



The Source

Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition

Your Source for News and Views in *YOUR* Community

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January, 2003

Community Park Collaborative to begin at February General Meeting

HEC is forming a collaborative to help fund, plan and design the community park at 12th & Catharine Streets. The community park, part of the overall MLK Development in our community, is key to its future transformation. As such, HEC felt it important to collaborate with others. We know we will be able to distinguish ourselves through this project by tapping into all the talent, which exists in our community primarily due to where we are situated along the Avenue of the Arts. HEC believes art can provide so much more than beauty. Art can be a healing and educating force in our community. It can empower people of Hawthorne to ex-

press and voice concerns about the future of their own community.

HEC asked its corporate sponsors, community partners, elected officials, and others to pool their efforts to help make the park not only beautiful, but something we work on together, something that will be unique to Hawthorne, and something that we can all be proud to call our own.

Jamar Hunt, Chairman of the Industrial Design Department at the University of the Arts and graduate students from the University of the Arts, will assist interested Hawthorne community members in turning ideas for the park to actual professional design concepts.

The High Life in Hawthorne Square

By Sandra Robinson

Thirty years ago the end of an era in Black night life in Philadelphia came from a combination of the construction of the Hawthorne Housing Projects (later renamed Martin Luther King), desegregation, and the relocation of hundreds of black families, who were living in what is now called Washington Square West, Society Hill, and Queen Village.

Until then Hawthorne Square boundaries (depending on whom you ask) were from Lombard to Bainbridge Streets and from 5th to 13th Streets.

Hawthorne was infamous for its nightclubs, theaters, bars, hotels, hotel-bars (hotels with bars), and "speakeasies" that catered to Blacks and to Whites who had a taste for things only found in Black neighborhoods. You could get anything you wanted in Hawthorne Square, if you were willing to pay the price. Vice was

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Elected Officials Very Supportive of HEC

Our elected officials have been very supportive of the efforts of HEC during its first year as a non-profit corporation. Area politicians have been instrumental in helping HEC secure grant funds to cover operating and other expenses. While HEC continues to work to develop and improve its fundraising efforts, this support has been key in making it possible to maintain initial programs and services as well as plan for additional ones going forward. As we move into 2003 we, here at HEC, want to be sure to acknowledge and thank our elected officials for their assistance. Please note the following:

Elected Official	Grant Amount
State Senator Vincent Fumo	\$10,000
State Representative Harold James	5,000
State Representative Babette Josephs	2,500
Councilman Frank DiCicco	4,500

City Managing Director to be Guest at January Meeting

Ms. Estelle Richman, Managing Director for the City of Philadelphia, will be our guest at the January General Meeting. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting.

- Ms. Richman will certainly have valuable information to share about City services. Our goal is to help people understand how to work with the City more efficiently and effectively in order to get things done.
- This will be a great opportunity to gain direct knowledge and get direct answers to questions you may have.

Update on the Kater Street Mural

Completion of the mural at 12th & Kater has been delayed until spring because of the temperature. The materials (paint, sealer, and adhesives) will not bond to the wall when it is too cold or damp.

The artists (Paris Stancell and John Brenman) will finish as soon as the temperature gets back up into the 60's (probably in March).

Meanwhile, the work that has been completed to date is very colorful and absolutely beautiful. Although it is a work in progress, there is still enough to enjoy during the delay. So, stop by and enjoy!!

Next HEC Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, 2003 at
the Arts Bank, Broad and South Streets,
7:30 P.M.

From the President

Happy New Year!!!

January is a month of firsts that I will fully embrace.

HEC will celebrate its first year as a non-profit corporation on January 28th. As I look back over our accomplishments, I am still proud, privileged and honored by the opportunity to serve the Hawthorne community in a leadership capacity.

2002 has been a challenging year -- one jammed pack with zoning issues, financial concerns, public relations, communications, networking, strategic planning, joining forces with other civic groups and fighting to maintain and solidify our identity.

We rose to the challenge and came out on the other side pretty much none the worse for the wear. We certainly learned a lot and walked away from each situation armed with extremely valuable information that will be very useful as we continue to move forward.

So many of you were there, working with us, providing all kinds of support and encouragement and putting forth your best efforts to keep HEC alive and well. For all that you do, all that you've done, I want to take this time to thank you once again.

