

BELLA VISTA NEWS

SPRING 2018

Sponsored by

BELLA VISTA NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

a Registered Community Organization

Bella Vista Neighbors Association (BVNA) serves residents of Bella Vista, which is bounded by 6th and 11th Streets, and South Street and Washington Avenue. BVNA encourages civic involvement, provides a neutral and public discussion forum, preserves and augments our institutions and character, supports the delivery of government services, and promotes dialogue with elected officials. We are an independent and nonprofit registered community organization (RCO).

BVNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2018

OFFICERS

Eugene Desyatnik, President
Brandy Bones, Vice President/Treasurer
Michelle Deutsch, Secretary

DIRECTORS

Claudia Archer	Ric A. Hayman
Laura Burtner	Mark Kasten
Joseph Celentano	Ali Perelman
Janet Elfring	Rhea Powell
Dennis Hallda	Tim Stengel

CONTACT

PO Box 63955
Philadelphia, PA 19147
215.627.0057
Info@BellaVistaNeighbors.org
www.BellaVistaNeighbors.org

Follow BVNeighbors on



Sign up for our weekly eNewsletter!
BellaVistaNeighbors.org/News

SIDEWALK SWEEPING STARTS IN BELLA VISTA

By Leslie Pappas

Bella Vista Neighbors Association (BVNA) launched its new sidewalk and curb sweeping service April 14, becoming the latest Philly neighborhood to band together to fight filth.

ago. When the program launched, nearly 200 supporters had raised a total of \$19,674.

"The trash on the streets and the litter drives me crazy," said City Councilman Mark Squilla, who donated \$500 to BVNA's cleanup effort. Cleaner streets make people



A crew from Acam Management unloads trash bins at the launch of Bella Vista's bi-weekly curb and sidewalk sweeping April 14.

More than a dozen of the neighborhood's most heavily trafficked sidewalks and curbs will get an extra scrub every other week under the new program, which costs about \$1,000 per sweep. Bella Vista joins Queen Village, Passyunk Square, South Street Headhouse District, and other business and civic groups in Philadelphia that pay for their own regular sweeping services.

Bella Vista's sweeping is funded entirely through the generous contributions of individual residents and local businesses, who have donated from \$10 up to \$1,000 since BVNA's Beautification Committee started raising funds about nine months

feel better and make the neighborhood safer, Squilla told *Bella Vista News*. "Any community that's looking to go above and beyond what the city does deserves my support."

Philadelphia is the only major city in the country without a comprehensive program to clean neighborhood streets. Eliminated after budget cutbacks during the Great Recession, regular neighborhood street sweeping by the city stopped in 2009.

Under the new clean up effort, Bella Vista Neighbors Association has hired crews from Acam Management to remove trash and litter from sidewalks, sewer grates, and gutters

See SWEEPING, page 2

SWEEPING, continued from page 1

18 inches from the curb. The Philadelphia-based family-run business, which also does cleanups for festivals and large events, has provided cleanup services for Queen Village for many years.

Every other Friday, pairs of workers in red hats and bright yellow vests will crisscross Bella Vista with brooms, bins, trash cans and dust pans, sweeping up litter from sidewalks and curbs and hauling it away.

Jeff Fortune, who co-owns the company with partner Linda Almeida, said he expects to fill up to fifty 44-gallon bags each time the crews come out. That's around a thousand pounds of garbage per sweep.

The company hauls the garbage away to a waste management facility in the Holmesburg section of the city, Fortune said.

From the west side of 6th to the east side of 11th, workers will clean sidewalks and curbs on Bainbridge, Fitzwater, Catharine, Christian, Passyunk and Carpenter streets, as well as the north side of Washington Avenue. Crews will also hit the numbered streets (6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th—see map), except for 9th between Christian and Washington, because that portion of 9th

Street is overseen by the Italian Market.

The cleaning covers trash and litter only, and will not include stoops. Homeowners are still responsible for raking up their own leaves and yard waste.

