



The Source

Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition

Your Source for News and Views in YOUR Community

Volume 1, Number 4

November, 2001

What's Going On at the Hawthorne Cultural Arts Center

There's so much going on at 1200 Carpenter Street! Walk into this colorful and inviting building on any given evening and you may hear the smooth sounds of live jazz or the pulsating beat of African drums. You may be greeted with a warm smile from "Miss Alia," the dynamic Director of the Center or handed a flyer from "Mr. Anthony," the oh-so resourceful Assistant Director of the Center. People from Hawthorne have not been participating in the array of fun, educational, and cultural programs offered by HCAC which are available to us so close to home! People come from as far away as Mount Airy and New Jersey to participate in some of the programs. You can walk out of your door and open the door to a cultural smorgasborg! If you didn't know about how richly you could enhance your cultural experience, it's about time to stop on by and see for yourself what you may have been missing...

The Hawthorne Charm Modeling & Pageantry Club for girls ages 5 to 16 on Wednesday from 6-7 PM. Presented by the Charity Charm & Learning Club, this program was developed to train and encourage young women between the ages of 5-16 years in social graces, self-image and carriage refinement. The program serves as a social enhancement vehicle that teaches the basic tenets of etiquette. Students also learn the importance of a first impression and enhanced communication skills. These and other innovative events are used to motivate young females to behave in a poised and ladylike manner. The Miss Hawthorne Pageant will be the culmination of the program for students to demonstrate their skills of achievement. Classes are forming now. Program Cost: \$25 for registration and \$10 per class. Bring a friend and receive \$5 off registration. For more information contact: Ms. Colbert at 215-849-1338 or Hawthorne Cultural Center.

Learn **Traditional West African Drumming** from instructor, Ira Bond. It's Bond...and Beyond! You CAN Beat It! Classes are held on Mondays from 6-7 PM. and all ages are welcome. Cost: \$10 per class. First Lesson Free!

Modern Jazz Dance Class with instruction by Sharan Santana. Curry the favor with the "Black Magic Woman" Philly's original techno lady DJ! Classes on Fridays from 7-8:30 PM. Cost: \$5 per class.

Jazzercise with Nia Eubanks. Jazz it up with the lady from New Orleans! It's Hawthorne's Hottest Hour! Exercise your body by shakin' your booty! Wednesdays from 6:15-7 PM Cost: \$5 per class.

Bellydance Classes. Experience the allure and mystery of Morocco and Arabia in America! Instructor: Fatima "Fifi" Ztaoui. No expensive dance attire needed...No children allowed in adult classes...No viewing window and behind closed doors! Call 215-336-3376 to register for the fall semester. Cost: 5 Classes per Package @ \$10 per class. Wednesdays from 7-8 PM and Fridays from 6-7 p.m. Student discounts! Senior discounts! Children's Classes Available!

See **Cultural Arts** on page 5

Next HEC Meeting November 13, 2001 at "The Arts Bank"

Bill 629 – A Final Update

On Thursday, October 4, 2001 Councilman DiCiccio agreed in caucus to bring bill 629 to vote as was expected. What happened afterwards in Council chambers however, was not expected. The bill passed narrowly, by a 9-to-8 vote!

Councilmembers Clarke, Cohen, Goode, Nutter, Ortiz, Reynolds-Brown, Rizzo, Verna voted against Bill 629 and for Philadelphians to continue having a say in how their neighborhoods are developed. In doing so, these Councilmembers risked the wrath of Councilman DiCiccio and the powerful forces that would take away citizen rights to facilitate business. We need to let them know we will not forget that they fought for us, at some risk to themselves, for our rights as Philadelphians.

Never had there been such opposition to a City Council Bill by so many community-based groups as was the case with Bill 629. Although disappointed with Councilman's DiCiccio's decision to play politics by bringing the bill for a vote, rather than adhering to the will of the people who were clearly against this bill, we were not yet defeated. The one last chance we had to kill Bill 629 was to write, fax, e-mail or snail-mail Mayor Street to ask him to veto Bill 629 by October 18, 2001. As of Monday, October 15, people had sent a total of 86 faxes through the devbob faxbank. (You can thank the 8 Councilpersons of principle by using your web browser here: <http://www.hallwatch.org/faxbank/629against>)

As for the nine Councilmembers who voted to reduce the say we citizens enjoy in zoning matters, you can tell them

See **Bill 629** on page 7

From the President:

After attending Bella Vista's 3rd Annual ' "Reasons to Stay" ' Reception last month, I began to think about reasons to stay in Hawthorne. We have our problems, but we also have great potential.

