



NEWSLETTER

Friends of Clark Park
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June 2003

Frank L. Chance, Editor
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CLARK PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING/SUMMER 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
SHCA May Fair	10:00 AM	5.10.2003
Bedtime/Storytime	7:00 PM	6.5/12/19/26.2003
Change your Mind Day	12:30 PM	6.07.2003
Summer Newsletter		6.10.2003
Summer Work Day	10:30 AM	6.14.2003
New Tot Lot Dedication	11:30 AM	6.19.2003
Clark Park Music and Arts Festival		6.21.2003
Film: Safety First	8:30 PM	6.28.2003
Board Meeting	7:30 PM	7.01.2003
Membership Meeting: at the bowl	7:30 PM	7.29.2003
Antioch Fellowship Community Family Day	9 AM-6 PM	8.16.2003
Health Fair	2:00-7:00 PM	8.24.2003
Board Meeting	7:30 PM	9.02.2003
Woodland Avenue Reunion		9.13.2003
Election Newsletter		9.13.2003
Music & Arts Festival	11:00 AM	09.20.2003
Fall First Work Day	10:30 AM	9.27.2003
Election Meeting	7:30 PM	9.30.2003
Vitamin D Productions World Music Festival	1:00-7:00 PM	10.04.2003
Fall Second Work Day	10:30 AM	10.25.2003
FOCP Fall Newsletter		11.22.2003

NEW TOT LOT

by Andrew W. Cole

The new Clark Park Playground (aka the new Tot Lot) will be dedicated on June 19th at 11:30 AM. The new Tot Lot is adjacent to the playground for the older children in Clark Park "B" (south of Chester) and contains several new, safer pieces of equipment than those currently found in the old Tot Lot in Clark Park "A". This new playground was built with funds donated by community members, local foundations, and with the support of various community groups such as the University City District, which enhanced and supported the efforts of the Playground Fund to meet a \$50,000 challenge grant from The William Penn Foundation. In all, \$115,000 was raised.

On June 19, please join the UCD, Friends of Clark Park, the City of Philadelphia Dept. of Recreation, and Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell for the playground's dedication at 11:30 at the new Playground to celebrate this achievement benefiting all the children and families living around the park.

Although the details are not finalized at this time, the additional funds raised over the original \$100,000 will be used to complete the Tot Lot project and remove the old Tot Lot. For those of you familiar with the old Tot Lot, the turtle will definitely be retained and the rock and stone from the walls will be saved if we can locate a space to store them. If you know of a space, please let me know. The removal of the old Tot Lot will recover green space that was used for the construction of the new Tot Lot and remove some older, unsafe playground equipment.

The new Tot Lot and the renovation of the older children's playground next to it, are the result of a multi-year effort by several community groups and the Department of Recreation. I think we should all be proud of this achievement and I strongly encourage everyone to come by and take a look at the new equipment, even if we can't play on it ourselves. They tell me I'm too big.

Short Notices

Clark Park Storytime Join us for Bedtime/Storytime in Clark Park Thursdays in June at 7pm. Volunteers from Friends of Clark Park and the Parent-Infant Center will be reading stories especially for ages 7-under. Meet at the Dickens' Statue (rain location: Green Line Cafe). Wear your jammies! For information, contact FOCP at 215-552-8186 or online at <http://www.clarkpark.info>.

Thanks to FOCP members Eric Tomlinson and Glenn Moyer for all their work in the garden bed at 43rd and Baltimore. On a fine Saturday in April, they moved mulch and weeded. The Green Line Cafe came over with a surprise round of refreshments.

Saturday June 28th, 8:30 pm, in the park by the shed, Jim Kietzman will show "**Safety First**" and some shorts from his own collection. "Safety First" is a 1922 comedy starring Harold Lloyd.

We are updating the **tree inventory**, and we would like to identify memorial trees. If you know of a tree that was planted in honor of someone, please contact Lewis Mellman at lewismellman66@msn.com or phone 215-222-2660.

"World Music For World Peace" Festival

Vitamin D Productions presents their 2nd Annual World Music for World Peace event, open to all for FREE on October 4th from 1pm to 7pm. Featuring over 40 world music performers, Free prize giveaways, healers, vendors, food, clothing & more! Thanks for your support!