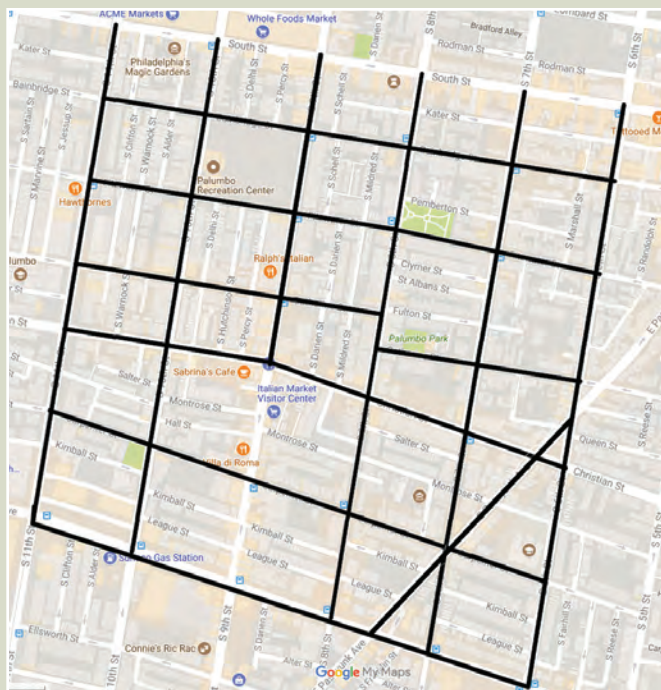
BVNA will need to continually raise funds to keep the sidewalk cleaning going. To donate or become a permanent sponsor of Bella Vista's ongoing sidewalk and curb cleaning, fill out the coupon on the back of this newsletter and send a check payable to BVNA, Inc., to PO Box 63955, Philadelphia, PA 19147. Or donate online at www.bellavistaneighbors.org. ♦



Bella Vista Neighbors Association's Sidewalk Sweeping Kick-Off and Community Clean-Up Event, April 14



BELLA VISTA SIDEWALK AND CURB SWEEPING COVERAGE AREA



Bella Vista Neighbors Association reminds everyone, we're all in this together.

Our neighborhood is ours to keep nice, so do your part . . .

**Clean
YOUR
16**



Parent to Child
THERAPY ASSOCIATES

Kathryn Snyder,
MA, ATR-BC, LPC
Art Psychotherapist
kathryn.p2c@gmail.com

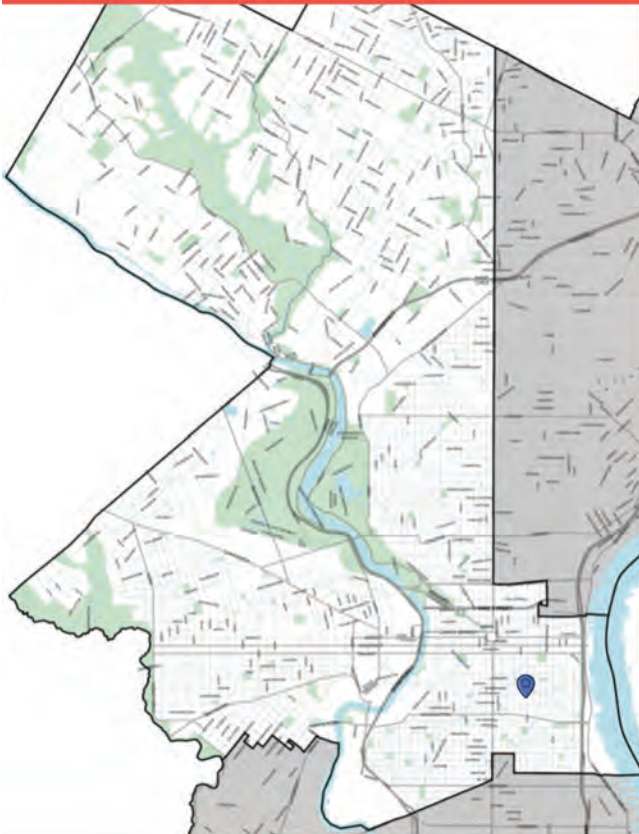
1226 S. Broad Street
Philadelphia PA 19146
P 215.644.9176
F 215.644.9177
parent2child.net

SIDEWALK & CURB SWEEPING IN BELLA VISTA



Every other Friday, a professional crew will clear trash from sidewalks, sewer grates and gutters.

