

TACONY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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Volume 8, Issue 4

A Nonprofit Corporation to Serve the Community

November 2010

Tacony Civic Association General Meeting

★ **November 9, 2010** ★

- ♦ Starting Time: **7:00PM**
- ♦ Disston Memorial Presbyterian Church, located at 4500 Tyson Ave. (Please use side entrance on Glenloch St.)
- ♦ Guests: Louis Giorla, Commissioner of the Philadelphia Prisons System and Mark Gilson, NE District Attorney ZONE Czar
- ♦ All are welcome!

Future 2011 TCA meetings:

- ♦ March 8th
- ♦ May 10th
- ♦ September 13th
- ♦ November 8th

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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Vital Neighborhoods Initiative

Great News! Tacony was selected as one of fifteen eligible neighborhoods in Philadelphia, one of only three in the North-east, to receive grants from the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia in 2011 through what is known as the Vital Neighborhoods Initiative.

This program is intended to strengthen "middle market" neighborhoods like ours which have strengths but could benefit from further investment to attract new homeowners and improve residential housing. The Tacony Civic Association will work closely with the Tacony Community Development Corporation and Historical Society of Tacony to develop grant applications from the smaller \$5,000 marketing/improvements grant to the larger service grants which will help solidify a vision for grander projects as more funding becomes available.

The service grants will be provided in conjunction with the Community Design Collaborative which provides professional design / architecture work for projects which could feature adaptive re-use of underutilized buildings, interpretive neighborhood displays, improvements to community gathering spaces, residential streetscapes and commercial corridors.

A representative of the Tacony Civic Association attended the briefing session at the Preservation Alliance on October 28th and will convene meetings with the CDC and HST in order to submit the grant applications in early December. More on this at the General Meeting.

Tacony Business Association

Senior Citizens' Holiday Dinner

Sunday, December 5, 2010

Tacony Baptist Church * 4715 Disston Street

Caroling on the upper level at **1:15pm**

Complimentary Dinner on the lower level at **2:00pm**

Call (215) 338-2575 for more details

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Benussi

President

Troy Everwine

Vice-President

Mike Scotese

2nd Vice President

Linda Salandra

Treasurer

Anne Marie Kuvik

Secretary

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Lawrence Vitale

Board Member

TACONY CIVIC COMMITTEES

Events Committee

Mary Benussi

Membership & Quality of Life

Dawn Ramos

Fundraising

Dawn Ramos

Police Liaison

Mary Benussi

Publicity & Public Relations

Troy Everwine

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

Anthony Naccarato

Tacony Clean & Green

Troy Everwine

Zoning

Louis M. Iatarola

Letter from the Board President

The Tacony Civic Association has been formally functioning to represent our Tacony Neighborhood since 1982. It has been my pleasure to serve this organization for more than six years as a committee member, then board member and now as the Board President.

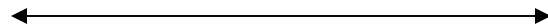
The Tacony Civic Association has no political affiliation. We represent all neighbors without being beholden to any political party or elected official. Our bylaws do not allow for a candidate or candidate's representative to sit on our Board or act as a committee chairperson. We owe it to our members to uphold these bylaws which for nearly 30 years have helped the TCA earn the cooperation and respect of our elected officials.

To this end, we've had some changes, and our Quality of Life Committee will now be functioning closely with our Membership Committee, currently chaired by Dawn Ramos. With the cooperation of our Board, this joint committee will function with regularly scheduled meetings to address all issues and concerns of residents. As we address our neighbors' concerns, we will continue to promote all the positive aspects of living in Tacony as well. I know the future is bright and there are a lot of positive happenings in Tacony. We appreciate everyone's efforts to make Tacony great and as always, we're stronger **together**.

Quality of Life complaints will be taken via email at TaconyCivic@gmail.com, or by calling (215) 338-2575. The date of the next committee meeting will be announced at the general meeting. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary Benussi



Did You Know?

DID YOU KNOW that it's been over a decade since blocks of Hegerman Street and Devereaux Street in Wissinoming were severely impacted by sinking homes which required total demolition? Today a fenced and landscaped area exists where a series of rowhomes built over an old creek (filled by the City many years ago with cinder and ash) were unceremoniously knocked down in 1999. Philadelphia was once a city where hundreds of creeks and tributaries meandered through every neighborhood. Because of these creeks, industry flourished through the Industrial revolution. As the city grew more populous, the waterways became more polluted since they were virtually used as sewers. Waste from slaughterhouses, used dye, trash and sewage all were discharged into the rivers and creeks.

By the late 19th century, many of the city's creeks had disappeared. They were viewed not only as physical obstacles to development but had become so dirty that they became a health hazard. The streambeds were replaced with the sewer system which now contain many of the old tributaries. By the 20th century, City leaders recognized the benefits of preserving as many streams as possible and created watershed parks (Fairmount, Wissahickon, Cobbs Creek, Tacony Creek, Pennypack). The 1972 Clean Water Act required utility providers to significantly reduce pollution from its treatment facilities, combined sewer and storm water runoff. According to the Philadelphia Water Department, the creeks and rivers in Philadelphia are cleaner now than they have been in the last half-century. Over the next 2 decades, the Department plans to build upon this progress by implementing a mix of new infrastructure, green land practices, stream restoration and community involvement.