In this season of Thanksgiving, in the aftermath of September 11th, and with discussions in City Council last month about why people are fleeing Philadelphia, I began to reflect on how important it is to take time to appreciate the wonderful things we already have. It is equally important to communicate our tremendous potential as a community in transition, which include the building blocks in our toolbox as we continue to move forward with the business of building a strong community. They are reasons attractive enough to allow me to make the statement that I have decided to stay in Hawthorne.

In my travels, I often interface with other non-profits located within Hawthorne. Many of them became our community partners who immediately understood our interdependency when they were asked to join with us, others are soon to become our community partners as we continue to articulate our message and our mission. In this and in future issues, we will highlight a few of the non-profits who are dedicated to our community and who contribute so much to making Hawthorne a better place to live right now.

For instance, the Hawthorne Cultural Arts Center (HCAC) at 1200 Carpenter Street has an abundance of programs and services that are not being fully utilized by the community-at-large. Make a point to stop by and check it all out! Alia Sutton-Bey, the dynamic, young Director of the center, puts forth a great effort to bring renowned dance, music and art instructors to the Center. She is a creative, hard worker who is dedicated to helping to improve the quality of life in Hawthorne through the arts. You should also know we are negotiating with HCAC for administrative office space. When we move into the facility, you'll have yet another reason to stop by and learn more about all the Center has to offer.

Another underutilized gem is the Hawthorne Family Center at 11th & Catharine Streets. Here, dedicated people work tirelessly under the auspices of United Communities of Southeast Philadelphia to provide services to enhance the lives of families. Stacey Skipper, Director of the Truancy Program oversees its newest program which involves important work with regard to the youth in our community.

I don't want to forget to mention the Arts Bank at Broad and South Streets where we hold our monthly general meetings. They have opened their doors to us and are providing yet another place in our community to use and showcase as a reason to stay in Hawthorne.

Where else can you buy a home so close to Center City and so near the developing Avenue of the Arts for less than \$150,000? Hawthorne has the best real estate bargains in this area but this opportunity will not last long. Case in point: Did you notice the new sign at 11th & Catherine which advertises 5 new homes to be built starting at \$299,000-\$345,000?

Where else can you walk to places like the Clef Club or Ms. Tootsies or Fresh Fields or SuperFresh or experience a spectacular performance by the Cirque du Soleil almost in your own back yard? Where else can you walk to experience the unique shopping/dining of South Street, both east and west?

Where else can you get the support of adjacent community groups just for the asking? After all, we live in a place that is, whether we call it Bella Vista, Washington Square West, Queen Village or Society Hill, part of one large community called Philadelphia. As such, we must support one another.

I remain steadfastly positive about the Hawthorne community while looking forward to working with all of you to secure its future. It is, after all, up to us. If you have decided to stay in Hawthorne, what are your reasons to stay? Think about your answers and share it with us at an upcoming meeting.

Raydell Fisher

South Street Mini-Station to Re-open This Month

The South Street Mini Station will host its Grand Opening in November in celebration of its return to South Street. Now that all of the renovations have been completed to bring the police mini-station back to South Street from its temporary location at 5th and Bainbridge Streets, there will soon be another reason to celebrate. As we go to press, last minute repairs were being completed and the date for the opening had not yet been established.

The South Street Police Detail has moved into the new Fresh Fields site as mandated by the several community associations contiguous with the South Street Headhouse District. Because extra space was found and incorporated into the station a need for extra funding was created in order to make the space usable.

As the September move-in date approached, more information became available from the developer, Max Berger & Company. The extra space has expanded to about 700 square feet and the total area to 2200 square feet, nearly double the original plan. This assured that the police will be properly housed, but the need for extra funding to finish the extra space had also grown. In fact, the shortfall was between \$20,000-25,000!