THE NEW 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



NOTE FOR MAY 15TH!

BELLA VISTA NOW IN THE 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

- A lawsuit filed in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court successfully argued that Pennsylvania's Congressional map didn't comply with the state Constitution
- Following that decision, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court hired a Special Master to draw a new map
- Challenges to the new map failed
- The new Congressional map is now in effect, and will be in use through 2020
- The southern boundary of the new PA-03 district is (roughly) Passyunk and Mifflin
- The seat is up for election this year

ALI PERELMAN

Philadelphia's
Real Estate Leaders
TEAM DAMIS

215-440-2096

Experience, Commitment,
Hard Work, Enthusiasm,
Integrity, Results!



GREGORY DAMIS, CNHS

WINNER OF PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE'S
FIVE STAR REALTY AWARD
FOR CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**

Fox & Roach,
REALTORS®

WWW.TEAMDAMIS.COM

HATE OLD WIRES?

Who owns them? Are they dangerous? How do you get rid of them? *Bella Vista News* is investigating. Send photos and tips about old wires to info@BellaVistaNeighbors.com. *Bella Vista News* hopes to answer these questions in an upcoming issue. ♦



This is Not a Tree

Fante's Kitchen Shop

Proudly serving the Bella Vista community since 1906

*Happy cooking,
from our family to yours*

1006 S. 9th St.
Philadelphia, PA 19147
(215) 922-5557

www.fantes.com
mail@fantes.com

Esposito's Meats

Est. 1911

We support our
Bella Vista Neighbors

Meats that satisfy.

1001 S. 9th St
(215) 922-2659



A NEW VISION FOR 9TH STREET

By Leslie Pappas

James McCrone was focused on the Italian Market long before he became the new business manager for the United Merchants of South 9th Street Business Association in January. When the Seattle native moved to Philadelphia two years ago, he literally stuck a pin on a map at 9th and Christian Streets and told his realtor to reject any property beyond a one-mile radius.

"I said I don't want to look anywhere outside of this circle," McCrone told *Bella Vista News*. "If I can't walk to the market, what's the point?"

McCrone now lives at 5th and Dickinson, and revels in his new job as caretaker of what he calls "the crown jewel" of the neighborhood.

Michele Gambino, who served as business manager for 17 years and was involved in choosing McCrone to replace her, said the association made a strategic decision to hire a newcomer to the neighborhood.

"We needed a refreshing viewpoint," she said, somebody "the opposite of me."

McCrone brings more than a decade of experience managing commercial districts in New Jersey, with seven years as director of Main



James McCrone, business manager of the South 9th Street Italian Market

Street Highland Park and two years as executive director of the Bloomfield Center Alliance. For 9th Street, some of his goals include better lighting, new awnings, and more regular cleaning. He plans to start recording oral histories, to preserve the love stories and legends of the families that make the market run. And long term, he hopes to help 9th Street merchants with succession planning, so that the market "can go for another 100 years."

Gambino remains involved, focusing entirely on planning the annual Italian Festival, which is coming up May 19-20.

Marketgoers can find McCrone at the Visitor Center on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. ♦



ItalianMarketFestival.com

MAY 19-20, 2018 • 11am – 6pm
South 9th Street, Wharton to Fitzwater
PHILADELPHIA

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



Do you get Bella Vista news delivered to your email inbox? No?! Well then . . .

