



WASHINGTON SQUARE WEST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

THE POST

Serving the Community from Broad to 7th and Walnut to South Streets since 1935

April 2003

Issue 4

WAVE IT WIDE AND HIGH: WSWCA FLAGS FOR SALE

Now that spring has finally arrived, it's time to fly the flag – the Washington Square West flag! Flags measure three feet by five feet and come in a striking “Old Glory” red with a white Civic Association logo. The design is visible on both sides of the flag.

This is the same flag that is displayed at our monthly board meetings at Jefferson Alumni Hall. And the attractive design – sprigs of ivy bordering a Federal style doorway – is the same one that appears on the Post masthead.

The flags are not just

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WSWCA Board Meeting Summary April 2003

Present J. Applebaum,, M.J. Barrett, S. Batcheler, J. Brazino, K. Cushing, M. Davidson, A. Earling, J. Jordan, J. Menegakis,, D. Pesek, A. Rice, V.Trosino

President's Report

Judy Applebaum announced that Mayor Street had appointed Judith Eden to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Judith Eden is a lawyer and has been very active with the Center City Residents Association.

Parking fines increased on April 1, 2003. Fifteen-dollar fines were raised to \$20, and towing is now \$100.

Changes are being made to the façade of the Chestnut Street Garage to allow for individualized retail spaces. Jefferson Hospital will also convert the existing office spaces on the 1000 block of Chestnut back to retail spaces after the stores in the new garage are fully rented.

The Victory Building to being renovated to include 60 residential units, a bookstore and a Starbucks cafe.

Treasurer's Report

John Jordan delivered written copies of the Treasurer's Report, which was adopted. John also indicated that new signature cards were needed on the Civic accounts to remove a former board member. Joe Brazino was substituted.

John also reported that filming for the television show, *Hack* will end shortly, but will resume in July if the program is renewed by the network. The Wash West neighborhood has been significantly affected by the filming.

Speaker: Land Value Tax

Brett Mandel from the Controller's office, also a board member of the Center City Resident's Association and the designee from the Controller's office to the Tax Reform Commission, discussed the land value tax and how it would impact residents and businesses.

Governmental Affairs Committee

Sarah Batcheler, chair of the committee, reported on the status of three pending applications and one new application:

724-26 Pine Street.

Requests for variances for multiple structures, open area requirements and maximum height of fence/wall; next-door neighbor opposed loggia. Governmental affairs recommended negotiations between members, but recommended a vote of non-opposition. The Board voted not to oppose, with one dissenting vote.

903-905 Clinton Street

Request for variance for rear and side-yard setbacks, which were existing conditions. Due to the Zoning Board Administration hearing slated for April 1, 2003, the Board had previously voted by e-mail not to oppose.

1141-43 Pine Street - Mixto

The owners have not yet applied to L&I, but seek neighborhood input regarding extending their hours of operation. Numerous neighbors appeared to voice their concerns. No action was required.

800 Market Street

A first-time request was presented to the Board regarding two doubled-faced, free-standing, illuminated signs for a parking lot. Although the location is outside the district, the owners are seeking the Board's letter of non-opposition. The Board voted not to oppose, with three members abstaining.

Awareness Committee

Philadelphia Open House: Kathy Cushing indicated that three more houses are needed for the house tours on Saturday, April 26, 2003. Jason Menegakis volunteered to handle sidewalk ticket sales on the day of the tour. Kathy also indicated that a half-hour documentary about the Wash West house Tours had been filmed by Fox TV.

Safety and Security Committee

Joe Brazino reported that Spring Clean Up is slated for May 17, 2003. Also, Councilman DiCicco's office has been involved with effecting repairs of the cobblestones on designated streets. Residents are asked to call his office if they need to have cobblestones repaired.

Greening Committee

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WSWCA Board Meeting Summaries *continued from page 1*

Virginia Trosino reported that the \$450 matching grant has not yet been claimed for the removal of an offensive ginkgo tree.

The procedure of taking Board votes via e-mail was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jane Barrett, Acting Secretary

New Business

Update from the Safety and Security Committee

Wash West Clean-Up

As the enclosed flyer proclaims, this year's Wash West Spring Clean Up is on May 17th.

