



NEWSLETTER

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

September 2004 Edition

Frank L. Chance, Editor
Anthony West, Publisher

CLARK PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Autumn 2004:

Youth Soccer Fall Season Begins 9.25.2004

Work Day: Pruning and Preparation
9:30AM – 3 PM 10.2.2004

Work Day: Tree planting and mulching
9 AM-3 PM 10.9.2004

FOCP Membership Meeting at Griffith Hall
7:30-9:00 PM 10.13.2004

Benefit Brunch at Abbraccio featuring
Mauricio Mendez-Vaz 10.17.2004

Bark in the Park 1:15 PM 10.23.2004

Veterans Day Commemoration at the
Gettysburg Stone 11 AM 11.6.2004

Benefit Brunch at Abbraccio featuring
Ann Dixon 11.21.2004

Christmas Caroling at the Community
Christmas Tree 5 PM 12.12.2004

Permit Issued by Recreation Department:

Clark Park Music & Arts Festival
9am-6pm 9.25.2004

See <http://www.clarkpark.info> for additional events and date or time changes,

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, October 13, 7:30 PM - FOCP Members meeting, Griffith Hall, 43rd and Kingsessing Mall. Agenda includes elections, money, and dogs.

Saturday, October 23 - 1:15 pm - 13th annual Bark in the Park - All dogs and their human friends are invited to join in the festivities in "B" park near 43rd and Chester Ave. Meet the vet, doggie contests and a raffle of dog goodies. All are welcome.

Saturday, November 6 - 11 am - Veterans Day Commemoration - Join us to honor all who sacrificed to preserve our freedom. Meet at the Gettysburg Stone near 44th & Baltimore Ave. in "A" park.

Sunday, December 12 - 5 pm - Christmas Caroling at the community Christmas tree, near 45th & Chester Ave. in "B" park. Join your neighbors to raise your voice in song. Refreshments will be served.

LIGHTS, ACTION, CAMERA--

Summer Movie Nights

By Ann Dixon

The old shuffleboard court above the bowl was turned into a movie theater for three fine summer nights. Neighbor Jim Kietzman volunteered, for the second summer in a row, to show some of his film classics on his projector. *Don Q, Son of Zorro*, starring Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., was rained out in June, but was successfully shown in July. This silent 1925 movie is unusual because it runs for two hours. *Sherlock Holmes Faces Death*, starring Basil Rathbone, proved to be the most popular with an audience of about 30. Following the Woodland Ave. Reunion this September, *The Phantom of the Opera*, the 1925 silent film with orchestral score, starring Lon Chaney, was shown. Jim also delighted his audience with shorts or previews of old films before each feature. My favorite was *Gerald McBoing-Boing*, the Oscar winning cartoon written by Dr. Seuss in which a little boy can make interesting sound effects, but cannot speak.

Jim's interest in movies developed early in life. His father would regularly take him to old movies shown at Swarthmore College. He remembers being mesmerized by Charlie Chaplin or whoever was on screen. When he was twelve, the professor who showed the films gave him a Black Hawk Company catalogue and Jim bought his first 8 mm feature. He discovered a local store that sold ten-minute movies (which were distributed by big studios) and became a regular customer. After he entered the working world, he was able to expand his collection to include more features.

FALL ELECTION MEETING

New Leaders, Money Matters, and Dogs Are at Stake

By Tony West

Friends of Clark Park will hold its annual elections at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13, at Griffith Hall on the USP campus at 43rd & Kingsessing Mall. This meeting will guide policy in the park for the next year. It's important that as many members as possible attend.

In recent years there has been quite a bit of turnover in the officers and directors of FoCP. While change can be good for an organization, a period of stability can also help consolidate the fruits of change as it takes a while for newcomers to figure out what the real issues and the right methods are. In any event, the Nominations Committee has received no new nominations for the four elected officer positions of the group, so all four have agreed to stand for another one-year term. That includes Ron Hudson, vice president Jonathan Snyder, secretary; Bill Moriarty, treasurer and myself, Tony West, president. We hope we've done a halfway decent job together during the past year and we vow to improve on our work in a second term.

FoCP will also elect six directors, half the total number on its board, to two-year terms. In some community groups the board is filled with honorary directors who were named chiefly as a compliment. In FoCP, nomination is more like a burden that falls on incorrigibly conscientious volunteers! This organization relies on a hardworking board where many people take initiative and pitch in cooperatively to back each other up and deliver what the park needs. This October, Darryl Stovall and Jackie Slaughter have agreed to stand for a second term on the board. The Nominations Committee further recommends the election of Brad Zinn, Stefanie Moore, Betty Collins and Ruth Andrews, all of whom have proven themselves in volunteer work this year.

