



*Fitler Square
Improvement
Association, Inc.*

Newsletter

*Spring
2004*

It's Fitler Square Fair Time - May 7th and May 8th

The Fitler Square Improvement Association is pleased to announce that our **42nd annual Spring Fair** will be held **Friday May 7th** and **Saturday May 8th**. The hours both days are 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM-ish (or whenever the food or our energy runs out, whichever comes first). We will have a rain date of Sunday May 9th. Come join your friends and neighbors and celebrate spring, the neighborhood and our Park.

The Improvement Association has over 250 members who contribute both membership fees and time in order to maintain and improve Fitler Square Park through a partnership with the City of Philadelphia. The Square is now one hundred eight (108) years old. All proceeds from the Fair support the ongoing maintenance of the Victorian-style park

As usual, the Fair will feature games and activities for children, this year featuring both "sand art" and "spin art" projects. We hope to have some special surprises for the kids on Saturday, so be sure and stop by. Musical entertainment will be provided on Friday by the **Philadelphia School A Cappella Choir** (4 PM), and on Saturday by **City Lights**, a Philadelphia String Band group.

From the antiques and crafts dealers that will ring the Square to the Used Book and "White Elephant" booths, you'll be certain to find something of interest. There will be a neighborhood information table, where you'll be able to pick up some information on **Trinity Center**, and **CORP**, among other organizations. This year will also mark the 2nd year of a partnership with **The Food Trust** and they will be on hand to share information on the **Farmers' Market** which will be held every Saturday on Fitler Square, beginning at the end of May, running through November.

In keeping with tradition, we encourage you to give freely of your no longer needed books, "elephants", and children's outgrown clothing and toys, in order to stock our booths. Our Book Booth has expanded to include a DVD/CD/VHS tape section, and donations of those are welcome. Due to a shortage of storage space we ask that you bring your donations to the appropriate booth on Friday morning. Of course, donations will also be accepted on Saturday morning as well. If you need annuals for your window boxes, pots or planters, we're sure you'll get the plants you need at the Flower and Bedding Plants booth. Our Raffle gets better every year (see list below of some of 2003 contributors).

By now you're getting hungry, so we will be tempting you with an array of tasty lunch items for sale. Enjoy an al-fresco lunch at one of the Square's picturesque umbrella-topped tables. Following on the successful venture with **Bacchus** the last two years, we have once again invited them to provide some of the food service at the Fair. In past years they've provided us with tasty pasta and fruit salad, as well as gourmet sandwiches, wraps, and other goodies. We will still have our "famous" hot dog cart, never fear.

Every year our Baked Goods Booth showcases the best of our neighborhood bakers, whether it is a pie, a cake, cookies or bars- we know we have many talented bakers out there; we'd like to hear from you! Donations for our bake sale are most welcome and can also be dropped off either day. We'd also like to ask for a portion of your time to help us man the booths one or both days. Please contact the chairperson of the booth for which you are interested in volunteering and they will work out the details with you. We'll gladly put you to work for any portion of either day. "Floating" volunteers are also welcome; we'll put you to work where we need you. We were happy to see pleasant weather last year, and as always, we're hoping once again for beautiful weather! And, rain or shine, we thank the many volunteers for all the energy they put in to making the fair such a success year after year.

Contact **Judy Zimering**, Fair Chairman 215-546-3644 • **Pat Henningsen**, Baked Goods 215-732-8942
• **Cathy Nino**, White Elephant 215-735-2577 • **Mark & Missy Willie**, Book Booth 215-735-8365 • **Margaret Tobin**, Children's Toys & Games 215-545-5677 • **Anita Hruby**, Kid's Games 215-732-5655 • **Patty Fox**, Raffle 215-985-1792 • **George Gould** 215-546-7865 or **Lolly LaGreca** 215-732-2612, Hot Dogs • **Jim Kenkelen** 215-731-9608 or **Doug Ward** 215-790-1275, Sunday Clean-up.

Let us know what you'd like to share with us.

