



friends of

Clark

Park

Friends of Clark Park
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December 2004

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CLARK PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Winter-Spring 2004-2005:

Clark Park Farmers Market	1.8.2005
Friends of Clark Park General Membership Meeting	1.19.2005
Clark Park Farmers Market	1.22.2005
Charles Dickens Birthday Party	2.6.2005
Clark Park Farmers Market	2.12.2005
FOCP Board Meeting	2.14.2005
Clark Park Farmers Market	2.26.2005
Youth Soccer League Registration begins	3.1.2005
Clark Park Farmers Market	3.12.2005
Youth Soccer League begins	3.26.2005
Clark Park Farmers Market	3.26.2005
FOCP Board Meeting	4.4.2005
Clark Park Farmers Market	4.9.2005
Friends of Clark Park General Membership Meeting	4.20.2005
Health Fair Festival	4.25.2005
Spruce Hill May Fair	5.8.2005
Youth Soccer League wraps up	5.21.2005
Party for the Park	5.25.2005

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 19, 7:30 PM: Friends of Clark Park General Membership Meeting. On the agenda are such items as the Dog Dilemma, planning for Party in the Park and Membership.

Sunday, February 6, 2 PM: Charles Dickens' Birthday Party. Our annual celebration of Old Boz' nativity will feature readings from his works, trifle and birthday cake, and the placing of wreaths on the head of his statue—and that of Little Nell—in North Park. Please come and help us sing Happy Birthday on this joyous occasion!

CHESS PLAYERS GIVE CHECK

By Tony West

You don't see many chess players around the flagpole on winter days, but they've still been active in the park.

Their organization, the Centurion Chess Club, has donated \$250 to Friends of Clark Park. The check was presented by Fernwood Jones, who was recently elected to the FoCP Board of Directors.

Chess players have been meeting in the park since at least the 1950s. Their club is much younger than that, however. But it has become vigorously involved in chess programs at several Philadelphia schools. Inclined, like park planners, to long-range thinking, the Centurions dream of cultivating a grandmaster in Philadelphia.

This winter the FoCP Planning Committee will begin work on a redesign of the "chess plaza" in the center of the North Park.

Youth Soccer League News

By Paul Brooks:

Fall Soccer Season Wrap-up:

On Nov. 20, FOCP's Clark Park Youth Soccer League completed its 17th season with a traditional end-of-season picnic. Over 130 girls and boys, ages 5 through 11, participated this season, divided among 8 teams. Again this season, attendance was over 80%. A vigorous corps of volunteer coaches, including several newcomers, made this season possible: Adam Goldman, Andy Frishkoff, Ben Fryer, Bill Foronda, Carlton Epps, Charles Bender, Ed Sarbaugh, Gerry McDermott, Kai Morris, Marianne Gellert-Goldman, Mike Jones, Mike Zhuraw and Victoria Bowman, Mauro Daigle, Ramon Martinez, Susan Meeker, Vivianne Nachmias, and substitute coaches Beth Jarrett, Chris and Alina MacNeal, Kathleen Turner, and league coordinator Paul Brooks. FOCP Treasurer Bill Moriarty donated many hours of careful bookkeeping. Jim Cummings handled purchasing of T-shirts and, with his son Robin's advice, trophies for the players. Many parents gave extra time to help the program run well.

Many thanks are due to four FOCP stalwarts who renovated the park's shed before the season: Andy Cole, Bill Moriarty, Ed Halligan and Joe Shapiro. Now, players and coaches can enter the shed to remove or replace equipment without fear that the ceiling will collapse.

Financial support for CPYSL came from neighborhood sponsors including: O'Donnell Real Estate (222-2600); Calvary Center for Culture and Community (386-6494); Reading Terminal Market, 12th and Arch Sts.; Dr. Sigrid Larson and Northeast Physicians Associates; Warrington Community Garden; Vincent Goffredo Plumbing and Heating (724-3425); the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Public Safety; and Liz Campion and Larry Motyka. Our "national" sponsors this season included: Margaret Brooks, of Wheaton IL; and the U.S. Navy, by its friend Charles Larson, of Annapolis MD. CPYSL's sponsors provide every player with a free team T-shirt and enable us to provide shin guards to

players at a deep discount, so that every player can afford them. CPYSL also relies upon and appreciates a grant from the Philadelphia Activities Fund, through the sponsorship of Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell.