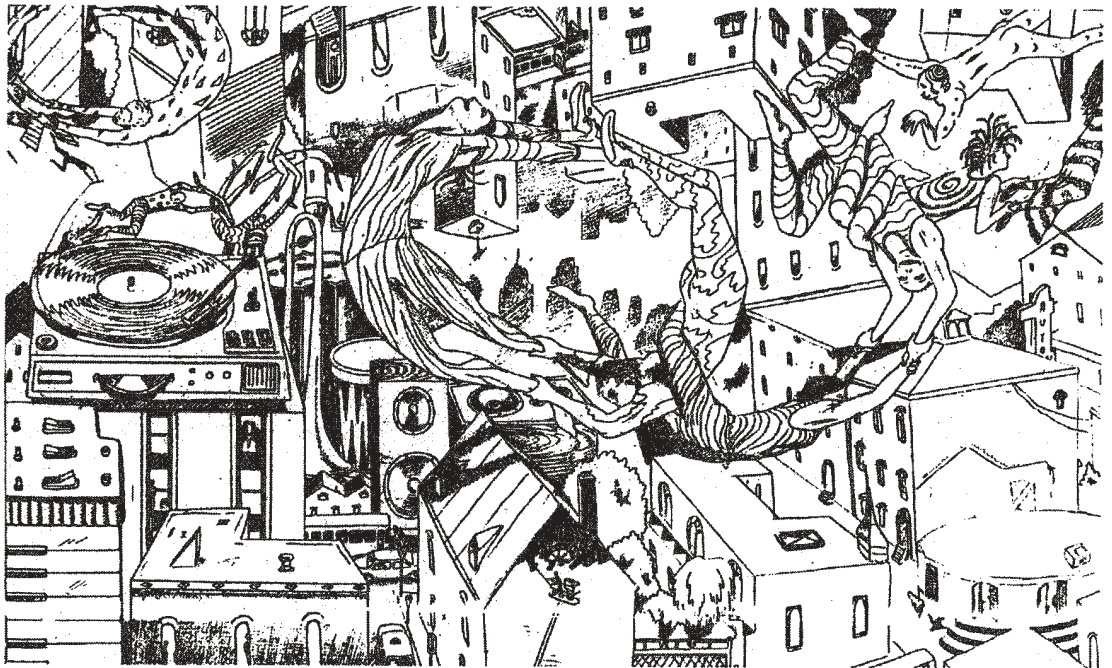
All community groups were asked to consider pledging \$5,000 or more to be paid over 2-3 years to complete the project. Such pledges allowed the project to be completed in a timely fashion. Although HEC, as a group, was not in a position to pledge \$5,000 at that time, our members do stand to benefit from the South Street Detail. As such, individual members may wish to contribute to this worthy cause. If you are looking to make a tax deductible contribution by year-end, please note that such contributions are being accepted. Friends of the Mini-Station will accept and process funds through its 501(c)3. Your tax deductible donation can be made to:

Friends of the Mini Station, c/o South Street Police Detail, 905 South Streets,

See Mini-Station on page 6

Cirque du Soleil Mural Dedication Rescheduled

The mural dedication originally scheduled for Wednesday, October 24 has been rescheduled to Saturday, November 3rd, 2:00 p.m. at 1210 South Street. As you know, the internationally renowned performance troupe, Cirque du Soleil, made its premier appearance in Philadelphia on September 27th. They selected the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program (MAP) to be their regional philanthropic partner. The mural, a colorful, fantastical urban landscape, is a tribute to the City and the performing arts. Representatives and performers from the Cirque du Soleil will join the dedication. You, too, are invited to join in the celebration. There will be music and refreshments. Both the Cirque and MAP have been very supportive of HEC, so please come out en masse to show our appreciation of this lovely addition to our streetscape.



“FINALLY . . .

An Honest Mechanic!”

We Participate



A Customer Assistance Program of
the Better Business Bureau[®]

R & A Auto Repair

928 South 12th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147

215.334.3266

HEC Membership Drive – Still Underway

The HEC 2001-2002 Membership Drive is still underway. Although everyone who lives in the Hawthorne community is automatically a member, you can become a financial member for only \$12 per year. Proceeds will be used to offset operating expenses. We hope you will consider becoming a financial member and here's why...

