

Cedar Park Neighbors Newsletter



Time to **Tackle Tough Issues** Together

By **David Hincer, CPN President**

Philadelphia has been described as a city of neighborhoods. Within our general area, several neighborhood organizations reflect this community patchwork: Cedar Park Neighbors, Spruce Hill Community Association, Garden Court Community Association, Walnut Hill Community Association, and Friends of Cobbs Creek. Regardless of our boundaries, we are all West Philadelphians with shared interests, issues, and concerns that can be effectively tackled together as shown by our collective efforts in addressing a 2014 shooting by police officers from the 18th District.

Communities all across Philadelphia have similar concerns. Quality education, economic equality, community investment, access to resources, etc., require sharing our stories, innovative solutions, knowledge, and more. Earlier this summer, CPN joined the Crosstown Coalition, which is a “federation of 30 civic associations united to advocate on a non-partisan basis for quality of life issues, and further, to share resources, best practices and economies of scale for the benefit of the Coalition and its member organizations.” CPN joins the other West Philly community groups in adding our voice and perspective to the coalition.

During 2017, CPN relocated its monthly board meetings to Calvary Center’s first floor chapel to facilitate more community participation. Board meetings are always open to all community residents. Since the last newsletter, we hosted the following groups and topics during the first hour of

our meetings: Philadelphia Water Department update on green infrastructure, Indego Bike community share stations, Preservation Alliance on neighborhood protections, Crosstown Coalition on inclusionary zoning, Solarize Philly community info session, and Prevention Point overdose training. Prevention Point is a long-time community-based organization that has worked with tens of thousands of community members struggling with the effects of opioid addiction. They provided emotional stories and detailed training on how to obtain and administer Narcan, a life-saving medication that, when administered promptly to individuals who are experiencing an overdose, can save their lives. We look forward to promoting more topics and resources to our community.

“Fall Fest in Southwest”

Each December in cooperation with area churches and other nonprofit organizations, CPN prepares and distributes food baskets for those families and individuals in need during the holiday season. Earlier this spring, CPN was contacted by a holiday food basket recipient, Alexandria. She was so appreciative and inspired by the food basket that she wanted to give back to the community. In collaboration with Farm 51 and other local businesses, Alexandria organized a “Fall Fest in Southwest” dinner fundraiser for CPN and the Kingsessing Roadrunners program. Over 40 neighbors came out to support both organizations, create flower crowns, eat delicious food, and make new friends. Alexandria wants to organize a similar event next spring.



David Hincer
CPN President



Neighbors made flower crowns at the Fall Fest.

West Philly is the Best Philly.



Fall Fest in Southwest dinner fundraiser benefitted Cedar Park Neighbors and Kingsessing Roadrunners.

Back to School for Gary Bronson Memorial Scholarship Recipients!

By Amara Rockar

Nine young Cedar Park residents' return to school will be a little bit easier this fall thanks to the Cedar Park Neighbors' Gary Bronson Memorial College Scholarship Fund. In addition to scholarships for educational expenses, the students will also receive mentoring, care packages, and networking opportunities from the fund throughout the school year.

New to the Gary Bronson Memorial College Scholarship Fund are two incoming college freshmen.

Khadijah Yadulla is a 2016 graduate of Hardy Williams Mastery Charter High School attending Drexel University.

Kayla Lewis is a 2016 graduate of Oldfields School, attending Widener University.

Returning scholarship recipients include:

Ruby Anderson is in her third year studying at Oberlin College where she is double major in Sociology and Comparative American Studies with an education minor.

Mable Bakali is completing her Engineering degree at Temple University.

Abdoulaye Dia is in his third year at Denison University where he studies Global Commerce.

Ainye Clarke is in her fourth year studying Psychology at Rosemont College.

Andrew Kulasegram-Wilson is completing his Mechanical Engineering degree at Drexel University.

Danielle Little is completing her Communication degree at DePaul University.



Khadijah Yadulla and Suzanne Banning Anderson



David Hinch and Robin Siddall

Robin Siddall declared math as her major in her second year at Wellesley College.