The members will also vote on a motion to raise the typical annual dues by \$5 a year, starting Jan. 1, 2005. The board recommended this action because it is the best way to meet the growing challenge of replanting our threatened tree canopy. Discounted memberships will be available for seniors, students, and others under economic pressure.

Other candidates and motions are permitted at this election. Nominations and motions may be made from the floor. They may stand a better chance if they are on the ballot, with an explanatory paragraph; for that, interested persons should contact Dubside, who chairs

the Nomination/Election Committee, at 215/965-4307 as soon as possible.

The Board of Directors will also pass on to the membership the final report of the Dog Committee, which was delivered in August. The newly elected officers and directors will be deliberating its recommendations this fall. It eagerly requests responses and input from members on this complex subject, so be sure to come if you're interested.

FRIENDS OF CLARK PARK COMMITTEES and CHAIRS

Friends of Clark Park is a busy organization that depends on its volunteers. Different people take on different responsibilities and its *committee system* is the key to all of them. Below is a list of the standing committees and their chairpersons. If you want to contact a chairperson or become involved with a committee's work, contact the president Tony West at (215) 349-9681 or the Secretary Jonathan Snyder at (215) 432-7948 and they will put you in touch with the right person.

Audit/Bylaws: Anuj Gupta

Database: Rolando De Aguiar

Elections: Dubside

Fundraising: Molly Roth

Gardening: Ann Dixon

Maintenance: Andy Cole

Membership: Jonathan Snyder

Membership Meetings: Darryl Stovall

Newsletter: Frank Chance

Nominations: Dubside

Outreach: Brian Siano

Publicity: Brian Siano

Safety: Jackie Slaughter

Special Programs: Fran Byers

Trees: Chris Leswing

Website: Brian Siano

STORYTIME AT THE TURTLE

By Cindy Roberts;

For the third summer we joined with the Parent-Infant Center to present "Storytime in the Park" on Thursday nights. We usually offer Storytime during the month of June, but this year it was so popular with families that we had enough volunteers to run the program all summer long! Special thanks to Donna Pitz of the Food Trust for bringing fruit-and-vegetable beanie baby toys for the kids on the night when we read stories about gardens and growing things.



We appreciate all the volunteers who made Storytime in Clark Park so special: PIC teachers Jeannette Lee, Eli Lucas, and Rose Rouse (who has volunteered each year and delighted us with her spirited telling of the African tale *Abiyoyo*); Angela Brintlinger, Andy Cole, Elaine Jenson and daughter Emily, Janet Lewis, Maribel Navarro and her mom Sylvia, Christine Nelson, Cindy Roberts, Todd Sandler, FOCP President Tony West, and Alison Williams. We'll see you next summer at the Turtle!



Photos of families enjoying Storytime thanks to Janet Lewis.

FOCP OUTREACH COMMITTEE

By Brian Siano

Almost two years ago, FOCP member Glenn Moyer introduced a motion for an Outreach Committee. The goal of this committee was to establish a better relationship between the FOCP and the park's various users and "stakeholder groups." Many of these groups had had little contact with the FOCP, and the result was that, sometimes, the actions of the FOCP did not take into account the concerns of these groups. The FOCP, on the other hand, occasionally found itself ill-equipped to contact these groups when disputes arose. At times, this had made some groups see the FOCP as an adversary.

This dovetailed with FOCP President Tony West's membership drive, and his desire for a handy contact list of the stakeholder groups. The Outreach Committee, originally chaired by Chris White, would learn what distinct "groups" were using the park, establish who the "go-to guys" were, and encourage them to take greater part in the FOCP's activities.

I'm happy to report that this effort has been a terrific success. Our Committee has assembled contacts for more than thirty distinct "stakeholder groups" in the park. These range from the parents of children in the Tot Lot to the basketball players in the south park, from the chess players at the flagpole to the drum circle at the Dickens statue. We are enlisting the help of the basketball players to lobby the Department of Recreation for funding to rebuild the court (as outlined in the Revitalization Plan), and the chess players will be involved in the planning of renovations to the flagpole court.

But our job isn't done just because we have a good list. The job remains to encourage members of these groups to become part of the FOCP, and to participate in the decisions, which will shape the future of the park. Only through such a wide-ranging and wide-open conversation can we make Clark Park a place that really does belong to all of us.

As the current chair of the Committee, I'd like to thank all of the committee members for their hard work and support.

