

TACONY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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Volume 8, Issue 3

A Nonprofit Corporation to Serve the Community

September 2010

Tacony Civic Association General Meeting

★ **September 14, 2010** ★

- ♦ Starting Time: **7:00pm**
- ♦ Disston Memorial Presbyterian Church, located at 4500 Tyson Ave. (Please use side entrance on Glenloch St.)
- ♦ A representative from Waste Management will be joining us.
- ♦ All are welcome!

Future 2010 TCA meetings:

- ♦ November 9th
- ♦ March 8th, 2011

Renew Your Membership for 2011!

If a 2011 membership renewal form is enclosed, please complete it and return to the address specified on form. Only \$5 a year! What a bargain!

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19th Annual Tacony History Day

Saturday, September 18th, 2010

Parade - **11am** starting at Torresdale and Hellerman Street and going North to Disston. It will then proceed left onto Disston, ending at Disston Recreation Center at Disston and Glenloch Streets.

Festival - **12 Noon to 4:00pm** - Disston Recreation Center - Disston and Glenloch - Games, Rides, Entertainment and Historic Exhibits!

Interested in volunteering at History Day? Let us know!

Tacony Civic Fall Flea Markets at Disston Park

6900 Keystone Street, between Longshore & Disston

Saturday, **September 25, 2010** (rain date: Oct. 2, 2010)

Saturday, **October 16, 2010** (rain date: Oct. 23, 2010)

8:00am - 2:00pm both days

10'x15' spaces available for only \$10!!!

Please contact Dawn Ramos at (267) 455-2859.

Food vendor and restroom facilities will be available onsite.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Benussi
President

Troy Everwine
Vice-President

Mike Scotese
2nd Vice President

Linda Salandra
Treasurer

Anne Marie Kuvik
Secretary

Dawn Ramos
Lawrence Vitale
Board Members

TACONY CIVIC COMMITTEES

Events Committee
Mary Benussi

Membership
Dawn Ramos

Fundraising
Dawn Ramos

Police Liaison
Mary Benussi

Publicity & Public Relations
Troy Everwine

Quality of Life
Barbara Dooley & Sandy Stewart

Public Works (Streets, Traffic, Water, & Sewer)
Anthony Naccarato

Tacony Clean & Green
Troy Everwine

Zoning
Louis M. Iatarola

*Please leave a message on the Tacony Civic phone line (215-338-2575 ext. *1) if you would like join a committee.*

Your help is greatly appreciated!

DID YOU KNOW?

As Tacony gears up for construction of its third new firehouse building in its storied history, did you know that right here in Philadelphia Benjamin Franklin helped organize the first volunteer fire company in 1736? Known as the Union Fire Company, each member would provide six leather buckets and two linen bags which were brought to all fires. The buckets would carry water to put out the flames and the bags would store any salvaged valuable personal property. Other early firefighting organizations in Philadelphia included Fellowship Fire Company and Hand-in-Hand Fire Company, which worked along with Union Fire Company to purchase a fire bell in 1752 to be installed on Fourth Street. Volunteer fire units served the city until 1871, after a City Council ordinance declared that the growing city needed a municipal fire department. Competition between fire companies had grown counterproductive as neighborhood fire companies became increasingly affiliated with political machines.



One of the hallmarks of the early days of firefighting were cast iron "fire marks," which were plaques typically affixed at the front of the home to denote whether it was covered by fire insurance. While British fire marks were utilized to identify the affiliated fire company located closest to the blaze, in the United States these plaques served as a guarantee that the affiliated insurance company would reward the fire company responsible for extinguishing the fire. In addition, the fire marks were intended to discourage malicious arson by displaying that the owner of the property was insured.

After the establishment of the Philadelphia Fire Department in 1871, the marks lost their usefulness; however many insurance companies continued to produce them for advertising purposes. Typically depicting a gilded image of a hydrant emitting a stream of gushing water, or the logo of the associated insurance company, the plaques usually took the form of an oval or shield. Many can still be found adorning the fronts of older homes in neighborhoods across the city.

At the Tacony Library...

Saturday October 2nd 10am-3pm

Flea Market and Used Book Sale

The Friends of Tacony Library are holding a flea market and used book sale.

Rain date is Saturday October 23rd.

Tacony Library, 6742 Torresdale Avenue, 215-685-8755.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FORMER PRESIDENT...

In May, after nearly twelve years on the Board of Directors of this fine organization, the past 2 and a half as President, it was a bittersweet moment as I guided our membership through our last General Meeting. The time has come for me to redefine my role within the organization - to concentrate mostly on the Zoning Committee - so that I can better focus on professional and personal matters which for too long took a back seat to my community involvement. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many residents whom I have gotten to know over these years and who I expect to see around Tacony for many years to come. It is you as a collective group of proud and sometimes feisty citizens that continue to inspire those at the top of this organization to do what we do on a daily basis.

