

TACONY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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A Nonprofit Corporation to Serve the Community

November 2012

Tacony Civic Association General Meeting

★ November 13, 2012 ★

- ♦ StartTime: 7:00PM
- ♦ Disston Recreation Center
(Disston and Glenloch Streets)
- ♦ Guest Speakers:
 - John Eagan and Paul Shultes
from PennDOT (I-95)
 - Attorney Samuel G. Forte
(Regarding Wills)

*All are welcome to attend
Refreshments will be provided*

Next scheduled TCA meeting:

- ♦ January 15th, 2013

Renew Your Membership for 2013!

We will be starting to collect for 2013 memberships at the September meeting. Still only \$5.00

The Tacony Civic Association is always looking for volunteers to help with our park cleanups, Winterfest, summer concerts, and other community events. Won't you please consider helping out your neighborhood?

Email us at taconycivic@yahoo.com for more info.

DID YOU KNOW...that the Christa Lewis Memorial Arboretum will be commemorating fifteen (15) years of existence this fall? This will be officially recognized on Saturday, November 10th at 1:00 PM, where the Historical Society of Tacony and honored guests will unveil three new memorial stones, bringing the total on site to thirty (30) granite stones with accompanying trees and planting areas.

In its formative years, the Historical Society of Tacony was seeking ways to preserve open space and beautify the community. The organization set its sights on Disston Park, a somewhat neglected and unstaffed park named in honor of Tacony's founder. This stretch of urban greenery is the best and most enduring example of Henry Disston's environmental advocacy. He understood, perhaps before anyone else, the importance of parks to urban communities. He also understood the pollution-control qualities of trees and green space, as the park's location was chosen not just for its centrality but to serve as a buffer between the residential community and the industrial plants along the Delaware River. This provided both a pleasant visual buffer and a reduction in air pollution for the residential sector of Tacony.

In 1997, as the organization was "adopting" the stretch from Disston Street to Princeton Avenue from the City of Philadelphia, a tragic event at a local carnival resulted in the death of a 16-year old Tacony girl who lived across from this section of the park. In the aftermath of this event the Historical Society decided to re-name the project from The Memorial Arboretum at Disston Park to The Christa Lewis Memorial Arboretum. In fifteen years, through partnerships with memorial sponsors, local political leaders and the city's Parks and Recreation Department, this section of Disston Park has evolved into a beautiful community asset worthy of our founder's vision.

All residents of the community are invited to recognize this meaningful milestone on the tenth of November at 1:00 PM and pay tribute to the special people for whom the Memorial Arboretum exists. The Society's Arboretum Committee is looking for individuals who may be interested in serving on the committee and exploring new ideas for enhancing the park and bringing more events to the site. If interested, please call 215-338-8790.

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Magnolia Cemetery Tree Trenches

The Philadelphia Water Department, together with their Green Streets Program are constructing storm water tree trenches at the Magnolia Cemetery during the summer and fall of 2013.

These underground filtration structures will be built around Hellerman Street, Cottage Street, and Levick Street. For more information about the trenches, please visit:

<http://www.phillywatersheds.org/>

McCloskey Memorial:

The Joe McCloskey Memorial Fund which was formed to honor one of Tacony's greatest citizens has now evolved into; The Joseph C. McCloskey Charitable Fund. The goals of the Fund have been expanded to include:

- Promoting the legacy of Officer Joseph C. McCloskey who had a profound impact on the youth of Tacony and exemplified what it means to be a responsible citizen.
- Creating a sculpture as a lasting tribute to Officer McCloskey and have the sculpture prominently displayed in the community.
- Providing assistance to the youth of Tacony through contributions to athletics, education and the recognition of good citizenship.

The charitable Fund now represents more closely the life's work of Officer McCloskey. It is our intention to continue the work of Joe McCloskey and provide assistance to the youth of Tacony.

The next fundraiser will be a "Winter Break" social in early February 2013. It will be held at the AOH Div. #39 Hall in Tacony. Information will be available on the **Joseph C. McCloskey Memorial Website**; www.Google27thPAL.com Contact number: (856-461-7720)

WINTERFEST!!

When: Saturday, December 8th from Noon 'til 3pm

Where: Tacony Library (Knorr and Torresdale)

Bring the kids to see Santa !

