



The Source

Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition

Your Source for News and Views in *YOUR* Community

Volume 2, Number 8

November, 2002

GUESTS TO ATTEND HEC NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Two important guests are expected to attend HEC's November General Meeting.

The **Honorable Frank DiCiccio**, City Councilman for the 1st Councilmatic District will present grant funds awarded to HEC from the Philadelphia Activities Fund. Councilman DiCiccio was very instrumental in securing this grant for 2003 as well as making sure HEC received a grant from this fund in 2002.

Additionally, **Lieutenant William Walls**, of the 3rd Police District will be on hand to discuss concerns that were raised at the October meeting concerning increased drug traffic along 13th & Catherine Streets. This will be a good opportunity to discuss any other concerns you may have about increased drug traffic in the Hawthorn community and / or potential problem areas where other criminal activities may spring up.

Please plan to attend this meeting for an opportunity to ask questions and find out what measures are being taken (post Operation Safe Streets) to decrease and/or eradicate drug traffic in the Hawthorne community.

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Once again, the drab and empty lot at Broad Street and Washington Avenue was transformed into the magical world of the Cirque du Soleil. The familiar blue and yellow tent city appeared to rise from the ground almost overnight like a French accented "Brigadoon" for its second month-long stay on the Avenue of the Arts.

This year's edition "Varekai" was up to the high artistic standards of the Canadian based troupe. The high ticket prices were justified by the state-of-the-art production. This was not your grandfather's circus! There was no sideshow or carnival barker, true but the essence of Le Cirque is still the natural marvel of the human acrobat. These daring young men and women on the flying trapeze performed "death defying" stunts that the X-Game skateboarders can only dream about. The flying bodies were surrounded by a magical production. According to the program, "the word Varekai means 'whatever' in the Romany language of the gypsies", the universal wanderers. This production paid tribute to the nomadic soul, to

the spirit and art of the circus tradition, and to the infinite passion of those whose quest takes them along the path that leads to Varekai." Those who took the path during the months of September and October were not disappointed by the spectacle. A vaguely Eastern European new-age type soundtrack accompanied the almost wordless show. The performers wore elaborately skin-tight costumes by Japanese designer Eiko Ishioka that allowed their toned bodies to move freely while still imparting a sense of the magical. There was some comic relief in the show too, John Gilchrist, the only American in the cast, was the pseudo host in a ridiculous leafy skirt; his gibberish delighted spectators of all ages. There was also a funny bit spoofing a French lounge singer who tries to stay in the spotlight ... literally! But the essence of the show was the acrobatics. No matter what the theme, or the wrapping, we still marveled at what the trained human body could do. The cast of Varekai "floated through the air, with the greatest of ease."

CITY SERVICE DECLINE NOT AFFECTING HAWTHORNE

The City of Philadelphia's ongoing hiring freeze and the proposed budget cuts have impacted services citywide.

The Recreation Department has proposed eliminating funds for its entire after-school program, to be replaced by a \$1.6 million federal grant. These developments have not negatively impacted our local recreation center, Hawthorne Cultural Center, according to director Alia Sutton-Bey. "Our After-school program has been up and running since September 16th and we are still taking applications. I am very pleased to offer Ms. Mecca Madyun as our RSI leader. The center has not reduced its hours or programs. We would like to encourage local residents to be volunteers for our Thanksgiving and Kwanzaa celebrations."

The city's hiring freeze was imposed in 2001 because of a failing economy and fallout from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. When the new fiscal year began on July 1, the freeze was continued and the administration called for a 5 percent cut in all non-uniformed city departments.

The budget director reports that the city now has 24,402 employees, down 341 from last year.

The Recreation Department must eliminate \$2 million from its \$40 million budget. The plan is to cut \$400,000 in personnel costs in addition to the \$1.6 million in After-School funds. That program serves 3,500 children at 138 sites.

Next HEC Meeting

Tuesday, November 12, 2002 at
the Arts Bank, Broad and South Streets,
7:30 P.M.

From the President

November has the makings of a great month for the Hawthorne community in general and for HEC in particular. HEC has worked really hard to secure operating and program funds so the work of the organization can continue. Recently, we have been able to realize the fruit of our labor as HEC continues to be the recipient of a variety of grant funds. This windfall would not be possible, of course, without the the recognition and support of our elected officials combined with the hard work of HEC Board members to complete and submit grant applications in a timely manner.

So.... as we bow our heads to be thankful for the bounty we have received this year I, for one, will not forget to express my thanks to all who helped HEC establish itself as a viable neighborhood association. We certainly look forward to more of you joining closely with us in the future as we continue to work to improve the quality of life for all residents and businesses of Hawthorne. It's never too late to GET INVOLVED. Your participation is always welcomed.