Looking Ahead to Spring Soccer:

Registration forms for the spring 2005 soccer season will be mailed in mid-February to players who played in spring or fall 2004. To insure a place, returning players must register by March 1. Open registration, for new players, will begin March 1; call us on March 1 (please don't call sooner) at (215-552-8186) to get forms and info. Children must be at least 5 years old by March 31, but still be under 12 years old as of March 1.

Every season CPYSL has to turn away children because we haven't enough coaches. Coaching youth soccer is fun and satisfying. If you're interested in giving it a try, please call us soon (the earlier the better) 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 of nine Saturdays.

More Soccer Sponsors Needed:

Many of CPYSL's families have limited incomes and so we do not want to increase the fees, yet higher insurance costs are making it more difficult each season to keep our fees low. So CPYSL needs more "soccer sponsors" now. 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". In addition to mention in FOCP's newsletter, sponsors receive a framed photo of their team or a team T-shirt including your name and/or logo. You can sponsor a team for two seasons for \$150.00: send a check, payable "Friends of Clark Park", with "Soccer Sponsor" written on the memo line, to CPYSL, Friends of Clark Park, P.O. Box 31908, Phila. PA 19104, along with a note including your name, address, phone and logo (if any). For more information, leave a message any time at (215-552-8186).

**MICHELLE MURPHY:
The Talent Behind the T-Shirt**

By Tony West

Hundreds of us have them tucked away in a drawer now. Each spring they bloom beneath the flagpole and across the Bowl. At first we flaunt them. Gradually, as they start to shrink and we start to expand, we treasure them. Eventually we need to replace them. For many neighborhood loyalists, the flower-entwined classic “Clark Park” t-shirt is the ultimate symbol of our cherished greensward. It’s our flag.

This greensward wasn’t much cherished in 1974, when Michelle Murphy first moved to Philadelphia. “It was definitely a place to avoid,” she recalls today. “It was scary and it was a mess.”

The same could have been said of University City as a whole. A lot of people smoked pipes in those days, and gentrification was just another pipe dream for the most part. The Murphys landed in Spruce Hill almost by accident after a corporate relocation. Michelle Murphy fell in love with the odd atmosphere of moldering hopefulness that attached itself to inner-city Victorian districts in that era. She also fell in with Mike Hardy, another early booster of University City. She sank roots here and reared her children.



Michelle Murphy in one of her beloved gardens.

Bicentennial fever seized the town in 1976. Hardy nagged Murphy to make a promotional design for Clark Park for that occasion. Murphy harbored a vision of “softening the hard edges of urban decay,” as she puts it. Before moving to Philly she had been living for 10 years in Trinidad and Tobago, and its lush, tropical imagery still haunted her. “You had to imagine Clark Park as a flowering garden in order to stimulate people to change it in that direction,” Murphy avers.

Murphy has cut a swath for herself in garden design over the years since then. She has won numerous awards from the Horticultural Society, among them Best Large Flower Garden and 1st Prizes in Woodland Garden, Rooftop Garden, Backyard Garden and Block Garden.



The original of her curvilinear, lens-shaped design hangs on a wall at Spruce Hill Community Association. Murphy came up with a design that married a casual hippie spirit with subtle homemade snobbery. It was graceful and it was stylish and it was unique. The neighborhood seized on it at once and has never since let go.

Friends of Clark Park adopted Murphy’s design for its t-shirts and have sold thousands of them since 1976. This year we decided to freshen up our offerings and introduced three new designs that celebrate our park, after a public contest. These were well received. But to the sorrow of many, Murphy’s classic t-shirt is out of stock at the moment. Don’t despair – we’ll have more printed in the spring.

New Maintenance Chair

By Andrew W. Cole, ex-President

Well the elections are over (both the FOCP and that 'other' election) and we've got new officials in place. Locally we've got several new board members and I'd like to introduce Brad Zinn, the new Maintenance Chair.

Brad and his wife Becca have recently moved to their new home on 46th Street and both are involved with the Vineyard Community Church meeting at 42/Spruce. Brad has already started his duties at Maintenance Chair for the Friends of Clark Park and will be informing the membership of maintenance issues in future newsletters.