Please attend the TCA Quarterly Meeting on Tuesday, November 9th, 2010

at 7:00 PM at Disston Memorial Presbyterian Church

We have two guest speakers to discuss safety issues and the impact of crime on quality of life in the Northeast:

- ◆ Mark Gilson, newly appointed NE Zone District Attorney focusing exclusively on crime in the Northeast.
- ◆ Louis Giorla, Tacony resident and Commissioner of the Philadelphia Prison System.

This meeting will be preceded by the Historical Society of Tacony Meeting at 5:45 PM

Matthew J. Smalarz is a PhD candidate at the University of Rochester and part-time faculty member at Holy Family University. He will be talking about his ongoing research titled, "Suburban Paradise: Race, Class and Culture in the Making of Northeast Philadelphia, 1945-1990."

Cottman Princeton Interchange Workshops

On Monday, October 25th the State Road neighbors affected by ramp construction for I-95 met with the design team to discuss plans for four new "Open Green Spaces" on Wissinoming Street. The priority is safety, responsibility for the sites and quality usage. Ideas voted on were passive usage, buffer zones, a community garden and possible basketball courts. The Tacony Civic Association Zoning Committee will work to get the areas rezoned from Commercial to Residential and the Tacony CDC will work with Philadelphia Parks for oversight of the projects. The next workshop will seek input on designs for the underpass walls.

Next Workshop: Wednesday, November 17, 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Tacony Library

Winterfest!

Meet Santa Claus, join in the holiday festivities and take a trolley tour of historic Tacony.

Sponsored by the Tacony Business Association, The Tacony Civic Association & The Historical Society of Tacony

Saturday, December 2010 12:30-3:30pm at the Tacony Library

Also At the Tacony Library...

- ◆ Monday November 29th at 6:30pm: Bedbugs!

Learn why these pesky critters are making a comeback. The program will include tips on how to recognize these insects, how they get into homes, how they live, what kind of health problems they cause and effective methods of controlling them.

- ◆ Wednesday December 1 at 6:30pm: Holiday Flower Arranging

This workshop will highlight how a holiday flower arrangement is an easy way to enhance a hospitality table or greet guests as they arrive at your home. Part of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society City Gardening Series.

- ◆ Tacony Library is having a **Pre-School Storytime Series** on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. for ages 3-5 with an accompanying adult.

Nov. 18 - **Let's Give Thanks!** Listen to stories celebrating Thanksgiving, join in fun interactive songs and make a special holiday craft!

Dec. 2 - **Holiday Celebrations** - Holiday stories, songs and rhymes, followed by a short Holiday movie.

Pre-Registration Required. To register, please call the Children's Librarian, Ms. Carpenter.

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

Zoning Variances

Louis M. Iatarola, Tacony Civic Zoning Committee Chair

5245 Bleigh Avenue - partnered with Holmesburg Civic Association. Variance request by Waste Management to add signage to newly constructed building. Plans were reviewed and both HCA and TCA did not oppose. Variance granted by ZBA on October 13th.

6534 Torresdale Avenue - variance to legalize a 6 foot high fence at a single family dwelling. Hearing was continued on October 19th and will be held on December 7th. Meeting will be held with neighbors and applicant prior to meeting to determine if TCA will oppose, not oppose or request modifications.

4106 Robbins Avenue - variance for a day care facility for up to 6 children. Hearing on November 3 will be continued until mid-

December so that a meeting can be held with the applicant and neighbors to determine if TCA will oppose or not oppose this variance.

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.

6369 Edmund St. - legalization of a three-family dwelling in a two-story row style property constructed as a two-family dwelling. TCA decided

Successful Job Fair!

Nearly 300 people attended the Waste Management Job Fair at the Disston Recreation Center on October 3rd.

According to Edgar Palacios, Manager of The Philadelphia Material Recycling Facility at The Forge, "Centrix Staffing reported taking a record number of applications for the Sorters positions. Overall, I consider the event a great success; it significantly increased the pool of potential candidates for the different positions, in addition allowed us (Waste Management) to have a positive impact, by hiring members of the community."

Waste Management is still taking applications for Sorters and Maintenance Mechanics.

Sorters can apply through Centrix Staffing.

Centrix Staffing

Phone: (215) 725-4300

Email: jobs@centrixstaffing.com

Maintenance Mechanic candidates may apply online at www.wmcareers.com



Tacony Town Watch, Inc. is looking for new members to help us patrol our neighborhood. We are working with the Civic in handling crime and narcotics complaints. Feel free to visit us on our website at www.tactw.org and fill out the complaint form. Your complaint will be answered within 48 hours. Please consider joining the Town Watch; we could really use your help! You can find out more information about Tacony Town Watch, Inc. on our website at www.tactw.org.