



WASHINGTON SQUARE WEST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

THE POST

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

March 2003

Issue 3

CONCERNED
ABOUT PROPERTY
TAXES?
DON'T MISS THE
WSWCA APRIL
MEETING!

**Guest speaker:
Brett Mandel,
City Controller's
Office**
**Topic: Taxation
and the
Controller's
Proposal on
Land-Value
Taxation**
**Date: Tuesday,
April 8, 2003**
**Time: 7:30 p.m.
(Mr. Mandell
will speak at
approximately 7:
45 p.m.)**
**Place: Jefferson
Alumni Hall;
1020 Locust
Street;
Rm. 139**

WSWCA Board Meeting Summaries February 2003

Present: J. Applebaum, J. Armeth, M.J. Barrett, S. Batcheler, J. Brazino, K. Cushing, A. Earling, I. Gold, J. Jordan, J. Menegakis, V. Trosino

Mardi Gras

Lieutenant Walker discussed the Police Department's plans for Mardi Gras on March 4th. Bars on South Street have agreed to close at 7p.m. Bike patrol officers will make their rounds in groups of six and police will conduct hourly bar inspections. The goal is to contain the Mardi Gras celebration to the area between 6th and 2nd streets. There will be no parking on South Street and ropes will be placed on parking meters from 2nd street to 5th street.

Property Taxes

David Fitz, legislative aide to Councilman DiCicco, spoke about efforts to appeal this year's property tax increases. Appeal hearings in the 5th Ward are expected in April. **Wash West residents who have filed appeals will receive a letter informing them of the exact date and time of the April hearings.**

Property taxes are normally due by the end of March. However, last December, a bill was introduced by Councilman DiCicco to extend the period of an early pre-payment discount for those awaiting the results of their property tax appeals. The bill stipulates that residents who pay their property taxes within 60 days after written notice is mailed from the Board of Revisions receive a 1% discount. Property taxes paid within 90 days of that date would be accepted without late penalty. Residents who pay taxes more than 90 days after the Board's decision date will be penalized 1% percent. According to Mr. Fitz, Mayor Street is expected to pass this bill and residents who have filed an appeal should retain their real estate bill and postpone payment until after the results of their appeal hearings. Meanwhile, Councilman DiCicco intends to try for the third time to get a 10% cap on property tax assessments.

Minutes

The December board meeting minutes were adopted with one correction: the Governmental Affairs Committee will meet on

the fourth Tuesday of every month (rather than the last Tuesday of the month.). The January minutes were adopted following two corrections under the heading of Safety and Security/Wash West Lighting. The minutes omitted Councilman DiCicco's initiative regarding the grant application submitted to the Department of Economic Development. Specifically, with the help of Councilman DiCicco, Wash West was able to approach Senator Fumo who submitted a grant application of \$25,000 to the Department of Economic Development on our behalf. Additionally, a correction was made regarding monies received from the office of State Representative Babette Josephs. The monies have not yet been received, but the WSWCA Board is pleased to report that we have received a commitment for \$20,000 in funding from Representative Josephs to improve our street lighting.

Treasurer's Report

John Jordan reported that the Greening Committee has spent \$4,700 for tree planting. In anticipation of this expense, \$6,000 was transferred from the savings to the checking account. Also noted was a grant for \$3,000 received from Babette Josephs office for general support of WSWCA. The treasurer's report was unanimously adopted.

President's Report

President Judy Applebaum reported the following:

A coalition of Civic Associations have asked Mayor Street to employ an independent planner to analyze and make recommendations for developing Penn's Landing.

The South Street Alliance will meet again in February to finalize plans for Mardi Gras. The Land Value Tax will be a major issue for the next elections. The Board hopes to arrange for a speaker to explain the Land Value Tax at our April 8th meeting. As usual, the community is encouraged to attend this and all WSWCA Board meetings.

Judy Applebaum received a letter from Hack Productions apologizing for "no parking" signs appearing in the neighborhood without warn-

continued on page 2

WSWCA Board Meeting Summaries *continued from page 1*

ing and resulting in car tows. In the future, advance notice will be provided.

Membership Committee

The annual renewal letter was mailed to the membership at the end of January. The WSWCA membership is currently comprised of 141 households (two or more residents) and 110 businesses. The Membership Committee is evaluating a possible 2004 dues increase.

