



NEWSLETTER

Friends of Clark Park
PO Box 31908, Philadelphia, PA 19104
215-552-8186,
web: <http://www.clarkpark.info>
email: Friends@clarkpark.info

February 2003

Frank L. Chance Editor
Andrew W. Cole Publisher

PLAYGROUND FUND NEEDS YOUR HELP!

by Andrew W. Cole

As many of you know, the Friends of Clark Park (FOCP) in cooperation with the University City District (UCD) has been working towards raising funds to match the grant from the William Penn Foundation for the construction of the new playgrounds. Currently we have received approximately \$38,000 from several large donors in the area, however, we still must raise \$12,000 to match the \$50,000 from the William Penn Foundation. This amount is needed in addition to the \$100,000 provided by the City Council through support provided by Councilwoman Blackwell's office.

To reach our current level we have received generous donations from Mary Goldman, Representative Jim Roebuck, UCD, Independence Blue Cross, the Department of Recreation, and Commerce Bank among others. However, **we need more support from the neighborhood to show that the community supports the playgrounds.** Please send your tax deductible donations to the **Clark Park Playground Fund**, PO Box 7416, Philadelphia, PA 19101-8812.

CLARK PARK MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL SUMMER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL JUNE 21 NOON TO 8:00 PM 43/CHESTER

by Glenn Moyer

Come celebrate the 33 year long West Philly tradition of music and arts festivals at Clark Park. Organized by neighborhood volunteers, local performers and artists showcase their original work to the community. Join the celebration of the artistic wealth in our diverse urban neighborhood. For more information call 215.730.0607 or go to www.clarkpark.org

ARCHIVISTS NEEDED

by Andrew W. Cole

Since becoming president it seems a lot of people decided to clean out their basements and have delivered the accumulated treasure of almost thirty years of Clark Park history to me. Although I've gone through it briefly I'd appreciate a more knowledgeable person to look through these files, organize them, and identify them for future use and preservation. If you have any interest in helping out with this project, please contact me at 215.222.3772 or via email at andrew.cole@ldc.upenn.edu.

HELLO CLARK PARK NEIGHBORS

by Barbara McCabe

Neighborhood Parks Coordinator
Philadelphia Recreation Department

I was asked to write a note for your newsletter to explain the process for obtaining a permit to hold an event in Clark Park. As the Citywide Neighborhood Parks Coordinator for the Recreation Department, I have been involved with the permit process for five years, since 1998. In addition to Clark Park, I work as a liaison for the Department to more than 40 active park communities. Clark Park is a very busy and well-used park, and I have learned much from the process here. Until 2002, Clark Park issued more permits for events than any other neighborhood park in our system. Last year, however, Malcolm X Park, another beautiful West Philadelphia park, actually surpassed Clark in number of permits issued. Recent improvements to Malcolm X, including the addition of the central pavilion, have led to the increased usage there. Clark, though, still has more large-scale events than any other park. Citywide, neighborhood parks are enjoying an exciting rebirth and revitalization. More and more Philadelphians are coming to realize the value and beauty of their local park, and the important role it plays in the health and vitality of their community.

If you are planning to hold an event in Clark Park this year, you must apply for and obtain a permit through the Recreation District Manager in your area, **Joseph Dougherty**. Joe can be reached at 215-685-2697. His office is located in the F.J. Myers Recreation Center at 58th & Kingsessing, but you should call first before you go. At least two weeks notice is required for events, and you should try to reserve your dates early. Mr. Dougherty keeps the Master Calendar of Events for the current year. Joe and I work closely to address any permit issues or problems both before approval and after events occur. Copies of all permits are then forwarded to me in the Recreation Parks office. Friends of Clark Park also receive a copy of all permits.

Back in 2001, a committee was formed to address community concerns regarding parks usage, specifically for permitted events. The *Clark Park Quality of Life Task Force (QOL)* included representatives from the

(continued on page 3)

MAY FAIR REPRESENTATIVE

by **Andrew W. Cole**

The May Fair is coming up May 10, 2003, and the Friends of Clark Park will need volunteers to staff our table. You can volunteer for just one hour or all day. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and see what the life of a street vendor must be like as you sell FOCP shirts, Satterlee maps and other items related to Clark Park.

If you wish to volunteer or if you have any questions, please call Tony West at 215.349.9681 or email him at anthony_west@dca.net.

SPRING SOCCER TO BEGIN MARCH 22

by **Paul Brooks**

Register soon for FOCP's Clark Park Youth Soccer League. The spring season, our 14th, will run from March 22 through May 17. Girls and boys ages 5 through 11 are eligible. The 9-week season will feature intramural games and skills-development every Saturday, at a low cost. Younger kids play from 10:30 to noon; older ones from noon to 1:30. Registration forms will be mailed in Feb. to all players who participated in spring or fall 2002; to insure a place for your child(ren), complete and return the forms with payment by March 1. Open registration (for new players) will begin March 1: call (215-552-8186) on March 1 to apply.