Happy Thanksgiving to All!

I'll be looking to see you at the November General Meeting.

Raydell Fisher

PHILA AFFORDABLE HOUSING REPORT

The Philadelphia Affordable Housing Coalition has released a report on housing in the city.

The coalition found that in 2000, there were more than 200,000 households with annual incomes under \$20,000; that is more than 1/3 of the city's population.

About 150,000 of these households, almost 1/4 of the city population, pay more than they can afford for housing.

WEEKLY NA MEETINGS

Weekly Narcotics Anonymous Meetings will be held every Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. at Ready, Willing & Able. The 12-Step Program is open to anyone in recovery and willing the follow established guidelines for participation, such as no lingering outside of the facility when meetings conclude. Ready, Willing & Able is located at 1211 Bainbridge Street.

COMMUNITY TOOL BANK

Are you planning to do repairs around the house before winter sets in, and you don't have a ladder?

Building a deck but have no circular saw?

Why buy a tool you'll only use once or twice?

Borrow what you need from the tool bank.

From hammers to power painters, miter saws to saw horses, almost anything you need to complete that home improvement project is available from a tool library for the use of community members.

All that's required to borrow a tool is a small refundable deposit.

For more information contact:
 United Communities Tool Bank
 Houston Center
 2029 S. 8th Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19148
 215-467-5136

PA SPAM Laws

A Pennsylvania law approved in June 2000 requires unsolicited commercial e-mail messages containing "explicit sexual materials" to contain a label ("ADV-ADULT") at the beginning of the subject line.



Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition

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THE GOLDEN TOUCH

PDR's award winning Mural Arts Director, Jane Golden, is a talented artist as well as a muralist. This was proven distinctly last summer when her original oil paintings from 1996, "Crown Heights" and the striking black and white/color "Terror," were displayed at Hawthorne playground during the Hip-Hop Holiday/B-Boy Barbecue Festival. Golden's paintings drew attention for their stark depictions of racial/ethnic tension and Middle-Eastern terrorism. Hawthorne ARL, Anthony DiFlorio, photographed the paintings and when the photo's were developed, four white vertical streaks mysteriously appeared and seemed to bracket the paintings. They bore an eerie resemblance to the white light beams that commemorated the World Trade Center Towers. Could Golden have known in 1996 that her work was a foreshadowing of the destruction of the Twin Towers? You can ask her at one of the signings for her new book, "Philadelphia Murals and the Stories They Tell" [Temple University Press] and for the 2003 Mural Arts Calendar.

Update on Kater Street Mural

Thanks to the ingenuity of the artists in the City of Philadelphia's renowned Mural Arts Program, summer has not come to an abrupt end on the 1200 Block of Kater Street. Instead, summer is returning in the form of a very colorful landscape mural designed by noted landscape artist, Paris Stancell. Five buildings along the 1200 Block of Kater Street is the canvas for this vibrant mural which invokes a summer scene of green trees, blue tranquil waters, tropical birds and abundant fish under a shining yellow sun. Another noted artist and sculptor, John Brenman, will add glass, tile and other mosaic pieces to the mural to make it even more spectacular and magical. The expected completion date is early December if weather permits. Look for more details in an upcoming issue about plans for the dedication of this mural which will definitely draw attention to the Hawthorne community in a positive way.

(There's more about murals on page 5, including a sample drawing of the Kater Street mural)

FIGHTING PESTS

It is not the most appealing topic, but a necessary one to discuss. Since large amounts of earth have been displaced in the HEC community with the construction of the new townhouses; the underground residents of those areas have relocated to neighboring homes. The most unwelcome of these "guests" are roaches. Penn State University has published a guide to dealing with roach infestation:

- **Survey the Enemy.** Set glue traps for one week at 10 or more locations against walls, in corners, on shelves, in drawers, in heat-generating appliances.

- **Take Defensive Action.** Clean everything-spills, crumbs, dirty dishes. Store cereals, sugar, crackers, cookies and bread in airtight containers. Empty garbage nightly. Caulk bathroom and kitchen holes where pipes pass through walls. Carefully check any grocery bags, suitcases, or anything that may harbor traveling pests.

- **Attack.** Start with bait containing hydramethylnon, sufluramid, boric acid, or abamectin-available at hardware and home stores. Apply to areas where your survey shows you have insect activity. In infested areas, apply a light dusting of boric acid or diatomaceous earth (available at swimming pool supply stores). *Do not treat areas that can contaminate food or areas frequented by children or pets.* Avoid using residual sprays or foggers. These just scatter the insects. Apartment building residents should coordinate treatment.

- **Re-attack.** Apply fresh bait and dustings every week until the situation is under control.

NO CALLS PLEASE!