We thank those sponsors and all who contributed to making the event a huge success! Cedar Park Neighbors is extremely proud of these active and dynamic students and their accomplishments. Please join us in congratulating these young members of our Cedar Park community, and wishing them the best in their studies. And we thank Fred Wolfe for hosting the scholarship award presentation ceremony pictured here.

These scholarships are possible through the generous support of the donors to the Gary Bronson Memorial College Scholarship Fundraiser.

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David Hinch, CPN President; Suzanne B. Anderson, Chair, Scholarship Committee; Whitney Martinko, Scholarship Committee; Ainye Clarke; Khadijah Yadulla; Kayla Lewis; Fred Wolfe, Jr, Scholarship Committee; Mable Bakali; Darryl Bundrige, Scholarship Committee; Robin Siddall.

By Maureen Tate, Chair, Parks Committee

Cedar Park enjoyed lots of love this summer. On any given day you might observe young soccer players, folks savoring a Little Baby's ice cream cone, families enjoying an evening on the playground, the occasional flea market table and lots of great jazz. I have spoken to a number of gardeners who are grateful for the sufficient rain throughout the summer that kept gardens looking lush. The Cedar Park traffic triangle fared especially well this year. Neighbors are beginning to get used to the pedestrian plaza, installed by the University City District (UCD) this past spring, and we are discussing further embellishments of this space for the future. Following are a few updates regarding ongoing projects and other developing ones.

Our **Tree Care Project**, begun last year to highlight tree protection and community respect, continues. Additional protection was installed around some vulnerable trees. While conducting a tree inventory, we observed one diseased Red Maple that has since been removed to protect nearby trees. Thank you Erica Smith Fichman, of Tree Philly for facilitating the removal. Another dead tree along Baltimore Avenue is targeted for future removal. The newest addition, a Black Gum, planted by our Junior Tree Keepers from St. Francis de Sales School on Earth Day, is doing well.

A young tree along Baltimore, severed in an act of vandalism earlier this year, is being retained for the time being for observation by the Tree Keepers to see how the tree responds. Another Serviceberry near the playground, that had all of its branches picked previously, now looks like a bush in a cage for the moment. It provides another learning opportunity as we will try selecting a few bottom shoots to reform the tree. Special thanks again to Erica Smith Fichman as well as Whitney Martinko for their work all summer keeping the young trees watered! We look forward to continuing with our Junior Tree Keeper program again after January.

The Park Committee has identified a few priorities for the future. While some gardens look much improved, we have decided that a new planting scheme is in order for the Veterans Memorial garden at the 49th Street end of the park. The current planting requires a lot of maintenance.

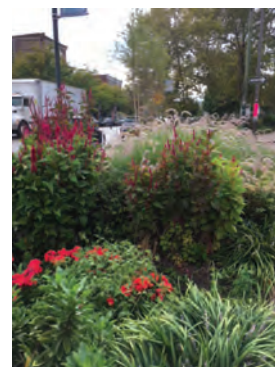


Pruning roses is a thankless task and it has been difficult to control invasive vines and grasses settled among the roses. At our **Fall Love Your Park Service Day** on November 4th, we removed the roses and other low performing plants to make way for a new planting scheme that we will implement in the spring. We are consulting with a local landscape architect on a design that is more sustainable, and we are working to raise funds for new plants.

Our Park volunteers have also expressed discouragement about increasing litter in the Park. Cedar Park Neighbors works with UCD to ensure that the Park is cleaned on a regular basis. Nevertheless, it seems park visitors are littering even more than before. It is especially discouraging to work in the park on a Saturday morning and wade through all the trash while tending the gardens. We are not sure what the answer is. We are only beginning to discuss what type of community engagement and education might be effective. If anyone has a strategy they would like to contribute to the discussion we are open to suggestions and welcome anyone who would like to help us tackle this perennial and thorny problem.