KEEPING THE PARK IN SHAPE

Summer Maintenance

By Andrew W. Cole, Maintenance Committee Chair

This summer has been very busy for the Maintenance Committee with three Belgian Block workdays, repairs to the shed, and planning for new kiosks. In addition, we've had folks interested in new trashcans, new benches, and Paul Brooks organized a group (including Joe Shapiro, Bill Moriarty, and Ed Halligan) to do some badly needed repairs to the shed. Also, there was the saga of the lights but more of that in the article titled, "Community Success".

Belgian Block Days: On April 17, May 29, and July 17, over fifty volunteers came out to install approximately fifty feet of Belgian Block, donated by the University of Pennsylvania. Please go by and take a look at the blocks during the next farmer's market (or before). We're pretty proud of our handiwork (and were pretty tired).

As with any large project, we had a lot of help from:

- John Fenton and all the folks at the University District (UCD) who provided tools and sand and who provided liaison with the Farmer's Market and community service workers.
- Mandy Benner, Director, UC GREEN, who loaned us tools and provided general support and advice. If you haven't worked with UC Green on one of their BIG tree planting or greening projects or one of their smaller neighborhood initiatives, I strongly recommend it as a great way to meet neighbors and help beautify our community. UC Green partners with neighborhood groups (like FOCP) on greening projects. You can sign up to receive email announcements and find other information at <http://www.ucgreen.org>.
- Citizen's Bank, who generously funded several of our work days
- Roger Harman and Abbraccio for the excellent breakfasts and lunches for our volunteers.
- Andy's Brain Trust, Mark Jenson, Joe Shapiro, and John Fenton of UCD. Without the tools, knowledge and enthusiasm of these three, this project wouldn't be possible.
- Farmer's Market folks like Lois Fahnestock, who allowed us to work around them, and especially from Donna Pitz of the Farmer's Market Trust.

Neighborhood Volunteers:

Amanda Benner
 Angela Brintlinger
 Anne Heidel
 Becca Zinn
 Brad Zinn
 Bruce Andersen
 Caitlin Littleton
 Cameron Jones
 Carol Wong
 Cheshire Agusta
 Chris Leswing
 Cindy Roberts
 Dan Biddle
 Darnell Walker
 Duleesha Kulasooriye



Ed Deegan
 Elly Nees
 Emily Jenson
 Frank Chance
 Janet Lewis
 Betty Lanford
 Jay Lanford
 Jennifer Coulter
 Jennifer Jones
 Joe Shapiro

John Fenton and crew from UCD

John Littleton
 Jon M. Sweigart
 Jonathan Andersen
 Joseph Pointdujour
 Lew Mellman
 Mark Jenson
 Marya Van Voorthuijsen
 Mike Camileri
 Mike Hardy
 Molly Roth
 Patty Pickup
 Phil Woods
 Stephanie Andersen
 Steve McCoubrey
 Steven Conn
 Suellen Lee



Volunteers from St. Gabriel's School, Audubon Pennsylvania

Justin Minisu
 Des McGruder
 Corey McIver
 Darnell Godfrey
 Michael Marigold
 John Bustamante
 Josh Medina



If you know any of these folks, please give them a pat on the back and please feel free to join us for our next Clark Park work days, tentatively scheduled for consecutive Saturdays, October 2, and 9, 2004. These will be BIG work days in that we'll be doing lots of mulching and planting some trees. For more information on these workdays, go to <http://www.clarkpark.info>.

Pictures of volunteers at workdays thanks to Janet Lewis, Tony West, and Frank I. Chance.

CLARK PARK GEAR

New Merchandise Is Here!

By Tony West

Friends of Clark Park has just laid in an expanded stock of fundraiser goodies that are useful and fun to own. Support your favorite urban oasis: check 'em out and pick what you want!

We now offer a complete line of T-shirts in all adult and child sizes. They come in four different designs and six different colors. We have stuck by our commitment to high-quality fabrics at mid-range prices. T-shirts go for \$10 to \$12.

Farmers' Market goers will be happy with the new FoCP tote bags. They're natural-colored, capacious and sturdy – a fair buy at \$12.

Cold-weather exercisers will welcome our hooded pullovers. We have two sizes, large and extra-large, and two colors, gray and red. They'll keep you cozy in the park throughout the winter at \$30.

The historic "Little Nell" commemorative mugs are still in stock. They'll warm you up for only \$6.

Our extraordinary 19th-century Satterlee Military Hospital print gives an eye-opening perspective on the fascinating past of our neighborhood. It goes for \$15.

The Membership Committee will try to man a table at the Farmers' Market every Saturday through early October. You can also examine FoCP merchandise at the Annual Election membership Meeting at Griffith Hall on Wednesday, October 13..