We wish we could take every child, but we haven't enough volunteer coaches. If you're interested in coaching, call us **now** at (215-552-8186). Neither coaching experience nor soccer skills are required, because training is available—you just need to enjoy teaching children. CPYSL is a member of the Eastern Pa. Youth Soccer Association.

Financial support for CPYSL comes from neighborhood sponsors including: Spruce Hill Community Assn. (349-7825), Audiomind (222-1500), Wayne's Garage (222-5703), O'Donnell Real Estate (222-2600), Calvary Center for Culture and Community (386-6494), Philadelphia Construction (662-1000), Reading Terminal Market; Vincent Goffredo Plumbing & Heating (724-3425), Rx Restaurant (222-9590), Marigold Dining Room (222-3699), Jefferson Family Medicine, and Michelle Robinson, Architect (243-2270), and from "national" sponsors: Mercer MC; Monroe Roth Assoc.; Matthews Media Group; and the U.S. Navy, by its friend Charles Larson. We also rely on continuing support from the Philadelphia Activities Fund, and from Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell.

With the help of our sponsors, CPYSL plans to offer reduced-price shin guards this season, in addition to the usual free team T-shirt. Sponsoring a team is a great way for a business, professional or organization to benefit local children and strengthen our neighborhood, while gaining recognition as a "good citizen". You can sponsor

a team for two seasons for \$150. Call Nancy Roth (215-382-1550) for more information.

Fall Soccer Wrap-Up: CPYSL's fall season was one of our best, despite the wet weather. Nearly 90% of our players earned a trophy for good attendance. As always, we wish to thank our biggest supporters: our volunteer coaches, including Paul Brooks, Carlton Epps, Bill Foronda, Marianne Gellert-Goldman, Adam Goldman, Nadel Harvey, Reggie James, Gene & Moses Jiggetts, Amy Johnson, William Lighter, Chris and Alina MacNeal, Abdul Muktar, Nancy Roth, Dick Salmon, Ed Sarbaugh. Jon Stivers, Tony Anderson and Krimo Bokreta also helped coach. Invaluable support was provided by Julie Regnier (design and purchasing), Frank Innes (bookkeeping), and Nancy Roth (fund-raising). We also appreciate the many parents who gave extra time during the season.

CHARLES DICKENS' BIRTHDAY PARTY

By **Frank L. Chance**

On Sunday, February 2, the Friends of Clark Park hosted their eleventh annual celebration of the birthday of celebrated British author Charles Dickens at Griffith Hall, University of the Sciences, 43rd & Kingessing Mall. The program began with rousing Victorian-era songs performed by a small **brass band**, composed of **Susan Watts, Rachel Leemisch, and Jay Krush**. Celebrants were further entertained by dramatic readings from Dickens' works. **Mary Allegra** read a character sketch from *Our Mutual Friend*, **Clark O'Donnell** recited a descriptive passage from *Oliver Twist*, **Nina Hope** presented the dramatic opening passage of *Great Expectations*, and **John Stinson** concluded the readings with a passage from *A Tale of Two Cities*. All in attendance then enjoyed birthday treats, including a cake made and decorated by **Rita Cabry**, trifle made by **Cindy Roberts**, cookies and brownies, coffee and tea served by **Fran Byers**. Finally, a group of celebrants led by event organizer **Bob Behr** and Master of Ceremonies **Frank L. Chance** marched to the Dickens monument to sing "Happy Birthday and crown the images of Mr. Dickens and Little Nell with wreaths.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the University of the Sciences of Philadelphia, the Cherry Tree Music Co-Op, the Dickens Fellowship, and all who donated time, money, or treats to this event.

DON'T FORGET: MARCH 1: WORK DAY!

We'll meet at the flagpole in the north part of the park at 10:00 AM to work on cleaning up glass and other trash, mulching the trees, and any maintenance issues that need to be addressed. Gloves and bags will be provided as well as hot drinks. We hope to see a lot of people there to show we love Clark Park.

PERMITS FOR PARK EVENTS

(continued from page 1)

Recreation Dept, the 18th Police District, Friends of Clark Park, the UCD, community organizations and large event organizers, including the Clark Park Music & Arts Festival and the Woodland Ave Reunion. Guidelines for park usage were developed, which were then reviewed and approved by the Recreation Department Program Division in March 2002. The guidelines were adopted and followed during the 2002 season, and will continue to guide the Recreation Department in 2003.

Guidelines help us to schedule events in a manner that is more neighbor-friendly by limiting the number of amplified sound events per weekend and reducing the number of hours of sound per event. They are a tool for better scheduling, and *no one has ever been denied a permit for the park*. An applicant may be asked to consider an alternative date for an event, but again, no one has ever been denied a permit nor have they been unable to schedule their event because of these new guidelines.