Over the last few months the maintenance committee has been completing some projects begun during the summer. The shed's plumbing, heating, and lighting systems have been renovated and should last for another ten years. All the outlets were replaced with Ground Fault Interrupt connectors and new heating elements and flat lights were installed in the soccer side of the shed. In addition, new drywall was installed and a ceiling hatch fabricated by Joe Shapiro. This work was done by Bill Moriarty, Joe Shapiro, Ed Halligan, and Paul Brooks.

A suspended power line, a timer, and some new lights were installed in the Caroling tree in time for the December 12th FOCP Caroling, organized and lead, as always, by the redoubtable Fran Byers. Special thanks to Joe Shapiro, Mark and Emily Jenson, and Gabe West, who gave invaluable advice and support for this project. Next year we hope to be able to find some of those nifty lights like they use in Rittenhouse Square.

Brad convene a meeting of the Maintenance Committee in January or February to plan this year's work so if you're interested, please call him at 215-662-1411 or email friends@clarkpark.info with your contact information.

That's all for now. See you in the park...



PARTY PLANNERS NEEDED

'Party for the Park' Calls for Early Volunteers

By Tony West

Party for the Park – the spring gala that raises the funds to keep the park looking spiffy – is in trouble this year. We need a few good park lovers to step forward and help out now!

The Drumcliff Foundation, whose matching grant of \$20,000 for expanded maintenance has been the life of the party for the last five years, is planning to cut back its contribution this year. We may wind up \$15,000 short of the money we need to pay Moon Site Management to care for the grass and empty the trash. That means we must work harder **to replace those funds**: find new sponsors, sell more tickets and boost the silent auction. Every dollar counts.

But University City District has just lost its executive director, Eric Goldstein, who spearheaded Party for the Park fundraising during its first five years. New persons must step forward to help. *Can you?*

Four committees are hungry for volunteers: Party Planning, Fundraising, Ticket Sales and Silent Auction. If you think you might be able to contribute in any of these areas (with a few key connections or some loyal scutwork), please give me a call any evening at (215) 349-9681 and we'll talk about what can be done.

Somebody needs to do something, soon. Without new volunteers, there will be NO extended maintenance contract in 2005. And Clark Park will look like a dump again, mark my words. Those of you who were around six years ago know what I'm talking about: mounds of trash billowing across shaggy meadows all summer long. A park starts to go down the tubes when it starts to look like an abandoned lot.

I hope we can muster some healthy volunteer spirit here. It's for a good cause, and a fun cause to boot. This is, after all, a party; and it saves one of the finest public spaces in Philadelphia. Everybody likes Clark Park the way it is today. Please pitch in to make this party work.

Planning Committee

By Lew Melman

Ron, Tony, Brian, Chris White, and Lew met in December, and we considered the Basketball Court, Dog and Tree Issues and Chess Table Improvements. Fernwood, a new member of the board, presented a donation from the Centurion Chess Club to the Friends at the December board meeting. He and Brian are heading up a task force to consider improvements to **A-Park** with an emphasis on new chess tables to support the long-established chess community in the park.

The Department of Recreation received a grant for renovating a number of basketball courts, so the Clark Park court should be receiving a makeover this coming year. It is unclear whether the funding will cover the cost of a nice fence around the court that can be locked after dark, so the Friends may have to raise additional funds. The existing court is undersized, and the playing surface area will be increased to meet Recreation Dept specifications for standard court size. The perimeter between the out-of-bounds line and the fence will probably also widen, so the area of the basketball court will almost certainly increase. The current location of the court is hemmed in by two mature London Plane trees, so expanding the paved area could possibly have an impact on the health of these trees.

One option is to work with the USP, Recreation Dept and the immediate neighbors to explore the possibility of rebuilding the court on part of the land currently used as visitor parking by USP. This would permit the new court construction to be completed before the existing one is demolished so that play need not be interrupted. One of the criticisms of the renovation to the larger playground was that there was a prolonged period of inactivity by the contractor during which Clark Park had neither slide nor swings for big kids. Another advantage is that the current location of the court could be reclaimed as green space, which would create a larger buffer between the playgrounds and the basketball court. Obviously, the residents of South 45th Street and Kingsessing Avenue will be affected by this move, so their concerns will need to be considered, as well as the desire of USP to continue using Clark Park as a convenient parking lot for their visitors.