When I first got involved here I was by far the youngest Board Member of a proud but tired organization. Just a dozen years later, Tacony has been infused with an organization which has skewed much younger and, with the makeup of our new Board of Directors, is sure to continue to evolve and grow. We are in challenging times here in Tacony, and without the efforts of groups like ours I don't know how stable our community would be anymore. I can not stress enough the need for our residents to remain vigilant, report suspicious activity to the Police and to our Quality of Life Committee, report illegal rentals to our Zoning Committee, and continue to pay your \$5 per year to be part of this organization. Certainly the best bargain around to keep apprised of happenings in your neighborhood! Please help out where you can, since as a volunteer organization we always need bodies to pitch in at events or on committees. See you on Tacony History Day!

Louis M. Iatarola

At our September meeting, Lou will be presented a plaque with the following inscription:

With Deep Appreciation for Eleven Years of Tireless Service to the Tacony Civic Association as
Vice President and President, This Award is presented to Louis M. Iatarola.

You have worked diligently to create a richer future for Tacony by helping us all to understand the many lessons of the past. You are a faithful steward, leader, teacher, mentor, and friend.

We cannot thank you enough for your hard work and steadfast dedication.

Presented This 14th Day of September 2010

Tacony Civic Association Board of Directors

From Our Quality of Life Committee...

- ◆ We are currently looking for a license and some funding to turn the vacant lot on Unruh & Glenlock into a community garden. Also awaiting a date for the demolition of a property on James Street.
- ◆ CLIP has offered their assistance to members of the committee who have violations on their blocks.
- ◆ Our recent guest speakers have included Captain Bachmayer, Lieutenant McFadden, and Assistant District Attorney Andrew Carabus from the Nuisance Task Force. They have supplied our members with a wealth of information.
- ◆ We were written up in the NE Times (August 4th edition).

The next QOL meeting is scheduled for September 30th, immediately preceding Captain Bachmayer's Town Hall meeting. QOL Email address is TCA_QOL@hotmail.com

Zoning Variances

Louis M. Iatarola, Tacony Civic Zoning Committee Chair

- 6801 New State Road** - legalization of three (3) separate uses including dismantling of automobiles for export and creation of five (5) loading spaces and legalization of 6 foot fencing at a multi-tenant industrial building. Original hearing date was June 9. TCA did not oppose to a 3-year temporary variance, which was granted by ZBA. Will be discussed at meeting.
- 4201 Princeton Avenue** - variance for creation of an outdoor play area and 6 foot high wrought iron fencing to surround the yard area at St. Stephen's United Church of Christ. Hearing occurred on June 15. TCA did not oppose and ZBA granted variance. Will be discussed at meeting.
- 4732 Rawle St.** - variance to erect a 25' x 23'4" garage of concrete block construction to replace an older smaller garage of metal construction. Hearing was held on August 3. TCA did not oppose but requested several provisos including brick facade. ZBA still pending in its decision. Will be discussed at meeting.
- 7044 Torresdale Ave.** - legalization of doctor's office with "non-incidental" living quarters above. Zoned R-5, the original variance was in place only with doctor's office and doctor's residence above. Use of second floor is proposed for non-doctor occupancy. TCA did not oppose and ZBA granted variance from hearing on August 4.
- 7355 Melrose Street** - worked in conjunction with Holmesburg Civic Association (HCA). Legalization of body and fender work in a one story automotive garage building. TCA and HCA did not oppose and ZBA granted variance on August 10.
- 6810 Frankford Ave.** - working in conjunction with Mayfair Civic Association (MCA). Variance for a restaurant/bar on the first and second floor with accessory office/storage area on third floor at a building converted to office use approximately 8 years ago. Rescheduled hearing held on September 1. TCA is supporting MCA in its opposition to this variance. Will be discussed at meeting.
- 6369 Edmund St.** - legalization of a three-family dwelling in a two-story row style property constructed as a two-family dwelling. Community meeting will be held prior to General Meeting on September 14. Will be discussed at meeting. ZBA hearing to be held on September 21.

From Tacony Town Watch...

A Tacony Town Watch meeting will take place on **September 15, 2010 at 7pm** at the Tacony Baptist Church at the corner of Hegerman and Disston Streets. Lieutenant Maroney will be there to update us with the PSA 3 crime statistics and Officer Mike Lewis from 5 squad who will talk to us about the importance of a Town Watch from an officer's perspective. Any problems or complaints can be sent to TTW online at our website www.tactw.org.

Paul Costello
President Tacony Town Watch, Inc. Holmesburg/Upper Mayfair Town Watch
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