Please note: this year, Society Hill will have their clean-up on May 3 to coincide with their house tours. The Society Hill Clean-up will include the 700 blocks of Locust, Manning, Spruce, Delancey, Pine, Addison and Lombard Streets, along with 7th Street from Locust to Lombard and the 200 and 400 blocks of Perth Street. These blocks *will not* be included as part of the Wash West Clean-Up.

The Eastern boundary *will* include 8th Street from Locust to South; the 700 blocks of Rodman and Bradford Alley and the 500 block of 7th Street.

Wash West did not schedule their clean-up in conjunction with Society Hill's this year due to the Equality Forum, which will be taking place in Wash West over the weekend of May 3rd. In the future, however, Society Hill and Wash West will coordinate their clean-up efforts whenever possible.

Call for Volunteers!

If you would like to assist in preparation for the cleanup by hanging "no parking" signs and covering parking meters, your efforts would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Joe Brazino at 215-985-0860.

Thanks All Around

As always, special thanks are extended to the Streets Department, the Police Department and the Parking Authority for their cooperation in making the cleanup possible. We are also very grateful to Councilman DiCicco and his staff who have once again offered the services of the Citizen's Alliance for Better Neighborhoods.

One Eyesore – Eliminated!

Have you noticed that the brick planters on the corner of Broad and Spruce – directly opposite the Kimmel Center – have been removed? These planters used to serve as "park benches" for vendor cart customers and were perpetually litter-strewn. Pictures of these eyesores were provided to Councilman DiCicco, who contacted the owner on our behalf. Since some

exterior work was being done on the property, the owner agreed to remove the planters. Score one for a cleaner, more attractive neighborhood!

Town Watch Coming to Wash West

The Safety and Security Committee is working with Town Watch to develop a program for Wash West. Our approach will not be to patrol the neighborhood on foot, but to act as individual reporters of area crime, nuisance and quality of life issues to City agencies. If you are interested in becoming a part of this effort, please contact Joe Brazino at (215) 985-0860.

Community Court Program—Volunteers Needed!

We are now working with the Community Court of Philadelphia to have individuals sentenced to community service work in Wash West to keep our neighborhood clean and graffiti-free. However, we'll need neighborhood volunteers to monitor their work. If you are interested in volunteering a few hours each month to make this program happen, please call Joe Brazino at (215) 985-0860. The Community Court provides services seven-days-a-week, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Accolades to ABC: Alliance for a Better Community

Yet another neighborhood eyesore was banished with the help of Loree Jones from the Managing Director's Office. Loree contacted the owner of the garage at Broad and Pine. The Pine Street side the garage had become covered with posters and graffiti. The posters were removed, the wall was painted and a "post no bills" sign was affixed. This area will be monitored to make sure it remains poster and graffiti free. Please call Joe Brazino at (215) 985-0860 to report other areas that need attention.

US Postal Service Mailboxes to Get Makeovers

The 24 green mailboxes in Wash West are scheduled for graffiti removal thanks to Jane Maull at the Postal Service. The Safety and Security Committee is working with the Postal Service to create a plan to maintain these mailboxes on a regular basis.

FLAGS

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for Civic Association members. They bear the wording "Washington Square West; Philadelphia, PA" and are appropriate for anyone in the neighborhood to display.

Flags are priced at \$40, which is actually below cost. Six-foot poles are \$7.00. Metal brackets are \$3.00.

To purchase, please make your check payable to: WSW Civic Association and send to the Civic office at 1209 Locust Street, Philadelphia, 19107.

Arrangements will be made for delivery or for you to pick up your flag at the Civic office.

Greening

Committee:

Offending Ginkgo Grant

Is there an "offensive" ginkgo tree in your neighborhood? According to Virginia Trosino, Chair of the Greening Committee, a matching grant of up to \$450.00 is available to combat "offending ginkgo" trees. An offending ginkgo is one that is truly damaging to surrounding property. For example, an offending tree might move a wall to the extent that a garden gate will no longer close. Dropped berries or an uplifted pavement are not enough to meet the criteria for "offensive."