In the meantime, we ask for your help. When you are in Cedar Park and see some litter, please consider yourself a duly appointed park ambassador and pick some up. Even better, adopt a day to stroll the park with bag in hand. Together we might be able to change the culture of littering by becoming the change we want to see.

This has been a particularly busy and fruitful year for the CPN Park Committee. Thank you, current members: Monica Allison, Rob Arters, Jessica Baumert, Helene Brennan, Erica Smith Fichman, Chris Flounders, Holman Massey, Whitney Martinko, and Elliot Stern. If you are interested in joining us, please email: parks@cedarparkneighbors.com.



Google Cedar Park Neighbors! Upgrades to Website and Social Media

By Catherine Hofman, Communications Committee

You may see some changes in CPN's messaging, social media use, and newsletter distribution.

Our goal is to expand the reach of the CPN network to make sure everyone in the neighborhood knows about our community programming, resources, and events. We want to be a resource to you, so please let us know what types of programs you want to see, what problems you need help with, and how we can best serve you. Email us at contact@cedarparkneighbors.org with your feedback.

To communicate better with you, we have:

- revamped the website
- created an official Facebook page, while still maintaining the forum
- made the eblast available to everyone
- distributed the newsletter around the neighborhood
- started Instagram and Twitter accounts

Internally, Cedar Park Neighbors is moving all email, calendar, and document sharing to Google Suite for improved transparency and efficiency. The Google tools will also make it easier to share Board and Committee meeting minutes with you in a timely manner.

Here is where you can find us online.

- Website: cedarparkneighbors.org
- Facebook Page: Cedar Park Neighbors
- Instagram: @CedarParkNeighbors
- Twitter: @CedarPark19143
- eBlast: bit.ly/CPNnews
- Facebook Group: Cedar Park Neighbors (forum)

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Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Support Our Community with Holiday Food Basket Drive

By Michelle Lewis

Happy Fall 2017 to our friends and neighbors of Cedar Park. Fall is a wonderful season when families, friends, and neighbors come together to celebrate the holidays. It is also a time when our community comes together to provide those in need with a seasonal holiday meal for their table.

As in the past, Cedar Park Neighbors, in collaboration with area churches and other nonprofit organizations, prepare and distribute food baskets for those in need during the holiday season. Please consider a suggested donation in the amount of \$36. Support at this amount will help us feed two families and foster our commitment to "neighbors helping neighbors."

Go to www.memberplanet.com/campaign/cedarparkneighbors/holidaybasketdrive2017 to donate online, or send payments to Cedar Park Neighbors Holiday Baskets, Calvary Community Center, 4740 Baltimore Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143. If you are interested in donating bulk items, please send us an email.

Interested in helping us pack and distribute the baskets?

Please join us on Saturday, December 16, 2017, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at Renewal Presbyterian Church at 47th and Cedar. All volunteers are most welcome. RSVP to holidaybasket@cedarparkneighbors.org.

Holiday Basket Donation Form

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Mainstage Season Opens with *Crimes of the Heart*

Curio Theatre Company continues its season and opens its Mainstage Season with Beth Henley's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Crimes of the Heart*. This smart and surprisingly funny portrait of a dysfunctional family is directed by Curio Managing Director Gay Carducci Kuhn and runs November 15-December 9.

Opening night is Friday, November 17 at 8 p.m. All performances are Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m. There is no show on Thanksgiving. Industry Night is Monday, November 20 at 8 p.m., and there is an added show Wednesday, December 6 at 8 p.m. All performances are held at Curio's home in the Calvary Center for Culture and Community at 4740 Baltimore Avenue. Tickets cost \$15-\$30 and are available online www.curiotheatre.org or by phone at 215-921-8243.

In *Crimes of the Heart*, the Magrath sisters, Lenny, Meg, and Babe, are reunited at their family home in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, after Babe shoots her husband. Each sister is facing down her own demons, past and present. Lenny cares for the grandfather who raised her as he dies, Meg grapples



In Curio's *Crimes of the Heart*, Lenny is played by Rachel Gluck, Meg is played by Colleen Hughes, and Babe is played by Tessa Kuhn.

with dreams that didn't come true, and Babe squares off against an abusive spouse. It's a portrait of a dysfunctional family, but Beth Henley's Pulitzer-prize-winning play finds laughter within tragedy.

