



West Mt. Airy Neighbors
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WMAN NEWS

APRIL 2009 | VOLUME 9 NUMBER 2

Eat Your Heart Out!

The fourth annual *Eat Your Heart Out!*, Community Dinners for the Benefit of West Mt. Airy Neighbors, took place on Saturday, March 14 and was a sell-out event. Guests gathered at the home of Gina and Gary Smith for hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and entertainment by O.R.N Jazz prior to a dinner party at one of sixteen homes.



Photo: Jonna's Picture This

WMAN Executive Director *Laura Morris Siena*, WMAN President *Jarma J. Frisby* and *Eat Your Heart Out!* 2009 Co-chairs *Karen Colquitt-Hall* and *Parris Hall*.

More photos of *Eat Your Heart Out!* on page 4

In the last issue of the WMAN News, we began a three part series on neighborhood leaders who have made a real difference in our community. This article is part of that series.

THREE CAUSES, THREE LEADERS: Part II Heather Pierce and the Carpenter's Woods Town Watch

Two muggings in the Carpenter's Woods neighborhood in fall 2007 initiated discussions about forming a Town Watch. That October, Heather Pierce volunteered to be the Carpenter's

Woods Town Watch (CWTW) president and on October 30, 23 volunteers patrolled the neighborhood as part of the newly created Town Watch.

Pierce had been taught to look out for her neighbors. In their younger years, Pierce and her sister, Dina, would unofficially patrol the neighborhood and report suspicious activities or track down a police officer.

Pierce is still "instinctively protective of her neighborhood," albeit in a more organized way. CWTW is part of Operation Town Watch Integrated Services (TWIS)



Photo: Laura M. Siena

Carpenter's Woods Town Watch volunteers cleaning the vandalized playground at the Germantown Jewish Centre last July.

continued on page 6

IN THIS ISSUE...

2

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

4-5

EAT YOUR HEART OUT!

7

MEMBERSHIP
CAMPAIGN 2009

8

WMAN BOARD
OF DIRECTORS
2008/09

A MAD QUIZ



President's Page

Photo: Catherine Soyre
by permission of the Mt. Airy Times Express



Since its beginning in 1959, West Mt. Airy Neighbors (WMAN) has been growing strong. Today, we are a healthy community association which strives to keep West Mt. Airy connected, informed, and active. We're grateful for all the help we've had along the way.

Through the collaboration of residents, volunteers, donors, community associations, WMAN members, and staff members, we have been able to carry out our mission to preserve and enhance the quality of life in our richly diverse urban neighborhood.

Our efforts are ongoing...join us. For a modest (or not so modest) fee you can become a member of WMAN. Financial support from our annual membership campaign allows us to advance our agenda which in turn has a positive impact on the community.

"Why would someone join WMAN?" A couple of years ago, this question was posed by our Membership Committee to a diverse group of neighbors who had no ties to WMAN.

Their answers were all about connections:

- How WMAN's usefulness lies in creating and sustaining connection between and among residents, government, and other organizations;
- How we need to build more of those connections;
- How we have to connect with people more effectively to tell our story.

Over the next year, you will hear more from West Mt. Airy Neighbors as we continue to connect with you through our committees, events, eNewsletters, Safety Network Alerts, WMAN News, web site, and last, but not least...our 50th Anniversary Celebration!

In the meantime, many thanks in advance for either renewing your membership or becoming a new WMAN member. We welcome you (back) to our organization and appreciate your generosity and support.

Jarma J. Frisby
President

This past year:

- We sent 29 Mt. Airy Safety Network Alerts, keeping neighbors apprised of crime incidents;
- Milt Cohen, WMAN's Community Relations Specialist, responded to over 600 phone calls and emails and had face-to-face visits with individuals and Philadelphia service agencies. Milt provided information on services available through the city (e.g. abandoned houses and cars, barking dogs, and leaf and trash collection), worked with city departments to see that services were actually delivered and helped neighbors resolve disputes with each other;
- Our Streetscapes Committee planted 93 trees and renovated Lincoln Drive/Allens Lane intersection;
- We disseminated weekly email newsletters with updated information about the Germantown Avenue Reconstruction Project;
- We joined Fairmount Park as a Partner Organization;
- We sought solutions to parking problems on Germantown Avenue and along the intersection of Greene Street and Carpenter Lane.

Coming this year:

- We will seek solutions to accidents and speeding traffic on roads;
- We will create more fun, community-building events;
- We will launch a new web site to make more community information available to neighbors;
- We will celebrate our 50th Anniversary by recognizing 50 Good Neighbors!