If you have an offending ginkgo or know of one, please contact Virginia Trosino at virginia.t@worldnet.att.net

Fox-TV Features Wash West in Philadelphia House Tours Promo

Grover Silcox, on air personality for Fox's Good Day Philadelphia, interviewed WSWCA Board of Directors member Kathy Cushing for a spot on the Philadelphia Open House Tours. The segment, filmed on April 7th, features three homes on Clinton Street and will air repeatedly beginning on April 21, 2003. No precise air time has been specified.

"The filming was complicated by the fact that we were having our last snow-fall of the season on that day," says Kathy. "It was amusing that they were trying to film footage for a springtime event as the snow fell relentlessly! Luckily, Fox News dug up some existing Wash West footage that was spliced in with our interior shots, so no

one will be the wiser."

According to Kathy, this year's Wash West Open House Tour, Saturday April 29th, features a press party marking the event's 25th Anniversary. There will be a cake-cutting at noon and additional press coverage is anticipated. Day-of-tour tickets for the Wash West House Tour will be available at Lunacy and at Show of Hands, both on Pine Street.

This year's commemorative poster once again features the façade of a home in Wash West. The posters, on sale at Lunacy for \$5.00, will be available until June 1st.

Community Calendar

Wednesday, April 30th:

Stroke Screening. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Gibbon Building Lobby on 10th Street, between Chestnut and Sansom Streets. Medical students will check blood pressure and screen for carotid artery disease and atrial fibrillation. Free.

Sunday, May 4th:

Bike Ride—Trees in Philadelphia.

Noon. A family-friendly, 15-mile bike ride, taking in the historic trees along Fairmount Park and West Laurel Hill. Helmets required; water bottles recommended. Bikes will be available for rent. Contact: (215) 735- BIKE, www.phillybikeclub.org or Mindy at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society: (215) 988-8844.



Wednesdays, May 7

& 14:

Designing Your City Garden; 6 - 8

p.m. Pennsylvania Horticultural Center, Belmont and Montgomery Avenues, West Park, Philadelphia. This two-part workshop will help you lay the groundwork for creating your personal outdoor paradise. Instructor: Michael LoFurno. Fee: \$50 for members; \$70 for non-members. Limit: 25.

Saturday, May 18th:

Historic Antique Row Business Association (HARBA) Culinary Arts Festival.

Our neighborhood at it's finest: sample the fare of our restaurants and "shop til you drop" at this festive annual event. Hours: 11:

30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., along Pine Street.

Wednesday, May 21st:

Kahn Park Concert Series featuring the Juanita Holiday Jazz Quartet. 7:30 p.m. Rain date: Thursday, May 22nd.

Saturday, May 31st:

Garden and Architecture Tour,

Awbury Arboretum. Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical Society. Learn about the Cope family compound that became the Awbury Arboretum on this day-long trip. Transportation to and from the Society, all tours, and a box lunch are included. Please note: this tour involves rigorous walking and lots of steps. Fee: \$50 per person for members, \$60 for non-members. Reservations and information: (215) 732-6200, ext 412, or e-mail events@hsp.org.

Wednesday, June 4th:

Tour of the Horticultural Center's Trees.

6:30 – 8 p.m. Refreshments will follow. The Horticultural Center, Belmont and Montgomery Aves., West Park, Philadelphia. For more information, contact Marilyn Reynolds at (215) 988-8872.

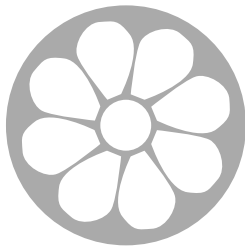
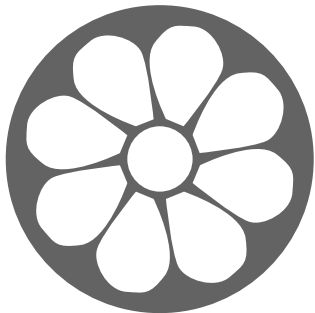
Sunday, June 29th:

Stride Piano Concert with Jazz Pianist Neville Dickie of Surrey, England;

4 p.m., Old Pine Street Church, 412 Pine Street. Admission: \$15 at the door. For more information, call (856) 234-5147 or visit www.TriStateJazz.com