The following are the basic changes in scheduling that we have adopted:

1. **Only one event per weekend can have amplified sound.** There can still be an event on Saturday and on Sunday, but only one can have amplified sound, whether it be music or speech. Also, there can still be music both days, but one of them must be unplugged. The amplification is the key to this guideline. **Note:** Three long-time community annual events: the Spruce Hill May Fair, the Clark Park Music & Arts Festival(s), and the Woodland Ave Reunion are scheduled in advance of other requests on their regular annual weekends.
2. **Amplified sound during an event may not exceed six hours in duration.** In addition, permit holder will select a six-hour window within the 11AM-8PM time frame. **Note:** The Clark Park Music & Arts Festival is an exception to this, and has been grandfathered. Their events will continue to have amplified sound from 11AM -8PM for their June event and 11AM-7PM for their September event.
3. **Films will be given special exception since they must be shown after dark.** Films will not be scheduled the same night as another event, but could be scheduled the same weekend.

The Recreation Department participated fully in the development of these guidelines, and had final approval of them. We think the guidelines worked well in their inaugural season in 2002, and therefore will continue to utilize them in 2003.

We believe that they represent a reasonable compromise between park users and the neighbors immediately surrounding the park. We want the park to continue to be a venue for exciting events and community gatherings. We

also want the neighbors who live near the park to have the peace and relaxation they deserve on summer weekends. We will again monitor the implications of the guidelines during the 2003 season, and if necessary, we will refine and revise. In our view, this is an ongoing learning process, and we hope that you will continue to work with us in this important community process.

Please feel free to contact my office at 215-685-0705 with any questions or concerns you may have. I look forward to working with you in planning another season of events in beautiful Clark Park.

MEETINGS and CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2003

On **January 29th** we held a **general membership** meeting (with cookies and coffee) coordinated by **Darryl Stovall** for 21 members at which **Lt. Carbonara** of the Philadelphia Police presented information on the declining crime rate around Clark Park, **John Fenton** of UCD presented information on cleanup and park maintenance and **Andy Cole** presented information on the playground fund status.

On **April 29** we will hold another general membership meeting at which **Doris Gwaltney** of the **Carroll Park Neighbors** will discuss the exciting developments in this formerly blighted urban park as well as other presentations. We look forward to seeing you there at Griffith Hall at 600 South 43rd Street at 7:30 PM.

Snow Sled Day		12.05.2002
Board Retreat	11:00 AM	12.07.2002
Caroling in the Park	5:00 PM	12.15.2002
FOCP Board Meeting	7:30 PM	1.07.2003
Membership Meeting:	7:30PM	1.28.2003
Dickens' Birthday	2:00 PM	2.02.2003
Winter Newsletter		2.15.2003
Winter Work Day	10:00 AM	3.01.2003
Board Meeting	7:30 PM	3.04.2003
Party-in-the-Park Meeting	11:00 AM	3.15.2003
Membership Meeting	7:30 PM	4.29.2003
Party in the Park	7:00 PM	5.01.2003
Spring Work Day	10:30 AM	5.03.2003
Board Meeting	7:30 PM	5.06.2003
SHCA May Fair	10:00 AM	5.10.2003
Summer Newsletter		6.07.2003
Summer Work Day	10:30 AM	6.14.2003
Clark Park Music and Arts Festival		6.21.2003
Board Meeting:	7:30 PM	7.01.2003
Membership Meeting:	7:30 PM	7.29.2003
Board Meeting:	7:30 PM	9.02.2003
Woodland Avenue Reunion		9.13.2003
Election Newsletter		9.13.2003
Fall First Work Day	10:30 AM	9.27.2003
Election Meeting	7:30 PM	9.30.2003

Friends of Clark Park
PO Box 31908
Philadelphia Pennsylvania 19104

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to join or if your membership expires this year (the expiration date is listed under your address on the newsletter), you can join or renew your membership by sending the following information to:

Friends of Clark Park
PO Box 31908
Philadelphia Pennsylvania 19104

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

EMAIL:

What level of membership you wish:

\$10 Individual (\$5 for Seniors)
\$15 Family
\$35 Patron/Business
\$75 Sponsor
\$125 Benefactor/Business Benefactor

Please indicate your areas of interest:

?Maintenance ?Tree Care
?Programs ?Gardening
?Safety ?Youth Soccer

GOOD DEEDS

By Andrew W. Cole

Special thanks to everyone who came out to help with the hot cider on the last two snow days! As I write this it looks like we may have a third day.

If anyone spots a neighbor helping the park, please send an email to friends@clarkpark.info or call 215-552-8186 and let us know who did it, when they did it, and what they did, and we'll try to make sure they get a friendly commendation.

PHILLYCARSHARE ANNOUNCES HYBRID CAR IN WEST PHILADELPHIA

By Clayton Lane, Co-Founder, PhillyCarShare

PhillyCarShare, a non-profit organization working to reduce automobile dependence in Philadelphia, is now right around the corner from you! They have a brand new hybrid-electric PhillyCar parked at 47th & Baltimore! Furthermore, they are offering a one-time, special \$30 free driving credit to nearby residents who apply by February 28th.

To learn more and apply today, please visit their web site at www.phillycarshare.org, or call 215-209-1252. Enter the following promotion code in the on-line application to receive your \$30 free credit: 47BALT-0228CL.