WORK VS TALK

by Andrew W. Cole

My uncle Richard used to tell me, "**don't haul hay with your mouth open.**" Alfalfa hay has a ferocious tendency to get in your eyes, mouth, ears and any other place where you don't want it. He often told me this as he was lifting a bale and I was standing around explaining how we could more easily move the hay.

As a kid growing up in Kansas I often worked with my family, my uncles and aunts and neighbors to plant and harvest wheat, build sheds, bale and haul hay and other hard jobs. We all respected the hardest workers and I would often learn more by working an afternoon with these relatives and neighbors than I would in months of talking in school. Of course, since I wasn't a great student, that's not saying much. Anyway, as a result of these communal experiences, I came to value those who worked hard, side-by-side with my family, to make all our lives better. I still hold a high regard for

hard work and want to make sure that those of you who come to help out in Clark Park, know how much I value your efforts and enjoy the times we spend together.

As president of the Friends of Clark Park it has been my privilege to work with some very dedicated community members. People who come out and help clean up the park, who mulch the trees, who help replant and weed the garden, who repair the signs and fix the benches. Working with those of you who come out on workdays, who come out on your own and pick up trash and pick up the broken glass and with those who take your time to write grants, edit the newsletter, and to review the bylaws, maintain the website, and the myriad other tasks that have to be done to keep Clark Park clean and safe, has made me very proud and happy to be a part of the neighborhood and has made Janet and me happy in our decision to make West Philadelphia and Clark Park our home.

However, since last September we've had two work days and two general membership meetings. The attendance at the general membership meetings was quite low, 17 and 23 respectively and the turnout for the work days was 17 and 21. Further, a majority of the people attending these events were current board members. I realize that all of us have other activities and other responsibilities and I'm not expecting everyone to show up for every event. However, the board is already asked to do a great deal of work such as grant writing, tree maintenance, garden maintenance, clean up projects, safety reports, programming (Dickens, Bark in the Park, StoryTime, etc), attendance at meetings of related organizations, membership outreach, and on and on. If the additional general membership meetings are only attended by the board and a very small percentage of the general membership, then I think we should revisit this proposal at the next election as it does not provide a forum for the board to communicate with/or hear from the membership and needlessly taxes the board members with still another meeting.

The work days, however, are to me the core of the Friends of Clark Park. If we are to be something other than a debating society then we must show up and take care of the park. It is our park. Although I understand that we need to decide what should be done, I feel that there has been too much discussion and too little work done over the last few years and I would like to change that balance toward more labor and less palaver. As a result of growing up in a rural area, where didactic comments were discouraged (it was not considered politic to tell someone how to do something unless you did it yourself) I have little patience for unsolicited advice and long discussions. That is to say, if you have a good idea and/or a new way to do things, I'm happy to talk with you about it but I'd prefer to do so on a work day, when we can actually put your idea into practice and/or test out your theory and see the results of our efforts.

Spring Soccer Season Finale on May 17

by Paul Brooks

FOCP's Clark Park Youth Soccer League finished its 14th season on May 17 with its traditional end-of-season picnic. Despite the wettest and dreariest weather in its history, over 80% of CPYSL's players earned a trophy for good attendance. CPYSL thanks its volunteer coaches for the season: Amy Johnson, Nadel Harvey, Ed Sarbaugh, Marianne Gellert-Goldman, Bill Foronda, Chris and Alina MacNeal, Carlton Epps, Susan Meeker, Nancy Roth, Carolyn McCoy, William Lighter, Adam Goldman, Vivianne Nachmias, Dick Salmon, Paul Brooks, and a "pinch-hit" by Krimo Bokreta. Invaluable support was provided by Julie Regnier (design and purchasing), Bill Moriarty (bookkeeping), Nancy Roth (fund-raising), and Jon Stivers (purchasing); and by parents who gave extra time to help the program run.