Farmers' Market News

Celebrity chefs, nutritionists, and environmentalists (and all the rest of us) sing the praises of farmers' markets. They promote eating seasonal products grown locally on small, sustainable farms, rather than processed food from thousands of miles away. You can fit some of that farmers' market ethos into your busy schedule every Saturday from 10 until 2 by visiting the new farmers' market in Filler Square at 23rd and Pine. The market will open in early May and will run through November. The market will feature products and produce grown by the farmers themselves, often picked just before coming to market. **Highland Orchards**, will sell a wide variety of fresh, local produce, and will start out the season. Joining the market again this year will be Brent and Lori Fox from **B & L Grassland Farms**. Brent and Lori sell grass-fed lamb and beef, as well as eggs. Grass-fed meat and dairy products are renowned for their low fat content. As the season progresses, a variety of farmers selling fruits, vegetables, baked goods, honey, and a variety of other farm products will be coming to market.

The market is operated by **The Food Trust**, a non-profit organization that works to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, nutritious food. The Food Trust runs farmers' markets throughout Philadelphia, Chester, Norristown and Camden, and nutrition education in schools throughout the Philadelphia region. Visit them online at www.thefoodtrust.org.

Filler Square Clean-up

We plan a general spring-cleaning of the Square Saturday, May 1st (the weekend before the Fair) from 10am to 12pm. Come over and give us a hand.

Membership Drive

With so many new residents in the area, the Board felt that a structure-by-structure canvassing was due in order to heighten awareness of our organization. The response was surprisingly enthusiastic, and we appreciate the generosity of all our new members.

Recycling Reminder

Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month recycling occurs at Trinity Community Center at 22nd and Spruce. Please come 10am-12pm with your crushed plastic (1's and 2's only!), mixed paper and cardboard. As another recycling center has recently closed, we would encourage you to volunteer a little of your time to

help out on these Saturdays, as the volume of materials has increased. Contact David Castro (david.castro@retex.com) to volunteer.

2003 Board Report

As many of you know, our Association has assumed the bulk of the civic responsibilities relating to the maintenance and improvement of the Park from the City of Philadelphia. With the impending city cutbacks in **2004** and **2005** we anticipate that virtually *all* aspects will be financed and arranged by us, your neighbors on the Board. Our yearly tree-and grass-trimming will continue, and we have hired a caretaker to sweep the walks, manage the trash, and keep an eye on things, generally. Lights and fixtures received a refurbishing, and the marble on the side of the Bear Statue base was repaired. This year, 2004, we have in the works a plan to work on the brick walkways and the Belgian block curbing in some areas. Again, our thanks to you for making it possible for us to continue improving our Square.

Holiday Events

This past December 2003, we had over one hundred folks come out for our tree lighting and carol sing. Hot cider, cookies and candy helped liven us up even more. Special thanks to Dr. George Rhodes and his group for the carol accompaniment at the lighting ceremony (making us merry), and Santa Claus, who dropped by to help us countdown. Our 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday April 10. Judy Zimering, Board President has developed this as a means for us all to renew friendships after Winter's grip.

About the Fitter Square Improvement Association Twice praised by *Philadelphia Magazine* as the "best neighborhood park" in the city, Fitter Square continues William Penn's vision of creating a "greene countrie towne" in his new city of Philadelphia. The half-acre pocket park is home to a wide variety of trees and flowering shrubs. Shaded seating areas and ample green lawns provide restful spots for parents playing with their children or for solitary reading, sunning, or just enjoying the passing scene. The Fitter Square Improvement Association was created in 1962 to maintain and enhance Fitter Square. The Association is a group of neighborhood volunteers, who have committed to maintain and improve Fitter Square, in cooperation with the City of Philadelphia's Department of Recreation. Volunteers perform tasks such as planting of bedding flowers and keeping the fountain clean and painted. More involved projects such as maintenance of the trees and installation of park lighting are undertaken with funds raised by the organization. Typically five to ten thousand dollars are invested in the square annually... dollars contributed by concerned neighbors such as you. Membership is open to everyone interested in helping to maintain this unique bit of "countrie" in the city. Won't you join us? Our Newly Updated Website Visit Fitter Square's newly updated website for information on the Improvement Association, Fitter Square events, and local businesses: **www.fitlersquare.org**

Business Contributors to the 2003 Fair

Please patronize the following businesses, which generously supported the 2003 fair through donations and contributions of supplies. In alphabetical order:

Acorn Garage; Avanda Florist, 19th Street **Balance Studios**, 24th Street **Barry Leonard, Crimper**, 18th & Chestnut **Bike Therapy**, 22nd & South **Cafe Lutecia**, 23rd & Lombard **Chris' Comer Books for Kids & Teens**, 20th & Lombard **D'Angelo's Ristorante**, 20th Street **Day By Day**, 21st & Sansom **Del Colle Market**, 19th & Locust **Dimitri's**, 23rd & Pine **Doobie's**, 22nd & Lombard **Scott Fox; Friday Saturday Sunday; Friends of Filler Square; The General Store**, 20th Street **Giant Steps Picture Framing**, 20th Street **Gusto Pizzeria**, 22nd Street **Julius Scissors**, 21st & Locust **Koy Detmer; KYW; L2 Restaurant**, 22nd & South **Little Fish**, Catharine Street **Mama Palma's Pizzeria**, 23rd & Spruce **Maryanne Conheim, Decorative Arts**, 23rd & Pine **Moore Brothers Wine Company**, Pennsauken and Wilmington **My Thai**, 22nd & South **Paul's Pizza**, 20th Street **Philadelphia Mummies; Philadelphia Phillies; Phoebe's BBQ**; South Street **Physical Grafitti Salon**, 20th Street **George Rhodes, Chiropractor**, 22nd & Naudain **Ridgways**, 22nd Street **Rim's 1 Hour Cleaners**, 22nd & South **Rittenhouse Square Fitness Club**, 20th & Rittenhouse Sq Street **Rittenhouse Hardware**, 20th & Pine **Rosie's Yarn Cellar**, 20th & Locust **Sabra Video**, 23rd Street **Scarlett's Closet; Seafood Unlimited**, 22nd Street **Seven-Eleven**, 22nd & Lombard **Dr. Ira Sheres, Dentist; South Street Beauty; Spa Vie**, 16th & Walnut **Sweat Fitness**, 24th & Walnut **Thoughtful Expressions**, 22nd Street **Tuscany Cafe**, Rittenhouse Square **Video City**, 20th Street **Vivid Salon**, 20th Street **Warehouse Furniture; The Window Box**, 23rd & Lombard **Woven Treasures**, South Street **WPSG-UPN 57; WTXF-Fox 29; Spencer Zahn; Zeidler Gallery**, South Street

Especial thanks to all who donated for our raffle; it alone raised over \$1100 for the ongoing work in the Square. Good luck to all those entering this year... it may be your lucky year.

Fair Committee Chairpersons

Fair Chairman - Judy Zimering, 215-546-3644
Baked Goods - Pat Henningsen, 215-732-8942
White Elephant - Cathy Nino, 215-735-2577
Book Booth - Mark & Missy Willie, 215-735-8365
Children's Toys & Games - Margaret Tobin, 215-545-5677
Kid's Games - Anita Hruby, 215-732-5655
Raffle - Patty Fox, 215-985-1792
Hot Dogs - George Gould, 215-546-7865 or Lolly LaGreca, 215-732-2612
Sunday Clean-up - Jim Kenkelen, 215-731-9608 or Doug Ward, 215-790-1275

Officers for the 2003-2004 Membership Year

George Malcomson, Chairman
Judy Zimering, President

Marlene Blume, Treasurer
Cathy Nino, Secretary
Phil Frank and Cliff Eyier, Membership
Eugene Rudolph, Parliamentarian

Handy Phone Numbers

Philadelphia Police 9th District (Poplar to South, Broad to the Schuylkill), 215-686-3090

Philadelphia Police, 17th District, (South to Moore, Broad to Schuylkill), 215-686-3170

Rittenhouse-FitlerTown Watch, 215-564-7182

South Square Town Watch (Lombard to Kater, 19th to 24th Streets), 215-732-0741

Graduate Town Watch (Bainbridge to Fitzwater, 17th to 23rd Streets),
graduateJownwatch@hotmail.com

City Council Representative & Council President, Anna Vema, 215-686-3412,
anna.vema@phila.gov

City Hall General Information, 215-686-1776

Mayor's Office, Information and Complaints, 215-686-3000

Streets Department - Uncollected Trash, 215-686-5560

Street Repairs 215-686-5508

PECO Street Lights, 215-697-8844

Center City District, 215-440-5500

Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network, 215-685-9901

**For information about becoming a member of the Fitler Square
Improvement Association - link [HERE!](#)**