Sign up for our weekly eNewsletter
BellaVistaNeighbors.org/News

A NEW LIFE AFTER DARKNESS

By Leslie Pappas

A red brick church in Bella Vista where Philadelphia's second-oldest African-American Episcopal Parish once thrived now awaits new people to bring it back to life.

"We are envisioning a new beginning," reads a sign on the door of the Church of the Crucifixion, shuttered since May 2016.

For the past six months, the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania has been actively seeking feedback about what to do with the four-story 18,166 square foot building on 620 S. 8th Street, posting a survey online (www.diopa.org/my-church/) and holding occasional services despite lack of heat or running water.

The church is open to religious or secular uses for the building, which also has an entrance on 8th Street and once housed a theater upstairs.

Selling the building is not being considered, the Episcopal Diocese told *Bella Vista News*.

"Over the next few months, we will open up the parish halls, offices, and worship space to the community. We ask they come in, sit in silence, have lunch, offer ideas, suggestions, and support. It is our prayer that children and families will use the space for their secular and spiritual needs. We also hope that we will be once again a part of the community." — *The Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez, XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.*

"The Church of the Crucifixion is not merely a building; it is part of our collective experience," said the Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez, XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.

"Thus, our collective vision for Crucifixion is new life after a period of darkness," he said. "We look forward to the next chapter in the life of this beautiful space."

The Church of the Crucifixion will open its doors to the community on Saturday, May 12, for a family service and welcomes all neighbors to attend. ♦



The Church of the Crucifixion



CORNER DENTISTRY
Your Neighborhood Family Dentist

KRISTINE CONCEPCION DMD
BRYAN KATZ DDS

744 S 6th St
Philadelphia, PA 19147
ph: 215-987-6821

www.cornerdentistryphilly.com
cornerdentistryphilly@gmail.com

Dependable. Experienced. Effective.

A FULL SERVICE, CIVIL LAW FIRM REPRESENTING A VARIETY OF CLIENTS, FROM LARGE CORPORATIONS TO INDIVIDUALS.

CONTACT OUR LAW FIRM TODAY
215.567.1530
www.leonardsciolla.com

OFFICES
PHILADELPHIA, PA • MOORESTOWN, NJ
WEST CHESTER, PA

**LEONARD SCIOLLA
HUTCHISON LEONARD
& TINARI LLP**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

SOCIETY HILL MAIL & PARCEL SERVICE, INC.



Gregory La Torre latorregregory@gmail.com

Private Mail Box Rentals
Parcel Shipping & Receiving
Official FedEx Drop & Ship Location
Notary, Copying, Scanning & Finger Printing
UPS Services
Keys made on premises

614 S. 8th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147

215-627-1750 Tel
215-627-5016 Fax

Philly's 1st Veterinary Facility Dedicated to Rehab, Pain Management and Fitness



WAG

WHOLE ANIMAL GYM

WAG-PHILLY.COM • PH: 215-839-9244

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

By Lee O'Neill

The Church of the Crucifixion was founded in 1846 at a time when the African-American population of Philadelphia was concentrated on both sides of the South Street corridor between 6th Street and 9th Street in what one observer termed the most "destitute" part of Philadelphia. The congregation petitioned to be recognized by the Episcopal diocese and was admitted after some squabbles over leadership.



The Church of the Crucifixion

The first building was consecrated in 1850 on the site of the present parish house facing 8th Street. It soon became inadequate and led to a new church constructed in 1884 at its present location facing Bainbridge. The old church was converted to a parish hall three years later. In 1902, a fire destroyed most of the block between Kater Street and Bainbridge Street, including the church and the parish house. Fortunately, the architect's plans for both buildings survived and they were rebuilt according to the original specifications.

From its inception, the church was instrumental in serving the needs of the poor in the neighborhood, working closely with the Bedford Street Mission, establishing a home for the homeless on Lombard Street, a food program for invalids, and temperance programs. In the 1870s, Rev. Dr. Henry L. Phillips began a 60-year career as the church's leader. During his tenure, the church expanded its work in the community. It was noted

for its Sunday school, sponsorship of musical entertainment, lectures on missionary activities with Africans and Native Americans, sponsoring lectures by W. E. B. DuBois, and the creation of what became the Afro-American Historical Society. Dr. Phillips was also involved in African-American labor, sponsoring the creation of a Workingman's Association for young African-American men and an African-American cloak maker's union.

