



The Source

Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition

Your Source for News and Views in YOUR Community

Volume 2, Number 4

May, 2002

New Police Captain At Third Police District

The Third Police District, located at 11th & Wharton Streets, has had a recent change in leadership. Captain Michael Weaver (Badge #116) replaced Captain John Darby who was recently reassigned to new duties. We extend a warm welcome to Captain Weaver and look forward to working with him. If the manner in which he has already reached out to introduce himself to us here at HEC is any indication of his approach to working with this community, then all of us here in the Hawthorne community are in good hands under his leadership.

Following is a brief bio of Captain Weaver's illustrious police career:

When Captain Michael Weaver graduated from the Philadelphia Police Academy Class 236, he was assigned to the First District at 24th & Wolf Streets for eight years. He served the South Philadelphia area as Patrol Officer for the Divisional Burglary Detail. He was also assigned to the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency Taskforce where he made under cover drug purchases and arrests in the entire Philadelphia area. After being promoted to Sergeant and assigned to the 17th District at 20th & Federal Streets for eight years, he transferred to the Organized Crime Unit for two years. He was next promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to the 18th District at 55th & Pine Streets for six years. There he was a Patrol Supervisor, Executive Administrative Lieutenant and Narcotics Processing Supervisor. He was later transferred to the Internal Affairs Division for one year and promoted to Captain. He was assigned to the 24th District and Second in Command (Executive Officer). Next he was transferred to the Command Inspection Bureau for a year and subsequently transferred to the Third Police District where he is the Commanding Officer.

HEC Welcomes New Board Member

HEC is pleased to announce a new addition to its Board of Directors. The position of Recording Secretary is no longer vacant thanks to the spirit of community resident Judy Anderson, MD. Anderson recognized the need, wanted to help and offered her time. At the April General Membership meeting a vote was taken to appoint Mrs. Anderson to the position without holding a special election. We are grateful for her assistance and we look forward to working with her. Please join us in welcoming her to HEC!

Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee 2002 Block Cleaning Schedule

As you may or may not know, May marks the beginning of the Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee's Block Cleaning Schedule. Each year, three scheduled cleanings are planned throughout the City based upon Police District and Sanitation Area locations. The Hawthorne Community is part of Police District 3 and Sanitation Area 2. As such, the 2002 scheduled dates for our community are: May 18th, July 27, and September 28.

Typically, registered Block Captains (registered with PMBC) work with neighbors on scheduled cleaning days to promote working together to keep their blocks clean. Cleaning three times a year, especially during the summer months when more people are out and about, is certainly better than doing nothing at all. Still, a long-range goal for this activity is for people to become inspired to continue to work together and plan to keep their blocks clean all year round.

PMBC helps by supplying brooms and trash bags for all participating blocks. If your block wants to be included on the scheduled dates, please contact your PMBC Clean Block Officer, Lawrence (Buddy) Martin, immediately at 215-685-

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Next HEC Meeting

Tuesday, May 14, 2002
at "The Arts Bank", 7:30 P.M.

From the President

I feel the need to update everyone on two pressing issues before us as a community. Last month, we found ourselves faced with major and growing concerns with regard to zoning, demolition and redevelopment in our community. As such, much of our efforts have been directed toward organizing and planning how we, as a community, will handle these challenging issues on short order.

The community has chosen to appeal the decisions of the Zoning Board of Adjustment made at the hearings on February 27 where all but 2 of the 14 scattered site parcels presented were approved on the spot without regard for input from members of the Hawthorne community. Without dispute, we believe we had legitimate concerns, which should have been addressed in the spirit of cooperation and with a sincere effort to bring about resolution and compromise. This did not happen. Therefore, the appeals were filed and an attorney was sought to represent us at the appeal hearing. Concurrently, flyers will be circulated throughout Hawthorne soliciting input for a list of collective concerns from the community-at-large to be raised at the appeal hearing. It is a matter we must pursue because this issue of zoning variances and use permits that were granted to the developer will have a long-range and virtually irreversible impact on our community.