- You become an active part of the only neighborhood association serving the entire Hawthorne community;
- You will have a voice on matters of importance to the future development of the community;
- You will receive a copy of our monthly newsletter at your door;
- You become part of the solution to the problems, issues and concerns we must address as a community;
- You help develop community leaders of tomorrow;
- You help preserve and promote the mission, message and vision of HEC within the community;
- You help HEC to be able to communicate information to you in a timely manner as we all work together to protect our interests in the future of our community; and
- You will have a stake in the representation of our community with government, business, and other civic associations working to enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood.

In order to begin to fund programs to be provided by HEC in the future, we have created a special class of membership for businesses located in our community who may wish to support us. As business members join with us, we list their business names on the back page of our monthly newsletter. We plan to also seek corporate sponsors to donate office equipment and other office related products as we go forward. Finally, we began to sell advertising space in our monthly newsletter last month to also help generate operating funds.

Town Watch Groups – Did You Know?

There are two town watch groups operating in the Hawthorne community. One, Hawthorne Neighbors Town Watch reports it is in an active recruitment phase. The other, Avenue of the Arts Town Watch is also looking to expand its membership.

About Hawthorne Neighbors Town Watch: This group was formed one year ago on the premise that no one would object to working together with the Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee to recruit Block Captains to facilitate and participate in planned community cleanings. It hoped to become a catalyst for further development as an "eyes and ears" town watch group by helping its members get training by Philadelphia Operation Town Watch. The group got off to a very good start. As with many new volunteer organizations, many people join, but only a few stick it out. Right now, there are only a few active members who are very determined to continue. This core group planned and implemented a successful fund-raiser at the 3rd District National Night Out Event this past August. In addition, the group applied for and received funding from Philadelphia Operation Town Watch. The group reports opportunities are available to those looking to hold voluntary leadership positions in the Hawthorne community. In addition to the need to recruit new and interested members, Hawthorne Neighbors Town Watch wants to elect a Board of Directors to work to assure the continued growth and development of the group. HNTW meets every month in the Community Room at Fresh Fields, 10th & South Streets at 7:00 PM. The next meeting will be Monday, November 26th. Anyone interested in joining this group is invited to attend.

About Avenue of the Arts Town Watch: This group was formed over a year ago as an adjunct organization within the Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition. It has been a small, fledgling group ever since. This group, too, would like to continue but is in need of people to join and help operate as an "eyes and ears" town watch group. If

See Town Watch on page 6

2001-2002 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition
P.O. Box 18054, Philadelphia, PA 19147
Tele: 215-546-4701, Fax: 215-546-6921

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: (Home) _____

(Work) _____

Email address: _____

Fax number: _____

Contribution: \$ _____

- Seniors and Disabled \$ **7.00**
- Individual \$ **12.00**
- 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**

Please make checks payable to: **Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition**

Cultural Arts

Continued from page 1

Katherine Dunham Dance. Instructor is Brother Obrafo with drummer Bobby Artis. One-on-one instruction from Ms. Dunham's best student! Cost: \$8 per class, first lesson free. Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 PM.

Brazilian-Hip/Hop - Latin Style Dance with a Hip-Hop Twist! Wednesdays from 6:15-7 PM Cost: \$5 per class. First Lesson Free!

From an educational perspective programs are being developed for youth and adults including, but not limited to, computer literacy classes, ceramics (two brand new kilns are on site) and more!! Volunteers are needed to (1) teach ceramics; (2) man the computer lab a few hours each day; or (3) recommend classes to round out the curriculum. Please contact HCAC at 215-685-1848 if you are interested in registering for an existing class or if you can volunteer a few hours each day to help man the computer lab or teach a ceramics class.

On the purely fun side of things flea markets, dance recitals, festivals, family days and other activities are held from time to time. Look for announcements, mark your calendars and plan to attend an HCAC sponsored event. You will be glad you did.

On Thursday, November 15th at 6:00 p.m. HCAC will host its annual pre-Thanksgiving "Food for the Community" event. Come out to enjoy the fixin's! It's good, it's free and it's fun!

Highlights: 6:00 p.m. Showtime
7:00 p.m. Dinner is served; turkey, fried chicken, mix-mash, greens, mac n' cheese. YUM! YUM!