The eagerly anticipated Final Dog Report was released in December, and we discussed the seven options suggested as possible solutions. A copy of this report is available online at <http://www.clarkpark.info/PDFs/DogCommitteeStatusReport.pdf>. It was not possible to make an informed

recommendation to the Board without research on Option 1 (Fenced Dog Run) and Option 3 (Fence the Playgrounds and keep them dog-free). We formed two task forces to report to the board with information on location, size and costs for each option. Lew and Ann DeForrest are considering the fenced children concept while Chris White agreed to work with Linda Amsterdam to research a fenced dog run. We expect to have information on these two options by the February board meeting. Hopefully the board can make a recommendation to the membership at that time.

Option 5 (Augment the status quo with education and a policy that promotes self-policing) is a step in the right direction. The board believes that this is a program that should already be in place, directed by a dog walkers association that is independent of the Friends. A successful program of dog registration, commonsense behavior guidelines and assistance with obedience training would be a great asset to the park and would go a long way towards dog owners establishing a leadership role in the park.

Some dog park advocates have become frustrated with the pace of progress on this issue by the board. There is now an on-line petition asking the City to resolve this crisis at <http://www.phillydog.org/>. Some on the board would welcome the intervention of the City, *deus ex machina*. It would allow the board to focus its resources on activities like planting trees. However, since the City has no money to remove the dead trees that have been dropping branches in the park this fall and there will be no Christmas lights on the Parkway this year while City workers are being laid off, it seems unlikely that money for a dog park will be found in the 2005 City budget.

The dog discussion took us almost to kick-off of the Eagles Monday night game, so we briefly discussed the support that the Tree Committee needs from the Planning Committee. The "Revitalization Master Plan" emphasizes "Tree Maintenance and Removal" as the top priority. The Recreation Dept claims to have passed all tree work over to Fairmount Park Commission. Clark Park currently has more than 8 dead, standing trees that need to be removed. These trees pose serious safety concerns in addition to being an obstacle to park improvements because falling branches can, and have, damaged other plantings, benches, lights and play equipment. The cost of removing these trees has made this work a very low priority for the City. It may become necessary for the Friends to locate funding to complete this work before the City is able to make it happen.

Clark Park Winter Market

By Karen Kinny, Market Manager

Where: 43rd Street and Baltimore Avenue

When: 10am - 1pm on December 11th and 18th) and the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, January through April.

Who:

King's Bakery - Homemade Cookies, Cakes, Pies, Breads, Potato Chips and other goodies.

The Fahnestock Fruit Farm - A large variety of organic apples and apple cider.

Keystone Cattle Co. / Endless Mts. Cabin - Free-range meats, eggs, maple syrup, granola, winter produce and more.

Slow Rise Bakery - Baker Brian Herson's delicious handmade organic breads, granola and cookies.

Spiral Path Organics - Fresh organic greens and seasonal produce, canned goods.

Margerum's Herbs - Fresh and dried herbs, grains and beans. Seasonal organic produce, canned goods and honey.

His Kids Dairy - Organic seasonal produce, raw milk, yogurt, kefir and cheese, free-range meats and eggs.

The Urban Girls - Sweet potatoes, potatoes, and tomatillos.

Thank you for supporting our local farmers!
We hope to see you there!



Even on a cold day, the Clark Park Farmer's Market is a great place to shop!

Veterans' Day in Clark Park

Celebrated for the 11th Year

By Fran Byers

On Saturday, November 6, the Friends of Clark Park were blessed with a beautiful fall day as they paid tribute to all past and present heroes who have done so much to preserve our freedoms. Standing in front of the Gettysburg Stone, Friends' president Tony West spoke very movingly of the debt we Americans owe to so many who gave the ultimate sacrifice for us.

Upholding a tradition dating back to the 1916 placement of the Gettysburg Stone in Clark Park, HMS School students Amy Levine, Travis Wagner, Taylor Fina, Ethan Jorgenson and John Bailey gave a patriotic presentation using their communications computers with amplification. They accompanied the singing of the Star Spangled Banner on a keyboard, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The history of Veterans' Day was described and then they presented the story of the Satterlee U.S. Army Hospital, which stood, on the grounds of the Clark Park neighborhood during the Civil War. Under the direction of Rich Magnuson and HMS School staff, the students then described the participation of the HMS School students with Veterans' Day through the years.