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Eat Your Heart Out!

Community Dinners For The Benefit Of West Mt. Airy Neighbors

Eat Your Heart Out! provides the perfect opportunity for attendees to make new acquaintances, connect with neighbors and friends, and enjoy delicious meals at homes across the community.

WMAN thanks all who made this event a success: the hard-working *Eat Your Heart Out!* event co-chairs and committee members, the hosts, the chefs, the sponsors, the businesses which donated food and beverages, and the many neighbors who participated in the event. We look forward to seeing you all next year.



Cocktail party hosts Gina and Gary Smith with Peter Slavin's ice sculpture.

HOSTS AND THEMES

Sarah and Frank Aloise, *Southeast Asia in West Mt. Airy*
 Gene Bishop and Andy Stone, *Nueva Latina*
 Allyson Katzman Bormack and Mitch Bormack, *Brasserie Brussels (Bruxelles)*
 Joan and Rich Cantor, *American Journey*
 Tina Diaz and Caleb Meyer, *Philadelphia Restaurant Renaissance Revival*
 Eydie Miller Ellis and Robert Ellis, *Come to Mt. Airy and Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler!*
 Wendy Epstein and Jim Steiker, *Nutritious and Delicious!*
 Elaine and John Frank, *High Flavor and Low Carbon (Footprint)*
 Karen Colquitt-Hall and Parris Hall, *Parlez vous Français?*
 Mary and Bill Hangle, *Classic French Cuisine*
 Lauren and Mark Kahn, *Eclectically Yours*
 Natasha Larimer and Eric Carbone, *Animal, Vegetable, Mt. Airy!*
 Annette McDaniel-Turner and Michael Turner, *Passport to World Cuisine*
 Kathleen Nelson and John Kromer, *Island Breezes*
 Sharon and Irv Shapiro, *My Big Fat Greek Feast*
 Beulah Trey and Steven David Masters, *A Kosher Tour of Italy via a South African Kitchen*

Eat Your Heart Out! COMMITTEE

Karen Colquitt-Hall & Parris Hall, *Co-Chairs*

Rhonda Ball	Alycia Horn	Diane Shropshire
Allyson Katzman	Lauren Kahn	Laura Morris Siena
Bormack	Della Lazarus	Liz Werthan
Mitchell Bormack	Annette McDaniel-	Leslie Winder
Nazie Dana	Turner	Melanie Wright
Lynn Davis	Christopher Plant	
Jarma J. Frisby	Sharon Shapiro	

CHEFS

Eat Your Heart Out! benefits from the talents of skilled home cooks, restaurateurs, and caterers. Professional affiliations are noted where applicable.

Brian Ames
 Margaret Barth, Margee's Kitchen
 Glenn Bergman, Weavers Way Co-op
 Peg Botto, Cosmic Catering
 Carl Drake, Drake's Gourmet Foods & Catering
 Adam Glickman, Monk's Belgian Café
 Marva Haye, Negril Caribbean Cuisine
 Grey Heck, Cake
 Dean Hildebrand and Joe Thomas, The Restaurant School
 Tony Lawrence, A Chef for You, LLC
 Peter Loevy, Dan Love and Benjamin Vozzo, Catering by Design
 Sara Lomax-Reese and Denise Straiges Warkov, Well4Good
 Devitt McShain, Kelly McShain Tyree and Robert Tyree, Under the Oak Café
 Monica Mejia, Perfect Setting Catering
 Tony Mele, Dancing Apple Catering
 Mira Rabin
 Jennifer Tyler-Washington, Touch Bayou, LLC



Lead sponsor Elfant Wissabickon's Larry DiFranco, Chas Hendricksen, and Christopher Plant.

Heart Out!



Beth Ounsworth, Laura and Ron Siena, and sponsors Mary and Steve Kurtz



Rosa Woods, Beau Janette Feldman, Ginny MacIntosh



Mark and Cristi Pledger



Gina Smith and Annette McDaniel-Turner



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photography.

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Rhonda Ball



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Dinner hosts Gene Bishop, John Frank and Andy Stone

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THREE CAUSES, THREE LEADERS: Part II Heather Pierce and the Carpenter's Woods Town Watch



which falls under the City of Philadelphia's Managing Director's Office. TWIS provides radios, vests, training and guidelines.

To recruit volunteers, Pierce disseminates fliers door-to-door, posts notices, and talks up CWTW when out and about.

