



Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition

# The Source

Your Source for News and Views in *YOUR* Community

JUNE, 2007

## HAWTHORNE ELECTIONS

June 12th, 2007

at the Hawthorne Recreation Center

12th and Carpenter Streets

7:30 pm

## HAWTHORNE NIGHT OUT

June 21, 2007, 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM is Hawthorne Night at Ms Tootsie's Soul Food Cafe 1312 South Street, come out and meet your neighbors old and new.

We will also be inviting our many friends that have worked with us on the park and other friends that have supported the Hawthorne Community.

Enjoy a night of music, a jazz quartet will provide smooth music for us to enjoy and there will be free finger food. A cash bar will be available.

Hope to see many of you there

Patricia Bullard

President Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition

## For Your Information!

The residents on the 1300 block of Webster Street have experienced a couple of incidences of vandalism or mischief..or someone trying to create some mayhem between neighbors.....

The 1st occurred when someone anonymously wrote a letter to the PHA Mgt complaining about one of the neighbors living on Catherine Street. This letter was signed anonymously but had the address of one of the residents on Webster (go figure) .....

The other incident occurred late Thursday night early Friday morning a couple of weeks ago (April 20th), someone dropped a large piece of marble into a Webster st neighbor's car back window.

We were all shocked and concerned as this has never happend in my many years of living on this block. Someone is trying to unravel the cohesiveness we have on our block.

Not sure where this is going but wanted to make everyone aware of the activity in the nieghborhood, something we've never experienced before.

## HAWTHORNE CULTURAL CENTER

1200 Carpenter Street Pa 19147

Boys & Girls Basketball League

Sign up now

Boys & girls Ages 9-12 years of age

Contact:

Mr. Winston

215-685-1848

Space is limited

H.E.C.

Election Meeting

Tuesday

June 12th, 7:30pm

The Hawthorne

Recreation Center

12th and Carpenter

Meeting is open to all.

ALL residents are encouraged to attend.

## Fabrica & Nicole Miller Philly Team up for Planet Hope

As many of you know, Fabrica works closely with the Nicole Miller stores in the Philadelphia area making beautiful clothes for all types of people. Recently Fabrica was given an opportunity to donate it's 5 Star tailoring services during a Nicole Miller Philadelphia and Planet Hope event providing some girls in need with great dresses for their prom.

WANTED FOR THIS SPACE:

### One Park we can call our own!



### Submissions to the Newsletter

Please e-mail or in some manner deliver your submission to Pat Bullard by the 20th of the Month for inclusion in the following months "Source"

## Come to the Next Monthly Meeting

For all of the latest Park information. As well as Zoning considerations, or better yet come to the next Zoning Meeting for all of the news instantly.



### Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition

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# Riviera Beach Homeowners Celebrate Victory Over Eminent Domain Abuse

**Party Saturday Celebrates Victory & One-Year Anniversary Of Florida's Eminent Domain Reform Law**

Arlington, Va.—The Institute for Justice and property owners from Riviera Beach, Fla., are celebrating the successful conclusion of their legal fight to stop the city's attempt to take private property through eminent domain for a massive private development project. They will hold a party Saturday, May 12, from 1p.m. to 5p.m. in Bicentennial Park in Riviera Beach to celebrate the victory and to mark the one-year anniversary of Florida's eminent domain reform law.

The Institute for Justice (IJ), which represents home and business owners who filed a lawsuit to prevent the City of Riviera Beach's abuse of eminent domain, announced that it dismissed the lawsuit this morning because it is now clear that the city cannot legally use eminent domain to take its clients' homes and businesses for a large-scale private development featuring a yachting complex. Also, city leaders, including the former mayor who supported the project, lost their recent reelection bids. The lawsuit's goal of stopping eminent domain abuse has been accomplished.

In June of 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court announced its decision in *Kelo v. City of New London*. In that case, the Court held that local governments may use eminent domain to transfer property from one private owner to another if the new owner promises to make more money with the land. Since that decision, 38 states have passed laws limiting local governments' power of eminent domain. Florida is one of those states. On May 11 of last year, then-Governor Jeb Bush signed Florida's law, which is one of the strongest in the country for property owners because it effectively bans the use of eminent domain for private development.

