BELLA VISTA NEWS

SPRING 2019

BELLA VISTA

NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

a Registered Community Organization

Bella Vista Neighbors Association (BVNA) serves residents of Bella Vista, which is bounded by 6th and 1lth 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 dialog with elected officials. We are an independent and nonprofit registered community organization (RCO).

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BARDASCINO PARK IS FOR ALL SEASONS

By Claudia Archer and Carla Puppin



Jill Lesher and neighborhood kids refill brochures at the park entrance

As the sun comes up, early risers pass through Bardascino Park on their way to early work shifts, workouts at local fitness studios, or to walk the dog. Some linger over caffeine and a pastry from the café across the street. Occasionally, tai chi practitioners meet and practice deliberate movements. Eventually the early birds are replaced by stroller-pushing parents and retirees enjoying the verdant scene. Tourists bring takeout lunches from nearby businesses to devour at the tables. Books are enjoyed on benches. The after school crowd arrives to burn off energy riding bikes, playing ball, or drawing with chalk before homework and

dinner. Center City workers pass by
on their way home from work, as
bocce players rake out the court
and prepare to play. Groups
gather and socialize prior to
meetings

at the church next door. More takeout is consumed, purchased from nearby food trucks. The sounds of kids playing and bocce balls colliding provide the soundtrack. Neighbors out for an evening stroll stop and visit. As night falls, the lights come on and people linger on benches talking. Dog walkers pass through again before quiet descends in the overnight hours.

Bardascino Park could be considered small, butits impact on the surrounding area is large. This pocket park meets an impressive variety of needs, including event/performance space, play areas for children, and spaces for relaxing or meeting friends. Tucked between a church and row homes, it is a green refuge from the bustle of surrounding urban life and offers opportunities for recreation and relaxation. The towering trees and solid surfaces give the impression of stability, but this spot wasn't always so well-kept.

The park was built in 1978 on the site of the former Community Hospital (razed in 1968).

See BARDASCINO, page 2

BARDASCINO, continued from page 1

About 10 years later, the park was in a somewhat derelict state and neighbors formed the Friends of Bardascino Park to clean up and advocate for the space. Over the next 10 years, the Friends group held cleanups, worked with Parks and Recreation to get routine maintenance, won funding and grants, and greatly improved the usability of the park. They replaced trees, planted garden beds, repaired benches, and formed a bocce league. In 2002, Bardascino Park was one of 12 parks selected for capital improvements by the city, and a major renovation was completed in 2004, supplemented by grants obtained by the Friends. Improvements included new paving, planting beds, new furniture and a drinking fountain.

A constant has been the Friends' 28-year long tireless improvement and maintenance of this neighborhood gem. The group has formed collaborative partnerships with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, City Council, the Fairmount Park Conservancy and the Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Department. While the park is a city-owned, Parks and Rec owned property, it is the Friends group that guides the ongoing care of the park. The group welcomes volunteers, holds cleanups, performs repairs and maintenance, and obtains funding for concerts and other programming. Please visit the park at 10th and Carpenter. Sit in a sunny spot by the bocce court or a shady bench under the trees. Look around and appreciate the power of neighbors coming together to advocate and care for a public space. This is what community is all about. •



Park Friends of all ages celebrate another successful cleanup

WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN BELLA VISTA PARKS?

LOVE YOUR PARK WEEK MAY 11-19

EACH PARK WILL HOST A SERVICE DAY.

FRIENDS OF BARDASCINO PARK 10TH & CARPENTER

TO GET ON THE EMAIL LIST CONTACT CMPUPPIN@AOL.COM FOR EVENT LISTINGS, FOLLOW FACEBOOK @BARDASCINOPARK

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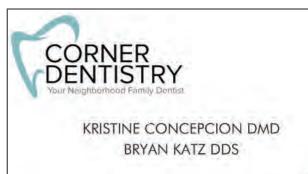
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DO YOU KNOW YOUR RCO'S ZC?

Getting to Know Bella Vista Neighborhood Association's Zoning Committee

By Lee O'Neill

So a developer bought the house across the street or you want to add a deck. Now what? The plans go to the city's Licensing and Inspections Department and may include things not permitted by the zoning code. Those result in a variance request from the city's Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) and that's where the Bella Vista Neighbors Association Zoning Committee (ZC) comes in. The city's process requires variance requests to be presented to the neighborhood for input and the ZC fills that function.