Private Robert F. Houston, a Civil War re-enactor of the Third Regiment Infantry vividly described the role of the U.S. Colored Troops in the Civil War with a description of the difficulties they had to overcome as well as some of their outstanding accomplishments, such as the storming of Fort Wagner, portrayed in the movie "Glory". He then movingly delivered Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Adjunct professor at USP Don Gillis is a Civil War historian with a wide understanding of the function of the Satterlee U.S. Army Hospital. He spoke about its physical layout within the neighborhood, the transportation of sick and wounded soldiers from battlefields as far away as Virginia and the great care with which the medical staff and the Catholic sisters who served as nurses brought the vast majority of patients back to health. About 60,000 Union troops were treated at the Satterlee Hospital.

All present sang "God Bless America" and "Taps" was played by Andy Cole on the violin. Flowers were laid at the base of the Gettysburg Stone by University of Pennsylvania Police Officer Tony Ramos who served as the honor guard.

Bark in the Park

By Fran Byers

Winners at the 13th Annual Bark in the Park, held on Saturday, October 23 at Clark Park in the following categories:

- Youngest dog: Angel (14 weeks),
Julia Stroud, owner;
Oldest dog: Lou (17+ years),
Michael Nairn, owner;
Tallest dog: Beau,
Janet Lewis, owner;
Shortest dog: Cosmo
Patty McGlone, owner;
Longest legs: Mila
Josh Mankoff, owner;
Shiniest coat: Margo
Stacey Schaefer, owner;
Longest ears: Beau
Hal Woodin, owner
Smallest ears: Tuna
Christine Ethier, owner;
Shortest tail (tie): Zoë,
Elijah Tatgenhorst, owner, and
Cosmo,
Patty McGlone, owner;
Longest tail: Lola
Mary Kay Dollard, owner;
Most spots: Beau,
Hal Woodin, owner;
Most stripes: Pipp,
Kelly Kraus, owner;
Curliest tail: Chase,
Francis Haas, owner;
Shortest nose: Daisy,
Casey Crooks, owner;
Highest-pitched bark: Yuki,
Bryan Kraemer, owner;
Lowest-pitched bark: Mila,
Kristin Doughty, owner
Fastest runner: Laika
Andrew Baker, owner;
Highest jumper: Laika,
Andrew Baker, owner;
Best catcher of Frisbee: Lola
Mary Kay Dollard, owner;
Best catcher of ball; Zoë,
Elijah Tatgenhorst, owner
Best trick: Zoë,
Elijah Tatgenhorst, owner

- Silliest trick: Margo
Stacey Schaefer, owner
Owner and dog look-alike: Bailey
Jennifer Baker – same color hair/fur
Best costume (tie): Gigi – witch
Alicia Hoke, owner and
Sheba bumblebee
Henrietta Rasmussen, owner;
Raffle of basket of doggie goodies:
Sharon Shneyer.

Many thanks go to Dr. David Littlejohn of O’Neal Animal Hospital (4424 Market St.) for greeting owners and answering questions about their pets, to D.L. Wormley for preparing the prize bags of doggie treats as well as to Frank Innes for carrying out the demanding job as judge of the contests in splendid fashion. Tony West and Jonathan Snyder presented information about the Friends of Clark Park. A great time was had by all on a beautiful fall day. We hope to see you next year.

DUES INCREASE THIS YEAR

By Tony West

On Jan. 1, 2005, our dues will go up. We have been planning this move for more than a year, because of the daunting costs that face a good replacement program for the aging London plane trees. The membership endorsed this plan at its October 2004 meeting.

For most people, that means an extra \$5 a year. Seniors will now give \$10 annually, individuals \$15 and families \$20. That’s still a pretty fair rate for a civic group. Businesses and Patrons will donate \$50, Sponsors \$90 and Benefactors \$150. However, students and anyone else of limited means can now claim the same reduced dues that seniors enjoy.

If you happen to have an older version of the membership application knocking around – we’ll still honor those prices! Why don’t you give one to a friend, in fact? This is a chance to become a friend of the park “at a discount.”

Bruce Andersen recently proposed that we start a Lifetime Membership category. After steering the idea through some parliamentary reefs, the Board adopted this measure at its December 2004 meeting. Those of you who wish to move to this advanced level of support for Clark Park can now do so for \$500. Our goal is to endow a park that will last for many lifetimes and Friends of Clark Park welcomes your help.

**Friends of Clark Park
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