Unfortunately, there are just as many who did not attend one meeting last year nor participate in even one activity, proposed or otherwise. We invite you again to come and see. Come and speak. Come and listen. Come and learn. Come and be a part of an entity that is firmly in place to improve our neighborhood, to increase the quality of life for all of us, to work together with you to make positive things happen in our community. We really cannot do this work without your collective input and participation.

So.. if you haven't figured it out already, here is my first message for the New Year. HEC is all about you! I will add this year's message to my mantra of last year.

GET INVOLVED; HEC IS ALL ABOUT YOU!!

Do *you* have pride in your community? Will *you* work to preserve the good qualities and improve upon the negatives? How do *you* want your community to look? How do *you* want people to feel when they drive or walk through your community? Do *you* care about the future of your community?

HEC will celebrate many more firsts as we continue to help make more things happen here. You can certainly have a voice in any or all of it should you choose to get involved. There is much work to be done and great satisfaction to be realized from doing it. Just remember... **you are the key to the future of this community.**

Raydell Fisher

SHERIFF SALE SAVVY

Sheriff John Green has established a series of free hour-long seminars at public libraries around the city to explain the sheriff sale procedure. For schedule of events call the sheriff's office: **215-686-3565** or visit online at: www.phillysheriff.com or in person at The Land Title Building, 100 S. Broad Street. You can also obtain brochures on sheriff's sales and get lists of properties slated for upcoming sales.

Remember to carefully research any property you are interested in buying. Check to see if there are any outstanding housing code violation at the **Department of Licenses and Inspections: 215-686-2440 or 2445.**

Heater Help

[These gas heater safety tips are courtesy of PECO Tip of Month]

- Keep the area around your heating appliance clean and free from litter, paper and flammable materials.
- Call your HVAC contractor for regular maintenance at least once every two years.
- If you smell an odor of gas, call PECO Energy immediately at 1-800-841-4141.

For more gas safety tips, visit www.exeloncorp.com

KING FOR A DAY

Monday, January 20th, 2003 is the date for the annual Greater Philadelphia Martin Luther King Day of Service. The event is expected to draw more than 35,000 participants, which is about 5,000 more than turned out last January for 517 service projects.

The King Day of Service was created in 1994 by federal legislation sponsored by then-U.S. Senator Harris Wofford, D-Pa., and U.S. Rep John Lewis, D-Ga. as a way to honor Dr. King's birthday as "A Day On...Not A Day Off." Wofford's aide, Todd Bernstein, has organized the local programs since 1996.

Hundreds of civic, educational and faith-based organizations are lining up projects for January 20th, including AmeriCorps and Philadelphia Reads. Any group or individual interested in volunteering or hosting a project can register by phone at 215-665-2475, fax at 215-665-2531 or online www.mlkdoyofservice.org



Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition

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High Life

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rampant. Violence was common. Robberies were a fact of life. But the pleasures were unbridled.

Famous Black entertainers performed at local nightclubs and theaters. Unable to enter the posh bars and clubs of White establishments after performing, they partied into the wee hours along side of ordinary Black folk.

Longtime residents remember jostling with great Black entertainers like Bessie Smith (who once owned a grocery store on 10th Street), Nat King Cole, Billie Holiday, Johnny Mathis, Eartha Kitt, and Sammy Davis Junior for elbow room in crowded smoked filled bars.

Residents were poor. Unemployment was high. Housing was substandard. As late as the early 1960's there were houses in Hawthorne Square that still lacked indoor toilets. Photographs of homes show small, dilapidated brick buildings with potbelly stoves, dim lighting, and inside walls grimy with soot from coal burning stoves. Rarely did residents own their own homes. Rent, paid weekly, was a sizable portion of their meager income.

But on South Street the good times flowed. The strip of clubs and bars found on or near South Street extended west across Broad Street, beyond Hawthorne Square. After listening to Billie Holiday sing at The Standard, patrons met up later at the Pink Elephant and bought her drinks. White patrons paid Black muscle to protect them from robbers or worse. Housewives and manual laborers, pimps and loan sharks, and ladies of the evening, all decked out in their Saturday Night finest, smoked, drank, danced, and laughed till they cried. Then they smoked, drank, danced, laughed, and cried some more.