Financial support for CPYSL this season came from neighborhood sponsors including: Wayne's Garage (222-5703); O'Donnell Real Estate (222-2600); Philadelphia Construction Co. (662-1000); Calvary Center for Culture and Community (386-6494); Spruce Hill Community Association. (349-7825); 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. Because of our sponsors, CPYSL was able to provide shin guards at a deep discount, insuring that every player could afford them, as well as free T-shirts, soccer balls and all other equipment. CPYSL also received a grant from the Philadelphia Activities Fund through the sponsorship of Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell.

Looking Ahead to Soccer this fall:

Registration forms for the fall soccer season will be mailed in August to all players who played in fall 2002 or spring 2003; to insure a place for your returning child(ren), respond by Sept. 1. Open registration, for new players, will begin Sept. 1; call us then (please don't call sooner) at 215-552-8186. Children must be at least 5 years old by Sept. 30, but not yet 12 years old. Every season CPYSL has to turn away children because it does not have 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 and to be willing to commit to helping on at least six Saturdays during the fall.

Sponsoring a soccer 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.

CLARK PARK STEWARDSHIP

by Andrew W. Cole

Over Memorial Day, Bob Dages, Lew Mellman, and I found several branches ripped off trees in Clark Park. We found the man who did it but have, so far, been unable to have anything done about him. We also found three bottles broken in the tot lot in the north park but since no one saw anything, nothing could be done other than to clean up the bottles and to send out a message on the local email lists to alert parents about the glass.

Earlier, during and after the May Fair, a local homeless woman threw trash around the benches near 43/ Baltimore and defecated for several days in the park. Fortunately, our new Summer Maintenance Assistant (SMA) Barney "Barry" Bechtel is very dedicated and cleaned up the trash and night soil each day after her visits. I have reported these problems to Lt. Fred Carbonara at the University City Mini Station and to 911 but both have advised me that there is little they can do.

I am bringing this to the attention of the community because this requires a broad response from the membership if anything is to be done about it. I have called 911 over twenty times in the last year about late night revelers breaking glass in the park and other acts of vandalism in the park and I'm sure they think I'm a crank now. I've stopped Police Officers in squad cars and asked them to talk with people urinating in the park (which they did). However, if I'm the only person to report these incidents I don't believe that the police or our elected representatives will take them seriously.

So, I'm asking if you notice anyone breaking bottles, vandalizing the trees, or breaking anything else in the park, please call 911 and give them a description of the person, the time they vandalized the park, and what they did. Also, please let Jacqueline Slaughter, (jmslaught@aol.com), chair of the Friends of Clark Park Safety Committee, know about the incident so that we know how many of these events are occurring.

I've listed the numbers for the various police and elected representatives below if you wish to let them know that this is important to you. Also, please let Ms. Slaughter know if you call or write to one of our elected representatives so that we can document that we've let them know of the problem.

18th Police District, 55th & Pine Streets, 19143
215.686-3180, 215.686-3181 FAX 215.476-4444

UCD SubStation. 3942 Chestnut Street 19104
215.243.0667

3rd District Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell
City Hall, Room 408 Philadelphia, PA 19107-3290
215 686-3418, 215 686-3419 FAX: 215 686-1933

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ELECTIONS AND CANDIDATES

by Andrew W. Cole

On September 30 we'll have our annual election meeting and although this may seem to be a bit early, the next newsletter will be the election newsletter and will be released on/about September 13. If you are interested in running for office, please get in touch with Dubside, the chair of the nomination committee to let him know your background and qualifications and to make sure that you are listed on the ballot. Dubside's telephone number is 215.965.4307.

There will be several positions "open" this year as the president (me) and vice president (Anne Kringel) are not planning on running again and at least one director has advised that they will probably be resigning. The current treasurer (Bill Moriarty) and secretary (Rolando de Aguiar) are willing to run again and I will be speaking on their behalf at the election as I think they've both done an excellent job.

In any event, if you're interested in working with the Friends of Clark Park and are willing to dedicate the time and effort, I've found it to be a rewarding experience and will continue working with the board next year as the (ex officio) past president. If you wish to run, however, please be aware that there is a lot of work involved as every member of the board must chair at least one committee or group and all are expected to show up for work days and other Clark Park projects. These are working positions and we need workers to fill them.