Pierce enumerates the benefits of joining CWTW:

- You're guaranteed to have a regularly scheduled exercise regime with a walking partner. You can even be paired with someone who matches your pace;
- You're keeping the neighborhood safe;
- You have a great opportunity to network;
- You can meet new people;
- You can get lots of landscaping ideas from seeing all the different yards.

Becoming a CWTW member is easy. Sign-up online, attend TWIS training, and pick an alias. Pierce explains that many aliases are alter egos – "The Rock," "Steel," "Electra" – and are used when reporting a crime via radio.

Volunteers can either patrol actively or observe things from their homes. Members sign-up for one, two or three hour shifts and can patrol by foot, bike or car.

Pierce admits that recruiting patrollers and creating the schedule is challenging. At least five people are needed for a patrolling segment. CWTW doesn't like to cancel a patrol, but once in a while there aren't enough patrollers.

Part of Pierce's success in recruiting volunteers is being honest and telling them exactly what to expect. She also believes that being flexible is key to keeping volunteers. If

you're swamped with work, and can't volunteer, there's no pressure. "You're always welcome back and you get to keep your name," explains Pierce. She also tries to make things fun, ergo the aliases.

Pierce doesn't believe in over-meeting and meetings are not mandatory. Monthly (or as necessary) meetings occur at Big Blue Marble bookstore and last about an hour. Members share information and discuss local issues. They also plan socials, crime prevention seminars, and non-scheduled events such as the organized cleanup at the Germantown Jewish Centre last July. Between meetings, members receive informational e-mails and meeting minutes, which are also posted on the web site.

Pierce has been surprised that CWTW is still going strong one-and-a-half years later and that so many people are interested in volunteering. She is not, however, surprised about the group's diversity. The patrollers represent all ages and races – a true reflection of Mt. Airy.

Pierce believes that volunteers are proud that their visibility has contributed to a decrease in crime, and she shares that pride. The response from the community is positive – patrollers are stopped and thanked by passersby.

The CWTW efforts have been noticed by the 14th District Police Department, which, last June, gave CWTW an award in appreciation of its efforts and commitment to the community.

Plans for 2009 include updating the CWTW web site and starting a junior town watch. Pierce explains that many young people care about their community and would like to patrol. Pierce plans to continue to grow a strong organization that benefits the community.

To join the Carpenter's Woods Town Watch or for more information, please call 215-586-3987 or visit www.cwtownwatch.org.

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Membership Campaign 2009

Dear Neighbor,

What comes to mind when you think of West Mt. Airy? The scenic Park, the diverse and historic architecture, the easy accessibility to great shops and restaurants, neighbors who are friends, our inclusive community?

At West Mt. Airy Neighbors, we think of YOU – your well-being, your safety, your being able to live exactly the life you want to – right here in this exceptional community.

At WMAN, we are working to resolve community problems, enhance the tree canopy, beautify the landscape, provide opportunities for public input into zoning issues, keep you informed of neighborhood news, connect you with volunteer activities, and partner with other local organizations to provide information and meetings on issues that directly affect our community.

Specifically, we reach out to the community through our Quality of Life, Streetscapes and Zoning Committees; our Community Relations Specialist, Milt Cohen, who assists neighbors with accessing city services; our timely Mt. Airy Safety Network Alerts, weekly eNewsletter, web site, this Newsletter, and much more.

We are here to serve you and to work with you to make our community the best that it can be.

Now, we need your help in this joint venture. Become a member of WMAN. Our budget is modest, and it's built around neighbors pitching in and joining us. Your annual commitment makes our work possible and benefits our community.

Won't you join WMAN today?


Sincerely,



Jarma J. Frisby
President



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I prefer to contribute through the United Way Donor Option program at work. (WMAN's United Way number: 00707)

The official registration and financial information of West Mt. Airy Neighbors may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

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Photo of Mt. Airy Day 2008: Louis Cloiman

A MAD Quiz

Q. What has:

1. Food, Fun, & Fellowship in the Heart of Mt. Airy?
2. Live Performances & Philly's Best Music?
3. A Taste of Mt. Airy Day Flavor?
4. A KidZone Including Pony Rides, Games and a Moon Bounce?

A. Mt. Airy Day 2009

Saturday, May 2, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (rain date, Sunday, May 3)
On the grounds of the Cliveden of the National Trust, 6400 block of
Germantown Avenue. For more info visit www.mtairyday.org.

Save the Date! - 50 Good Neighbors, the kick-off luncheon celebrating WMAN's 50th Anniversary will be held on Sunday, October 25th. Please give some thought to the "good neighbors" in your community and consider nominating them for WMAN's "50 Good Neighbors." We'll have more information this summer.



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