The ZC are neighborhood volunteers that facilitate the variance request presentations, and provide a forum for questions, concerns, and opinions. At the end of each discussion, the ZC polls neighbors in attendance to determine their support or opposition, conducting two votes—one of those who live within 250 feet of the project, and one of all others

in attendance. The ZC then includes the results of those votes along with its own recommendation in a letter sent to the ZBA with a copy to the City Councilperson. The ZC's recommendation is heavily weighted towards the opinions expressed by the neighbors but also considers factors such as the intent of the zoning code and the character of the whole neighborhood.

The ZC sometimes facilitates direct dialog between neighbors and developers in the hope that disagreements can be resolved amicably before the ZBA's hearings. The ZC also encourages neighbors who feel strongly about a proposal to attend the ZBA's hearings and includes information about the ZBA's schedule at each meeting.

Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the first Tuesday of every month at Palumbo Recreation Center. They are open to anyone interested in zoning, building, and development in Bella Vista. ◆

Bella Vista Neighbors Associations is an all-volunteer, non-profit Registered Community Organization (RCO) in accordance with City of Philadelphia, and is enabled to appoint a Zoning Committee (ZC) to review, and assemble public meetings to discuss requests for variances of the Philadelphia zoning code. To find out more about BVNA's Zoning Committee and its protocols, please visit: bellavistaneighbors.org/zoning-and-development. Also, to receive meeting notices, sign up for the BVNA eNewsletter on the webpage.

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THE TANGLED HISTORY OF BELLA VISTA WIRES

By Leslie Pappas

Who owns the tangled tapestry of wires weaving across the skies of Bella Vista? A 150-year history of telecommunication mergers and breakups (see timeline), makes the answer to that question as tangled as the wires themselves.





Poles branded with names of old companies may still be in use by their current owner.

For Bella Vista residents who want to rid streets and back alleys of old wires, this creates a problem. The city does not clean up abandoned poles and wires; residents who call 311 are told to contact the utility who owns them.

Unfortunately, it is difficult if not impossible for an untrained person to figure out who owns the equipment. Not all wires on a pole belong to just one utility, sources from PECO, Comcast, and Verizon told Bella Vista News. Sometimes electric, cable, phone and television wires share space on the same pole.

Electric lines are usually higher up while telephone lines are lower. Sometimes poles have boxes on them that identify the utility, but many do not. On those that do, some are marked with logos for companies such as Western Electric or Bell Atlantic, which no longer exist.

Utilities do agree on one thing: residents should never attempt to clean up old wires by themselves. Wires may be electrified and removing wires may impact other lines attached to the pole.

According to Comcast, the vast majority of Bella Vista's poles and wires are owned by Verizon. Comcast recently completed a city-wide inspection and clean-up of its cable systems in Philadelphia, during which unused wires were removed. Residents who believe unused wires belong to Comcast may call 1-800-COMCAST.

Verizon says it is unaware of any abandoned poles or wires in Bella Vista that belong to Verizon. If Verizon gets a request from residents to remove an abandoned pole, the company will investigate and remove any abandoned poles or wires it owns. To report issues with Verizon-owned poles and wires, residents may call 1-888-553-1555.

PECO urges its customers to stay away from power lines and equipment that may be damaged. Residents should report downed power lines to PECO at 1-800-841-4141. ♦

Sorting Out the Wires' History

870

880

890

1910

930

1940

1950

1960

1970

0661

1869

Electrical equipment company Gray and Barton founded in Chicago, becomes Western **Electric Manufacturing** Company in 1872.

1881

Western Electric becomes a subsidiary of American Bell Telephone Company and starts making its telephones and equipment.

Brush Electric Light Company of Philadelphia, a commercial and street lighting company, formed; becomes Philadelphia Electric Company (PECO) in 1902.

1944

Bell Telephone of Pennsylvania buys Keystone Telephone Company of Philadelphia, the last competing local phone company in a major U.S. city.

1984

As result of Bell System breakup, Bell Atlantic created, one of seven independent local phone companies known as "Baby Bells."

1994

Philadelphia Electric Company changes name to PECO Energy Company.

1999

Comcast acquires Greater Philadelphia Cablevision, Inc.

2000

Bell Atlantic merges with GTE Corp. to become Verizon Communications Inc.

PECO becomes part of Exelon Corporation.

2006.

Verizon acquires MCI Communications Corp. 1876

Alexander Bell Graham Bell demonstrates telephone at Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, forms Bell Telephone Company a year later.

1885

American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) incorporated in New York as division of American Bell: becomes phone system's parent in 1899 and soon takes on nickname "Ma Bell".