At the turn of the twentieth century, the neighborhood was changing. The church began outreach to the expanding Russian Jewish and Italian communities. The African-American community, growing more prosperous, was moving west and part of the congregation left to establish the St. Augustine Protestant Episcopal Chapel at 22nd Street. Although no longer at the center of the African-American community, the church continued its service to the neighborhood up to May 2016. ♦



3rd Story Additions:
One Stop
Shop

www.3rdStoryPhilly.com
267.908.3375



Grow up, not out.

KEEP MOSQUITOES AWAY!

Peak mosquito season runs May through October. Mosquitoes can go from egg to biting-adult in just one week! Anything that holds water can breed mosquitoes: old tires, bird baths, gutters, plant saucers, trash bins, toys, even litter like chip bags and soda cans.

Mosquitoes can transmit diseases such as West Nile, Dengue and Zika.

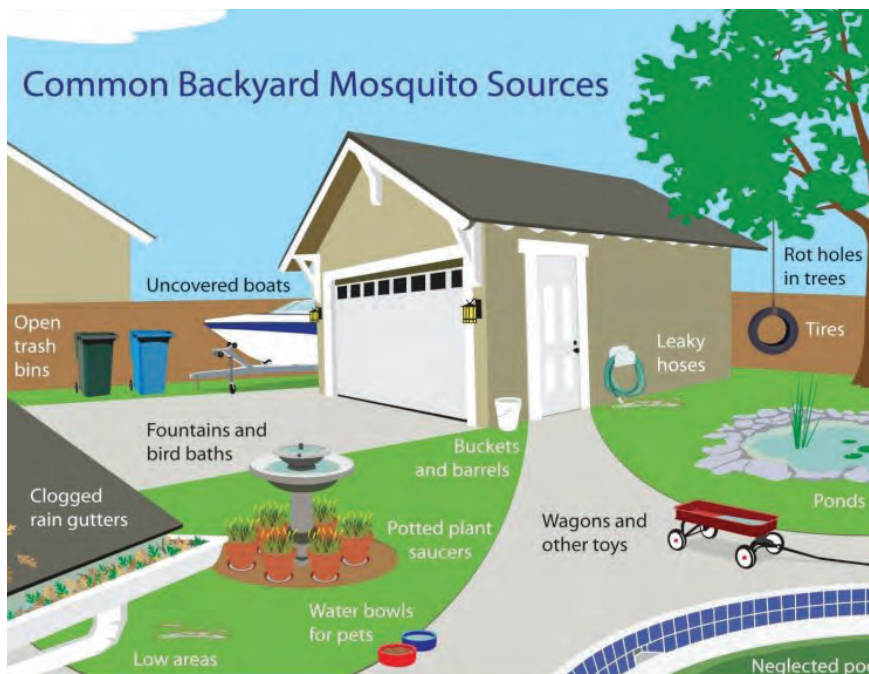
Keep your property clean and clear of standing water this summer to keep mosquitoes away.

More information: Mosquito Complaint Hotline 215-685-9000 or visit www.phila.gov/health.

Action plan:

- Dump standing water weekly
- Remove weeds where adult mosquitoes rest
- Drill holes in bottoms of trash bins
- Keep your yard and street clean

Source: City of Philadelphia Department of Public Health



“Your Home May Already Be Sold!”

Take Advantage of the 9,779 Buyers in Our Database
Looking for a Home in The Area



Call Larry ...and Start Packing!

