables and herbs in containers.

When: Sat. May 1, 2 p.m.

Where: Walnut West Free Library, 201 S. 40th St.

Info: online at phsonline.org or call 215-988-8836

West Philly Art Expo



What: artists, live painting performances, live music

When: Sat. June 13, 12:30-5 pm

Where: Studio 34, 4522 Baltimore Ave.

Info: funtownproductions.com

Twelfth Night at Curio Theater

What: Shakespeare's Twelfth Night

When: April 15-May 15

Where: Calvary Church, 815 S. 48th St.

Tickets: \$10-\$15. Call 800-901-7173

Mayfair: Better than Ever



President's Corner

Spring has come to Clark Park. The cherry trees are in blossom and flocks of robins are pecking away

on the muddy banks of "the bowl," where kids were sledding not so many weeks ago. And with spring comes the annual SHCA's May Fair, which this year is set for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 8, at the park, Baltimore Avenue and 43rd St.

That's the day before Mother's Day, and it will be the fair's 52nd outing.

This year, for the first time, we've found a way to expand and add variety to our food offerings, while escaping the headaches of complying with

city health department requirements. (No more worrying about sneeze guards!) We've lined up an Amish restaurateur whose grilled chicken will draw you from five blocks away, plus a smorgasbord of food trucks including Taco Tom, Gig's Caribbean Food, and Renaissance Sausage. (Try the Asian chicken sausage with spicy mango slaw. Yum.)

As usual, the fair is offering vendor tables to all community groups, organizations and businesses who want to publicize their causes. We'll also have live music from groups based at the Calvary Center, and lots of games for the kids. And don't forget the book

table and the chance to win raffle prizes ranging from a haircut to a bowling party to an Apple Ipad!

There will also be fine crafts people, most of them from West Philadelphia, selling a truly amazing choice of jewelry, ceramics, clothing and much more.

So plan on joining us at this wonderful, community-building event. If you would like to help with putting it on, or inquire about getting a table, please leave a message at the center (215-349-7825).

Spring also means cleaning,

and this year SHCA will be on the same page as the University City District and Philadelphia More Beautiful: Put Saturday, June 10, on your calendar for block cleanups. To register your block, send an email to



The horns were a bit a last year's May Fair.

cleanandsafe@ucityphila.org.

Looking farther ahead, SHCA's goals for this year includes building up our membership and developing a network of "block reps" to be the organization's eyes and ears, and a link to residents. SHCA's effectiveness would increase dramatically if we could get block reps in place. If your block does not have a leader now and you'd like to volunteer or nominate someone, please send an email to us at mwagenveld@sprucehillca.org.

Meanwhile, we'll hope to see you at the May Fair!

Mark Wagenveld
SHCA President

Unwanted Books Wanted

Here's an easy way to do some Spring cleaning, and donate to the Mayfair book table at the same time: Just put aside old books you want to get rid of (no textbooks, please) and contact me. Don't have a box? No problem. I'll bring containers, load your unwanted tomes, and take them away! Marie McCullough at 215-222-3640 or mmccullough@sprucehillca.org.

Hotel Project Taking Unusual Zoning Route

The zoning committee is busy – as always – with a number of projects. Here’s a rundown:

The hotel project slated for 4109 Walnut Street (formerly the 40th and Pine project) was reviewed by the committee at a meeting to which all nearby neighbors were invited. The current project is not following the traditional zoning route; rather, the developers asked Councilwoman Blackwell to introduce an ordinance rezoning the portion of the block from the existing lot east to 41st street. Since Campus Apartments owns the entire parcel, City Planning had asked that a master plan be developed for the entire site to reflect possible future construction. So, instead of testifying before ZBA, the community will have an opportunity to make known its views at hearings in City

Council. The committee had a generally favorable reaction to the plans, but is the process of seeking clarifications on several points before recommending any position.

A proposal for a Barnes and Noble bookstore at University of the Sciences in Philadelphia with an adjacent coffee counter on the south side of Woodland Avenue at 42nd street was postponed so that additional conversations could take place between USP and a few concerned area merchants. We expect the meeting to be rescheduled in the near future, with sufficient notice so that all interested individuals will have an opportunity to attend.

The committee also considered an application for a

tea/coffee shop at 4329 Spruce Street, adjacent to Local 44. Agreement was reached on façade improvements for the structure and the committee gave its approval.

The committee agreed to the installation of temporary modules in the rear of buildings owned by the Restaurant School on the 4200 block of Walnut that would serve as student lounges. The committee requested a “letter of understanding” be drawn up detailing how the operation would be monitored and controlled in order to protect the quality of life for Sansom Street residents whose houses face the site. The letter will cover a variety of issues that the committee insisted be committed to writing.