1963

Comcast founded in Tupelo, Mississippi; moves to Philadelphia in 1969, renamed Comcast Corp.

1974

U.S. Department of Justice files antitrust suit against AT&T, eventually leading to company's forced breakup. Bell System settles by divesting local phone service, ceases to exist in 1984. AT&T keeps long-distance service and Western Electric, which continues into the 90s to manufacture equipment for local phone companies.

1995

Western Electric spins off from AT&T and becomes Lucent Technologies; acquired by Nokia in 2016.

1996

Telecommunications Act of 1996 opens local markets to competition. Bell Atlantic debuts dial-up internet service. Comcast launches broadband.

2002

Comcast acquires AT&T Broadband

2005

SBC Communications Inc., once a Baby Bell, acquires AT&T Corp. and becomes AT&T Inc.

2009

Verizon agrees to wire Philadelphia with FiOS by 2016





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TECHNIQUES IN SITUATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION

By Joe Alkus, Public Safety Committee

Bella Vista Neighbors Association has origins as a Town Watch group. Along with increasing our community activities, we are still actively involved in crime prevention and public safety. We encourage all neighbors to be aware that there are many aspects of crime prevention and awareness which we as individuals and as a community can do to help reduce the incidence of crime in Bella Vista making our neighborhood safer.

Criminologists have a proven method of reducing and preventing crime. By removing certain situations, communities and individuals can make an impact to prevent crime from occurring in the neighborhoods.

Increasing the Effort to Commit a Crime

- ✓ Target Hardening is a simple concept to make it harder to commit a crime.
- ✓ Increase the lighting around your home and ensure porch lights are functional.
- ✓ Consider using motion sensing lighting and installing CCTV cameras. The cost of these devices has dropped



significantly, and they also increase the risk to a criminal trying to steal your personal property and help police identify perpetrators.

✓ Consider signing up for the Philadelphia Police Safe Cam Program which aids the police by increasing the availability of CCTV



videos; safecam. philly police.com.

Reducing the Rewards of Crime

- ✓ Consider having your package deliveries sent to your work address, a trusted neighbor who is home during the day, a secure locker or mail hold, or special access point like UPS Access Points or Amazon Lockers rather than being left on your front stoop. By removing the attraction of a package sitting unattended on your stoop, we can reduce the incidence of package thefts.
- ✓ Lock your car doors, it takes only seconds. Theft of personal items from autos has plagued our neighborhood; it only takes seconds to steal your car's contents when the door is left open.
- ✓ Remove any and all valuables from your car. To some, even a phone charger or loose change left in plain sight, can present an opportunity.
- ✓ Whenever possible, park in a well-lit or monitored area.
- Register your personal property. Sign up for the ReportIt database where you can list the serial numbers and descriptions of your valuables to aid in their identification and recovery to your reportit.leadsonline.com.

Reduce Provocations

Reduce frustration and stress, and avoid unnecessary disputes. While we all hope that we live in a welcoming community surrounded by good neighbors who are receptive to concerns and sympathetic to the impact their behavior can have on others—on occasion, even seemingly simple requests can quickly escalate. If you encounter that to be the case, remove yourself from the situation and contact the appropriate city agency for a resolution. Whether it be speeding, illegal parking, saving spots with cones, leash laws, noise ordinance, property repairs, or improper trash set-out—if your initial request is met with hostility, it may be time to enlist the help of a third party. 311 or BVNA can assist in coordinating with the appropriate agency on a resolution to your non-emergency concerns.

Situational Awareness

- ✓ Be alert and aware of your surroundings, rely on your available senses, and eliminate distractions. Listening to loud music, reading, or operating a mobile device while walking, can reduce your attention and make you more vulnerable. Be aware of individuals and vehicles in close proximity to you, pay attention to body language, and avoid dark areas if possible.
- ✓ When in doubt, promptly call 9-1-1. This remains the single most important crime prevention technique. Don't wait to call. If you perceive danger, witness a crime in progress, or see or hear suspicious activity, call 911. In Philadelphia, 911 is the number for all police service.
- ✓ In order to help neighbors observe and recall a more complete description of individuals, vehicles, or weapons involved—we provide a special suspect identification card on our website, which can be printed for easy reference. ◆

Join us
3rd District PSA 1
Monthly Meetings

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

Anthony's Italian Coffee & Chocolate House

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Join Our Coffee for Cause to Support Children with Dyslexia

BVNA's Beautification Committee reminds us, we are all in this together, our neighborhood is ours to keep nice, so do your part . . .