1-844-501-3748, Dial Ext: 6002

www.LarryLevinHasTheBuyers.com

**Your Home Sold
GUARANTEED**
Or I'll Buy It!

*conditions apply



**Bringing New Orleans
to Bella Vista**



acadia

824 S. 8th Street; Philadelphia, PA 19147
215.922.7200 @AcadiaPhilly [f](#) [i](#)



BRUNCH STARTING APRIL 21ST 11AM - 3PM

Open: Tuesday - Sunday Starting at 4pm
Happy Hour: Tuesday - Friday 4pm - 7pm
Coffee & Beignets: Weekends 8am - Noon

PIT STOP HQ

215-944-4010 | pitstophq.com



**DOG DAYCARE
BOARDING
PET SUPPLY**

*your one stop dog spot
off the Italian Market!*

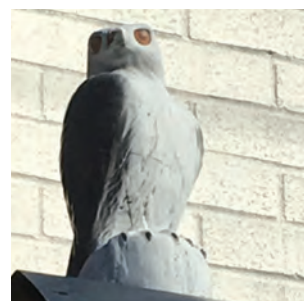
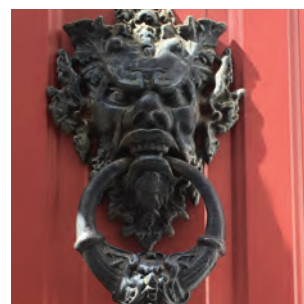
838-842 Christian St. | Philadelphia, PA 19147

BELLA VISTA TREASURES

How well do you know the 'hood?

Even when you're away, Bella Vista's streets are under constant watch by a host of gargoyles, grotesques, and other whimsical creatures. Do you know where these Bella Vista gatekeepers and guardians live? All are within Bella Vista's borders and are visible from public streets and alleyways. The weather is warm! Get outside, go explore and see if you can find these unique Bella Vista treasures. ♦

Photo credit: Leslie Pappas





Philadelphia's **MAGIC GARDENS**

Tours • Community Outreach • Workshops
Concerts • Educational Programming • Exhibitions

RECEIVE 20% OFF
yearlong memberships with this ad!

1020 South Street | (215) 733-0390 | phillymagicgardens.org

OUR RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.
**KATHY, PATRICK
& THE CONWAY TEAM**

BH
HS
**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices
Fox & Roach, REALTORS®

conwayteam.com • kathy@conwayteam.com
215-266-1537 • 215-850-3842 • 215-627-6005

FORECLOSURE? REPOSSESSION? OVERWHELMING DEBT? COLLECTION CALLS?



Now there's a
champion in **YOUR**
corner.

**EXPERIENCE
CONFIDENCE
TRUST**

I Will Enforce YOUR RIGHTS!!

**The Law Office of
Alfonso Madrid, Esq.**



**LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
SOUTH PHILLY'S DEBT EXPERT**

757 S. 8th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
215.925.1002
alfonsomadrid.esq@gmail.com

As a federally designated debt relief agency, I assist people with finding solutions to their debt problems, including where appropriate, the filing of petitions for relief under the bankruptcy code.

APA7981506D1 10.15

BORN IN PHILA
★ ★ ★

HALE & TRUE
CIDER CO.

VISIT US AT

613 SOUTH 7TH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA
(267) 639-4334 / HALEANDTRUE.COM

MON-TUE / CLOSED
WED-THU / 4:00PM-10:00PM
FRI / 4:00PM-12:00AM
SAT / 12:00PM-12:00AM
SUN / 12:00PM-9:00PM

MAKING BETTER CIDER STANDARD



AND THE BVNA DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD GOES TO ...

The 2018 Bella Vista Neighbors Association Distinguished Community Service Award goes to Lisa French. Lisa has tirelessly worked to improve our community's relationship with Nebinger School, one of the K-8 schools of the Philadelphia School District that serves the Bella Vista neighborhood. She helped to establish The Friends of Nebinger School, raised awareness of the school's

needs, organized an annual school supplies drive, and raised funds for important school programs. In fact, Lisa has asked that the cost of the award be donated to Friends of Nebinger, a request that BVNA has humbly honored.