The Highlife on South Street ended in part, when neighbors were dispersed in a city housing development plan that constructed the Hawthorne Housing Project. The housing within the original Hawthorne boundaries was revitalized as part of the same plan. By this time, the name Hawthorne Square was so notorious, new residents wanted nothing to do with it. The city re-christened the neighborhood Washington Square West.

The former residents decided to take the name, Hawthorne Square, with them
continued in next column

CHIPPIN' IN

St. Agnes Medical Center will host a community forum on free and low cost health insurance. Many Philadelphia children are eligible for CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program). Come and find out if you qualify.

Thursday, January 23, 2003

5-8 PM

St. Agnes Medical Center Auditorium
1900 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148
215-685-5248

Refreshments will be served. Applications will be taken while you wait. The forum is free, but you must pre-register. Space is limited. To register and ask for information, call Virginia Brown at 215-685-5248.

Sponsored by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health

Online Transactions and eServices for You

Visit this page

<http://www.firstgov.gov/Citizen/Services.shtml>

and you'll find almost 90 (yes, 90!) online services. They truly run from A to Z. Here are just a few:

- Auctions
- Benefit programs, including how to determine if you're eligible
- Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates
- Health Check-Up
- Job Bank
- Lottery Results (under Taxes and Money)
- Mortgage Calculator
- Student Loans
- W-4 Tax Withholding Calculator
- Zip Code Look-Up (under Postal Service)

to their new neighborhood, just south of their old one.

[Sandra Robinson resides in the Hawthorne community. She has done extensive research on the history of the Hawthorne community, including searching archives at the Free Library of Philadelphia. This is the first in a series of articles Sandra has written on this subject for publication in The Source.]

Philadelphia School District Policy on Truancy

- At one or two days absence, parents of truants are called and asked to send a written note.
- At three days, parents get written notification and are asked to verify absences and set schedule a parent/teacher conference.
- At eight days, the teacher begins a truant investigation by sending a representative of the school to the home, and parents are warned of possible legal action and told that they must respond to school requests. The school invites the parent to attend a meeting of community groups and school officials to help sort out what can be done to help the family address the truancy problem.
- At 10 days, parents are officially notified about the truancy record and told that the student has been referred to truancy court. Legal proceedings begin.

RECYCLE YOUR OLD COMPUTER

If you received a new computer for Christmas you may be interested in what to do with your old one. Please don't throw it out with the trash. Computer components contain hazardous materials: cadmium, mercury and lead. They can be recycled. In Pennsylvania, go to <www.dep.state.pa.us> and search for "electronic discards" using the direct link box. Or better yet, donate your old computer to a nonprofit organization. In Philadelphia a recommended resource is **Nonprofit Technology Resources, Inc., 1524 Brandywine St., 215-564-6686.** <www.libertynet.org/ntr/> Executive Director is Stan Pockras.

NTR will accept almost any make or model of used computers and peripherals. The later models are refurbished and resold to the underprivileged. Welfare-to-work trainees dismantle the older units, and the parts are sent to electronic recyclers. NTR will also sell working used monitors at cut rates: 14" for \$25, and 15" for \$35. If you have 10 or more pieces to donate, NTR will arrange for pickup.

HEC Settles Zoning Appeals with Uni-Penn

[On December 23, 2001 a settlement agreement concerning zoning appeals filed by HEC with regard to the MLK scattered site housing was finalized, signed and filed in the Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County Civil Division. A copy of the agreement in its entirety is reprinted below. D ed]

This is to confirm agreements reached at our meeting of Tuesday, September 24, 2002 which are to be binding upon HEC, Uni-Penn Housing Partnership II (hereafter, Uni-Penn), and any other parties having any relationship to the above project, including, particularly, all partners in and of Uni-Penn.

We have agreed that in consideration of HEC withdrawing its appeals with prejudice before the Court of Common Pleas on October 16, 2002, Uni-Penn, and any other parties related to the MLK Hope VI project agree as follows:

1. Taking into consideration the Hall Street to Montrose Street sites which are being or have been returned to the Redevelopment Authority (RDA) without development, and which will be available for off-street parking, the 46 scattered site units will have, at minimum, 36 off-street parking spaces available to them. In any event, Uni-Penn will work with HEC in an effort to locate additional off-street parking, if reasonably available, and will cooperate with HEC and RDA in making 36 spaces available for use by the new 46 units. In addition, Uni-Penn will produce a feasibility study on the likelihood of finding additional parking spaces for the MLK project with a focus on Webster Street, within 90 days of the signing of this Agreement.