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*Larry Levin and Seller Must Agree on Price and Possession Date Statistics based on Bright MLS data. This is not intended to solicit homes that are currently listed for sa with a Real Estate Broker Not only did Larry overcome my concerns, but he got the home sold in a week at \$5000 over the asking price!

Brian and Maggie Garnant



SPRING CLEANING IN BELLA VISTA

What Can You Do to Help Keep the Bella in Bella Vista?

By JoAnn Greco

This year, BVNA is continuing to raise money so we can bring back a crew of workers from Acam Management, who will twice a month clean the sidewalks and curbs on Bainbridge, Fitzwater, Catharine, Christian, Passyunk, and Carpenter streets, the north side of Washington Avenue from the west side of 6th to the east side of 11th, and numbered streets except 9th between Christian and Washington. (This portion of 9th Street is excluded because it is overseen by the Italian Market.) And, if we are able to raise \$30,000, we will be able to get on a weekly cleaning schedule. Want to contribute to the cleaning fund? Please see the last page of the newsletter for information about how to donate.

Meanwhile, there's a lot we can all do!

Last summer, for example, instead of its regular monthly meetings, BVNA's Beautification Committee walked the neighborhood streets to bolster community cleaning efforts. We concentrated on tree pits where trash and weeds tend to cluster. When we resume this practice later this year, please join us. If you'd like to volunteer, be on the lookout for dates, times, and meeting places in the BVNA e-newsletter (to sign up for the weekly enewsletter, visit the website, bellavistaneighbors.org/news), look for event listings Facebook, (ablance) we a note at info(abellavistaneighbors.com.

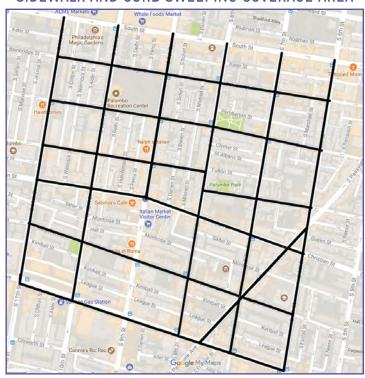
And, of course, we encourage everyone to, in the words of our campaign, CLEAN THEIR 16! With an average span of just 16 feet, regular maintenance of the sidewalks and curbs of our homes and businesses is easy and doesn't take much time.

Here's what to clean up:

- Trash (of course!): Windy corners, spots near takeouts and bodegas, and bus stops are particularly susceptible to becoming places that gather and draw trash. Even if you didn't put it there, won't you pick it up?
- Weeds: In the summer, tree pits and sidewalk cracks quickly become host sites for unsightly weeds. Like graffiti, they are signs of neglect. Tackle 'em while they're small and the job won't be so daunting.
- Storm Drains: If you live near a corner, help your neighborhood by keeping storm drains free of leaves and trash.
- Parks: Pitch in when you walk through a neighborhood park.
 Pick up stray bits of trash but don't add to overflowing garbage cans.
- Neighbors' homes: Take a moment to collect trash, old newspapers and fliers, etc, on behalf of an elderly or traveling neighbor.

Together, we can keep the *bella* in Bella Vista! ♦

BELLA VISTA SIDEWALK AND CURB SWEEPING COVERAGE AREA



BELLA VISTA SIDEWALK AND CURB SWEEPING REPORT

BVNA is pleased with the success of our cleanup program in 2018. Through the generosity of neighbors we were able to keep the crews of Acam Management, our service provider, busy cleaning the sidewalks, curbs and storm drain inlets after garbage and recycling collection day.



\$23,884 RAISED from the community



\$19,665 PAID for 9 months of sidewalk and curb cleaning



44,616 GALLONS of garbage collected in 9 months



\$0.44/GALLON of garbage collected

The sweeping program is entirely funded by neighbors, we need \$30,000 for weekly cleaning in 2019, so #givegive



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CRAFTING FUN FOR BRUNCH

A huge thank vou to Marcie Ziskind for hosting our **BVNA March get**together at The **Expressive Hand**





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MURAL TREASURE HUNT

I Spy With My Little Eye . . . Can You Spot The Treasures in Bella Vista's Mosaic Murals?