We expect this to be wrapped up by the time you read this.

Finally, we had a hearing on March 24th in Common Pleas Court on Jack Gillespie’s appeal of the city zoning board’s rejection of an outdoor deck at Mill Creek Tavern. The case is now before Judge DeVito, who made it clear at the hearing that any and all cases related to Gillespie would be the exclusive province of his court, even when he leaves his current assignment in May. He will take the Gillespie file with him for any current or future action. Needless to say, we found this declaration by the judge to be breathtaking, and we could only speculate about the rationale. That said, we expect the case will be heard in late May. We will be prepared for any eventuality.

Barry Grossbach
Chair, SHCA Zoning Committee



Be a Mentor and Make a Difference

Would you like to make a crucial difference in a teenager’s life?

If so, consider volunteering to be a mentor at West Philadelphia High School. The school is looking to match caring adults with ninth and tenth grade students who are at risk of dropping out and show moderate behavior problems.

The primary qualification is a sincere desire to be a reliable friend and role model to a student. A mentor should also be a good listener and communicator, non-judgmental, a problem-solver, and respectful to persons of different backgrounds. Child abuse clearance and background checks will be required.

The mentoring program has an initial orientation and training session, followed by bi-monthly group training meetings. Each mentor is expected to meet with the student at least four hours a month for the rest of the school year, keep a log of contacts, and check in regularly with mentor staff to discuss progress and any problems.

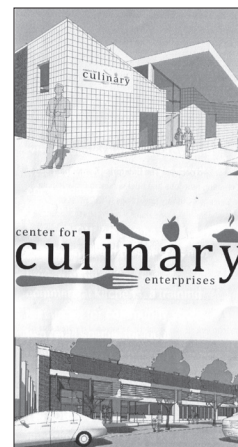
As a mentor, you’ll enjoy free attendance at various events and be eligible for incentive gifts. But the real reward is seeing a young person change for the better thanks to a relationship with you.

For more information, contact mentoring coordinator Jonas Harris at johna@sas.upenn.edu.

New Center Nurtures Food Biz

The Philadelphia Enterprise Center, the respected minority business accelerator located at 4548 Market Street, is in the process of creating the city’s first food-business incubator.

The Center for Culinary Enterprises will transform a long-vacant supermarket building at 48th and Spruce Streets into a state-of-the-art 13,000-square-foot complex that will provide resources and programming for emerging food entrepreneurs



Among the plans for the CCE:

- An “e-Kitchen,” a multimedia learning center with a demonstration kitchen and computer lab open to the public
- Three commercial kitchens for rent, equipped with cold and dry storage spaces
- Little Louie’s BBQ, a full-service restaurant with a program for high school students
- Two retail spaces for community food businesses
- An urban mini-farm to tap into the local food system.

The center’s goal is to will create 130 new permanent jobs within 24 months. Each year, it will train 100 youths in restaurant management and foster 20 new food ventures.

The need for the project is clear. A significant number of Philadelphians run informal food businesses out of their homes, such as baking cakes or catering parties. However, they lack access to commercial kitchens, business training, and start-up capital, so they face persistent obstacles to building legitimate, successful enterprises. Visit the CCE’s website, <http://philafood.net/wp/> to learn more. You can also contact Greg Heller, managing director for economic growth and community revitalization at 215.895.4075 or gheller@theenterprisecentercdc.org.



Party for the Park

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2010

5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Wilson Student Center
714-34 South 42nd Street
University of the Sciences

*Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres, Entertainment,
& Announcement of the winners of the
First Clark Park Community Grant Award*



RSVP by May 1

Tickets may be purchased
online at www.partyforthepark.org
or call (215) 243-0555

University City neighbors, block captains, community and student groups—please organize your block for the 2010 Community Cleanups!

University City District (UCD) will assist by providing
trash bags, work gloves, and trash/litter removal.

Pitch in to keep your neighborhood clean!

For more information or to sign up for any of the
University City Cleanups, please contact Dexter Bryant at
dexter@universitycity.org or 215-243-0555 x236

UNIVERSITY CITY
2010
COMMUNITY
CLEANUPS

April 3

June 19

October 23

December 4



3940 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
www.universitycity.org

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257 South 45th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104



Spruce Hill Community Association News

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Name:

Phone:

Address:

Email:

Check the mailing label for your membership expiration date.

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

Individual/Family \$20

Senior/Student \$10

Business \$35

Sponsor \$50

Patron \$100

Lifetime \$300



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