Washington Square West Spring Clean-up Day

Saturday, May 17th, 2003



- ❁ **Park your car(s) on the opposite side of the street** on Friday evening, May 16th, after 6 p.m. where posted
- ❁ Pick up brooms and bags after noon, Friday, or from 9 a.m., Saturday, at Washington Square Paint and Hardware: 257 S. 10th.
- ❁ Sweep your yards, alleyways, sidewalks & gutters
- ❁ Bag your leaves and trash
- ❁ Place bags at major intersections on Locust, Spruce, Pine and Lombard where they cross numbered streets, by 1 p.m. Saturday
- ❁ Re-park your car by 3 p.m. Saturday, May 17, 2003

**Questions? Call the WSWCA
at 215-545-3260**

North Boundary: Locust Street / South Boundary: Up to South Street
East Boundary: 7th Street / West Boundary: Up to Broad Street

Rain or Shine!

HALF-PRICE

ENTERTAINMENT

VALUES!

Thursdays are a great day to make your weekend entertainment plans ... especially since that's the day that the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance posts their list of half-price tickets for area art, entertainment and cultural venues.

Here's how it works: you must register one-time only, and at NO charge, to receive the Thursday postings, which are only available by accessing the cultural alliance's website. Go to

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Neighborhood School Offers Advantages

By Keri White

So here we are, enjoying the life in Society Hill and Wash West. We stroll to cafes, pass hours in the parks, enjoy playgroups at Hall Mercer and then BAM! it hits us: Where will this child go to school?

There are a few private school options, but space is limited and getting worse as more families stay in the city. The alternative of driving 30-plus minutes to a suburban campus becomes a reality as we frantically seek noteworthy alums to write recommendations for our precious three-year-old. If s/he is one of the chosen ones, we then take out a second mortgage to finance pre-school ... or do we? Can anyone say, "Stop the Insanity!"

The answer is yes. My family and I started out with the above scenario. After a week of misery for all of us, we quit. I was wretched spending three hours each day in the car, as was my three-year-old. We were all crazed having to depart the house by 7:30 a.m. The stress was making us sleep deprived, rushed and cranky; so we just stopped.

We found a wonderful, nurturing, academically challenging, diverse and loving place: McCall School at 6th and Delancey Streets. My son entered a class of 15 children with two teachers and an aide. He started reading and writing sentences, is learning to use punctuation, has mastered math and counting skills, has sharpened his computer skills and has learned several words and songs in Chinese. He has art, music, computer, health and gym classes several times a week.

In October, his class visited a farm and pumpkin patch. For Thanksgiving, the class hosted a "Sharing Luncheon" where each child brought his favorite food for the group to taste. The

spread was amazing: pizza, lo mein, Bangladeshi vegetable fritters, fried chicken, English pudding and deviled eggs, to name a few of the offerings.

In December, the teachers walked the class to Lord and Taylor for the Holiday Light Show. In January, the class celebrated the Chinese New Year with a school-based performance by the Beijing Opera Troupe. February brought a trip to the Annenberg Center to hear music by the Tokyo Drum Ensemble.

The most impressive aspect of McCall however, is the people who comprise the school. The student body is extremely polite, well behaved and kind. This is a reflection of the faculty, which is professional, warm, patient, supportive and perpetually positive. As a former teacher with a masters in education, I have some experience in this area. I can only say that we are truly lucky to have an institution like McCall in our midst. Living in the neighborhood guarantees admission – and there is no tuition.

In addition to all the great things the school has to offer, McCall has given us back our cherished Society Hill life. We leave the house at a leisurely 8:15 a.m., walk a few blocks and say goodbye with no worries. I stroll to the gym, bank, post office, etc. and am back at 3 p.m. We ramble home – maybe stopping at the park to play, perhaps making a detour to the café for a hot chocolate or even complete a last few errands en route home. Isn't this the reason we live here?

With neighborhood support and parental involvement, we can make this good school truly great.

This article originally appeared in The Society Hill Reporter.