By Leslie Pappas

You've seen Isaiah Zagar's artwork throughout Bella Vista, but how closely have you really looked at it? Take a tour around Bella Vista using the map below and see if you can find these unique details in nine of the neighborhood's Isaiah Zagar mosaic murals:

Match the letter on each detail with a location in the list. Find them all and you'll be eligible to win a pair of tickets to The Magic Gardens. Bring your completed treasure hunt map to the upcoming Bella Vista Neighbors Association General Meeting on May 15 to submit it for the drawing. More details to come in our weekly e-newsletter. •

Write the Letter of the Treasure in the Box that corresponds with the Location Number

drawing for two tickets to Philadelphia's Magic Gardens.

Name:

Email address:

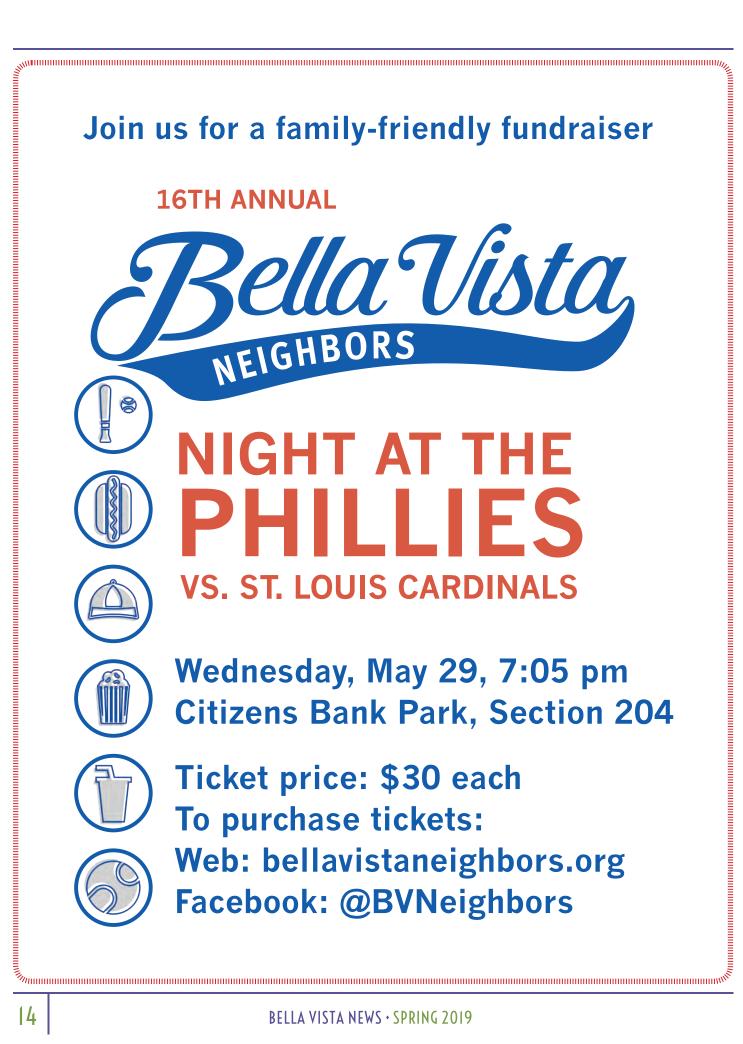
Phone number:



Match Each Treasure to its Location

13

Bring your completed treasure hunt map to the Bella Vista Neighbors Association General Meeting, Wednesday, May 15, 7:30 pm to enter the





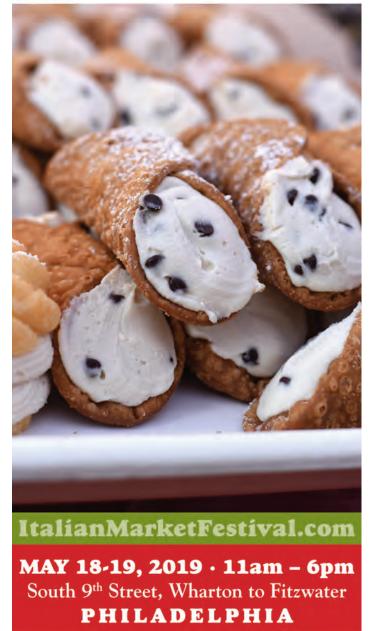








1 festive STHEITALIAN 9 THE MARKET FESTIVAL



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STREET TREES IN BELLA VISTA

In a neighborhood where front yards are a rarity, street trees enhance the community's ambiance. Street trees provide year-round visual interest, cooling shade during warm months, and are a wind break for the homes they front. And, much to the delight of birdwatchers, they provide natural habitat for city birds. There are also environmental benefits as they exchange oxygen for carbon dioxide, helping to improve the city's air quality.