Governmental Affairs

The Governmental Affairs Committee presented a written summary of its January 28th meeting summarizing three property proposals and made recommendations to the Board regarding each proposal:

1016 Waverly Street

The Committee recommended that the Board vote to support a proposal to redraw this property's lot line to incorporate the entire back yard of 1016 Waverly. One individual owns all three houses.

911-917 Clinton Street

The Committee recommended Board approval of a proposal to convert Coles House to condominium units. The applicant has made efforts to hear and satisfy concerns of the Governmental Affairs Committee, as well as neighbors, including the Historic Clinton Street Association and the Historical Commission. The total number of units was reduced allowing for larger units fronting Clinton Street. In addition, the issues of parking, conservation and planting beds have been under review.

1214 Locust Street

The Committee recommended that the Board oppose a proposed conversion of this vacant building to a storefront commercial and three rental apartments requiring a change in zoning. The Committee expressed concern about the small size of the proposed ground floor studio.

Motion: A motion was unanimously passed to adopt the slate of recommendations made by the Governmental Affairs Committee for each of the three proposals submitted.

Safety & Security

This Committee continues its work to improving street lighting in Wash West. Committee members met with the City's Streets Department engineer in charge of lighting to explore three lighting proposals at three budget levels.

The spring clean-up will take place on Saturday, May 17th in conjunction with the Society Hill

Civic Association. This marks a move from an annual to a twice-yearly clean-up in Wash West.

"Pridefest" has been renamed the "Equality Forum" and will take place on April 25th.

Councilman DiCicco's office has spoken with the Streets Department and ascertained that bids for repair of neighborhood cobble stone streets are being solicited.

Greening

The Greening Committee has issued applications for membership in the community gardens for the 2003 season. The Committee continues its dead tree removal program.

It was suggested that the Greening Committee consider labeling newly planted trees to make its contributions to the beautification of our community more visible.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Iris J. Gold
Secretary

WSWCA Board Meeting Summary: March 2003

Present: J. Applebaum, J. Arneith, S. Batcheler, K. Cushing, A. Earling, I. Gold, J. Hofer, J. Jordan, J. Menegakis, V. Trosino

HARBA Culinary Arts Festival

David Richards of Historic Antique Row Business Association (HARBA) spoke about the May 18th Festival, scheduled to run from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. David said that the purpose of the festival is to draw people to Pine Street and generate excitement. There will be cooking demonstrations and entertainment. A discussion ensued about the trolley tours that travel on Pine Street and the need to coordinate with tour operators so that riders will know about altered drop off and pick up locations. The association is marketing the event with banners, posters and advertising. David requested that WSWCA contribute \$250 to support the event as it did last year. The board voted to make this donation.

Mural Arts

David Wynn of the City's Mural Arts Program announced that a mural has been commissioned for the east-facing wall of the Morris Animal Refuge at 13th and Lombard. The mural will feature portraits of real-life pets. Neighbors

continued on page 4

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Thursday, April 3, 7:15 p.m., New Century Guild 1307 Locust St. Dr. Craig Eisendrath discusses "The Bush Administration Rewrites the Rules in Central America and Africa."

Thursday, May 1st, 7:15 p.m. New Century Guild, 1307 Locust St. "U.S. Policy in the Middle East."

Both lectures are free. Dinner is available preceding each lecture and may be ordered until 24 hours before the event. The price is \$15. Call Elaine Pennel at 215-735-7593.

NEED A CAR FOR AN HOUR? PHILLY-CAR-SHARE CAN HELP!

Philly-Car-Share is a new enterprise designed to expand the transportation options available to city residents. The basic premise is to provide access to environmentally friendly automobiles on an hourly, paid-usage basis without the hassle of vehicle ownership.

Philly-Car-Share makes cars available to members on a short-term basis, although there is no minimum or maximum length of usage.

The vehicles, including a Toyota Prius and a Matrix hatchback, have hybrid gas/electric power and thus emit 84 percent less greenhouse gases. The cars are kept at a number of locations, including the garage over Whole Foods Market, 1500 Locust, Rittenhouse Square and Queen Village.

Usage fees are \$3.90 per hour, plus \$39

continued on page 4

WSWCA Board Meeting Summaries *continued from page 2*

may submit photos of their pets to be included in a raffle that will determine which images are included in the mural. Work on the mural will begin on August 18th.