Arts and crafts! Holiday carolers, trolley rides, and face painting!

Fun for the whole family....and a few surprises!

Come out and get into that holiday spirit!

AT THE TACONY LIBRARY...

Holiday Recital and Open House

Wednesday, December 12 6:15 pm

You are cordially invited to a festive evening of holiday music performed by the acclaimed *Northeast High School Select Choir*.

The performance will be accompanied by holiday refreshments.

Fall Preschool Storytime Series

For ages 3 – 5 with an accompanying adult . Pre-registration is required.

Let's Give Thanks!

Thursday, November 15 10:30 am

Listen to stories celebrating Thanksgiving, join us in fun, interactive songs, and make a special holiday craft!

Holiday Celebrations

Thursday, December 6 10:30 am

Celebrate the holidays with seasonal stories and rhymes, followed by a short holiday movie

Tacony Library - 6742 Torresdale Avenue - 215-685-8755

Zoning Variances

Louis M. Iatarola, Tacony Civic Zoning Committee Chair

4731-33 Levick Street - original variance request called for an office for auto tags, bill payment and money transfers on the first floor plus tire sales and installation at the rear with a second floor insurance office. The original hearing on August 7th was continued. The TCA zoning committee meeting on July 24th resulted in non-opposition to the business uses with opposition to the tire sales and installation. The applicant was required to reapply for the variance without inclusion of the tire component. An updated letter was sent within 30 days of the ZBA decision from the TCA indicating no opposition to the office uses on each floor. This was approved by the ZBA.

7212-16 Keystone Street - permit to legalize banquet/meeting hall for more than 50 people. This use has been in place since 2000, and the City's Zoning Code has no classification for a banquet hall; the variance calls for a nightclub. A meeting was held on October 1st with the applicant, neighbors and Zoning Committee. At the meeting, the applicant agreed to provisos that no alcohol will be served at the facility, hours of operation will not extend beyond midnight and a deed restriction will be created by the applicant limiting this use to the present occupant. The ZBA approved a 5-year temporary variance for the property on October 3rd with all stated provisos.

6654 Vandike Street - legalization of a solid, 6 foot high, non-opaque fence along the front and side property lines, each of which abuts a public street. The TCA opposed this variance at original ZBA hearing on September 4th and it was appealed by the applicant. On October 23rd the ZBA denied the variance appeal.

6401 Ditman Street - permit for office space as allowable in the C-1 Zoning District plus a flat wall accessory sign. A meeting was held on October 8th with the applicant, neighbors and Zoning Committee. Based on the outcome of this meeting, the TCA did not oppose the variance based on adherence to 5 provisos : hours of operation limited from 8 AM to 6 PM, rear parking area off driveway will be for employees only, flat wall sign will not exceed 2' x 4' and will be along the Levick Street face of the building, applicant will discourage sidewalk parking on Levick Street and encourage Ditman Street parking, and exterior sidewalks and facade will be monitored for litter and graffiti. The ZBA continued the hearing until December after requesting more information from the applicant.

6500 Marsden Street - demolition of existing structures and the erection of a one-story contractor's garage for storage. A meeting was held on October 9th with neighbors, applicant and Zoning Committee. Based on the outcome of the meeting, the TCA was not opposed based on adherence to the following 7 provisos: maximum building height will be 18 feet, hours of operation limits to 9 AM to 5 PM, use is for storage only with a single drive-in door, no propane storage permitted, no exterior signage allowed, exterior lighting will be installed, and the exterior facing on both street elevations will be brick, side/rear will be painted stucco. Hearing was held on October 18th where the ZBA approved the variance incorporating stated provisos.

7520 State Road - permit to operate a methadone clinic in an existing industrial building. Holmesburg Civic Association will be arranging a meeting in November and organizing opposition to this facility, with the TCA and other neighboring organizations in a supportive role. ZBA hearing to be held on November 28th. Will be discussed at general meeting.

6701 Marsden Street - legalization of a two-family dwelling (duplex). Meeting is in process of being scheduled for late November in preparation for a ZBA hearing on December 12th. Will be discussed at general meeting.

4901 Levick Street - permit for installation of car stereo and alarms at existing automotive detailing facility. Hearing in September was continued and is expected to be heard in December. Meeting will be scheduled ahead of ZBA hearing with neighbors and applicant.