Crimes of the Heart won the 1981 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best American Play and the 1981 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

For more information about this and the entire season go to www.curiotheatre.com or call 215-921-8243



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West IS the Best! Curio Theatre Wins Barrymore Award

Curio won the Victory Foundation Award for Outstanding Theater for its children's theater program, including The Curiositeens, a free, year-long program for teens that covers all aspects of theater including acting, writing, sound, and special effects. Paul Kuhn, artistic director of Curio, who had the concept for Curiositeens, said this award was dear to his heart "because it gives voice to our next generation of actors and stage crafters." He said that the award of \$7,500 would help fund the program so that it could continue to be offered free to teens who have been in a Curio class or camp and have shown dedication and desire to learn more about theatre.

Curio was also nominated and a runner-up for the June & Steve Wolfson Award for an Evolving Theater Company, won by Ego Po Classic Theater, Outstanding Scenic Design (Paul Kuhn) for *The Birds* and the Clear Sound Award for Outstanding Sound Design (Chris Sannino) for *The Birds*. Ego Po pulled down the prize in Scenic Design for its production of the *Seagull* while Wilma Theater won the award for Sound Design for *When the Rain Stops Falling*.

Named in honor of the Philadelphia-based first family of theatre, the Barrymore Awards for Excellence in Theatre have served as Philadelphia's professional theatre awards program since 1994. The Barrymore Awards are a nationally recognized symbol of excellence for professional theatre in



Curio company members attended the Barrymore awards ceremony, where they accepted the Victory Foundation Award for Outstanding Theater.

our region, raising the bar for the work produced by local theatres and individual artists while increasing public awareness of the richness and diversity of our city's thriving theatre community.

Some 1,800 people attended the Awards Ceremony at the Miriam Theatre. A contingent of approximately 20 Curio company members attended the awards ceremony, along with one veteran Curiositeen!

Curio was founded 13 years ago by Paul Kuhn, Gay Carducci, Aetna Gallagher and Jared Reed who had previously worked together at the Hedgerow Theater. Curio performs at the Calvary Center for Culture and Community at 48th and Baltimore Avenues.



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How Historic is Cedar Park? The Preservation Alliance Has Answers

By Whitney Martinko

On Monday, October 16th, CPN hosted the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia for a “Neighborhood Preservation Workshop” at our monthly Board Meeting. Patrick Grossi, Director of Advocacy, and Caroline Slama, Tour Program Manager, gave an overview of neighborhood properties listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, architectural gems in the neighborhood that are good candidates for inclusion this list, and resources that residents can use to research and nominate a building or a district. Elizabeth Stegner, President of the University City Historical Society, also attended and spoke about ongoing preservation initiatives directed by UCHS.

Very few tangible markers of our neighborhood’s rich history and distinctive character are listed on the city’s Register of Historic Places. Only the 4600 block of Hazel Avenue, the 4800 block of Trinity Street, and the street paving on 49th Street are included. Placement on the city’s Register of Historic Places is currently the only way to protect historic buildings from demolition by

property owners. National or state historic designations do not prevent demolition.

In a city with no demolition delay and rates of development increasing, preservation is one method for managing change that Cedar Park residents can consider. A property can be nominated for designation if it meets any one of 10 criteria. These include design by a notable architect, architectural features of a notable style, association with an important historic person or event, or demonstration of a community’s heritage. Any resident can nominate a property for inclusion on the city’s historic register. If a property is listed, its owners must seek approval from the city’s Historical Commission to change any exterior features of a listed property. Listing a historic property on the local register does not limit a property’s use or any changes to its interior.

Powerpoint slides from the Preservation Alliance’s neighborhood workshop, as well as links to their preservation resources, are posted on www.cedarparkneighbors.org. Click on the “News” tab and scroll to the October 21 posting. To get involved in West Philadelphia preservation initiatives, contact the University City Historical Society at info@uchs.net.