President's Report

President Judy Applebaum reported the following:

George Anni, restaurateur and owner of 1215 Camac Street, has been denied the variance needed for the development of a new restaurant at that location. Mr. Anni intends to appeal the decision. If the appeal is denied, he will rent the property.

The Western Union Building, currently owned by Thomas Jefferson University, is for sale. Judy will attend a meeting called by Councilman DiCicco later this month for additional details about the property and to discuss neighborhood lighting and other issues.

Alliance for a Better Community which includes HARBA, WSWCA, East of Broad Civic Association, Seger Park and Friends of Kahn Park, met to discuss a budget for neighborhood lighting. Estimates for the project are approximately \$5 million. Councilman DiCicco will attempt to locate funding sources so that work can begin on this long-term project.

A letter has been issued to commercial and residential neighbors to determine preferred days for garbage pick up.

Brett Mandell from the City Controller's Office will attend the May meeting to speak on the Land Value Tax and other property taxes affecting neighbors.

Mardi Gras was celebrated on South Street this year without disruptive episodes. The South Street Alliance will continue to meet quarterly at the Managing Director's Office.

The Equality Forum will be held From April 25th to May 4th. For street closures, see the article in this edition of the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

John Jordan, Committee Chair, made 2003 election calendars available to those in attendance. John added that WSWCA's income has been generated by two sources: greening garden plot rentals and membership dues.

Safety and Security

The Spring Cleanup will be held on May 17th. See this edition of the newsletter for additional details.

Greening

Virginia Trosino spoke about the anticipated invasion of Asian Beetles in our area. The beetles are highly destructive and Virginia expects many of our trees to be lost. See article in this edition of the newsletter for additional details.

Awareness

Jerry Hofer announced that an abbreviated issue of *the Post* has been issued in order to promote time-sensitive events.

Jerry also announced that Virginia Trosino is participating in Book and the Cook this year.

Philadelphia Open House is still need of area homes to showcase for this year's Spring Event. Anyone who would like to recommend a home may contact Kathy Cushing at cushingka@aol.com.

Governmental Affairs

The Governmental Affairs Committee presented a written summary of its February meeting and made recommendations to the Board regarding each proposal:

929 Clinton Street

Involves conversion of 7-unit rental property to owner-occupied 4-unit property; partial 4th or 5th floor addition. Application was submitted to L&I. A notice of refusal for height restriction is expected. Applicant hopes to make May 1 start date and has requested a vote at this Board meeting. A historic review has been initiated. In addition, the applicant is meeting with Historic Clinton Street Association is scheduled

Committee Recommendation: Recommend full board to review and vote at 03.11.03 meeting.

1114 Spruce Street

Involves conversion of lower level of row house/apartment building property to management office. Refused for use.

Committee Recommendation: Recommend to not oppose.

920 Pine Street

Involves conversion of vacant floors above storefront to 3 apartments
Refused for use: (silversmith exceeding 20 percent of gross floor area), rear yard minimum area (existing condition), and maximum height (existing condition)

Committee Recommendation: Recommend to not oppose.

Respectfully submitted,
Iris J. Gold
Secretary

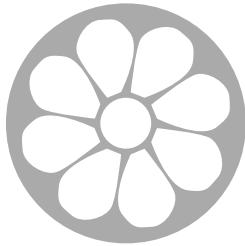
Washington Square West Spring Clean-up Day

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

❁ 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!

CAR SHARE

continued from page 3

per mile and include insurance and gas. Philly-Car-Share is responsible for cleaning and maintenance. Vehicle reservations can be made online or by telephone and can even be arranged minutes before desired use.

Interested?

Membership in Philly-Car-Share is required. There is an application process that includes submission of a non-refundable \$25.00 fee. Driving and credit records are checked for insurance and billing purposes. If accepted, a refundable deposit of \$350.00 is required, along with a monthly \$10.00 administrative fee. The driver must also attend a one-hour orientation. Additional information is available at www.philly-carshare.org or by calling 215-386-0988.

Hosts for Hospitals Needs Your Help

Would you like to make a real difference in someone's life?

Hosts for Hospitals (HfH) is a nonprofit agency providing free lodging at volunteer-host homes to patients and families who come to Philadelphia for specialized medical care. Unfortunately, many patients have been unable to receive the medical care they need due to a lack of affordable lodging. Since its founding in July 2000, HfH hosts have provided over 200 guest families 5,940 nights of lodging – saving these families an estimated \$338,000 in hotel expenses.