COMMUNITY SUCCESS -

The Lights are Back On

By Andrew W. Cole. Chair, Maintenance Committee

As many of you noticed, the lights in Clark Park were almost all "off" during late spring and early summer this year. To identify which lights were "off", Ed Halligan, using a map provided by Joe Shapiro, inventoried the lights in the park and found that 15 of the 42 lights in the park were not working.

This situation was communicated to Stan Koropka of the Department of Recreation, who got right on it and had a repair crew fix several of the lights in the park south of Chester. Unfortunately, whatever the crew did north of Chester caused additional lights to quit working in that part of the park such that only 4 out of 18 lights were working after they left, making the park dangerously dark.

Even after some research, we were not sure what the problem was nor when it would be fixed. Over time, I received numerous complaints about the situation and even wrote about it in the last Newsletter.

Fortunately, shortly thereafter, John Fenton of UCD was contacted by the Philadelphia Police Department to find out if the poor lighting situation in Clark Park was being addressed. John contacted me and I advised that we were in communication with Recreation, but weren't sure what was happening but that we would very much like to get the lights back on.

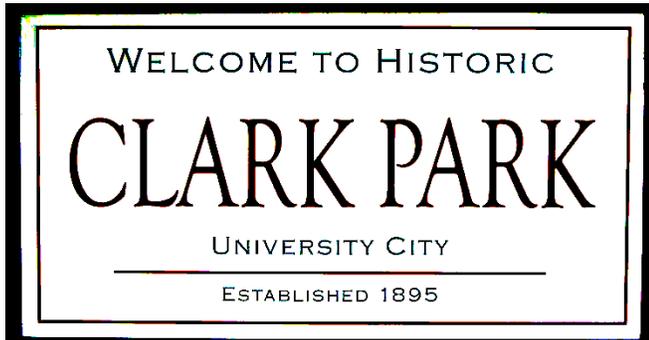
John then contacted various folks in the Department of Streets and Recreation (and maybe others), who, as soon as they realized the problem, immediately came out, investigated the situation, planned repairs, and the lights are back on now.

Although this repair may seem to have been more complicated than necessary, I think this is an example of a "community" success because it required the efforts of Ed Halligan of FOCP, Stan Koropka of Recreation, some unknown folks at the Streets Department, the Police Department, and John Fenton of UCD to resolve. No one group had the authority or the knowledge to complete the task yet everyone, as soon as they were aware of the situation, did what was needed so that we have our lights back on.

However, we're not resting on this success, Ed Halligan is already back out there, inventorying any new lights that are "off" and letting John Fenton and the City Departments know about them. Clark Park is a wonderful place for all of us but it does require a lot of effort from all of us, working together, to keep it safe, clean, and beautiful.

NOW WE'RE HISTORIC!

The University City District had a small amount remaining from the fundraising drive for the new playgrounds, so Executive Director Eric Goldstein decided to spend it on attractive signs now gracing the entrances to the park—the rickety old bulletin boards are gone—but will be replaced with informational kiosks when that project reaches conclusion.



New sign at 43rd and Baltimore Avenue.

CITIZENS BANK BACKS WORK DAYS

Grants and In-Kind Donations From Many Sources Improve the Park

By Molly Roth

The Friends of Clark Park received a grant of \$2,500 from the Citizens Bank University City Neighborhood Partnership Fund to support volunteer work days. Thanks to this generous support, we are able to purchase needed supplies and equipment, publicize work days more effectively, and most important—provide breakfast and lunch to the hard-working volunteers who contribute so much to maintaining and improving our park. Since April, park volunteers have cut rings and mulched trees, pruned extensively, performed repairs on the shed, and paved sections of the tree pits along 43rd Street, which had been compacted by Farmer's Market activity, with Belgian block.

In addition to this valuable support from Citizens Bank, a number of local institutions and organizations have made significant contributions to the success of work days in 2004: the University of Pennsylvania contributed the Belgian Block for the paving project, UCD provided tools, sand, and substantial volunteer labor, UCGreen contributed tools and expertise, and Abbraccio Restaurant donated one-third of the cost of refreshments for volunteers.

Note the dates of the remaining work days when volunteers will plant 16 new trees to replace the dying London plane trees! Come get your hands dirty and join the fun! Funding for the new trees was provided by a substantial grant from the Pennsylvania Urban & Community Forestry Council.