However, one day before the law was signed, then-Mayor Michael

Brown and the Riviera Beach City Council entered into a vague agreement with Viking Properties in a brazen attempt to skirt the law so that the city could use eminent domain to seize more than 800 acres of waterfront property (occupied by about 5,100 residents) for a massive private project including a yacht marina, luxury condominiums, and upscale hotels. As a result of that questionable agreement, the working-class, predominantly African-American community of 33,000 became one of the most important battlegrounds in the national fight against eminent domain abuse.

The Institute for Justice, along with its clients, Princess Wells, Michael and Nora Mahoney, and Artis Reaves, filed a lawsuit in order to enforce the new law and remove the specter of eminent domain abuse from the community. Pacific Legal Foundation's (PLF) Florida office, known as the Atlantic Center, also filed a lawsuit on behalf of local taxpayers seeking to enjoin the city from spending public money in connection with its illegal eminent domain efforts for the purpose of redevelopment.

"Our clients' right to keep their homes and businesses has been vindicated," said Bert Gall, a senior attorney with the Institute for Justice.

"The city has conceded that its questionable agreement with Viking has expired and does not give it a legal basis to use eminent domain in violation of Florida's new eminent domain law. Furthermore, there has been a significant change in city leadership, including the ouster of Mayor Brown, whose defiance of that law threatened our clients' homes and businesses."

"At long last, my neighbors and I have stability because our homes and businesses cannot be taken away and given to a private developer," said IJ client Princess Wells, who has lived for 20 years in her pink home—painted the same color as the home of Susette Kelo, the woman who lost her fight against eminent domain abuse before the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Now, we want to work with the new Mayor and City Council to find ways to redevelop the right way—without using the threat of eminent domain for the benefit of politically connected private developers," said IJ client Nora Mahoney, a small business owner who owns and runs Dee's Tees with her husband. "One reason we're dismissing our lawsuit is because the Mayor and council agreed to talk with us about that."

"Hopefully, the city will now work with its home and business owners instead of against them," concluded IJ Senior Attorney Dana Berliner. "The Institute for Justice will continue to pay close attention to what happens in Riviera Beach. If city leaders ever again contemplate violating Florida law against eminent domain abuse, we will once again take them to court."

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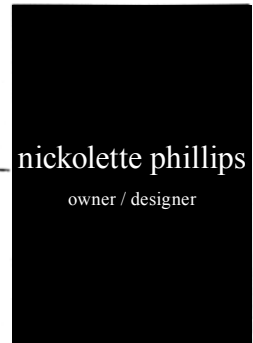
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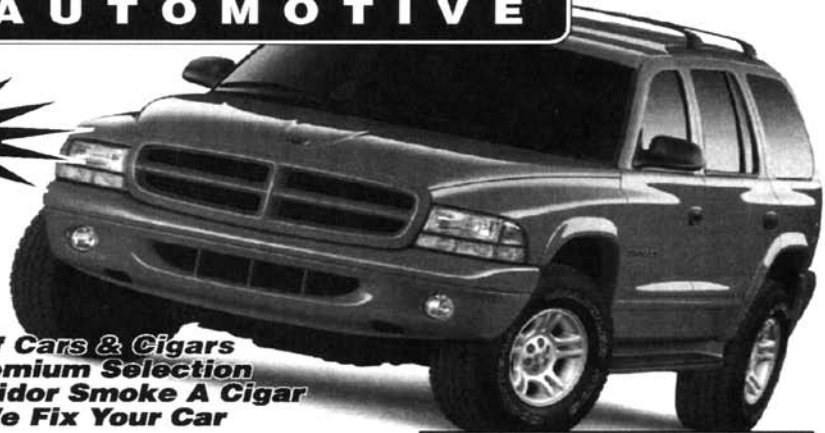


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