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By Jesse Blitzstein

Atiya Ola's at 48th and Spruce

Atiya Ola's Spirit First Foods, formerly located at 45th and Baltimore, has found a new home in The Enterprise Center's "Common Table" space, next to 48th Street Grille, at 310 S. 48th Street. Atiya Ola's specializes in vegan, vegetarian, and raw foods. They are currently open seven days a week through a soft opening, and will be having a grand opening in November. Stop by Monday-Thursday, 12-9 p.m., Friday-Saturday, 12-10 p.m., or Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. to check them out in their new space!

52nd Street Stakeholder Meetings

Are you interested in shaping the changes taking place along the 52nd Street commercial corridor? Join The Enterprise Center and other key stakeholders at monthly 52nd Street stakeholder meetings, the last Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Urban Art Gallery, 262 S. 52nd Street. Learn about and provide feedback on retail business resources, beautification projects, safety concerns, redevelopment projects, and more. And check out Urban Art Gallery, a beautiful neighborhood art gallery, at the same time! For more information, contact Tempest Carter at tcarter@theenterprisecenter.com.

CPN's Development Impact Task Force

By Robin Markle

CPN's Development Impact Task Force (DITF) spent the summer and fall creating a plan to gather information and concerns from Cedar Park residents about maintaining affordability in Cedar Park. The goal is to hear directly from residents of diverse experiences about what kinds of support they need or can offer to maintain

affordability and prevent long-term residents from being priced out of the neighborhood. DITF will analyze the information they collect and use it to develop tools and resources for community members. Workshops to collect information will be held this winter. Sign up for our newsletter to receive more information: bit.ly/CPNnews.

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Neighborhood Spring Cleaning in University City

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 FROM 9AM TO 2PM

We are partnering with the City of Philadelphia on a neighborhood cleanup on Saturday, December 2nd. We will assist block captains, students, volunteer groups and neighbors by providing trash bags, brooms, work gloves, and trash pickup. Help the effort to beautify your block or street from 9AM-2PM.

To sign up and join the effort, please contact cleanandsafe@universitycity.org or 215.243.0555.



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- ☐ Yes, I would like to receive an email notice with a link to the current newsletter on the CPN website (and do not deliver a paper copy to my home).
- Email membership@cedarparkneighbors.org
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 Phone 267-BALT-AVE or 267-225-8283

Check your areas of interest for potential participation:

- ☐ **Board of Directors:** CPN leadership and decision-making body.
- ☐ **Zoning Committee:** Monitor & communicate issues to residents; represent Cedar Park before Zoning Board of Adjustment.
- ☐ **Scholarship Committee:** Raise funds, promote program, and select awardees.
- ☐ **Membership/Communications:** Promote membership to residents and businesses, write, publish and distribute newsletter, maintain website.
- ☐ **Jazz:** Promote program, raise funds, organize events, choose musicians.
- ☐ **Cedar Park Garden Tenders:** Plant and maintain gardens at Cedar Park.
- ☐ **Holiday Baskets:** Coordinate and assist distribution to needy Cedar Park families.
- ☐ **Development Impact Task Force:** Monitor, evaluate, and influence commercial and residential development.
- ☐ **Block Organizing:** Maintain list of Block Leaders, organize forums, Review block grant applications and help awardees implement projects etc.
- ☐ **Fundraising:** Special events, grant writing.

Cedar Park Neighbors is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. All contributions are fully tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes.

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CPN Mission Statement:
Cedar Park Neighbors is an association of diverse households and businesses based in the Cedar Park neighborhood of West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the association shall be to foster collaboration among all persons living and working in the Cedar Park neighborhood, to promote community development, to provide a forum for communication and community education, to respond to neighborhood concerns and to advocate for and promote the general welfare of the Cedar Park community.

Newsletter Editors
Michael Froehlich, Judy Lamirand

Newsletter Design

Judy Lamirand, Robin Siddall,
Parallel Design

To Contact Cedar Park Neighbors
or submit Newsletter items:
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