If you want to register for the new "Do-Not-Call" list Pennsylvania has created to reduce calls from telemarketers

1. Call 1-888-777-3406.
2. Visit <www.nocallsplease.com>
3. Send a postcard with your name, address, telephone number and signature to: Direct Marketing Association, DMA Telephone Preference Service, Box 1559, Carmel, N.Y. 10512.

4. Return the insert in your phone bill.

If you get busy signals or experience delays, just try again.

A Note of Thanks

Everyone affiliated with writing, designing, producing and printing the HEC monthly newsletter, THE SOURCE, wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to each of the gentlemen from Ready, Willing & Able. A team of men have been out on the streets delivering the newsletter each month to the doors of each of the 600+ homes and businesses in the Hawthorne community. The task of delivering the newsletter can be added to the list of the many valued community service activities the men of Ready, Willing & Able so willingly provide. They are a prime example of what good neighboring is all about and we want them to know how much appreciate their kind assistance. We are happy to recognize their good works and claim them as an asset to our community.



COMING ATTRACTIONS AT HAWTHORNE CULTURAL CENTER

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

November 21, 2002 – 6:30 p.m.

Come join us for a holiday celebration filled with food, fun, entertainment & community spirit!

KWANZA/HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

December 28, 2002 – 3:00 p.m.

African dance, stilt walking and spoken word. Activities and games for children. Vendors Welcome.

RAISING THE STAKES

(A personal appeal from the Editor)

In the past year I have had the privilege of attending the meetings of a local group of concerned citizens called "The South Philadelphia Stakeholders." Started by our friends and Community Partner at the Hawthorne Family Center located at the Barrette Annex, 12th and Catherine Streets, the Stakeholders are committed to combating the problem of truancy. The HFC staff, DHS workers, school district educators, Family Court judges and community activists all come together to brainstorm about this vexing problem affecting our families. I have seen the hard work of these Stakeholders who developed a workable plan to qualify for a grant to implement their ingenious proposals, only to see it jeopardized by a condition imposed by the grantor ... more participation by the community. Who is a stakeholder? Anyone who has a "stake" in the future of South Philadelphia. The Stakeholder meeting invites all concerned participants to contribute to the continuous growth and development of the community. During these meetings, individuals have the opportunity to voice their concerns and make a difference. The stakeholder meetings are held once a month in different locations throughout South Philadelphia usually at 1:00 pm and last only an hour. Sadly, attendance has been light and uneven. Community participation is a vital component of the Stakeholders meeting. Having the community partner with the family center, schools and the Department of Human Services is a necessary part of the Stakeholder process if it is to achieve success. It is our responsibility to pave the way for our children. If a village is needed to raise a child; then our village must rise to the occasion. Surely you can spare one hour a month to help save our children from truancy? If participation and inclusion are not increased, the grant will fall through and all the hard work of HFC will have gone for naught! But can you blame the grantor? Would you give money to a program that doesn't have the support of the community? We need parents, faith-based organizations, block captains, community groups, political leaders, etc. to send at least one representative to

Continued in next column

MORE RECYCLING

Philadelphia's Partnership Recycling drop-off center on 12th Street in the parking lot just south of Wharton Street is scheduled to close. The first-Saturday-of-the-month event ceased operations this month and stopped accepting recyclables on September 7, according to program coordinator Bob Pierson.

The community-based recycling effort was started in the late 1980s by the South Philadelphia Environmental Action Coalition and has given residents a place to recycle their plastics and mixed paper for more than a decade. Other community groups with good participation in the Partnership Recycling Program earn thousands of dollars for community good works from city incentives and sale of the mixed paper. Residents are urged to recycle their plastics and mixed paper at other sites in the Partnership Recycling Program. The closest ones to HEC are at 22nd and Spruce Streets on the first and third Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; and at Second and Spring Garden Streets on the first Saturdays, 9 a.m.-noon. These sites only accept clean plastics 1 and 2 (with lids off) and clean, dry mixed paper.

Bob Pierson can be reached at <phillyrecycles>@aol.com.

RUBBER SOULS

The Streets Department's 2002 Tire Round-Up Program was in the South Philadelphia area on September 14 and 21. Only registered block captains, organized community/civic organizations, townwatch organizations and Partnership Recycling Groups registered for the Tire Round-Up Program with a valid ID number were eligible for participation. Registered participants were offered a "tire bounty" of 50 cents for each illegally discarded tire collected and dropped off at one of the city's designated sites. Tires from auto-repair shops, mechanic shops, car dealers and private storage lots were required to be disposed of by the merchant for a fee, and were not accepted at the drop-off sites. HEC, a registered participant in the program, sends a huge thank you to Steve Playo and Sunny Payne for rounding up and hauling a number of discarded tires to the drop off site. They helped HEC raise a few dollars and they helped to beautify our community by getting rid of some of the discarded tires.

the meeting each month. It doesn't even have to be the same person. For more information and to register for the next meeting call Dwayne Wilkins at the Hawthorne Family Center: (215) 925-8617.