Hawthorne Family Center Empowers Families

When you enter the building you immediately sense it is a place where nurturing and support takes place. The first floor offices of the Hawthorne Family Center are well staffed with an impressive number of professional and caring individuals. It is a busy place that wants to be even busier helping you. Michael Cunningham, Program Director for the Center, is likely to be found moving from room to room keeping everything and everyone coordinated as they work through the activities of the day. Stacey Skipper, the Director of the Center's newest community-based program - Truancy Prevention and Intervention, served as facilitator for this informative article. She also took a little time to explain the details associated with the Truancy Program she directs. Because the program is new and the work is so vital in terms of fostering a safe and healthy community, look for an article in an upcoming issue of The Source which will focus solely on this exciting program.

Hawthorne Family Center is a partnership between United Communities Southeast Philadelphia, the School District of Philadelphia, the Office of Community-Based Prevention Services and South Philadelphia community members. Hawthorne Family Center staff and partners work together to serve the interests and needs of the community. They occupy the first floor of the Barrett Middle School Annex at 1100 Catharine Street. Call 215-925-8617 for more information. Below is a summary of all the programs and services offered at this location.

Children and Family Programs:

After School Program/Computer Lab - Open during the school year from September to June, children participate in Home Work Club groups. There is also a variety of fun activities including sports, healthy rangers and arts with professional artists from the South Philadelphia Arts Collaborative.

Freedom Summer School - Children participate in an innovative literacy-based summer camp. Time is devoted to arts and crafts, violence prevention and a social action initiative. Parents volunteer and attend educational workshops.

Rites of Passage - During the school year, adolescents ages 12-15 participate in the peer group mentoring and social group on Monday and Wednesday evenings with monthly day trips on Saturdays.

Family Dinner and Game Nights - Monthly events of fun, food and games for the entire family are held on Thursdays.

Continued on page 7

Fresh Fields
WHOLE FOODS MARKET®

**NOW TAKING
HOLIDAY ORDERS**

2nd Call for Surveys

The Board is issuing a 2nd call for completed neighborhood surveys. Please help with planning for future programs and services by completing and returning the survey as soon as possible. Thank you.

Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition Neighborhood Survey

In an effort to better understand the make up of our neighborhood and to help in planning for future programs and services, we ask you to complete this survey, cut it out and (1) mail it back to P.O. Box18054, Philadelphia, PA 19147; or (2) return it to one of the Board members at the November 13th General Meeting. The purpose of this survey is to determine the need for Youth, Senior and other programs or services that may be available to members of the Hawthorne community. Thank you for your help in developing an up-to-date picture of our neighborhood and for your interest in helping to plan for its future.

Number of household members in the following age groups:

_____ 1 to 5	_____ 41 to 60
_____ 6 to 12	_____ 60 to 70
_____ 13 to 21	_____ 71+
_____ 22 to 40	

Number of:

_____ Males	_____ Females
-------------	---------------

Occupant of Home:

_____ Owner	_____ Renter	_____ Other
-------------	--------------	-------------

Type of Dwelling:

_____ Single Family	_____ Multi-Family
---------------------	--------------------

**Please
Patronize our
Advertisers**

Mini-Station

Continued from page 2
Philadelphia, PA 19147.

It is good to know the mini-station is located nearby if needed. It is located at 905 South Street next to Fresh Fields. The phone number is (215) 922-6706. Call for more info about the Grand Opening Celebration and Tour.

TownWatch

Continued from page 4

you are interested in joining this group, please ask for contact information at the next meeting of the Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition.

NOTE: Eyes and ears denotes a non-patrolling town watch group. Such groups simply keep their eyes and ears open for suspicious activity which is then reported to the proper authorities.

Family Center

Continued from page 5

Parent Support Group - Sessions are Wednesdays, 10 am. To noon. All parents are welcome.

Parents as Teachers - Catering to expecting parents and those with children younger than 5-years old, "Community Partners" assist parents in preparing their children for school with home visits, workshops, monthly trips and access to the resource room.

Resource Room - A lending library of books and toys for parents and children.

Focus on Fathers - Through a collaboration with Resources for Children's Health, Focus on Fathers is a community-based initiative that encourages men to be involved with their children. The program includes support group meetings, weekly walk-in hours and activities for fathers and their children.

Seniors Program - Four days a week, lunches and activities are provided for seniors. Seniors are connected to resources for housing, food, etc. They also participate in monthly day trips.