HfH is receiving numerous requests from patients receiving medical care at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Wills-Eye Hospital

and Pennsylvania Hospital. Particularly needed are elevator-serviced or one-level host homes.

Hosts provide guests a comfortable place to sleep and a feeling of home. The guests are screened by HfH and are responsible for their own food and transportation, though hosts commonly provide kitchen privileges.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a host family please contact: Mike Aichenbaum, Director at 610-660-6667 or via E-mail: HfHospitals@aol.com. More information is available at www.hostsforhospitals.org

Philadelphia Open House Tours 2003

Friends of Independence Hall will conduct their 25th annual tour of homes and gardens this spring. Our community has chosen once again to participate in the annual event, but with a major change in dates. Our tour has usually been Mother's Day weekend, but this year, to attract new sites and possibly a selection of other attendees, we have moved to Saturday, April 26th.

The first organizational meeting was held on January 22nd with attendance by the tour hosts from each civic association that will design the anniversary tours.

We are hoping to create a special tour this year with grand, interesting and unique homes, apartments and/or gardens, so if you are willing to showcase your abode please contact one of us on the committee. Suggestions from the community are always welcome, so give us a name or address to contact even if you do not wish to approach a neighbor or friend.

As has been the practice, we use guides/hostesses in each home, so if you wish to

participate in a tour in our neighborhood you would be committing two hours as a guide and then have another two hours to take the tour.

Homeowners that have participated in the early years may have some photos of those tours or have stories/comments on the experience. Any old photos of this neighborhood through the last 25 years would be a nice display possibility and/or any interesting historic facts about locations in the tour area.

Please call the Civic office or Kathy Cushing (home – 215-627-7598) with any suggestions or questions.

The Civic and the Tour committee is hoping to celebrate this anniversary year with a memorable experience for all tour attendees and to have @Washington Square West outshine the other neighborhoods with your input.

Please look out for the tour posters as they are distributed and note with pride the home pictured is again a Wash West house on the 1000 block of Clinton Street!

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 _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Email _____ Fax _____

Seniors and Disabled \$7.00

Individual \$15.00

Household \$25.00

Individual Patron \$100.00

Small Business (1-15 emp.) \$25.00

Medium Business (16-35 emp.) \$50.00

Large Business (36+ emp.) \$100.00

Contribution \$ _____



ALERT!

Asian Beetles Expected in Philadelphia

Asian Longhorned Beetles, which have already destroyed trees in Chicago and New York, may be on the way to Philadelphia, according to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. The beetles eat through the cambium layer of hardwoods, causing the death of maple, elm, horsechestnut, ash, birch and willow trees. Unfortunately, there is no remedy for this invasive killer and damaged trees must be cut down.

The only defense is early detection. Neighbors are encouraged to be alert for the beetles and the dime-sized exit holes that they leave in tree trunks. If you spot any unwelcome new arrivals, alert Virginia Trosino of the Greening Committee. Virginia may be reached at virginia.t@worldnet.att.net

WSWCA BUSINESS MEMBERS

1108 Spruce St. Condo Assn.
 12th Air Command
 12th Street Gym
 310 Juniper Associates
 Accent on Design
 Alan S. Carpel, Esq.
 Alexander Inn
 All Occasions Flowers Ltd.
 Amer. Postal Workers House
 Antiques & Interiors
 Apt. and Townhouse Rentals
 Associated Property
 Management, Inc.
 Benjamin Cobrin & Company
 BLENDO Past and Present
 Bill Grubb/Prudential Fox Roach
 Cecil Baker & Associates
 Center City Animal Clinic
 Center City One
 Chancellor Associates
 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
 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
 Horizon House Inc.
 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
 Association
 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
 Woodys
 Women of Hope
 Xernon Technology Solutions
 Young's Pharmacy



**1209 Locust Street
 Philadelphia, PA
 19107**

**215-545-3260
 215-545-9150 (fax)**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT
Judith Applebaum
VICE PRESIDENT
John Arneith
TREASURER
John Jordan
SECRETARY
Iris J. Gold

Mary Jane Barrett	Diana Pesek
Sarah Batcheler	Alexander Rice
Joe Brazino	Virginia Trosino
Kathy Cushing	THE POST
Michael Davidson	Editor:
Annette C. Earling	Joyce Brazino
Jerome Hofer	Design:
Jason Menegakis	Geekgirl Graphics