Remember this: NO SHOW, NO DOUGH!

Raydell Fisher

WWW.PHILA.GOV

The City of Philadelphia's official website [www.phila.gov] is being upgraded and improved. Within the next few months, residents and businesses should be able to pay their taxes, appeal their property assessment, and apply for permits online.

Philadelphia's website already gives residents the ability to check their property-tax assessments, pay parking tickets, find a police accident report, and view zoning maps. The city, however, has no plans to put City Council legislation, meeting minutes, or other Council information online. [For that information, we recommend <www.hallwatch.org>, a site maintained by Edward Goppelt]

City Hall has also raised \$2.5 million in private funds to pay for the purchase and installation of 1,300 Internet-connected computers in 123 city recreation centers. This is in addition to 2,500 computers already in place in public buildings. Locally, Hawthorne Cultural Center at 12th and Carpenter Streets, has been outfitted with a 10 terminal computer lab in a former rehearsal room, according to director Alia Sutton-Bey. "The Server has been installed by the Recreation Department LAN director Melvin Williams. We expect to be connected to the citywide system shortly, and my staff will be trained on how to use the system," she said. Ms. Alia intends to make the computer lab available to her afterschool children before 6:00 PM and for adults during the evening hours. Computer courses may also be offered.

MURALS ARE US

[We all love the Murals that decorate walls in our neighborhood. If you have any ideas for a mural and a wall that you think would be appropriate, here is the procedure according to the Mural Arts Program. Mike Smash, who has created the Chakaba mural at Hawthorne and the Dragon on 12th & Washington, has graciously offered to help anyone with their application]

How to Apply for a Mural

Given the large number of murals painted each year, budgetary realities, and the Mural Arts Program commitment to making murals a meaningful part of youth and community development, MAP now requires that ALL murals go through a competitive selection process. There are two annual deadlines for mural applications: March 1, and **November 15**. All mural requests must be submitted by one of these deadlines to be considered. Older versions of the mural application that have been received in the past year will also be considered in this first round of review. **There is no waiting list.** Unless you have heard from the Mural Arts Program in writing that you are receiving a mural based on a past application, you must submit a new application for your mural request to be considered. MAP will review all mural applications and announce

finalists for selection by **December 15, 2002** for the November deadline.

A panel comprised of Mural Arts Program staff, muralists and community art experts will review all mural applications. The following criteria will be used:

Submission of a complete application by the deadline;

Community and/or organizational support for and involvement in the mural;

Applicant's commitment to help organize and participate in at least two community meetings with Mural Arts Program staff and artist including nearest neighbors to the wall;

Availability of a suitable and visible wall;

Significance of project: artistically, for the community or institution, for youth and/or for Philadelphia as a cultural tourism destination and/or for the Mural Arts Program;

Capacity and commitment to maintain the property at the base of the wall;

Innovation. MAP is looking for creative, important and innovative projects -- make your pitch and convince us that your mural should be at the top of the list!

For your mural project to be considered, you must complete the [application packet](#) [PDF, 38KB] and submit it to the Mural Arts Program by close of business (5:00 p.m.) of the deadline (March 1,

2002 or November 15, 2002). Submissions must be made by mail or in-person to the Thomas Eakins House, 1729 Mt. Vernon Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130. Faxed applications will not be accepted.

Requests for applications and all questions or concerns should be addressed to: Brian Campbell at 215-685-0750 or via email to brian.campbell@phila.gov.

Mural Arts Application Checklist

If you can answer "YES" to most of the questions below, you are well on your way to submitting a successful mural application.

Have I talked to my neighbors and/or community groups about a mural?

Have I identified a wall that faces traffic and does not peel, crack or have leaks?

Have I tried to speak with the wall owner and/or obtain permission for a mural on that wall?

Do I have a fabulous idea for the mural that will be meaningful for the whole community?

Am I able to work with Mural Arts Staff to have at least 2 meetings about the mural?

Have I made a firm commitment to maintain the area around the mural with my neighbors?



Sample drawing of the Kater Street Mural

HEC Business Members

- R & A Auto Repair
- Gennaro's Pizza
- Pennyfeathers
- Master of Cuts/Braider's Co-Op
- A & L Organization Services, Inc.
- Forman's Money Loan Office
- Alvin M. Levin & Son, Inc. Real Estate
- 4 C's Rentals
- Young's Pharmacy, Inc.
- Dr. Donald Turner
- Chef Gerard Catering

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 Neighbors Town Watch

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