

Working Together to Serve and Unite Our Community

# Packer Park Civic Association

District Two – Sports Complex Special Services District

Our Newsletter Is The Most Reliable Source to Update All Our Residents

Volume VI No. 2

**HOTLINE 215-336-4373**

October 10, 2008 Issue

[www.packerparkcivic.org](http://www.packerparkcivic.org)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**SAT. - OCTOBER 25**

**SPORTS COMPLEX SPECIAL SERVICES DISTRICT ~ 1:00pm – 3:00pm**



SCSSD is hosting a spectacular Halloween party for the District's youngsters at the AMERICAN SWEDISH HISTORIC MUSEUM in FDR Park. Characters, treats, and much more. Within the District, look for the important mailer – SAVE THIS INVITATION – it is your admittance ticket. One Flyer per Family. Please Bring your Children in Costume

**HALLOWEEN WALKABOUT ~ 3:30pm – 5:30pm**

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SCSSD PARTY. By overwhelming demand, the traditional Walkabout continues during daylight hours, so that our seniors will feel comfortable opening their doors. Please try to participate even if you do not have children. Packer Park has a whole host of lovely new residents with young children to bring new blood and vitality to our Community. Please plan to greet them with treats between 3:30 and 5:30



**FRI. – DECEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>** - a Good Old-Fashioned Christmas Party at Holy Spirit Hall – the Civic association joins with the volunteers at Holy Spirit to have fun and games for the kids. Of course, Santa has the date on his calendar. More details to follow, but please reserve this date on your busy calendars.

**CORDISH UPDATES** – Since the time of our public meeting last June, Cordish, the developer for the commercial complex proposed adjacent to the Wachovia Center, has now confirmed that the Spectrum will be demolished. Current timetable = Summer '09 / method of demolition has not yet been determined.

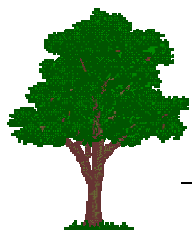
**TRAFFIC – CALMING MEASURES CONTINUE** – The lovely landscaped islands on 20<sup>th</sup> Street have restored civility to that once wild raceway. This was a practice site for the much more difficult traffic issues presented by the Packer Avenue Speedway. A calming proposal is being finalized between the SCSSD and the Streets Dept. We are hopeful that plans will soon be complete and construction on new islands can be started Spring '09. Traffic engineers have surveyed the Packer problems and have devised a plan that will slow driver's speeds while making it safer for pedestrians to cross Packer, all while adding Beauty to the street. Achieving all three goals at the same time is much harder than it sounds.

In response to questions, the street markings on 20th Street are actually correct. The existing arrows are a standard marking used in instances where left turns are permitted from the center median BETWEEN intersections (i.e. for turning into midblock driveways). The cross hatching before the intersections indicates the end of the continuous turning lane. The alternative would have been to cross hatch the entire center lane, meaning no vehicle could legally cross (i.e. make a left turn into any driveway). Any alternative to the current markings would have created a number of new problems for neighbors.

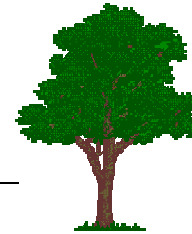
The islands were installed at the intersections to calm/slow traffic and provide a pedestrian refuge, shortening the "exposed" crossing distance. There is not sufficient width to add a turning lane with the subject islands, and such lanes would only serve to lessen the desired traffic calming effect achieved by reducing the number of operating lanes. There is some slight delay now with motorists waiting to make a left turn at the intersections but this slower "hard left" is exactly what we needed to achieve, especially at the involved school crossings.

### **TREES TREES TREES TREES TREES TREES TREES**

The SCSSD is looking for common areas to plant clusters of new trees.  
Any suggestions, please email us or call our hotline.



Earth Day - Every Day



Earth Day - Every Day

Thanks to the Fairmount Park Commission (our Judge BonavitaCola is Vice Chair of the Board) 15 new trees were planted along South Broad Street from Pattison Avenue to Geary Street. The old trees, were diseased, injured or dead (Yes, sadly, trees like humans, do not last forever). Meanwhile, in prolonged dry spells, please take the time to care for your sidewalk trees by watering them. Remember, in a heat spell, it will be 15% cooler under or nearby a shady tree. Please be careful not to choke your sidewalk tree by paving too close to its base.

**FDR PARK “The ‘Lakes”**

Wow! Have we been working hard to bring improvements to the Park. After many years of neglect, the Lakes are starting to Sparkle again. We know we have a long way to go but many good things will be happening in the near future. Planned capital improvements include:



- New identification, directional and rules signage
- Repaving park roads (repaving the trails will come later)
- New play equipment
- New restrooms near the Pattison Avenue tennis courts
- Replacement of metal posts with metal guardrail in parking areas



**RODENT SIGHTINGS**

If you see rats or mice, please call City Vector services. They respond most quickly to specific addresses. 215 685 9000 Poison alone will not resolve the problem. For permanent control, it is absolutely mandatory, 1) proper garbage disposal and food storage, 2) elimination of all shelters and nesting places, 3) rodent-proofing all structures.

**WAYS TO KEEP YOURSELF INFORMED**

- SIGN UP for the Sports Complex Special Services District phone alert system, which will be used ONLY for Important community alerts & reminders. Mail in the form below
- SIGN UP for regional alerts regarding emergencies, severe weather, threats to Homeland Security, - go to [www.ReadyNotifyPA.org](http://www.ReadyNotifyPA.org)

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 Please detach and return to SCSSD at 3300 South 7th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148

**Help Us Help You Stay Informed**  
**SIGN UP NOW!**

**YES**, I would like to participate in SCSSD's Neighborhood Phone Notification System!  
 All information you provide will remain confidential.

**Contact Information - Please fill out completely and clearly!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_


Address \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Philadelphia, PA/Zip Code

Phone Number 1: (     )     -     \_\_\_\_\_ Cell  Home  Work

Phone Number 2: (     )     -     \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number 3: (     )     -     \_\_\_\_\_



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THE CORNER POLICE DETAIL – Folks, if you only knew how hard we have tried thru the years to maintain this detail in the face of police shortages, high crime needs in other areas of the City, budget crises, etc. etc. It is one of our highest priorities because we can not imagine the influx of strangers (with their noise & trash) if there were no corner Police detail during high complex attendance. PLEASE>>>>>>>>> be courteous to the officers, cooperate by showing your civic sticker / pass or ID that shows you are a resident. However, please know that recently in times of high police demand elsewhere, officers have been and will be pulled from some of our corners **DESPITE** our high pitched complaints. Whoever is spreading the ridiculous rumor that WE ask for police to leave certain corners has NO IDEA what they are talking about and obviously has NO IDEA how hard we have worked to keep this detail intact to protect our Community. Thank You Very Much to the majority of our residents who do cooperate.

 **EVENT SCHEDULE**

SPORTS COMPLEX MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS – NOW more than ever, please Be alert - the SCSSD calendar mailed to you every month. Especially during this baseball PLAYOFF season, schedules are subject to sudden change.