

Fitler Square Improvement Association Newsletter

Fall 2008

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

What a beautiful season it has been, and in Fitler Square we have been taking advantage of the gorgeous weather tending to the gardens and benches with some much needed TLC.

Maureen Chambley, our gardener extraordinaire, has reported that 29 of our mature shrubs were moved, all were pruned and shaped, hundreds of spring bulbs were dug up and planted this season, and most of the ivy and creepers were removed. She planted two mid-height trees, one in each garden, assorted groundcover and various hydrangeas.

Also included in the fall planting will be digging up and dividing hosta, planting flowering groundcovers, and, as many of you may have noticed, renovating the lawn.

As you may have noticed, a significant amount of work has been done on the Square - important tree work, wrought iron fence repair, and we purchased some desperately needed tools. All of this was accomplished at a conservative cost of approximately \$16,000.

Our gratitude and appreciation goes out to Maureen, and also, Pat Henningsen, our very diligent Grounds Chairman. Thanks must also go to Chris Henningsen, Pat's husband, who repaired the park benches, replacing the rotted wood and powerwashing them.

In reference to our 47th Annual Fitler Square Fair, Friday had to be one of the worst rainy days that I can remember in the 18 years I have been volunteering at the fair. The good news is Saturday was such a success that we succeeded in raising \$6,000. Thank you to all our neighbors that came out and supported this very important fundraising event.

I would be remiss if I didn't especially thank the local businesses who generously donated products and services to our Raffle booth and Silent auction:

Bally's Total Fitness
Dan Yucha Illustration

Deluxe Hair Salon
Dimitri's
Famulus Books
Friday Saturday Sunday
Giovanni & Pileggi
Gusto Pizza
L2 Restaurant & Bar
Maryann Conheim
Pita Pocket Falafel & Grille
Pure Design
Rim's Cleaners
Rittenhouse Square Fitness
Savoy Theatre
Scarlet Fiorella Boutique
Seafood Unlimited
Sophisticated Seconds
The Window Box
Woven Treasures

Also, thanks to South Square Market, who donated the delicious hotdogs.

It is with great sadness that we said good-bye to a longtime neighbor and friend of Fitler Square, Anne d'Harnoncourt. Anne died on June 1st at her home. She served as the George D. Widener Director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art since 1982 and as Director and CEO of the Museum since 1997. I asked her husband, Joe Rishel, to share some thoughts or comments she may have made about Fitler Square, and he replied as follows: "Anne loved the Park. She grew up on Central Park West so using the park to do homework or simply to go for cup of coffee was routine. She also enjoyed watching all the great things the Association did and is doing with every new wrinkle noted and digested. She was a complete tree hugger of course, so seeing the two she gave, one in her mother's memory and one in mine, take hold and thrive was deeply satisfying. It was of course our front yard and a very happy place." A tree is being planted in her honor.

Due to the lawn renovation, we will not have our Pumpkin Hunt this year, but we will be decorating the fountain for a special Halloween Night and we will be out there giving out candy, so make sure you make Fitler Square part of your Trick-or-Treat trail!

Our annual Holiday Tree Lighting will be held on Sunday, December 7th this year, and we hope to have some special musical guests.

Our annual meeting will be held Tuesday, October 21st at 8pm at the home

of Patty Fox. Her address is 410 S. Van Pelt Street. All members are invited to attend.

On behalf of the Board of Fidler Square, once again, thanks to all of you who have supported us in our endeavors and we hope you enjoy a wonderful end of year.

Judy Romano Zimering
President
Fidler Square Improvement Association

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