2003 Membership Form

Washington Square West Civic Association

1209 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

215-545-3260, Fax 215-545-9150, email info@washwestcivic.org

Name _____	Seniors and Disabled	\$7.00
Business Name _____	Individual	\$15.00
Address _____	Household	\$25.00
_____	Individual Patron	\$100.00
_____	Small Business (1-15 emp.)	\$25.00
Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____	Medium Business (16-35 emp.)	\$50.00
Email _____ Fax _____	Large Business (36+ emp.)	\$100.00
	Contribution	\$ _____

HALF PRICE *continued from page 5*

www.phillyfunguide.com and click on the text in the upper right-hand corner that reads, "sign up for half-price tickets." Fill in and submit the requested information. It's that easy! Postings are available each Thursday at 11 a.m.

Recent half price activities have

included events at the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Please Touch Museum and the Academy of Natural Sciences, among others.

You can easily remove your name and friendly, responsive help is available if you have questions about the events posted. Simply call

(215) 557-7811 or send an e-mail to site_admin@phillyfunguide.com

Catch the generous spirit of these outstanding cultural organizations and have fun in your hometown. Sign up today!

WSWCA BUSINESS MEMBERS

1108 Spruce St. Condo Assn.
1130 Spruce St. Condo Assn.
12th Air Command
12th Street Gym
310 Juniper Associates
Accent on Design
Alan S. Cappel, Esq.
Alexander Inn
All Occasions Flowers Ltd.
Amer. Postal Workers House
Antiques & Interiors
Apt. and Townhouse Rentals
Associated Property
Management, Inc.
Benjamin Cobrin & Company
BLEND0 Past and Present
Bill Grubb/Prudential Fox Roach
Bump
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Center City Animal Clinic
Center City One
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Church of St. Luke & The
Epiphany
Circle of Hope Church
Columbus Property Management
Community Pet Care
ConEast Properties Ltd.
Cosmopolitan Apartments
Daedalus Group

Danny's Bookstore
David Slovic Associates
Dee Paper Company
Deux Cheminees
Dirty Frank's
Drew House Partners
Estate Interiors LLC
Fineman Realty Group
Foodery
Franklin Medical Building
Geekgirl Graphics
Giovanni's Room
Hair Extraordinaire
Harold S. Levin, Inc.
Happily Ever After
Haute to Trot
Hellenic Center Travel Inc.
Hello World Fine Gifts
Henry George School
Historical Society of PA
Holiday Inn Express-Midtown
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John C. Clark Company
Karlyn Rosen Design
La Buca Ristorante
Lenny's Shoe Service
Logan's Restaurant
Lunacy Antiques
M. Finkel & Daughter
Maggie Oswald, Chiropractor

Max Beckhoff Locksmith
Mercy Hospice
META5 Inc.
Metropolitan Bakery
Mitchell & Ness Sporting Goods
More Than Just Ice Cream
New Century Guild
Pennsylvania Hospital
Philadelphia Design Associates
Philadelphia International Records
Philadelphia Mental Health Center
Photography by Patrick Mattera
Pine Street Pizza
Planned Parenthood of S.E. PA
Portico Row Unit Owners Assn.
Quince-Lombard Parking Corp.
Rodman Street Condo Assoc.
Russakoff Book Store
S&S Properties Cherry Hill
Show of Hands
Seraphin Gallery
Signatures Gentlemen's Club
Silvio Modafferi, Attorney at Law
Sisters
Spruce Street Video
St. George Senior Housing
Stephenson Bros. Printers
Steven Fries Chiropractor
Taco House
The Hairdressers

The Inn on Locust
The Inn Philadelphia
Thomas Jefferson University
Two-Four Club
Uncles Bar
Uncles Upstairs Inn
Uniquely Philadelphia, Inc.
University of the Arts
Urban Genesis Institute
Valanni Restaurant
Venture Inn
V.I.P. Market
Walnut Street Theatre
Walsh & Recker, P.C.
Washington Court Condo Assn.
Washington Square Chiropractic
Center
Washington Square Paint and
Hardware
Washington Sq. Real Estate
Wein-Reba Investment Group
William Penn Realty Company
William Way Community Center
Wills Eye Hospital
Woody's
Women of Hope
Xemon Technology Solutions
Young's Pharmacy



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