A status hearing in preparation for the appeal hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1st at 9:30 in Room 426 at City Hall. There is no great need the Hawthorne community to come to the status hearing, although all interested parties are welcome. Once the appeal hearing date is set (it is expected the date will be announced at the status hearing) you will be notified as far in advance as possible, so concerned community members can plan to turn out en masse to demonstrate the severity of our concerns.

Equally important are the growing concerns about the manner in which demolition (to make way for the development of the scattered sites mentioned above) was handled in our community. We asked for and received the support of Councilman DiCicco who wrote a scathing letter to the Department of Licenses and Inspection. We also asked the Councilman to facilitate a meeting with our neighbor, Kenny Gamble and with a high-ranking official of L&I. The plan was to invite the Councilman, Mr. Gamble and the L&I official to our April general meeting. It turned out that the meeting had to be rescheduled due to a conflict in the Councilman's schedule. We have not yet decided on a date for this meeting to take place, as we actually needed more time to prepare for it. First of all, we want to allow more time to hear directly from you. Secondly, we want to secure adequate legal representation. Again, we will circulate flyers throughout the community asking for your input so your voices can be heard. As we go to press, the community has been very responsive and we believe we will have an organized and thorough list of concerns to address when this meeting does take place. We will continue to collect your responses until the shut-off date specified in the flyer. Then we will compile and submit our "issues list" in advance of a meeting that will not take place without the presence of our attorney.

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming general meeting on May 14th when the Board and I will update you further on these (and other) community issues. As to these concerns regarding zoning, demolition and redevelopment which are ongoing, new developments are unfolding day-by-day.

Raydell Fisher

HAPPENINGS AT HAWTHORNE C.C.

Our dear friend and gracious hostess, Alia Sutton-Bey, director at HCC, has requested the support of HEC and its membership in her ongoing attempts to have her center certified by the State of Pennsylvania as a licensed child care facility.

As you can imagine, there are reels of red tape to be spun through, and the Board of HEC has pledged its support. Alia will present her proposal at our next general meeting where you can express your verbal ayes; but she also requests that our community members write to the State in support of Hawthorne Cultural Center's efforts. More information to come before the next meeting.

THE BUCKET BRIGADE

If you attended the HEC zoning meeting in March at the Hawthorne Cultural Center (HCC), 12th & Carpenter Streets, you saw a large stack of the blue recycling bucket/bins used by the City's streets department.

HCC is one of the city wide distribu-

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- Dr. Donald Turner

HAWTHORNE CC

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tion sites for the new municipal drive to promote recycling. Any resident with a valid address can come to HCC, sign the form, and take home a bucket or bin. (Only one per address, please!) The program is free and the recycling office promises to have instruction brochures available soon and will conduct a special prize contest for the best recyclers! For more information contact the Recycling Office's Program Specialist: Margi Ide @ 215-686-5449. email: margi.ide@phila.gov

HEC Community Partners

- Hawthorne Cultural Center
- University of the Arts
- Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)
- Hawthorne Family Center of United Communities of Southeast Philadelphia
- Avenue of the Arts, Inc.
- Ready, Willing & Able- Philadelphia

Hawthorne Town Watch

Hawthorne Neighbors Town Watch meets monthly on the last Monday of the month in the Community Room at Fresh Fields at 7 p.m. HNTW is always looking for people who may be interested in joining Town Watch. The group is currently planning for a big National Night Out outdoor event to be held on Tuesday, August 6th between 10th & 11th Streets on Washington Avenue. Anyone from the Hawthorne community is invited to attend meetings to help plan and execute this upcoming event.

Philadelphia More Beautiful

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3993. NOTE: PMBC is asking residents to place all bagged debris at either end of the block to expedite collections. Do not block off street with vehicles. No bulk or household trash will be collected on Saturday.

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Mark Your Calendars

There will be a change in the meeting location for HEC General Monthly Meetings for the months of June, July & August of this year. The Arts Bank will be closed during these months in accordance with the summer schedule for the University of the Arts. Therefore, HEC General Monthly Meetings will be held at the Hawthorne Cultural Center, 1200 Carpenter Street, Philadelphia, PA on June 11, July 9 and August 13th. (You will be notified in advance of any additional changes to our summer meeting schedule.) Please note that HEC monthly meetings will resume at the Arts Bank in September.