The planting and maintaining of street trees is a quasi-publicprivate endeavor. Street trees are owned by the property owner of the address where situated, but the City of Philadelphia has jurisdiction over planting, maintenance, and removal. The City provides a process by which residential and commercial property owners can request a street tree that the city will provide and plant free of charge. By calling the City of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Street Tree Management Division, 215-685-4363, or completing the request form online: phila.gov/services/treesparks-the-environment/tree-related-services/get-a-street-tree, a property owner initiates a process that can take as long as 24 months to complete. When a request is received by the city, a city representative inspects the sidewalk at the subject address to determine if there is sufficient room for a street tree, and if so, the inspector will leave a permission form in the mailbox at the address. When the property owner returns the form to the city, the installation is scheduled for the next planting season—which takes place mid-April through mid-June. Alternatively, property owners can hire a City of Philadelphia qualified contractor (to request the list, email: streettree.info@phila.gov), obtain a tree planting permit, purchase their own tree selected from the approved street tree list, and have it planted.

In all cases, whether an existing street tree, or one newly planted either by the City or by a qualified contractor hired by a property owner, routine care needs to be ensured by the property owner. Routine care includes watering which is essential when a tree is newly planted, keeping sufficient soil or mulch over the roots, and removing and properly disposing trash that collects in tree wells.

The City of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation is responsible for planting, pruning street trees, and removing dead ones. Residents can alert the City of the need for street tree maintenance by calling: 215-685-4363 or 215-685-4362. Any non-emergency street tree issues can be called into Philly 311.

In the event when a tree has fallen across a road, or on a vehicle or a house, citizens are to call 911 to report such emergencies.

When trees have fallen on electrical wires, residents need to contact PECO's emergency line: 800-841-4141.

The City of Philadelphia's TreePhilly promotes proper planting and care for trees in the city: phila.gov/programs/treephilly.

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Tree Tenders program provides classes to learn about proper planting and care of street trees. Learn more or sign up for a Tree Tenders class, visit: phsonline.org/programs/tree-tenders, or call 215 988-1698.

Bella Vista has a Tree Tenders group, to get involved, email: cmpuppin@aol.com.♦

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.

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BVNA 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.

PSA₁

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







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A MESSAGE FROM THE **BVNA BOARD PRESIDENT**

Eugene Desyatnik

Welcome to the spring edition of the Bella Vista News! I hope you found its content to be of value. If you think you can help deliver our next print issue to neighbors on your block, or provide access to a multi-unit building or gated complexplease let us know! With your help, we can continue to reach every household. A lot has been happening in Bella Vista. In addition to entering our second year of our sidewalk and curb sweeping, we also launched a few new initiatives. While two "slow zone" applications covering Bella Vista were not selected by the city this year, our transportation committee continues to advocate for walkability mobility improvements, particularly around our area schools, in other ways. We have formed an historic preservation committee

proactively inventory structures of significance, and consider a variety of tools including conservation overlays and nominations to protect and enhance these. We continue our efforts in public safety, host social events, candidate forums, conduct clean-ups, hear zoning cases, and communicate with neighbors about issues of local importance. We are also working with the city through various challenges in our recycling system. At our May general meeting, we will be electing half of our board positions. If you'd like to help shape the future of our neighborhood-drop us a line, or join the various listed committee meetings. As a reminder, anyone 18+ residing in, owning a business or real property in Bella Vista, is considered a member, eligible to vote or serve.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

April 6 BVNA Spring Clean	Up	
---------------------------	----	--

Neighborhood-wide

April 30 Meet the Candidates

Settlement Music School 416 Queen St.

May 6 **BVNA Monthly Board Meeting**

Palumbo Recreation Center, 725 S. 10th St. **BVNA Monthly Zoning Committee Meeting**

Palumbo Recreation Center, 725 S. 10th St.

May 11-19 Love Your Park Week

May 7

Check Bella Vista eNews & Facebook for events in

neighborhood parks

May 15 **BVNA** Annual Membership Meeting

Palumbo Recreation Center, 725 S. 10th St.

May 18-19 Italian Market Festival

9th Street, Fitzwater to Wharton

May 21 **Primary Election Day**

May 29 16th Annual BVNA Night at the Phillies

Citizen's Bank Park, 7:05 pm

June 2 Palumbo Park 40th Anniversary Celebration

Palumbo Park, 723 Catharine St.

Check BellaVistaNeighbors.org for updates and to sign up for the eNewsletter for updates delivered to your inbox.