2. Uni-Penn will devote the 12th & Catherine Streets site for a community park, and will keep HEC advised throughout the decision processes and be open to suggestions from them relating to design, planting, maintenance, etc. for this area, designated on the plans, for a community garden/park. The garden/park will be used a public space, and Uni-Penn will provide some reasonable public art therein. All questions regarding the park will be addressed and decided at community council advisory meetings as described below.

3. Uni-Penn shall participate with HEC at community council advisory meetings initially not less than once every other month during the first year of this Agreement. Thereafter, the frequency of subsequent meetings shall be determined jointly by HEC and Uni-Penn. The first meeting shall be held within 45 days of the signing of this agreement. Uni-Penn shall advise, assist and partner with HEC in the development of community-based programs and services within and outside of the 12th & Catherine Streets park. Uni-Penn shall provide to HEC advance information and review relating to construction and demolition methods, timing and locations, and shall refrain from using any deep dynamic compaction at any of the scattered sites.

4. Uni-Penn, with input from HEC, shall establish a process and procedure for receiving and addressing complaints resulting from demolition and/or new construction at any of the sites and Uni-Penn shall maintain compliance with it in all respects. The first draft of the complaint process and procedure shall be completed within 45 days of the signing of this Agreement. HEC does not waive its rights to redress complaints by any other means.

5. Subject to independent obligations to former MLK residents and other public housing tenants, Uni-Penn shall work with HEC in providing notice of job availability throughout the community, and shall respond as positively as possible to all questions, requests and suggestions of HEC regarding job availability.

6. Uni-Penn shall become, and acknowledge themselves as being, HEC's corporate sponsors for a period of not less than one year. As part of such sponsorship, Uni-Penn shall buy a full-page ad in the HEC monthly newsletter for a period of not less than one year. The cost to Uni-Penn shall be at HEC's regular rate for such advertising.

7. Uni-Penn shall meet with designated HEC representatives regarding all future sections of the MLK project. Such meetings shall take place as frequently as may be reasonably necessary, at such dates, times and locations as shall be satisfactory to all of the parties, including HEC, and Uni-Penn shall provide to HEC substantial advance notice of its desire to hold any such meetings. Alternatively, HEC may request such meetings, and Uni-Penn shall reasonably grant such requests.

8. Prior to applying for any use or zoning permits for any future sections of the project, Uni-Penn, or any successors, shall meet and discuss with HEC all design and layout particulars, including but not limited to, amounts and locations of off-street parking, green space, open space, etc., and Uni-Penn shall make every effort to come to agreement with HEC regarding such particulars. HEC acknowledges and approves changes to plans for the 12-unit building at the northeast corner of Watts and Fitzwater Streets, part of MLK Plaza Phase III, without changing the size, height, number of units or number of off-street parking spaces.

9. The parties also agree to work together on such issues as the mix of subsidized and market value housing, commercial uses, and multiple family housing.

10. Uni-Penn and HEC hereby pledge to work in good faith and harmony with each other in efforts to reach agreement with regard to all particulars of future sections of the project. The parties hereto agree that it is in the best interest of all of them and of the community, to work diligently and cooperatively with each other with regard to development of the future sections of this project.

11. Uni-Penn and its partners shall work with HEC in coordinating the dates and places of community meetings and events [public functions] proposed by Uni-Penn or its partners.

12. Upon execution and delivery of this letter agreement, Counsel for HEC will notify the Court that appeals have been withdrawn and will file a praecipe to settle, discontinue and end. The parties hereto desire to hold a joint press conference to publicly announce this settlement and its terms, and shall do so with 45 days of the signing of this Agreement.

INTENDING TO BE LEGALLY BOUND HEREBY, THE PARTES HERETO SET FORTH THEIR HANDS AND SEALS THIS 24th DAY OF DECEMBER 2002.

/Signed by the following parties/

UNI-PENN HOUSING PARTNERSHIP II

By Uni-Penn LLC

By: Pennrose Properties, Inc.

Robert C. Totaro, Vice President

MICHAEL SKLAROFF, Esquire

Attorney for Uni-Penn Housing Partnership II

HAWTHORNE EMPOWERMENT COALITION

STANLEY KRAKOWER, Esquire

Attorney for Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition

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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