Community Building Programs:

Adult Education - Classes vary and sometimes include computer classes or driver education.

Truancy Prevention and Intervention - Working with Philadelphia Family Court and the School District of Philadelphia as well as the community, Truancy Caseworkers provide children and families with the support they need to attend and achieve success in school.

Community Outreach Support Team - Case Managers provide counseling and referral services to families for LIHEAP/Crisis Energy, Housing, job training or other assistance they may need.

Emergency Food Cupboard - Food staples available, 2-5 PM., Monday thru Friday, with a referral from a church or community organization.

Share Co-op - Families may purchase groceries at a discounted cost. Monthly flyers are distributed with a choice of food packages and orders are then picked up and distributed by Family Center staff.

Health Awareness - The Health Coordinator arranges free Health Insurance for Children, brings workshops to schools and the community and teaches Health Rangers classes to young children.

National School and Community Corps - sponsored by the AmeriCorps National Service Program, volunteers spend a year providing support services for the Children's programs for Barrett Middle School Annex and the Hawthorne Family Center.

HEC meetings are open to the public.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at The Arts Bank, Broad & South Streets, at 7:30 p.m. Here is a list of upcoming meeting dates for your convenience:

November 13

December 10

January 22*

March 19*

April 9

May 14

June 11 – Hawthorne Cultural Center*

July 9 – Hawthorne Cultural Center*

August 14 - Hawthorne Cultural Center*

September 10

October 8

* ***Change of regularly scheduled date or location.***

BILL 629

Continued from page 1

what you think of their votes here: <http://www.hallwatch.org/faxbank/629for>

To sum it all up:

Bill 629 was a dramatic change to the city code that would deprive citizens of their automatic legal standing to appeal zoning decisions.

Bill 629 was passed by City Council on October 4 and would require taxpayers to prove they were "aggrieved" - a legal term which made it very difficult to have legal standing as a matter of right.

Bill 629 crippled city-wide community groups such as the Foundation for Architecture, the Preservation Alliance, the NAACP, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, SCRUB, and the Clean Air Council.

Bill 629 left neighborhoods that depended on block captains, committee people and Town Watch members and ward leaders unprotected.

Bill 629 stripped City Councilmembers, Ward Leaders and Committee people of their legal right to participate in zoning appeals in the district (opinion of the City Solicitor's Office on 6/7/01).

Bill 629 deprived CDC's, trade organizations and business associations of legal standing because of Section 7(c)'s definition of community groups which specifically excluded groups or organizations which were composed primarily of members who represented commercial or business enterprises.

The Final Update:

On the morning of Thursday, October 18th, Mayor Street promptly vetoed Bill 629 in proper response to the deluge of letters of opposition he received from community groups and citizens of Philadelphia. VICTORY! VICTORY! VICTORY! Members of the HEC Zoning and Code Enforcement Committee, who were among the many groups in opposition to this bill, sincerely thank Mayor Street for doing the right thing to protect the rights of ordinary citizens.

The Mayor also presented an alternative to Bill 629 (Bill #010615). It's too early to tell what, if anything, will happen with it.

HEC Corporate Sponsors

No Corporate sponsor(s) yet

HEC Business Members

- R & A Auto Repair
- Gennaro's Pizza
- Pennyfeathers

HEC Community Partners

- Hawthorne Cultural Center
- University of the Arts
- Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)
- United Communities of Southeast Philadelphia
- Hawthorne Family Center

**HOUSEPLANT WHOLESALERS
1233 BAINBRIDGE STREET
THE LARGEST SELECTION OF HEALTHY
HOUSEPLANTS IN PHILLY!**

OPEN MON – SAT 9am - 6pm SUNDAY 10 – 4

**CHRISTMAS TREES, WREATHS &
POINTSETTIAS
ARRIVING NOVEMBER 22**

**EVERYTHING FOR INDOOR & OUTDOOR
GARDENING**

**WATCH FOR THE GRAND OPENING OF OUR
FULL SERVICE GARDEN CENTER**



P.O. Box 18054
Philadelphia, PA 19147
215.546.4701 (voice)
215.546.6921 (fax)

Board of Directors:

President
Raydell Fisher

Vice President
Albert Hicks

Treasurer
Sunny Payne

Recording Secretary
(vacant)

Corresponding Secretary
Patricia Bullard