Saturday, October 2nd, 9:30am to 3pm
Pruning, tree rings & preparation for tree-planting

Saturday, October 9th, 9am to 3pm
Tree planting and mulching

BENEFIT BRUNCHES AT ABBRACCIO

By Molly Roth

There was never an easier way to help plant new trees in Clark Park than piling a buffet plate high on Sunday morning at Abbraccio Restaurant at 47th and Warrington. Since June, Abbraccio has set aside 5% of the food sales from one Sunday brunch a month for the Friends of Clark Park. With the program running through November, this year Abbraccio will contribute between \$375 and \$500 for the purchase and maintenance of new trees (in addition to the restaurant's generous contributions of refreshments for work day volunteers throughout the summer).



So if you missed the benefit brunches so far, be sure to participate in the remaining events of the year on the third Sunday of September, October and November. Come cheer on the FOCP board members serving as guest waffle chefs at the buffets on the dates below. Thanks to Darryl Stovall, Molly Roth, Andy Cole and Tony West who have all taken a turn at the waffle iron over the summer.

September 19, Ron Hudson

October 17, Mauricio Mendez-Vas

November 21, Ann Dixon

FIRMLY TOLERANT

Asking for Good Manners in the Park

By Tony West

Tolerance is a great virtue in a public space. For us who live in a busy city, it is good to show a little patience with park users who might be getting on other people's nerves. We don't all enjoy the same activities, but most of the time the park is big enough to enjoy *our* activities without worrying too much about *other folks'* activities.

Sometimes, though, you need to notice a neighbor's behavior and take corrective action. True tolerance goes hand in hand with a firm awareness of the public manners that are expected in public places. You can help to maintain these standards in Clark Park.

Notice, I'm not talking right now about "enforcing the law" or "issuing regulations." For the most part, people's interactions with strangers are guided by common-sense rules called *manners*. There often are appropriate ways to catch people's attention when they are doing something that is inappropriate in the park.

You know the sort of low-level incident I'm talking about. A group of young adults is passing pot around near the playground. A tough-looking dog off leash is making some parents nervous. Some basketballers are cursing too vividly when children are nearby. Somebody has parked a vehicle on the grass. A festival is running late, into the quiet hour. A band of kids is swinging on a tree that's too small for their weight and might snap. Somebody starts to walk away from where they were sitting, leaving trash behind . . .

Say something. Do something. I don't mean, "Call the cops," or "Call Tony West." I mean, "Tell them you noticed and ask them to fix the situation."

People are rightly anxious about scolding strangers. And if you find yourself scolding strangers all the time, you may have a bigger problem than the strangers do! But if many people are bold enough to speak out every now and then in a moderate way, nobody *has* to be a scold all the time.

Just say something. "Excuse me – you left your bottle. Can you pick it up and put it in a trash can? There's one right over there." "Excuse me – there are little kids here, can't you see them? Watch what you're doing!" "Excuse me – you can't park that van there, it damages the grass." "Hey! Get off that tree! You don't want to break it, do you?"

People are nervous for all sorts of reasons. Whites are nervous about telling blacks how to behave and blacks are nervous about telling whites how to behave. The old are leery of the young and the young are wary

of the old. People wonder if it's right to talk to other people's children. . . . I know. I have the same feelings. But at times you just have to get over them.

No one wants you to "act like a cop." Quite the contrary: often we can *head off* the need for a police officer by communicating reasonable community standards to our peers. Do it in a firm but calm manner. Avoid quarrels or disputes. State clearly what behavior is expected in the park and then, having made your point, walk away. Maybe they'll listen, maybe they won't. You may be surprised how often other people do listen when they know they've made a mistake. Either way, don't worry about the outcome. You did your job.

Clark Park is a happier place when strangers are bold enough to talk to each other at times. Mostly these conversational exchanges are pleasant and they add to the solace that we find in our diverse and lively oasis. Keep in mind the gentle and cheerful spirit that rightfully belongs in such a space, and you will discover there are even gentle and cheerful ways to say, "Yo, buddy, watch it!" when the occasion arises.

Give a Living Memory



DONATE A TREE TO CLARK PARK IN HONOR OF YOUR LOVED ONE

For those who have loved life in this community, Clark Park has always been there. And with your help, it always will be.

For just \$500, *Friends of Clark Park* will plant a "Memorial Tree" in Clark Park and tend it lovingly. Our aim is to help you provide a fitting tribute, one that will shelter others, one that will live on.

For further information on Friends of Clark Park's "Memorial Tree" Program, contact *Tony West*, President, *Friends of Clark Park*, at

215.349.9681

Favorite Photo Corner



A volunteer gets into the hoedown spirit, ringing a tree in June!

Submit nominations for Favorite Clark Park Photo to Frank Chance, chancefl@sas.upenn.edu.

Friends of Clark Park
PO Box 31908
Philadelphia Pennsylvania 19104