Lisa French exemplifies how a member of our community can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors, especially our young ones. ♦



Lisa French with BVNA Board President Eugene Desyatnik



Brauhaus




SCHMITZ

Philadelphia's **ONLY** Authentic
German Bierhall & Restaurant
- Open 7 Days A Week -



FREE Bavarian Pretzel
with the purchase of a
sandwich or entree
(must provide this advertisement)

718 SOUTH ST. PHILADELPHIA PA 19147
P: 267.909.8814
WWW.BRAUHAUSSCHMITZ.COM

   @brauhausschmitz

BELLA VISTA NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

A Pennsylvania
Nonprofit Corporation

Bella Vista Neighbors Association (BVNA) is a volunteer organization. None of our members receive compensation for their service. Your involvement and contributions are essential to our success and the quality of life in our area.

YES! I support Bella Vista Neighbors Association, Inc.

I am interested in helping as (please check all that apply):

☐ Newsletter Sponsor \$ _____ ☐ Contributor \$ _____

☐ Street Sweeping Sponsor \$ _____ ☐ Anonymous Donor

Enclosed is my check in the total amount of \$ _____

Please make check payable to BVNA, Inc.

Mail check and this portion to: **BVNA, PO Box 63955, Philadelphia, PA 19147**



Save postage by donating via PayPal!
Please visit BellaVistaNeighbors.org



BVNA Events & Meetings

ZONING

First Tuesdays at 7:30 pm
Palumbo Recreation Center, 10th & Fitzwater

Open meetings for community input on building and renovation projects requiring variances of the zoning code.

PSA 1

First Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
Santore Library, 7th & Carpenter

Meeting between police leadership and stakeholders in Police Service Area 1 of the 3rd District. Review of monthly crime statistics.

BVNA BOARD

First Mondays at 7:30 pm
Palumbo Recreation Center, 10th & Fitzwater

Board of Directors' monthly business meeting. All meetings open to the public.

Check our website and social media for possible schedule changes:

BellaVistaNeighbors.org



/BVNeighbors

Your Ad: Here!

Reach 3,000+ mailboxes in Bella Vista

For info/rates: BellaVistaNeighbors.org/Newsletter
Contact Mark Kasten: MKasten1@gmail.com

A Message From the Editor

BELLA VISTA

This edition of *Bella Vista News* is full of new beginnings: a new business manager on 9th Street, a new curb and sidewalk sweeping service, a new vision for a church's long-loved space.

So perhaps it's fitting that the newsletter itself has a new name, new look, and a new team behind it. With this issue, what used to be *The News of Bella Vista* becomes simply *Bella Vista News*.

New fonts, colors, and headlines come thanks to Brenda Parra, a graphic designer who also helps plan BVNA's Happy Hours. Inspired by Bella Vista's Italian roots, Parra researched lettering on signs from family-run stores in Italy to select the new typefaces. She also hand-designed the masthead, meticulously laying out green rectangle "tiles" around each letter in tribute to mosaic artist Isaiah Zagar.

We wholeheartedly thank former Managing Editor Bob Bershad, who almost single-handedly put together the newsletter over the last few years, and left big shoes to fill. Mark Kasten now handles advertising. Layout comes thanks to Laura Burtner, who takes over from Jon Snyder. And thank you to Leslie Pappas for filling the role of managing editor for this edition, as well as contributing stories, and Eileen Wolfberg who provided copy editing.

Bella Vista News is always recruiting volunteers, and welcomes neighborhood writers, editors, photographers, historians, and fact-checkers to get involved. For more information, subscribe to our weekly eNewsletter at bellavistaneighbors.org/news. ♦

SUMMER PROGRAMS

AT ST. PETER'S SCHOOL

Weekly Sessions
June 18 – August 24

Ages 3 to 10

PRESCHOOL
THROUGH FIFTH GRADE

Half Day or
Full Day Programs

Early Arrival/
After Care available



ST. PETER'S SCHOOL

319 Lombard Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147 | 215-925-3963

st-peters-school.org